

UPPER PROVIDENCE

Township again tops safest places list

Delaware County is cited with having the safest town in the state according to an online study published in May.

Consumer resource website www.valuepenguin.com lists Upper Providence Township at the pole position in its 2016 Safest Places in Pennsylvania study, which ranked over 200 municipalities and cities in the state with populations over 10,000 in regard to violent and property crimes — putting it at the top for the second year in a row.

Upper Providence, a township of approximately 10,000, has “negligible” violent and property crimes relative to its population, according to the study. Using 2013 FBI crime statistics and a standardized measure of offenses per 100,000, Upper Providence had 19 violent and 242 property crimes, giving an adjusted score of 84 (the state average was 838).

“We’re extremely proud of it,” said Township Manager Gregory Lebold about the township’s 2015 accolade.

Lebold attributed the township’s safety to the residents, business owners and the police department, noting that the department’s 13 full-time officers — including Chief David Montella — and three part-time officers are quick to respond to emergencies.

“It’s an honor and privilege to be a manager of a community rated so high,” said Lebold.

Value Penguin’s methodology weighed violent crimes — murder/



PHOTO COURTESY OF UPPER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT'S FACEBOOK

to create a crimes score, stating that violent crime data points are “more relevant when calculat-

ing the relative safety of these cities.” An algorithm was applied to the population and multiplied to

the crime score for an adjusted crime score. The study states this method accounts for smaller com-

munities with “very slight upticks in crime.”

The study did not include smaller boroughs for

being “more sensitive” to crime score fluctuations for fewer crimes committed.