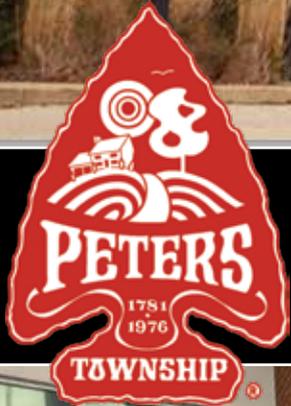


PETERS TOWNSHIP,  
PENNSYLVANIA

# 2021 CITIZEN'S FINANCIAL REPORT



## PETERS TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY

Opening books, doors and minds for 60 years



# LETTER FROM THE TOWNSHIP MANAGER

PAUL LAUER

I am pleased to present the Peters Township Citizen's Financial Report for the fiscal year December 31, 2021. This financial report is designed to convey important financial information to the residents of Peters Township in a reader friendly and concise manner in order to provide transparency and accountability. The Citizen's Financial Report is suitable for those who prefer an overview or summary of the Township's government and its financial condition.

The past two years have undoubtedly been a challenging time for both the Township and its residents. The pandemic forced the Township to change its operations as patron-oriented departments, such as the Library and Parks & Recreation, were forced to close, re-open on modified operations, adjust programming to support social distancing requirements, or to go virtual. The gradual lifting of pandemic restrictions was apparent to the public with the return to normal operations at the Peters Township Public Library, which is the focus of the 2021 Citizen's Report.

Throughout the past two years, the Library has seen changes that go well beyond social distancing and masking. For Lacey Love, our Library Director, 2021 marked her first full year at the helm of the Peters Township Public Library. In addition, the past year saw the hiring of a new Assistant Library Director, Illyanna Logan, who comes to us by way of the City of Pasadena, and a new IT/Reference Librarian in Brandon Priddy. Two new full-time roles were created to expand adult program offerings (Program & Outreach Coordinator) and to provide better management of the circulation desk (Patron Services Coordinator). Sydney Krawiec and Dianne Finnegan were promoted from part-time positions to fill these positions respectively.

Beyond personnel, the Library itself saw substantial changes in the past year. The existing HVAC system was completely renovated with new boilers, chillers, air handlers, and a front door air curtain. As part of this renovation, an anti-microbial ultraviolet light filter was added to the system. A new front circulation desk was purchased by the Peters Township Library Foundation that allows for better operations and use of space. Finally, a new outdoor programming space was created between the west side of the Library and a nearby retaining wall, helped the Library staff deliver 31 outdoor programs with over 850 participants.

Utilizing a mix of in-person and remote programming, the Library staff delivered a mix of classic and innovative learning to Township residents of all ages. The Library's Youtube channel hosted various youth programs including thematic weekly story times, STEM Saturdays, and Book Babies. The Library distributed 1,675 take-and-make kits, mostly for do-it-yourself arts and crafts corresponding to digital programming for residents of all ages. There were 234 adult programs, including training on Microsoft Office, 3D printing, and a presentation by the Army War College that had nearly 350 views. Over 21,000 patrons attended Library programming in 2021, either in-person or digitally. In addition, an online Harry Potter-themed Escape Room, developed by Sydney Krawiec, was completed by over 1.3 million people worldwide. Physical circulation of Library materials returned to pre-pandemic levels, with patrons checking out 191,475 books, DVD's, audiobooks, and magazines. Digital circulation remained strong with 59,987 eBooks, music, movies, and periodicals accessed in 2021.

The Citizen's Financial Report is designed to supplement, and not replace, the Peters Township Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR). The ACFR provides detailed reporting of the Township's financial position and operating activities each year presented in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. Because of the summary nature of the Citizen's Financial Report, it is not intended to conform to these standards. For those wishing to review the Peters Township ACFR it can be found on the Township's website at [www.peterstownship.com](http://www.peterstownship.com), at the Library, or in the Municipal Building.

As always, if you have questions or concerns regarding this report or any other matter please feel free to call me at 724.941.4180 or drop me an email at [PF.Lauer@peterstownship.com](mailto:PF.Lauer@peterstownship.com).

Sincerely,

Paul F. Lauer  
Township Manager



# PETERS TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

## COUNCIL MEMBERS

Peters Township, a home rule community, is governed by a seven-member Council. Council members are elected for a four-year term. Four of the Councilmen are elected by district. The remainder of Council is elected at-large. Current members include:



## PROFILE OF GOVERNMENT

Peters Township is a general unit of local government and, such as, provides a wide variety of public services. These services include:

- Police Protection
- Fire Protection
- Road Maintenance
- Planning
- Zoning/Code Enforcement
- Parks and Recreation
- Library
- Community Television

The Township operates through the authority granted it by the Peters Township Home Rule Charter. The Charter provides that the Township be governed by a seven (7)

member elected Council. The Council is vested with a broad-range of policy-making powers. To assist the Council in formulation of policy, a variety of boards have been created. These include:

- Planning Commission
- Zoning Hearing Board
- Park and Recreation Board
- Cable T.V. Board
- Environmental Quality Board
- Library Board
- Youth Commission
- Construction Appeals Board

Day-to-day administration is the responsibility of the Township Manager. Council appoints the Manager for an

indeterminate period. The Township Manager, in turn, recommends to Council the appointment of all Department Heads.

The Peters Township Organizational Chart provides a visual representation of the Township's structure. The current organizational chart is published in the 2021 Township Budget and the 2020 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), both available on [peterstownship.com](http://peterstownship.com).

## FINANCIAL GOALS AND POLICIES

Peters Township has adopted a series of financial goals which it strives to attain over the long term. Financial goals, by their very nature, are broad and enduring guiding principles. The financial goals of Peters Township are:

- Provide a revenue structure that is dynamic and diverse to allow the Township the opportunity to deliver services that residents and businesses of the community need and desire,
- Maintain a strong credit rating,
- Deliver services to residents and businesses in a manner that maximizes value by focusing on quality and cost effectiveness,
- Provide professional financial management to ensure that the budgeting, accounting, and auditing processes comply with recognized standards, provides appropriate controls, encourages public involvement, is transparent, and provides information to assist in decision-making.

Peters Township has also adopted a variety of financial policies designed to set parameters for decisions and actions of the Township. These financial policies are derived from the Township's established financial goals and are intended to support the implementation of those goals. The financial policies of Peters Township fall into six categories. These include Budget, Revenue, Expenditure, Debt, Investment and Budgeting, Accounting, Auditing, & Financial Reporting Policies. The financial policies of the Township are reviewed annually and incorporated into the Township's budget document. If you wish to review the Township's financial policies you can view a copy of the budget on the Township's website at [www.peterstownship.com](http://www.peterstownship.com), at the Library, or in the Municipal Building.

# REVENUE

## WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM

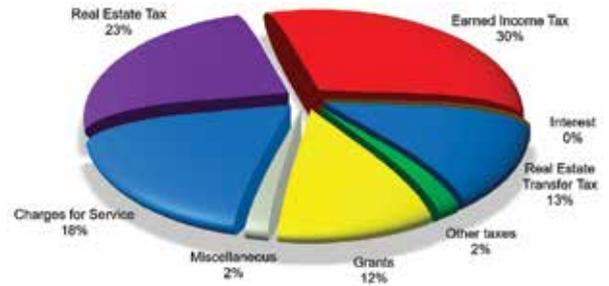
The ability of any municipal government to achieve its goals is fundamentally determined by the municipality's capacity to raise the funds needed to meet the needs and desires of its residents and businesses. In the case of Peters Township, these funds are derived from a variety of sources.

In 2021, 68% of Peters Township's total revenues of \$22,519,073 were derived from taxes. This compares with 60% in 2020 and 61% in 2019. In 2021, the Township collected \$15,352,861 in taxes. Of the taxes levied, Earned Income Tax and the Real Estate Tax are the most significant.

The Earned Income Tax is a one-half percent (.5%) tax levied against the wages earned by Township residents. In 2021, Earned Income Tax accounted for \$6,858,697 or 45% of the taxes levied for general government functions. This represents the highest year of Earned Income Tax collection on record. Earned Income Tax Revenue was \$487,480, or 7.7%, higher than that collected in 2020.

The Real Estate Tax is a tax levied against the assessed valuation of real estate property located in the Township. The valuation of all taxable property in Peters Township in 2021 was \$3,276,284,808. The Real Estate Tax rate remained at 1.622 mills in 2021, the same level as 2020. Real Estate Tax receipts for 2021 totaled \$5,248,493, or 34% of tax revenue. This represented an increase of \$109,833, or 2.1% above 2020 receipts.

The Real Estate Transfer Tax is a tax levied on the value of all real estate transferred in Peters Township. The Township levy is one percent (1%) of the value of property transferred. This tax is collected by the Washington County Recorder of Deeds, who charges a two percent



By comparison, non-tax sources represented 40% of total revenue in 2020 and 39% of total revenue in 2019. This decrease as a percentage of total revenue is primarily due to the completion of Rolling Hills Drive in late 2020, for which the Township was receiving reimbursement of half the costs from the Peters Township School District.

Charges for services equaled \$4,043,676, or 56% of all non-tax revenue in 2021. It is the Township's policy, whenever possible, to charge fees for specialized services. The Township's goal is to structure these fees in a manner to cover the total cost of providing the related service. Zoning and building permit fees offset the cost of municipal services associated with development activity. The cost of recreation activities are largely covered by program fees. The largest source of income from fees are related to collection and disposal of solid waste and recycling. In 2021, fees for solid waste and recycling totaled \$2,157,032. These fees are intended to cover 100% of the cost of solid waste collection and disposal.

Grants received by Peters Township in 2021 totaled \$2,705,419 and represent 38% of the Township's non-tax revenue. An important ongoing source of grant funds for Peters Township is the Pennsylvania State Liquid Fuel Program. Under this program, the state provides individual municipalities with a portion of the monies derived through the imposition of a statewide gasoline tax. In 2021, the Township received \$726,497 in Liquid Fuels funds.

The Township receives funds from several state programs, including two block grants: the Local Share Assessment program, under which the Township receives funds from state gaming tax, and the Gas Well Impact Fee program, which provides local municipalities affected by unconventional gas drilling activities a share of funds to offset local impacts. The Peters Township Council has designated that funds from both of these state block grants be used to finance capital improvements. In addition, the Township receives funds under the Foreign Fire Fund Program that are mandated by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to be turned over to the Peters Township Volunteer Fire Company Relief Association. The Relief Association utilizes these funds to acquire and maintain firefighting equipment and personal protection gear. Finally, the Foreign Casualty Insurance Program provides funds to help offset local public employee pension costs. The amount received does not cover all pension costs; the difference is made up by the General Fund and employee contributions. In 2021, the Township received the first of two allocations of \$1,153,664 under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 for revenue replacement. The second half of this allocation will be received in June 2022.

Three-Year Revenue	2021	2020	2019
Real estate tax	5,248,493	5,138,660	5,085,270
Earned income tax	6,858,697	6,371,217	6,220,167
Real estate transfer tax	2,828,118	2,117,554	2,278,179
Other Taxes	417,553	430,799	457,341
	<b>15,352,861</b>	<b>14,058,230</b>	<b>14,040,957</b>
Charges for services	4,043,676	3,754,195	4,114,881
Grants	2,705,419	5,293,301	4,250,728
Investment Earnings	20,817	147,672	203,519
Miscellaneous Revenue	396,300	326,951	439,025
	<b>7,166,212</b>	<b>9,522,119</b>	<b>9,008,153</b>
Total Revenue	<b>22,519,073</b>	<b>23,580,349</b>	<b>23,049,110</b>

(2%) collection fee. In 2021, the Township collected \$2,828,118 in transfer taxes, or 18.4% of total tax revenues. This represents the largest single-year collection of transfer tax in the Township's history, an increase of \$549,939 from the record set in 2019. This was largely due to a boom in new residential construction and low interest rates.

In 2021, the Township collected \$7,166,212 in revenue from non-tax sources. This represents 32% of the total revenue collected.

# EXPENDITURES

## WHAT THE MONEY IS USED FOR

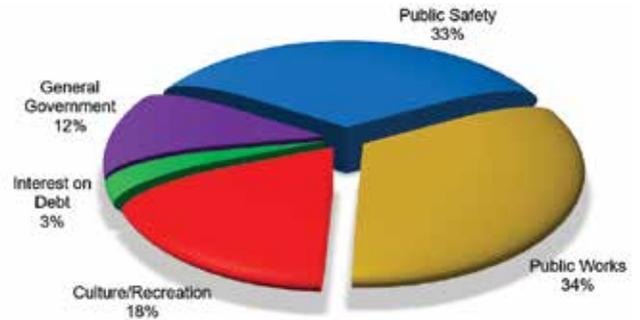
All municipal governments, through their budgeting process, define an action plan for achieving goals and objectives by allocating funds amongst a variety of competing programs. As a general unit of local government, Peters Township provides a wide variety of public services. These services are grouped into one of five categories including:

- General Government
- Public Safety
- Public Works
- Culture and Recreation
- Interest on Debt

Total expenses for all programs in 2021 were \$20,896,266, an increase from 2020 of \$750,008, or 3.5%. This increase in total expenses is primarily due to the on-going construction of Rolling Hills Park, the design of Fire Station #3, and a major capital project in the Peters Township Library. General Government, a category that represents Legislative Body, Administration, Municipal Complex Maintenance, Information Technology, Legal Services, and Engineering, comprised 11.5% of all expenses in 2021, slightly higher than the 11% of expenses this category accounted for in 2020.

In 2021, expenses associated with Public Safety account for \$6,984,698, or 33%, of all expenses, an increase from 2020 of \$486,535 when it was 32% of all expenses. Programs contained in the Public Safety category include Police Services, Fire Services, Animal Control, Emergency Medical Services, Planning/Zoning, and Building Inspection. The main reason for this increase from 2020 was capital expenses related to the design of Fire Station #3, replacement of the metal mansard at Fire Station #1, and the use of third-party contractors to complete inspections in the Building Inspection program due to staffing issues.

Public Works expenses in 2021 totaled \$7,024,211, or 34% of total expenses, a decrease from 2020 when Public Works represented 36% of all outlays. Of this total, \$2,157,032 represents cost



associated with the curb side collection and disposal of solid waste and recyclables. This service is performed under contract with Waste Management through the South Hills Area Council of Governments. The remaining \$4,867,179 primarily represents the costs associated with staffing the Public Works Department and maintaining the Township's roads, storm sewers, and parks.

Programs included under the category of Culture and Recreation include the Peters Township Library, Parks and Recreation, and Peters Township Community Television. In 2021, expenses for Culture and Recreation equaled \$3,853,253, or 18% of the budget, an increase of \$400,492 from 2020 when it represented 17% of expenses. The primary cause of this increase are capital projects associated with Rolling Hills and Peterswood Parks.

### Three-Year Expenses by Program

	2021	2020	2019
General Government	2,414,532	2,207,574	2,379,302
Public Safety	6,984,698	6,498,163	7,333,525
Public Works	7,024,211	7,308,437	6,926,954
Culture & Recreation	3,853,253	3,452,761	3,754,408
Interest on Debt	619,572	715,960	538,714
	<b>20,896,266</b>	<b>20,182,895</b>	<b>20,932,903</b>

## 2021 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

- Installed a new red metal mansard on Fire Station #1 for \$199,770
- Replaced the HVAC system, including boilers, chillers, and air handling units, at the Peters Township Public Library for \$505,855
- Constructed a new playground near the softball fields and improved accessibility at Peterswood Park for \$276,995
- Installed a new parking lot for the Arrowhead Trail near Pelipetz Drive for \$32,210
- Lined deteriorated storm sewer systems along Center Church Road, and a large diameter culvert off of Gateshead Drive for \$119,463
- Roughly 5.5 miles of roads were repaved at a cost of \$1,447,072
- Repaved the parking lot at the Public Works Complex for \$101,540
- Updated the aerial and topographical maps in the Township's Geographic Information System for \$38,800
- Redesigned the Township's website to incorporate new accessibility and interactive features for \$40,661
- Acquired a new Ventrac multi-use tractor and Ford F-600 Super Duty truck for the Public Works Department for \$132,017

# DEBT AND ASSETS

## STATEMENT OF NET POSITION

The Statement of Net Position demonstrates the healthy financial condition of Peters Township as of December 31, 2021. Deferred outflows mainly represent differences between expected and actual pension payouts, as well as deferred charges on bond refunding, while deferred inflows are net differences between expected and net investment income related to pensions.

The net position of the Township was \$47,703,823 at the close of 2021. The Statement of Net Position as presented here is a summary overview. For greater detail please refer to the Peters Township Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) which is available on the Township's website at [www.peterstownship.com](http://www.peterstownship.com), at the Library, or in the Municipal Building.

	As of 12/31/21	As of 12/31/20	As of 12/31/19
<b>Assets</b>			
Current Assets	15,556,505	19,081,902	20,190,556
Capital and Other Assets	61,027,105	55,036,071	52,205,465
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>76,583,610</b>	<b>74,117,973</b>	<b>72,396,021</b>
Deferred Outflows of Resources	2,338,446	2,851,464	2,016,043
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Current liabilities	3,523,978	1,482,992	1,842,596
Long Term Liabilities	25,384,112	27,073,161	27,916,173
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>28,908,090</b>	<b>28,556,153</b>	<b>29,758,769</b>
Deferred Inflows of Resources	2,310,143	2,332,268	1,969,733
<b>Net position</b>	<b>47,703,823</b>	<b>46,081,016</b>	<b>42,683,562</b>

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

The Statement of Activities reports all financial activity for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2021. The statement presents a summary overview of how the Township's net assets changed during the year as a result of all revenues collected and expenses made. For a more detailed view of financial activity refer to the Peters Township Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) which is available on the Township's website at [www.peterstownship.com](http://www.peterstownship.com), at the Library, or in the Municipal Building.

	2021	2020	2019
Revenues	22,519,073	23,580,349	23,049,110
Expenses	20,896,266	20,182,895	20,932,903
Change in Net Position	1,622,807	3,397,454	2,116,207
Net Position, January 1	46,081,016	42,683,562	40,567,355
Net Position, December 31	47,703,823	46,081,016	42,683,562

## LONG-TERM DEBT

As of December 31, 2021, Peters Township had \$23,180,000 of debt outstanding in the form of general obligation bonds. This represents a decrease of \$1,020,000, or 4.2% from the previous year as a result of scheduled debt service payments and a bond refunding. The Township also had \$212,458 of debt outstanding in the form of notes payable, a decrease of \$40,112 from 2020, and has no debt outstanding from capital leases.

Pennsylvania state law limits non-electoral debt to 250% of the annual average of revenues collected over a three-year period. As of December 31, 2021, Peters Township's non-electoral debt limit exceeded \$51,000,000. Non-electoral plus lease rental debt is limited to 350% of the annual average of revenues collected over a three-

year period, or over \$72,000,000. It is the policy of Peters Township to limit debt service payments to less than 10% of available funds. Available funds include cash balances and current revenues. In 2021, debt service payments amounted to 3.9% of available funds.

In 2021, the Standard and Poor's rating service reviewed the Township financial information for the purpose of issuing a bond rating. Peters Township's bond rating was maintained at AA+ rating.

## MESSAGE FROM THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR



2021 was a year full of changes for the Peters Township Public Library. In January and February, the library was closed to the public and only offered curbside pickup service. We spent much of the spring, summer, and fall slowly lifting restrictions and determining how to bring back in-person programming and other services safely. Unfortunately, we were forced to limit large in-person programs again in December due to the Omicron variant surge. We went through many transitional phases last year, and the entire library staff put in a lot of hard work to facilitate these changes and safely welcome back patrons.



In the midst of changing services, we were also experiencing a changing staff. In 2021, we welcomed a new Assistant Director, IT/Reference Librarian, Youth Services Technician, and Library Assistant. We also promoted two part-time employees to newly created full-time roles – Program & Outreach Coordinator and Patron Services Coordinator. All of our new staff members have seamlessly joined the library team. I look forward to working with them to continue serving the Peters Township community in new and innovative ways.



Thank you to everyone who used the library last year and supported us through our many changes! Over the past few months, we have been conducting a strategic planning process to determine the direction of the library over the next several years. We can't wait to see what the future will bring.

Lacey Love  
Library Director

## YOUTH SERVICES

To ease the transition back to in-person programs in 2021, we decided to create a new programming space in a previously unutilized outdoor area. Thank you to our community partners who helped make this possible: the Peters Township Public Works Department for mulching and weeding the area, The Peters Township Library Foundation for purchasing new picnic tables and renting a canopy tent, and Meghashyam Krishnasamy, a local Eagle Scout, for building a sturdy storytime bench. This space was an excellent way to safely host programming while there were still restrictions on indoor events.

We held 31 outdoor programs in 2021 with more than 850 participants, including our summer reading kick-off, a family tie-dye event, weekly backyard storytimes, movie nights, a root beer float social, and biweekly teen and tween DIY programs.

In the fall of 2021, the library began to reintroduce indoor programming. All programs required pre-registration and had limited capacity to practice social distancing. Our book clubs for teens and tweens, craft events, Maker Monday, and Chess with a Champion were some of the first programs to be offered in-person. We also brought back several holiday programs, including a week of limited Halloween storytimes and costume parades. During the Christmas season, we saw the return of Elf on the Shelf storytime, Edible Holiday Treats, and Family Ornament Night.



“  
The children's department has been fantastic throughout the pandemic. We're so thankful for the ongoing storytimes, STEM Saturdays, and make-and-take kits.  
”



# TEEN SERVICES

We re-launched in-person programming for teens and tweens over the summer with a series of outdoor “Explore and Make” sessions, including events featuring slime-making, owl pellet dissection, and steampunk journals. In September 2021, we added even more programs for this age group, including new writing groups for teens and tweens who enjoy creative writing. The demand for both has grown, and we have added sessions, so each age group now meets twice a month. Both writing groups took part in National Novel Writing Month last year.

On a consistent basis, registration quickly fills for our TweenMade and TeenMade crafting programs. Past classes have included polymer clay sushi, needle-felted acorns, and mini zen gardens. We are looking forward to this summer’s “Summer in a Jar” series of teen programs.



From WWII England watching for German spies in *The War that Saved My Life* to solving a mystery while attending the Olympics in *Mystery of the Masked Medalist*, our tween book club members have been around the world this year. Book club was held virtually via Zoom for the first half of 2021, and members could pick up their books and take-home activities at the library. We are happy to finally be back in-person! The library also launched a new Teen Choice Book Club at the beginning of 2022.

## ADULT SERVICES

The PTPL Archives continued to thrive in 2021 under the leadership of Margaret Deitzer and consulting archivist Carolyn Friedrich. Our new series, "Stories from the Archives," has been a huge success, with topics like the Peters Township Farm Fair and the Valleybrook/McMurray intersection. In 2021, the focus for the Archives was reaching out to the community —through programs, displays within the library, a series of notecards featuring photos from historic Peters Township, and partnerships with other local organizations.

The highlight for the Archives last year was receiving a grant for \$3,450 to create a digitization station to scan and provide online access to bound materials that are oversized or fragile. We look forward to adding even more of the library's extensive collection to PA Photos and Documents.



In April 2021, our virtual programming lineup expanded to include training on digital library services, Microsoft Office, 3D printing, and CreativeBug craft classes. In September 2021, the library resumed in-person computer and Makerspace group classes. We offered over 60 free technology classes last year.

The Library acquired mobile hotspots, which are free to borrow and allow users to have mobile Internet access wherever they travel. We also added a Cricut cutting machine and mug press to the Makerspace to broaden our maker program offerings.

# ADULT SERVICES



“  
The library is an awesome resource in our community, and we are so thankful for the way the library has evolved to meet the needs of its patrons, especially over the past year.  
”



In April 2021, we added two new members to the Adult Programming team. Sydney Krawiec, Program & Outreach Coordinator, and Brandon Priddy, IT/Reference Librarian, really hit the ground running and offered 234 adult programs in their first year! We continued to offer virtual programs via Zoom, and provided an in-person viewing location at the library for individuals who cannot access Zoom from home. In 2021, our most popular Zoom program was a presentation by the Army War College, which almost 350 people viewed. The event marked the 15th consecutive year the library has partnered with the college, with officers discussing global topics and answering questions from the audience.

Spring and summer brought the return of outdoor programs for adults, including DIY craft programs in Peterswood Park and Monday Movie Nights in the library parking lot. Library-sponsored clubs like Stamp Club, Roots Genealogy, and Lensshooters returned in August, along with other in-person programming.

November saw the return of a much loved all-ages event, Mini Golf, and the beginning of new traditions, Family Photo Day. We have a lot to look forward to in 2022, including a brand new Bingo for Adults monthly program and a community seed library, which just opened last month!

## GOVERNANCE:

Council met on 31 separate occasions in 2021, including 24 regular meetings, 3 public hearings and 7 workshops. The major undertakings were the development of Rolling Hills Park and its proposed aquatics facility, the design of Fire Station #3, refinancing bond proceeds, and addressing the high hazard dam at Peters Lake Park.

In 2021, Council adopted 13 Ordinances and 23 Resolutions. The most significant ordinances and resolutions were refinancing the 2013 Bond Issue, establishing a Do Not Knock List for solicitors, adopting a new Policy & Procedure Manual for the Library, and adopting a revised Employee Handbook. The 2022 Budget was adopted, and the millage rate was raised slightly to 1.7 mills. Council also awarded 7 agreements and 17 bids, including storm sewer lining and replacement, engineering a new spillway at Peters Lake Park, real estate collection services, and insurance coverage for the Township's disability program.

## ENGINEERING

Rolling Hills Park remained at the forefront of the Engineering Department's work, as bulk earthwork and site work were underway throughout the year, and pavilions, restrooms, and a maintenance garage were nearly completed by the end of 2021. Projects designed, bid, and administered in-house included the annual storm sewer rehabilitation project, road paving program, and rejuvenator and crack sealing programs. The Township's traffic engineer, Traffic Planning & Design, began a multi-year project to inventory and create a maintenance plan for the Township's traffic signals. The Township hired consulting firm Rizzo International to study alternatives to augment the existing spillway at Peters Lake Park to remove the high hazard dam designation. Due to increased utility work in the Township, specifically by water and gas utilities replacing aging lines underneath Township roads, a part-time right-of-way inspector was hired to manage these projects and ensure timely completion and traffic control. The costs for this position are borne entirely by the utility companies.

## PARKS AND RECREATION:

Potentially the largest recreation project in the history of the Township continued to move forward, as a design team, led by Kimmel Bogrette Architecture, completed design of the new Rolling Hills Park Aquatic Facility. As a further boost to the project, the Township was awarded a \$2 million grant through the Commonwealth's Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program. The Community Recreation Center served as a vaccination clinic for COVID-19 through much of 2021, partnering with Hilltop Pharmacy and Washington Health System. A new playground near the softball fields at Peterswood Park was completed in the Fall. Kristen

Martin joined the Department as a Recreation Supervisor, while Ian Sopko and Patty Bahr were hired as Attendants. A level of normalcy returned to recreation programming in 2021, as a total of 294 volunteers donated 1,782 hours to Department programs, while the Summer Concert Series had its highest ever attendance with 6,333 visitors.

## POLICE

The Peters Township Police Department maintained its accreditation from the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission, one of just 134 departments in the state to receive such distinction. The Police Department saw further changes to personnel in 2021 with the promotion of Spencer Scott to Corporal, and the hiring of new full-time officers Austin Kline, Nicole Merrick, and Matthew Malloy. The Department also began participation in the PA State Police Auto Theft and Insurance Fraud Task Force, which resulted in Joseph Glover becoming a full-time officer beginning in early 2022.

The Police Department responded to 6,059 calls for service in 2021. An analysis of the Department's Records Management System reveals there were 782 investigations undertaken in 2021. Of these investigations, 178 were cleared by the arrest of one or more persons. Police officers issued 1,011 traffic citations, 3,198 written warnings and made 42 arrests for driving under the influence.

## FIRE

The design of Fire Station #3, located along Bebout Road in the Venetia District, was substantially complete by the end of 2021 thanks to the work of EPM Architecture. This project will be bid for construction in early 2022. The Fire Department was one of 200 departments nationwide to participate in the NFPA's Community Risk Reduction Program, which analyzes department data and community demographics to determine areas of the community most at risk to fires or emergencies.

In 2021, the Fire Department responded to 1,583 calls, of which automatic alarms (410) and medical response (328) were the top sources. There were 748 fire inspections and 374 fire/life safety community education and outreach programs. The 34 active volunteer firefighters committed 2,990 hours to the Volunteer On-Duty Program.

## PUBLIC WORKS

For the 14th year in a row, Peters Township paved over four miles of roads. In 2021, the Township resurfaced 5.5 miles of roads through the annual paving program. In addition, 9.2 miles of road were rejuvenated and the equivalent of 8.3 miles of pavement were treated by the crack sealing program. Public Works replaced 124 streets

signs, repaired/rebuilt 16 storm sewer catch basins, and began a regular mowing schedule for all Township-owned stormwater detention basins.

Township residents recycled 1,524 tons of plastics, paper, metals, and cardboard via curbside collection, 203 tons of glass, and 450 cubic yards of leaf waste. The Township's compactor recycled an additional 95 tons of cardboard. Public Works responded to 487 requests to collect limbs, yard waste, and leaves. Crews from Public Works installed a new parking lot with over 60 spaces along Pelipetz Drive, adjacent to the Arrowhead Trail, and painted the interior of the Peters Township Public Library.

## COMMUNITY TELEVISION

Peters Township Community Television composed 405 programs, the second year of sub-500 productions due, primarily, to the impact of the pandemic. Among these programs were 298 studio productions, 22 community events, and 84 school and sporting events. Township residents watched more online programming than ever before, with 58,361 views, almost 8,00 more views than 2020. The Department's 22 year-old box truck was replaced with a new Ford Transit Van, which will allow for better mobile productions. Peters Township Community Television also made a more concerted effort to partner with various Township Boards and Departments to highlight their work in the community. This included programs on the EQB's Pollinator Garden, the Library's Summer Reading Series, and a time lapse video of the replacement of the metal mansard at Fire Station #1.

## PLANNING

The explosion in the residential market that began in mid-2020 continued throughout 2021 with 381 home sales in the Township. The median value of homes sold in the Township was \$469,875, a 49% increase from the values in 2020. There were 117 building permits for new homes issued, which was 32 more than 2020. There were 54 new residential lots created and 8,334 square feet of new commercial space approved. In total, 433 building permits were issued, an increase from 360 in 2020. Zoning and code enforcement dipped slightly in 2021 with 62 code enforcement violations and two citations issued. The Township revised its Zoning Ordinance to allow for more commercial uses in a portion of the Venetia District, and adopted a policy encouraging the interconnection of roadways in residential developments.