



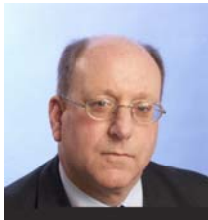
City of East Providence 2009 Annual Report





**2009-2010
City Council Members**

L-R: Councilman Coogan (Ward 2), Mayor Larisa, Councilwoman Perry (Ward 3) Assistant Mayor Cusack (Ward 1) and Councilman DiTraglia (Ward 4)



A message from the City Manager

We are in unprecedented times. Our national, state and local economies continue to struggle to return to equilibrium. There are early signs that our national economy is rebounding and inevitably, Rhode Island and East Providence will experience prosperous times again, albeit with fiscal policies that have been modified to reflect a leaner, more efficient government. At the same time, we should recognize that the rebound to the state and local economy will lag behind the national experience. In these times of transition, Rhode Island municipalities must redefine themselves within this new fiscal reality, recognizing that State aid, at least in the foreseeable future, will be diminished or in some cases completely eliminated. This recent economic crisis may define a new “normal” for Rhode Island municipalities. Indeed, creating and distributing the City’s annual report as an on line document represents a mixture of new technology coupled with economic realities.

The means to becoming a more fiscally efficient community include seeking options that optimize our structural operating efficiencies. One such measure has been to hire a nationally recognized wastewater treatment firm to design, build and manage upgrades at the City’s aging Riverside Wastewater Treatment Facility. Without giving up our ability to set rates at the facility, United Water will upgrade the facility to meet stringent Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management mandates to provide tertiary treatment and other mandated facility upgrades

by 2012. These measures will allow the City to upgrade the facility at a significant savings and provide for continued operational savings as the plant operates in the future. The City is also investigating other policies and measures that will accomplish savings through sustainable green technology upgrades and cost saving measures Citywide, many of which have been discussed or implemented in 2009.

City Employees, have in many cases, recognized the severe economic circumstances and have responded in a manner that helps the City's finances and maintains jobs. The police union opened its contract, agreed to position reductions, and helped achieve real savings. The union also agreed to a health savings account, a dramatic redefinition of the health plan, for all new hires. Our department heads and middle managers agreed to a 20% co-share for employer provided health insurance.

While our local economy has struggled in 2009, there were continued signs of investment in our City. In 2009, Baer Supply Company, one of the nation's leading specialty distributors to the woodworking industry, began construction of a new 100,000 square foot warehouse distribution and sales office in Rumford. On the commercial retail front, a brand new, Stop & Shop opened in the Wampanoag Plaza, and corporations including CVS and TD Bank have invested in new or planned facilities in the City in 2009.

Mixed use residential/commercial developments like Rumford Center have attracted new retail and office service businesses to their attractive facility in the Rumford section of the City. Within the City's Waterfront Special Development District, Chevron has entered into a cooperative agreement with Providence Realty Partners to transform their former light products terminal on Veteran's Memorial Parkway into a mixed-use community called "Village on the Waterfront." Village on the Waterfront is one of the largest multi-use sites currently in development in Rhode Island. The 26-acre site will have approximately 600 residential units with 40,000 square feet of commercial uses, including a restaurant, shops, office space and a fitness center.

As I had stated in last year's report, I believe that the City of East Providence is building a framework for success that will redefine our focus and carry us forward into a more prosperous and promising economic future.

Richard M. Brown

City Manager
City of East Providence

Affirmative Action Department



In 2009 the City's minority employment rate has remained a little over 10% of all full time employees. Future efforts will center on educating, attracting and recruiting minority and female candidates, with a strong emphasis on firefighter and police officer candidates.

In honor of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, the Office of Affirmative Action hosted a 24th Birthday Celebration in the Council Chambers with an assortment of presentations ranging from readings by East Providence students to a well known Gospel Band from Rhode Island. In addition, the City Hall display case was outfitted with a Black History exhibit for the entire month of February.

Keeping with the neighborhood tradition; on the third Saturday in August "The 16th Annual Neighborhood Day" was celebrated at Central Avenue Park, which is now renamed the "Onna Moniz-John Park" for her years of commitment and devotion to the people and community of East Providence. Activities included face painting, children's games, a live DJ, food, Police and Fire presentations and the ever so popular crowd

pleasing dunk contest and basketball tournament.

City Clerk's Office

The City Clerk prepared City Council agendas and journals for 22 regular meetings and 3 special meetings, preparing 50 Proclamations, 8 Citations and 44 Certificates of Special Recognition.

A total of 7,659 land evidence records and 100 foreclosures were recorded in 2009. Probate Court cases totaled 207; 440 births; 483 deaths; 335 marriage licenses. The licensing board issued 79 alcoholic beverage licenses; 28 alcoholic beverage special event licenses; 690 miscellaneous licenses, which includes 178 yard sale permits; 35 one day entertainment licenses; 25 tent licenses; 1,629 dog licenses; 74 hunting/fishing licenses and 35 trout/duck stamp licenses.

East Providence Prevention Coalition



The East Providence Prevention Coalition (EPPC) promotes healthy lifestyles in our City by developing proactive strategies in collaboration with community partners.

The EPPC actively supports the community by providing education, information, and training on a variety of health and wellness topics. Over the past year the EPPC has provided Responsible Beverage Training for FREE to over 239 servers in 42 local estab-

ishments. Participants are empowered to protect our City's youth by restricting minors' access to alcohol. Such efforts are supported by policies passed by the City Council to hold alcohol license holders accountable when minors are sold to. And are enforced through our partnership with the East Providence Police Department who regularly perform compliance checks to verify establishments are not selling to minors.

As the EPPC looks forward to 2010 it will continue to support collaborations like that with the East Providence High School Parent Teacher Student Association to provide an amazing Post Prom Event for high school seniors, as well as, its internal efforts to empower young people to make change in the community through leadership development, peer education, and service to the community with our youth branch DICE. We hope you will join us this year in our effort to keep townies safe and healthy.

East Providence School Department

The East Providence School Department (EPSD) is responsible for educating approximately 5,700 students enrolled in the East Providence High School, a Career and Technical Center, two middle schools, eight elementary schools, and an Early Learning center.

The school department also provides educational planning and services for about 1,000 non-public school students. East Providence provides a wide range of health and educational programs for pre-school children as young as three and as old as twenty-one years of age.

East Providence is Rhode Island's fifth largest school district with the state's largest comprehensive high school with nearly 2,000 students enrolled. High school students can select from over 200 individual

courses of study across dozens of academic programs. Our high school students can study Advanced Placement, four-year college preparation, and two-year college preparation courses, electives in business, technology, and the arts, as well as a variety of career and technical courses to include: culinary arts, auto technology, auto body repair, landscape architecture and pre-engineering. Additionally, the scope and sequence of our science curriculum has been reorganized, allowing more student access to rigorous and high level science courses. All students take Foundations for Physics, Chemistry, and Biology.

A K-12 mathematics curriculum is nearly completed. This new curriculum will provide a vertical (K-12) and a horizontal (across grade) instructional standard throughout the district. This is an important step in closing the gaps between students and creating a common instructional and assessment program across the district raising expectations for all students.

The new technology department has been very dedicated to improving the district technology capacity. Approximately 600 new computers have been purchased and placed in schools throughout the district. With Title I funding, grades 3-5 classrooms will receive 5 computers, a Smartboard, an Elmo, and a LCD projector to create 21st Century Classrooms. Professional development will be provided to those teachers so they may integrate this technology into daily instruction increasing student engagement.

The EPSD entered a new partnership with Rhode Island College this year by providing a graduate level course for mathematics teachers to improve mathematics content knowledge. Twenty teachers and teacher assistants are currently taking the elementary course at no cost to the teachers. A secondary course will be offered during the fall semester.

At the elementary level, a literacy specialist is providing professional development in the Lucy Calkins “Units of Study” and the workshop model while the numeracy specialist is focusing on integrating the new mathematics curriculum, technology integration into classroom instruction, and providing necessary math interventions to our neediest students.

A partnership between Bradley Hospital/School and EPSD has been established this year. Approximately 60 students have returned to the district with the Bradley partnership to provide a less restrictive environment for our students and access to a general education setting. Numerous students have been mainstreamed, participated in clubs/sports, and other school activities. This partnership has been so successful that a future partnership with the Meeting Street is currently underway for next year.

The East Providence School Department continues to seek the most efficient and cost effective way to fund high quality education. The City of East Providence values education for all of its children and families. We are committed to work in partnership with our city fathers to provide a safe environment and a rigorous, high level education to the children within our district.

Emergency Management Information

The City’s Emergency Management Department trains volunteers and works with State and Federal representatives, Miriam Hospital and the Red Cross in dealing with all emergency response situations, ranging from hurricanes, winter storms, floods, or public health emergencies. The City is pleased to present the following tips to assist you:

Facts about the H1N1 flu:

About a third of all Rhode Islanders are expected to get swine flu, also known as the H1N1 virus, in 2009-2010. It is most dangerous to people from newborn to age 24, pregnant women and people with underlying health problems. Seasonal flu, affects about 15 percent of Rhode Island residents each year. Symptoms for both kinds of flu include fever, lethargy, lack of appetite and coughing, and sometimes nausea and diarrhea. For more information, visit these Web sites: <http://www.flu.gov> or <http://www.health.ri.gov>

Regional Pandemic Influenza Plan

The Department of Health has divided the state into 10 Healthcare Service Regions. Each region has been assigned one hospital to assume responsibility for the healthcare response to an influenza pandemic within that geographic service area. Miriam Hospital has been assigned the East Bay area which includes East Providence, Barrington, Warren and Bristol.

If the flu were to overwhelm the hospital’s capacity, an alternate healthcare facility would be opened to treat individuals that are ill and require medical attention but not the level of hospital care reserved for only the most serious cases.

The primary Alternate Care Site (ACS) for the East Bay region is the East Providence High School, 2000 Pawtucket Avenue, East Providence RI.

Finance Department

The Finance Department is responsible for the administration of four Divisions: Treasury, Control and Accounts, Purchasing and Assessment.

The Treasury Division collects, possesses and monitors all tax, water and sewer payments and all other miscellaneous billings. Treasury is also responsible for investing

any idle funds which helps to keep the tax rate as low as possible. Taxpayers are encouraged to mail in payments or use the convenient drop box next to the Grove Avenue entrance to City Hall.

The Control and Accounts Division maintains all accounting and financial records for all Departments and Divisions.

The Purchasing Division is responsible for obtaining all the goods and services required at the lowest possible cost in order to carry out the business of the City.

The Assessment Division is responsible for equitable distribution of the tax burden among the Taxpayers. This Division must adjust itself to severe economic changes that have accrued to the value of taxable property.

Fire Department

The Fire Department continues handling alarms for fire and emergency medical services and the ever-expanding role in hazardous materials response and Homeland Security.

The Department responded to more than 10,500 alarms in 2009.

The Fire Prevention Office continues to oversee the rapid expansion and development of the numerous large-scale projects within the City. The Fire Marshals and Fire Alarm Inspector review all submitted plans pertaining to Fire Alarms, Suppression Systems, new construction, building renovations and perform all life safety inspections. The Division is responsible for investigating all causes of fires within the City, inspects residential smoke and carbon monoxide detec-



tors, underground storage tanks, tents erected and fireworks displays, while working under the most stringent fire code in the nation. The Fire Prevention Division continued to inspect all buildings for fire code and life safety compliance in the City of East Providence with a priority given to high occupancy and high hazard buildings, and inspections for those businesses requiring licenses to operate. A recent grant award will see the Department take the message of Fire Safety out to the public in ways not seen before.

The Fire Department's Division of Training & Safety provides and oversees Department-wide training in all aspects of today's fire service. It also evaluates all safety issues throughout the Department. The Division oversees the operation of the City's Emergency Operations Center, which has communications radios, dispatching computers and other monitoring devices to direct any City-wide emergency. This Division also is responsible for all data entry into all of the Department's computer systems and programs, and overseeing the drafting of all Department Standard Operating Guidelines.

The Fire Department remains a leader in the provision of Emergency Medical Services. Comprising of approximately 70% of all emergency calls within the Department, this response program has served as a model EMS Division in the State of Rhode Island.

The Fire Department has been the recipient of \$1.35 million in grants in 2009 to better serve the City. These grants will help to improve the infrastructure of the Fire Department and provide the citizens of East Providence with state-of-the-art equipment to handle any emergency.

Human Resources Department

In 2009, the Human Resources Department completed testing for the positions of Clerk Typist II – Building Inspection, Battalion Chief, Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator I, Water Pollution Facilities Mechanic II, Detective Corporal, Fire Captain, Fire Lieutenant, and Dispatcher.

The department has continued its partnership with Blue Cross by offering a wide range of programs to City employees as a part of the Health and Wellness program. This program is one of the many alternatives that the City is implementing to try to contain the cost of health care premiums. A number of classes were offered to City employees including back care, nutrition, yoga, and screenings for high blood pressure, skin cancer and body composition. 203 of the 445 full time employees took part in the Wellness program.

The department also works closely with Beacon Mutual Insurance Company to co-manage the workers compensation cases that result from employee injuries. The Human Resources Department has partnered with Beacon Mutual to provide employees with training on proper lifting techniques and ergonomic procedures in order minimize injuries. In 2009, there were 177 workers compensation cases and the Human Resources Department has worked with Beacon to make sure that the cases are dealt with in a timely manner and that the employees return to work as quickly as possible to minimize claim costs.

Human Services Department

In spite of the hard economic times, the Holiday season has been both exciting and extremely hectic. The Human Services De-

partment along with the efforts of the municipal employees and individual donors were able to provide over 100 full Thanksgiving food baskets for families in need. Due to the immense generosity we were also capable of handing out Christmas gifts to families as part of our Adopt-a-Family Program. A clothing drive was held at City Hall for the first time to benefit East Providence residents that are in need of winter coats.

The Office of Human Services also acts as a reference center of local resources to assist families in our community who are struggling financially throughout the year. The office connects citizens with services that assist with household bills and collaborates with local donors to connect in-need families with food and clothing.

Information Technology Department

The Information Technology (IT) Department consists of two full time employees: the Technology Director and a Network Technician. The charge of the department is to provide the highest quality technological services to the City of East Providence through planning, fiscal responsibility and team oriented problem solving, working in conjunction with all City Departments and utilizing the latest in technology to better provide pertinent information to the City and the citizens in a comprehensive and cost effective manner. The IT Department maintains the City's infrastructure, hardware, various software and database applications as well as other related peripherals.

The IT Department, working with the City Clerk, established video streaming of City Councils meeting. A new web site for the City went live in December 2009. The new web site provides easier access to information and greater search capabilities for our residents. With the new web site, the IT Department has developed newsletters to keep

our residents informed. These newsletters are sent right to your email. There are five so far: City Council Meeting Schedule (provides dates and agendas), City Holiday Schedule, Senior Center Activities, Parks & Recreation news and the information about East Providence Prevention Coalition. Coming soon: a Library newsletter. Visit www.eastprovidenceri.net and click on "City newsletters" to register today!

Law Department

The Law Department is comprised of the City Solicitor, one Assistant City Solicitor, and one Legal Counsel. They provide legal advice for the City Council and represent the City and all of its offices, departments, and agencies. The Law Department attorneys serve as general counsel for the governing body and all of its boards and commissions. The Law Department attorneys regularly attend City Council, Minimum Property Standards Board of Review, Building Board of Standards and Appeals, Zoning Board of Review, Planning Board, and Personnel Hearing Board meetings and they are available by request for attendance at meetings of the various other City boards and commissions. They serve as corporate counsel for the City administration by appearing before the Liquor Control Administration, Commission for Human Rights, Labor Relations Board, American Arbitration Association and miscellaneous other commissions and agencies of the State and Federal government. As corporate counsel, they prepare documents such as contracts, leases, easements, liens, ordinances, resolutions and render legal opinions on a myriad of questions. As litigation counsel, the Law Department attorneys accept service, prepare pleadings and attend court hearings on lawsuits filed against the various City agencies. In addition, the City Solicitor serves as risk management counsel which includes the processing of claims of all types and the establishment of loss prevention policies

through the City's membership in the Rhode Island Interlocal Risk Management Trust.

Law Department attorneys also serve as counsel for the police department for criminal and juvenile prosecutions and for the prosecution of code violations in the Municipal Court which include zoning and housing violations, boating violations, and other miscellaneous ordinance violations. In 2009, this included the prosecution of 57 code violations, the processing of 52 claims and the acceptance of service and preparation of pleadings for 18 new lawsuits filed against or on behalf of the City.

Library Services

The East Providence Public Library provides resources for learning and leisure. Through a multi-branch system, with libraries located in Rumford, Riverside, Kent Heights and the main Weaver Memorial Library on Grove Avenue, a variety of materials in various formats are offered to expand minds, empower individuals and enrich our community.



All Libraries have circulating collections of books, magazines, videos, DVDs, books on tape/cd/playaways, and music cds. Free access to the internet is available at all locations. A variety of databases can be used inside the library or from home. A sampling of the databases include: World Book Encyclopedia; Ebsco, which provides full text

articles on a variety of topics such as current events, consumer information, business, medicine and law. Other databases are dedicated to consumer health, literature, history, science and genealogy. You may access these databases with your library card by visiting the Library's website at www.eastprovidencelibrary.org. The website also offers the opportunity to download a variety of reading material to your iPod, PC, or any other portable device.

The Weaver and Riverside Libraries have community rooms available for library programs and meeting space for local organizations. The Libraries offered more than 675 programs with a combined attendance of more than 13,000. Events include: discussions, author presentations, cooking and floral demonstrations, travelogues, and musical programs. Children's and teen programs include storytellers, crafts, games, workshops, movies, and the very popular open mic evenings.

The Guiding principle of the East Providence Public Library is to focus on our patrons. We recognize that all decisions are customer driven, so we emphasize intuitive, patron friendly design, creating an accessible environment encouraging self directed service and staff efficiency. Space is provided for classes and small group instruction on the computers: email and internet use; literacy, citizenship and language, ensuring full use of all facilities for every patron.

The Friends of the East Providence Public Library is an organization formed to support and advocate for public library services. Through membership dues and bi-annual books sales, the Friends provide the very popular museum passes, offering admission to many New England museums free of charge or at a reduced rate, offer the rental book collection and sponsor various programs. The Library received an Opportunity Online Hardware Grant sponsored by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The

requirement of the grant was to secure 25% the first year and 50% the second year for the cost of 13 computers. The first round of computers is available for use in the new Tech Center. The Friends of the Library made this possible by pledging matching funds.

The East Providence Library System is governed by a seven member Board of Trustees appointed by the City Council. In the past year 296,627 visits were made to the libraries, 483,685 items circulated, more than 24,000 reference questions were answered and there were 67,161 users of electronic resources.

Municipal Court

The East Providence Municipal Court is comprised of a Municipal Court Judge, Administrator, Bailiff and Two Court Clerks. They provide service to maintain the daily operations of the Municipal Court. Housing, City Ordinance, Animal and Traffic violations along with Boating are some of the types of cases heard in Municipal Court.

During this past fiscal year the Municipal Court has processed over 4,000 cases seventy percent of these cases have been adjudicated.

The Municipal Court been beneficial both to the Court and Police Department. We continue to maintain a full bi-weekly calendar and bi-monthly trials.

Our office hours remain the same 8:00am to 4:00 pm Monday thru Friday and Thursday evenings are reserved for court hearings.

Parks & Recreation Department

Comprised of two divisions, East Providence Parks & Recreation Department provides year-round leisure services to the community and maintains all city parks and athletic fields. In addition to programming events and activities at playgrounds, parks and softball fields citywide, the department processed over 200 field requests in 2009 and administered indoor and outdoor activities for a total of 140 recreational programs including events and activities for pre-school, youth, adults, and the disabled.



Department sponsored activities for ages pre-school to adult are housed at East Providence Recreation Center located at 100 Bullocks Point Avenue. Members can choose from a wide variety of artistic and athletic activities. The facility houses exercise equipment, a basketball court, game room, and five multi use rooms. Activities at the Center were conducted from September through May with weight and exercise facilities open six days a week during the summer. The Recreation Center was host to many special events including a wide variety of school break activities, F. A. C. T's "Blast From the Past" fundraiser, performances and tournaments. In 2009, the department consolidated the summer playground program for city youth ages 6-15 from twelve sites to six. The program was operational from late June to mid-August and of-

fered weekly swimming, tennis, bowling and field trips along with sports and crafts.



The Parks Division maintains city parks, playgrounds, athletic fields for a total of over 320 acres. It also provides landscape maintenance for public buildings, two historical cemeteries and conservation areas. The division arborists are responsible for the care and maintenance of approximately 8328 public trees. In addition to weekly park maintenance the following projects were completed in 2009. Parks employees built a new park shelter at Silver Spring Park. Using a Community Development Block Grant the Parks Division installed new picnic tables, trash cans and benches at Sabin Point Park as well as rebuilding the severely damaged fishing pier. The Lyle Bourne Park project was completed this fall with the installation of new benches and picnic tables. This passive recreation area has been expanded by almost three acres. The division planted and maintained 11 large planters throughout the city as well as 23 smaller planters along Taunton and Warren Avenues. This spring Parks repaired infield drainage problems at Agawam-Fynn field by regrading and resodding the entire infield. The final grading plan was prepared by the DPW Engineering Division. Our Urban Forestry program removed 74 hazardous trees and provided maintenance to another 213 public trees throughout the city. The Division along with the Beautification Committee celebrated Arbor Day with the students of the Silver Spring Elementary School. For the seventeenth straight year the City has

received the Tree City USA designation from the National Arbor Day Foundation.

The Parks & Recreation Department maintains the Pierce Field Complex, which spans 26 acres. In 2009 Pierce Field was once again home to professional soccer team and *Johnson & Wales University Men and Women's Intercollegiate Athletics*. Local organizations utilizing the facility included the *East Providence Mohawks*, the *Riverside Raiders*, *East Providence Central*, *Rumford and Riverside Little Leagues*, *American Legion East Providence High School Athletics* also continued its long use of Pierce Field with its spring and fall sports schedule.

Planning Department:

Comprehensive Plan Update

The Planning Department completed a draft of the State-mandated five-year update to the City's Comprehensive Plan, a document which is intended to serve as a policy framework for a wide range of decisions concerning land use, development, design, programs and public investment priorities. The plan was prepared with extensive public input including public workshops and interviews with stakeholders. The draft update was approved by the Planning Board in November 2009 and referred to the City Council for review and adopted in early 2010.

Enterprise Zone

The City successfully re-applied for status as a State-designated Enterprise Zone for an additional five years from 2010 to 2015. The Enterprise Zone Program provides participating Enterprise Zone businesses with tax benefits associated with job growth. Interested businesses should contact the Planning Department to find out if their business is located within the Enterprise Zone.

Commercial Loan Program

The City continued to offer loans to East Providence businesses through its commer-

cial /industrial loan program in 2009. This low interest loan program is available to East Providence businesses seeking loans for the acquisition, construction and improvement of land, buildings, and substantial additions or renovations to existing buildings. Several companies took advantage of this loan program in 2009.

Commercial Micro-loan Program

Limited funds were available through the City's Micro-loan program in 2009 and will remain available in 2010. The City's Commercial Micro-loan program provides loans of \$1,000 to \$10,000 to existing or startup businesses in East Providence with ten or fewer employees.

2+2 Façade Improvement Program

The City's 2+2 Façade Improvement Program was established in 1999 through the City's Community Development Block Program. The 2+2 program is designed to provide incentives for commercial façade improvements in eligible commercial districts of the City through direct matching grants for physical exterior improvements. Qualified businesses can receive up to a \$2,000 match from the City for improvements to their properties including new doors, windows, awnings, signage, paint or siding or other exterior improvements designed to create an aesthetically appealing appearance. Limited funds will be available in 2010.

Tax Stabilization

The City's property tax stabilization ordinance provides tax relief to businesses seeking to expand existing facilities or construct new facilities in the City. The program provides phased tax relief over a period of several years for businesses building new facilities or expanding existing facilities which amount to more than \$50,000 in assessed improvements for the five year stabilization program.

Business Attraction and Expansion

The City saw several companies establishing or expanding operations in the City of East Providence in 2009.

These companies include EFD Manufacturing, TD Bank, Baer Supply Company, Columbus Credit Union, Stop & Shop, CVS Pharmacy, Lucky's Restaurant and Seven Star Bakery.

Turner Reservoir Raised Walkway

Construction of the Turner Reservoir Raised Walkway is expected to be complete by early spring 2010 with funding provided by the Chaplin Foundations, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Open Space Program, and City of East Providence. The Turner Reservoir Raised Walkway was designed by landscape architect firm The Gifford Design Group, Inc. and constructed by Solid Earth Technologies, Inc.

Historic District Commission

The City's Historic District Commission held its first meeting on October 14, 2009 and is currently exploring areas of the City that possess the potential to be designated as a local historic district.

Hunt's Mills Master Plan



A landscape master plan was completed by the landscape architect firm The Bradford Associates Inc. and the preservation consultant firm The Connor's Associates with funding provided by a Rhode Island Department of Environmental Historic Park Restoration grant and a National Park Service Preserve America grant. The trail system, viewing

areas, picnic areas, and interpretative signage will be installed in early spring 2010.

Hunt's Mills Pump House

The architect firm Durkee, Brown, Viveiros, & Werenfels completed a re-use study of the Hunt's Mills Pump House that concluded that the pump house has an enormous potential to serve as a Sustainable Technology Education Center that would serve as a venue for demonstrating different forms of sustainable technology and green building technologies. The Planning Department is actively seeking funding to complete an additional study to determine the financial feasibility of activating or replacing the existing dynamo, turbine, pumps, switching equipment and penstock that was used to produce electricity from the late 1930s to early 1970's.

Runnins River Land Donations

At the beginning of the year, the City recorded two donations of land in southeastern East Providence totaling 22 acres. Both land acquisitions are located along a portion the Runnins River that is part of a significant regional wildlife habitat. The land donations complement existing conservation efforts along the river corridor and the City is grateful to the donors for securing these lands for conservation and open space.

Community Development

The Community Development Division was awarded \$793,727 in Federal Block Grant funds. These funds were invested in the following categories: Economic Development, Housing Renovation, Public Services, and Public Facilities

A portion of these funds were used to provide loans and grants for Economic Development and Housing Renovation activities. Income generated from such loans was \$141,007. This amounts to having leveraged 17.76% of the original grant award. Through the Job Training Program for homeless per-

sons, 1.5 jobs were created and filled. In the Housing Program, 20 units were renovated improving the living conditions of 53 persons.

The Community Development Division funded 10 public service programs that serviced over 11,500 persons, of which 1,956 were youth, 2036 seniors, and 7,538 families.

Among the public facility improvements funded were the Sabin Point Park pathways, the Senior Center addition, the Boys & Girls Club addition, and building improvements to 100 Bullocks Point Avenue, including new solar paleness that provide all of the hot water for the entire facility.



Waterfront Commission

Activities included:

- Reviewed and approved \$200 million “Village on the Waterfront” project on Chevron property located on Veteran’s Memorial Parkway;
- Prepared and received grant from the EPA and RIDEM for habitat restoration and stormwater management at Bold Point Park;
- Assisted RIDEM Hazardous Waste staff with Targeted Brownfield Assessment grant for Bold Point Park;
- Updated and maintained www.eastprovidencewaterfront.com;
- Represented the City at CRMC Metro Bay Special Area Manage-

ment Plan (SAMP) meetings and workshops;

- Administered \$238,000 EPA Stormwater Management Grant for the Waterfront District;
- Administered \$230,000 Small Business Administration grant for green technology in the Waterfront District;
- Updated the Waterfront District section of the City’s Comprehensive Plan as part of the 2009 state-mandated Plan update;
- Waterfront website presented as part of panel at Southern New England Planning Conference;
- Held four Waterfront Commission meetings; six Design Review Committee meetings; and two Hearing Panel meetings in 2009; and
- Although 2009 was a challenging year, The Waterfront Commission and staff are working diligently with reputable developers on potentially significant projects that are anticipated to be constructed in the near future;
- The RI State Legislature gave \$15,000 to the Commission in 2009. The Commission receives the remainder of its operating funds from development and other fees; the goal of the Commission is to become self-supporting through these fees.

Public Works Department

Mission Statement: The mission of the Department of Public Works is to efficiently provide essential public works services for the entire community with a commitment to enhance the living and working environment within the City of East Providence.

The Department of Public Works consists of nine divisions including Animal Control, Building Inspection, Central Garage, Engi-

neering, Highway, Public Buildings, Refuse/Recycling, Water, and Wastewater.

With the prospect of stimulus funds being made by the Federal Government, the Department worked to secure as much funding as possible for critical infrastructure projects. The City was successful in these efforts and obtained funding for the Water Main Cleaning and Lining Program and Nutrient Removal Project at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The Department has and will continue its efforts to secure funding for transportation improvement projects and energy efficiency projects for municipal buildings.

The following report provides project highlights from each of the public works divisions.

Building Inspection Division

This Division is responsible for issuing all permits related to construction, and enforcement of the Rhode Island State Building Code and the City Ordinance including Minimum Housing and Zoning.

A total of 3,332 various permits were issued which generated \$450,343.00. Of that total \$32,035.00 was directed to the State of Rhode Island for the *Continuing Education and Americans with Disabilities Act* and \$527.00 for Radon fees for the R I Health Department. The 1,099 Building Permits issued represent a total valuation of \$24,671,031.00.

Central Garage Division



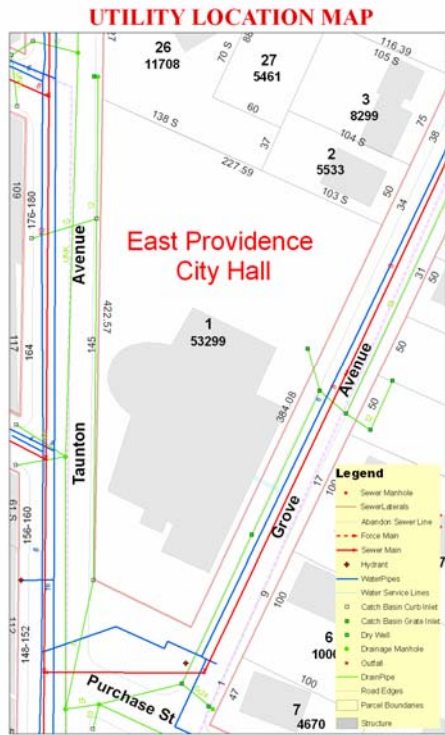
The Central Garage maintained the City's vehicle fleet of over 400 vehicles and various equipment. A primary function is to maintain the City's emergency response vehicles to keep them at maximum in service levels and to maintain snow removal equipment as operational during snowstorms. Due to the vast number of vehicles and equipment to maintain and repair, the Central Garage is continually training personnel in technical and diagnostic programs.

Engineering Division

The Engineering Division provides engineering services for the City's public works improvement projects. The division performs survey work, planning, drafting, development of plans, specifications and contract documents for projects such as utility (water, sewer and drainage) improvements and roadway improvements. For construction of subdivisions and buildings the Engineering Division reviews plans, supplies utility and pertinent technical information and provides inspection of the work to ensure public improvements are built in accordance with applicable standards. The Engineering Division office maintains City maps for utilities (sewer, water and drainage), assessor maps, survey benchmarks and related information.

The following is a listing of some of the projects in which the Division participated.

- Geographic Information System
- Sanitary Sewer Improvements
- Phase II Stormwater Management Plan
- Waterfront Access Improvement Study



Worked within the DPW on several projects including:

- Developed and submitted all necessary utility road opening permits to RI DOT.
- Review of plans for Waterfront Development Projects.
- Preparation of Plans & Specifications for cleaning and lining of water mains.
- Developed specifications, contract documents and provided project oversight and inspection for sidewalk and roadway improvements in CD areas.
- Assisted in generating a list of streets proposed to be repaired under the Bond referendum.
- Drainage improvements within the Southeast Drainage Area.
- Improvements to the Weaver Library drainage system

- Coordinate all work associated with the curbing installation program
- Reviewed plans for Planning Department and Waterfront Development Projects.

Highway Division

Storm Water Maintenance

The Highway Division is instrumental in maintaining compliance with the City's RIDEM approved Stormwater Management Plan. The Division maintained 2 miles of storm water drainage brooks and ditches throughout the city to help prevent flooding problems. A drainage maintenance crew cut back brush and removed debris from the system throughout the City. Approximately 1,500 yards of debris were removed from 667 storm catch basins/manholes and 49,318 ft of drain pipe. Approximately 4,620 catch basins, water retention and marsh areas were treated to reduce the mosquito population.

Compost Site /Former Landfill

Highway Division personnel maintained the compost site. Leaves, grass clippings, and branches, are brought to the site by the municipal contractor. The yard waste is shredded on site, piled in rows and turned as required until it has decomposed into compost. The finished compost is screened for use on City projects and made available to the City residents at no charge. The Division also participated in the annual Christmas tree chipping program.

Plowing and Sanding

It was an active winter season where division crews went out 8 times to plow and 6 times to perform sanding operations. Over the winter season, 1,677 tons of salt was used to treat the 160 miles of roadways, and parking lots for public buildings, and city schools.

Traffic Control

Approximately 774 sign repairs and new sign installations were performed by division personnel. Various signs and labels for other municipal departments by created in the signage development area. Division personnel performed the maintenance of city owned traffic signals. As part of the yearly program the division personnel painted over 3,000 linear foot (lf) of cross walks, painted parking spaces in city own parking lots, including schools, parks, and libraries. A centerline and edge line painting contract was awarded to Hi-Way Safety Systems Inc. for the painting of 102,438lf of yellow centerlines and 36,407lf of white edge lines.

Street Sweeping

The street sweeping program started in March with the main roadways throughout the City and continued into the neighborhoods shortly thereafter, followed by public parking areas. The entire city was swept twice with operations ceasing in August.

Street and Sidewalk Repair

This year the division repaired over 798 potholes and utility trenches (water, sewer, storm drain, etc.), using 566 tons of hot mix asphalt. Approximately 177 yards of concrete was used to repair or replace sidewalks and storm drain structures for various reasons.



Various Other Projects

The Highway Division completed work in cooperation with various departments in the City. Most notable were the following projects:

installation of a bus turn around at Martin Middle School, construction of new bus driveway and parking area at Silver Spring School, and installed a storm drain system at Weaver Library.

Public Buildings Division

The Public Buildings Division is responsible for the cleaning and maintenance of the following City owned facilities: City Hall, Police Station, Weaver Library, Rumford Library, Fuller Library, Riverside Library, Riverside Recreation Center, Engustian Public Works Complex and the Senior Center Complex. The division also assisted in the maintenance of the Animal Shelter, East Providence Community Center, Carousel and Hunt House. The division is responsible for heating, air conditioning and any maintenance needs of all public buildings.

This Division also assists and provides project management services for new City building construction such as the Senior Center addition and Weaver Library modifications project.

Refuse/Recycling Division

The Recycling Division continued to improve diversion programs to be in compliance with the State mandated reduction of municipal disposal caps. A drop off program for resident generated small amounts of construction and demolition debris was established, keeping the material out of the RI RRC landfill and into the recycling stream for alternate use. As a twin to that program, a drop off for recyclable metal items was also established creating a revenue source to offset expenses. In the first six months of the new programs, 189 tons of residential C & D was diverted from the landfill and 68 tons of metal was recycled to generate \$7,058 in new revenue.

Residents also were provided with a new electronics drop off program at the Commercial Way site. Televisions were added to

the already successful drop off for used computer components. Over 32 tons of obsolete televisions were sent to be recycled. Those programs enhanced the used motor oil and oil filter, antifreeze, textile and used book recycling programs at the recycling area.

The residential curbside collection program collected 13,797 tons of trash, 4,519 tons of recyclables and 6,987 tons of yard debris. The 24.7% recycling rate was recognized as one of the highest in Rhode Island for a full curbside collection system. Totaling the curbside recycling program, the yard debris collection, the C&D drop off, the metals recycling and the television recycling, the total landfill diversion was over 46.1%.

The Recycling Division received bids and awarded a new residential solid waste collection contract. Bids were solicited for a number of alternative collection systems. In the final analysis, it was determined that the continuation of the present system would be the least expensive to the residents. A contract award was made with an approximate \$100,000.00 annual reduction from the previously awarded contract. The award will insure a continuous collection service at a reasonable expense to the residents through 2015.

Water Utilities Division

The past year continued to be a productive year for the division. In its ongoing efforts to maintain and improve both the water distribution and wastewater collection systems the division has accomplished the following:

Water Distribution – Division personnel worked hard to make improvements to the water system. The East Providence system is an older system with some water mains that are over 100 years old. In close cooperation with the fire department, our hydrant crew is constantly maintaining City fire hydrants to insure that all of our residents are

protected. The service crew is always hard at work replacing iron water services with new copper pipe, repairing water main breaks, repairing and replacing valves all over the City. Our meter servicemen work to replace water meters, troubleshoot customer problems and complaints, and conduct constant water quality sampling to insure you receive high quality water. It is a common sight to see our yellow trucks on City streets at all hours of the day and night, with our dedicated staff working diligently to provide City residents and businesses with the best service possible.

In 2009 the City began the first phase of a pipe rehabilitation project. By taking advantage of federal stimulus funding the City is rehabilitating many of the older water mains in the City. The work involves scraping out the interior of the water mains and then coating the inside with a cement lining to eliminate corrosion and the occasional dirty water



problems that it creates. Older fire hydrants, valves, water services and water mains are also being replaced as part of the project. Work will continue through 2010 when the second phase of the project is scheduled to start.

Wastewater Collection – Our staff is constantly at work cleaning the City sewer mains with the goal of providing uninterrupted service. We have an ongoing program to reduce infiltration and inflow into the sewer system in order to comply with

state and federal regulations and that includes replacing manhole covers and pipes, sealing under-drains, and conducting investigations to identify problem areas. Our crews also respond to customer service issues and assist homeowners when they experience sewer disposal problems. We respond to help clear sewer blockages and repair and replace broken sewer laterals in compliance with City ordinances. We also provided assistance on a number of projects at the Water Pollution Control Facility.



Water Pollution Control Division

The Water Pollution Control Division operates and maintains the City's secondary biological wastewater treatment facility, twenty-two wastewater pumping stations and two hundred miles of sanitary sewer lines with a staff of twenty employees.

The average daily flow was 5.522 million gallons from East Providence and 1.388 million gallons per day from the Town of Barrington, for a total average daily flow through the facility of 6.91 million gallons per day. An average of 93.6% of all organic pollutants that entered this facility was removed prior to discharge into the Providence River.

LABORATORY ANALYSIS:

- Performed all necessary laboratory analysis as required by the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System .

- Completed a USEPA DMR-QA-26 testing as required by RI Department of Health.
- Updated all laboratory QAQC procedure.

TREATMENT FACILITY PROJECTS:

- Installed grating in the Digester building.
- Installed a new back-washing strainer.
- Installed 2 new wash water booster pumps.
- Rebuilt the Augar Monster.
- Inspected and repaired all below water equipment in the Grit Chamber.
- A new drive mechanism was installed in the #1 clarifier.
- Annual maintenance of all filters in the emergency generators.
- All general weekly, monthly, semi-annual and annual Preventative Maintenance was performed on all equipment.

PUMP STATION PROJECTS:

- Wet-wells at all pump stations were cleaned of grease build-up.
- All maintenance and repairs to equipment and structural deficits at all pump stations.

PRETREATMENT PROGRAM:

- Issued new annual permits to all Categorical Significant Industrial Users.
- Performed onsite inspection at all Categorical Significant Industrial Users.
- Provided tours to all interested contractors regarding the facility DBO project.

Police Department

In 2009 the East Providence Police Department had an authorized strength of approximately one hundred six sworn officers and twenty-one civilian personnel. The police department's dedicated members are committed to providing a high level of police services to the residents and visitors to the City of East Providence.

The police department consists of four major components: the Office of the Chief of Police, the Patrol Division, the Detective Division and the Administrative Services Division. The Patrol Division consists of the Patrol Unit or Post Officers, Traffic Unit and the Community Policing and Community Relations Units. The Patrol Division is the largest of the four Divisions.

In 2009 East Providence Police officers responded to 46,000 calls for service (CFS). Officers investigated 4,862 criminal complaints, arrested 1,996 individuals, investigated 2,187 motor vehicle crashes, issued 728 R.I. Traffic Tribunal violations, 2,671 Municipal Court violations, 39 Loud Music violations, 1,838 parking violations, 692 District Court Summons and 2,277 Defective Equipment violations. For the year 2010 the traffic enforcement objective will include placing resources in those areas where crashes have occurred most frequently and where the greatest need for enforcement has been identified through crash statistics and citizens complaints.

The Detective Division is presently staffed from 8AM-4PM and 3PM-11PM. The addition of the night detectives has increased the availability of Detectives during a sixteen hour time period thereby reducing the response time and overtime expenses associated with call backs. The Detective Division is divided into Major Crimes, Computer and Financial Crimes, along with Juvenile and Sex Crime Units. In addition to those units

the East Providence Department has a VICE unit that aggressively investigates narcotics investigations and other Vice related crimes. Intelligence gathering will also be an important focus of the East Providence Police Department in the year 2010 in our attempt to address new threats facing policing in the 21st century.

The Community Policing Unit (CPU) in 2009 continued its efforts in building a strong partnership with the community and towards improving the quality of life in our neighborhoods. A greater focus is being placed on "neighborhood crime watch" programs. The CPU continued its partnership with the State of R.I. Probation Department by sharing information and resources as well as assisting in monitoring probationers who reside in the City. This also included the probation monitoring of sexual offenders. The CPU is also responsible for sexual offender community notifications. It is also responsible for underage tobacco and alcohol programs and enforcement. It is responsible for the management of the federal highway safety grants along with the supervision and management of the City's school crossing guards. The Sergeant is responsible for the supervision of the SRO's. The CPU is responsible for elementary school programs and elderly affairs within the City. The Domestic Violence Follow-up Program is working out well. The Domestic Violence Program acts as a liaison with the Domestic Violence Advocate and the victims of Domestic Violence as well as following up on certain active cases.

The Police Department presently has three School Resource Officer's (SRO) assigned to Riverside Middle School, Martin Middle School and the East Providence High School. The SRO's are responsible for maintaining order within the schools, handle crisis intervention situations and serve as conflict resolution mediators. SRO's serve as mentors, lecturers in appropriate classes

and will be interacting with students in a non-traditional manner.

In-service training continues to be a priority for the police department. The Training Unit will continue to focus its efforts on providing the best training for sworn and non-sworn members of this great police department.

2009 was a year of many challenges for the East Providence Police Department as it was for the entire City of East Providence along with others challenges that the State of Rhode Island and the entire country has had to face. In 2010 the East Providence will be a smaller but more efficient agency. The dedicated members of the East Providence Police Department are committed to excellence and will continue to perform at the highest levels.



Senior Center

The Senior Center is designed as a place where older adults come together for services, activities and socialization. We reflect upon their experience and we respond to their diverse needs and interests. The center also plays a vital role to the seniors through enhancing their dignity, supporting their independence and encouraging their involvement within the center.

The center is designated as the community focal point that not only provides helpful resources to older adults and their families, but serves the entire community with information on aging. Through our nutrition, fit-



ness and social networking programs we support successful aging by maintaining older adult's mental and physical health.

In September the center expanded and completed a 5500 square foot addition. The new main entrance opens to the lobby and information/reception area. The very popular fitness room has been relocated to a much larger area within the addition along with the center's library. A common area with tables, casual chairs and a coffee café is part as well. The new computer lab with seven terminals for computer classes is able to accommodate all levels of learning. The new large multi-purpose room hosts meetings, exercise programs, and seminars. A second seminar room is available for smaller groups.

The Senior Center and Nurse Maureen Bouris won the National Council On Aging "Prescription for Better Health & Wellness" Award. The award honors a senior center for outstanding work in promoting a healthy lifestyle for seniors. The award focused on best practices in the health & wellness category with the emphasis on the ability of the program to be replicated.