

PETERS TOWNSHIP,  
PENNSYLVANIA

# 2017 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, 2017. 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.

This year the Citizens Report focuses on the efforts and accomplishments of the Peters Township Public Library. The mission of our Library is, in support of an informed citizenry, to provide printed and recorded materials, programs, equipment, and staff services to meet the community's educational, professional, and recreational needs. The Library strives to enrich and empower every patron by fostering a love of learning. On October 22, 2017, the Library celebrated 60 years of providing these exceptional services to the residents of Peters Township.

Our Library had even more reason to celebrate in 2017, as it was named the first library in Western Pennsylvania to be designated as a Gold Star Library by the PA Forward program. This program recognizes a library's role within the context of five essential core literacies that Pennsylvanians need to succeed in all elements of life: basic literacy, information literacy, civic and societal literacy, health literacy, and financial literacy. This remarkable achievement is a credit to the work of our Library Director, Myra Oleynik, and her exceptional staff, and recognizes the true civic treasure that our Library is to Peters Township.

Programming from our Library benefits residents of all ages, and reinforces the core literacies of PA Forward. Whether it is early literacy fairs at pre-schools, computer classes, Teen Tech Tuesdays, hosting speakers from the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh, blood pressure and flu shot clinics, or working with AARP officials to assist residents with filing their taxes, the Library provided opportunities for residents to improve every aspect of their lives. Perhaps no greater example of the Library's meaning to our community is the fact that volunteers donated over 140 days' worth of service to ensure this facility functions at the highest levels possible.

The Library continues to redefine its role in the community through innovative use of technology to reach its patrons. If you do not believe me, feel free to take a Google 360 Tour of the Library from anywhere at any time. Self-checkout kiosks allow for easy borrowing of materials, the Library e-newsletter reaches over 8,000 inboxes, and online course offerings range from language learning, accounting, and legal studies just to name a few. If you are feeling creative, please visit the Library's Makerspace, where you can utilize 3D printers and scanners or a digital cutter, among other advanced equipment.

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 of 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](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 [PFLauer@peterstownship.com](mailto: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:



## PROFILE OF GOVERNMENT

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

- Police Protection
- Fire Protection
- Road Maintenance
- Planning
- Code Enforcement
- 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 2018 Township Budget and 2017 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 goal 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 insure that the budgeting, accounting and auditing processes 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, & 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 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 2017, 62% of Peters Township's total revenues of \$21,365,189 were derived from taxes. This compares with 69% in 2016 and 62% in 2015. The Township collected \$13,271,729 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 2017, Earned Income Tax accounted for \$6,229,224 or 47% of the taxes levied for general government functions. Earned Income Tax Revenue was \$558,725 or 9.9% higher than that collected in 2016.

The Real Estate Tax is a tax levied against the assessed valuation of real estate property located in the Township. In 2017, Washington County saw its first reassessment of properties since 1981 take effect. As a result of this reassessment, the valuation of all taxable property in Peters Township increased from \$349,162,152 in 2016 to \$3,122,120,918 in 2017. To compensate for the increase in assessed value, Peters Township adjusted its Real Estate Tax rate from 13 mills to 1.522 mills. Real Estate Tax receipts for 2017 totaled \$4,679,033 or 35% of tax revenue. This represented an increase of \$208,675 or 4.7% above 2016 receipts.

The Real Estate Transfer Tax is a tax levied on the value of all real estate transferred in Peters Township. The Township levy



districts is considered a contributing factor to this increase.

In 2017 the Township collected \$8,093,460 in revenue from non-tax sources. This represents 38% of the total revenue collected. By comparison, non-tax sources represented 31% of total revenue in 2016 and 38% of total revenue in 2015

Charges for services equaled \$3,219,914 or 40% of all non-tax revenue in 2017. 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 2017 fees for solid waste and recycling totaled \$1,592,748. These fees cover 100% of the cost of solid waste collection and disposal.

Grants received by Peters Township in 2017 totaled \$4,613,477 and represent 57% 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 2017, the Township received \$742,029 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, 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.

Three Year Revenue	2017	2016	2015
Real estate tax	4,679,033	4,470,358	4,425,092
Earned income tax	6,229,224	5,670,499	5,684,718
Real estate transfer tax	1,917,334	1,584,562	1,736,101
Other Taxes	446,138	425,482	421,041
	<b>13,271,729</b>	<b>12,150,901</b>	<b>12,266,952</b>
Charges for services	3,219,914	3,209,228	3,112,281
Grants	4,613,477	2,293,447	4,381,411
Investment Earnings	62,227	18,887	7,915
Miscellaneous Revenue	197,842	54,541	53,219
	<b>8,093,460</b>	<b>5,576,103</b>	<b>7,554,826</b>
Total Revenue	<b>21,365,189</b>	<b>17,727,004</b>	<b>19,821,778</b>

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 (2%) collection fee. In 2017 the Township collected \$1,917,334 in transfer taxes. This represented a staggering increase of \$332,772 or 21% from 2016 transfer taxes collected. An uptick in the residential construction industry spurred in part by the Township's new residential zoning overlay

# 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 2017 were \$18,624,367, a slight increase over 2016 of \$117,388 or 0.6%. General Government, a category that represents Legislative Body, Administration, and Municipal Complex maintenance, represented 11% of all expenses in 2017, a minor decrease from the 12% of expenses this category represented in 2016.

In 2017 expenses associated with Public Safety account for \$6,333,670 or 34% of all expenses, a decrease from 2016 when public safety accounted for 36% of all costs. Programs contained in the Public Safety category include Police Services, Fire Services, Planning/Zoning, Animal Control, Building Inspection, and Emergency Medical Services.

Public Works expenses in 2017 totaled \$6,225,831 or 33% of total expenses, a slight increase from 2016 when Public Works represented 31% of all outlays. Of this amount \$1,611,253 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 \$4,614,578 primarily represents the costs associated with maintaining the Township infrastructure including roads, storm



sewers, and parks. The primary reason for increased outlays in this category was emergency stabilization work on Hidden Valley Road.

Programs included under the category of Culture and Recreation include the Peters Township Library, Parks and Recreation, and Peters Township Community Television. In 2017, expenditures for Culture and Recreation equaled \$3,585,582 or 19% of the budget, the same proportion of expenditures represented by this category in 2016.

### Three-Years Expenditures by Program

	2017	2016	2015
General Government	2,002,009	2,304,739	1,682,152
Public Safety	6,333,670	6,590,098	6,216,579
Public Works	6,225,831	5,818,054	5,240,167
Culture & Recreation	3,585,582	3,469,473	3,361,762
Interest on Debt	477,275	324,615	285,323
	18,624,367	18,506,979	16,785,983

## 2017 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

- Completed a Master Plan for the future development of Rolling Hills Park
- Installed a new restroom/concession stand at Field 5 of Peterswood Park for just over \$585,000
- Constructed Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements in Peterswood Park, Rees Park, and Elm Grove Park for \$87,160
- Phase 2 of the Municipal Complex Landscaping Project was completed at a cost of \$22,231
- Purchased a hydraulic excavator for the Public Works Department for \$70,000
- Installed a liquid calcium chloride system at the Public Works Department to improve the effectiveness of rock salt in sub-freezing temperatures for roughly \$27,000
- Roughly 3.8 miles of roads were repaved, with an additional 0.22 miles being done in-house, costing just over \$900,000.
- Completed emergency stabilization on Hidden Valley Road to prevent a landslide, installing a beam and lagging wall to support the roadway for \$371,916
- Rehabilitated an aging concrete box culvert on Old Oak Road over a tributary to Chartiers Creek at a cost of \$156,906

# DEBT AND ASSETS

## STATEMENT OF NET POSITION

The Statement of Net Position demonstrates the healthy financial condition of Peters Township as December 31, 2017. 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 \$40,615,353 at the close of 2017. The Statement of Net Position as presented here a summary overview. For greater detail please refer to the Peters Township Comprehensive Financial Report (CAFR) which is available on the Township's website at [www.peterstownship.com](http://www.peterstownship.com), at the library or in the municipal offices.

	As of 12/31/2017	As of 12/31/2016	As of 12/31/2015
<b>Assets</b>			
Current Assets	13,401,322	13,064,235	12,286,411
Capital and Other Assets	47,797,146	46,181,514	40,546,704
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>61,198,468</b>	<b>59,245,749</b>	<b>52,833,115</b>
Deferred Outflows of Resources	1,620,870	2,403,428	1,266,586
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Current liabilities	1,510,176	1,261,239	1,440,991
Long Term Liabilities	19,636,409	22,513,397	14,004,194
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>21,146,585</b>	<b>23,774,636</b>	<b>15,445,185</b>
Deferred Inflows of Resources	1,057,390		
<b>Net position</b>	<b>40,615,363</b>	<b>37,874,541</b>	<b>38,654,516</b>

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

The Statement of Activities reports all financial activity for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017.

The statement presents a summary overview how the Township's net position 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 Financial Report (CAFR) which is available on the Township's website at [www.peterstownship.com](http://www.peterstownship.com), at the library or in the municipal offices.

	2017	2016	2015
Revenues	21,365,189	17,727,004	19,821,811
Expenses	18,624,367	18,506,979	16,785,983
<b>Change in Net Position</b>	<b>2,740,822</b>	<b>(779,975)</b>	<b>3,035,828</b>
Net Position, January 1	37,874,541	38,654,516	35,618,688
Net Position, December 31	40,615,363	37,874,541	38,654,516

## LONG-TERM DEBT

As of December 31, 2017, Peters Township had \$16,940,000 of debt outstanding in the form of bond. This represents a decrease of \$820,000 or 4.6% from the previous year as the Township retired a General Obligation Bond issue in 2012 and continued to pay down its debt related to its most recent General Obligation Bond issues in 2013 and 2016. The Township also had \$368,456 of debt outstanding in the form of notes payable, a decrease of \$36,544 from 2016, and \$312,632 of debt outstanding from capital leases, a reduction of \$130,014 from the prior year.

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, 2017, Peters Township's non-

electoral debt limit exceeded \$43,000,000. Electoral debt is limited to 350% of the annual average of revenues collected over a three-year period or over \$61,000,000. 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 2017, debt service payments amounted to 5.2% of available funds.

In 2016 the Standard and Poor's rating service reviewed the Township financial information for the purpose of issuing bond rating. Peters Township bonding rating was maintained at AA+ rating.

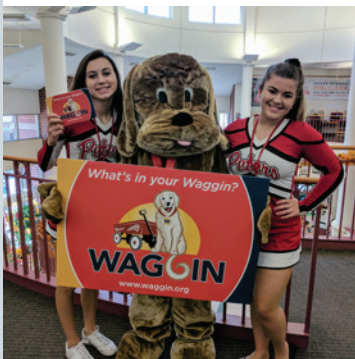


The Peters Township Public Library recently celebrated its 60th Birthday which captured the essence of our new logo and tagline: *Opening books, doors and minds for 60 years!* To honor our rich 60-year history, we hosted an unforgettable Birthday Bash on October 22, 2017. Nearly 900 people filled the library with excitement on a beautiful Sunday afternoon. Visitors of all ages could be seen wearing balloon hats, dancing to music outdoors, exploring the library's scavenger hunt, viewing the Donaldson Family photographs, engaging with our guest speakers, and of course, enjoying birthday cake.

Our County Commissioners and Township Manager, Paul Lauer, presented us with a beautiful proclamation. The first 100 families received a hardback copy of the "The Cat in the Hat" which was first published in 1957. Kids of all ages played with hula hoops and won Frisbees from our prize wheel to also commemorate the 60th birthdays of these historic 1957 milestones.



The icing on our cake was being recognized as the first library west of Altoona to be awarded the PA Forward Gold Star Award by the PA Library Association! This recognition validated our staff's countless efforts in bringing quality resources and first-rate programming to our community. Highlights in each of the PA Forward literacies are outlined in this report to illustrate the scope of our objectives for each literacy. We hope you will visit us soon to celebrate!



Myra R. Oleynik  
Director, Peters Township Public Library



Understand  
the potential  
in *your* library.



*With the right support, libraries are ideally positioned to become the community centers of information, technology, and learning that will fuel educational and economic opportunity for all of our citizens.*

## BASIC LITERACY

*Libraries can push Pennsylvania to achieve one of the highest literacy rates in the country, a trained and skilled workforce, and a growing economy, tax base, and population.*

- In partnership with our PTSD Kindergarten teachers, our Youth Services Department hosts an annual **Kindergarten Tea** where area pre-school teachers are invited to learn more about our resources such as **Cruise Into Kindergarten**, **Play-K learning stations** and the **1000 Books Before Kindergarten** initiative. This event also provides positive collaboration between our pre-school educators and the PTSD Kindergarten teachers.
- **Our Preschool-A-Palooza** An annual event held at the library provides an opportunity for parents to learn more about our area pre-schools and to chat with local pre-school educators all gathered under one roof.
- **3R's Book Club: Read. Recommend. Repeat.** Educators meet once a month to share ways to put great books into the hands of their students.
- Weekly **family literacy programs** include **Toddler Tales**, **Book Babies**, **Mother Goose Storytimes**, **Wild Kratt Wednesdays**, **Bodies in Motion**, and **Storytimes for Kindergarten and Preschool students** including **WQED Nights** for families.
- Three PTPL staff-led **Book Clubs for Adults** foster rich discussions on many levels including titles from various genres. More than 25 area book clubs also display their reading lists and meeting times on our first floor.
- The **Read Harder Challenge** is in full swing for our adult readers. Read 12 books and bring your list to our Community Day Booth on June 30th for a special gift. Read 12 more by December 30 and we'll have another surprise for you at our Front Desk.
- With the help of loyal volunteers, we continue to offer monthly **outreach** by delivering materials to four assisted living facilities and private homes.
- Members of our Youth Services team **visit area preschools, Kindergarten Registration, K-Plus and Extended Day programs** throughout the school year. Area therapy dogs also visit us once a month to listen to children read.
- Volunteer literacy tutors from **Southwest PA Literacy Council** meet with English language adult learners each month in our library.



### SAVE THESE DATES UPCOMING EVENTS @ YOUR LIBRARY

- *Read Local/Eat Local* - Saturday, June 23, 11-1 p.m. with 20 local authors and 3 food trucks.
- *Hamilton, Washington, and the Creation of the United States* - Thursday, June 14, 7 p.m. - George Washington University Professor Denver Brunson will weave historic references to both songs from Hamilton and the national traveling exhibition, *Alexander Hamilton: Immigrant, Patriot, Visionary*
- *Hamiltunes: A Community Day Sing-Along* - Saturday, June 30, 1:45 – 2:30 p.m., Amphitheater Stage, Peterswood Park
- *Story of the Whiskey Rebellion* - Monday, July 2, 7 p.m - Todd DePastino shares Alexander Hamilton's role in this historic event close to home here in Westsylvania.
- *Vietnam 50 Years Later 1968/2018* - Thursday, Aug. 23, 7 p.m. - Todd DePastino returns to share impressions of his recent trip with local Vietnam veterans to Vietnam
- *Novel November* - Wednesday, Nov. 7, 7 p.m. featuring noted author of "The Things They Carried", Tim O'Brien. Hosted by The PT Library Foundation at Peters Township High School Auditorium. Books on sale now at the library for a pre-event price of \$10.00

## INFORMATION LITERACY

*Libraries can help all Pennsylvanians learn how to use online resources and current technology to improve their education, to enhance their job skills, to develop their personal lives, and to fully participate in a digital society.*

- **Computer Classes** are offered and highlight topics of interest like Devices 101, Excel, Ancestry Library, Googling Around, and the Wonderful World of Apps. Individual appointments may also be scheduled.



- **Gale Courses** offered thru the WAGGIN library system provide 6 weeks of online instruction on topics from CSS3 and HTML5 to WordPress.
- Our weekly **e-newsletter**, web site @ ptlibrary.org, Facebook page and Instagram account inform patrons of library events and news.
- **Self-Checkout kiosks** and 3 new WAGGIN tablet kiosks make check-outs and catalog searching so much easier.
- Need to have an **exam proctored?** We can help by calling our Tech Reference Desk 724.941.9430 #4
- 3D printers, Ozobots, 3D scanner, button maker, laminator, sewing machine, embroidery machine and even an electric typewriter are part of our **Makerspace** experience.
- 5 second floor **study rooms** are available for use free of charge with your personal WAGGIN library card.



## CIVIC AND SOCIAL LITERACY

*Libraries can play an important role in helping citizens have the knowledge and skills they need to improve their lives, to participate and contribute effectively to their community, government, and society, and to connect with one another through discourse.*



- Our long-standing partnership with The World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh continues to provide us with **guest speakers, ambassadors, and senior military officers** on topics ranging from World War One to Transnational Threats and National Security Challenges.
- The Youth Services **Fall Animal Fair** brings vendors, trainers, rescue leagues, and vets to share their knowledge. This year's Fair will be on Saturday, Sept. 29, 2018.
- The library has hosted many **notable authors** like Yaa Gyasi, Sam Hazo, Jean Marie Laskas, Niki Kapsambelis, Meredith Milletti, Michael MacCambridge, and Jackie Urbanovic. Join us this year on Wednesday, Nov. 7 for "An Evening with Tim O'Brien", author of "The Things They Carried".
- Monthly social connections are fostered at **library-sponsored** clubs including the Crochet Club, Writers' Workshop, World War II Discussion Group, Stamp Club, Couponing Club, Afternoon Book Club, Mystery Book Club, Evening Book Club, Go Green Club, Coloring Crew, Roots Genealogy Club, Spanish Conversation Circle, and

German Conversation Meetup.

- We partnered with the BBB for Protect Your ID Shredding Days, serve as collection sites for Toys for Tots, PT Food Pantry, and offer performances by the Trinity Bell Choir, exhibit the Peters Township High School PTHS Photography Gallery and other cultural events.
- The Peters Township Tree Lighting and a visit from Santa are annual events that we co-host with the Peters Township Recreation Department. This year's Tree Lighting will be on Sunday, December 2, 2018.



## HEALTH LITERACY

*Libraries can play an important role in helping citizens manage their own and their family's well-being, and empower them to be effective partners with their healthcare providers so they can live longer, more productive lives.*

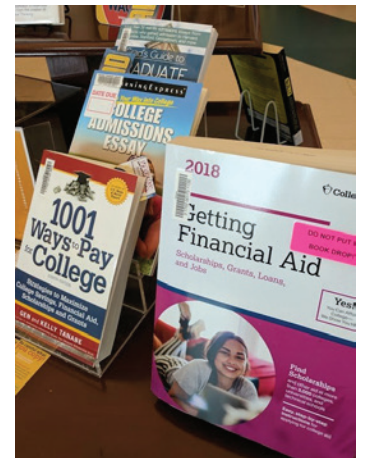
- The library's **Scarlett's Sunshine Shelf** supports grieving families and children who have experienced loss due to miscarriage, stillbirth, or early infant death. We partner with the **Still Remembered Project** to offer a special storytime for children and their families. MisterRogers and WQED Sesame Street also provide us with materials to give to families free of charge.
- **Blood Pressure Clinics** and a **Flu Shot Clinic** are offered to the community and we host two **Blood Drives** every year in our Multipurpose Room.
- Our **Pollinator Garden** provides a habitat for butterflies and bees and a relaxing spot in view of our patio.
- **Programs** offered relating to health literacy include *Medicare 101*, *Maintain Your Brain*, *Climb Your Family Tree*, and *Live the Less Toxic Life*. Our *Adulting 101* series recently featured healthy cooking/eating tips for millennials. We even offer Wii Bowling for Seniors each week!



## FINANCIAL LITERACY

*Libraries can help citizens become informed consumers and guide individuals, small businesses, and other organizations to contribute to the economic vitality of their community through innovation, entrepreneurship, and economic development.*

- In partnership with PHEAA (PA Higher Education Assistance Agency), the library offers a **College Financial Aid Night** and **FAFSA Completion Workshop** for parents and students to learn more about planning and paying for college. The library's College and Career collections include the most recent materials offering topics like scholarships, grants, and economic value.
- The library serves as a popular site for volunteers from the **AARP Foundation Tax Aide office** to help seniors prepare their income taxes. This year more than 300 seniors received free assistance.
- The library's web site offers numerous financial literacy resources such as **Salem Press Financial Literacy Kit**, **Morningstar** and **Gale Courses** offer accounting fundamentals, QuickBooks, grant writing, stocks, bonds, and investing. Gale's **Testing & Education Reference Center** provides valuable career assistance to businesses, veterans or students seeking a new career path.
- Our **Flipster** digital newsstand offers Consumer Reports, Kiplingers, and Money magazines in addition to 50 other titles all FREE of charge with your WAGGIN library card.



# 2017

## Celebrating 60 Years of opening books, doors and minds!



### TRENDING UP

64%	44.4%	28.85%
<b>WIFI</b>	<b>ROOM</b>	<b>ADULT</b>
Usage	Usage	Programs

**203,955** VISITORS

with 22 days exceeding 1000 visitors!



**282,493**  
Adult, Young Adult & Children's Materials



**11,946**  
eBook and Audiobooks Downloaded via OverDrive

**335,444**  
Items Borrowed



**22,860**  
DRM-free songs/videos downloaded via Freegal



**3,437**  
Digital magazines downloaded via Flipster



**14,708** Loans to libraries in the WAGGIN system

**20,726**  
children attended  
**865** programs

**3,161**  
teens attended  
**427** programs

**7,177**  
adults attended  
**469** programs



**18,142**  
Registered Users



**17,568**  
Questions answered

**3,374**  
Volunteer hours donated



Nearly **5 million** dollars  
Value of services and resources provided to the community

## GOVERNANCE:

Council met on 36 separate occasions in 2017, including 24 regular meetings, 5 public hearings and 11 workshops. The major undertakings were adoption of a new Zoning Ordinance, coordination with the School District on the development of the former Rolling Hills Country club property, personnel benefits and compensation, and leasing of natural gas rights.

In 2017, Council adopted 14 Ordinances and 24 Resolutions. The most significant ordinances were the new Zoning Ordinance, employee salary scale, protocols on solicitation, and regulations on alarm systems. The 2018 Budget was adopted and the millage rate was raised slightly from 1.522 mills to 1.622 mills to compensate for additional debt service and capital projects. Council also awarded 14 agreements and 21 bids, including assembly of a new aerial fire truck, a new concession stand/restroom in Peterswood Park, household hazardous waste disposal, and a non-surface gas lease of certain Township property.

## PARKS AND RECREATION:

The Parks and Recreation Department continued its capital improvements in Peterswood Park in 2017 by completing a new restroom/concession stand at Field 5, and securing state grant funding for new playgrounds, replacement of Shelter 2, and ADA improvements. On June 3, 2017, the Township hosted the grand opening of its newly-constructed Amphitheater. Due to the amenities of this new facility, as well as a yeoman's effort on programming by the Recreation Department, 2017 saw record participation in Amphitheater events, with 3,445 attendees.

The Park and Recreation Department special events including Community Day, Haunted Trail, Summer Concert Series, Touch a Truck, and Fishing Derby drew thousands of residents to the parks. Over 270 volunteers contributed 1,551 hours of service to recreation programs in 2017. Recreation programs, youth sports, and community events attracted 16,553 participants in 2017.

## POLICE

The reorganization of the Peters Township Police Department continued in 2017 under the direction of Chief Doug Grimes and Captains Jennifer Ford and Gerald Maloni. The Department accepted the donation of two electric bicycles, which enabled the creation of a new Bicycle Patrol Unit to assist

in community policing. The Department also welcomed David Scarpone as its newest patrol officer.

The Police Department responded to 5,728 calls for service in 2017. Of these calls, 538 were classified as criminal investigations/incidents under the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) system. Of these criminal incidents, 181 were cleared by the arrest of one or more persons. Police officers issued 2,010 traffic citations, 3,960 written warnings and made 44 arrests for driving under the influence. A Citizens Police Academy was started in 2017 to demonstrate police and legal procedures to residents.

## FIRE

In 2017, the Peters Township Fire Department responded to 1,338 calls for service. The average response time for calls between 7am and 11pm was 6:25 minutes. From 11pm to 7am response time increases to 7:30 minutes.

The PTFD conducted a record 226 fire prevention activities/programs in 2017. Deputy Chief Michael McLaughlin was appointed Emergency Management Coordinator for the Township, as the department becomes more engaged in emergency preparedness and planning. The PTFD received an "Expert Level" certification in pediatric preparedness from the PA Department of Health. In January 2017, Council awarded a bid to Rosenbauer America to construct a new aerial fire truck, which will be delivered in 2018.

## PLANNING

In 2017, Peters Township issued 47 new residential construction permits, slightly less than the 60 issued in 2016. In 2017, 42,911 square feet of new commercial space was approved for construction, a 42% increase over 2016. The commercial projects approved included Pooch Pit's new facility on Route 19, and facility expansions for Jordan Tax Service, Trigon, Inc., and Caimano Specialty Retail.

In August 2017, Peters Township Council adopted a new Zoning Ordinance, the culmination of over two years of work by the Planning Department. The revised Ordinance maintains the Township as a primarily residential community, while allowing for mixed use development along the Route 19 corridor, Venetia-Hackett area, and the McMurray Town Center.

## PUBLIC WORKS

For the tenth year in a row, Peters Township paved over 4 miles of roads. In 2017, the Township resurfaced 4.02 miles of roads. In addition, 11.2 miles of road were rejuvenated, a surface treatment process designed to extend the life of the road. The Township also began a crack sealing program on 3.2 miles of road to further extend their useful life. In 2017, Public Works began a multi-year project to replace street signs to comply with federal reflectivity standards.

To address chronic drainage issues, aging corrugated metal storm sewer lines along Marion, Clearview, and Highvue Drives were replaced in October 2017. Township residents dropped-off, and the Public Works Department subsequently recycled, 124,914 pounds of electronics in 2017. Public Works collected and safely disposed of 69,338 pounds of household hazardous waste.

## ENGINEERING

In 2017, Engineering Department completed several major infrastructure projects, two of the most notable being the rehabilitation of a concrete box culvert on Old Oak Road and emergency stabilization of Hidden Valley Road. Projects designed, bid, and administered in-house included the road paving program, rejuvenator and crack sealing programs, and municipal center landscaping. Plans to reduce pollutants in Brush Run Creek were submitted to the Commonwealth for review. Finally, in late 2018, the Engineering Department received permitting approval from the Commonwealth for the Township's largest infrastructure project in 2018: slip-lining the Sugar Camp arch culvert.

## COMMUNITY TELEVISION

In 2017, Peters Township Community Television produced 618 programs, the most since 2004. Among these programs included 370 studio productions, 39 community events, 111 school district events and sports, and 78 public meetings. There were 11,523 hours of programming shown on the Township's three public access stations. By the end of the year, there were 1,152 community programs available to view online. There were 9,767 online video plays in 2017, an increase of over 2,000 views from 2016 levels. The most popular programs for online views continue to be Let's Talk Healthy Pets, Public Service Announcement, and Talking Y.E.S.