

Staff & Volunteers

The Library staff, led by Library Director Lynn Burkholder, includes 3 full-time and 16 part-time workers. There were 150 volunteers who performed 2,892 hours of service in the Library. Many other volunteers contributed their time for fundraising activities. In recognition of this service, the Library Board hosted a Volunteer Appreciation Picnic in July.

Friends of the Library

The Friends of the Lower Providence Community Library support the Library through volunteer work and fundraising efforts. In 2015 they assisted with the Annual Wine Tasting and sponsored other fundraising activities, including an ongoing used book sale, supermarket receipt refund programs, calendar sales, and basket raffles. The Friends donated \$15,000 to the Library in 2015, used to fund children's and teen programs and purchase a second self-checkout station, a digital message board, and many new library materials, including museum passes and Kindles.

The Teen Advisory Board (TAB) is the junior division of the Friends. Members take an active part in supporting the Library by helping with the Cabin Fever Book Sale, Library fundraising events, children's programs, the Preschool Halloween Party, LPT Easter Egg Hunt and decorating the Library for the holidays.

ANNUAL REPORT 2015



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LowerProvidenceLibrary.org

Mission

The Lower Providence Community Library provides the highest quality library services to its patrons of all ages. The materials, resources, services and facility meet community needs for education, recreation, technology, and cultural enrichment.

Vision

Lower Providence Community Library is an essential gathering place; a center of culture, intellect and technology; and a portal for discovery of information and enlightenment for its community.

2015 Library Board of Trustees

The Library is governed by a 7-member volunteer Board of Trustees appointed by the Lower Providence Township Board of Supervisors.

Catherine Fennell, President
Jennifer Gambino, Vice-President
Mary Shaw, Secretary
Ben Simkin, Treasurer
Marie Altieri
M. Joseph Clement
David Nawrocki

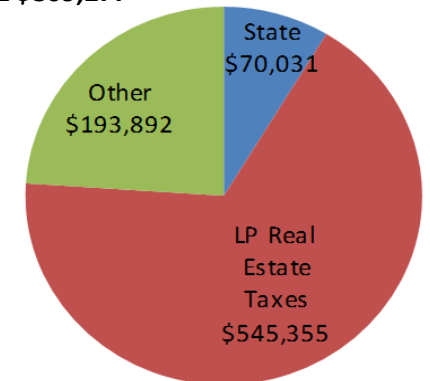
Library Executive Director
Lynn Burkholder

Funding

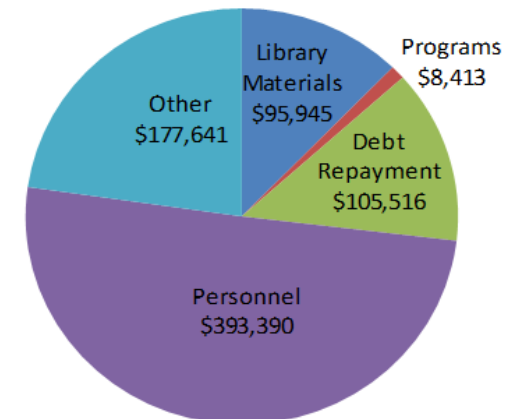
The Library is partially funded by allocations from the state and from Lower Providence Township real estate taxes. The remaining funds for the operating budget are raised by the Library through fundraising events, donations, grants, interest, fines, and fees. The Library is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

In 2015 the Library spent \$30.70 per capita for each Lower Providence Township resident, \$21.44 of which came from local tax dollars.

INCOME \$809,277



EXPENSE \$780,906



Highlights of 2015

The Library received 185,785 visitors in 2015 and loaned 236,141 items.

Building renovation plans and technology were in the forefront in 2015. A design plan was completed to reconfigure existing space to support community requests and library needs, with renovations to begin in 2016. The plan features:

- Relocation of the Young Adult area (completed)
- A cyber café with coffee and vending for beverages and snacks
- Two enclosed study/meeting rooms for small groups or individuals
- Redesign of the Circulation Desk to incorporate the Reference Desk into a central service area
- New furnishings for the public computer area providing more space and privacy

Technology capacity and training were increased with the award of a \$20,951 federal grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, administered by the PA Dept. of Education through the Office of Commonwealth Libraries. This grant provided:

- 6 laptop computers
- MS Office, Photoshop Elements and Premiere Elements software
- 3 year subscription to Lynda.com (online technology classes & tutorials)

- A series of instructor-led technology classes held in the library

Other significant accomplishments include:

- Addition of a second self-checkout station
- Purchase of a digital message board

Children's & Teen Programs and Events

The Children's & Teen Department, under the leadership of Sandrah Moles, hosted 531 programs attended by 13,543 children, teens, and adults.

- Story Time—held 4 days a week, 2 sessions each day.
- What's the BIG Idea?—two 10-week sessions of this math and science based early literacy program
- Summer Reading Club—705 children and teens registered for the Summer Reading Program
- Science in the Summer—64 children took part in this 4-day science workshop sponsored by GlaxoSmithKline.
- TAB (Teen Advisory Board)—met monthly to plan programs, help with library events and have fun

Many other programs and special events were held throughout the year including author visits, book discussions, a babysitting certification course, robotics, art, crafts, Legos Club, family board games, preschool Halloween party, and special programs for homeschoolers. Families enjoyed programs by magicians, theater groups, storytellers, and puppeteers.

The Library hosted several programs involving classes and groups from Methacton School District. Students presented a poetry slam, readings of "Fractured Fairytales" authored by students, and a holiday chorale concert. A student group volunteered in the library as a Community Service Day project. Outreach visits were made to schools, classrooms, and day care centers. Library tours were given for scouting groups, preschool classes and Methacton classes.

The Library participated in the Lower Providence Township Easter Egg Hunt with help from the Teen Advisory Board (TAB).

Adult Programs & Events

The Adult Department, under the direction of Barbara Loewengart, offered 528 programs with an attendance of 5,056. Weekly programs included Mahjong Club, Crafters Club, Canasta, English Conversation Class (ESL), yoga, chair yoga, and meditation.

Other programs included:

- 3 monthly book discussion groups
- Computer and technology classes
- Adult Summer Reading Program
- Programs on various topics including gardening, art, crafts, finances, Medicare, Social Security, DIY home repair, food, history, musical performances, writing, photography, videography, travel, American Sign Language, and more
- Volunteer Fair with 16 community organizations participating

- Mixer for Perkiomen Valley Chamber of Commerce members

The two major fundraising events for the year were the 15th Annual Wine Tasting held in March and a Murder Mystery Dinner in October. Proceeds from these two events raised a net amount of \$28,104 to fund library services.

Library Resources

The Library collection totals 52,908 physical items, 22,168 e-books and downloadable audiobooks in OverDrive, over 50,000 ebooks in Freading, and 104 digital magazine available in Zinio. Library patrons had access to 25 electronic resources. Those purchased with local funds and federal grant funds for Lower Providence residents include:

- Lynda.com (grant funds)
- Consumer Reports
- Morningstar Investment Research Center
- Novelist—readers advisory
- Gale Virtual Reference Library
- Freading—e-books, always available

Patrons had access to 10 public desktop computers, 11 laptops, two early literacy computers and a wireless internet access point.