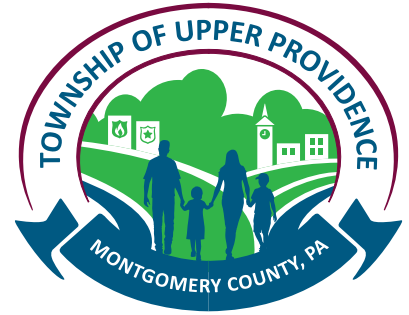


TOWNSHIP OF UPPER PROVIDENCE

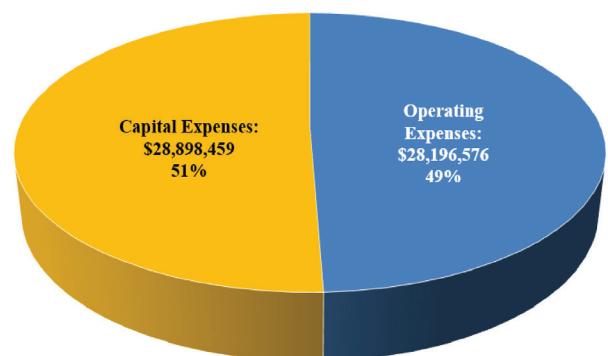
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The Upper Providence Township 2023 Operating and Capital Budget has been adopted

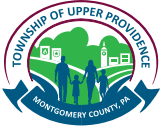
On December 5, 2023, the Upper Providence Township (UPT) Board of Supervisors (BOS) voted unanimously 5-0 to adopt a 2023 operating and capital budget. The ~ \$57.1 million spending plan appropriates 49% or ~\$28.2 million to operating expenses and 51% or ~ \$28.9 million in planned capital expenditures. Approximately 34% of this budget or \$19.5 million includes anticipated federal grants for flood mitigation projects in the Mont Clare and Port Providence areas of UPT, which were devastated by the remnants of Hurricane Ida in late 2021.

Over 40 impacted residents from these neighborhoods are participating in this FEMA buyout program. The program requires the Township to acquire and raze these homes, removing them from the floodplain and restoring them to their original natural state. Once all environmental reviews are done, we expect demolition to begin in summer 2023. Upon completion we expect this project to produce several acres of new and



contiguous open space, providing multiple park redevelopment opportunities in the near future.

The 2023 budget marks a milestone in UPT's budget process because it incorporates a five-year framework. Township officials will use this model to account for all current and future financial forecasts, not only capital costs but also operational ones. Like prior budgets, we embraced a fiscally



Administration

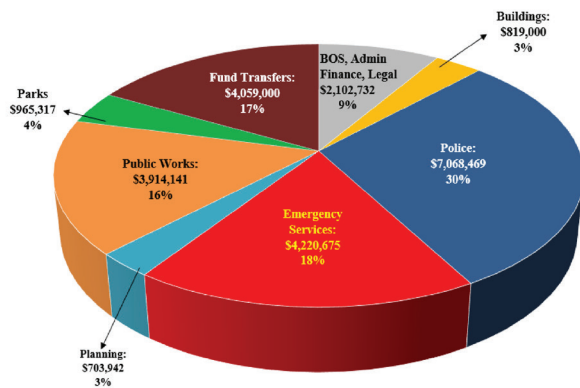
Township Administration Hours:
Monday-Friday 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Phone: (610) 933-9179
Email: admin@uprov-montco.org

2023 Budget Continued.

conservative approach considering rising inflation, higher interest rates and general nationwide angst over the likelihood of an economic recession within the next couple of years.

The 2023 budget entails three major components: General, Sewer and Capital. The ~\$23.9 million General Fund is UPT's main operating engine, funding all major municipal departments such as police, emergency services, public works, administration, parks, and planning.

This pie chart shows each department's proportional distribution. Except for one department, authorized



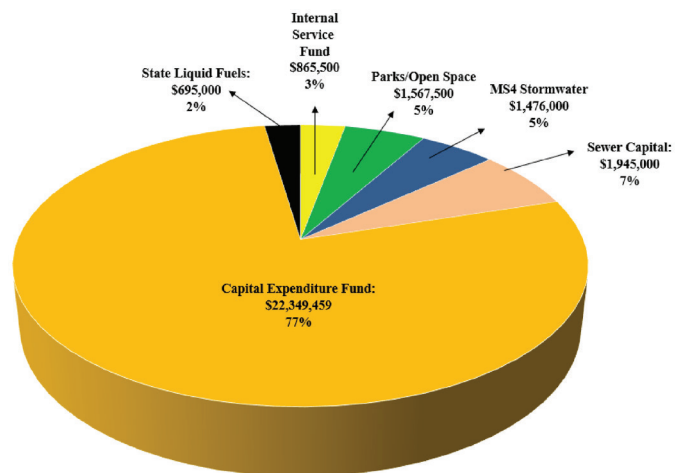
staffing levels remain unchanged from the prior year. Emergency services was the one exception because of its transition to 24-hour fire coverage effective September 2022. Accommodating this expansion in fire coverage required hiring an additional five full-time and twelve part-time firefighter/emergency medical technicians (EMT). In October the BOS dedicated the new centralized emergency services facility, which will house these career firefighters. The new facility will also quarter a 24-hour ambulance service, provided by Friendship Ambulance. Together these enhancements required a significant funding boost, which the BOS authorized in 2022.

The Township's ~\$4.3 million Sewer Fund serves as the billing agent for the Lower Perkiomen Valley Regional Sewer Authority (LPVRS). While the Authority treats all UPT sewage effluent regionally, the Township is responsible for maintaining the local sewer collection system, which consists of ~115

miles of sewer pipe. On November 8, the LVPRSA Board approved a \$2 monthly rate increase per EDU (Equivalent Development Unit), reflecting a ~13% increase, which will automatically be passed on to all residential and business ratepayers. Most homeowners are assessed one EDU, which will be billed ~\$173 semi-annually. Despite this increase, UPT still has one of the lowest sewer rates in Montgomery County.

The Township's ~\$22.3 million Capital Budget represents a collection of different funds earmarked for specific project types, as shown on pie graph. The ~\$1.6 million Park and Open Space Fund (POSF) serves as the repository for all park-related developer contributions. It funds all major capital projects throughout UPT's park system such as Black Rock Park's new inclusive playground and the recent Rivercrest trail connector.

In 2023, new restroom facilities and pavilions are planned for Black Rock Park in addition to new



pickleball courts. The Township has been very successful in leveraging local dollars with government grants to expand UPT's growing trail network. These grant initiatives will continue next year.

A new capital budget feature is the establishment of a dedicated capital replacement fund (aka Internal Service Fund). Approximately \$865,000 is slated for new police cars and public works equipment in 2023. Any trade-in surpluses will be deposited into this internal service fund to pay for future replacements. Each municipal department will be assessed an annual

2023 Budget Continued.

depreciation charge at 0% interest based on each vehicle's useful life. This strategy will provide a perpetual funding source for future Township's fleet replacements.

The \$1.48 million MS4 Stormwater Fund is a new dedicated fund for all stormwater-related infrastructure projects throughout the Township. Officials earmarked \$2 million in federal Covid-relief grants to seed this account and delayed until 2024 the assessment of a stormwater fee. For 2023 around ~ \$1,476,000 is programmed to replace aging stormwater infrastructure, including deteriorating pipes, culverts, basins, and outfalls.

The ~\$1.95 million Sewer Capital Fund is UPT's primary financial vehicle for underwriting all major sewer capital projects. Its major funding sources derive from annual transfers from sewer operating revenues as well as tapping fees for new connections. In 2022 the Township began the Tindey Run Sewer Project, extending public sewers to UPT's last major unsewered sector. This will be completed in 2023, along with the sewerage of Greenwood Avenue from Ridge to College Avenues.

The Township continues its commitment to mill and repave an average of 4.0 miles of municipal roads per year. Using a combination of capital monies from the General Fund and a share of state gas tax revenues, the 2023 road budget includes ~ \$1.3 million for paving 14 roads. Coupled with the additional paving associated with the above sewer projects, UPT has exceeded its 4.0 mile target.

One final noteworthy project involves the phased expansion to the public works facility, which will include a newly expanded salt storage dome, an upgraded fuel station and expanded garage space to meet new federal stormwater regulation. This ~ \$6 million expansion project, initially planned for 2023, will be phased in over the next 5 years.

In summary the overarching goal of this new five-year budget framework was to provide a long-term fiscal blueprint that continues conservative fiscal practices, provides optimal municipal services efficiently and preserves UPT's hard-earned AAA bond rating.



Public Works

Township Snow Emergency Roads

A snow emergency is a local emergency put out by the township manager that usually follows the states issuing of an emergency. During this time travel on the roadways should be limited and extreme caution should be used. All vehicles should be removed from the sides of the listed roads here, to make for safer snow removal operations.



TOWNSHIP SNOW EMERGENCY ROAD

- Arcola Road
- Bechtel Road
- Cider Mill Road
- Fifth Avenue - Royersford Line to Vaughn Road
- Gay Street
- Green Tree Road
- Gumbes Road
- Hopwood Road
- Longford Road
- Mennonite Road - Yeager Road to Route 113
- Port Providence Road
- Rittenhouse Road
- Vaughn Road
- Walnut Street
- Yeager Road

STATE SNOW EMERGENCY ROADS

- Black Rock Road
- Egypt Road
- Lewis Road
- Ridge Pike/Main Street
- Route 29
- Route 113
- Township Line Road ❖

Snow Removal

Upper Providence, The 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 rules and 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.
- Shovel snow to the right of the driveway to limit the amount of snow that will be cleared from the roadway back into a clean driveway. ❖

Snow Removal Information for Residents



Melting Snow is Stormwater Too!

Stormwater runoff can come in many forms, including snow melt! When the ground is frozen, melting snow can't infiltrate into the soil the way a light or moderate rain would be able to. This means that even a small amount of snow can cause flooding issues on your property.

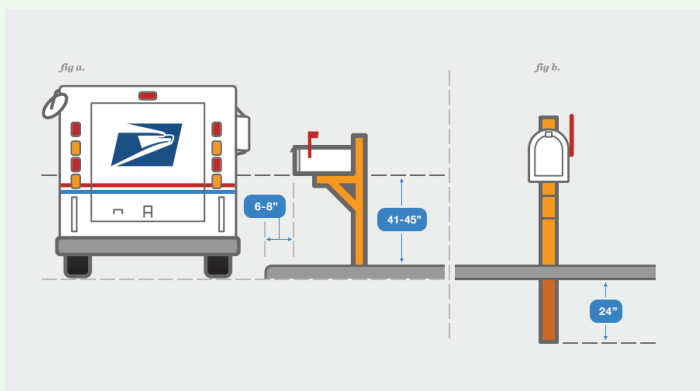
Follow the tips at www.perkiomenwatershed.org to prevent Winter Stormwater Pollution. ❖



Proper Mailbox Placement Helps Avoid Snow Plow Damage

Here are some helpful guidelines to follow when placing your mailbox:

- Position your mailbox 41" to 45" from the road surface to the bottom of the mailbox or point of mail entry.
- Place your mailbox 6" to 8" back from the curb. If you do not have a raised curb, contact your local postmaster for guidance.
- Put your house or apartment number on the mailbox.
- If your mailbox is on a different street from your house or apartment, put your full street address on the box. ❖





Police

Special Awards presented to Officers & UPT Police Department

Monday, October 17, 2022, was a special evening for our police department at the Board of Supervisors meeting. We celebrated four of our officers for their bravery and heroic actions, and Montgomery County Emergency Service, Inc. (MCES) recognized our agency for supporting their Crisis Intervention Specialist training over the years.

Chief Freeman presented Corporal Reynolds, Officer M. Sheehan, Officer Burdsall, and Officer Baker with awards for Valor and Bravery for their March 16, 2022, response to a male who began firing at the officers upon their arrival.



From left to right: Bill Starling, Laurie Higgins, Officer Burdsall, John Pearson, Officer Baker, Tom Yeager, Officer M. Sheehan, Corporal Reynolds, Chief Freeman

Michelle Monzo and Anna Trout of MCES presented Chief Freeman with a plaque showing their appreciation for our Department's dedication to our community by sending all our officers to their 3-day Basic Crisis Intervention Specialist class. MCES hosts Basis Crisis Intervention Specialist training and Advanced Crisis Intervention Specialist training several times a year, with the goal of



From left to right: Anna Trout, Chief Freeman, Michelle Monzo

preparing officers to interact with individuals in a behavioral health crisis. The program's mission is to ensure that every officer can recognize and appropriately deal with any mental health situation. ❖

Winter Road Safety Information

As winter arrives, so do frosted windshields and the potential for snowfall. Be smart and start your car before leaving to defrost your windshield completely. Our officers often respond to crashes where one of the drivers failed to defrost their windshield, hampering their ability to see! Better yet, when you have to defrost your windshield, AND your car is covered in snow, defrost the windshield while you clear the snow off the roof, hood, or truck bed cover. If not adequately removed from the vehicle, snow can turn into a projectile once you get up to speed on the road and cause crashes or injuries.



Clear your vehicle completely of snow and make sure your windshield is completely defrosted.

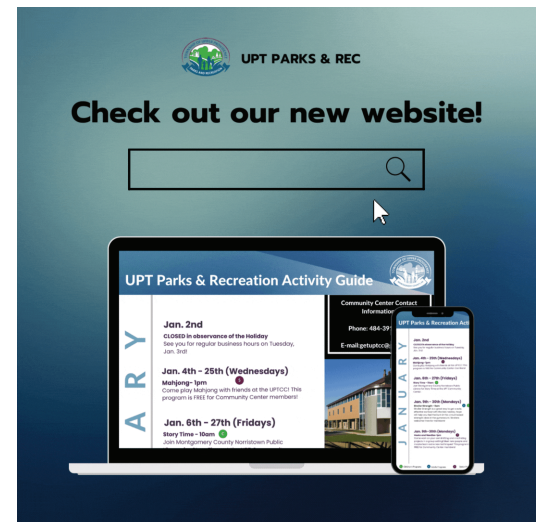
Finally, we always ask residents to stay off the streets during snowstorms unless they absolutely need to be out and about. Slick road conditions, low visibility, and frigid temperatures can all be a recipe for disaster if you get stuck out in the elements. ❖

New Recreation Website!

Starting January 3rd, registrations for recreation programs will be directed to our NEW, easy to use website!

Create your account TODAY and register for programs.

Have you joined the Community Center Fitness Center?
Memberships are available! ❖



UPT COMMUNITY *Fall Festival*



With October's UPT Community Fall Festival behind us, we wanted to say a huge thank you to all of the people and businesses that came out and participated! With food trucks, over 75 vendors, children's activities, a hay ride and more, we saw over 4,000 attendees! The event ran from Noon to 5pm and the weather could not have been better! We hope to see everyone next year on October 14, 2023!



V I S I T O U R P A R K S



Anderson Farm Park

499 Hopwood Road
Collegeville, PA 19426



Black Rock Park

1286 Black Rock Road
Phoenixville, PA 19460



Longford Park/ Reynolds' Dog Park

100 Longford Road
Phoenixville, PA 19460



Mildred Hess Preserve

939 Lewis Road
Royersford, PA 19468



MacFarlan Park

250 Green Tree Road,
Phoenixville, PA 19460



Fire and Emergency Services

Fire Prevention Recap

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services wishes you and your family a Happy New Year to 2023! Last year, in October the DFES went out to the schools and daycares to talk to the children and teachers about fire safety and fire prevention. The fire prevention theme was “Fire won’t wait, plan your escape.” The DFES staff visited (15) schools, spoke to 1,545 children, 185 teachers, and showed Engine 68 to 1,709 children! Along with fire prevention, the staff conducted fire and life safety inspections at all the schools. ❖

Winter Fire Safety

Put a FREEZE on Winter Fires

Did you know? As you stay cozy and warm this winter, stay fire smart!

DEC JAN FEB
Half of all home heating fires occur in December, January and February.

Plug only 1 heat-producing appliance (like a space heater) into an electrical outlet at a time.

Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet from any heat source.

U.S. Fire Administration | Fire in America | NFPA

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) along with Upper Providence DFES want you to put a freeze on winter fires. Below are some winter safety tips.

- Keep anything that can burn at least 3-feet from any heat source i.e.: fireplaces, wood stoves, space heaters or radiators.
- Keep portable generators outside a safe distance from your residence with the exhaust pipe facing away from the house.
- Test your Carbon Monoxide alarm at least once a month.
- Plug only one heat appliance into an outlet at one time (space heater).
- Chimney and Vents should be inspected by qualified professionals every year.
- Put cooled ashes in a metal container with a lid outside of your home at least 10 feet away from the residence and any other structure. ❖

Firehouse Dedication

DFES celebrated our Building dedication and housing of Engine 68 and Medic 325-11 (Friendship Ambulance) on October 15, 2022. Thank you to the Township Supervisors, local government officials, mutual aid fire and EMS companies, and our Township residents who came out and celebrated with us and then enjoyed a fun filled day at the Township’s Fall Festival. ❖



Keep Fire Hydrants Clear

Help us out by shoveling snow away from your nearby Fire Hydrant: We ask for a 3-foot by 3-foot clearance, so firefighters can quickly get water out of the fire hydrant. Did you know the on average fire engines only carry 500 gallons of water? Therefore, it is crucial to have a fire hydrant cleared out and ready at a moment’s notice. ❖



Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund Announces 2023 The Wall That Heals Tour Schedule

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Replica Wall and Mobile Education Center spreads healing legacy of The Wall and educates about the impact of the Vietnam War



Upper Providence Township is honored to have been chosen to host The Wall That Heals from October 26 to 29, 2023. As the nation begins the yearlong recognition of the 50th anniversary of the close of the Vietnam War, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) has announced The Wall That Heals national tour schedule for 2023. The Wall That Heals exhibit includes a three-quarter scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial along with a mobile Education Center. The 28th season of The Wall That Heals will begin on March 16th, 2023, in San Luis Obispo, California and visit 31 communities during the year. The 28th season of The Wall That Heals will begin on March 16th, 2023, in San Luis Obispo, California and visit 31 communities during the year. The traveling exhibit honors the more than three million Americans who served in the U.S. Armed Forces in the Vietnam War and it bears the names of the 58,281 men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam.

Stay tuned for more information coming soon to our website to learn how you can be involved in this project! ❖

Township of Upper Providence
1286 Black Rock Road
Phoenixville, PA 19460
(610) 933-9179
www.uprov-montco.org

Winter 2023

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- ❖ Special Awards Presented to UPT Police Department - Page 5
- ❖ Upcoming Events - Page 6
- ❖ Winter Fire Safety- Page 7