

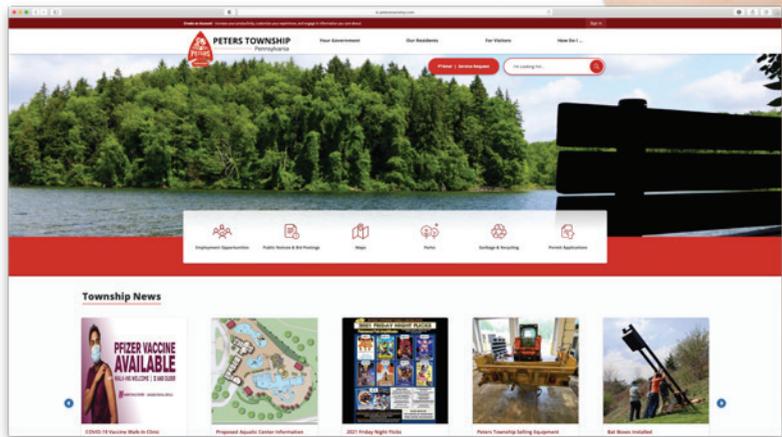
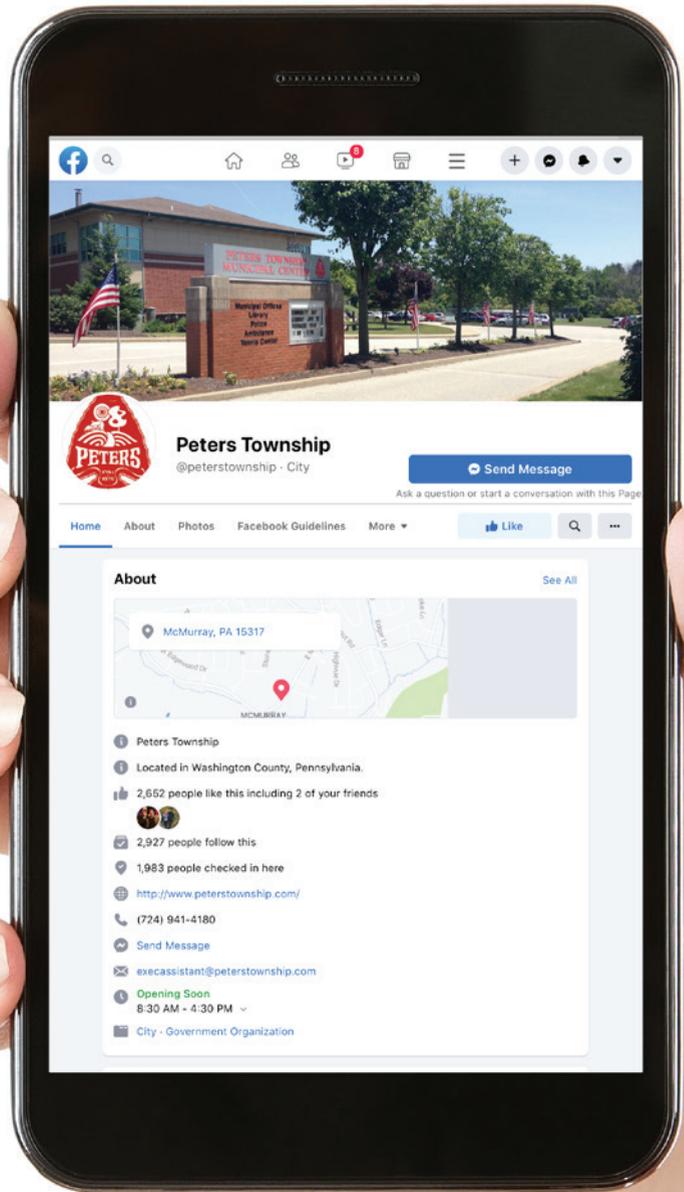
PETERS TOWNSHIP,
PENNSYLVANIA

2020 CITIZEN'S FINANCIAL REPORT



CONNECT WITH PETERS TOWNSHIP

LEARN ALL THE WAYS
YOU CAN STAY INFORMED
AND ENGAGE IN OUR
COMMUNITY.



LETTER FROM THE TOWNSHIP MANAGER

PAUL LAUER

I am pleased to present the Peters Township Citizen's Financial Report for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2020. This financial report is designed to convey important financial information to the residents of Peters Township in a reader-friendly and concise manner so as to provide transparency and accountability. The Citizen's Financial Report is suitable for those readers who prefer an overview or summary of the Township's government and its financial condition.

The past year has undoubtedly been a challenging one 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, reopen on modified operations, adjust programming to support social distancing requirements, or go virtual. Police and Public Works adjusted their shifts and reporting locations to maintain proper separation of staff. During the height of the pandemic, certain administrative employees began telecommuting. When offices reopened, staff were moved to new locations within buildings and makeshift barriers were erected to comply with CDC and PA Department of Health guidelines.

Throughout it all, for as much uncertainty as there may have been among employees, the events of 2020 created questions for our residents. In light of this, the 2020 Citizen's Report focuses on the various ways the Township uses to communicate with its residents. Engaging residents, answering their questions/concerns, and getting out information on healthcare and changing regulations during the pandemic was the top priority of staff during the past year. Staff utilized the Township website, social media, email blasts, public access channels, the Township smartphone app, and the Township Magazine to provide residents the most up-to-date information on changing conditions.

One staple of Township communication with its residents has been the Township's three public access channels. Peters Township Cable Television Director Ryan Boni and newly promoted Media Specialist Kelsey Sylvester utilized both cable and online platforms for Township programming. In 2020, Township residents watched more online programming (50,979 views) than ever before on the Township's Vimeo and YouTube pages. In a pandemic-shortened year, Peters Township Community Television produced 421 programs, including 275 studio productions, 51 community events, 47 school district events and sports, and 35 public meetings.

As times have changed, the Township has adapted to utilize new technology to maintain a transparent, open connection to its residents. The PT4me! smartphone app was developed years ago and allows residents to report issues, make service requests, and see Township announcements. The Township and several departments have active social media presence on both Facebook and Twitter. Beginning in 2020, the Township undertook an update to its most prominent digital communication tool, its website. Set to launch in 2021, the new www.peterstownship.com will have an expanded navigation menu, be continually updated with the latest Township news, and have graphic buttons for quick and easy navigation on the Township's homepage. I would encourage everyone reading the Citizen's Financial Report to take a minute and visit the site to see its new look and feel.

The Citizen's Financial Report is designed to supplement and not replace the Peters Township Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). The CAFR 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, the Citizen's Financial Report is not intended to conform to these standards. For those wishing to review the Peters Township CAFR, it can be found on the Township's website at 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 PFLauer@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:



Frank Arcuri
District C



David M. Ball,
Chairman
District A



James F. Berquist
District D



Frank Kosir, Jr.
At Large



Robert J. Lewis
At Large



Monica R. Merrell,
Vice Chairman
District B



Gary J. Stiegel Jr.
At Large

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.

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 as 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 process complies 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, and 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, at the library or in the municipal offices.

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 desire of its residents and businesses. In the case of Peters Township, these funds are derived from a variety of sources.

In 2020, 60% of Peters Township's total revenues of \$23,580,349 were derived from taxes. This compares with 61% in 2019 and 68% in 2018. The Township collected \$13,597,819 in taxes. Of the taxes levied, Earned Income Tax and the Real Estate Tax are the most significant.

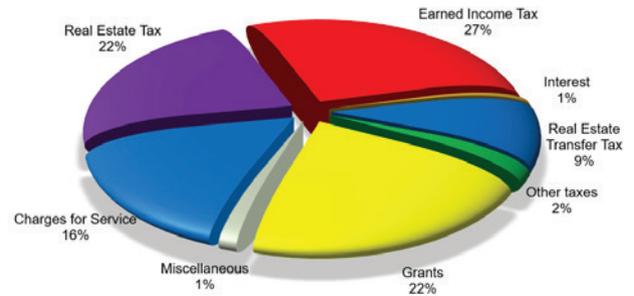
The Earned Income Tax is a one-half percent (.5%) tax levied against the wages earned by Township residents. In 2020, Earned Income Tax accounted for \$6,371,217 or 45% of the taxes levied for general government functions. Earned Income Tax revenue was \$151,050, or 2.4%, higher than that collected in 2019.

The Real Estate Tax is a tax levied against the assessed valuation of real estate property located in the Township. The Township continued to adjust to the reassessment of all properties in Washington County that took place in 2017, the first reassessment in 36 years. The valuation of all taxable property in Peters Township in 2020 was \$3,197,277,120. The Real Estate Tax rate remained at 1.622 mills in 2020, the same level as 2019. Real Estate Tax receipts for 2020 totaled \$5,138,660 or 37% of tax revenue. This represented an increase of \$53,390 or 1% above 2019 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

Three-Year Revenue	2020	2019	2018
Real estate tax	5,138,660	5,085,270	5,025,792
Earned income tax	6,371,217	6,220,167	6,403,908
Real estate transfer tax	2,117,554	2,278,179	1,717,133
Other taxes	430,799	457,341	450,986
	<u>14,058,230</u>	<u>14,040,957</u>	<u>13,597,819</u>
Charges for services	3,754,195	4,114,881	3,332,272
Grants	5,293,301	4,250,728	2,920,525
Investment earnings	47,672	203,519	147,584
Miscellaneous revenue	326,951	439,025	56,668
	<u>9,522,119</u>	<u>9,008,153</u>	<u>6,457,049</u>
Total Revenue	<u>23,580,349</u>	<u>23,049,110</u>	<u>20,054,868</u>

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 (2%) collection fee. In 2020, the Township collected \$2,117,554 in transfer taxes or 15.1% of total tax revenues. This represents the second largest single-year collection of transfer tax in the Township's history, a decrease of \$160,625 from the record set in 2019, mainly due to a boom in new residential construction and low interest rates.



In 2020, the Township collected \$9,552,119 in revenue from non-tax sources. This represents 40% of the total revenue collected. By comparison, non-tax sources represented 39% of total revenue in 2019 and 32% of total revenue in 2018.

Charges for services equaled \$3,754,195 or 39% of all non-tax revenue in 2020. 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 so as 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 is that related to collection and disposal of solid waste and recycling. In 2020, fees for solid waste and recycling totaled \$2,067,678. These fees are intended to cover 100% of the cost of solid waste collection and disposal.

Grants received by Peters Township in 2020 totaled \$5,293,301 and represent 56% 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 2020, the Township received \$782,810 in Liquid Fuel 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, which 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 2020, the Township received a one-time grant of CARES Act funds through Washington County in the amount of \$720,019 to offset pandemic-related expenses.

EXPENDITURES

WHAT THE MONEY IS USED FOR

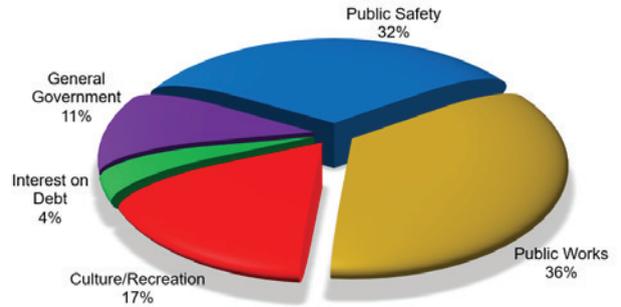
All municipal governments through their budgeting process define an action plan for achieving goals and objectives by allocating funds amongst a variety of competing programs. As a general unit of local government, Peters Township provides a wide variety of public services. These services are grouped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

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

Total expenses for all programs in 2020 were \$20,182,895, a decrease from 2019 of \$750,008 or 3.6%. The decrease in total expenses is primarily due to several one-time major capital projects in the Police and Fire Departments in 2019. General Government, a category that represents Legislative Body, Administration, Municipal Complex maintenance, Information Technology, Legal Services, and Engineering, comprised 11% of all expenses in 2020, the exact same percentage of expenses this category amounted to in 2019.

In 2020, expenses associated with Public Safety account for \$6,498,163 or 32% of all expenses, a decrease from 2019 of \$835,362 when it was 35% 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 decrease from 2019 was capital expenses including a new fire truck and emergency radio system that occurred in that year.

Public Works expenses in 2020 totaled \$7,308,437 or 36% of total expenses, an increase from 2019 when Public Works represented 33% of all outlays. Of this amount, \$2,089,943 represents cost associated with the curbside 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 \$5,218,494 primarily represents the costs associated with maintaining the Township infrastructure including 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 2020, expenses for Culture and Recreation equaled \$3,452,761 or 17% of the budget, a decrease of \$301,647 from 2019 when it represented 18% of expenses.

Three-Year Expenditures by Program

	2020	2019	2018
General Government	2,207,574	2,379,302	2,290,118
Public Safety	6,498,163	7,333,525	6,881,736
Public Works	7,308,437	6,926,954	6,101,602
Culture & Recreation	3,452,761	3,754,408	3,701,815
Interest on Debt	715,960	538,714	457,240
	<u>20,182,895</u>	<u>20,932,903</u>	<u>19,432,511</u>

2020 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

- Completed construction of Phase 2 of Rolling Hills Drive, including a new signalized intersection at East McMurray Road, at a cost of \$2,408,212
- Acquired a parcel of land off of Bebout Road for the development of Fire Station #3 for \$505,985
- Installed a new emergency radio communications system for \$235,015
- Purchased three new cardiac monitors with CARES Act funding for \$133,768
- Replaced three deteriorated corrugated metal pipe systems along Judith, Hidden Valley, and Robinhood Drives at a cost of \$130,955
- Roughly 4.6 miles of roads were repaved at a cost of \$1,484,851
- Replaced the brine system at the Public Works Complex for \$112,543
- Replaced the fabric roof of the Public Works Salt Shed for \$19,395
- Purchased new duty weapons for all police officers, as well as patrol rifles, with optics for both at a cost of \$52,317
- Acquired a new Dodge 5500 4x4 crew cab with utility crane for \$120,671

DEBT AND ASSETS

STATEMENT OF NET POSITION

The Statement of Net Position demonstrates the healthy financial condition of Peters Township as of December 31, 2020. 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 \$46,081,016 at the close of 2020. The Statement of Net Position as presented here is a summary overview. For greater detail please refer to the Peters Township Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), which is available on the Township's website at www.peterstownship.com, at the library or in the municipal offices.

	As of 12/31/20	As of 12/31/19	As of 12/31/18
Assets			
Current Assets	19,081,902	20,190,556	10,919,190
Capital and Other Assets	55,036,071	52,205,465	49,792,473
Total Assets	74,117,973	72,396,021	60,711,663
Deferred Outflows of Resources	2,851,464	2,016,043	3,303,219
Liabilities			
Current liabilities	1,482,992	1,842,596	1,370,604
Long-Term Liabilities	27,073,161	27,916,173	21,513,419
Total Liabilities	28,556,153	29,758,769	22,884,023
Deferred Inflows of Resources	2,332,268	1,969,733	563,504
Net Position	46,081,016	42,683,562	40,567,355

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

The Statement of Activities reports all financial activity for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2020. 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 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), which is available on the Township's website at www.peterstownship.com, at the library or in the municipal offices.

	2020	2019	2018
Revenues	23,580,349	23,049,110	20,054,868
Expenses	20,182,895	20,932,903	19,433,511
Change in Net Position	3,397,454	2,116,207	622,357
Net Position, January 1	42,683,562	40,567,355	39,944,998
Net Position, December 31	46,081,016	42,683,562	40,567,355

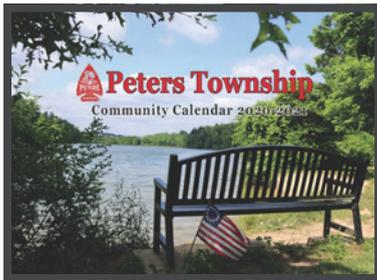
LONG-TERM DEBT

As of December 31, 2020, Peters Township had \$24,200,000 of debt outstanding in the form of bond. This represents a decrease of \$905,000 or 3.6% from the previous year as a result of scheduled debt service payments. The Township also had \$252,570 of debt outstanding in the form of notes payable, a decrease of \$39,353 from 2019, and has no debt outstanding from capital leases, having made its final payment of \$43,004 in 2020.

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, 2020, Peters Township's non-electoral debt limit exceeded \$48,000,000. Electoral debt is limited to 350% of the annual average of revenues collected

over a three-year period or over \$68,000,000. 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 2020, debt service payments amounted to 4.4% of available funds.

In 2019, the Standard and Poor's rating service reviewed the Township's financial information for the purpose of issuing bond rating. The Peters Township bond rating was maintained at AA+.



Peters Township continues to strive to communicate with residents and convey information in an easily accessible, transparent manner. The goal is always to inform and educate the public, listen to concerns, and create an environment where residents are active and involved in the community. To that end, Peters Township has a multitude of ways for residents to learn more and interact with our boards and staff. Several of the ways are highlighted throughout these next few pages. These include:

- PETERS TOWNSHIP WEBSITE
- PT4ME! APP
- EMAIL BLASTS
- FACEBOOK & TWITTER
- CALENDAR & MAGAZINE
- COMMUNITY TV

PETERS TOWNSHIP
WASHINGTON COUNTY

WARNING: DEADLINES ARE CLOSER THAN THEY APPEAR

Registration Link
Deadline Tuesday,
May 4

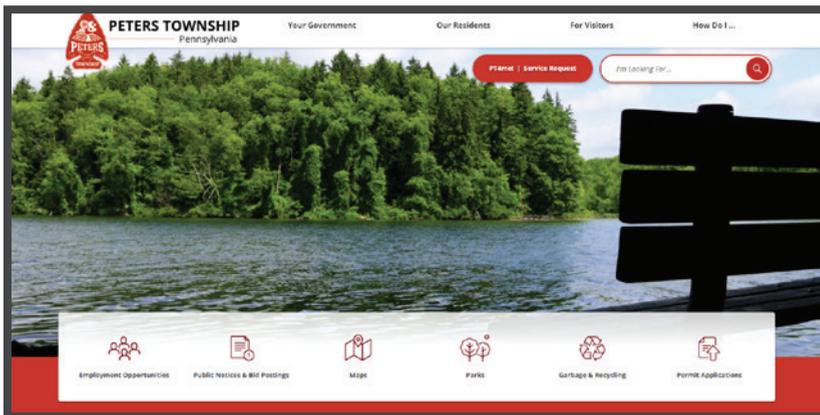
CELEBRATE THE LAKE SERIES
NATURE SCAVENGER HUNT
AGES 8 & UP
Thursday, May 6
6 to 7:30 p.m.
\$5 Member / \$8 Non-Member
Peters Lake Park (560 Center Church Road)
Registration Deadline: Tuesday, May 4

Lace up your hiking boots and join us on a guided hike around the lake in search of some fun-to-find things in nature. Bring along your camera for added fun! Children must be accompanied by an adult. Everyone in attendance must be registered. Instructor: Recreation Staff
Current state requirements for social distancing and masks will be followed.

PETERS TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION
700 MEREDITH DRIVE, VENETA, PA 15307 | WWW.PETERSTOWNSHIP.COM | (724) 942-5000

Preferred method to register online at www.peterstownship.com
For additional information call 724-942-5000 Peters Township Recreation Center

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Peters Township
An Official Community Magazine

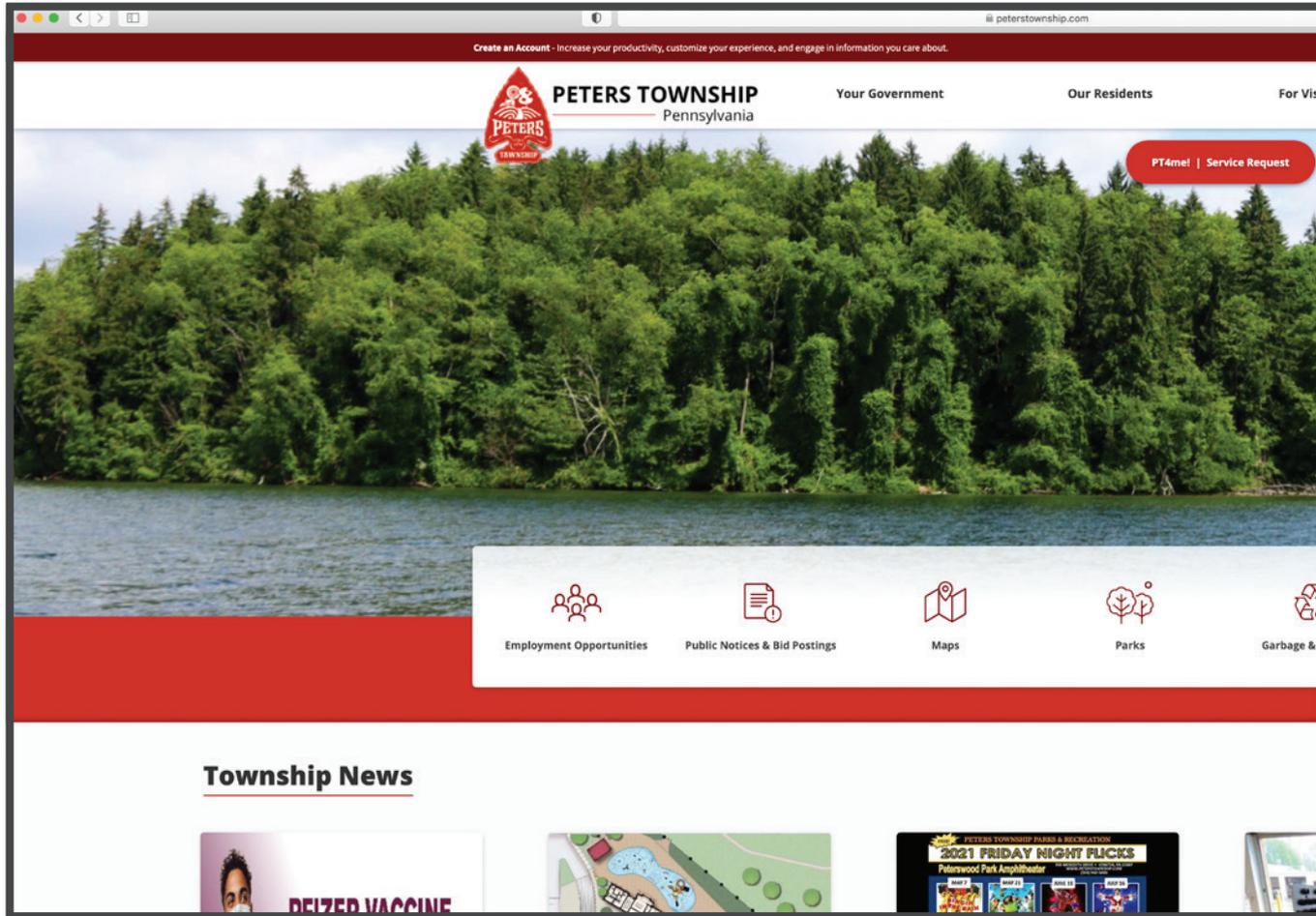
Summer Concert Series
At Peterswood Park!

Township News
PAGE 9

School District News
PAGE 88

Support Your Neighborhood Businesses
PAGE 66

Special Section: Trends in Education
PAGE 61



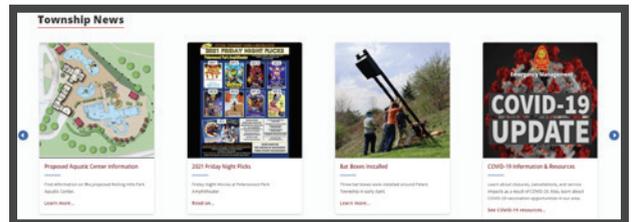
In March 2021, Peters Township partnered with Civic Plus to launch a new website. The website features a modern look, customized menus, redesigned pages, and features to keep residents and visitors informed about happenings in our community. Some of the key features include:

EXPANDED NAVIGATION MENU

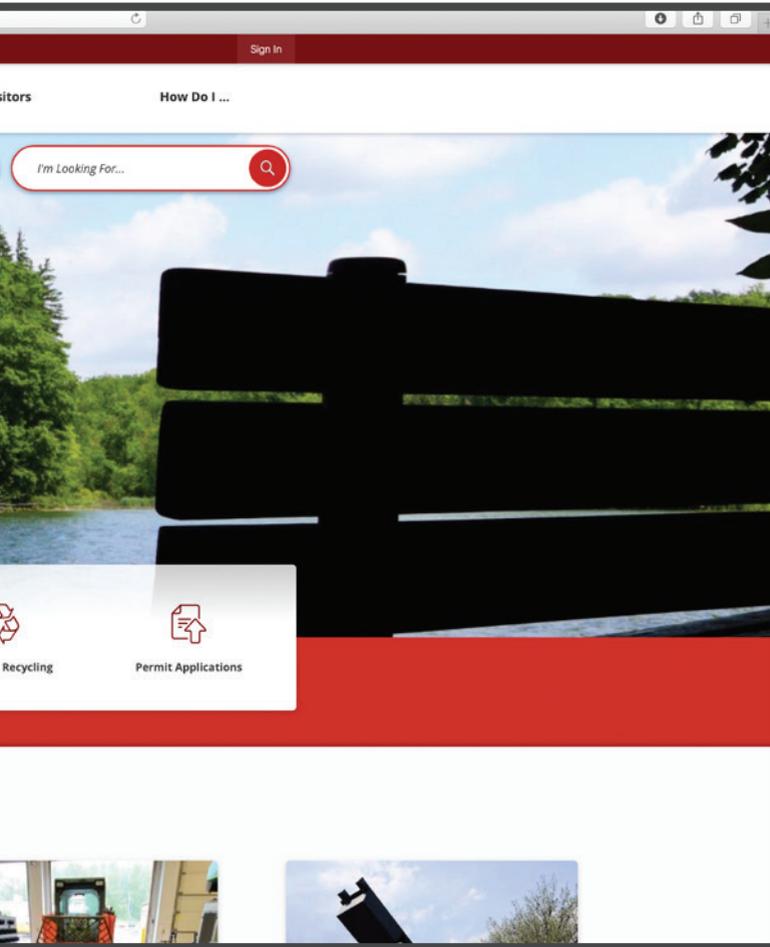


Find the department or section you are looking for by hovering over the menu on the homepage or clicking on one of the four main headings. The menu enables residents to access information quickly and efficiently.

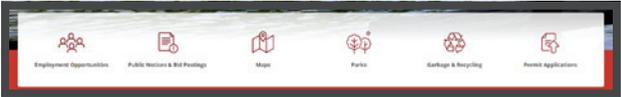
TOWNSHIP NEWS



Want to know the latest happenings in Peters Township? The Township News area of the homepage will be continually updated with the most important news and most relevant items. Check back often to see the latest!



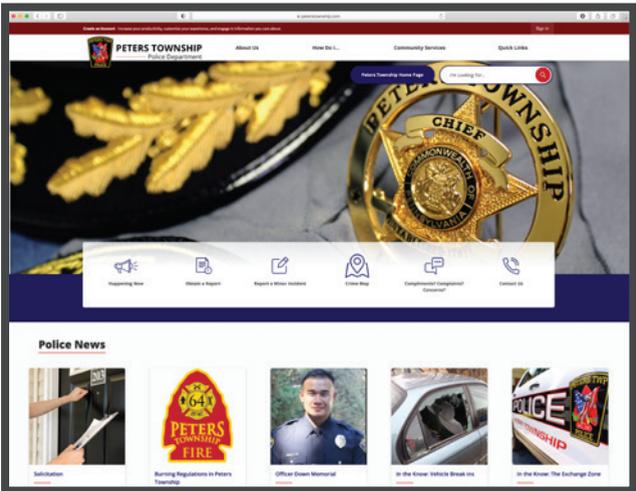
GRAPHIC BUTTONS



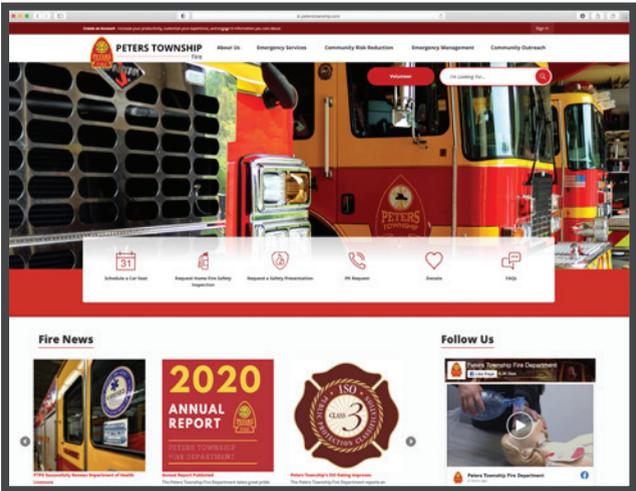
In a rush while visiting our site? No problem! The graphic buttons on our homepage have links to the most visited sections of our website. Sections such as garbage and recycling information, public notices, permit applications, maps, parks, and public notices and bid postings are easily accessible with one click.

ENHANCED DEPARTMENT WEBSITES

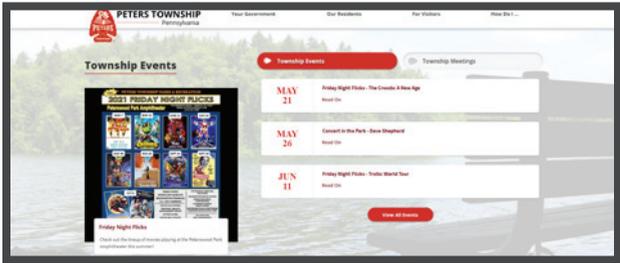
Police



Fire

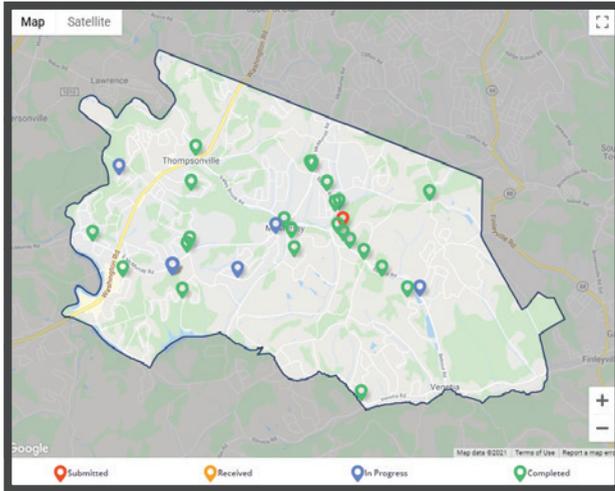


TOWNSHIP EVENTS & MEETINGS



Looking for an activity or event? The Township Events portion of the homepage will be continually updated with upcoming Township events. The Township Meetings will also be continually updated so you never miss a Council or Board meeting.

PT4ME!



Peters Township has its own app, called "PT4me!" Download it on any smartphone to report issues, request service, make suggestions, and see Township announcements. PT4me! is also available on our website by clicking on the button on our homepage.

EMAIL BLASTS

PETERS TOWNSHIP
COMMUNITY CENTER

LINK TO REGISTER FOR ONE DAY CLASSES AND EVENTS

Mad SCIENCE

WHERE'S THE AIR?

Another Exciting Preschool Workshop is Coming to Peter's Township Community Center!

Date: Friday, 4/16/21
Time: 10:45-11:45am

Ages: 2-6 year olds
Cost: \$18 (members) \$27 (non-members)

See website for complete details and to register. Space is limited. Join us for some hands-on fun!

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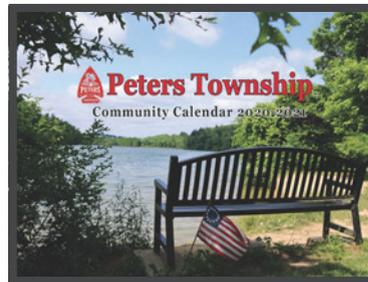
Want Peters Township news delivered to your inbox? Consider signing up for one of our email lists. Our emails are sent through Constant Contact, and individuals can choose to sign up for General Township emails, Parks & Recreation emails, and Bid Notice/Request for Proposal emails. To sign up, simply visit peterstownship.com/ emails, enter your name and e-mail, select your lists, and click the sign up button.

SOCIAL MEDIA



For those active on social media, Peters Township has a number of active accounts across Facebook and Twitter. Not only does the Township have a main Facebook and Twitter account, but our Fire Department, Police Department, Parks & Recreation Department, Library, Community TV, and Environmental Quality Board also have a presence on social media.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR



Peters Township partners with the Peters Township School District each year to produce a community calendar that is mailed to all Peters Township residents. The calendar provides contact information, photos, event dates, school dates, meeting dates, and much more! Each month has a photo showcasing a different aspect of the Peters Township community. The calendar is also available on our website in a digital format!

MAGAZINE



Peters Township partners with IN Community Magazines to include municipal content in each of the six issues published per year. The Township includes up to 20 pages dedicated to Township news, the Parks & Recreation Department, and the Library. All Parks & Recreation and Library programming and events are listed, with photos and descriptions. Also, twice a year, the Township is able to highlight an event or topic on the cover. Like the calendar, the magazine pages are also available on our website!

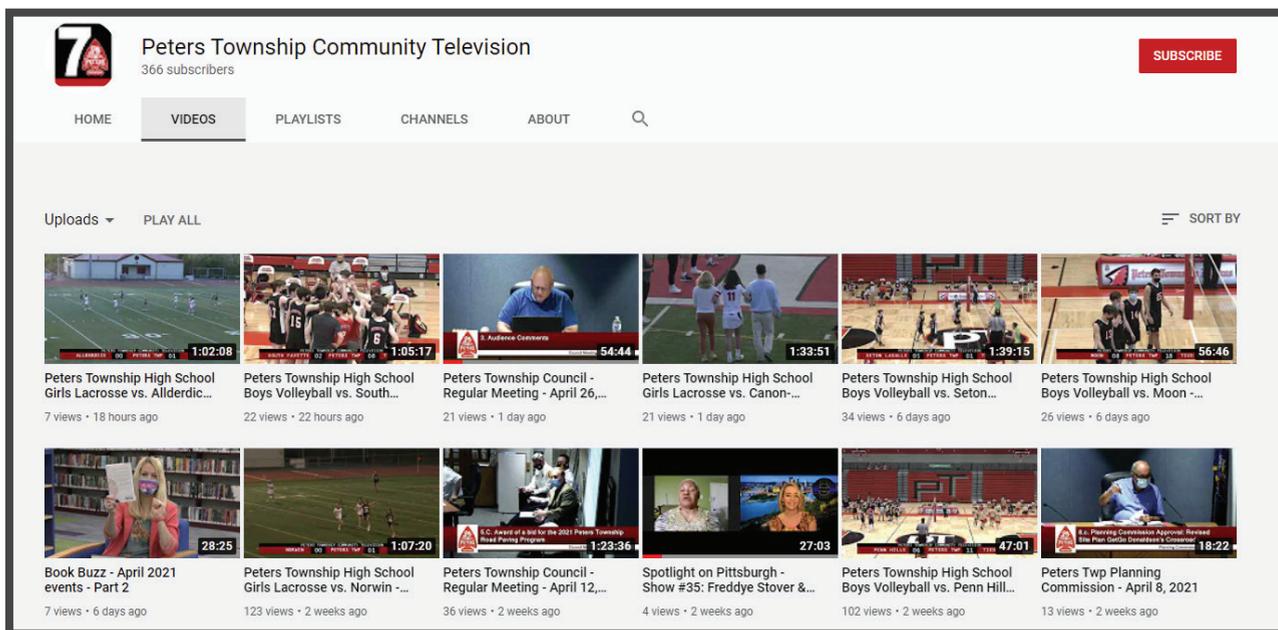
PTCT has informed, educated, and entertained with its variety of quality programming for nearly 40 years. Since the first program aired in 1982, PTCT volunteers have produced over 18,000 programs. We offer studio facilities, equipment, and training to help you create your own show and share it with the community.



PTCT is an important communication tool in Peters Township. Residents can watch Council, Planning Commission, and School Board meetings as well as church services and high school sports. We also record many productions through other Township departments such as programs offered at the Public Library, the Recreation Department's Summer Concert Series, and safety videos with the Police and Fire Departments. PTCT helps you stay up to date with all the happenings around the Township.

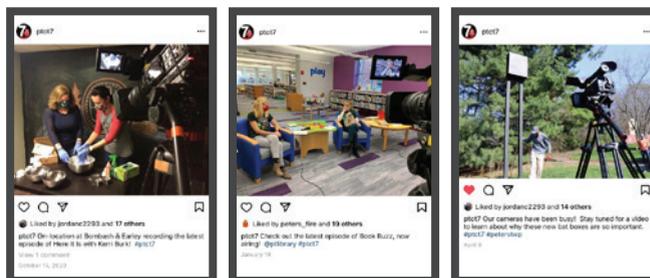


VISIT **PTCT7.COM** TO FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED!



Many of our programs are available for viewing online! Watch shows, meetings, and sports anytime on our Vimeo and YouTube channels.

vimeo.com/ptct7
youtube.com/ptct7



Check us out on social media to keep up with our latest shows and exclusive behind-the-scenes content. Follow us on **Instagram**: @ptct7 | Follow us on **Twitter**: @ptct7 | Follow us on **Facebook**: facebook.com/ptct7

GOVERNANCE

Council met on 30 separate occasions in 2020, including 24 regular meetings, three public hearings and six workshops. The major undertakings were the development of Rolling Hills Park, response to the COVID-19 pandemic, property acquisition for a new fire station, and updating sign regulations in the Township's Zoning Ordinance.

In 2020, Council adopted 14 Ordinances and 29 Resolutions. The most significant ordinances and resolutions were new wireless communication tower rules, a change to Youth Commission procedures, application for CARES Act funds, and a revised employee Drug & Alcohol Policy. The 2021 Budget was adopted, and the millage rate remained at 1.622 mills. Council also awarded 17 agreements and 16 bids, including development of Rolling Hills Park, emergency medical equipment, creation of a new website, and construction of a new playground in Peterswood Park.

ENGINEERING

Rolling Hills Park was at the forefront of the Engineering Department's work in 2020, with the completion of Phase 2 of the construction of Rolling Hills Drive and the beginning of the development of the first phase of Rolling Hills Park.

Projects designed, bid, and administered in-house included the annual storm sewer rehabilitation project, road paving program, and rejuvenator and crack sealing programs. Signal upgrades at the intersection of Valleybrook Road and East McMurray Road were completed in mid-2020, which should improve signal timing and traffic flow through two of the Township's busiest corridors.

The Township hired consulting firm Resource Environmental Solutions to begin design and seek permitting of a floodplain restoration project along Brush Run near the intersection of Bebout Road and Valleybrook Road. The department also designed a larger parking lot for the Arrowhead Trail on Pelipetz Drive as well as an accessibility project at Venetia Park, which will be bid for completion in early 2021.

PARKS AND RECREATION

As the Township turned its attention to the development of Rolling Hills Park, the past year was spent finishing up some major capital improvements in Peterswood Park. Work to replace Shelter 2 and its playground was completed in the summer. Accessibility improvements and construction of a new playground near the softball fields in the Peterswood Park expansion began in late 2020.

In July 2020, Peters Township Council entered into a contract with Kimmel Bogrette Architecture to begin design of a new aquatics facility at

Rolling Hills Park. A committee comprised of staff, Council, and Recreation Board members will work with the architect to shape the design and programming of the facility, prior to Council making a decision to proceed.

The pandemic certainly affected recreation programming, though outdoor nature programming and amphitheater events, where social distancing could be maintained, were prioritized.

POLICE

The Peters Township Police Department maintained its accreditation from the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission, becoming one of just 127 departments in the state to receive such distinction. The Police Department saw further changes to personnel and its leadership structure in 2020 with the promotion of Gary Orosz to Sergeant, Lou Reda to Corporal, and the hiring of new full-time officer Mallory Jarzynka and new part-time officer Joseph Glover. Patrick Mazzotta became a School Resource Officer in the Peters Township Middle School in late 2020.

The Police Department responded to 7,365 calls for service in 2020. Of these calls, 687 were classified as criminal investigations/incidents under the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) system. Of these criminal incidents, 252 were prosecuted. Police officers issued 927 traffic citations, 2,947 written warnings and made 42 arrests for driving under the influence.

FIRE

The Fire Department implemented a new leadership structure for both the career and volunteer firefighters in 2020, culminating with the promotion of Christopher Chiprich, Christopher Barton, and Timothy Frazier to the newly created position of Fire Captain.

The Department's response and services were reevaluated by the Insurance Service Office (ISO), and achieved a Class 3 Public Protection Classification, ranking in the top 15% of fire departments nationally.

Edward Abbott was hired as a full-time firefighter in April 2020, as the Department expanded to 10 full-time firefighters.

In 2020, the Fire Department responded to 1,401 calls, of which automatic alarms (335) and medical response (271) were the top sources. There were 956 fire inspections and 349 fire/life safety community education and outreach programs. The 34 active volunteer firefighters committed 2,715 hours to the Volunteer On-Duty Program. Finally, the Township acquired 2.9 acres on Bebout Road for the future home of Fire Station #3.

PUBLIC WORKS

For the 13th year in a row, Peters Township paved over 4 miles of roads. In 2020, the Township

resurfaced 4.6 miles of roads. In addition, 9.75 miles of road were rejuvenated, and the equivalent of 6.1 miles of pavement were treated by the crack sealing program. In 2020, Public Works replaced 129 street signs, and repaired/rebuilt nine storm sewer catch basins. Catch basin work was substantially curtailed in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Township purchased a new brine system for the department in late 2020, which will now allow the brine to be mixed with additives that improve its ability to function in colder temperatures.

Township residents recycled 1,558 tons of plastic, paper, metal, glass, and cardboard, and 420 cubic yards of leaf waste in 2020. Public Works responded to 506 requests to collect limbs, yard waste, and leaves. Crews from Public Works showcased their skills by renovating the Police Station to create new offices for the command staff.

LIBRARY

After five years of dedicated service, Myra Oleynik retired as the Library Director in July 2020. Lacey Love, formerly of the Bradford Area Public Library, was hired as the new Library Director in October 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic substantially impacted Library operations, as the building was closed to the public for much of the year, only offering curbside pick-up and return of books.

Patrons used curbside collection to check out 122,203 items. Virtual programming became the staple of the Library's outreach to the community, using platforms such as Zoom, Facebook, YouTube, and Beanstack. The Library offered 588 virtual programs, which had 56,716 attendees. A Harry Potter-themed Escape Room developed by Sydney Krawiec was used by over 1.5 million people worldwide. Nearly 13,000 people logged in to Library databases in 2020, a 30% increase over 2019.

PLANNING

Despite the pandemic, and its subsequent slowdown of the real estate market in mid-2020, the 402 home sales in 2020 represented a 17% increase over 2019. The median value of homes sold in the Township in 2020 was \$315,000. There were 85 building permits for new homes issued in 2020, which was 30 more than 2019. There were 219 new residential lots created, from development plans such as Justabout Farms Phase 2, Westbury, and Pemberley Manor. In total, 360 building permits were issued, up from 236 in 2019. Zoning and code enforcement continued to be priorities in 2020, with 163 code enforcement violations issued. The Township revised its Zoning Ordinance relative to sign regulations to comply with a decision of the U.S. Supreme Court.