

# **SAUCON VALLEY LIBRARY TASK FORCE**

## **Overview**

**April 12, 2012**

# Overview of Task Force

- Lower Saucon Township has had an annual agreement with the Bethlehem Area Public Library for library services since 1978
- The agreement has a per capita fee which is assessed against the Township's population of 10,772 for a 2012 total of \$183,467
- In 2009, the Township Council asked its Library Committee to explore other alternatives for library services for Township residents.
- The Library Committee reached out to the Southern Lehigh Library and the Hellertown Area Library to obtain information on their services, costs, etc. for library services.
- Due to state library district restrictions, the Southern Lehigh Public Library advised that they could not accommodate our request for a meeting to discuss their services.
- The Library Committee met with the Hellertown Area Library Trustees in 2010 and asked them to submit a proposal showing how library services could be offered to Township residents
- In 2010 the Library Committee recommended to the Township Council that a Task Force be established to study the feasibility of consolidating library services for Township residents at the Hellertown Area Library.

# Formation of Task Force

The Task Force was established in 2010 and representatives from the Lower Saucon Township, Hellertown Borough and the Hellertown Area Library were appointed to the group.

## Task Force Members

### Hellertown Borough

Joseph Pampanin  
Gail Nolf  
Cathy Kichline, Borough Mgr.  
Tina Krasnansky, Finance Mgr.

### Hellertown Area Library

Reverend Lamar Handwerk  
Michael Evangelista  
Alison Finkbeiner  
Jessica Goedel  
Robin Rotherham, Library Dir.

### Lower Saucon Township

Lynn Koehler  
Mike Karabin  
Kim LaBrake  
Tom Maxfield  
Jack Cahalan, Township Mgr.  
Cathy Gorman, Finance Dir.

# Task Force Meetings

- The Task Force has been meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month since January 2011
- The meetings start at 5 PM and are held here at Lower Saucon Township
- Public input is welcomed at these meetings
- We also have an email address: [info@lowersaucontownship.org](mailto:info@lowersaucontownship.org) where members of the public who cannot attend the meetings can send in comments, ask questions about the Task Force's activities
- The minutes of the Task Force meetings are posted on the Lower Saucon Township website at [www.lowersaucontownship.org/svlibtaskforce.html](http://www.lowersaucontownship.org/svlibtaskforce.html)
- The Task Force will continue to meet through July of this year when they are required to provide a report of their findings to the Township, Borough Council and the Hellertown Area Library Trustees

# Task Force Responsibilities

- Familiarize itself with State Library Code requirements (22 Pa. Code § 141.21) for local libraries.
- Familiarize itself with library needs of Hellertown and Lower Saucon Township residents.
- Gather and analyze current and future demographic data on Hellertown Borough and Lower Saucon Township.
- Evaluate the Financial Plan and Timeline for Library Service to Lower Saucon Township prepared by the Hellertown Area Library Board.
- Evaluate the short-term and long-term financial impacts of a consolidated library system on the two municipal budgets.
- Evaluate the immediate and long-term location, building space, staffing, and technology needs of a consolidated library.
- Identify areas of analysis where professional independent consulting services would be necessary to supplement the Task Force's work.
- Explore regional opportunities for library services for Lower Saucon Township and Hellertown Borough.
- Serve as conduit to elicit and receive public input on feasibility of consolidating library services.
- Prepare a formal, written report documenting the Task Force's findings no later than July 1, 2012 and make presentations of the report at Hellertown Borough and Lower Saucon Township Council meetings.