

TOWNSHIP OF UPPER PROVIDENCE

www.uprov-montco.org • Spring/Summer 2018 • Vol. 18, No. 1



Fire and Ambulance Issues Dominate Board Agenda



Upper Providence Fire Engine 93 and Black Rock Volunteer Fire Company Fire Tower 99.

The Board of Supervisors' first order of business was to handle some very complex and controversial issues centered around fire and ambulance (EMS) services in Upper Providence Township.

Fire Issues

Fire issues are not unique to Upper Providence. Changing demographics, increasing time demands on dual income families and more rigorous state training requirements have together combined to strain an already dwindling pool of available volunteer firefighters to protect the Township. The problem is especially chronic during the daytime, which prompted the introduction of career firefighters a few years ago.

On April 4, the Board passed a resolution approving several milestones that when completed will fully integrate the paid career fire staff with Black Rock

New Board Members Sworn In

The year 2018 ushered in major changes in Township government. In November 2016 the Township voters approved a referendum expanding the local governing body from three to five members. In November 2017 voters elected three new Supervisors, who were



Swearing in of Supervisors Laurie Higgins, John Pearson and Helene Calci

sworn in on January 2, 2018. They are: John F. Pearson, Mrs. Helene Calci and Ms. Laurie Higgins. They join current Supervisors Philip A. Barker and Albert Vagnozzi, rounding out Upper Providence's first-ever five-member Board of Supervisors. ♦

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Public Works

2018 Road Paving Project

Upper Providence Township Supervisors gave the Public Works Department the greenlight to contract the milling and overlaying of several Township roads. The following roads are



scheduled to be milled and overlayed: Woodlyn Drive, Acoma Lane, Cheyenne Road, White Crow Circle, Lisa Marie Lane and Hollow Road (between Jasper Lane and Egypt Road). Also on the list is the reconstruction of Kline Road. Due to the scope of the project, Kline Road will be bid separately. Funding for all projects will be through the State Liquid Fuels Program.

The Public Works Department and Board of Supervisors strive to maintain a regular pavement cycle. Roads are graded and prioritized based on age, amount of cracks and visual inspection. The grades allow the Township to maintain a regular pavement cycle to keep on top of the road conditions. ♦

Perkiomen Stream Cleanup

On Saturday, April 7, 2018, volunteers participated in the 2018 Perkiomen Stream Cleanup that was coordinated by the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy.



Supervisor Laurie Higgins

Of those volunteers was Supervisor Laurie Higgins. During the Cleanup, crews collected two large truck loads of trash, tires, scrap



Volunteers at the Perkiomen Stream Cleanup

metal, a TV set and other trash. Thank you to all of the amazing volunteers! ♦

Follow Us on Facebook! [f](#)

www.facebook.com/upperprovidence

Stop This Bug: Spotted Lanternfly

Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture is warning residents to "Look Before You Leave" to prevent the spread of the Spotted Lanternfly. The Spotted Lanternfly is an invasive bug that is native to Asia. Since



Upper Providence Township is in the quarantine zone, residents are asked to check their vehicles before leaving. The Spotted Lanternfly can be highly



damaging to Pennsylvania crops such as state forest products, such as apples and grapes.

What you can do: check your yard and trees for egg masses. Egg masses can look like mud. If found, scrape the masses into a plastic bag filled with rubbing alcohol. The alcohol will destroy the eggs.

Photos can be emailed to badbug@pa.gov ♦

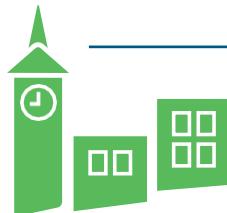
Electronic Recycling Day and Shred it Events!

Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 6th at 9:00 a.m. for our Electronic Recycling and Shred



It Events! Both events will be held at the Black Rock Municipal Campus. Residents can safely shred personal documents or recycle old or unwanted electronics. The events are open to all Upper Providence residents. Shred It! will last until the truck is full.

Please visit our website uprov-montco.org or Facebook.com/UpperProvidence for more details. ♦



In Development

The Planning Commission reviews development plans at public meetings on the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Recreation Center. If you have questions about development, call the Township office at 610-933-9179, or stop by to review development plans or talk with a Township staff member. Learn more at www.uprov-montco.org/226/Planning-Commission.

Under Construction

Morgan Tract – A combination of 89 residential units (single homes and townhouses) on the east side of Route 29 south of Black Rock Road.

Jeb Group – 60,000 square feet of self-storage buildings at Ridge Pike and Kline Road.

Preserve at Providence – 97 residential units (single homes and carriage homes) on Black Rock Road east of Route 29.

Highpointe at Providence – 52 attached singles at the corner of Black Rock Road and Route 29.

Highfield at Providence/Hess Phase II – Applicant proposes a 28-lot residential subdivision on Borough Line Road.

SEI – Applicant proposes a parking deck on the west side of Upper Indian Head Road.

Starbucks – Applicant proposes a Starbucks with a drive-through on the northeast corner of Egypt Road and Mill Road.

Cellco Partnership – Applicant proposes a monopole on property owned by GlaxoSmithKline on Ashenfelter Road adjacent to Route 422.

Plans in Final Review

615 Egypt Road – Applicant proposes 49 townhouses on the southeast corner of Egypt Road and Hollow Road.

Marchetti Minor Subdivision – Applicant proposes to subdivide one lot from their 2.48 acre site.

Ridgewood Phase II – Applicant proposes 235 residential townhouses on Linfield Trappe Road at Pennapacker Road.

Plans Requesting Preliminary Review

SEI – Applicant proposes 5 buildings and a parking garage on the east side of Upper Indian Head Road.

Plans Requesting Preliminary Review

Catskills Farm – Applicant proposes a 4-lot residential subdivision at 615 Port Providence Road.

Michael Kirk/DDHD Holding – Applicant proposed to subdivide one lot from the 9.33 acre site on 425 Mennonite Road.

Spares Circle – Applicant proposes a five lot subdivision on a 3.22 acre site on Spares Lane.

Plans Requesting Tentative Review/ Conditional Use Approval

Devimy Equities – Applicant proposes a school and dental office at 1431/1441 S. Collegeville Road.

Providence Business Park/BWR – Applicant proposed a rehabilitation center at Egypt and Meadowview Lane

239 Grace Street – Applicant proposed to subdivide their 4.83 acre lot into five lots for single family detached homes.

Pre-Construction, Fully Approved Plans

Twins on Fourth Avenue – Applicant requests a three-lot subdivision on Fourth Avenue in Mont Clare.

Global Packaging – Applicant proposes a 225,000 square foot manufacturing / warehouse building on Hollow Road east of the Meadows Condominiums .

Zoning Hearing Board applications

Lewis Road – Applicant is requesting a variance from setback and other dimensional issues for a proposed single family detached home at 716 S. Lewis Road.

Cellco Ashenfelter/Fruit Farm Road – Currently waiting for date for decision from Zoning Hearing Board.



Police

Upper Providence Township Police Welcome New Officers



Swearing in of Officer Burdsall, Officer Allen and Officer Sneeringer

Upper Providence Township welcomed three new officers at the January 16, 2018 Board of Supervisors Meeting. The new officers were sworn in to replace vacancies realized in the department. Having successfully undergone rigid testing and background investigations, three individuals have been selected to fill those open positions.

John Burdsall is from Media, Pennsylvania and attended Penncrest High School where he graduated in 2012. John continued his education at the University of Scranton and graduated in 2016 with a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. John then entered the Police Academy in July 2016 and graduated December 2016. Prior to coming to the Upper Providence Police Department, John worked as a part-time police officer in Delaware County with East Lansdowne and Brookhaven Police Departments.

Jacob Allen was born and raised in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. He attended Pennsbury High School and graduated in 2009. He was recruited to play football at Millersville University. He played for four years until he graduated in 2013 with a bachelor's degree in Sociology. Following college graduation, he worked at James D. Morrissey, Incorporated and Merrill Lynch, Incorporated. In 2015, he attended Temple University Police Academy where he received his police officer certification in February 2016. In April 2016, Jacob received a position with the Bristol Police Department where he remained until receiving an offer to join the Upper Providence

In case of emergency call 911 · Non-emergencies call 610-489-9332
Administrative Police questions call 610-933-7899

Police Department.

Lastly, Justin Sneeringer comes to us from Reading City Police Department where he spent three years as a police officer. Justin is originally from the Reading area and went to college at West Chester University where he received his bachelor's degree in Communications. He later attended Bond University in Australia and received a second bachelor's degree in Communications, Journalism, and Public Relations. He worked for a private investment company for ten years prior to entering law enforcement. ♦

Haines Promoted to Detective Sergeant

In order to fill a supervisory vacancy in the Detective Unit, a competitive testing process was administered recently to eligible candidates. The results of that process dictated the promotion of Patrick Haines to the position of Detective Sergeant.

Patrick Haines began his law enforcement career with the Montgomery County Sheriff's Department

in 1994. He was then hired by the Upper Providence Police Department in July of 1998. For the past 11 years, he has been working as a Detective in the Criminal Investigation Unit. Detective Haines has received extensive training in criminal investigations and graduated from the Top Gun Drug Enforcement Program in 2005 as well as a core Detective School sponsored by the Public Agency Training Council. Detective Haines holds an associate's degree in Criminal Justice and is actively working toward his bachelor's degree. ♦



Chief Toomey, Detective Sergeant Haines, Chairman Pearson

Fire and Emergency Services



(continued from page 1) Volunteer Fire Company. The goal of this new combination fire department will be to arrest the continuing decline of volunteers and to create a cohesive and nurturing environment that will encourage new volunteers to consider joining this new organization.

Achieving a fully integrated, combination department will take approximately two years. The end product will be a new emergency services facility centrally located at the Black Rock municipal campus, which is currently undergoing major site work renovations making way for a new facility that should be dedicated in late 2019 or early 2020.

An executive steering committee comprising Township and BRVFC officials has been formed to oversee this two-year integration process. The committee will be providing periodic progress reports as developments warrant.

Ambulance Issues

EMS issues are not unique to Upper Providence Township. Unlike the fire service — which still has a volunteer component — ambulance companies are fully staffed by paid emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics. These agencies are highly dependent on paid hospital transports to fund their operations.

For a long time this economic model has served these companies well. However, major changes in the health industry along with state regulatory restrictions have combined to upend this classic model, creating a widening structural deficit that many area companies are struggling to close. High deductible insurance plans coupled with inadequate Medicare reimbursement rates are no longer sufficient to cover many of these ambulance responses. As the Township population continues to grow, and with no commensurate increase in revenues to support this



growth, EMS agencies will continue to struggle.

Recognizing these economic strains, the Board of Supervisors has taken several strategic steps to help bolster the EMS agencies serving Upper Providence Township.

First, the PA Department of Health recently certified the Township's career fire staff as a Quick Response Service (QRS), allowing them to respond to local medical emergencies and provide basic life support (BLS) until an ambulance arrives.

Second, for the first time ever, the Board appropriated a portion of the proceeds from the public safety levy to help support the contracted EMS companies that serve Upper Providence.

Finally, on April 4, the Board passed a resolution authorizing the creation of an advanced life support (ALS) medic responder unit that will be centrally based in the Township and staffed 24/7. This medic responder will be staffed by a certified paramedic, who's primary responsibility will be focused on the treatment of the patient until a local ambulance company arrives on scene. ♦

2018 Summer & Fall Holiday Office Closures

Memorial Day — May 28

Independence Day — July 4

Labor Day — September 3

Columbus Day — October 8

Veterans Day — November 12

Thanksgiving — November 22-23

Christmas — December 25-26

*If police assistance is needed, please call 911 for emergencies or 610-489-9332 for non-emergencies.



Community

Support Your Local Upper Providence Township Farms

Tucked away in the Collegeville section of the Township, you



will find Fran and Ann's Produce Stand at 115

Wartman Road. This farm stand welcomes visitors and makes them feel right at home. Owners, Fran and Ann, are extremely helpful and very friendly.



At the farm stand you can see the vegetables sprouting right behind you! In spring you will find a variety of flowers and herbs. When the season arrives, they sell fresh veggies including tomatoes, broccoli and more! Hay and straw are available year round.

*Sun - Mon 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Tues, Thurs 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.*

www.facebook.com/FranAnnProduce



Summer Discount Tickets

Did you know the Recreation Department sells discount tickets at Anderson Farm Park? Be sure to check with us before heading out this summer! Discount tickets are available for a variety of Amusement Parks, Zoos, Aquariums and more! Check our website for a full list of tickets and pricing, or stop in at the Recreation Center located at 499 Hopwood Road, Collegeville, PA 19426.

Renninger's Farm has been a family tradition in the Township since 1932.

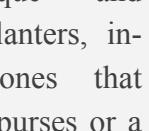
The farm began with cows for milking and other livestock but has transitioned with the Township over the years. Located at 924 2nd Avenue in the Royersford section of the Township, Renninger's selection changes with the season.

They include spring plants, summer produce and fall harvest. Year round you can purchase eggs, hay, straw and ear corn. There is so much to see as you explore the greenhouses to find your perfect plant. They also

have unique and custom planters, including ones that look like purses or a watering can!

Mon—Sun 9:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

www.renningersfarm.com



Right on Route 113 at 746 S. Trappe Road in the Collegeville section of the Township, Varner Farms is open seasonally during the fall months until

Christmas.

The farm offers wagon rides to the

pumpkin patch as well as a flashlight corn maze. Leading up to Christmas, visitors can

take a wagon ride to cut their own Christmas tree or choose from a selection of fresh cut trees. A live nativity also takes place. The stand sells ci-



der, apples, cornstalks and more. Wreaths and greens are

also available. The season starts during September and ends in December.

<http://www.varnerfarms.net/>



Recreation

Visit www.uptrc.com or call 484-391-2390 for more details!



Changes in Recreation: Upper Providence Welcomes New Recreation and Special Events Director



Jennifer Steffenauer, Recreation and Special Events Director

In February, Upper Providence Township welcomed Jennifer Steffenauer as our new Director of Recreation and Special Events. Jen earned a degree in Recreation and Leisure Services Management from East Stroudsburg University with concentrated course work in camp administration and community recreation. Her previous experience includes teen programming and directing summer camps as well as before and after school programs at the YMCA. She was also the program and summer camp coordinator for Upper Providence Township from 2012-2014. During her time as our program coordinator, she completely revamped our

program selections and birthday party packages, and was instrumental in restructuring our membership options.

Jen lives in the township with her husband, Rob, and their five year-old daughter. She is thrilled to be back at Upper Providence and working so close to home in her chosen field. In addition to her career, she has volunteered with the Girl Scouts and currently serves as President of the parent board at her daughter's Nursery School. She also serves on the Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society 2019 Conference Committee where we are certain she'll have a positive impact on Parks and Recreation officials across the state. Since becoming the Director of Recreation and Special Events, she has been working hard to grow our membership, programs, events, and Recreation Center offerings. Stay tuned for our schedule of Concerts and summer events in the Park! ♦

Community Day!

It is time to mark your calendars, Upper Providence Township Community Day planning has begun! Join us on **Saturday, September 15th** for a fun-filled day of children's activities, live music, food vendors, crafters and local business expo. The day ends with a phenomenal fireworks display you do not want to miss. Follow our website and Facebook so you do not miss any details. See you there!

UPPER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP
COMMUNITY DAY

Save the Date

• 15 SEPTEMBER 2018 •



More information at: www.uptrc.com

Mobile App

Upper Providence Township successfully launched its first mobile app. UPTMontco is the official mobile app for Upper Providence Township. The app provides residents and visitors with quick and easy information at your fingertips. Enjoy convenient access to events, Township news, Board Meetings, online payments, digital copies of your favorite Upper Providence Township newsletter and more!

To access the app, Google Play users will search for UPTMontco. Apple users must first download the CivicMobile App by Civic Plus and then select Upper Providence Township. Once the app is opened, it will give users the option to 'Find Your Location.'

Visit us at <https://www.uprov-montco.org/320/Mobile-App> for links and instructions!



❖ New Recreation Director! See page 7.

❖ Police Additions on page 4.

❖ 2018 Road Paving Project on page 2.

❖ Board Agenda on page 1 and 5.

❖ Fire and Ambulance Issues Dominate

What's Inside:

Spring/Summer 2018

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Township of Upper Providence