



## LOWER PROVIDENCE CONCERNED CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

*Watching • Listening • Acting*

P.O. Box 7253 • Audubon, PA 19407-7253

[www.lpcca.org](http://www.lpcca.org)

SPRING 2011

## YOUR EYES & EARS AROUND LOWER PROVIDENCE

### Face Lift at The John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove

The John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove is one of Lower Providence's most important historic icons — the place that ignited a young French immigrant's passion to paint birds. The artistic technique he developed here would allow him to create "The Birds of North America," a stunning collection of more than 400 species that inspired generations to protect birds and other wildlife. Now, the "Plymouth Rock" of America's conservation movement is about to get a face lift.

Thanks to commitments from Montgomery County — which has owned the property since 1951, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, National Audubon Society, and a growing list of individuals, plans are being finalized to preserve the historic house and build a new visitor center on the site.

"Unfortunately, the historic house cannot provide adequate space and conditions to exhibit John James Audubon's art or tell the important stories of his subjects — the birds and their habitats," says Jean Bochnowski, the Center's Director. Ms. Bochnowski is a member of the staff of the National Audubon Society (NAS), named for the world-famous artist. NAS began managing Mill Grove in 2003, as part of a groundbreaking public-private partnership with Montgomery County. Today, the Center provides programming for more than 30,000 people annually, has become a hot spot for weddings, and hosts a 10-week summer camp in collaboration with Audubon YMCA.

The new building will provide school students and other visitors with a more immersive experience, while providing state-of-the-art environmental and security systems to protect the art collection owned by Montgomery County. Efforts are currently underway to complete the Master Site Development Plan, which will define the size and location of any new construction, identify all steps necessary to preserve the house and transform it into an art center, address vehicle and pedestrian

circulation and recommend ways to improve the landscape to support resident and migrant birds.

Once the plans are in draft form, they will be presented at a public meeting of the Lower Providence Township Board of Supervisors to provide the Township and local residents an opportunity for input. While major construction and changes are not expected to begin until early 2013, some efforts are already visible. The ivy, which had covered the historic building for nearly 100 years, was removed and damaged mortar painstakingly repaired.

Mill Grove's website is: [www.valleyforgeaudubon.org](http://www.valleyforgeaudubon.org)

*For more information about the plans for Mill Grove, feel free to contact: Jean Bochnowski, Director, at 610-666-5593 x 105.*



*The historic house at The John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove.*

### 2011 Montgomery County Household Hazardous & Electronics Collection Program

This program is a community service to the residents of Montgomery County and the 4 Southeastern Pennsylvania County Region (Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Philadelphia) ONLY and is NOT open to businesses, institutions or industry. All collection events will accept HHW (Household Hazardous Waste) and Electronics. Call or go to the website to learn what will not be accepted and how to package items for transport, in addition to more locations later in the year.

#### UPPER PERKIOMEN VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

Saturday, April 16, 2011 • 9 AM – 3 PM  
2 Walt Road • Pennsburg, PA 18073

#### UPPER MERION MIDDLE SCHOOL

Saturday, May 14, 2011 • 9 AM – 3 PM  
Enter near 435 Crossfield Road • King of Prussia, PA

#### MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Saturday, June 25, 2011 • 9 AM – 3 PM  
Enter near 473 Cathcart Road • Blue Bell, PA 19422

#### SPRING-FORD HIGH SCHOOL

Saturday, August 20, 2011 • 9 AM – 3 PM  
350 S. Lewis Road • Royersford, PA 19468

For more information, call 610.278.3618 or go to [www.montgomerycountycycles.org](http://www.montgomerycountycycles.org)

### Old Betzwood Bike/Pedestrian Trail Project

A new bridge will be built across the Schuylkill River upstream from the Old Betzwood bridge and consists of a span approximately 600' long and 14' wide, dedicated to bicycle and pedestrian traffic. It will link the north and south sides of VFNHP as well as, the Chester County Trail, the Schuylkill River Trail and upcoming Upper Merion Township trail system. Late fall of 2013 is the estimated completion date, with the National Park Service owning and maintaining the new bridge. Funding of the approximately 7 million dollar cost will come from the federal Congestion Management Air Quality funds (CMAQ). Deirdre Gibson, the chief of planning and resource management at VFNHP, said, "This connects all pieces of our 26-mile trail system. It will provide a major connection between the Chester County trail and the Schuylkill River trail through the park."

Go to [www.lpcca.org](http://www.lpcca.org) to see two renderings of this project.

*Become an LPCCA member or renew your membership if you are already a member.*

*Thank You!*



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## Lower Providence Township Monthly Meetings Schedule

**Board of Supervisors:**

- First Thursday at 7:30 p.m. — Work Session Meeting
- Third Thursday at 7:30 p.m. — Business Meeting

**Planning Commission:**

- Fourth Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

**Parks and Recreation:**

- Second Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.

**Zoning Hearing Board:**

- Fourth Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

**Sewer Authority:**

- Second Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

**Library Board:**

- Third Monday at 7:00 p.m. in the Library Board Room.

**Methacton School Board Meetings:**

- Third and fourth Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. All meetings are held at Methacton High School, 1001 Kriebel Mill Rd., Eagleville, unless advertised differently.

**Rebroadcast of Board of Supervisors Meetings:  
Comcast Cable channel 28; Verizon FIOS channel 42**

*(Airs the following week after meetings are held)*

- Tuesday at 1:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday at 1:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.
- Saturday at 1:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

## News and Notes

- On March 3, the BOS voted unanimously to repeal the LHOD (Living History Overlay District) Ordinance. The 78-acre parcel on Pawlings Road, upon which the Ordinance was drafted, had been slated to be developed by the American Revolution Center. This land is now owned by Valley Forge National Historical Park.
- On March 17, the BOS voted unanimously in favor of taping the Zoning Hearing Board meetings for rebroadcast.

We encourage you to watch these meetings and see your township officials in action.

### Bike Race / Earth Day Celebration

Take part in a unique Earth Day Celebration, which will include healthy snack foods and an environmentally friendly (mini) business expo. Receive plenty of Earth Day give-a-ways and take part in many exciting and interactive activities throughout the day. Children of all ages and their families are invited to attend. Contact the Parks & Recreation Department at (610) 635-3543 for additional information.

This event will be held on Sunday, April 17 from 10:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m., Lower Providence Township Business Park Adams Avenue, Audubon



## LPCCA Annual Membership for 2011



Your membership dues help to

- Alert you of township meeting discussions of critical topics.
- Support appropriate commercial development and oppose inappropriate commercial development.
- Monitor zoning, traffic, and safety in our neighborhoods.

Please make your check payable to LPCCA and mail to:

P.O. Box 7253, Audubon, PA 19407-7253

- \$15.00 — Individual     \$25.00 — Family     \$100.00 — Corporate
- Enclosed is my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Membership	\$ _____
Donation	\$ _____
Total Enclosed	\$ _____

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

*Please note: No individual member is authorized to speak on behalf of LPCCA without prior express approval of the LPCCA Executive Board.*

If you would like to receive *Your Eyes and Ears* via e-mail, which would help us save on printing and postage costs, please go to our website [www.lpcca.org](http://www.lpcca.org) to let us know. You can also read our newsletter on the website.

Please include your name, address and phone number in case we have a question.