



MAYOR'S MESSAGE FOR THE YEAR 2019

Mayor Regis J. Synan



The 2019 year brought to end my first term as your Mayor. It was certainly full of challenges. But, with outstanding policy direction from your elected Council and the professional implementation of those policies by your appointed staff, we have had many successes.

The year brought a validity challenge to the Oil and Gas ordinance which was successfully defended before the Zoning Hearing Board although at a significant financial cost to the Municipality. New residential and commercial development was limited as a result of a Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources (DEP) sewer tap ban on any new development. The Franklin Township Municipal Sanitary Board was re-organized and a consent order was signed with DEP permitting development to occur once again. We look for big things to come in 2020.

A destination playground and splash pad was constructed by our Public Works crew and the ribbon cutting was on June 29th.

Sardis Fire Company took delivery of a new fire truck at a cost of \$595,000. Medic One constructed a new building to better serve the community.

We installed new carpeting and replaced the roof at the Community Center. It is a great place to rent for parties and events. Visit <https://www.murrysville.com/504/Community-Center-and-Senior-Center>.

There were a number of retirements of long term dedicated employees in the police and public works department. We will miss their dedication and knowledge. We wish them the best of luck. And, we said goodbye to Argos, the police canine.

Through the efforts of many people, the election bureau created two additional polling places. Beginning with the 2020 Presidential Election, there will be new ones added in Sardis and in Newlonsburg areas. Watch the newspapers and the municipal website for additional information.

Finally, I would like to recognize the volunteers who gave so selfishly of themselves to make Murrysville the community it is. Whether you are a member of Murrysville, White Valley or Sardis Volunteer Fire Companies who respond to all types of emergencies at all hours of the day, parks volunteers who maintain the trails and eradicate invasive species, members of the various boards and commissions who provide guidance and support to the communities' decision makers, individuals who give time to the Library or our various recreation programs, on behalf of the community, I thank you! For those of you who wish to give back to the community and volunteer your time, please visit our website at <https://www.murrysville.com/536/Interested-in-Volunteering>.

"Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in".

- Author Unknown

Here's to a great 2020!

Regis J. Synan, Mayor

Public Officials:

2019 Council:

Joshua Lorenz – President
Loren Kase – Vice President
Toni Brockway
Dayne F. Dice
Jamie Lee Kornis
Tony Spadaro
Carl Stepanovich
Mac McKenna – Council Elect

State and Federal Officials (Current):

Senator Robert P. Casey
(D-Pennsylvania)
Grant Building
310 Grant Street
Suite 2415
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
412.803.7370

Senator Pat Toomey
(R-Pennsylvania)
100 W. Station Square Dr.
Suite 225
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
412.803.3501

US Congressman Guy Reschenthaler
(R-Pennsylvania)
531 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
202.225.2065

State Senator Joe Pittman
(R-41st District)
3950 William Penn Highway, Suite 1
Murrysville, PA 15668
724.327.2422

State Representative
Robert J. Brooks
(R-54th District)
3091 Carson Avenue
Murrysville, PA 15668
724.-387.1281

Department of Community Development: Jim Morrison, Chief Administrator

In 2019, the Municipality experienced its slowest growth in new residential and commercial starts in recent memory. This slow growth was directly tied to action taken by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) by placing a ban on new sewer taps which restricted any new development. The action taken by PADEP was a direct result of high flows of infiltration and inflow of storm water into the sanitary system. The Municipality immediately took action to lift the ban and by September of 2019 executed a Correction Action Plan with DEP which resulted in the granting of over 300 new taps for development. This could not have happened without the expert leadership of the Franklin Township Municipal Sanitary Authority and its staff. Thank you!

During the past year, business continued to be attracted to the Rt. 22 corridor, along Old William Penn Highway and the various strip malls. Ten new business occupancy permits and sixteen new commercial construction permits were issued. The community is continuing to grow with a nice mix of boutique shops, personnel services, restaurants and highway oriented businesses along Rt. 22. Potential for in-fill development gives developers the opportunity to continue to expand their business to meet the needs of Murrysville residents.

This past year saw the preliminary approval of the Fusting Executive Park at the corner of Rt. 22 and Manor Road. This development includes a variety of uses which will be phased, in construction. Phase One will include the construction of a Dedicated Nursing Associates (DNA) corporate office and standalone 6,300 square foot restaurant; Phase Two will include a sports medicine building and a retail strip; Phase Three will include the construction of 19 townhomes and adjoining greenspace on the most easterly portion of the property; Phase Four will conclude the site plan with the construction of an additional DNA office building. Brick and vinyl siding will be used as construction material for the townhomes. Curtainwall glass, precast concrete panels, and composite metal will be used for the offices, while brick and stone will be the primary materials used for the retail strip. Look for this to begin in 2020.

Population growth and new housing development occurred even though it was limited by the tap ban. The population continues to grow with more than 22,000 residents. This population growth reflects the desirability of Murrysville as a Pittsburgh suburb in which to both settle down and raise a family and for current residents to enjoy their retirement years.

2019 saw one new subdivision approved, The Acres, at the corner of Sardis and Saltsburg Road. New housing starts occurred as infills in the existing subdivisions throughout Murrysville. There were 119 building permits issued for various property improvements.

The municipality continues to be aggressive with enforcement of the Property Maintenance Code and inspection of rental properties when there is a change of occupancy. If you observe a property in distress, please contact the Code Enforcement Officer. If you own rental property in the Municipality, please register the property with the Code Enforcement Office. It is critical we maintain our neighborhoods.

With the sewer issue behind us, we look forward to an exciting year of development in 2020.

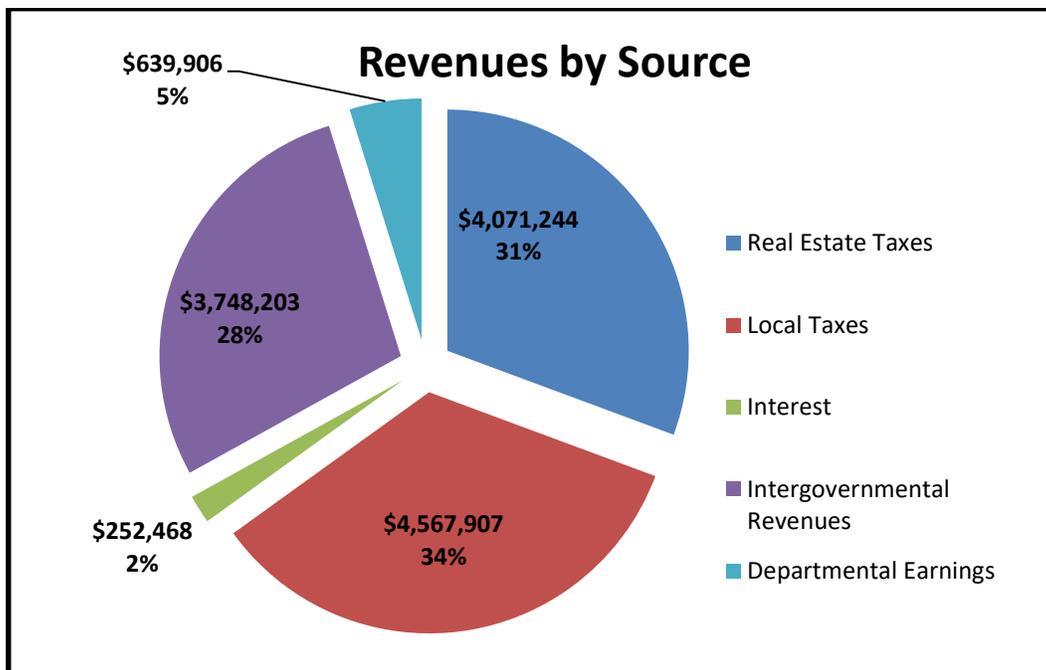
Department of Finance and Taxation: Diane Heming, Director

The Municipality of Murrysville has continued to provide excellent services to the residents without the need for any type of tax increase. The current millage rate of 12.15 mills has been constant since 2006. Revenues grow at approximately 1.0% to 2.0% annually and hard work by dedicated staff kept operating expenses in line with these revenues while maintaining infrastructures, services and parks.

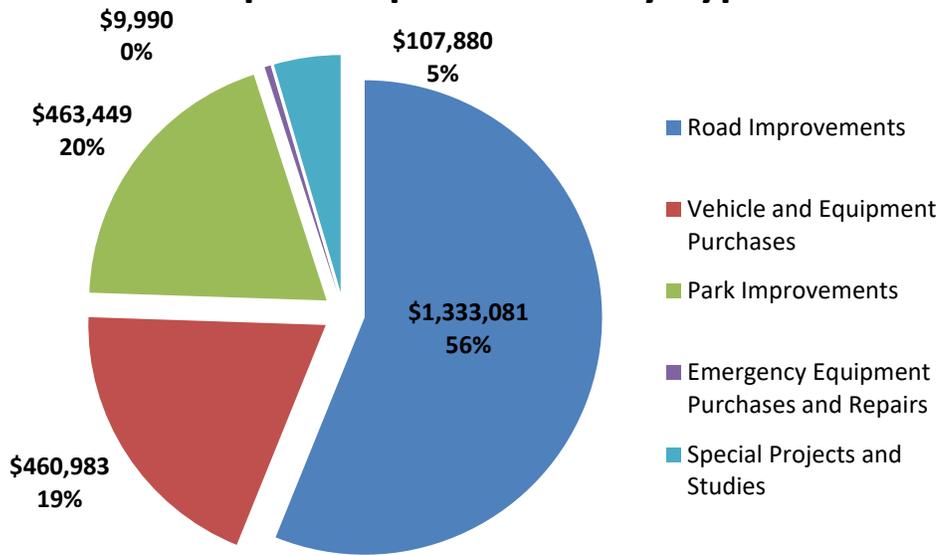
- The 2018 financial audit was prepared in accordance with GASB 34 requirements with no material findings.
- Fieldwork for the 2019 financial audit will begin in late February 2020.
- The assessed value of property within the municipality is established by Westmoreland County. The assessed value for 2019 was \$341,633,143. The value for 2020 is \$342,666,594 which is a three tenths of a percent (3/10%) over 2019's value. The minimal increase in the assessed value over the past several years has continued to be a concern for the Municipality which relies heavily on tax collections to support the infrastructures and to provide the services to the community.
- The 2019 value of one mill, used to calculate revenue for the operating budget, is approximately \$334,000. Total real estate tax collections accounts for 31% of total revenues in ALL funds. The Common Ratio, which is determined by the State, has declined over the past three years and affects the real estate taxes charged to the property owners and ultimately the tax revenues received.
- Local taxes, including earned income, per capita and local services taxes account for 35% of the total revenues and is used solely for general operations.
- While earned income has surpassed real estate tax collections as the largest revenue source for the Municipality and General Fund, the annual increase of total earned income collections has shown a decline during 2017, 2018, and 2019. Normally this revenue source increases at a rate of two to four percent per year depending on the type of tax being analyzed. However, in 2018 and 2019, year-end figures for earned income are equal to or slightly less than that of 2017.
- Staff believes that if the collection efforts by the actual tax collector are appropriate, then the issue could be the population is aging and residents' earnings are declining.
- Expenses remained consistent with prior years and there were no unusual costs incurred during the year. There were personnel changes that account for some of the salary and benefit variances in 2019. The police department had two long-time officers retire and two new officers were hired at lower salary and benefit costs. One officer on long term disability returned to work full time and the School Resource Officer returned to the squad full time. Both of these personnel changes contributed to lowering the police overtime costs. Retirements and personnel changes also occurred in the Public Works Department, which had a positive effect on salary and benefit costs but resulted in a slight increase in overtime costs. Minor building repairs and renovations occurred at the Administration and Public Works buildings which accounts for the increased building maintenance costs during the year. Lastly, legal costs associated with the validity challenge for the Oil and Gas Ordinance were extremely high when compared to prior years. These costs are expected to continue into 2020 until the case is settled with the higher court.
- In total, \$300,000 was transferred into the Capital Reserve Fund to be used to fund 2019 capital projects such as road maintenance, park improvement and equipment purchases.
- The 2019 Minimum Municipal Pension Obligation (MMO) for the Non-Uniform and Uniform Pension plans was calculated using the 2017 Valuation. This valuation included changes in various assumptions which had the overall effect of increasing the MMO for these plans by \$157,300.

- Many municipalities in PA struggle with unfunded pension liabilities. Overall, the Municipality does not have this concern. Even though the assumption changes in the 2017 Valuation increased the overall costs for both plans, each plan is still nearly 90% funded due to good investment decisions, fiscal controls and a Pension Committee that functions extremely well.
- The Director of Finance continues to be an active Board Member of the County-wide Tax Collection Committee which oversees all earned income tax collections for Westmoreland County.
- Scanned Planning files are being organized into categories and years so that development files, such as building plans, stormwater and utilities plans, occupancy permits, and maps, will be easily accessible. In addition, the scanned files are linked to the Geoplan software utilized by the Community Development Department.
- The Administration oversaw the installation of new flooring in the main room of the Community Center, the Police locker room and the office areas in the Library.
- The 2020-2024 Capital Improvements Program (\$17,195,000) and the 2020 Operating Budget (\$13,841,016) were both approved with tax millage and service levels staying constant. A five- year budget plan was completed for all of the funds and presented along with the 2020 Operating Budget.

**Municipality of Murrysville
Revenue Sources for all Funds
and
Capital Expenditures by Type
Estimated at 12-31-19**



Capital Expenditures by Type



Emergency Services

Murrysville Volunteer Fire Company: Brian Synan, Chief

In 2019, the Murrysville Volunteer Fire Company (www.murrysvillefire.com) responded to 459 alarms for a total of 1,400 volunteer hours of serving the community. The leading alarms were automatic fire alarms and vehicle accidents; 319 of the alarms were in the VFC's district, while 140 alarms were assists to other fire departments.

The line officers for 2019 are as follows:

Fire Chief:	Brian Synan
Assistant Chief:	Pat O'Mahony
Captain:	Bill Yant, III
Lieutenant:	Tom Ralston
Sergeant:	Christian Dover

The executive officers for 2019 are as follows:

President:	Randy Marts
1 st Vice President:	Rich LeMaster
2 nd Vice President:	Carl Pursh
Secretary	Mike Cline
Treasurer	Rick O'Mahony
Trustee	Pat O'Mahony
Trustee	Jen Ralston
Relief Treasurer:	Russ Cline

The Murrysville VFC is always looking for volunteers age 14 and above, not only to be firefighters, but anyone who could help with fundraising events, maintenance of the equipment and/or facility or any other professional expertise that would help the community. Please contact the fire company at 724-327-1234 or info@murrysvillefire.com.

White Valley Volunteer Fire Company, John Bohinc, Chief

In 2020 The White Valley VFD will be marking its 71th year of service to the community. The firefighters from White Valley responded to 522 alarms in 2019, which is a slight increase from 2018. The highest response volume was for vehicle accidents (164), followed by false automatic alarms; actual structure fires (12) was up slightly from 2018. The total number of staff hours White Valley volunteered while responding to the alarms was 2,855 man hours. The average time spent on each alarm was an average of 38 minutes.

During 2019, White Valley had 10 firefighters complete just under 200 hours of training each to complete the PA Certified Essentials of Firefighting course; nine of those continued on with an additional 16 hours of Structural Burn training and two firemen continued on with additional training and received their PA Firefighter I Certification. All of these training hours were completed by the firefighters on their own time away from their families and their jobs.

The line officers for 2020 are as follows:

Chief:	John Bohinc
Assistant Chief:	Rich Rupnik
Assistant Chief:	John Primozic
Captain:	Jon Carfang
Lieutenant:	Eric Friend
Lieutenant:	Dan Mazzoni

Sergeant: Michael Friend
Sergeant: Sam Bohinc, Jr.

The executive officers for 2020 are as follows:

President: Brad Lennox
Vice-President: Michael Friend
Treasurer: John Bohinc
Secretary: Gary Harbaugh

The members of the department welcome visitors to our station and to view us on Facebook for upcoming activities and events.

Sardis Volunteer Fire Company, Cody Paiano, Chief

In 2019, the Sardis Volunteer Fire Company responded to 411 emergency calls. 46 of these were working structure fires and 29 of them being vehicle accidents with entrapment. The remainder of our calls ranged from vehicle fires, automatic fire alarms, gas leaks, assisting EMS, etc.

On February 28, 2019, we took delivery of our 2018 Spartan/4 Guys Pumper, which replaced our 1996 Spartan/Quality Pumper. This would not have been possible without the support of the Municipality. Countless nights were spent designing a piece of fire apparatus that would serve the residents of the Municipality of Murrysville and provide them with top notch fire protection.

Our members took part in the multiple Pro Board certifications this year, as well as, in house training 4-5 times a week.

We are currently working on renewing our 100% Participating Department Recognition with the State Fire Commission Office, and we have also gained a total of 6 new members in 2019.

The line officers for 2020 are as follows:

Fire Chief: Cody Paianoc
Deputy Fire Chief: Joseph Paiano, Jr.
Captain: Mark Zeigler
Lieutenant: Brandon Marshall
Sergeant: Anthony Tommasini



Murrysville Medic One - Darrick Gerano, Chief

In 2019, Medic One completed 24,354 details for the year. Our most 911 dispatches were for cardiac emergencies, respiratory emergencies, overdoses, injuries from falls, motor vehicle accidents, and adult traumas.

We continued to operate a fleet of 16 vehicles and employed an average of 74 people making up our roster of EMTs, Paramedics, Dispatchers, office staff and a fleet mechanic.

Our personnel completed;

- 12,371 man-hours of training.
- Conducted 91 CPR & Stop the Bleed classes to businesses, agencies, and public
- Achieved the AHA Gold Plus Award for 2019, which is the third consecutive year for this recognition.
- Recognized by UPMC and AHN for 4 cardiac arrest saves
- Our Dive Team also received recognition from the Amen Corner

Our dive team responded to 18 incidents throughout Allegheny, Armstrong, Westmoreland, Fayette, Indiana, and Somerset Counties performing underwater search and recovery operations for various federal, state, local agencies resulting in evidence or victim recovery. Our dive team also conducted 10,331 man-hours of training.

Our emergency support unit responded to 211 incidents involving commercial/residential structural fires, search details, and wilderness rescues throughout Armstrong, Westmoreland, Indiana, Fayette, and Allegheny Counties.

Our Strike Team had two deployments, one advanced life support crew to South Carolina and another to Florida for Hurricane Dorian.

Murrysville Police Department: Thomas Seefeld, Chief

Personnel

- Officer Malik was hired on the MPD on 1/3/19. Officer Malik becomes the first female police officer to serve on the police department.
- Officer Tony Talamo was hired on the MPD on 5/10/19.
- Officer Dave Hanko retired from the MPD after serving for 31 years.
- Sergeant Lee Wilhelm retired on 10/8/19 from the MPD after serving 35 ½ years.
- Canine Officer Argos retired from the department on 5/10/19 after 10 years of service. Funding for a new canine team will be donated by a Murrysville family.
- Officer Fearon completed his probationary period.
- Chief attended 2019 PA Superintendent of the Year Award ceremony on 1/17/2019.
- Chief was featured in the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs Magazine discussing the FRSD stabbing incident and enhancing community safety.
- Preparations were put in place for the Sergeant Promotional process. Written test was administered on 6/10/19.
- The School Resource Officer Program was brought to a conclusion as a result of the establishment of the FRSD School Police Force.
- Officer Dave Coleman was promoted to Sergeant.
- Officer Cox was placed into an interim-detective position.

Officer Training

- Officers Auvil and Fearon received training in SFST (Standard Field Sobriety Testing).
- Officer Malik received certification on the use of the Taser.
- Detectives Kusinsky and Devlin, and Officer Panigal, attended the PA Narcotic Officers Association Conference (PNOA).
- Officers received mandatory update training on law and police related subjects.
- Officers received re-certification training on Use of Force, Taser and OC.
- Officers received training on Incident Command structure and functions.
- Officers received training on Report Writing.
- Officer Fearon received certification as a Breath Test Operator and on ATV operations.

- Sergeant Wilhelm, Officers MacIntosh and Fearon received Edged Weapon Countermeasures Instructor certification.
- Officer Panigal received “Crime Scene Investigation” training.
- Captain Tappe attended the “Elected Officials & Public Safety Seminar” at the WCDPS.
- Captain Tappe attended PEMA training.
- Officers Dulkis, Malik and Sergeant Kettren attended training on “Deceptive Behaviors & Hidden Compartments”.
- Officers received roll call training on Hidden Compartments.
- Officers received training on Preparing Your Responses to Challenging Situations.
- Sergeant Coleman attended POSIT supervisor’s training.
- Officers received “Off-duty Safety & Survival 1” training.
- Officer Malik received Datamaster (breath test) operator certification instruction.
- Officers received training on Protection From Abuse (PFA) new regulations and mandates.
- Officer Dulkis received training on Advanced Interviewing, Body Language, and Handling Deception.
- Officers received training on “Handling Robbery Calls”.
- MPD SWAT officers received Basic SWAT training. The Team became operational in October 2019.
- Captain Tappe, Administrative Assistants Smith and LeMaster attended Knowledge Center training as part of Emergency Management.
- Officer Auvil attended Tactical Officer training in Ohio.
- Officer Malik attended “The Street Smart Cop/Patrol Tactics” training.
- Officer Malik attended “Traffic Patrol/Drug Interdiction” training.
- Officer Smith attended AR 15 Armorer’s Course training.
- Sergeant Coleman and Officer Fearon received Taser Instructor re-certification training.
- Sergeant Coleman attended “Mastering Search and Seizure” training.
- Officers received training on “Racial Profiling”.
- Officers conducted Active Shooter/Patient Evacuation training with Medic One personnel.
- Officers received training on “Suicide Prevention for Law Enforcement”.

Community Training

- CRASE instruction was provided to the public at the FRSD, MSA, Bridge City Church, Union Presbyterian Church and Redstone Highlands.
- MPD assisted with the Reality Tour events at the Murrysville Alliance Church that brings drug awareness training to parents and their kids.
- MPD participated in a FRSD Drug Summit on 4/23/19 to highlight the dangers of vaping and drug use.
- Several public relation/crime prevention events were held in the community.

Community Events

- Officers assisted in the “Blessing of the Bikes” event on 4/28/19 at the Murrysville Alliance Church.
- “Strengthening the Thin Blue Line” event was held on 5/19/19 at the Murrysville Alliance Church.
- Nine officers participated in the Law Enforcement Torch Run on 6/5/19 to help raise money for the Special Olympics.
- Officers participated in the “Cops on Rooftops” event at Dunkin Donuts on 5/17/19 to raise money for Special Olympics.
- Officers participated in the Sloan Elementary Hero Luncheon.
- Officers participated in the “Shop With a Cop” event at Walmart on 12/18/19.

Public Relations

- Chief spoke to the Westmoreland County School Safety and Security Officials at the Westmoreland Intermediate Unit on 2/20/19 in regard to the FRSD stabbing incident.
- Officer Coleman participated in an emergency services presentation to the Boy Scouts at the MVFD.
- Officer Smith and Sergeant Kettren provided job shadowing sessions to a Gateway School student.
- Officer Malik participated in a softball game with physically challenged players at the Miracle Field.
- UTV patrols were conducted on the Heritage Trail and at MCP.
- MPD participated in a photo event with all other Murrysville Emergency Responders.
- Chief and Officer Talamo attended a “Coffee with the Chief” event at Redstone Highlands.

Traffic Initiatives

- MPD hosted the annual Aggressive Driving Regional Meeting.
- MCSAP inspections conducted 3/6, 3/11, 3/21, 4/25, 6/24 and 25th, 9/24, 10/16, and 12/16. Received additional funding in the amount of \$2000 under the Aggressive Driving Program for MCSAP inspections which occurred July thru August.

- Several Buckle Up PA and Aggressive Driving enforcement details were conducted throughout the year.
- Department participated in “Operation Safe Stop” which provided education to motorists regarding school bus stopping laws.
- Traffic Safety Interdiction (TSI) details were conducted each month.
- Drug interdiction details were conducted on Route 22.

Murrysville Police - Yearly Report				
	2016	2017	2018	2019
Calls for Service	5205	5417	5120	5293
Incidents	4860	5047	4763	4934
Burglaries	14	15	12	9
Reportable Crashes	193	197	174	191
Non-Reportable Crashes	152	173	183	168
Traffic Arrests	1339	1474	843	1086
Traffic - Warnings	1130	2147	1772	1971
Adult Arrests	286	284	170	209
Juvenile Arrests	27	41	24	33

Department of Public Works and Parks: Bill Paiano, Director

Looking back how the year progressed, it has been a challenging year. The Public Works Department, throughout changes to management, key veteran members, weather conditions and large scale projects, had a very productive year. Below are the highlights of the year, progressed.

Personnel

The year started with Bill Paiano assuming the position of Director of Public Works and Rory Hogan moving from mechanic to foreman. Jason Davis was hired in late fall of 2018 as the mechanic.

Pat Keibler, truck driver/former mechanic, retired after a long absence due to health issues. Corey Bohinc was promoted to fill this position.

Mark Zeigler was hired to take the vacated laborer's position. Rory Hogan suddenly resigned from employment with Murrysville.

Ron Hileman assumed the position of Foreman, giving the Department a "plug and play" benefit of his many years of experience.

Mike Chinchock retired as a truck driver after thirty eight years of service.

Josh Dallo was promoted to truck driver and Robert Dallo was hired as a laborer in late November 2019.

Ron Hileman to his previous job as heavy equipment operator and Michael Jakup was interviewed and hired as the Public Works Foreman. He began the first week of January 2020.

Major Purchases for 2019

- 308 Cat Excavator
- Two Zero-Turn Mowers - These are to replace mowers with high engine hours for the parks system.
- Chevy 1500 Pickup Truck – This vehicle replaced car 7
- Cat Asphalt Roller – This replaced the aging 1997 roller
- 2019 Ford F-250 – This vehicle replaced a 2007 F-250 with high mileage and a rust condition.

Major Projects

Heritage Trail

- Two pipes replaced in Duff Park – 24" and 15" were installed to alleviate a frequent occurrence of the parking lot flooding and damage done to the surface;
- Crane pads for the Heritage Trail were installed for trail bridge rehabilitation at the Fox Plaza;
- 100 Feet of 18" pipe installed in Cleveland Brothers' detention pond;
- 80 Feet of 60" pipe (major undertaking just behind the Murrysville electronic sign);
- 60 Feet of 18" pipe installed into a catch basin on School Road South crossing
- MCP Spray Park and Playground
- Removed topsoil from the site and placed approximately 7,000 yards of fill.
- Excavated and stoned with 240 Ton of 2B limestone the foundation of the spray pad
- Poured a concrete pad to construct a 20' X 20' pavilion built by crew
- Graded, installed fabric, and stoned the parking area
- Installed inlet and all storm water drainage
- Top soiled and seeded banks
- Assisted in setting bathroom, connected all utilities, including complex manifold to run Spray

Park Attractions

- Graded, stoned, and poured a concrete sidewalk around the bathroom
- Built a retaining wall around bathroom area
- Graded, stoned, and asphalted a walking trail and handicap parking

Bear Hollow Park

- Demolished existing playground structure
- Prepared parking lot for fabric and seal coating
- Constructed a concrete border around the playground equipment and installed safety surface.

Culverts and Storm Sewers

- Replacement of a 42" pipe and headwall on Beighley Road and the grouting of a storm sewer in Heritage Estates.
- On Ashbaugh Road repaired seven cross pipes, 500' of side drainage and installed 400' of asphalt shoulder.
- Ivy Drive- Make tie-in's to our underdrain system.
- On Windover Road installed one cross pipe and some 350' of side drainage

Maintenance Activities

The berming program cutting road shoulders, where needed, and filling approximately 500 tons of milling material in low edges.

Placed 150 yards of safety surface material and repairs many playground fixtures and wood timber surrounds identified in the playground equipment audit.

The Public Works Department to prep roads for an alternative surface treatment consisting of two coats of a shot chip process with fiberglass reinforcing added. The surface was later covered with crack oil that hardens to a durable finish. Twenty-five spots on Weistertown and three in Bear Hollow Park were milled and patched for this treatment.

Milled and patched roads in Murry Woods Plan, Sienna Ridge Plan and Heritage Estates.

A pipe was replaced on lower Ashbaugh Road and a pipe with an inlet box on Wilcox Circle was installed.

Under the 2019 CIP, funding was set aside to upgrade our aging 1986 Caterpillar road grader. The mechanic performed the work in-house sealing leaks, rebuilding cylinders, replacing the seat, LED lighting and new set of tires all the way around. Replacement cost was estimated at a cost of \$350,000; our shop has invested approximately \$24,000 to preserve our current machine.

Rented a street sweeper for the month of March.

Repaired drainage issues on School, Cherry, Windbrook, and Sardis. Logan Ferry and Meadowbrook Roads.

Water began to erode the breast works of the ponds at PV Park. The crew spent three days to reinforce the banks and reinstalled a cross pipe.

Brush and debris clean up as a result of several major storms.

Sixty five picnic tables, parks garbage cans and a new surround for Duff Park were stained or painted for the upcoming season.

Performed winter maintenance, salt and anti-skid throughout the winter and early spring snow season.

Maintained the MCP ballfields and soccer fields.

Grass cutting and trash pick-up in all parks throughout the season.

Maintained the various buildings owned by the Municipality.

Brushed and tree removal on public rights of way throughout the Municipality.

Repaired numerous inlets and underdrains on public streets.

Engineering Department: Emily Mallisee, Engineering Technician

The 2019 Paving Contract was awarded to the Tresco Paving Corporation in the amount of \$1,541,800. This year's project included the following streets: Arrowhead Court, a portion of Ashbaugh Road, Country Place Court, Deerfield Court, Doe Run Court, Franklin Street, Hall Court, Haymaker Farm Road, Hermar Court, Ivy Drive, Lyons View Court, MacArthur Drive, McDonnell Drive, Prides Court, Seneca Court, Sequoia Court, Walker Court, and a portion of Old William Penn Highway. The repairs on the roads consisted of pavement replacement, milling of old asphalt and adjustment of the existing inlets. This project encompassed approximately 6.6 miles of municipal roads and approximately 10,000 tons of asphalt.

The following other Capital Improvement Projects were completed in 2019.

DPW-2-19 Logan Ferry Road Drainage Project

The Engineering Department worked alongside Public Works to resolve a drainage issue directly affecting a resident on Logan Ferry Road. The existing storm pipe was draining onto the resident's property and eventually flowing down the driveway causing issues. The project extended the existing 15" pipe 250 feet to discharge the stormwater in the rear of the property. Rip-rap was installed at the outfall of the newly constructed pipe to control any erosion. An easement was granted through the property for construction and any future maintenance which may occur.

DPW-3-18 Murrysville Community Park Riparian Buffer Project

The Riparian Buffer project began in late 2018 and was completed in early 2019. This project consisted of creating a new area for park goers to have a seat and enjoy the newly planted areas consisting of trees, shrubs, and flowers. The plantings also help to diminish pollution in the stream. A new pavilion was also constructed along with the installation of ADA accessible parking stalls.

DPW-3-19 Road Sealing Alternative Surface Treatment Project

Some roads in the Municipality were candidates for the use of an alternative surface treatment termed FiberMat. Essentially it is a chip and seal process that uses fiberglass strands to prevent additional cracking, while also holding together the cracks that are present. This process will extend the life of the road and prolong the time before it will need repaved, in effect also being cost efficient. A portion of Wiestertown Road was chosen for the 2019 candidate.

DPW-4-18 Murrysville Community Park Splash Pad and Playground

The Engineering Department assisted in the site design and layout for the addition of a splash pad and destination playground located in Murrysville Community Park. The site was almost an acre, with an added pavilion, new restroom, and parking lot to support the new amenities.

DPW-4-19 Replacement of the Community Center Roof

The Murrysville Community Center flat membrane roof had been repaired and patched numerous times the past 10 years. The roof was in need of being replaced. GW Roofing was acquired to replace the flat roof and install a polyvinyl PVC membrane roof along with end ridge caps.

The Engineering Department issued eighty six (86) Road Occupancy Permits, responded to approximately sixteen hundred and forty (1,640) PA One Calls, and a total of eight (8) subdivision plans and Four (4) site plans were reviewed in 2019.

As part of a Growing Greener grant in partnership with the Westmoreland Conservation District, the Municipality updated and cleaned 7 detention basins located in various parts of Murrysville. Overgrown basins were cleaned and trimmed to create a more effective basin that is able to remove more sediment from the streams. The cleaning of these basins also helped with credit towards the MS4 program.

Murrysville NPDES MS4 Individual Permit coverage expired on May 31, 2019. MS4 stands for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System and Murrysville is required by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to obtain a permit for this system. The permit requires Murrysville to maintain records of its entire storm system including inlets, pipes, stormwater detention basins, ditches and swales. The NPDES renewal application must be submitted at least 180 days prior to the expiration date of the existing permit coverage. The engineering department prepared and submitted the renewal application to PADEP on November 29, 2018. The permit was approved and accepted March 26, 2019. The new permit term began on April 1, 2019. As part of the renewal, Murrysville developed a Pollutant Reduction Plan (PRP). The plan shows how the Municipality will reduce the stormwater discharges of nutrients and sediment to surface waters in the Commonwealth.

Recreation Department: Carly Greene, Director **Amy Wengrzyn, Special Events and Recreation Program**

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Park projects and new special events were just some of the highlights of 2019. The grand opening of the new playground and splash pad at Murrysville Community Park was a huge milestone for both the community and municipal staff, and hosting new *Tuesdays at Townsend* performances provided relaxing, musical evenings under the oak trees at Townsend Park.

Special Events

Each year the Recreation Department works in conjunction with the Westmoreland County Parks department and the Westmoreland Heritage Trail to host the *March for Parks*, a fundraiser for the Westmoreland County Parks and the Westmoreland Heritage Trail. The Murrysville to Export section of the trail was officially opened on August 17 so now trail users can walk, bike, or run 9 miles from Export to Trafford! The next *March for Parks* event will be Saturday, March 21 at the Murrysville SportZone.

Held annually since 2014, the *Farmers' Market* has become a weekly community gathering place for friends and family to visit and relax while enjoying a variety of vendors offering local produce, organic produce, plants and flowers, kettle corn, wood-fired pizza, wine, beer, spirits, and delicious baked goods. Offered in conjunction with the Murrysville Volunteer Fire Company (MVFC), the Market ran Thursdays 3:00-7:00 p.m. June through September at the MVFC Field on Sardis Road.

The *Farmhouse Kids' Club* for children ages 3-12, sponsored again by First Commonwealth Bank, operated for 11 weeks. Members participated in weekly activities such as food tastings, scavenger hunts, flower planting, and even got to pet a calf and baby pigs! By completing each week's activity, members "earned" a wooden coin worth \$2.00 that could be spent with any of the Market vendors. The coin program at the *Farmhouse Kids' Club* was again well-received by the more than 200 children who participated, and generated \$760.00 in revenue to our vendors.

Woodstock was celebrated August 10 at the 3rd annual *Concert in the Park* which featured live bands and classic favorites from that groovy 60's era. Thousands of guests, four live bands, food trucks, lawn games, wine, beer and fireworks filled the day with activities for all. Thank you to everyone who joined us at the park and especially our sponsors who made the event possible.

Guests sampled and voted on more than 30 hot and mild chilies prepared by amateur cooks and local restaurants at the 11th annual *Chili Oktoberfest*, held in conjunction with the Murrysville-Export Rotary. A cornbread category was added this year which drew interest and was a perfect pairing with the chili. Rivertowne beverages, hot dogs, the Hoffman Road Band, kids' activities and more were enjoyed by hundreds of chili fans! Cash prizes were awarded to 1st and 2nd place in each chili category and 1st place for cornbread. This annual event, which supports Rotary community programs, is held every October; don't miss it!

Santa visited Murrysville in a horse-drawn carriage on December 5 at the Recreation Department's new event, *Santa at Sardis*. Guests were treated to a bonfire, marshmallows and campfires, hot chocolate, a gingerbread house display and contest with more than 30 entries, a tree lighting, horse drawn carriage rides, and visits with elves, Santa, and Mrs. Claus! Area businesses and organizations provided wonderful activities for everyone while sunshine and blue skies brightened the afternoon. Thank you to our volunteers, local businesses and organizations that made this new holiday event possible; we look forward to providing it again next year!

Field Use and Maintenance

Park sports fields continue to be in high demand for organized sports organizations and general community use. FAMFA, FRAA, MASA, Boys and Girls Lacrosse, numerous community sports teams and individual enthusiasts

alike utilize every sports field available during the months of April-November. Fees collected for field use help to offset annual maintenance costs.

Recreation Programs

Summer Recreation Programs remain popular, garnering 55 registrations for three youth programs. Programs included *The Basics of Drawing*, *Creative Madness*, and *Ready-Set-Run 5K camp*. The *Summer Park Adventure Program* (formerly the Playground Program) saw 83 children registered who visited 414 times to Heritage Park, Bear Hollow Park, Murrysville Community Park, Townsend Park and Sardis Park over seven weeks. Kids in grades 1-7 enjoyed free time to play games, spend time with friends, fish in the pond and cool off at the new splash pad at MCP. Outside in the parks has never been so much fun!

33 children ages 8-13 spent their summer training for a 5K at Murrysville Community Park during *Ready, Set, Run 5K camp*. Over seven weeks they jogged, sprinted and ran, gaining the knowledge and strength needed to complete a 5K, which was held in August. Everyone should be very proud of this awesome achievement!

Adult classes were offered, the first being *Yoga in the Parks*, a series of outdoor yoga classes held on a rotating basis in Murrysville Community Park, Sardis, Townsend and Kovalczik Parks June through October. Provided by Breathe Yoga, participants were able to practice yoga while enjoying nature in some of our beautiful parks. Zen for all! Additional adult classes on a variety of topics, including bus trips, will be available in 2020.

Volunteer

Our park trails are maintained by volunteers. What will they look like if no one is maintaining them any longer? The Recreation Department special events are growing in popularity with larger attendance than ever, but without volunteers they will not continue to be successful. More than 400 special event and 3000 park volunteer hours were reported for 2019 but with more than 1200 acres of park land and a dozen special events throughout the year, those numbers are shockingly low. Our volunteers are more valuable than could ever be expressed. Thank you to all who share their time! Volunteering is fun and opportunities are available for families, businesses and teams and can be as simple as contributing one hour of time. Visit <https://www.murrysville.com/348/Volunteer-Program> , search Murrysville Volunteer Program on Facebook, or call 724-327-2100 ext. 115. Just an hour can make a difference!

Park Projects

Murrysville Community Park saw the completion of a DCNR riparian buffer grant project along Steele's Run stream, including a new pavilion, walkway, bench seating, and hundreds of trees and bushes. The new destination playground and splash pad opened in June with hundreds of excited children and families splashing in the cool water throughout the summer. The playground at Bear Hollow Park, dated 1998, was replaced with a new playground that includes a play structure for children ages 2-5. Necessary upgrades were also performed throughout the park as part of the annual capital improvements plan.

Department Information

Information regarding Murrysville Recreation Department Programs and Events can be found by visiting <http://murrysvilleparecreation.com/> , in the Penn-Franklin Newspaper in our bi-annual supplement, or on Facebook at Murrysville Recreation Department. We can also be reached by phone during normal working hours at 724-327-2100 ext. 131 or ext. 115.

Murrysville Community Library: Amy Riegner, Director and MCL Staff

2019 was indeed a year of celebration and change at Murrysville Community Library (MCL), as we observed our 97th year of service to the community! Throughout the year, we hosted many special events. Some have been selected to showcase below.

Special Highlights from 2019

January: MCL held a welcome reception for new Director, Emma H. Beaver. Beaver was invited to join the Franklin Region School District Act 48 committee alongside MCL staff member, Carol Siefken, and Foundation President, Connie Cauvel. These community partnerships are vital to the sustainability of the Library.

February: A successful new adult program, *Speed Dating with a Book*, involved various community members as key speakers, and had over forty attendees. Beaver spoke at a meeting of the Murrysville-Export Rotary Club, advocating for the Library and its services.

March: The Library has hosted art displays by the East Suburban Artists League for years; this month one of their talented artists gave an art talk for our patrons. Coordinator of Youth Services, Carol Siefken, had a busy month facilitating the Murrysville Chess Tournament and preparing to host the Westmoreland County Chess Tournament. Siefken also served as a moderator for the Middle School WIRC (Westmoreland Interscholastic Reading Competition).

April: Various staff members attended continuing education workshops on multiple topics, including HR issues and POWER Library (an online resource). Beaver spoke at a Murrysville Lions Club meeting, advocating for the Library and deepening relationships with various community organizations. The Library created a new POWER Library resource guide to more successfully promote this valuable resource within the community. Outreach visits were conducted at area preschools to celebrate April's "The Week of the Young Child."™

May: During a typical month, the Library hosts the following events: AAUW presentations, Babies 'n' Books, multiple book clubs, Chair Yoga, Dog Reading Pals, Library Knitters, Plant-Based Nutrition Support Group, Preschool Storytime, Socrates Café, and Toddler Time. Collaboration with the FRSD continued, focusing on how to better serve area teens. Discussions of a Teen Advisory Board began.

June: Summer Reading Club kicked off with the theme of "A Universe of Stories." Throughout the summer over 1,000 children participated in over 70 different programs. Events promoting literacy and learning included STEM, field trips to visit various community organizations and businesses, programs about bees, bugs, and reptiles, and many space-themed programs to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Apollo moon landing. Our Wednesday Night Café programming for adults showcased musicians, dancers, authors, and other educational speakers.

July: The Library began reviewing and developing several policies in an effort to keep policies and procedures current. Beaver and Siefken attended the FRSD Intermediate School Groundbreaking. The Library decided to add cake pans to the circulating collection and the Technical Services department worked diligently to iron out all cataloging and lending procedures. Programming partnerships continued throughout the summer. The Library collaborated with several community organizations such as the Murrysville Garden Club and the Murrysville Recreation Department. An example partnership, *Tuesdays at Townsend*, headed by the Recreation Department, brought a new summer concert series to our community.

August: Work and research continued to develop a Teen Advisory Board in conjunction with FRSD. Through the Wes Kindelberger Agency Corporate Sponsorship, MCL was able to purchase a book club kit for *Where the Crawdads Sing*, a title that is in great demand across the county. The kit was distributed among MCL groups first, and then made available for all libraries in Westmoreland County.

September: Local Boy Scout, Colin Valentino, reached out to MCL to include it in his Eagle Scout project. This project's purpose was to design a mobile interlocking shelving system to help solve the Library's shelving issue with the AV collection. The proposed shelving units, to be designed and assembled by Valentino (with the help of a

Scout Leader and former carpenter), will have a locking wheel system, allowing the Library to move and use the shelving unit where it is needed most.

October: E. Beaver resigned as MCL Director to pursue another opportunity. The Library held many events, including Marine Corps visiting author Colonel Nancy Anderson, *Spine-tingling Tales* featuring ghost stories told by Alan Irvine, and an Edgar Allen Poe themed book club. C. Siefken met with Dr. Phyllis Sheehy to coordinate how MCL could best support Mother of Sorrows' involvement in National History Day on the theme of "Breaking Barriers." The Library collected materials for the students based on their selected topics and provided extended due dates for convenient in-school use and authoritative researching.

November: E. Beaver, Chuck Greenberg, Jamie Falo, and Dana Farabaugh (Westmoreland Library Network (WLN) District Consultant) met with representatives from the Carnegie Science Center to collaborate on how to provide information literacy instruction for Pittsburgh Regional Science and Engineering Fair students in a way that would be both meaningful and successful. POWER Library was at the heart of the discussion. The AAUW (American Association of University Women) held another successful book sale at the Library, providing financial support for both the AAUW and MCL.

December: The Library welcomed over 357 visitors at the sixth annual *Jingles 'n' Gingerbread* holiday open house, featuring Franklin Regional and Newlonsburg Music Academy music groups which included international customs and food tasting. The Library participated in the Murrysville Recreation Department's *Santa at Sardis*, a new festive holiday event. Mrs. Amy Riegner was hired as Library Director to replace E. Beaver.

Multi-year project: Since 2014, Murrysville Community Library, led by former Library Director Jamie Falo and Board Trustee Chuck Greenberg, has been working closely with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU), Math & Science Collaborative (MSC) to develop preK-3 STEM learning in libraries with Storytime STEM-packs™ products. MCL was the lead library for AIU MSC's formative development of Storytime STEM-packs under the National Science Foundation (NSF), The Pittsburgh Foundation, and PPG grants. The project is now prepared to expand across the state with a pending request for major 2019-21 NSF funding. The larger goal is to introduce Storytime STEM-packs on the national level.

As its mission, Murrysville Community Library strives to inspire ideas, enrich lives, and create lifelong opportunities for learning, literacy and enjoyment. In support of our mission, the Library is open 58.5 hours each week, including three evenings and Saturdays.

2019 Statistics

- 129,773 Items circulated, including e-books, magazines, audio books, music CDs, and DVDs
- 74,624 Library visits
- 10,870 Library card holders
- 10,739 Individuals attended Library programs
- 3,170 Patrons accessed public computers
- 2,657 Volunteer hours contributed
- 2,617 Free Wi-Fi sessions
- 601 New Library cards issued

The Library receives its funding from a variety of sources, including the Municipality of Murrysville, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Westmoreland County Commissioners, and the Murrysville Community Library Foundation. Local corporate sponsors include Applebee's, Bondi Printing, Dunkin', Energy Swing Windows, Murrysville Veterinary Associates, Penn-Franklin News, Price Financial, Inc., S&T Bank, and Wes Kindelberger Insurance Agency. Additional funding comes from civic organizations, grants, and very generous individuals and families. We received several grants this year that afforded us the opportunity to: build our collection with space-themed titles, develop garden/health programming for children's summer reading, and install panic buttons to better ensure the safety of staff and patrons. We are very thankful to all who make it possible for the Library to provide resources and services that enhance the quality of life for all residents of the community.

Please continue to visit the Library, attend programs, and check out library materials. Together, we are building an amazing future for the Murrysville community. Our monthly board meetings are open to the public, and all are encouraged to attend to learn more about the Library and our vision for the future.

If you have not been to the Library lately, please stop in! Receive your free Library card and take advantage of all the free services available to you. For more information, visit the Library's website at www.murrysvillelibrary.org or call us at 724-327-1102. We look forward to serving you in 2020!