

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Regis J. Synan, Mayor

Happy New Year! I hope all of you had a wonderful holiday season and wish nothing but the best for you in this new year.

What follows is a report of the various departments of your local government. Although we are still dealing with some outfalls of the COVID pandemic, I think the staff performed exceptionally and continued to deliver the quality services expected of them to you.

The municipality continues to greet new faces because of retirements in the police and public works departments. We welcome the new employees and wish them a long and productive career with the municipality.

The Murrysville Police Department was re-accredited by the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission and was designated as a "Premier Law Enforcement Agency". The department provided on-going training to its officers to keep them abreast of the many challenges facing police departments during these trying times. They participated in several community events in support of their "Community Oriented" police philosophy.

During 2021 the municipality spent \$1,355,812 to pave roads throughout the community. Paving alternatives were utilized on the lower volume roads to maximize the dollars spent. The engineering department reviewed site plans and subdivisions to ensure compliance with municipal standards and storm water management regulations.

The Finance Department expertly managed a \$14,196,470 operating budget through the challenges of the pandemic, increasing costs of supplies and materials and decreasing real estate tax revenues because of the method in which real estate property is assessed. Both pension funds are sound.

Roads and parks continue to be expertly maintained through the efforts of the Public Works Department. They supported the road paving program, rehabilitated the "Club House", and began preparations for the new amphitheater at the Community Park. They maintained the fleet of vehicles and responded to thirty-three call outs last winter.

The Parks Department continued the delivery of first-rate special event programming and a summer youth recreation program. They managed the scheduling of the athletic fields and community buildings throughout the year. The Parks Foundation began raising gifts for

improvements in the various parks. If you are able, please support them through a tax-deductible donation.

The community continues to grow with investments in new housing starts, commercial developments and the opening of new businesses. The Community Development Department managed the approval of new subdivisions, new business starts, and the enforcement of the property maintenance codes.

The emergency services continue to provide first rate responses to events throughout the community. These are true volunteers who give unselfishly of their time. The next time you see one in the grocery store or on the street, please say thank you.

I look forward to continuing serving as your Mayor in 2022 and expect to see bigger and better things for the Municipality of Murrysville.

“Optimism is essential to achievement, and it is also the foundation of courage and true progress.” – Nicholas M. Butler

Regis J. Synan

Mayor

Public Officials:

2022 Council:

Dayne Dice – President

Tony Spadaro – Vice President

Jamie Lee Korn

Jason Lemak

Jamie Lingg

Mac McKenna

Carl Stepanovich

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 Finance: 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. Main sources of revenues continue to be real estate and earned income taxes.

The 2020 financial audit was prepared in accordance with GASB 34 requirements with no material findings.

The 2021-2025 Capital Improvements Program included \$16,043,484 of road and bridge improvements; vehicle and equipment purchases; and facility updates. The 2021 Operating Budget of \$14,196,470 was approved with tax millage and service levels staying constant. In late 2021, both the Capital and General Fund budgets were amended to better reflect actual capital costs and general operating costs for the calendar year due to the impact of the COVID pandemic. General Fund revenues and expenses were increased by a net \$20,000, while the Capital budget decreased by \$1,900,000. These costs related to postponed road and park improvements, as well as facility updates. These projects were carried over into 2022 due to cost increases and material supply issues.

The effects of the COVID pandemic carried over into 2021 bringing increased costs for utilities, gasoline, materials and building supplies. Costs for capital projects and purchases, that were postponed during 2020, increased as well leaving little unreserved funds available for future capital projects.

Real estate millage was reallocated from capital projects to the General Fund for general operations in anticipation of lower revenues from state and local sources.

General maintenance of facilities and grounds was reinstated but all major improvements were postponed.

Recreation programs returned on a limited basis and the Community Center reopened for rentals in May. However, major park improvements were delayed.

The assessed value of property within the municipality is established by Westmoreland County. The assessed value for 2022 is \$344,097,810, which is an increase of one-quarter of one percent (0.025%) from the 2021 assessed value or an additional \$10,900 of real estate tax assessment at face value. Normally, 98% of residents pay their real estate taxes during the two percent (2%) discount period and one and one-half percent (1.5%) of residents are delinquent. Taking these two points into account, the \$10,900 increase in potential real estate tax collections equates to roughly \$10,500 of new tax collections.

The Common Level Ratio (CLR), which is determined by the State and affects the real estate taxes charged to the property owners and ultimately the tax revenues received, has declined over the past four years. The steady decline in the CLR continues 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.

In addition, tax appeals received are at an unprecedented level, which further decreases the assessment base and, ultimately, tax collections.

Earned income tax (EIT) has surpassed real estate tax collections as the largest revenue source for the Municipality and General Fund since 2017. Real estate collections used to make up 30% to 35% of total revenues. Since 2017, earned income collections have surpassed real estate annually by five (5) to seven (7) percent and it appears as though this will be the case going forward.

The rising costs of operating expenses, including gasoline, stone, asphalt, salt, and other road supplies, along with lower interest earnings and declining capital reserves, brought the declining real estate tax issue to the forefront in early 2021.

The Municipality has relied on real estate tax collections, a regressive tax, to fund local government operations for years. Operating costs increase roughly two percent (2%) annually while one of the major sources of revenue, real estate taxes, has been virtually stagnant since 2016. The only way to balance operating budgets using real estate taxes as the main source of revenue, is by annually increasing the milage rate paid by the residents.

Earned income has proven to be a fairer, more consistent method of funding local government operating costs. It spreads the costs of services to all wage earners and not only property owners.

Earned income increases roughly two (2%) to (3%) percent annually thereby keeping pace with the rising costs of general operations. Any fluctuation in one year could be offset with adjusted capital projects. Reserves would be able to grow for future needs and offset the need for new borrowings.

With these facts in mind, Council made the decision to increase the municipal earned income tax rate from one-half of one percent (.50) to seven-tens of one percent (.70) beginning January 1, 2022. This small increase is estimated to generate roughly \$1,600,000 annually. The funds will be used for capital projects and emergency equipment purchases.

The 2021 Minimum Municipal Pension Obligation (MMO) for the Non-Uniform and Uniform Pension plans was calculated using the 2019 Valuation. Lower interest earnings in 2017 and 2018 resulted in an increase of \$60,000 in the MMO for these plans.

Many municipalities in PA struggle with unfunded pension liabilities. The Municipal Uniform pension plan is 92.9% funded as of January 1, 2021, and the Non-Uniform Plan is 104.1% funded. These levels are due to sound investment decisions, fiscal controls and a Pension Committee that functions extremely well.

At year end, \$300,000 was transferred into the Capital Reserve Fund to be used to fund 2022 capital projects, such as park improvements and equipment purchases, that were postponed in 2020 and 2021.

Department of Community Development: Jim Morrison, Chief Administrator

Development activities experienced an upturn during the past year. There were ten site plans submitted. Six of the plans completed construction during 2021. Eleven subdivisions were reviewed by the planning commission and approved by Council. There was a zoning change involving six lots on Old William Penn Highway. It is anticipated this will enable a new business to develop there in 2022.

A total of 171 building permits with a construction cost of \$21,935,00 were issued in 2021. This included but was not limited to additions to and remodeling of homes, construction of out buildings, installation of pools and new construction.

New housing construction began on a twenty-three-lot subdivision, Villa Ciano, on Cline Hollow Road, a 42-unit development, Hillstone Village, on Harrison City Road and Regan Villas, a townhouse development on Wilson Road. There were twenty-five new homes built on lots in existing subdivisions.

Eighteen permits were issued for new business construction. The former 84 Lumber warehouse is being rehabilitated and will be occupied by Bowser Auto Body Shop. Choice Auto completed rehabilitation of the former Weyerhauser Building and construction of a new car lot.

The code enforcement department continued its aggressive enforcement of property maintenance by issuing 27 notices. A demolition ordinance was passed by Council adding a new enforcement tool. It is imperative we maintain our existing housing stock.

Murrysville Police Department: Chief Tom Seefeld

Department Recognition

The Murrysville Police Department received re-accreditation through the PA Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission because of the on-site assessment on February 4 & 5, 2021. Because

of the MPD's successful re-accreditation every three years over the past 15 years, the MPD has attained the prestigious achievement of being designated a "Premier Law Enforcement Agency". The department received the award in Harrisburg on March 18, 2021. There are only 15 law enforcement agencies attaining this honor out of nearly 1200 agencies in PA. The MPD is 1 of only 2 law enforcement agencies west of Harrisburg holding this honor.

Police advertisement and testing process was completed, and a new police eligibility list established.

Majority of the police staff members received both doses of the COVID vaccine.

Department staff participated in the Titan Well Emergency Management tabletop exercise.

Command Staff meeting was held to discuss department operations and related matters.

Chief chaired an oral interview panel for the position of police officer for the Plum Borough, Greensburg, and North Huntingdon Police Departments.

MPD Motorcycle patrols came to an end due to increased concern for officer safety and the retiring of two motorcycle officers. Motorcycles were sold.

Department was able to obtain a vehicle for drug related investigations from the PA State Attorney General's Office.

Two new police vehicles were received.

Captain Tappe has put in place a training/familiarization process with Detective Sergeant Kusinsky regarding Captain duties and assignments. Captain Tappe will retire on June 2, 2022.

MPD Police Officer Art Aminov was hired on December 6, 2021.

Administrative Assistant Nicole LeMaster resigned from her employment.

Officer Training

Officers received mandatory update training as required by the Municipal Police Officer Education and Training Commission on Special Needs, Juvenile Act, Human Trafficking and Legal Updates.

Officers received training on "Crime Victim's Rights".

Officers received training on "Search and Seizure".

Officers received re-certification training on Use of Force, Defensive Tactics – chemical spray, baton, and taser.

Officers participated in annual firearms qualifications.

Officers received training on "Changing Perceptions: A Fair and Impartial Policing Approach".

Officers received training on “Duty to Intervene”.

Officers received training on the latest Case Law decisions.

Officers received training on Mental Health.

Officer Fearon attended “Identifying Criminal Vehicles and Occupants” training.

Officer Fearon received Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement training.

Officer Fearon received Traffic Patrol/Drug Interdiction training.

Several officers received “ARIDE” (Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement) DUI training.

Field Training Officers Sergeant Kettren, Officer MacIntosh and Dulkis attended the Municipal Police Officer Training Program sponsored through IUP. This is an advanced training program that will complement the department's basic Field Training Program used to train newly hired officers.

Officer Malik received training on “Warrantless Searches.”

SWAT officers attended monthly team training.

SWAT officers Coleman and Auvil attended “Advanced SWAT Training”.

Officer Auvil attended "High Rope" training as a member of the SWAT Team.

Sergeant Coleman received training on “SWAT Team Leader Development.”

Sergeant Coleman received “Active Threat Incidents” training.

SWAT Chief of Police Board conducted quarterly meetings.

Officers received training on SWAT protocol on incident response and operations.

Officer Auvil attended “Law Enforcement Gun Fighting Movement” training.

Officer Auvil attended “High Risk Manhunt Operations” training.

Detectives attended a Drug Summit conference at Saint Vincent College.

Officer Malone attended training, "Tactical Communications: The Art of De-escalation", at the Allegheny County Police Academy.

Sergeant Cox and Officer Panigal attended Mid-level Narcotics Investigation training. They also received training on “Managing Narcotic Informants.”

Sergeant Cox attended Basic Narcotics Investigation training.

Sergeant Cox attended the FBI’s Executive Development Program “Supervisor Leadership Institute” training conference.

Sergeant Cox received training in “Managing Property and Evidence in Law Enforcement.”

Detective Devlin received re-certification as a Wiretap Technician.

Officers MacIntosh and Fearon received re-certification as Taser Instructors. Both are the department's Use of Force Instructors.

Community Events

Officers participated in the “Law Enforcement Torch Run” for Special Olympics.

Officers attended the police tribute “Strengthening the Thin Blue Line”. Chief Seefeld was the keynote speaker.

Officers assisted with the “Blessing of the Bikes” event at the Murrysville Alliance Church.

MPD staff hosted a “National Night Out” event at the Public Works facility.

Officers assisted with the “Concert in the Parks” event.

Officers assisted with the “Santa at Sardis” event.
Several canine demonstrations were presented.

Officers attended 9/11 ceremonies at Branthoover Cut-off and in Export Borough.

Officers participated in the “Trick or Treat on the Trail” event at Heritage Trail.

Officers participated in the “Shop with a Cop” event at Walmart.

Traffic Initiatives

Drug Interdiction details were conducted on Route 22.

DUI Roving Patrol was conducted throughout Murrysville.

DUI Checkpoint was conducted on Route 22 in Murrysville.

Officers participated in DUI Checkpoint details in Lower Burrell, Washington, and Allegheny Townships as a member of the DUI Task Force.

Department participated in Buckle Up PA, Aggressive Driving, and Traffic Safety Interdiction traffic enforcement details.

UTV patrols were conducted on the Heritage Trail.

Murrysville Police - Yearly Report				
	2018	2019	2020	2021
Calls for Service	5120	5293	4564	4797
Incidents	4763	4934	4311	4452
Burglaries	12	9	6	7
Reportable Crashes	174	191	123	187
Non-Reportable Crashes	183	168	130	158
Traffic Arrests	843	1086	798	1242
Traffic - Warnings	1772	1971	1954	1826
Adult Arrests	170	209	148	153
Juvenile Arrests	24	33	15	11

Department of Public Works and Parks: Bill Paiano, Director, Mike Jakub, Foremen

The 2021 year started off with three members on Covid leave, one retiring, and one on major medical recovering from shoulder surgery. In fact, Public Works recorded 200 hours of Covid sick pay. Three members at the end of year were diagnosed with Covid-19.

Dave Tressler, and John Kirkpatrick retired in 2021. Mark Ziegler resigned and re-located out of state. Jonathan Carfang and Wesley Kirkpatrick were hired.

Equipment purchases were delivered late in the year due to Covid supply and demand issues. The 2020 Capital Improvement Projects vehicles were ordered December/January, and delivered this year were a 10-ton Mack dump truck, 3/4-ton pickup, Bobcat Toolcat for MCP and a wheeled skid-steer with brooms, water kit, mill head and buckets.

Projects of 2021

2021 CIP Paving Project

On Old William Penn Highway in preparation for the paving project the Department replaced or upgraded eighty-two inlets and installed 130' of 15". On Hills Church Road 62' of 24" pipe was installed, and road base repair occurred on Windgate Drive, Kilmer Court and Woodland Drive. There was 550' of curbing installed by hand on Meadowbrook Road at FTMSA. By performing this work in-house, the Municipality saved over \$100,000.

2021 CIP Road Treatment Project

The Municipality used two different processes in sealing roads this past year. Mamont Road was a single seal Fibermat process with an additional topcoat sealing the stone. Additional roads, Peachtree Court, Hankey Church and Beighley were sealed with the traditional shot and chip process. Work completed prior to the seal coats on all the mentioned roads include milling and patching bad spots, deep base repair, patching and cracksealing.

Other Projects

MCP Club House. This project involved the placement of a donated modular building on a site developed in-house on Farm Road in Murrysville Community Park. The entire structure was gutted and remodeled.

Amphitheater Project. In anticipation of this newest addition to the Community Park in 2022, the department cleared the site, demolished an existing outbuilding, and extended the sewer and water line.

Winter Brushing and Vegetation Control. Many outlying roads were brushed back, including Steele Road, Wiestertown, Farm, Evans Road and Bollinger Road.

Storm Sewers. There was 200' of new 15" pipe installed on Sardis Road, collapsed stormwater systems were repaired in Heritage Estates, Cypress Drive and Pin Oak.

Parks. Repairs and maintenance completed including the milling and patching of cracks at the Bear Hollow tennis courts, turf maintenance and trash pick-up, repair of picnic tables, replacement of dugout roofs at Townsend and Chambers Park and replacing safety surface in all areas.

Winter Maintenance.

The crew was called out 33 times last winter, 22 of the callouts were in January and February. There was over 30" of snow and two freezing rain events during this period. The crew used 3,532 tons of salt and 11,120 gallons of Magnesium Chloride blend. Last winter, the brine program was reintroduced with a blend of corn bi-products and 32% magnesium. This resulted in significant savings by reducing the number of tons of salt used.

Miscellaneous items. The public works crew repaired and replaced various signs, painted crosswalks, and stop bars, maintained Municipal buildings, and implemented an on-line vehicle maintenance and reporting system.

Department of Engineering: Emily Mallisee, Engineering Technician

Throughout the year, the Engineering Department worked closely with Public Works to design and construct the area and utilities around the Clubhouse at Murrysville Community Park, and various smaller road projects involving stormwater. There were also many calls throughout the year from residents in need of help with stormwater. The Municipality has partnered with the Westmoreland Conservation District to provide two live educational webinars in 2022 to help educate residents on ways to prevent stormwater issues on their property.

The Engineering Department issued seventy-seven (77) Road Occupancy Permits, responded to approximately one thousand six hundred and ten (1,610) PA One Calls, and a total of eleven (11) subdivision plans and ten (10) site plans were reviewed in 2021.

As part of the MS4 Program, the permit requires Murrysville to maintain records of its entire storm system including inlets, pipes, stormwater detention basins, ditches, and swales.

Approximately 15% of the public outfalls were inspected to meet the conditions of the existing permit and mapping was updated. The Municipality was selected to be audited for the five-year permit term and a representative from DEP conducted an inspection of the MS4 records and system. No major concerns were reported, and the annual report was submitted. Construction documents were also prepared for the six selected basin retrofits in 2022.

Contracts

DPW-1-21 Municipal Road Overlay Project

The 2021 Paving Contract was awarded to Derry Construction in the amount of \$1,349,951.70. This year's project included the following streets: Andrews Drive, Carson Avenue, a portion of Hills Church Road, a portion of Meadowbrook Road, Simmons Circle, Windgate Drive, Woodland Drive, Kilmer Court, and the final portion of Old William Penn Highway. The repairs on the roads consisted of pavement replacement, milling of old asphalt, asphalt overlays, adjustment, and repairs of the existing inlets, and Petromat was placed on Old William Penn Highway to repair a long stretch of sunken utility line in the pavement. This project encompassed approximately 6.48 miles of municipal roads and approximately 9,000 tons of asphalt.

DPW-5-21 Road Sealing Alternative Surface Treatment Project

Some roads in the Municipality are 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. The entirety of Mamont Road was selected for 2021 and Russell Standard was awarded the contract. Public Works assisted in preparing the road for the treatment by crack sealing as well as patching soft spots to extend the life of the road.

DPW-6-21 Old William Penn Highway DuraTherm Thermoplastic Crosswalks

The 2021 Overlay project encompassed the area of Murrysville's town square. This area involved thermoplastic crosswalks that were installed approximately ten years ago and would need replaced when the milling and overlay of Old William Penn occurred. There are six crosswalks that are approximately 3,650 square feet. The process of Duratherm consists of heating the new asphalt and inlaying the preformed thermoplastic material. The finished look is that of decorative bricks inlaid, at a less expensive price with less labor and maintenance. The bid was awarded to Laurel Asphalt and the project was completed in October.

DPW-7-21 Chip Seal Project

Some roads in the Municipality were candidates for the use of traditional chip seal. Chip seal uses the method of an application of asphalt emulsion followed by a layer of fine aggregate to essentially create a new surface and seal existing cracks. This process will extend the life of the road and prolong the time before it will need repaved, in effect also being cost efficient. This process is good for low volume and rural roads. The entirety of Peach Tree Court, Hankey Church Road, and Beighley Road were selected for 2021 and Russell Standard was awarded the contract. Public Works assisted in preparing the road for the treatment by crack sealing as well as patching soft spots to extend the life of the road.

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

Special Events

Due to the COVID pandemic and gathering restrictions, the Department decided not to offer the annual Easter egg hunt, which typically hosts hundreds of children and families. Instead, at-home egg hunts were offered with the new Egg My Yard event! Department staff and volunteers packaged candy-filled eggs and delivered to families pre-registered for the event. Providing egg hunts at home was found to be a nice alternative to the large egg hunt, allowing for social distancing. Because so many families were generous with donations to the department, the free Easter Drive-Thru event was born! Partnering with the Murrysville Community Library, more than 300 families were provided treat bags and met the Easter Bunny during the drive-thru event held at the municipal complex.

The annual Farmers' Market was successful yet again on Thursdays from 3:00-7:00 p.m. June through September at the MVFC Field on Sardis Road. Following the "make it, grow it, or bake it" policy, the Market offered local produce, plants, baked goods, dairy products, hot foods and more throughout the season. Monthly Artisan Days allowed for artisan vendors to participate, selling crafts and other hand-made products.

The Farmhouse Kids' Club for children ages 3-12 at the Farmers' Market again provided weekly activities in exchange for \$2.00 coins, which were spent with the vendors. The coin program was again well-received by the children who participated and generated \$614.00 in revenue to our vendors.

Tuesdays at Townsend summer concerts at Townsend Park during June, July and August saw the highest attendance to date. Six nights of live music, food and beverage vendors provided ample time for guests to visit with family and friends under the shady oak trees while enjoying the solitude of Townsend Park.

August's Concert in the Park saw record attendance for the annual live-band event. More than 4,000 people filled the park for live bands, food vendors, and fireworks.

More than 250 children participated in the annual Trick or Treat on the Trail on the Westmoreland Heritage Trail. Thirty-six local businesses provided treats along the half-mile walk along the trail. The beautiful fall weather made the perfect opportunity for a costumed stroll along the trail.

Field Use and Maintenance

37 youth and community sports organizations were back to full swing this year at the parks after enduring cancellations and COVID protocols in 2020. Field reservations were at their peak, with an increase in tournaments, while park maintenance needs, provided by the Public Works Department, kept staff busy throughout the year.

Recreation Programs

Youth and family programs were able to operate again this year with more in-person programming for the community. Adult programming grew more popular with the addition of a mini "speaker series" that featured talks about Amelia Earhart, Air Force One, and how Pittsburgh influenced the world. Additional adult programs will be scheduled in 2022.

87 children ages 6-12 took advantage of the Playground Program for seven weeks of summer fun in the parks, including visits to the splash pad at Murrysville Community Park. For a fee of just \$5.00 per day per child, participants played games, sports, and enjoyed time with friends at Bear Hollow and Murrysville Community Parks. Many thanks are due to the staff members, local college students who graduated from Franklin Regional, who returned to Murrysville to work with our youth in the community.

New this year were two trail running events at Townsend Park, the Small Fry Scramble and Townsend's Pipeline Purge. The Small Fry Scramble featured half-mile and one-mile trail routes for 35 children ages 3-12 years old. At the completion of the run, snacks and free t-shirts were provided to all. The Pipeline Purge added a twist to the typical trail race, with the winner decided not by how quickly they finished but by how many one-mile laps they completed in two hours. 56 runners attempted the figure-eight course that went straight up the pipeline in the park, with the hill climb more grueling with each lap.

Ready-Set-Run 5K camp for ages 8-13 was held at Murrysville Community Park. For eight weeks, 45 participants trained to complete a 5K route through the park, finishing the run with snacks, t-shirts, and certificates for all. Yoga in the Parks and Intro to Fishing with the PA Fish and Boat Commission were also popular this year, as more and more people sought outdoor activities in our parks. Thank you to the instructors and volunteers who stepped up to provide these programs for the community.

The Murrysville Parks and Recreation Foundation

The Parks and Recreation Foundation supports the programs and facilities of the Murrysville Parks and Recreation Departments by managing and soliciting gifts, grants, and donations to enhance park facilities, programs, and events. The Foundation's first fundraising event, Chalk the Walk, raised funds for trail stencils to be installed on the walking trail at Murrysville Community Park. For a small donation, families, businesses, and organizations were provided space along the walking trail to create chalk art masterpieces, with more than \$750.00 raised toward the project. Look for this event to be offered in 2022, with the goal to raise the additional \$1,000.00 needed to install the trail stencils.

Department Information

Information regarding Murrysville Recreation Department Programs and Events can be found by visiting <http://murrysvilleparecreation.com/>, in the semi-annual program guide mailed to homes, or on Facebook at Murrysville Recreation Department. Staff can also be reached by phone during normal working hours at 724-327-2100 ext. 131 or ext. 115.

Emergency Services

Murrysville Medic One, Darrick Gerano

The year 2021 was a difficult year for the staff of Medic One with the rising Covid cases and the impact this pandemic had on all healthcare workers. Throughout the pandemic, we had to experience ever changing policies and procedures on how we operate and care for our patients. Many of the routine skills and patient treatments had to be learned in a whole new fashion of donning of complete personal protective equipment and sometimes almost fully encapsulated to keep our personnel safe and healthy. Many of the classes and public services we offered, such as public CPR classes and child safety seat checks, had to be postponed due to our facility being in "lockdown". Moving into 2022, we are still caring for and transporting many Covid patients, and the use and skills we learned while utilizing personal protect equipment has almost become routine. Some of our other experiences of 2021 were the long waits at the emergency rooms. Prior to Covid, our turnaround times at an emergency room was about 15 minutes; now our average turnaround time is about 45 minutes, and some waits have been over an hour. The emergency room crowding and delays in patient care transfers at an emergency room will delay the ambulance in the ability to return to service to answer other calls for help.

Despite all of this, Medic One was able to respond to 21,218 calls for assistance. Most of our 911 dispatches were for cardiac emergencies, sick patients, injuries from falls, respiratory emergencies, and adult traumas. Throughout 2021, we operated a fleet of 16 vehicles and employed an average of 74 people making up our roster of WCV Drivers, EMTs, AEMTs, Paramedics, Dispatchers, Management and Office Staff, and Fleet Mechanic.

Our personnel completed:

- 10,423 man-hours of training
- Conducted 18 CPR & Stop the Bleed classes to the public, businesses, and various agencies
- For the fifth consecutive year, achieved the Gold Plus recognition from the American Heart Association.
- Completed 11 child safety seat checks
- Administered 68 Covid Vaccinations
- Completed 18 public event medical coverages

Our Dive Team responded to 11 incidents in Westmoreland, Allegheny, Armstrong, and Butler Counties, and a response into West Virginia/Ohio with our Westmoreland County Teams. Our dive team members completed 9,254 man-hours of training in 2021.

Our Special Response Team responded to 217 incidents throughout Westmoreland, Allegheny, Indiana, Armstrong, and Fayette Counties. Most of these responses were for firefighter rehab, search details for lost individuals, and wilderness rescues.

Our National EMS Response Team responded to both Mississippi and Louisiana to assist with rescue efforts during Hurricane Ida. This deployment lasted for almost a month.

Murrysville Volunteer Fire Department

In 2021, the Murrysville Volunteer Fire Company saw a 128% resurgence of responses from the previous year's decrease. The dedicated volunteers responded to 421 alarms for a total of 2,257 volunteer hours serving Murrysville and the surrounding community. The leading call types were 143 fire alarms and 89 vehicle accidents; this year saw a tremendous increase to 23 working structure fires, with 4 structures being severely or completely damaged by fire. In the past 2 years the fire company has welcomed 7 new members, bringing the total of active members (achieving 15% participation) to 21. 2022 is starting off with a change in chief as Brian Synan is taking a step back after dedicating the past 8 years to leading the company, we thank him for his service and time!

Executive officers for 2022:

President:	Randy Marts
Vice President:	Shellie Tressler
Secretary	Mike Cline

Treasurer Rick O'Mahony
Trustee Bruce Knepper

Line officers for 2022:

Fire Chief: Pat O'Mahony
Assistant Chief: TBD
Deputy Chief: Alex Vallo
Captain: Dave DeMarco
Lieutenant: Christian Dover
Trustee Jen Ralston
Relief Treasurer: Russ Cline

Along with changes in line and executive officers, 2022 promises to be an exciting year with the anticipated delivery of a new ladder truck from Sutphen. The current ladder truck is fast approaching 20 years old and has served the community very well, but its age is leading to increased repair costs and out-of-service time. The replacement Truck 20 is expected to provide additional capabilities, new technology and a great resource for all of Murrysville. With low member attendance on some calls, this new truck will allow for safer operation by fewer firefighters while providing the same or greater service level. We look forward to this new truck and seeing how it will serve the community for the next 20 years!

The Murrysville Volunteer Fire Company is a 100% volunteer service provided to the community by your dedicated neighbors. Those interested in learning more, touring or joining our ranks may find more information on the company website www.murrysvillefire.com or Facebook.

Sardis Volunteer Fire Department

In 2021 the Sardis Volunteer Fire Company responded to over 331 alarms with no failed responses, a slight drop in alarms from previous years. Out of the 331 alarms, 51 were working fires and 32 were vehicle accidents with entrapment. The remainder of alarms varied from odors of gas, automatic fire alarms, and response.

In 2022 we will celebrate our 65th year of dedicated service to the citizens of Murrysville & surrounding communities since organizing on January 24, 1957.

This year, members obtained multiple nationally recognized certifications through the Pennsylvania State Fire Academy. These certifications ranged from Firefighter 1, Firefighter 2, Trench Rescue, Rope Rescue, Instructor, Hazmat, and Fire Officer certifications. On top of members obtaining these certifications, our membership still trains in-house multiple times a week.

We're always looking for motivated individuals to join our team. If you're interested in getting involved, reach out to us on our Facebook page or stop by the station.

2022 Executive Officers:

President: Joseph Paiano Sr.

1st Vice President: Austin Kaminski

2nd Vice President: Melissa Paiano

Treasurer: Scott Rippole

Secretary: Michael Paiano

2022 Line Officers:

Fire Chief: Cody Paiano

Deputy Fire Chief: Joseph Paiano Jr.

Captain: Brandon Marshall

Lieutenant: Paul Paiano

Sergeant: Anthony Tommasini

White Valley Volunteer Fire Department, John Bohinc, Chief

In 2022 The White Valley VFD will be marking its 73rd year of service to the community. As we dealt with the pandemic, the firefighters from White Valley responded to 470 alarms in 2021, which is an increase of calls from the previous year. The highest response volume was for automatic fire alarms, 177. Out of those 177 alarms 155 of those were caused by malfunctioning systems. The next biggest volume of calls were vehicle accidents at 93. We still responded to a number of actual structure fires this year as we have had in the past years with 36. The total number of staff hours White Valley volunteered while responding to the alarms was 3196-man hours. The average time spent on each alarm was an average of just under one hour per call

During 2021, White Valley had to overcome the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. We never missed a beat with responses; however, we had to modify some of our training to online

models and outdoor training. All these training hours were completed by the firefighters on their own time away from their families and their jobs. We are still poised to provide the same level of professional service for our residents that we have in the past.

2022 Executive Officers:

President: Brad Lennox
Vice-President: Justin Dallo
Treasurer: John Bohinc
Secretary: Gary Harbaugh

2022 Line Officers:

Chief: John Bohinc
Assistant Chief: Rich Rupnik
Assistant Chief: John Primozic
Captain: Brad Lennox
Lieutenant: Dan Mazzoni
Sergeant: Sam Bohinc, Jr.
Sergeant: Don Liprando

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

Murrysville Community Library; Amy Riegner: Director

The Murrysville Community Library (MCL) celebrated its 99th year of service in 2021, which marked a period of rebuilding and ingenuity. After 2020, the Library has had to reinvent and improve on ways to provide service to our community. We are committed to our mission: to inspire ideas, enrich lives, and create lifelong opportunities for learning, literacy, and enjoyment.

Special Highlights from 2021

In spring, the Library completed renovations for its new TechNook, a facility that allows MCL to stream video content into and out of the library. By embracing this technology, we can offer expanded digital resources to patrons and quickly pivot to virtual meetings when necessary. The generosity of the Smolenski family made this exciting improvement possible. TechNook was completed just before our Summer Reading programs began.

Over the course of the summer, we happily returned to in-person events with our “Tails and Tales” Summer Reading program. We still integrated a digital component, however, and offered our patrons the ability to track their time spent reading through the Beanstack app. We are grateful to the Municipality for allowing us the use of their pavilions and outdoor spaces for library events. MCL had programs for all ages, from pre-school to adults. In total, we had 537 participants who read for over 258,000 minutes!

We take pride in our Summer Reading program and the value it adds to the community by providing endless possibilities for lifelong learning, individual achievement, and enjoyment! Some of our more memorable Summer programs include Homer the Pet Pidgeon, StageRight Presents: The Very Grumpy Monkey, Turtle Tales: The History and Recovery of Turtle Creek, A Journey Through the Stars, and Let’s Make Pizza!

The Library partnered with the Murrysville Recreation Department on several programs throughout the year, including two talks with Ken Serfass on General Grant and Western Pennsylvanian WWII history as well as a Heinz History Center lecture on Pittsburgh’s impact on the world. Additionally, the two organizations partnered to bring the Easter Bunny to an outdoor drive-up event, where 355 children celebrated the holiday and received treat bags. MCL participated in the Recreation Department’s Trick or Treat on the Trail where we passed out candy to over 300 children and won third place for best decorated tent with a Little Miss Muffet theme! During the Recreation Department’s Santa at Sardis event, the Library oversaw the Gingerbread House contest.

MCL expanded its Storytime program in 2021. In addition to Babies and Books and Toddler Time, we offered a Mother Goose on the Loose series, STEM Storytimes, Family Evening Storytimes, and Open Play Discovery sessions. We provided monthly STEM take and make craft kits for at home learning. Furthermore, we held children’s programs on Star Wars, Minecraft, and Pete the Cat, which the children greatly enjoyed.

The Library also established a Teen Advisory Board, which first met in November. The Teen Advisory Board, a group of people ages 12-18, helps the library run teen-centered programs, recommends young adult materials for the library to purchase, promotes the library to their friends, and generally helps the library better serve teens. If you know anyone who would like to participate in the Teen Advisory Board, please contact Coordinator of Youth Services, Becky Martinazzi. Community service hours are available to participants.

Our Jingles n’ Gingerbread event returned in December with three hours of festivities and fun. Participants enjoyed musical acts from Franklin Regional students, the Newlonsburg Music Academy, the East End Kids, and a special screening of Calvin Can’t Fly, an American Sign Language story book film. Children enjoyed crafts and games. A locally owned food truck served hot chocolate and cookies, including gingerbread.

We are excited to be back to serving the public and grateful to all our donors, supporters, and patrons who made 2021 a memorable year. We look forward to 2022 and celebrating our centennial year. Save the date for March 11, 2022!

2021 Statistics

- 116,213 Items circulated, including e-books, magazines, audio books, music CDs, and DVDs
- 36,975 Library visits
- 5,953 Library card holders
- 6,639 Individuals attended Library programs, including in-person and virtual events
- 870 Patrons accessed public computers
- 1,384 Volunteer hours contributed
- 953 Free Wi-Fi sessions
- 565 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 Bondi Printing, Penn-Franklin News, and AAUW (American Association of University Women). 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 provide meaningful programming and services. 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. Interested in helping? We love our volunteers and have a robust volunteer program. Want to help to better secure the future for the library? Join the Murrysville Community Library Foundation!

If you have not been to the Library lately, please stop in! Receive your free Library card and take advantage of all the 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 2022!