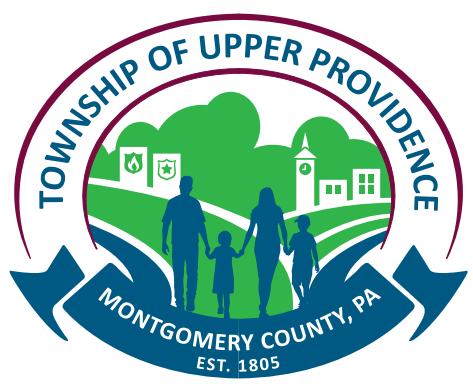


# TOWNSHIP OF UPPER PROVIDENCE

www.uprov-montco.org • Fall 2021 • Vol. 21, No. 4



## Fire Prevention Month: Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety™



The Upper Providence Township Department of Fire & Emergency Services is teaming up with the National Fire Protection Association®, the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week for more than 90 years, to promote this year's fire prevention campaign, "Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety™." This year's campaign works to educate everyone about simple but important actions they can take to keep themselves and those around them safe.

"What do the sounds mean," asks Firefighter Carmen Conicelli. "Is there a beep or a chirp coming out of your smoke or carbon monoxide alarm? Knowing the difference can save you, your home, and your family."

It's important to learn the different sounds of smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. When an alarm makes noise, a beeping sound or a chirping sound, take action. Make sure everyone in the home understands the sounds of the alarms and knows how to respond. To learn the sounds of your specific smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, check the manufacturer's instructions that came in the box, or search the brand and model online.

The Upper Providence Township Department of Fire & Emergency Services shares the following safety tips to help you and your family "Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety"

- A continuous set of three loud beeps—beep, beep, beep—means smoke or fire. Get out, call 9-1-1, and stay out.

*(continued on Page 6)*

### INSIDE THIS EDITION:

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We are interested in **YOUR** feedback of our quarterly newsletter. Let us know what information you would like covered. <https://bit.ly/3AVJ1F6>



## Celebrating Police Promotions

At the Upper Providence Township Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting on August 16, Eric Smith was promoted to sergeant for the Upper Providence Township Police Department, and at the meeting on September 20, Shea Johnson was promoted to sergeant.

Sergeant Smith (at right with Chief Mark Freeman) explains that after the September 11, 2001 attacks he was motivated to become a police officer and enrolled in the Delaware County Municipal Police Academy. He began his career with the Upper Providence Township Police Department in February 2004.

As an officer, Smith served as a member of the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office Drug Task Force, a detective with the Criminal Investigations Division, a member of the Department's Bicycle Unit, and was a Field Training Officer. Currently, Smith serves as an instructor for the department in several fields – a Firearms Instructor, a Taser Instructor, a BolaWrap Instructor, a Less Lethal Impacts Munitions Instructor, and a Gracie Survival Tactics Instructor.

During his tenure with the Upper Providence Township Police Department, Smith has earned a life-saving award and commendations for his roles in successful resolutions to serious incidents.



In 2007, Smith was selected to serve with the Chester-Montgomery Emergency Response Team, now called Montgomery County SWAT – Western Region, where he is still serving, now as an Assistant Team Leader. Smith has earned several commendations for his involvement in the safe and successful resolutions of high-risk incidents with the SWAT Team.

Most recently, Smith has been serving the Upper Providence Township Police Department as a Training Coordinator where he has been able to use his years of training and experience to bring current and relevant training opportunities to the Police Department. Part of this assignment included implementing a Use-Of-Force simulator in the Department's training program where officers can focus on real word scenarios and de-escalation tactics.

Shea Johnson (at right with Chief Freeman) began his law enforcement training at the Military Police Basic Officer Leadership Course at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. Upon returning from Afghanistan, he attended the Philadelphia Police Academy and obtained his ACT 120 certification. Since then, he has attended numerous advanced training courses.

Johnson began his career in law enforcement in 2012 as a patrol officer with the Temple University Police Department in Philadelphia. In 2014, he joined the Patrol Division of the Upper Providence Police Department. Johnson joined the Criminal Investigation Division in 2017 as a Supplemental Investigator before officially obtaining the title of Detective in May 2018. Johnson has served with the Montgomery County Detective Bureau's Narcotics Enforcement Team where he investigated narcotics trafficking and drug delivery resulting in death cases. He is a member of the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office Drug Task Force and the Mid-Atlantic Regional Gang Investigators Network.



Johnson says that the best thing about working for the Upper Providence Police Department is the current trajectory of the department. "Every day we are taking steps towards advancing the department and creating a more resilient agency for the future," he says.

Johnson served in the United States Army Reserves for 10 years where he held numerous titles including Platoon Leader, Company Commander, Operations Officer and Detachment Commander. He is a veteran of the War in Afghanistan, as well as other operations supporting the Global War on Terror, and earned various awards during his time in the service including the Afghanistan Campaign Medal and the Bronze Star.

Johnson holds a bachelor's degree in History from the Pennsylvania State University. He is currently enrolled in a master's degree program at the American Military University where he studies criminal intelligence.



## UPT Parks and Recreation Upcoming Events

### October 2021

- **16th: UPROV Strong Community Day 10am-2pm**  
Location: Black Rock Park
- **19th: Star Party with DVAA 7pm-9pm**  
Location: Anderson Farm Park; Pre-registration required
- **20th: Walk with a Cop 9:30am-10am**  
Location: Anderson Farm Park; Pre-registration required
- **21st: Story time with Public Works 10am-11am**  
Location: Black Rock Park; Pre-registration encouraged
- **25th: 3D Printer: The basics 6pm-7pm**  
Location: UPT Community Center; Pre-registration required
- **26th: Colorado Rockies Trip Informational Session 6pm-7pm**  
Location: UPT Community Center; Pre-registration required
- **27th: Young Rembrandts' Art Class 4:30-5:30pm**  
Location: UPT Community Center; Pre-registration required

### November 2021

- **3rd and 17th: Walk with a Cop 9:30am-10am**  
Location: Anderson Farm Park; Pre-registration required
- **6th: Podcasting 101 with Creative Light Factory 10am**  
Location: UPT Community Center; Pre-registration required
- **13th: Turkey Trail Trek 9am-11am**  
Location: Black Rock Park; See website for details
- **15th: Story time at 10am**  
Location: UPT Community Center
- **15th: Holiday Tree Pottery Pop Up 5pm-6:30pm**  
Location: UPT Community Center; Pre-registration required
- **26th: Woodland Wonderland Opening night 5pm-8pm**  
Location: Anderson Farm Park; Pre-registration required  
Runs Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays through December 18th



# Recreation

Community Center located at Anderson Farm Park at 499 Hopwood Road, Collegeville, PA 19426  
Visit [www.getuptrc.org](http://www.getuptrc.org) or call 484-391-2390 for more information and/or class updates.



## Walk with a Cop

Nov. 3rd & 17th

9:30am

Anderson Farm Park



## Turkey Trail Trek

Join us for our 2nd annual Turkey Trail Trek!

Trail Walk | Turkey Trivia | Live Turkey | Children's activities | and MORE!

Black Rock Park • November 13th • 9-11am

Check out our Community Center to see all the offerings available to you!

- State-of-the-art Fitness Center
- Kid's Corner
- Full Gymnasium
- Podcast/Recording Studio
- Rock Wall
- Community Workspace
- Group Exercise Space



Info Session  
10/26, 6pm  
UPT CC

## Colorado Rockies, Rails & Western National Parks

August 7, 2022

9 DAYS

### BOOKING DISCOUNT!

Save \$200 Per Person  
\$400 Per Couple\*

### NO RISK DEPOSIT NO CHANGE FEES

Book Now and your Deposit is Risk Free with  
No Change Fees until Final Payment Due Date!  
See back for details\*\*



### TOUR RATES:

Booking Discount\*: \$3225 pp double

Regular Rate: \$3425 pp double

Single Supplement: +\$1075

\*See Reservation Info for Booking Discount details



Hess Preserve was deeded to Upper Providence Township in September 1998, and bought through the Montgomery County Open Space Grant Program. The property is in memory of Mildred Hess wife of Clay Hess whose family owned the property for many years. 43.1 acres have been planted with trees and will be left as a preserve. Plans for walking trails and connections to other open space/park land are being planned.

**Young Rembrandts Pop-up Class**

Wednesday, October 27

Ages 5-14, 4:30-5:30 PM  
\$18 per person  
Register online: [getupt.org](https://getupt.org)

TOWNSHIP OF UPPER PROVIDENCE  
PARKS AND RECREATION



UPT PARKS AND RECREATION

**3D PRINTING CLASS**

Monday, October 25  
6:00-7:00pm  
Ages 14+  
FREE  
Community Center  
Register online: [getupt.org](https://getupt.org)

TOWNSHIP OF UPPER PROVIDENCE  
PARKS AND RECREATION

**Woodland Wonderland Light Display**

Coming November 2021

Walk through our Woodland Wonderland and enjoy the beautiful light displays!

Opening Night: November 26, 5pm-8pm

TOWNSHIP OF UPPER PROVIDENCE  
PARKS AND RECREATION



# Fire and Emergency Services

## Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety

*(continued from page 1)*

- A single chirp every 30 or 60 seconds means the battery is low and must be changed.
- Chirping that continues after the battery has been replaced means the alarm is at the end of its life and the unit must be replaced. All smoke alarms must be replaced after 10 years.
- Make sure your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms meet the needs of all your family members, including those with sensory or physical disabilities.

Upper Providence Township firefighters will be visiting



local schools, childcare centers, and businesses during October to educate everyone on fire prevention. Firefighters routinely instruct people on how to properly use a fire extinguisher. To schedule a training at your business, contact Firefighter Carmen Conicelli at [cconicelli@uprov-montco.org](mailto:cconicelli@uprov-montco.org).

## Fire Safety Reminders

- Know 2 ways out of every room
- Once you exit your home, NEVER go back inside. Get out and Stay Out!
- Make a home escape plan. Practice the plan with everyone in your household.
- When you change your clocks for Daylight Savings Time, its time to change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.
- Stop, Drop, and Roll and cover your face with your hands if your clothes catch on fire.
- Keep children three-feet from anything that can get hot (heating/cooking appliances).
- Have a safety meeting place out front of your home: ex: mailbox, light post, rock, neighbor's driveway.
- Have a working smoke alarm in every bedroom and on every floor of your home.
- Make sure dryer, furnace, stove, and fireplace vents are clear of snow and other debris.
- Ensure that your house number can be seen from the street both day and night.
- Never leave a hot barbecue grill or fire pit unattended.

## Department of Fire and Emergency Services Swears in Firefighters

At the Upper Providence Township Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting on Monday, September 20, Steve McCoy and Kyle Lochner were sworn in as full-time firefighters/EMTs for the Upper Providence Township Department of Fire and Emergency Services. McCoy and Lochner joined the department on a part-time basis in 2018.

McCoy began his fire service career in 2004 as a junior firefighter with the Royersford Fire Department. While with the department, he served

as assistant chief and president. He joined the Pottstown Fire Department in 2017 and continues to volunteer as captain of this department.

McCoy began his EMS career with the Friendship Ambulance of the Royersford Fire Department, rising to the rank of deputy chief of operations. He also served with the Goodwill Ambulance of Pottstown.

McCoy received his fire training at Bucks County Department of Public Safety Training Center

and the Montgomery County Department of Public Safety Training Center. He completed his EMS coursework at the Montgomery County Fire Academy EMS Division.

McCoy appreciates the passion that his fellow firefighters and EMTs have for the job and approaches every day with a never give up attitude.

Following in his father's footsteps, Lochner began his fire service career at the age of 14 as a junior firefighter with the Lower Providence Fire Department. He continues to volunteer with

this company and currently holds the rank of lieutenant.

Lochner received his fire training at the the Montgomery County and Bucks County fire academies. He completed his EMT coursework through Harrisburg Area Community College.

"I am grateful to be working with Upper Providence Township Department of Fire and Emergency Services," says Lochner. "The crew is amazing, and the growth and vision of the department is inspiring."

# Introducing the Spring Valley Risk Reduction Team

About two years ago, Black Rock Volunteer Fire Company, College Fire Company, Trappe Volunteer Fire Company, and the Royersford Fire Department joined together with Upper Providence Township's Department of Fire and Emergency Services to form the Spring Valley Risk Reduction Team.

Community risk reduction is the process of identifying

and prioritizing local risks, followed by the integrated and strategic investment of resources (emergency response and prevention) to reduce their occurrence and impact. The community's risk assessment was completed with the assistance of the Vision 20/20 Project.

From the assessment, a plan was developed that includes educational and enforcement

activities. One example is a recently completed project with Texas Roadhouse producing three safety videos which are playing in their waiting area, as well as on the Spring Valley Risk Reduction Team's social media sites.

"The Spring Valley Risk Reduction Team provides a focused approach to reducing specific risks by

involving community partners, firefighters, and others, resulting in an organizational culture that

recognizes the importance of reducing risks within a community," says Firefighter Jason Adams. "Our team is always here working to keep our community safe."



## Public Works

ADDRESS: 1286 Black Rock Rd, Phoenixville, PA 19460  
Compost Site: 1094 Longford Rd, Phoenixville, PA 19460

### Are You Snow Ready?

The leaves may just be beginning to change and color lawns, but the first day of winter will be here before you know it and the long-term forecast is calling for snow!

Upper Providence, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT), and private communities are all part of the winter team when it comes to clearing snowy and icy roads. Plowing begins on designated Snow Emergency Routes to provide safe access for emergency response vehicles and then continues onto main roads.

You can help crews clear roads faster and stay safe by following these simple winter weather suggestions:

- Park all vehicles off the street before, during, and after a snowfall.
- Do not throw snow onto the roadway when shoveling, or you may be fined.
- Shovel an area for trash and recycling containers

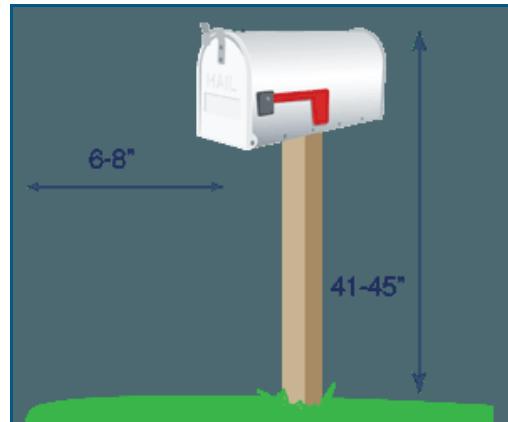
on the curb or your driveway, but not in the street.

- Parents, please watch your children closely, and instruct them that it is extremely dangerous to play or stand near the street when snow plows are working. Do not leave sleds or toys in the street.
- Remove snow from the end of your driveway and in front of your mailbox. Please refer to the diagram at the right for proper snow removal around mailboxes
- Clear a three-foot perimeter around any fire hydrant. To avoid having plows push snow back onto cleared areas, shovel snow to the right of your driveway.

Also, now is the time to check your mailbox to ensure it is installed correctly and is securely in the ground. To prevent damage from passing snowplows mailboxes



should be installed so that the top is 41 to 45 inches from the ground. They should be set back six to eight inches from the front face of the curb or road edge. Upper Providence Township is not responsible for damage caused by improper mailbox placement.





# Administration

## Township Responds to Hurricane Ida

Reports were calling for four to six inches of rain. In the end, parts of Upper Providence Township received upwards of eight inches from the remnants of Hurricane Ida and the storm is on record as one of the most disruptive in the region's weather history.

The rain began falling mid-afternoon on Wednesday, September 1. The Upper Providence Township's Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) was dispatched to their first water rescue at 3:30PM, with another dozen calls starting at 6:30PM. Most of these calls were vehicle rescues.

"It was when the Perkiomen and Schuylkill began to rise that calls from residents in Port Providence and Mont Clare began coming in," explains Tom Dimmerling, Assistant Fire Chief/Fire Marshal. "The boat crew performed 65 water rescues in a seven-and-a-half-hour period overnight. They were phenomenal. Under normal circumstances, the team can rest after a rescue ... these guys went nonstop for hours."

Department of Fire and Emergency Services was dispatched to 113 calls (71 swift water rescues, 4 flood assessments, 38 calls related to gas leaks, fire alarms, EMS assists) between 3:00AM on September 1 and 10:00AM on September 6. 195 people and 42 animals were rescued or evacuated during and immediately following the



(Left) The bridge to Phoenixville from Mont Clare.

(Below) An aerial view of flooding in Port Providence



storm. Township crews were assisted in rescue efforts by 21 other agencies from as far away as Berks and Delaware counties.

The next day, waters continued to rise along the creek and river, as Township officials staffed an Emergency Operations Center and residents of Port Providence and Mont Clare began to assess the damage to their properties. In the end, 203 buildings (191 homes and 12 businesses) were affected by flooding from Hurricane Ida.

Dan and Betsy Daley have lived in their home on Canal Street in Port Providence for 41 years. Eleven years ago they bought the property next-door as a rental. Mrs. Daley explains that prior to this storm, their home was the one on the street that was always the dry house.

"While our basement would get water, our first floor was always dry," she says. "Our house was the one that our neighbors could come to for a piece of pizza and a place to rest while cleaning up from their first-floor flooding. While we experienced the devastation

alongside of them, we didn't fully understand how emotionally and physically draining the experience is."

On Saturday, September 4, Upper Providence Township's Department of Public Works arrived on-site in Port Providence and Mont Clare to assist with cleanup, and light towers, a water buffalo, ice, and dumpsters were delivered. The Public Works crew put in more than 1,000 manhours between September 1 and 9.

"The recovery process in a disaster is the hardest part," says Tom Broadbelt, Public Works Director. "We have an amazing team. Everyone came together and put in a tremendous effort."

"It has been a whirlwind," says Mrs. Daley. "We all feel like we can't stop and then when you finally do stop ... well, we have all had that lose it moment, but then you feel better and start

moving forward again."

Sewage and stormwater pipes overflowed during the surge from Ida's remnants, emptying untreated water directly into the region's major waterways which then flooded Reynold's Dog Park and Port Providence Road Park.

In addition to the Department of Public Works continuing to remove debris throughout the Labor Day Weekend, staff and volunteers came together to help residents begin the clean-up process. A Township-sponsored GoFundMe campaign was established to provide aid to residents. The Upper Providence Park and Recreation team opened a donation collection and distribution site at the UPT Community Center.

"After opening the Township's Community Center as a short-term shelter, I noticed an

immediate need for items like blankets, clothing, socks, and other soft goods," says Parks and Recreation Director, Sue Hoffman.

"As the days continued, the needs for hygiene products, baby items, food, and water were of great importance for those affected by the flood waters."

The Township received such an overwhelming response from the community that collection and distribution efforts were moved to the Mont Clare Firehouse. This site allowed for easier



access for those impacted by the storm and gave the team of staff and volunteers more space to organize all of the goods being donated.

Once the storm had cleared and residents were allowed back to their homes, the Township started collecting cleaning items like brooms, bleach, paper towels, masks, gloves and mops. The donation and supply team were stationed at Mont Clare Firehouse from Saturday, September 4 through Friday, October 1 handing out thousands of donated items to residents in need. "We cannot thank our community neighbors enough for all of their generosity and willingness to volunteer," Hoffman states. "Our beautiful and supportive

community is something of which to be proud."

"My husband and I can't say enough about the Township and how well they responded," Mrs. Daley says. "As soon as it started, everyone was phenomenal in their response. The Township should get a huge pat on the back ... it makes us feel taken care of and very lucky we live in Upper Providence Township."

(Below Left) Donations from the community awaiting distribution.

(Below Center) The mark on the Daley's antique cabinet is a reminder of how high the water reached on the first floor of their home.

(Below) After the water receded, the Daleys found their refrigerator on its side wedged between the door and the island.



## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

When Upper Providence Township put out the call for donations of blankets, socks, and other soft goods on September 2, you responded.

And, when the call for donations changed to include cleaning supplies, bottled water, and gift cards, you responded ... overwhelmingly.

Thank you!

Thank you to the individuals, church groups, sports teams, school groups, and families who worked side-by-side with residents to remove debris.

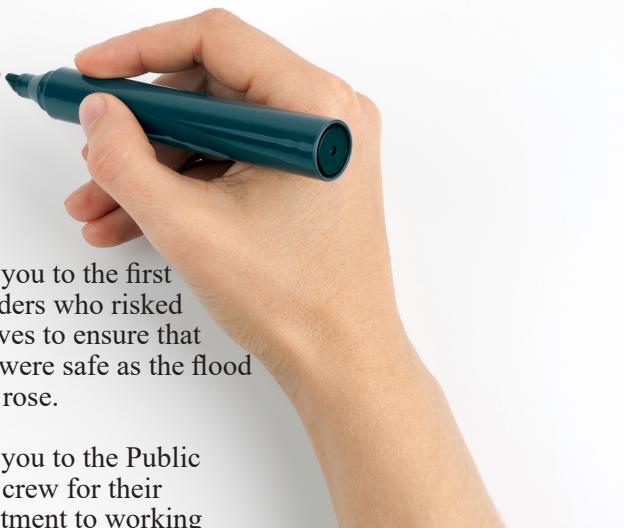
Thank you to the volunteers who washed clothes and dishes that were covered with the remains of flood waters.

Thank you to Spring Valley YMCA and Limerick Planet Fitness for offering up hot showers. Thank you to Manavon Elementary School for the donation of school supplies. Thank you to the restaurants, local businesses, churches, nonprofits, and individuals for the generous donations of food that continue to find a way to the residents without power or running water.

Thank you to the first responders who risked their lives to ensure that others were safe as the flood waters rose.

Thank you to the Public Works crew for their commitment to working alongside the residents to clear debris.

Thank you to the countless others who stepped up to help when our community needed it the most!





# In Development

Phone: 610-933-9179

The Planning Commission reviews development plans at public meetings on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 7:00PM. If you have questions about development, call the Township office at 610-933-9179 to speak with a Township staff member. Included in the map below are current Planning Commission topics. Learn more at [www.uprov-montco.org/226/Planning-Commission](http://www.uprov-montco.org/226/Planning-Commission).

183 Kline Road, PRDC  
-30 Single Family Detached Homes

357 Greenwood  
-Single Family Detached Homes

Founders Reserve II  
-16 Single Family Detached Homes

188 Bechtel Road  
-6 Single Family Detached Homes

Hopwood Hills  
-Carriage Homes

Wirant Dental  
-Office Building

S. Lewis Rd. Townhouses  
-21 Townhouses

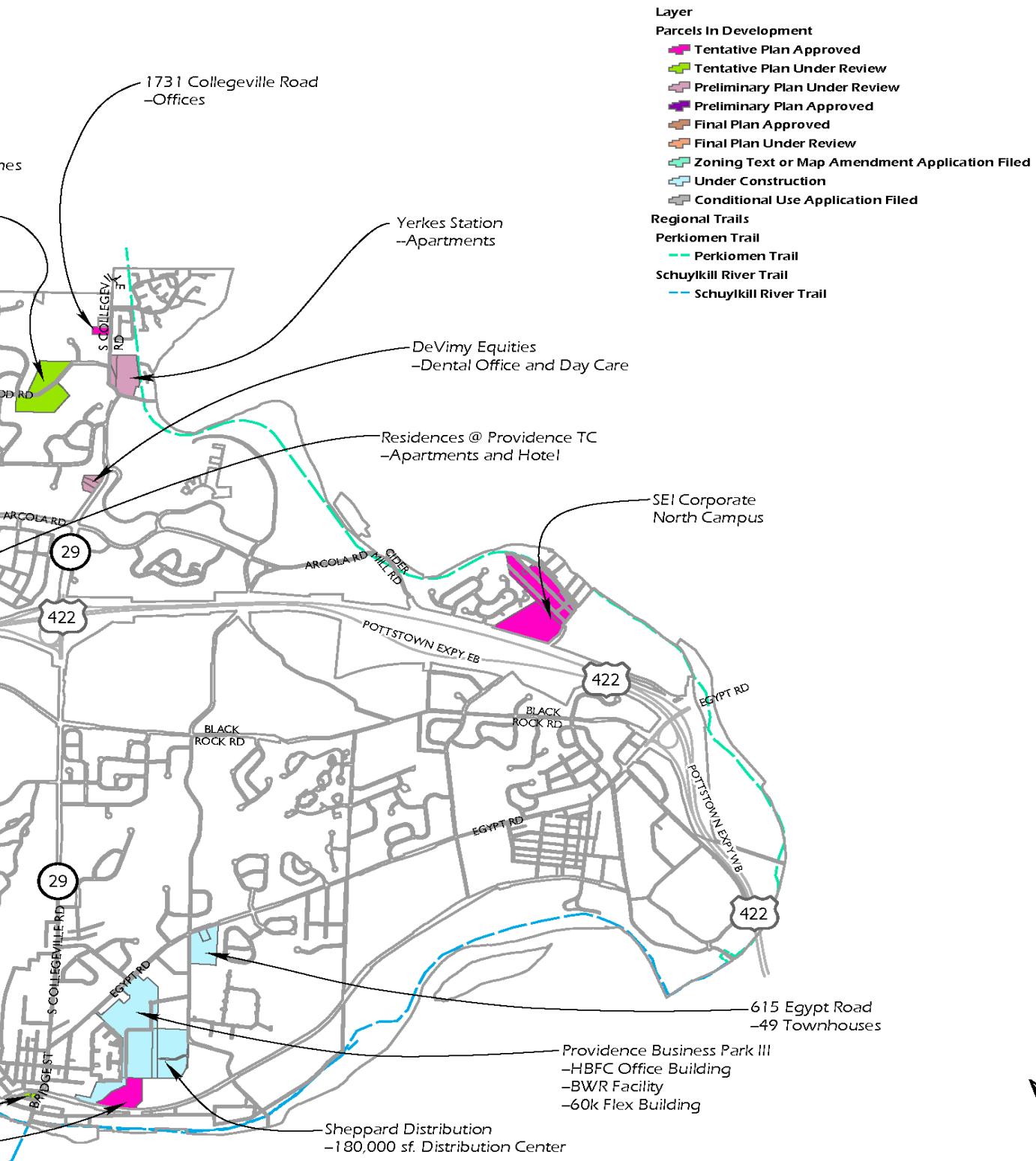
STOWNSHIP  
LIMERD  
LUNFIELD  
TRAPPERD

RITTENHOUSE RD  
S. LEWIS RD  
422

POTTSTOWN EXPRESSWAY  
TEAGER RD  
2ND AVE  
VAUGHN RD

Amelia St. Townhomes  
-8 Townhomes

Providence Business Park III  
-PD Home and Garden



**Township of Upper Providence**

1286 Black Rock Road

Phoenixville, PA 19460

(610) 933-9179

[www.uprov-montco.org](http://www.uprov-montco.org)

**Fall 2021**

# **UPPER PROVIDENCE POLLING LOCATIONS**

**ALL MONTGOMERY COUNTY POLLS WILL BE OPEN FROM 7:00 A.M. TO 8:00 P.M.  
NOVEMBER 2, 2021**

## **MINGO-1**

**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WAR POST 6341  
730 S. FOURTH AVENUE  
ROYERSFORD, PA 19468**

## **MINGO-2**

**ROYERSFORD BAPTIST CHURCH  
452 S. LEWIS ROAD  
ROYERSFORD, PA 19468**

## **MONT CLARE**

**UPT RECREATION CENTER  
499 HOPWOOD ROAD  
COLLEGEVILLE, PA 19426**

## **OAKS**

**UPT ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
1286 BLACK ROCK ROAD  
PHOENIXVILLE, PA 19460**



## **TRAPPE**

**SPRING-FORD MIDDLE SCHOOL  
7TH GRADE CENTER  
833 S. LEWIS ROAD  
ROYERSFORD, PA 19468**