

County of Berks
Friendly Understandable Financial Statement (FUFS)
For the Year Ended December 31, 2013



Prepared by the Office of the Controller

Sandy Graffius, Controller

2013 Friendly Understandable Financial Statement (FUFS)



CONTROLLER'S GREETING

I can't believe another year has rolled around for a new FUFS (Friendly Understandable Financial Statement). Scott Poch, one of our CPA's has become the chief driving force behind our booklet. The biggest challenge we have is to keep it small and condensed. This year we are going to start something new and highlight one of our departments devoted to serving the Berks County residents. This year it will be the Berks County Parks Department.

Repairs are moving along on the Courthouse and Services Center. For those of you who have been downtown you know we have scaffolding, street closings, workers hanging off the sides of our buildings and jackhammers blaring. We replaced the "back door" steps along the railroad tracks. We also caulked windows and balconies to stop the water seeping through the walls and into our ceilings. We will be expanding the "waiting" area for folks to go through the security station. The previous entrance had many folks standing out in the rain and cold weather because the lobby between the front door and security was very small. All jury folks will be glad to hear about this change.

Thanks to all who take the time to read our FUFS. We have expanded the county locations where we will distribute it. All the tax collectors, the senior citizen centers, and both the library and parks locations will have copies each year. Anyone wanting to see it electronically can go to the website www.countyofberks.com and click on County Departments (upper left hand

corner of the home page). Click on Controller Department- click on Financial Reports- and the FUFS will be in with the Financial Reports. Happy Reading!

Sincerely,
Sandy Graffius



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<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>OFFICIAL</u>	<u>PHONE</u>
Commissioner, Chair	Christian Y. Leinbach	(610) 478- 6136
Commissioner	Kevin S. Barnhardt	(610) 478- 6136
Commissioner	Mark C. Scott	(610) 478- 6136



*Commissioners (from left to right):
Kevin S. Barnhardt, Mark C. Scott
and Christian Y. Leinbach*

BERKS COUNTY SERVICES

General Government- Administration

Includes services provided by the Commissioners, Controller, Treasurer, Recorder of Deeds, Budget, Election Services, Information Systems, Human Resources, Maintenance and others.

General Government- Judicial

Includes the Courts, and services provided by the District Attorney, Public Defender, Clerk of Courts, Prothonotary, Sheriff, District Justices, Coroner, Register of Wills and others.

Berks Heim (610) 376-4841 www.co.berks.pa.us/dept/BerksHeim

Provides quality, individualized, long term residential healthcare for the elderly of the County with emphasis on the social, emotional and physical well-being of residents.

Children and Youth (610) 478-6700 www.co.berks.pa.us/dept/CYS

Provides services to protect children and assure their physical and emotional well-being, as provided by law, and to preserve, strengthen and empower their families.

Area Agency on Aging (610) 478-6500 www.co.berks.pa.us/dept/Aging

Provides comprehensive and coordinated services to meet the needs of county residents age 60 and older, or those eligible physically disabled age 18 to 59.

Library System (610) 378-5260 www.berks.lib.pa.us

Consists of 23 libraries spread throughout the county. Berks County government provides approximately 45% of the funding and the Commonwealth provides roughly 32%. The remaining 23% of the budget is raised through donations and fundraisers.

Council on Chemical Abuse (610) 376-8669 www.councilonchemicalabuse.org

Supports drug and alcohol prevention and intervention for all Berks County residents, and treatment services for persons of low and moderate income.

Employment and Training (610) 988-1300 www.co.berks.pa.us/dept/Careerlink

Provides work force resources for job seekers and employers through Berks Career Link.

Parks & Recreation (610) 372-8939 www.co.berks.pa.us/dept/Parks

Provides recreational opportunities and educational programs for its 11 county-owned parks.



Where We Play



Ozzy's Family Fun Center



Schell's Miniature Golf



The Works Arcade



Body Zone Indoor Soccer



Berkleigh Golf Club

Where We Learn



2,873 students



10,283 students



2,391 students



3,011 students



5,175 students

Where We Worship



West Lawn United Methodist



St. Ignatius Loyola



Community Evangelical



Temple Oheb Shalom



Sts. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox

Spotlight: The Berks County Parks System: It's Green and It's Grand!

From simple walks to big programs, the parks offer something fun for everyone!

One of the benefits of life in Berks County is the extensive network of parks systems we enjoy.

For nearly half a century, members of the Berks County Board of Commissioners have been dedicated to the acquisition and preservation of parkland in the county. Indeed, it was just last December, that the board approved the acquisition of the Angora Fruit Farm. That purchase completed the final piece of the Antietam Lake Park purchased from the City of Reading in 2006.

The county operates a total of eleven parks, all of which are the sites of what is commonly referred to as "passive recreation." That is, they are open to the public for walking, jogging, running, and other personal exercise or leisurely pursuits.

But don't let that fool you. Most of our parks are rich with Berks County history and are the settings for the scores of programs and festivals held throughout the year.

Featured Events at the Parks (just to name a few)

<u>Month</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
April	Go Fly a Kite Day	Youth Recreational Facility
April	Eggstravaganza	Heritage Center
May	Children's Fishing Rodeo	Hunsicker's Grove
May	Fiddle Festival	Heritage Center
June- August	Performing Arts in the Park	Grings Mill
June- November	Interpretive & Outdoor Programs	various parks
July	Step Back in Time	Heritage Center
October	Heritage Festival	Heritage Center
December	Holiday Lights	Grings Mill



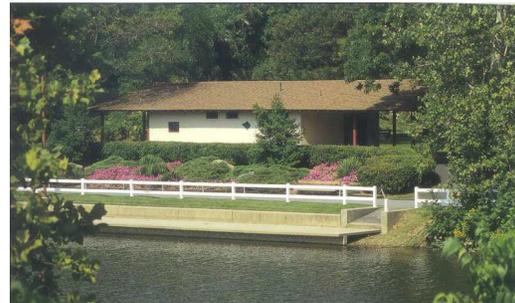
Gring's Mill Recreation Area



Beidler House



Antietam Lake Park



StoneCliffe Recreation Area



Berks Leisure Area



Hunsicker's Grove



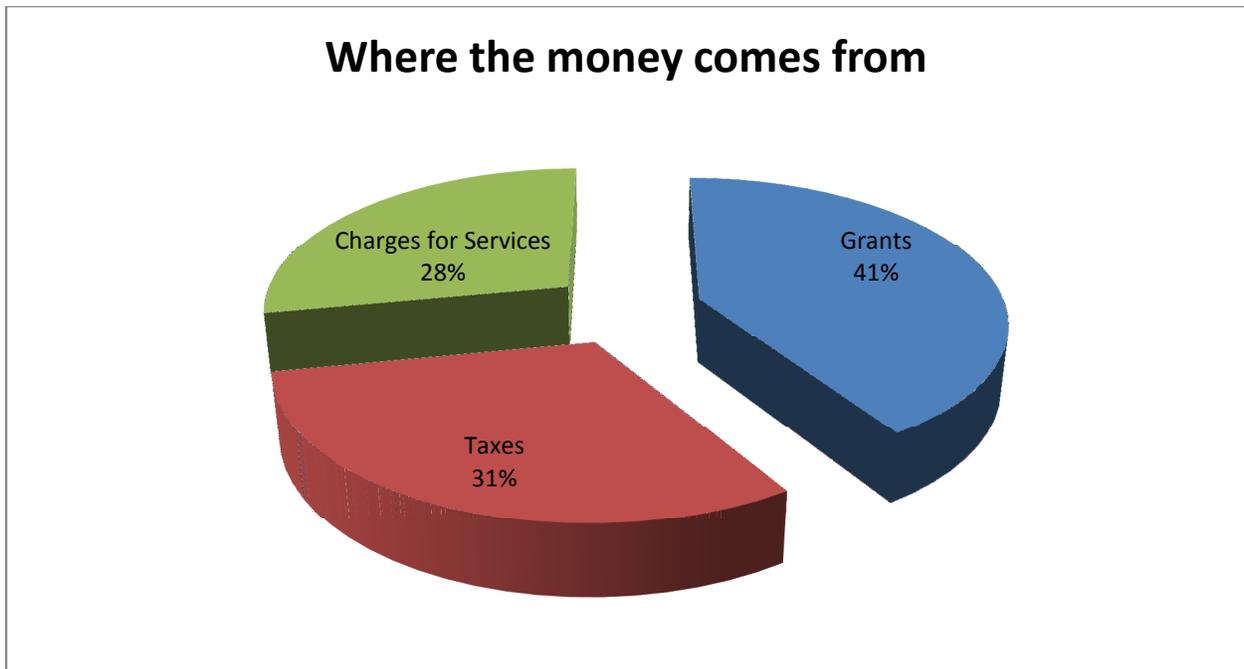
Gruber Wagon Works at Heritage Center



Red Bridge Recreation Area

SOURCES OF REVENUES (where the money comes from)

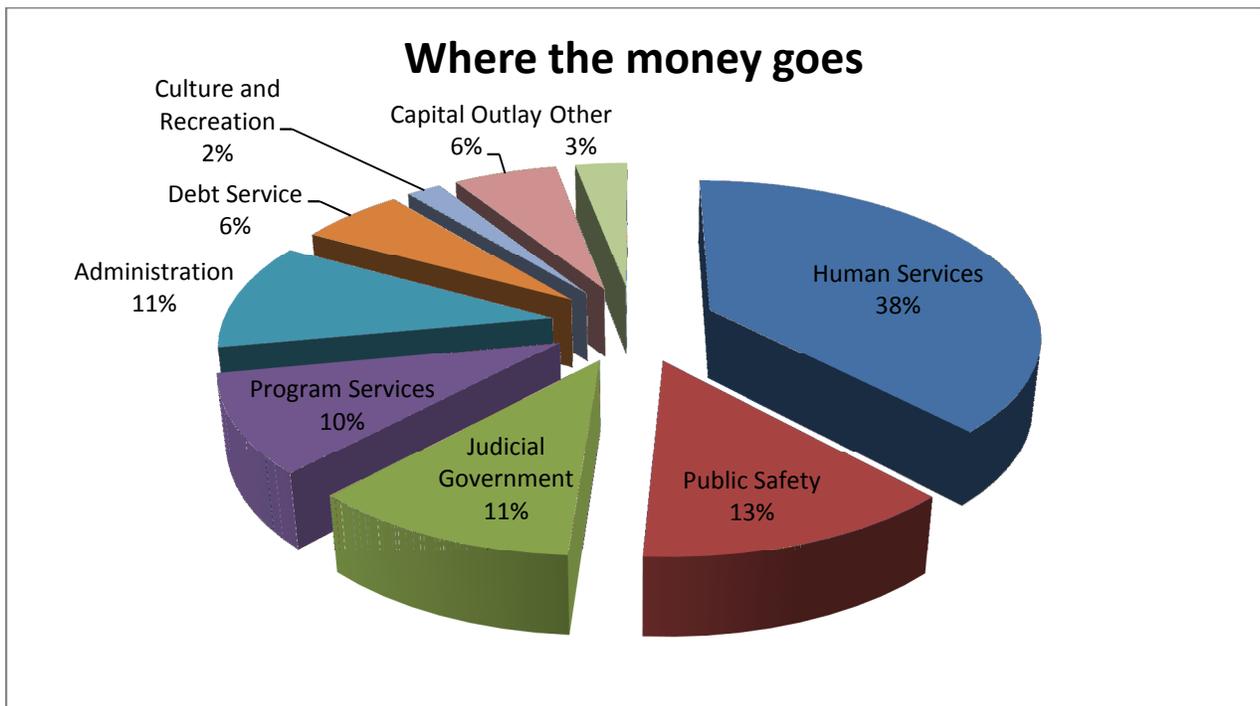
Revenues totaled \$435.8 million for 2013, while total expenses came in at \$445.2 million. Revenues were down \$0.3 million over the prior year, primarily due to budget cuts to grant funding. Grant revenue is the largest source of revenue for the County. Expenses were down \$54.1 million primarily as the result of the prefunding of our pension plan. Our money comes from federal and state program grants (the largest segment at 41% of revenues), property and hotel taxes (at 31% of the total) and charges for services performed by operating departments of the County (the remaining 28%). With such a large dependence on federal and state grants to fund social programs, it leaves the County very susceptible to budget cuts at the federal and state levels. When this happens, it would then be up to the Commissioners to decide whether to provide for these programs out of future saved funds, increase taxes to pay for the programs, downsize the programs or eliminate selected ones entirely.



COUNTY EXPENSES (where the money goes)

As with most counties in Pennsylvania, the Human Services function is by far the single largest area of expense for Berks County (38% of total expenses). Expenditures in the area include Children and Youth Services, Health Choices, Mental Health/ Developmental Disabilities, Child Care Services, Area Agency on Aging, Domestic Relations, Employment & Training, Drug and Alcohol Prevention and the County's Nursing Home. Many of these expenditures are dictated by mandates (demands) coming down from federal and state governments beyond the County's control. The problem is, when the federal and state budgets are cut the county must come up with the money to fund these mandates. Judicial, Courts and Public Safety functions account for another 24% of total expenditures.

As you can readily see, the Board of Commissioners has actual "control" over no more than 25% of the discretionary County expense budget. It is with this in mind that all elected officials must constantly monitor local activities as well as those in Harrisburg and Washington. Decisions made outside of Berks County affect us greatly. That's why the County is in regular contact with state lawmakers and government associations to stay informed about pending legislation and present local views of importance to federal and state decision makers.



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Berks County is fortunate to be on a sound financial footing as we report the results of operations for the calendar year 2013. Property tax rates were raised for the first time in seven years and are now at 7.372 mills. The County's overall net assets (total assets minus total liabilities) for 2013 increased by \$11.7 million to \$220 million, and its unrestricted (available) net assets increased by \$18.2 million to \$173.3 million. It is necessary to remember that included in these net asset numbers are capital assets (buildings and bridges) and restricted funds (funds set aside for special projects) that are not available for spending on daily operations.

Assets	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
Current assets:			
Cash and investments	\$ 189,326,367	\$ 163,200,721	\$ 212,560,431
Other current assets	45,136,377	46,624,398	46,308,016
Capital assets and other	<u>369,481,371</u>	<u>355,500,069</u>	<u>274,267,945</u>
Total assets	<u>603,944,115</u>	<u>565,325,188</u>	<u>533,136,392</u>
Liabilities:			
Current liabilities	61,173,285	54,804,655	67,318,677
Noncurrent liabilities	<u>322,761,227</u>	<u>302,190,740</u>	<u>276,136,859</u>
Total liabilities	<u>383,934,512</u>	<u>356,995,395</u>	<u>343,455,536</u>
Net Assets	<u>\$ 220,009,603</u>	<u>\$ 208,329,793</u>	<u>\$ 189,680,856</u>

COUNTY OFFICIALS AT YOUR FINGERTIPS:

<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>OFFICIAL</u>	<u>PHONE</u>
Commissioner, Chair	Christian Y. Leinbach	(610) 478-6136
Commissioner	Kevin S. Barnhardt	(610) 478-6136
Commissioner	Mark C. Scott	(610) 478-6136
Controller	Sandra M. Graffius	(610) 478-6150
Clerk of Courts	James P. Troutman	(610) 478-6550
Coroner	Dennis J. Hess	(610) 478-3280
District Attorney	John T. Adams	(610) 478-6000
Prothonotary	Marianne R. Sutton	(610) 478-6970
Recorder of Deeds	Frederick C. Sheeler	(610) 478-3380
Register of Wills	Lawrence J. Medaglia Jr.	(610) 478-6600
Sheriff	Eric J. Weaknecht	(610) 478-6240
Treasurer	A. Dennis Adams	(610) 478-6640

OTHER DEPARTMENTS:

Agricultural Coordinator	(610) 898-5482
CareerLink	(610) 988-1300
Election Services	(610) 478-6490
Emergency Services	(610) 374-4800
Library System	(610) 378-5260
Parks & Recreation	(610) 372-8939
Purchasing	(610) 478-6168
Veterans Affairs	(610) 378-5601
Solid Waste Authority	(610) 478-6362

PENNSYLVANIA STATE HOTLINES:

Child Abuse	(800) 932-0313
Crisis & Suicide (Berks)	(610) 236-0530
Elder Abuse	(800) 490-8505
Welfare Fraud	(800) 932-0582

Fraud, Waste, and Misuse Hotline



NOTICE TO ALL COUNTY EMPLOYEES and the GENERAL PUBLIC

- Report Suspected Fraud and Theft
 - Information Is Confidential
 - Remain Anonymous

(610) 478-6118 Ext. 5111

(Secured and Monitored by The County of Berks Human Resources Department)

For additional information, please contact:



Sandy Graffius, Controller
County of Berks
610-478-6150 Ext. 6155
sgraffius@countyofberks.com

