

LOWER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP



2009 ANNUAL REPORT

2009 BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

■ AUDITORS

Mary Raltson, Chairman
Carole Gaugler, Vice Chairman
Deborah McQuiston, Secretary

■ LIBRARY BOARD

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Dr. Gunita Grover, Vice President
Bruce Goldenberg, Secretary
Joseph Sterchak, Treasurer
John Bennett
Deborah Malone
Elizabeth Yanak
Rick Brown – Liaison to the Board of Supervisors

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Anthony Gambone, Vice Chairman
Beth Ann Mazza
William Wurtz
Marty DellAngelo
Colleen Eckman
Charlotte Mandracchia
Matt Jones, student representative
Craig Dininny Liaison to the Board of Supervisors

■ ZONING HEARING BOARD

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James Dougherty

■ PLANNING COMMISSION

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Thomas Rutledge
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William Brooke Jr.
Naomi Satterwhite
Mark Kuberski
Joseph Stemple
Jill Zimmerman
Marie Altieri, Liaison to the Board of Supervisors

■ VACANCY BOARD

Lucy Arnold



Township officials - past and present - were on hand as longtime executive secretary Maureen Nelson was honored at a Board of Supervisors meeting. Nelson, who started her career with the Township in 1983, retired in 2009.

2009 CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Dear Lower Providence Residents,

As I write this message to you, 2009 is winding down quickly. I am at the end of my six-year term as a Lower Providence Supervisor and I have the privilege of telling you about many of the wonderful things that have been accomplished in one of the worst economic years globally, in decades. You'll be able to read about them in more detail on the following pages, but here is a summary.

Our business development has continued to move forward with the Valley Forge Corporate Center Redevelopment Master Plan. The plan will help us bring back businesses into our business park and, in turn, bring jobs and tax dollars into our community. Together, the Board and staff have worked diligently to implement more cost-efficient procedures and looked for outside funding sources, successfully securing several grants. Our Public Works Department completed a micro-resurfacing road project and the Parks and Recreation Department made several improvements to the Township's recreational facilities. The Lower Providence Police Department acquired two Chevrolet Impala Flex Fuel patrol vehicles as we continue to "go green." We also saw the retirement of four veteran police officers who had a combined service time of 129 years total! I personally had the privilege to honor Det. Sgt. Daniel McCabe, Sgt. Stanley Siuchta, Cpl. Dennis Cardin and Cpl. David Detwiler for their many years of dedicated service to the residents of Lower Providence. Det. Sgt. Terry Kennedy was recognized by the Pennsylvania Attorney Generals Office for his participation in the investigation and arrest of an Internet child predator. Our police department stepped right up after the unfortunate death of SSgt. Marc Small, killed in action overseas, providing support, escort and honor guard details to assist with the funeral and joining other staff in providing related services to honor this young local resident.

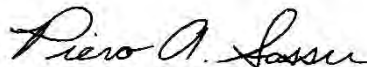
We were able to quickly and successfully negotiate collective bargaining labor agreements with the Police Department and AFSCME represented employees, realizing a substantial savings in our skyrocketing healthcare costs. Additionally, we recognized approximately \$106,000.00 in savings through personnel reorganization and attrition. One of the many retirements I had the privilege to preside over was that of Maureen Nelson. Maureen's service spanned over two decades and she was honored by a standing room only crowd on the night of her retirement presentation.

In closing, I will take a few moments to reflect on my term as a Township Supervisor for Lower Providence Township. I have had the privilege to serve the residents of this township for six years, which included three years as Vice Chairman and my final year as Chairman. Over the years, I sat alongside many other fine Township Supervisors who all devoted thousands of hours of their personal time to serve you. I made it a point to attend as many public events as possible to represent this Township as professionally as possible along with attending numerous training sessions and conferences.

As a Township Supervisor, I made it a priority to formally recognize many township employees including Police Officers, Public Works employees and related departments. We also recognized firefighters, EMS staff, Boy Scouts, volunteers, special organizations, and many many, many others. As a police officer, I worked for a municipality that very rarely recognized the accomplishments of their employees and we were often told, "You are nothing more than a necessary evil" which contributed to poor employee morale, attitude and performance. As a Township Supervisor, I have personally made sure that would never happen on my watch. I always took time to recognize those who have served our community along with those who served our country. As I always ask at public meetings, take a moment and thank those who serve us. Whether it be a Township employee, , police officer, fire ighter, EMS worker, library worker, sewer system employee, or any other person giving their time to serve their community, please take a few moments to say hello and thank them. I realize that many of them are being paid for their work, but you will never imagine how much it will mean to that person just to thank them. Our boards and authorities put in an enormous amount of their time with little or no thanks; they deserve a big "Thank You"! We also must never forget our servicemen and women serving here and abroad for doing all that they do so we can enjoy the freedoms we often take for granted.

I would also like to thank all of our Township employees along with our manager Joseph Dunbar. They have consistently given 120%, even during times when it was difficult to do so. I have always been proud to recognize their accomplishments at public meetings and events as the recognition was so well deserved. For the first time in many years, we did not have a Township holiday party. It was there I was going to thank everyone for their service but because of difficult economic times, we decided to cancel the celebration.

Finally, I need to thank fellow outgoing Supervisor Craig Dininny. Craig and I became friends when we started this "tour of duty" over six years ago and I consider Craig to be one of my best friends now. Craig and I have helped each other out with our different areas of expertise and have spent countless hours working on difficult problems. Craig is a person who has executed his duties as a Supervisor with the utmost diligence and professionalism. He and I consistently put ALL the residents first and as I leave office, I can honestly say on behalf of Craig and I, we will always be proud to have served the residents of Lower Providence Township and wish everyone the best in the years to come.



Piero A. Sassu, Chairman
Lower Providence Township Board of Supervisors

A MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGER

Clearly, 2009 was a year of immense challenges as the national and international turmoil that had swirled around the Township finally found its way here. We faced difficulties on the economic, service, and business development fronts and the community suffered a personal tragedy. But through it all, the strength and resiliency of Lower Providence Township and its citizens was evident.

Early in the year, we received the heart wrenching news that one of our own community members, Staff Sgt. Marc J. Small, had been killed in action in Afghanistan. What we felt for this young man's family and our attempt to somewhat lessen their burden is an example of the bridge between the Township and the residents that is so important to us. And we were awed by the compassion and sense of community that arose from the tragedy.

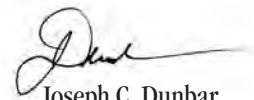
It became clear from the beginning of 2009 that the bleak economic situation was worsening. While we took a conservative approach to the 2009 budget, it did not reflect the financial repercussions of late 2008. In mid-year, we initiated additional monitoring that went beyond past efforts. The Board of Supervisors quickly recognized that corrective measures had to be taken. The painful decision was made to downsize, reducing staff through early retirements and elimination of some positions. In addition, the proverbial belt was tightened in each and every department.

To further exasperate the situation, we learned that the American Revolution Center project was slipping from our grip. In July, the ARC signed a land-exchange agreement with the National Park Service to establish the museum at Third and Chestnut streets in Philadelphia within Independence National Historical Park. In exchange, the National Park Service will receive the 78-acre parcel that was the proposed site of the ARC.

The year, however, was not without its successes and memorable moments. Several new businesses moved into the Township, representing critical jobs, and we were able to end the year with a positive cash balance. With the help of the Township's legislative advocate, the Township garnered commitments for funding totaling \$800,000 for projects that include: Solar feasibility study; storm water basin naturalization; handicap ramp improvements; and police technology.

The year saw the retirement of executive secretary Maureen Nelson, who had been the Township's heart, soul and source of all things Lower Providence for some 25 years. While we were sad to see her go, Maureen's retirement allowed us to properly spotlight her many contributions to the Township. In addition, Supervisors Craig Dininny and Piero Sassu ended their terms. We thank them both for their compassion, dedication and diligent work. Thanks to the generosity of sponsors, annual Township events such as the July 4th celebration and Fall Fest went on as planned and we saw the largest crowds in years. The community showed overwhelming support of two new additions - the "On Your Marc" benefit 5K run and Tree Lighting Ceremony.

Yes, 2009 had extreme highs and lows. Through it all, the staff, Board of Supervisors, and Township volunteers continued to demonstrate professionalism, a sense of duty and willingness to go above and beyond. I extend my appreciation to all of them for their efforts some of which are captured in this report. My sincere thanks, also, to the residents and businesses for your support especially in these extraordinary times.


Joseph C. Dunbar
Township Manager

During the year, community events drew the largest crowds in years. Some 500 participants turned out for the "On Your Marc" benefit 5-K run.



ORDINANCES

- 573** An Ordinance Amending Zoning Map of parcels of Egypt Road from R2 - Residential to VC- Village Commercial
- 574** An Ordinance to Add Certain Provisions Concerning Speed Limits and Stop Signs (Valley Forge Corporate Center)
- 575** An Ordinance changing the Zoning Classification of a certain parcel of land from R2- Residential & VC- Village Commercial to R4 Residential District (Maris)
- 576** An Ordinance to amend the Township Code by adding part 9 Natural Resources
- 577** An Ordinance Eliminating the Existing VC District and adding a new VC District and new EVC Evansburg, Village Commercial District
- 578** An Ordinance Reclassifying VC as EVC forming a part of chapter 143 of Township Code
- 579** An Ordinance Amending the Lower Providence Township Employee Pension Plan
- 580** An Ordinance Amending and Restating the Governmental Money Purchase Plan and Trust
Adopted for the Benefit of Non-Uniformed Employees on June 20, 2002
- 581** An Ordinance Amending Chapter 96, Repealing Provisions Regarding Existing Service Areas, Establishing New Service Areas and Establishing Transportation Impact Fees for each
- 582** An Ordinance Amending Zoning Map (Chapter 143) Deleting Tract of land from Institutional Overlay District
- 583** An Ordinance Amending the Zoning Map (Chapter 143) from VC-Village Commercial to IP- Industrial Park
- 584** An Ordinance Amending Zoning Map (Chapter 143) Added Land to Mixed Use Overlay Sector
- 585** An Ordinance Amending Chapter 123 (SALDO) Adding Land Use & Design Manual for LPT Valley Forge Corporate Center as Appendix C
- 586** An Ordinance Amending Chapter 143 to Amend Article XVIII, I Industrial Districts
- 587** An Ordinance Amending the Zoning Map in Chapter 143 IP Industrial Park to IP Industrial Park - Office Technology Campus
- 588** An Ordinance Amending Chapter 143 to Amend Article XXXIII, Ridge Pike Business District
- 589** An Amendment Authorizing the Tax Collector to Charge a Fee for Tax Certifications not to exceed \$30

All Ordinances and Resolutions adopted in 2009 are available for review at the Township Building.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Community Development Department was affected by the continuing downward spiral of the economy 2009. The decline in permit applications, particularly those related to resale of properties, was indicative of what was experienced throughout the country. While the department was downsized during the year, staffing levels are sufficient to adequately cover the demands going into 2010.

2009 HIGHLIGHTS

■ CODE ENFORCEMENT MANAGER

- Thomas Heisner began employment with the Township in October of 2009 as Code Enforcement Manager. Mr. Heisner brings with him 17 years experience in the areas of construction, construction management, building codes, planning and management. Most recently, he served as Building Code Official with Code Inspections, Inc., where he was responsible for the entire Southeastern Pennsylvania region. He has supervised a vast array of projects including the Harrah's Casino in Chester County and the new soccer stadium in Chester.

■ PROJECT OVERSIGHT

- Skyview Middle School
- Woodland Elementary School

■ TECHNOLOGY

- Field Laptops - Allows Code Inspectors to enter and retrieve data while on-site
- Geographic Information System – Updated to integrate permitting system

■ 2010 CENSUS

- Data maps were processed as part of the Township's preparation for the 2010 Census

■ PERMITS

- 1,881 permit applications
- 291 Zoning Permit applications
- 318 Building Permit applications
- 215 Certificate of Compliance (resale) Permit applications
- 262 Electrical Permit applications
- 44 new Business License applications
- 118 Mechanical Permit applications
- 125 Plumbing Permit applications
- 491 Road Opening Permit applications (majority for Verizon)
- 17 Security Permit applications

■ PLANNING / ZONING

- Received and processed 15 subdivision and land development applications that included: 9 subdivision and land development plan submissions; 3 DeMinimus land development submissions; and 3 Conditional Use applications.
- 24 zoning appeal applications

NEW CONSUMER LAW

Effective July 1, 2009, the PA Home Improvement Consumer Protection Act was enacted to provide protection for consumers using a contractor for home improvements. The law requires contractors who work for private residences to register with the PA Attorney General's office. For more information, visit www.attorneygeneral.com

FINANCE

The Finance Department is responsible for the accurate reporting of all revenue and expenditures of the Township. This includes making sure that Township purchasing and approval processes are being followed. It is important to remember that property taxes only account for \$1.5 million of the Township's total Operating Budget. These funds do not even cover the cost of police services, let alone the myriad of other services provided. The Board of Supervisors and staff will continue to work diligently to creatively meet the growing demands.

2009 HIGHLIGHTS

■ FINANCIAL PLANNING

- The 2009 Budget did not reflect the financial repercussions of late 2008 and steps were taken to address the economic challenges.
 - Department initiated monthly monitoring that went above and beyond past efforts
 - Board of Supervisors implemented various cost-cutting measures recommended by staff. Mid-year changes included staff reductions, early retirements and cutbacks.

■ REPORTING

- The Department completed various annual reports required by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. These included:
 - DCED reports.
 - Liquid Fuels report.
 - Public Utility Report Tax Act (PURTA) – reports required of Commonwealth of Pennsylvania-Tax Exempt properties owned by utility companies.
 - MMO – Minimum Municipal Obligation for pension funds

2009 BUDGET OVERVIEW

For the sixth consecutive year, there was no real estate tax increase in 2009. With the worsening economic climate, the budget continued to reflect a cautious and conservative approach. The 2009 overall revenue streams were anticipated to be flat lined in comparison to the prior year.

The overall increase in the General Fund was 2.4%, translating to \$222,000 over the 2008 General Fund Total. This increase can be directly attributed to increased energy costs, rising insurance expenditures and pension obligations. A total of \$516,292 in capital projects were budgeted in 2009, with each project being funded by means other than the General Fund. This total is a 60% net decrease over the 2008 capital projects budget.

Because Lower Providence Township, like its citizens, faced many daunting challenges and an uncertain economic future, the 2009 budget planning process had to look forward. A new budget category, labeled Energy, was created to allow the Board of Supervisors to clearly track the Township's overall energy costs. This will become even more significant at the end of 2010 when the electrical utility rate caps are lifted.

2009 GENERAL FUND BUDGET

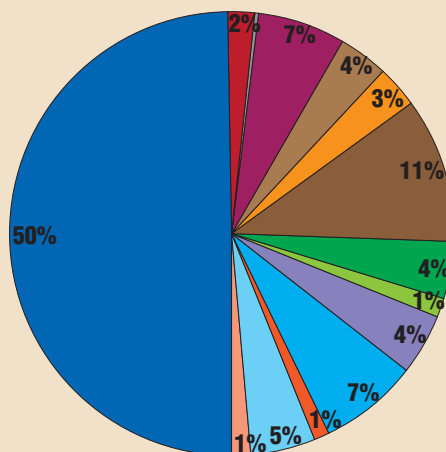
REVENUES

Real Estate Taxes.....	1,458,000
Local Tax Enabling Taxes.....	5,312,500
Fees & Permits	365,550
Fines	110,000
Interest	47,250
Rents	4,800
Federal Operating Grants	0
State Operating Grants	106,035
State Shared Revenues	526,174
Charges for Services	26,500
Inspections.....	407,500
Miscellaneous & Other Revenue.....	168,084
Interfund Operating Transfers	105,182
Fund Balance Forwarded.....	1,796,204
TOTAL Revenues.....	10,433,779

EXPENSES

Legislative & Executive.....	720,665
Finance & Tax Collection.....	261,524
Legal & Engineering Services.....	287,500
General Government – Buildings/Technology.....	404,436
Police.....	2,845,683
Fire & Ambulance	474,717
Community Development	363,556
Emergency Management & Safety	29,700
Animal Control, Health & Welfare.....	24,750
Highway Maintenance	889,867
Miscellaneous Expenditures	143,416
Employee Benefits & Pension.....	2,237,737
Insurance.....	161,949
Interfund Transfers.....	1,039,179
Fund Balance Forward	549,100
TOTAL Expenses.....	10,433,779

General Fund - 01	10,433,779
Library Fund - 04	426,900
Solid Waste Fund - 07	40,535
Traffic Impact Fee Fund - 18.....	1,350,521
Debt Service Fund - 20	742,817
Sinking Fund - 21.....	642,667
Capital Projects Fund - 30	2,199,249
Parks & Recreation Operating Fund - 31.....	909,365
Parks & Recreation Capital Reserve Fund - 33	270,258
Liquid Fuels Fund - 35	905,054
Unrestricted Capital Fund - 39	1,536,868
Tree Fund - 40.....	239,946
Self Insurance Fund - 55.....	974,977
Equipment Replacement Fund – 70.....	267,869
Summary for All Funds.....	20,940,805



General Fund - 01
Library Fund - 04
Solid Waste Fund - 07
Traffic Impact Fee Fund - 18
Debt Service Fund - 20
Sinking Fund - 21
Capital Projects Fund - 30
Parks & Recreation Operating Fund - 31
Parks & Recreation Capital Reserve Fund - 33
Liquid Fuels Fund - 35
Unrestricted Capital Fund - 39
Tree Fund - 40
Self Insurance Fund - 55
Equipment Replacement Fund – 70

HUMAN RESOURCES

Human Resources is responsible for a wide variety of areas including personnel, training, labor relations, safety, workers compensation, medical, and commercial lines of insurance

2009 HIGHLIGHTS

■ PERSONNEL

- Reached 5-year collective bargaining agreements with the Police and AFSCME
- Realized \$106,000 in savings as a result of employee reorganization and attrition

■ INSURANCE

- Initiated one group health insurance plan for all employees for 2010 as a result of the successful contract negotiations with both the Police and AFSCME unions, a savings of more than \$100,000

■ TRAINING

- Kept off-site staff training to a minimum because of budget constraints
- Continued mandated training and certifications for the Building Inspectors as required
 - Took advantage of various webinars at little or no cost
 - Held weekly equipment training and "Toolbox Talks" for Public Works and Parks & Recreation employees

■ PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS

- Set individual goals and objectives for each position
- Addressed the individual position's responsibilities in meeting the overall goals of Township
- Clearly outlined objectives with employees' assistance in the decision-making process

■ WORKPLACE SAFETY COMMITTEE – State certified committee saved over \$14,000 on Workers Compensation Premiums

- Safety Incentive Program
 - A "Random Act of Safety" Program, launched in 2008, continued in 2009. All Safety Committee Members have \$5 gift cards to award to employees whom they observe committing a "Random Act of Safety."
- Safety Training
 - In conjunction with the Emergency Management Coordinator, employees received safety-related training in areas such as: fire extinguisher operation, First-aid, CPR/AED, Right-to-Know, and the Township Emergency Evacuation Plan.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

2009 HIGHLIGHTS

■ PUBLICATIONS

- Going Green - Recycled paper and soy-based ink continued to be used for the newsletter and Parks and Recreation Brochure. The effort is part of the Township's Living Green Initiative to promote a safe and eco-friendly community and to lead by example.
- E-Newsletter – Introduced at the end of 2008, this is another extension of the Living Green initiative. Residents with Internet access were encouraged to sign-up for the e-newsletter to receive the Township newsletter electronically. This "paperless" publication saves both printing and postage costs, and is environmentally sensitive. Residents can sign up at the township website.
- 2008 Annual Report – The Township's 2008 Annual Report earned second-place honors in the PA State Association of Township Supervisors' annual Citizen Communication Contest.

■ WEBSITE

- Updated and expanded content to make as much information as possible easily accessible to the public
- Provides real-time community alerts
- For 2009, there were 94,809 visits to the website recorded

■ CABLE ACCESS CHANNEL

- Township-based community service organizations are invited to submit message requests
- Board of Supervisors monthly meetings are rebroadcast the week following a meeting on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 1 a.m., 9 a.m., and 7 p.m.

■ AUDITORIUM DISPLAY

- Artwork on loan from the John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove continues to be featured on the back wall of the Township auditorium.
- Student artwork from various schools within Methacton School District was introduced in 2009 and was rotated on a monthly basis in the display case during the school year.

■ OFFICE OF OPEN RECORDS

- Pennsylvania's new Open Records Law became effective 1/1/2009. Township procedures put into place to ensure compliance with the new law include:
 - Adoption of an Open Records Policy
 - Initiation of procedures for handling and tracking requests for information
 - Appointment of an Open Records Officer
 - Addition of an Open Records Office page to the Township website

ABOUT THE ANNUAL REPORT

The 2009 Annual Report has been compiled using a style that was adopted last year. We've condensed the report, sharing just the highlights in an effort to cut costs wherever possible. It is our hope that the report still provides a thorough recap of the year.

On the front cover: The Level Road School was built in 1872. Located at the corner of Level and Lewis Roads, the School House is used for Township programs and serves as a meeting room for community groups.

On the back cover: The Farmhouse at the John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove was built in 1762 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

PARKS & RECREATION



Once held just at the holidays, the Township's food drive is a now a year-round effort.

2009 PROJECTS

■ ESKIE PARK IMPROVEMENTS

- Walking Path: Worked with Public Works Department to repair the walking path within Eskie Park.
- Restroom Facility: Assisted Public Works with installation of new bathroom structure, due to be completed in 2010

■ EAGLEVILLE PARK IMPROVEMENTS

- The aging backstop on Gaugler Field was replaced.
- New player benches were installed at Gaugler Field.
- Poured-in-place surfacing was installed to replace the mulch at the playground. The new surface increases safety and reduces maintenance costs.

■ AUDUBON RECREATION COMPLEX IMPROVEMENTS

- Pavilion: Pavilion was installed at the complex.

2009 HIGHLIGHTS

■ RELOCATION

- The Department relocated to the main Administration Building in November. Consolidation of operations led to the move. The Shoemaker House is used for Park and Recreation programs and the Township is pursuing rental options.

■ CAMP PERKIOMY

- Three sites
 - Arrowhead Elementary – 126 participants
 - Audubon Elementary – 118 participants
 - Eagleville Elementary – 101 participants
- Children ages 6 to 13 divided into two groups known as the Rookies (Grades K – 4) and the Vets (Grades 5-8). Activities included games, team sports and arts & crafts in addition to offsite field trips.
- Field Trips – 21 offsite field trips, including activities such as bowling and mini golf, and destinations that included Water World, Camelbeach, Adventure Aquarium, the zoo and the movies.
- Staffing – 36 part-time workers; 1 Camp Director, 3 Site Supervisors, 6 Group Leaders, 26 Camp Counselors.

■ BUS TRIPS

- 21 trips via motor coach offered in conjunction with Limerick, Upper Providence, Worcester, and Skippack Townships and Trappe Borough
 - Destinations included Atlantic City, New York City, Washington D.C., and Cape May, N.J.

■ SPECIALTY PROGRAMS

- Partnerships with outside instructors and companies allows Township to provide a wide range of specialized programs at a reasonable fee
- Over 100 specialty program sessions with over 600 participants.

■ SPECIAL EVENTS

- **Thanks to our many corporate sponsors, we are able to provide special events to the community at no cost**
- Caring and Sharing
 - Made possible by donations of township residents, staff and local businesses
 - 10 Thanksgiving dinner food baskets and 10 Christmas dinner food baskets provided to residents in need, gifts purchased for the children of each family
 - Collection of gently used coats & gloves

Thank you for the tree lighting:

We brought our 1 and 3 year olds to the tree lighting night and were thoroughly impressed with the care and spirit you spent on making it a fun evening for area families like us. The entertainment, parking and winter-wonderland were just perfect for starting the Christmas season. Everyone around us really enjoyed it and the kids had a lot of fun...We saw many community friends and neighbors, and I think that is one of the nicest things of all – giving folks a chance to bump into one another over a happy occasion. Not enough of that anymore...Great job everyone! Thank you.

Susan Collins



- Cars Under the Stars – Car show and outdoor movie
- Holiday celebrations / events
 - ❑ July 4th Fireworks & Concert
 - ❑ Earth Day & shredding event
 - ❑ Easter Egg Hunt
 - ❑ Turkey “Fowl” Shooting Contest
 - ❑ 1st Annual Holiday Tree Lighting
 - ❑ Holiday Card Drawing Contest
 - ❑ Santa’s Hotline

- Fall Festival
- Oldies Dances
- Summer Concert Series

■ DISCOUNT TICKETS

- Discounted tickets for area ski slopes and amusement parks made possible through Department’s membership with the Pennsylvania Recreation & Parks Society (PRPS)
 - ❑ Discounted movie tickets for Regal Theater

The playground at Eagleville Park (at top) now features a durable poured-in-place surface. At Eagleville Park’s Gaugler Field, the aging backstop and players’ benches were replaced.



POLICE DEPARTMENT

2009 HIGHLIGHTS

■ ACCREDITATION

- On December 15, 2009, the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission (PLEAC) granted re-accreditation to the Police Department for a three-year period through 2012. The re-accreditation was based on an on-site assessment that was conducted of the department between December 2, 2009 and December 4, 2009 by a three-member assessment team. The assessment team examined and evaluated the department to ensure compliance with 131 professional standards established by the Accreditation Commission.
- The Lower Providence Township Police Department was initially accredited in 2006
- The Department has the distinction of being among only 62 law enforcement agencies of the approximately 1,200 agencies in Pennsylvania to achieve accredited status

■ ACTIVITY

- The Township Police Dispatch Center logged 35,871 calls during 2009, an increase from the 35,409 logged during 2008.
- Officers responded to 10,077 calls for service, a slight increase from the 10,072 that were recorded in 2008.
- There were 2,745 incident reports prepared and submitted, a significant increase from the 2,430 submitted in 2008.

■ TRAFFIC

- Officers conducted 3,868 vehicle stops resulting in the issuance of 1,893 traffic citations. Both of these figures represent increases from the 3,576 vehicle stops and 1,786 traffic citations issued in 2008.
- 82 motorists were arrested for Driving Under the Influence, which is an increase from the 61 such arrests in 2008.
- The department investigated a total of 668 motor vehicle accidents.
 - 238 of those accidents were reportable accidents, which are those accidents defined by a fatality, injury or one or more of the vehicles involved requiring towing
 - There were no fatal motor vehicle accidents in the course of the year
 - 430 non-reportable accidents were investigated.

■ CRIME

- 401 Part I Crimes as defined by the Federal Bureau of Investigation Uniform Crime Reports reported in 2009, a slight increase from the 378 reported in 2008. Of the reported Part I crimes in 2009, 223 were cleared for a clearance rate of 55.6%.
- 685 Part II Crimes as defined by the Federal Bureau of Investigation Uniform Crime Reports reported in 2009, a slight increase from the 667 reported in 2008. Of the reported Part II crimes in 2009, 358 were cleared for a clearance rate of 52.2%
- 225 individuals arrested and charged with felony and misde-

meanor offenses. Additionally, officers filed 271 non-traffic citations for summary violations of the Crimes Code and for violation of Township Ordinances

- A summary of specific offenses reported in 2009 is as follows:

Murder	0
Rape.....	5
Robbery	2
Assaults.....	103
Burglary.....	49
Theft.....	232
Motor Vehicle Theft.....	8
Arson	2
Forgery.....	9
Fraud.....	98
Receiving Stolen Property	4
Criminal Mischief (Vandalism)	230
Weapons Offenses	1
Sex Offenses.....	9
Drugs (Sale/Manufacture)	7
Drugs (Possession)	37
Driving Under the Influence.....	82
Public Drunkenness	42
Disorderly Conduct	115
All Other Offenses.....	51

■ RETIREMENTS

- Detective Daniel McCabe following 36 Years of Service
- Sergeant Stanley Siuchta following 34 Years of Service
- Corporal Dennis Cardin following 32 Years of Service
- Corporal David Detwiler following 28 years of Service

■ PROMOTIONS

- Michael Slattery and Matthew Kuhnert were promoted to the rank of Corporal
- Terrence Kennedy and Mark Deussing were promoted to the rank of Sergeant

■ PRESENTATIONS & AWARDS

- Sergeant James Crawford and Officer Reginald Nealy received Distinguished Unit Citations for their role in apprehending two burglary suspects
- Lieutenant Stanley Turtle, Detective Sgt. Terrence Kennedy, Sergeant Keith Gordon, Officer Robert Cable, Detective Michael Jackson, Officer Tim Arthur, and Officer Michael Nastasi received Distinguished Unit Citations for their role in burglary arrests
- Detective. Sgt. Terrence Kennedy was presented with the Pennsylvania Attorney General's Award for Excellence for his role in the investigation, arrest and prosecution of an on-line child predator.
- Officer Richard Aston was recognized by the PA Aggressive Driving Enforcement & Education Program

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

2009 HIGHLIGHTS

■ LIMERICK GENERATING STATION DRILL

- Lower Providence Township's Emergency Operations Center staff participated in a table-top exercise in conjunction with the Montgomery County Department of Public Safety prior to the full-scale drill.
- The semi-annual drill was held November 17, 2009 and involved municipalities, schools, hospitals and other entities located within the Emergency Planning Zone.
- Representatives of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) evaluated the Township's performance during the drill
 - ❑ No Areas Requiring Correction (ARCs) were identified and FEMA praised the Township's knowledge and procedure.



Since its launch in 2008, the Emergency Notification System has proved a valuable communication tool.

■ EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

- The Emergency Notification System continued to play an important role in the Township's efforts to provide for the health, safety and welfare of its residents, businesses and visitors.
- The ENS allows authorized Township officials to record and send voice messages to thousands of residents, businesses, and local agencies in just minutes through a single phone call.
 - ❑ 44 calls were made (including 4 test calls) to a total of 100,782 phones
 - ❑ Messages included advisories about severe weather, power outages, road closures and public hearing reminder

■ EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS PLAN

- The Township's Emergency Operations and Continuity of Operations Plans were reviewed and updated as needed.
 - ❑ Emergency Operations Plan meets all Montgomery County (Department of Public Safety) and State (PA Emergency Management Agency) requirements
 - ❑ Planning begun for 2010 drill of Continuity of Operations Plans
 - ❑ Program on seasonal and H1N1 (swine flu) influenza season was given by a representative from the Montgomery County Health Department and seasonal flu shots were administered

■ KEY LOCK BOXES

- Township Ordinance requires all businesses to have a Key Lock Box allowing rapid entry of first responders during an emergency. Throughout the year, Key Lock Boxes contents are updated as needed with new keys, floor plans, etc.
 - ❑ Less than a dozen of some 600+ businesses throughout the Township Key Lock failed to meet the requirement by the end of 2009

■ EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

- The Township maintains Emergency Contact Information for all businesses. The listing has been expanded to include residential contacts on a voluntary basis.
 - ❑ Information is treated as confidential information and is accessible by first responders
 - ❑ Township conducts an annual update of the listing

■ ALARMS

- The Department monitors Fire and Security Alarm activities of Township residents and businesses per Township Ordinance, documenting all alarms, true or false.
 - ❑ 865 total alarms, 813 of these were false, 52 true.
 - ❑ Fire Marshal works with residents and businesses in an attempt to reduce their excess false alarms

■ FIRST AID / CPR / AED

- Partnered with Human Resources Department to ensure First Aid, CPR & Automated External Defibrillator (AED) training for Township staff
- Inventoried First-Aid kits, purchased new ones as needed
- Utilizing grant funds, purchased 9 AEDs and cabinets
 - ❑ Police Department has five AEDs; four are in Township facilities
 - ❑ Township to receive two additional AEDs to be taken on job sites by Public Works and Parks & Recreation Departments
 - ❑ Seeking grant funds for purchase of three more

■ SCHEDULED AND UNFORSEEN INCIDENTS

- Planning for scheduled events and response to incidents including:

❑ Severe weather	❑ Utility Emergencies
❑ Flooding	❑ Community Events
❑ Fires	❑ July 4th celebration/Fireworks
❑ Hazardous Materials	❑ Fall Fest
❑ Road Closures	❑ Tree Lighting ceremony
❑ Environmental Emergencies	

PUBLIC WORKS



THE NEW RESTROOM FACILITY sits adjacent to the pavilion at Eskie Park. The interior of the structure is slated to be finished in early 2010.

ON-GOING WORK

ROAD REPAIR/MAINTENANCE

- Lower Providence Township owns and maintains 89.31 miles of roadway. The cost for labor and materials to maintain the roads has increased tremendously in recent years.
- Installed thermo-plastic stop bars throughout the Valley Forge Corporate Center to enhance traffic safety.
- Reviewed, verified and corrected as necessary PECO's records for the size and type of bulbs used on traffic lights to make sure electric charges are accurate.
- Completed crack sealing using rubberized asphalt that will expand and contract; therefore lasting many years in the roadways.
- Additional on-going maintenance and responsibilities include:
 - ☐ PA One Calls to mark the location of Township owned facilities such as traffic light loop detectors and storm sewer facilities
 - ☐ Street sweeping and roadside mowing
 - ☐ Signage - Street signs, speed limit signs, warning signs, and regulatory signs.
 - ☐ Pothole repair, guide rail repair and line striping
 - ☐ Trimming of trees and brush away from signage along the Township highways and where sight distances need to be improved.

SNOW REMOVAL

- The Township is responsible for plowing Township roadways and Township-owned facilities; it does not plow state, county, or private roadways. Additionally, crews clear the Township Administration Facility, Police Area, Library, and Township- owned sidewalks. In the winter season of 2008/2009, the crew used 1443 tons of salt.
- Roads are brined in advance of a snow or ice event when possible utilizing two trucks with sprayers. To spray all Township roadways, the department puts down approximately 14,000 gallons of liquid brine.

STORM SEWERS

- The Department finalized work with Township Engineer, Chambers Associates, in locating the storm water utilities and videotaping storm sewer pipes at Ridge Pike and Trooper Road in anticipation of improvements to the right-hand turn lane at the intersection.
- The Public Works crew repaired over 83 storm water inlets during 2009. This work included replacing storm sewer tops to rebuilding the entire inlet.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE

- On-going maintenance includes lighting repairs, plumbing work, wiring installation, and painting.

EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE

- The Department's two mechanics service and maintain the Township owned vehicles and equipment.
- Roadside mower, tractor and a small dump truck were replaced
- Public Works coordinates repair of traffic lights, flashing warning lights and school zone lights using an outside contractor. The Department also is responsible for coordinating the repair of Township owned streetlights, also utilizing an outside contractor.

2009 PROJECTS

MICRO-RESURFACING OF ROADWAYS

- The Public Works Department oversaw the micro-resurfacing of Stillmeadow Road, Soni Drive, Sky Drive, Ringneck Road, and Sunnyside Avenue between Highley Road and Eagleville Road. The process improves skid resistance and is considered to be one of the best cost-effective processes for increasing the life of a roadway. In today's economy, the process allowed the Department to maximize its budget.

BUCKET TRUCK "RECYCLED"

- In need of a replacement for its aging 1982 bucket truck, but not in a position to spend \$100,000 for a new one, the Public Works Department found a way to recycle the lift mechanism of the old bucket truck and the chassis from a 2000 dump truck to create a reconditioned vehicle. The total cost for the reconditioned vehicle was only \$10,000. With it, the Department completes routine tree trimming, repair of traffic signals and building maintenance and it is often used for various emergency work.

ESKIE PARK IMPROVEMENTS

- Walkway: Working in tandem with the Parks and Recreation Department, Public Works completed repairs to the walkway in Eskie Park. The crew cut and dug out broken areas, replacing them with new base asphalt and prepared the walkway for placement of a new wearing course.
- Preparation for Restroom: The Department assisted the Parks Department with preparing for the installation of a bathroom facility at Eskie Park
 - ☐ Staked out the location of the new bathroom
 - ☐ Ran the sewer, water and conduit for the electric into where the utility room will be located
 - ☐ Dug the footings and poured the pad for the building
 - ☐ A structure, which was a shell, was purchased and set on the pad and the crew installed plumbing, insulation and finished the most of the interior of the building. It is to be completed early in 2010.

REFURBISHING OF RESTROOMS

- The Department assisted with the refurbishing of the men's and women's bathrooms in the Administration Building. Crews removed old bathroom fixtures, floor and wall tile, and drywall, and painted and prepared the floor for the new tile.

SPECIAL PROJECTS & TECHNOLOGY

The Department continued to identify opportunities for bringing businesses into the township, actively working with brokers, property owners and county and state agencies. To that end, the Township hosted a Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation Creative Financing in a Tough Economy seminar for area businesses.

VALLEY FORGE CORPORATE CENTER

Lower Providence Township is doing everything in its power to polish the hidden gem that is the Valley Forge Corporate Center. The VFCC, a 2.7 million square foot business park, enjoys a prime location minutes from the PA Turnpike, Schuylkill Expressway, and Routes 202, 363, 422. Planned improvements, including a full interchange at US 422 and PA 363, will make access to the center even easier. Its other unique advantages include a by-right 90' building height, incentives such as reduced ACT 209 traffic impact fees, high-speed fiber optic communication cables, and dual service electric. However, the center's vacancy rate in 2009 was 43 percent and that number is in danger of increasing in 2010.

The Township's commitment to revitalizing the center has resulted in an investment that includes \$620,000 for infrastructure improvements, \$144,000 for a master redevelopment plan and \$120,000 for the plan implementation. In addition, the Township has been actively working with property owners and the broker community.

From the beginning, the goals have been simple: Create and retain jobs, fill buildings and increase property owner values. The VFCC master plan includes steps to improve circulation and access, create a unified identity for the center, and add mixed uses and amenities to serve both the employees and surrounding community.

In 2009, the Township took the following actions:

- Adopted several zoning changes
 - ☐ Mixed uses added to the center
 - ☐ Office Technology Campus sector created
 - ☐ Adjacent areas incorporated into the IP (Industrial Park) zoning.
- Adopted Land Use and Design Manual Handbook
 - ☐ Blueprint future development and redevelopment
 - ☐ Provides consistency and a sense of place
- Began work on transportation management plan with emphasis on creating a pedestrian-oriented center, with improved signage and lighting

TECHNOLOGY HIGHLIGHTS

- Implemented Exchange Journaling for storage and retrieval of emails under the PA Right-to-Know Act
- Integrated Permitting System and Request for Service System with Township's Geographic Information System
- Utilized web-based system for E-newsletter distribution
- Implemented electronic records system for PA One Calls

GREEN INITIATIVE



Recognizing the importance of protecting and preserving our natural resources and the environment, the Township has completed a number of projects to "green" our daily activities.

With energy-efficient upgrades at the Township Administration Building and Public Works Garage, the Township has realized \$5,800 in savings use since June 2009 and is on track to save \$10,000 annually.

■ EFFICIENT LIGHTING & HEATING

- Upgrades throughout Administration Building and Public Works facility to energy-efficient lighting
- Programmable thermostats installed

■ RESTROOM RENOVATIONS

- Low-flow fixtures utilized
 - ☐ Waterless urinals
 - ☐ Motion sensor faucets

■ ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLES

- Added two flex fuel vehicles to the Township fleet

■ SOLAR STUDY

- Received Department of Energy grant for solar feasibility study at Moyer's Landfill and Township facilities

■ STORMWATER BASIN RETROFITS

- Working toward converting all stormwater basins from mowed turfgrass to naturalized areas
- Naturalization improves stormwater infiltration and overall water quality
- Utilizing \$35,000 in funding received from Department of Environmental Protection Growing Greener II and TreeVitalize programs

■ EARTH-FRIENDLY PRODUCTS

- Look to purchased energy-star electronics whenever possible
- Switched out bottled water coolers for point-of-source filtered water
- Use of recycled paper

■ ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

- Network faxing, e-mail, scanning, document management utilized
 - ☐ Increased communication while reducing time and eliminating waste
- "Paperless" newsletters
 - ☐ Residents encouraged to sign-up to view newsletters and register for programs online



LIBRARY

HIGHLIGHTS

- **8% increase in number of visitors to 203,044, an average of 723 visitors on a normal weekday**
- **8.5% increase in items borrowed to 273,425**
- Received a "Picturing America" grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, a collection of 40 posters of various forms of American art for display and program use
- Added a new shelving unit for display of new books, purchased with a grant from WalMart.
- Building improvements included new wallpaper and refinished floors in the restrooms and power washing outside
- Added Story Time Birthday Parties, a party package for purchase that includes use of the Community Room, a private story time program and craft, and a book to keep.

FUNDING

- The Library is partially funded by allocations from the state (\$111,087) and from Lower Providence Township real estate taxes (\$417,081). The remaining funds for the operating budget are raised by the Library through fundraising events, donations, grants, interest, fines, and fees (\$157,720). In 2009 the Library spent \$30.67 per capita for each Lower Providence Township resident, \$18.63 of which came from local tax dollars. The Library is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization governed by a seven-member volunteer Library Board of Trustees.
- Two fundraising events: The 9th Annual Wine Tasting in March and Library Mini Golf in November.
- \$15,000 raised by Friends of the Lower Providence Community Library through used book sales, book bags sales, and supermarket receipt refund programs and other efforts.

RESOURCES

- In 2009, 7,064 items were added to the collection for a total of 61,153. In addition to the print and audiovisual collection, Library patrons had access to 41 online databases through POWER Library and 7 more including downloadable audio books through county-wide library resources, netLibrary downloadable audiobooks, and a 24/7 live online reference service. The severe cut in state funding for libraries resulted in the loss of 3 of the county-wide databases and several POWER Library resources by year end.
- Visit the Library online at www.lowerprovidencelibrary.org.

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

- 14,337 children and adults attended 467 Children's Programs.
- Story Time- held 4 days a week, 2 sessions each day.
- Kids Club for ages 8-11 and TAB (Teen Advisory Board) met monthly.
- Summer Reading Club - 569 young people from preschool age through teens registered, total attendance at programs and events was 1,549.
- Science in the Summer - 4-day science workshop sponsored by GlaxoSmithKline, 64 children attended
- 1,611 people attended 79 Adult Programs.

STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

- The Library's dedicated staff includes 3 full-time and 18 part-time workers plus several substitutes. In addition, many volunteers contributed a combined total of 4,036 hours of service. Volunteers were recognized for their service at the Volunteer Appreciation Picnic hosted by the Library Board of Trustees.

TAX COLLECTOR

Office of the Tax Collector
Kirsten Deal
PO Box 7220
Audubon, PA 19407-7220
610-666-1980
lptaxcollector@verizon.net

Your tax bills are going to have a new look this year. The new format has made the tax bill more easily understood. Please note the instructions on the middle of your tax bill. The tax bills are no longer perforated and you will need to cut along the dotted line. We have updated our software in an effort to streamline the process and this has also helped us cut costs for printing and postage. With the economy the way it is, I wanted to try and trim costs as much as possible especially since the County & Township have been doing such a good job keeping the taxes the same for the past several years.

I will have hours for people to pay their taxes at Harleysville National Bank again this year. The dates and times are listed on your tax bill. Harleysville National Bank is in the process of a merger and the new name will be First Niagara. They will still be at the same location on Egypt Road in the Audubon Square Shopping Center.

I am available on a daily basis from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to answer your calls. If you receive the answering machine, please leave your name, address, parcel number, and phone number so I can return your call. Your phone number is the most important piece of information; I cannot call you back without it. Every attempt will be made to return your call on the same business day; however, on busy days or days when I am at the bank, your call may be returned on the next business day.

Tax bills for County & Township RE taxes are mailed at the end of February and should be received during the first week of March. Methacton School District RE tax bills are mailed at the end of June and should be received during the first week of July. If you do not receive your tax bill by then, please contact my office for a replacement.

Installment plans were available for the Methacton School District RE tax bill for the first time in 2007. They are still available for those who have applied for the homestead exemption. If you have not applied yet, I urge you to go to www.montcopa.org and apply for the homestead exemption. The deadline for applying is March 1st each year to be eligible for the reduction for the upcoming school year. There is no fee to apply for the Homestead/Farmstead Exclusion and you only need to apply once. The benefits of applying are that you can pay your school tax bill in three installments instead of one lump sum and you may see a reduction in your school tax bill. More information about the homestead exemption can be found at www.methacton.org.

Payments at the end of each period (discount, flat) will be accepted as long as they are postmarked by the last due date. If you are mailing a payment during the last few days of a period, please have the Post Office hand stamp your envelope with the postmark.

SEWER AUTHORITY

Fred Walker, Chairman
Carl Buchenauer, Vice Chairman
Robert Tschoepe, Treasurer
Charles Rose, Secretary
William Cleaver, Asst. Treasurer

Hours of Operation:
8:30 AM to 4:30 PM Weekdays

Contact Information:
(610) 539-6161
Fax (610) 539-4795

After-hour Emergencies:
Contact the Lower Providence
Police Department
610-539-5900

During the year, the Sewer Authority continued with an I/I Abatement Program that was initiated in 2008. I/I represents Inflow and Infiltration, the process by which unwanted volumes of clean water enter the sanitary sewage collection system.

I/I overburdens the system with increased flow that the system is not designed to handle. This is most prevalent during periods of heavy rain, indicating that the majority of the problem is caused by the illegal connection of sump pumps. As the pipes and manholes fill to capacity, the excess water, now mixed with sewage, starts to overflow from manholes in the street, vent stacks in front yards and, at times, into the basements of some homes where there are showers or toilets in the lower level of the house.

There are a number of sources of I/I in a collection system. A broken or leaking main line pipe and manholes are the responsibility of the Sewer Authority. However, those sources located on private property are the responsibility of the property owner. These include faulty underground piping, dislodged or missing vent stack covers, vent stacks broken off at or below ground level, rain gutters, French drains, and sump pumps connected to the sanitary sewer line.

The I/I Abatement Program is designed to identify areas of the Township that have the most significant I/I problem, identify the source, and provide a systematic approach to repairing and eliminating these sources of I/I. This will be accomplished by metering, tele-visual inspection, and smoke and dye testing. Once specific sources of I/I are identified, the party responsible for repair or removal will be notified and expected to address the problem within a reasonable amount of time.

MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

John Ruggiero, Chairman
Albert Vagnozzi, Vice Chairman
Craig Dininny, Asst. Secretary
W. Douglas Hager, Asst. Treasurer
Piero Sassu

The Lower Providence Township Municipal Authority operates and is making significant improvements to the former General Washington Country Club, now the Club at Shannondell, preserving open space and providing excellent recreational facilities for the community.

Phase One provided for the restaurant, pool, and golf course improvements. The Land development plan for Phase Two, to include the banquet operation, was submitted in 2009.



Lower Providence Township
100 Parklane Drive
Eagleville, PA 19403
www.lowerprovidence.org

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