

## PRINCETON COUNCIL MEETING

April 21, 2014

A meeting of the Mayor and Council was held on this date at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room in the municipal complex, 400 Witherspoon Street, Princeton, NJ 08540.

### NOTICE OF MEETING

The Clerk read the following statement.

The following is an accurate statement concerning the providing of notice of this meeting and said statement shall be entered in the minutes of this meeting. Notice of this meeting as required by Sections 4a, 3d, 13 and 14 of the Open Public Meetings Act has been provided to the public in the form of a written notice. On April 11 2014 at 2:40 p.m., said schedule was posted on the official bulletin board in the Municipal Building, transmitted to the Princeton Packet, the Trenton Times, the Torontonionian, the Town Topics, and filed with the Municipal Clerk.

### ROLL CALL

The Municipal Clerk then called the roll.

Present: Mesdames Butler, Crumiller, Howard and Messer Liverman, and Miller

Absent: Mayor Lempert and Mr. Simon.

Also Present: Mr. Bruschi.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The audience participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC – Regarding Items Not On the Agenda

Linda Auer Bach, Lytle Street discussed with Council the Avalon Bay project and the public's right to know. Ms. Auerbach referred to the request for Dr. Whitman's original report and the denial of the release of that document because it was a draft. She spoke about openness and transparency in government and that depriving citizens of critical information as setting a terrible precedent.

(Comments appended to this set of minutes)

Paul Driscoll, Harris Road also spoke about the Avalon Bay project and potential demolition permits and why demolition permits were issued to erect fencing, remove underground storage tanks and interior asbestos. Mr. Kiser said that type of work was not considered demolition and so the permits were issued. Mr. Driscoll asked in regard to the underground storage tanks if soil could be tested safely. Mr. Kiser said that Dr. Whitman would be there to determine if testing was necessary.

Mr. Bruschi said that when staff discussed permitting a decision had to be made as to what was reasonable for permitting as we can't hold up permits. He said that Mr. Kiser has tried to be conservative but that we need to be reasonable in the eyes of the town, the residents and ultimately the courts.

(Comments appended to this set of minutes)

Dr. Sam Hamod, 282-86 Witherspoon Street, said that the people wanted transparency. He said that they are concerned about taxes and does not believe that Princeton University pays the same taxes that they do and that the residents don't want to carry the University on their shoulders.

(Comments appended to this set of minutes)

PRESENTATION: Jeff Nathanson, Arts Council of Princeton

Jeff Nathanson, Arts Council of Princeton presented to the Mayor and Council the 2014 Neighborhood & Community Report about the Arts Council and its current activities. Noting the many

positive free and low cost activities that they are involved in, Mr. Nathanson said that they are here to serve the entire community.

Jim Floyd, Harris Road expressed his concern about parking during Communiversality during Sunday church services.

Ms. Crumiller, Ms. Howard, Ms. Butler and Mr. Miller all thanked Mr. Nathanson and the Arts Council for their work in the community.

(Neighborhood and Community Report appended to this set of minutes)

**PUBLIC HEARING: Application of Renewal, Comcast of Central New Jersey II, LLC**

Mr. Miller said that the Public Hearing for the Comcast renewal will be deferred to a later date to allow us proper time to meet noticing requirements. It has just come to our attention that a special notice should have been published 45 days prior to the public hearing. Comcast has no problem with this deferment and recognizes that we are working in good faith.

(8:00 p.m.)**WORK SHOP: Budget Workshop**

**Corner House, Gary DeBlasio**

Mr. DeBlasio said that the budget for Corner House is approximately \$10,000. less than last year and spoke about other cuts in funding they receive from other sources including the County. Ms. Howard asked if there was anything that the Mayor and Council could do. Mr. DeBlasio said that any support from elected officials would be appreciated.

Mr. Liverman said that Corner House represented the best of a public and private partnership.

Ms. Butler asked how many people use Corner House services. Mr. DeBlasio said that there has been over 6,000 people per year using Corner House services.

(Corner House report appended to this set of minutes)

**Princeton Public Library, Leslie Burger**

Ms. Burger said that the budget represents a minimal increase of .8%. She said that 80% of the Library's budget is supported through municipal funding and the remaining 20% is supported through a variety of fundraising efforts.

Ms. Burger said that the budget has been kept pretty much even due to staffing transitions.

Ms. Burger said that 850,000 people came through the doors of the Library as it has become the center of most of the community's life.

Mr. Liverman said that he loved the Library and all it has to offer. Ms. Crumiller thanked Ms. Burger for the report and asked if the rooms were being utilized. Ms. Burger said that they were. Ms. Howard asked about the difference between eBooks and real books. Ms. Burger said that most of the reference section has been removed and most is going digital.

On behalf of the Council, Mr. Miller thanked Ms. Burger for all that she did at the Library.

**Engineering, Robert Kiser (Engineering, Planning, Zoning/Historic Preservation and Construction)**

Mr. Kiser said that the Engineering, Planning, Zoning/Historic Preservation and Construction departments are working together to build a responsive culture with the public. Deanna Stockton, Assistant Engineer said that the Engineering Department is trying to completely meet the needs of the residents of Princeton.

Mr. Kiser also noted that there has been a reduction in staff from 16 to 13 in Engineering Department alone and that they have been within budget of less this past year. Ms. Stockton said that in regard to the capital budget they are projecting approximately \$4 million per year.

Ms. Butler said that she would like to see a wish list of items that the Engineering Department is in need of. Ms. Butler also thanked the Engineering Department for being incredibly responsive to Princeton's residents.

Ms. Crumiller said that she would like to see an organizational chart of the Engineering Department.

Kip Cherry, 24 Dempsey Avenue thanked Mr. Kiser and Ms. Stockton for their work on the Transco Pipeline Project.

**Police/Police Communications, Nicholas Sutter, Chief of Police**

Chief Sutter said that the Police Department was giving a lot of forethought on any expenditures that they were making and that standardization was key. He said that there would be a need to update the weapons system.

Chief Sutter said that with the improvements in communications, they are in very good shape.

Ms. Howard asked if the department was in need to replace cars. Chief Sutter said that they kept the capital budget modest and fiscally responsible while making progress with vehicle replacement. Chief Sutter noted that the last cars were purchased in 2011. Ms. Butler asked about the budget in Princeton Borough that wasn't spent for new vehicles. Mr. Bruschi said that the money was reverted to surplus.

**Emergency Services, Robert Gregory, Director, Emergency Management**

Mr. Gregory explained to Council that the biggest capital request was to replace a piece of fire apparatus. Ms. Bruschi noted that the maintenance cost for apparatus continues to rise.

Mr. Liverman said that he hoped that this year that there would be funds set aside to study the fire department.

Ms. Crumiller asked how many actual building fires were there this year. Mr. Gregory said that there were 68 dwelling fire and 336 alarms.

Kip Cherry, 24 Dempsey Avenue said that the Princeton First Aide and Rescue Squad needed new facilities. She said that Princeton University would like to have a fire house near campus and asked that the whole situation be considered. She asked that the municipality think outside the box and be clear of the Universities aspirations.

**Financial Policies, Scott Sillars, Chair, CFAC**

Mr. Sillars reviewed with Council a power point presentation regarding the financial policies set by the municipality. He said that budgets are consistent with the Surplus, Capital and Debt Policies and

noted that while providing for contingencies in the budget is wise, many line items are based on last year's budget, not last year's spending.

Mr. Sillars said that the projected change in the 2014 surplus would be practically nil and that the projected debt ratios are staying within policy limits.

Ms. Butler asked with the percentage of obligation was for items with short life spans. Mr. Sillars said that it was the low hundreds of thousands of dollars. Ms. Butler asked if the projection was reasonable for a per year savings in surplus of \$3 million in the third year. Mr. Sillars said yes, it was and that the municipality was in good shape to meet that projection.

Mr. Liverman said that he did not want the public to think that the municipality bonded for items with short life spans such as iPads.

Kip Cherry, 24 Dempsey Avenue said that she was worried about the concept of seed money. She said that the community needs to have a discussion, to weigh in on capital items. Ms. Cherry told Council that they have influence over the tax rate and expenditures.

(Power Point Presentation appended to this set of minutes)

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

Linda S. McDermott  
Municipal Clerk

According to Mr. Curran's article in the Friday (April 18, 2014) Princeton Packet, Princeton's town engineer Bob Kiser has commenced issuing certain permits to AvalonBay related to the developer's initiation of demolition of the former Princeton Hospital site. Things are moving right along. My hope is that they are not going to be moving "wrong" along.

At the Princeton Town Council meeting of April 7<sup>th</sup>, a Harris Road resident told the council that he had filed an Open Public Records Act Request three times to review Dr. Ira Whitman's original report, which had been referenced at the March 10<sup>th</sup> council meeting--which referencing would thereby make the original report a public document. (Dr. Whitman—for those who may not know—is the LSRP hired by the town to "evaluate environmental issues at Princeton Hospital associated with the [lately-disclosed] medical-waste incinerator, and with demolition of existing structures as the site is re-developed into a multi-unit rental apartment complex"\* (\*Whitman's LSRP Report from March 2014).

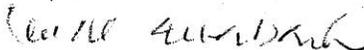
In response to the resident's comment, municipal attorney Trishka Cecil said that since the report was a draft, it is not subject to the Public Records Act. But can there really be an "original draft"—as it was referred to—especially if Dr. Whitman referenced it while negotiating with AvalonBay and its consultants? Once the information has been shared with AvalonBay, does not the original document become a public document which is no longer deliberative or confidential in nature?

At the March 10<sup>th</sup> council meeting, council member Simon asked who had permitted this negotiation by Dr. Whitman with AvalonBay, and he requested a copy of Whitman's initial unedited recommendations. Why doesn't the public also have "the right to know" what was contained in that same report? After all, it contains material related to the public health, safety, and welfare of all citizens, including the many children who live in, or attend schools in, the hospital-site neighborhood.

After the negotiations, Dr. Whitman downgraded his original recommendation and deleted lead from the substances designated for soil testing related to the incinerator. Lead, as Whitman acknowledged, was "negotiated away" by AvalonBay, even though it is a known byproduct of medical-waste incinerators.

Local candidates have been campaigning for openness and transparency in government; sadly, it may be that the newly-formed Town of Princeton is a long way from achieving this. Depriving the citizenry of potentially critical information which may directly affect its well-being sets a terrible precedent. Precisely what doesn't our local government think we should see?

I quote Councilman Lance Liverman. He hoped that AvalonBay would have "come to the table and said, 'We don't have to do this, but we're going to do it'" and "...We need more testing." I, too, hope that a desire for rigorous inquiry and truth-seeking will prevail and that it will prompt the council to release to the public all information contained in Dr. Whitman's original report.

Linda Auerbach 

Lytle Street, Princeton (609) 924-4690

April 21, 2014

Paul Driscoll  
Harris Road

At the Mar 22nd Witherspoon Jackson Street meeting, Joseph Weiss asked whether the demolition permit would be issued before the Developer's Agreement is signed, and the response was "no".

- 1) In context with that meeting, which was attended by both members of Town Council and the Engineering Department, why were demolition permits issued for AvalonBay to erect fencing, remove underground storage tanks as well as interior asbestos, when there is no agreement in place?
- 2) Shouldn't the (4) air monitors be functioning before any asbestos abatement starts?
- 3) If it's only for interior abatement, but how will residents know that none escapes -- no doors or windows will be open? And what about the asbestos that's at the exterior (such as at waterproofing on foundations and at roof)?
- 4) Four weeks ago at the March 24th council meeting, I asked if the town intends to delete the eight inch sewer line going to Witherspoon Street. At that time, there was no answer. So now that the demolition permit has been granted to AvalonBay, can you tell me if the only sewer hookup will be to Henry Avenue?

4.21.14

To: Princeton City Council

From: Dr. Sam Hamod

282-86 Witherspoon Street; Princeton, NJ 08542

Honorable Council Members:

In the democracy we share in Princeton, it behooves us to cooperate with one another as much as possible. In this light, because you are concerned for the welfare, health, safety and diversity of Princeton, I plead as a taxpayer, who pays your small salaries, that you make sure Princeton University, which uses our municipal services and pays a paltry donation for these services, and also is given a major tax break, be required to pay the same percentage of taxes on all their properties as the rest of us pay on ours.

Up to now, P.U. has been paying less than 20% of the value of their properties, while the rest of us are billed at 100%; this is obviously unjust. Not only that, but it appears to some in the city and some of our national minority groups, that this gentrification will drive many minorities, needed for diversification, out of Princeton. REMEMBER ALSO, PRINCETON UNIVERSITY IS A PRIVATE, MONEY MAKING UNIVERSITY, IT IS NOT A STATE UNIVERSITY, AND ALSO HAS THE LARGEST ENDOWMENT OF ANY UNIVERSITY IN THE WORLD; THUS, IT WOULD NOT BE A BURDEN ON P.U. TO PAY THEIR FAIR SHARE OF TAXES.

With this in mind, I plead that you open your discussions of the tax situation vis-à-vis PU to the public, and not keep it secret. If it is kept secret, many of us will believe there is some skullduggery going on, and you will lose more of the trust you desire to keep with the citizens of Princeton.

Thus, let's tax PU fairly, at the same rate as the rest of are taxed and have all discussions of taxes for PU public, and not let them get away with a PALTRY "DONATION."

Sincerely,



~~Sam Hamod~~



Arts Council of Princeton

# COMMUNIVERSITY

Festival of the Arts ★ 2014

Rain or Shine **Sunday, April 27**



**1-6 pm**

**Downtown Princeton**

**5 Art Areas for Kids**

**200+**

Artists  
Craft Makers  
Eateries  
Local Businesses  
Community Groups

**30 Performers**

**12 Genres**

**5 Hours**

**6 Stages**



Community Mono-Thon

Street-Side Studios

Clay at Hand

Please Donate the Daisies

Kids Caricatures

Nana's Make-a-Mess

Sidewalk Chalk

Produced by the Arts Council of Princeton with the students of Princeton University and the town of Princeton

**Sponsors**



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AvalonBay Communities, Inc.

Bloomberg

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Princeton Shopping Center • Princeton Self Storage

All Saints Episcopal Church • The Bank of Princeton • Callaway Henderson Sotheby's International Realty  
Creative Computing • D'Angelo Italian Market • Eden Autism Services • Elements/Mistral • Hamilton Building  
Supply Company • Ivy Inn • MacLean Agency • McCaffrey's • Mortgage Master • New Balance • The Peacock Inn  
Qdoba Mexican Grill • Richardson Smith Architects • Ruth's Chris Steakhouse • Second Wind Foundation  
Thomas Sweet • Triumph Brewing Company • Winberle's Restaurant • Witherspoon Grill/Blue Point Grill  
MEDIA: Packet Media Group • Princeton Community Television • PrincetonKids, LLC  
Princeton Scoop • Town Topics/Princeton Magazine • US 1 • WWFM • WPRB

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



ARTS COUNCIL OF  
PRINCETON

## Neighborhood and Community Report April 2014



*Arts Council of Princeton Spanish dance students perform on the Paul Robeson Center's Terrace at the Free Fall Open House in September 2013.*

### **Introduction**

We are pleased to present this report on the Arts Council of Princeton's programs for the Princeton community and activities related to the Witherspoon-Jackson (W-J) Neighborhood. This report covers the year since the presentation of our last Neighborhood Report in April 2013.

The non-profit Arts Council of Princeton (ACP) has grown tremendously over the past six years, since opening the renovated and expanded Paul Robeson Center for the Arts in 2008. We have more than doubled our student enrollment, membership and overall programming during this time. Our current operating budget of \$1.5 million is well over twice the ACP's operating budget in 2007; however, in order to successfully deliver the scope of programming we provide to the community during the year, we must raise roughly 50% of our operating

budget through private, foundation and corporate donations, as well as through fundraising events. Needless to say, the climate for fundraising has been difficult in recent years, and the ACP, like all non-profit organizations, has had to work harder to raise the funds necessary to keep our doors open and expand programming to meet community demand. It has been particularly challenging for the ACP because of the high number of free and low cost programs we offer. We are grateful to our many members and donors, but we need to expand and strengthen our base of support.

Additionally, in order to deliver the scope and number of programs we produce, we rely on an army of over 350 volunteers who log in over 3,000 hours annually. We also rely on the generosity of in-kind donors, including police and public works services, without whose support we would not be able to produce our many free public events. The largest of those is Communiversy Festival of the Arts, coming up on April 27<sup>th</sup>. The Arts Council is clearly central to cultural life in Princeton, with over 50,000 people served by our programs throughout the year.

### **Background**

The Arts Council of Princeton was founded as an independent nonprofit organization in 1967 and for many years served as an advisory council to the Princeton Borough. In its early years, the ACP began to develop cultural programming for the town and in 1971 produced the first *Art People's Party*, which was renamed *Communiversy* in the early 1980s. For this year's *Communiversy Festival of the Arts*, we anticipate a crowd of over 40,000. This major event has grown over the years to be the largest annual cultural event in our region. We are grateful to the town of Princeton and the students of Princeton University who are partners in presenting this signature event.

The ACP has operated at 102 Witherspoon Street since 1982. In 2008, the ACP re-opened the renovated and expanded Paul Robeson Center, designed by Princeton architect Michael Graves. The Robeson Center serves the community with studio space for education programs including visual arts, photography, digital arts, ceramics, literary and performing arts. Its gallery has been named Favorite Art Gallery for three consecutive years by the Discover Jersey Arts People's Choice Awards; the ACP received the 2012 Governor's Award for Excellence in Arts Education; and, for multiple years, the NJ State Council on the Arts has awarded the ACP its Citation of Excellence. The ACP's Solley Theater, located on the Robeson Center's second floor, has been the venue for countless professional and student concerts, plays, readings, rehearsals and classes. Without a doubt, the Robeson Center has become an important and invaluable location for community performances, meetings, gatherings and events.

As successful as the ACP has been in managing and programming the Robeson Center, we have been equally successful in the expansion of ACP programs in the community. These programs have included free after-school art classes in partnership with Princeton Young Achievers, free art sessions 2-3 times a week at the Princeton Nursery School, and free community events such as the annual Hometown Halloween Parade, Black History Month events, Martin Luther King, Jr. events, Cinco de Mayo and Day of the Dead events. Perhaps most visible to residents and visitors to Princeton is the Arts Council's largest public art project, the mural "Continuum," by artist Illia Barger on the wall of the Terra Momo Bread Company. Completed in spring 2012, the mural commemorates three collaborative temporary public art installations located in empty lots on Paul Robeson Place between 2002-2009: Herban Garden, Writers Block and Quark Park.

The importance of the arts and quality arts education for a community cannot be underestimated. Nationally, studies conducted over the past twenty-five years substantiate that the arts provide one of the most effective methods of increasing academic

achievement and literacy in all students. With that important fact in mind, we have continued to provide free afterschool and in-school educational opportunities for 120 – 160 students per week through our partnerships with Princeton Nursery School, Princeton Young Achievers, local schools, and HomeFront.

As reported last year, the arts also function as a powerful engine for economic development. The Arts Council led the local arts community in the Arts and Economic Prosperity Study in 2012. With additional support provided by Princeton University and the Princeton Regional Chamber of Commerce, the Arts and Economic Prosperity Study reported that the 16 arts organizations based in Princeton collectively generated a remarkable \$51 million in economic activity and employ close to 2100 full-time employees.

In an ongoing effort to achieve greater financial stability, the ACP has worked to establish an endowment fund to ensure the future of its programs. The cornerstone contribution for our endowment was a \$250,000 Legacy Grant awarded in late 2007 by the J. Seward Johnson Sr. 1963 Charitable Trust which produces income specifically for W-J Neighborhood programs. In 2011, we received our second major endowment grant of \$150,000 from the Charles Evans Foundation. The income from this endowment fund is designated specifically for scholarships. In December 2012 and in November 2013, we received two gifts totaling \$700,000 from the Galbraith Trust for programs that serve disadvantaged youth.

### **Programs and Events 2013/14**

The Arts Council's Strategic Plan provides a roadmap for program development and increased marketing, based on the ACP's core mission of *building community through the arts*. The results of our efforts since opening our renovated arts center have been excellent, even as we are engaged in the process of updating the Strategic Plan. For the fifth consecutive fiscal year we have been able to expand audiences and student enrollment, resulting in a positive projected year-end balance for the fifth consecutive year.

During this past year, the Arts Council produced numerous successful events. We attribute much of the success in event attendance to distributing announcements through our network of community and neighborhood volunteers, through committee and board members who belong to local churches and community organizations, and actively participating in local groups such as the Youth Concerns Committee, the Princeton Merchants Association, the Princeton Area Arts and Culture Consortium, and the Princeton Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Many free programs and scholarships are provided for the benefit of members of the Witherspoon-Jackson Neighborhood. Funding for our free programs for the W-J Neighborhood was provided largely by income received from the investment of the Johnson Charitable Trust grant. This funding allowed for us to partially cover the expenses of the "free" programs listed below and allowed us to offer free admission to W-J Neighborhood residents for ticketed concerts. Additional funding for free community programs was provided by Novo Nordisk.

**ArtReach:** During the past year, we continued our ArtReach programs, providing free in-school and after-school arts education programming to up to 140 students at the Princeton Nursery School (funded in part by the PNC Foundation) and partnering with Princeton Young Achievers (funded by Horizon Foundation, the J. Seward Johnson, Sr. Charitable Trust and Janssen) to provide art programs for students at PYA learning centers and at the Paul Robeson Center. At the Princeton Nursery School, artist Libby Ramage worked with an average of 50 students per week. Four artists worked with 75 – 90 PYA students per week in our Creative Fridays program.

We also continued to offer programs for PYA youth beyond traditional visual arts. We provided music workshops through the Robeson Community Music Series, supported by Wells Fargo and ET Cone Foundation grants. During the fall, we provided a ten week-long intensive spoken word and music workshop series for teens, in partnership with Corner House, Princeton and LifeTies, Trenton.

**"Kids at Work: Discovery through Art":** During the school year, over 200 local elementary students came with their teachers for gallery tours and art-making sessions in our program "Kids at Work: Discovery through Art." In these workshops, school classes visited our gallery exhibitions, learned about the significance of the artwork, and engaged in hands-on art activities to make work based on what they saw in the gallery. Kids at Work was funded this past year through grants from Target and Debbie Gartenberg. The students mostly came from Community Park and John Witherspoon Schools (some classes also came from Riverside, Littlebrook and Johnson Park schools).

**PHS Community Service Group:** For the fifth consecutive year, a group of 15 – 20 Princeton High School students volunteered at many of our events throughout the school year.

**Witherspoon Middle School Tours:** In September, for the sixth straight year, in partnership with the Princeton Public Library and John Witherspoon Middle School, we provided tours of the Paul Robeson Center for over two hundred sixth grade students. This tour program is an annual activity designed to introduce students to the facilities and programs offered by both the Arts Council and the Library.

**Creative Aging and Arts in Healthcare Programs:** The Arts Council received a Church and Dwight Employee Giving Fund grant to continue our Art for Caregivers program, designed to assist family members and professional caregivers with creative projects specifically for seniors. With a grant from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, we also ran a program for seniors in partnership with Brandywine, Elm Court, and Stonebridge Assisted Living residences. For the third consecutive year, we are sending artist Eva Mantell weekly to work with seniors in the Acute Care for the Elderly Unit at the Princeton Medical Center. This program recently received approval and additional funding from Princeton Healthcare to expand the program. In addition, we have been sending an artist weekly to Elm Court to work with seniors.

**Cinco de Mayo:** Our annual Cinco de Mayo celebration was offered again as a collaboration with the Princeton Public Library on Hinds Plaza. Hundreds came out to celebrate Mexico's Cinco de Mayo with art-making, a piñata, and an appearance by "Frida Kahlo."

**aMuse:** Our annual anthology of poetry, prose, and art by students in grades K-12, included submissions by over sixty students from local and regional schools. We are now in the 26<sup>th</sup> year of this annual publication formerly titled "UnderAge."

**Free Fall Open House at the Robeson Center:** Our annual Open House event in September featured art making, dance performances, refreshments, and music -- all free to the public. The event showcased our programs and provided residents with ways to get involved, including information on scholarships.

**Hometown Halloween Parade:** In October, we held our annual parade through downtown Princeton featuring the Princeton University marching band. We began the parade on Hinds Plaza and marched to Palmer Square, where we held a costume contest, complete with artist designed "applause-o-meter" and prizes contributed by local businesses. The large crowd was estimated at over 1500.

**"What's up Princeton" Programs:** Now in its fourth year, the Arts Council, along with the Princeton Public Library, HiTOPS, Corner House, and the Recreation Department, has partnered on "What's Up Princeton," a collective effort to increase programs for teens.

Last spring, the Arts Council hosted a Teen Open Mic Night and the third annual Battle of the Bands, in which numerous high school students shared their talents by performing (the next Teen Open Mic Night is scheduled for May 2<sup>nd</sup>.)

**Artist in Residence – Nancy Shill:** During spring 2013 our Artist in Residence, Nancy Shill, worked with a crew of volunteers to collect material from the community to include in a community collage mural project. The mural, entitled "Princeton Mix," celebrates our consolidated town and is installed on a wall at Witherspoon Hall.

**Summer Concerts:** We had another successful Courtyard Concert Series at the Princeton Shopping Center. Free concerts were presented every Thursday from mid-June through the end of August with audience sizes ranging from about 200 to over 600. Edens, the new owner of the Shopping Center, has been very supportive in continuing the series.

**El Dia de los Muertos:** Our annual El Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) event was held last November for the first time at the Princeton Shopping Center, with generous support from Edens. Hundreds of attendees enjoyed mariachi music, art-making activities, and food provided by the Taste of Mexico.

**After-School Teen Programming:** Last fall, we piloted a new after-school program for teens. Called "Junk Jam," it was a collaboration with Corner House (Princeton) and LifeTies (Trenton). Students in the program spent ten weeks in after-school sessions writing poetry and developing a spoken word and music program that was presented in a final performance to family and friends at the ACP's temporary Pop-Up Studio at the Princeton Shopping Center.

**Martin Luther King Day:** Our annual collaboration for MLK Day was offered as a partnership with the Historical Society of Princeton. We provided activities that taught tolerance, civil rights history, and the lessons of Dr. King for all ages. The afternoon of free art-making attracted over 200 people including dozens of neighborhood children.

**Annual Community Play:** The Arts Council sponsored the Princeton Variety Theatre's (a new collaboration of members of Stone Soup Circus and Princeton Theater Experiment) Community Play in February 2014. The company presented three sold-out public performances of an original interpretation of "Jack and the Beanstock" in the 150-seat theater at Stuart Country Day School. Over thirty community members participated in the production, including Mayor Liz Lempert. Local sponsors who provided funding included small world coffee, Jazams, Ace Hardware, Halo Pub and more.

**Black History Month:** Our February programming featured a screening of the film "The Princeton Plan: Fifty Years Later" hosted by Princeton historian Shirley Satterfield, who moderated a lively discussion following the film.

**Paul Robeson Birthday Event:** Earlier this month, in celebration of Paul Robeson's 116<sup>th</sup> birthday, the Arts Council partnered with the Paul Robeson House in presenting a screening of the classic film "Show Boat" – the film that made Paul Robeson an international star. ACP Board member and Robeson House co-chair, Benjamin Colbert, hosted the event along with Shirley Satterfield.

**COMMUNIVERSITY Festival of the Arts:** On the last Sunday in April last year, Princeton's annual festival of the arts was held again in downtown Princeton, organized by the Arts Council with participation from the students of Princeton University and support from the municipality of Princeton. The police estimated attendance of over 40,000, the largest event ever. The festival featured artists, musicians, performers, crafters, merchants and food vendors, nonprofit and student organizations, and numerous free activities for children. As mentioned earlier, this year's Communiversity will take place on Sunday, April 27.

**Scholarships:** During the summer we provided scholarships for W-J Neighborhood children so they could attend summer art and drama camp, which we held in the Paul Robeson Center, with outdoor activities held at the YMCA. The campers' artwork was featured in an end-of-the-summer exhibition in the Robeson Center's main gallery. During the summer and through the school year the Arts Council provided scholarships with a total value of \$14,276 to 76 students. Three students from the neighborhood received scholarships valued at \$320 from the Waxwood Scholarship Fund and eight additional students from the neighborhood received scholarships valued at \$1,330. From the Evans Scholarship Fund, seven Princeton High School students received scholarships for a total value of \$4,500. Scholarships are funded through our George Dale and Waxwood Scholarship Funds and by a grant from the Charles Evans Foundation.

**Additional Community Events at the Paul Robeson Center and beyond:**

In addition to the activities listed above, the Arts Council was host to a wide range of events from meetings to non-profit benefits. Included were: Princeton Area Arts and Culture Consortium meetings; Monthly Youth Concerns Committee meetings; Christmas Eve Caroling on Palmer Square; Behind the Music events with the Princeton Symphony; annual Valentine's workshop; and a series of concerts, films, and exhibition openings. Additionally, throughout the year, community groups and families used our facility for meetings, benefits and events including: HiTOPS, Habitat for Humanity, Princeton Symphony, bar mitzvah parties, a baby shower and much more.

**New Programs and Initiatives**

**Public Art:** The ACP, building on the successes of its previous public art projects, is planning for two public projects in the coming two years. A mosaic mural by local artist Antonio Seldon is being planned for a wall on the corner of John and Leigh Streets in the W-J Neighborhood. Work has already begun on the design.

A larger, and more involved project is being planned for the AvalonBay development on the former hospital site. AvalonBay has commissioned the ACP to design an art-themed construction fence which will be installed the entire length of the construction fence on Witherspoon and Franklin Streets. The Arts Council will organize a permanent public art project for the development, with a Request for Proposals planned to go out shortly after the approvals for the project are finalized. The plan is to create a small artist-designed community park on the corner of Witherspoon and Franklin. The concept is to create a "sense of place" at the site for families and the general public.

**CAPS (Community Art and Performance Sessions):** CAPS is an after-school program for teens that has been developed in partnership with Corner House, as a continuation of the Junk Jam pilot that ran last fall. Teens are meeting this spring in ten after-school sessions learning to write and perform original music. A final concert is scheduled in May in the Solley Theater at the Paul Robeson Center.

**Arts in Healthcare:** The demand for arts programs for seniors and those with disabilities has seen a steady increase in recent years. We will continue our weekly Art for Caregivers sessions, have recently begun sending an artist to Carrier Clinic psychiatric hospital, and have proposed an increase in arts programs for the Princeton Medical Center. A.R.T (Art Realization Technologies) has used our painting studio for art sessions for adults with disabilities, and an exhibition of artwork from that program is scheduled for Communiversy weekend.

**Afterschool Art Club:** This spring, the Arts Council is running a pilot “Art Club” afterschool program at Riverside School. Our goal was to have twenty students sign up for afterschool art sessions, but to date over thirty have signed up. This new program is intended as a model for similar afterschool programs that could be offered at other district schools.

### **W-J Neighborhood Representation**

The location of the ACP’s Paul Robeson Center is ideal to serve to W-J neighborhood and the history of the location is relevant and important to keep present and alive. This is accomplished through the permanent exhibit “Neighborhood Portrait” which includes the W-J Neighborhood Quilt, created by Gail Mitchell with the assistance of a committee of neighborhood residents. A photography display of historic pictures from the archives of the Historical Society of Princeton was curated with the assistance of Shirley Satterfield and Eileen Morales. An additional photograph was added by a contribution from Hank Pannell. Finally, a plaque in the Robeson Center’s Barbara Sigmund Lobby provides information about the legacy of Paul Robeson, with a statement by Shirley Satterfield.

During the year, we worked on increasing our capacity to serve local Princeton residents, particularly members of the W-J Neighborhood, many of whom attended Arts Council events and participated in programs. We have managed to provide consistently excellent programs that enhance and benefit residents of the W-J Neighborhood. In order to be responsive and relevant to neighborhood needs, during the past year we have had three individuals with neighborhood connections serving on our board of trustees: Gail Everett and Orlando Fuquen, who are neighborhood residents, and Ben Colbert, who is co-chair of the Robeson House board and is a former W-J neighborhood resident. In addition, we are pleased to count two current and former neighborhood residents as staff members. Maria Evans, a long time ACP employee and neighborhood resident, serves as our Artistic Director, organizing and coordinating community events, our gallery and outreach programs. Stephanie Nazario, the ACP Financial Manager, grew up in the neighborhood and continues to live just a few blocks away. In addition, regular volunteer shifts are worked by several neighborhood residents who volunteer at the ACP’s reception desk, help at events, and assist in classrooms.

### **Conclusion**

In spite of our many recent successes, the ACP still faces challenges. The ability to continue to deliver free programs has been challenged by the continued decrease in foundation and government grant funds and the reality that we receive no local government funding. In addition, we are closing in on paying off our mortgage through the “5 in 5” Campaign, started in 2009, but still have over \$700,000 to raise. Our goal is to pay off the mortgage this year and then to focus on the fundraising necessary to maintain and increase our capacity to more effectively serve the community through continued and expanded free and low cost programs.

We greatly appreciate the support of Princeton in enabling us to serve our community and look forward to working together with you to improve and expand our programs to better serve the Princeton community.

Submitted by: Jeff Nathanson, Executive Director  
April 18, 2014



**Princeton - 2014 Budget: Operating Expenses**

		COMBINED COMBINED				
Expense Code	Expense Code	2012	2012	2013	2013	2014
Number	Description	Budgeted Amount	Actual Expenses	Budgeted Amount	Actual Expenses	Budget Request
<b>Department: Corner House</b>						
<b>Total O &amp; E: \$155,000.00</b>						
<b>Account #: 27-346</b>						
227	Office Supplies & Materials	1,000.00	750.00	1,000.00	965.43	1,000.00
228	Photocopy Expenses	251.00	225.30	251.00	0.00	250.00
257	Postage Expenses	50.00	1.54	50.00	102.28	50.00
258	Printing & Binding Expenses	3,000.00	930.00	3,000.00	392.10	3,000.00
259	Telephone Expenses	2,700.00	833.13	2,700.00	4,102.89	2,700.00
267	Office Equipment Services	50.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	50.00
273	Other Contractual Services	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
281	Professional & Consultant - Other Services	13,000.00	10,500.00	13,000.00	14,719.56	15,000.00
282	Unclassified Expenses	0.00	375.00	0.00	13,318.32	6,950.00
	Physical Exams	750.00	0.00	750.00	0.00	0.00
	All Insurances (WC, Liab, Medical)	0.00	0.00	23,312.00	68,971.73	126,000.00
	Misc. (benes etc.)	125,924.00	125,923.50	110,887.00	33,645.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>27-360</b>	<b>146,725.00</b>	<b>139,538.47</b>	<b>155,000.00</b>	<b>136,217.31</b>	<b>155,000.00</b>

**OUR MISSION IS TO BE THE COMMUNITY'S LIVING ROOM, CONNECTING PEOPLE THROUGH WORDS AND IDEAS TO ENRICH THEIR LIVES AND HELP THEM TO REALIZE THEIR DREAMS**

**a brief history : THE EARLY YEARS**

The Princeton Public Library was formally established in 1909. Its roots were in two subscription libraries that had flourished in town during the late 19th century. Those libraries charged dues to borrow from their collections, so only people of means could gain access to the several thousand volumes housed in the facilities. Princeton University's library, although accessible, wasn't a practical solution for residents who desired more fiction and popular reading materials. By 1909 there was local interest and support for a free public library, funded by Borough taxes and chartered to serve all residents of the community. The librarians in each of the subscription libraries agreed to turn over their books to the fledgling public library but maintained the two facilities; one becoming a central library and the other a small branch.

In 1910, the library moved to a new centrally located home in Bainbridge House on Nassau Street. The property was leased for \$1 per year from Princeton University and served the town in that location until 1966. Among the library's initial donors were Mrs. Woodrow Wilson and Mrs. Grover Cleveland. Since Princeton Borough was more populated than its rural counterpart, Princeton Township, the Borough agreed to provide library service to Township people and Mercer County residents as well. It became clear fairly quickly that Bainbridge House was too small to satisfy the community's voracious appetite for books. Also, it was regularly overcrowded and poorly heated in winter.

**1909**

year established

**6,314**

population of Princeton in 1909

**April 24, 2004**

opening day at the new library

**61,000 sf**

size of the library

**848,687**

visitors last year (2013)

**2397**

average visitors each day (2013)

**354**

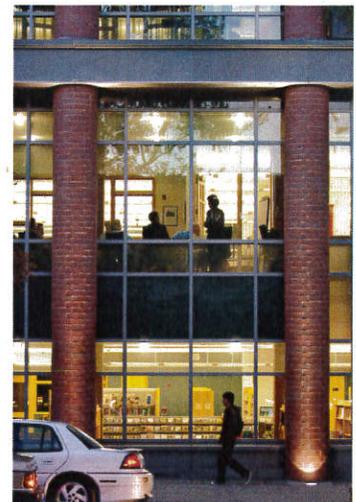
days open each year

**31,052**

library card holders

**170,070**

library collection



Detailed designs and construction drawings were developed in 2000-2001. The estimated cost for the new construction, furnishings, and temporary relocation was then recalculated at \$18 million. The Borough and Township gave the Trustees formal approval for the project in July 2000, but kept their financial contribution at the original \$6 million level. In order to get the job done, the Community Cornerstone Campaign was launched and successfully raised \$10 million in private funding and \$2 million in state and federal grants to build the new library.

The Princeton Public Library closed its doors at 65 Witherspoon Street on November 5, 2001, and reopened with full service two weeks later at its temporary location at the Princeton Shopping Center. Ground-breaking for the new library happened on December 9, 2002. Only sixteen months after construction began, and on budget, the new building officially opened to the public on April 24, 2004, and held its dedication and grand opening festivities on May 15.

**OUR VISION IS TO REMAIN THE HEART  
OF A CIVICALLY ENGAGED COMMUNITY**

- 111**  
free access computers
- 707,239**  
website visits
- 33 & 46**  
full-time & part-time staff
- 36,873**  
digital collection
- 82,228**  
reference questions answered
- 913**  
new "likes" on Facebook
- 1,416**  
twitter followers
- 22,917**  
flickr photo views
- 25,896**  
served at the welcome desk



## WILLARD TC JOHNSON CHALLENGE GRANT FOR BUILDING STEWARDSHIP

### THE CHALLENGE GRANT

As facilities age they require significant investment to ensure that the space is updated and refreshed to meet changing community needs. Library space formerly dedicated to book stacks is giving way to reimagined space to support collaboration and co-working, meeting and study space, and space to support content creation and technology training. As more and more content is digitized and available through online resources, there is less need for stacks of books and greater demand for connectivity. We are grateful for municipal support that covers regular maintenance of our facility but know that we cannot rely solely on tax-support to make the changes we need now.

To meet this challenge we created the Stewardship Fund, a targeted Princeton Public Library Foundation endowment fund that will provide the funding resources required to maintain a world-class public library facility that can adapt to the ever changing needs of future generations.

Through the extraordinary kindness and vision of long-time library supporter Betty Wold Johnson, the library received a \$1 million challenge grant, to be used as an incentive toward building the Stewardship Fund. Every gift we raise toward the challenge will be matched dollar for dollar. Since last May we have raised \$690,000 towards our goal of \$1 million through a combination of multi-year pledges and gifts.

The Princeton Public Library demonstrates every day that it is an essential community resource and a critical component of our healthy, lively town. We hope that this is a compelling reason for you to consider supporting our efforts to ensure that the library remains relevant and essential for many years to come.

**\$2,000,000**

goal for Stewardship Endowment

**\$1,000,000**

challenge funds offered

**\$690,000**

total gifts and pledges received

**\$310,000**

left to meet the challenge

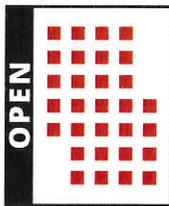


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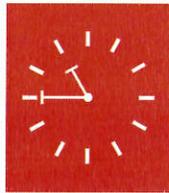


# SNAPSHOTS OF 2012

Open To Meet The Community's Needs



354 DAYS



3,745 HOURS

Library Card Holders Visited Than Ever



9% ↑ FROM 2010

More People Giving Back



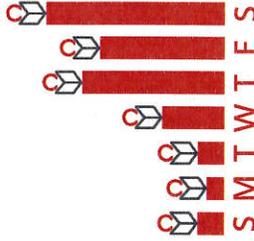
25% ↑ FROM 2011

More People Attend Programs

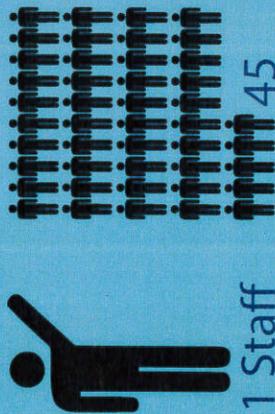


25% ↑ FROM 2011

PPL's Busiest Day Of The Week

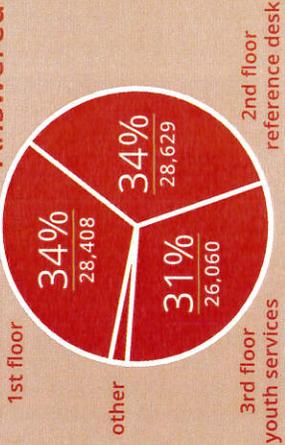


Average Number Customers Served/Staff Member Daily



1 Staff

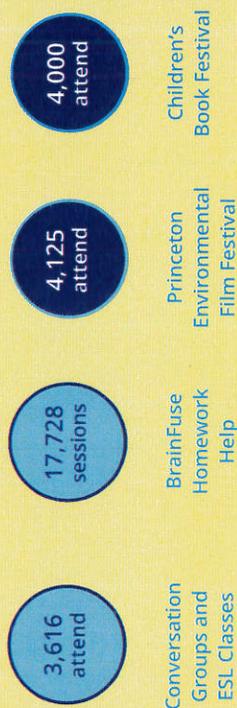
83,808 Reference Questions Answered



Circulation Is On The Rise



Most Popular Classes



We Are Here For You! Hurricane Sandy Aftermath



PPL's Most Circulated Books



**CITIZENS FINANCE ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE**

**Budget Workshop**

**April 21, 2014**

## Question: Is the proposed 2014 Budget consistent with our financial policies?

- Surplus Policy summary:
  1. Princeton will establish its annual budget so that the projected Available Surplus at the end of the fiscal year is within the Target Range
  2. Surplus projection will be presented to Council for review as part of the Budget
  3. Target Range: Available Surplus is 15% - 20% of Budgeted Appropriations

**Question: Is the proposed 2014 Budget consistent with our financial policies?**

- **Capital Policy summary:**
  1. **Capital spending will be planned to take to be consistent with the Princeton's Debt Policy**
  2. **The Administration is responsible for annually developing a 6-year capital plan for review and approval by Council at the time that the Budget is introduced and approved**

## Question: Is the proposed 2014 Budget consistent with our financial policies?

- Debt Policy summary: The Capital Spending Plan will be managed so that:
  1. Projected debt service on General Debt grows at  $\leq 1.5\%$  per annum (debt service will be calculated net of any planned use of Capital Surplus to offset debt service)
  2. Current Fund Debt as a % of Budgeted Current Fund Revenues is  $< 180\%$
  3. Enterprise-wide capital spending plan will be managed so that Enterprise-Wide Debt as a % of budgeted enterprise-wide revenues is  $< 200\%$

# Current Fund Surplus Projection

	2013		2014	
	Budget	Actual (prelim)	Budget	Projected
<b>REVENUES:</b>				
Surplus	\$ 5,800	\$ 5,800	\$ 5,800	\$ 5,800
Anticipated	22,551	23,089	21,282	21,282
Non-anticipated		660		660
Lapsed Appropriation Reserve		4,609		3,460
Delinquent Taxes	1,553	1,651	1,227	1,085
Municipal Taxes	30,514	29,504	30,707	29,693
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>60,418</b>	<b>65,312</b>	<b>59,016</b>	<b>61,981</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>				
Core Appropriations				
-S&W	16,622	16,233	17,148	16,633
-OE	37,935	35,794	37,391	36,242
-Contingency (Up-to-Cap)	2,378	414	1,560	100
-Reserved at Year-End		4,349		3,123
Reserve for Uncollected Taxes	3,483	-	2,917	-
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>60,418</b>	<b>56,790</b>	<b>59,016</b>	<b>56,099</b>
<b>Net Surplus Appropriated</b>	<b>(0)</b>	<b>8,523</b>	<b>(0)</b>	<b>5,882</b>
<b>Change in Surplus</b>	<b>(5,800)</b>	<b>2,723</b>	<b>(5,800)</b>	<b>82</b>
Beginning Surplus	13,251	13,251	15,973	15,973
Ending Surplus	7,451	15,973	10,173	16,056

**Surplus as a % of Budgeted Approps**      **21.9%**      **27.1%**  
**Available Surplus as a % Bud. Appr.**      **12.3%**      **17.2%**

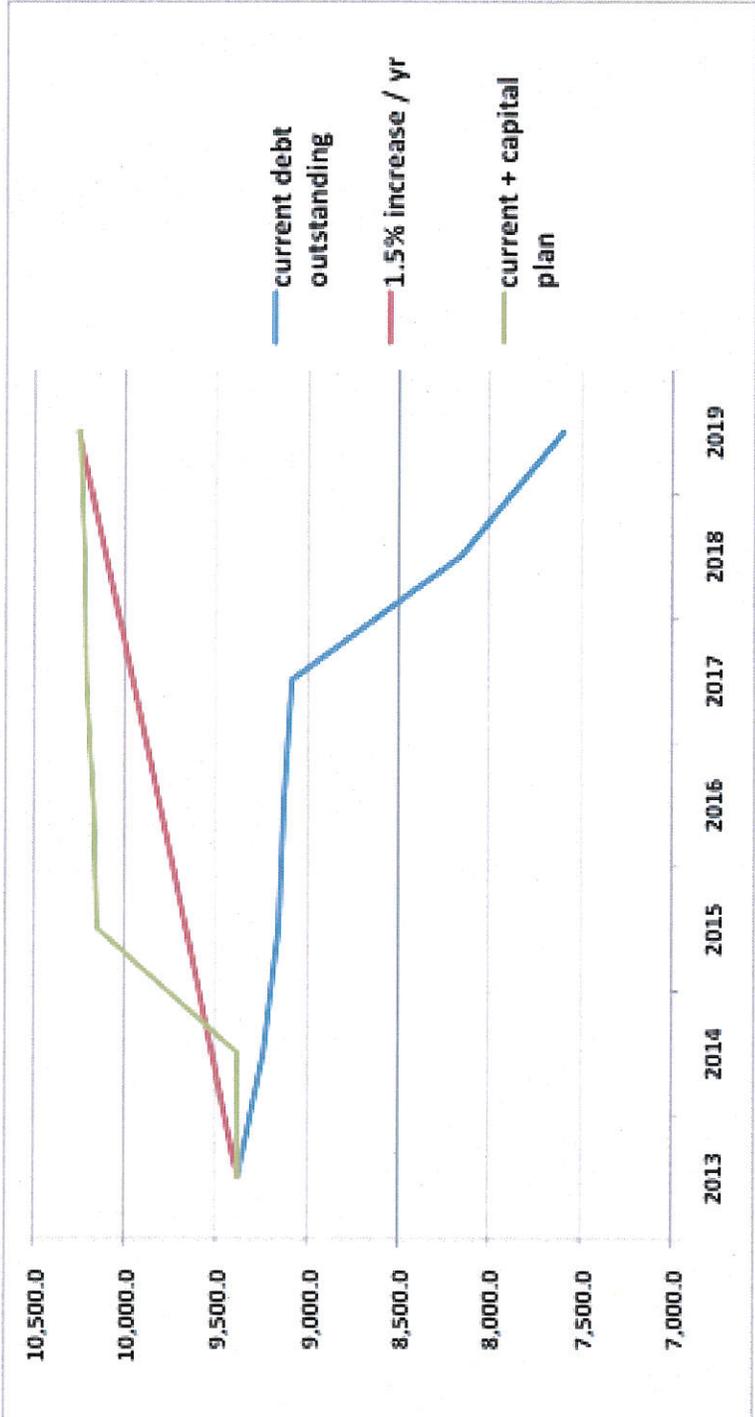
Notes:

Tax Collection Rate      97.5%      99.3%      98.0%      99.3%  
Delinquent Collection Rate      95.0%      95.0%      90.0%      90.0%

	Budget vs Actual/Proj.	
	2013	2014
\$	-	\$ -
	537	-
	660	660
	4,609	3,460
	98	(142)
	(1,010)	(1,013)
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,894</b>	<b>2,965</b>
	389	514
	2,141	1,148
	1,964	1,460
	(4,349)	(3,123)
	3,483	2,917
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,629</b>	<b>2,917</b>
	<b>8,523</b>	<b>5,882</b>
	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,523</b>	<b>5,882</b>

# Impact of Capital Plan on Debt Service

- Potential impact of 6-year Capital Plan on General debt service



- Applying \$1.4 million of our \$3.4 million Capital Surplus can fully offset the growth in debt service above the trend line

# Projected Debt Ratios (preliminary)

	2013	Repaid	Issued	2014	As a % of Revenues	Policy
Current Fund Bonds/Notes NJEIT	\$ 76,845 15,616	\$ (7,690) (888)	\$ 7,865 2,100	\$ 77,020 16,828		
Total Current Fund Debt	92,461	(8,578)	9,965	93,848	159%	<180%
Green Trust (Open Space)	1,622	(265)	-	1,357		
Parking deck	10,795	(525)	-	10,270		
Total Enterprise-wide Debt	104,878	(9,368)	9,965	105,475	164%	<200%

Debt issuance based on Capital Plan

## CFAC Focus Areas

- Budgets are consistent with Surplus, Capital, & Debt Policies
- While providing for contingencies in the budget is wise, many line items in our budget are based on last year's budget, not last year's spending
  - These contingencies are in addition to the large contingencies provided for in the Up-to-Cap and Reserve for Uncollected Tax accounts
  - Makes it difficult to forecast where we're going
  - Could reduce budget, improve ratios & transparency by revising our approach
  - Doesn't affect real \$ (taxes, real spending, etc)

## CFAC Focus Areas

- The budget process has not conformed with Budget Policy Calendar
- Capital Spending/Borrowing:
  - Should we dedicate more revenue directly to capital spending instead of borrowing almost all capital \$?
    - Modest increase in Municipal Tax to do so?
    - We should avoid borrowing just because State regulations permit it, E.g., salaries; computers, other short-lived assets
    - Should we be borrowing for road maintenance?
  - Do we have an adequate picture of our ongoing ‘maintenance’ expenditures
    - Are we (reasonably) adequately maintaining our assets?