

# State of the Township



**Council Vice - President  
Cindy Murphy  
Bristol Township  
January 23, 2019**

## Welcome

Good evening, members of Township Council, residents, staff, friends and family. Thank you for joining us tonight. I wish all of you a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

It is my pleasure to report on the State of our Township as we work together to continue to build Bristol Township better every day. First, I would like to thank my colleagues on Council; all of you are a dedicated group of individuals that work diligently on behalf of our community and with the community's support are responsible for the great success we have achieved.

I would also like to recognize the many committee members and other volunteers who devote countless hours to the residents of Bristol Township and work hard to better our community. And let's not forget our wonderful Township department heads and staff, led by our Township Manager Bill McCauley, for their important contributions.

Let's review all our accomplishments of 2018.

## 2018 Year in Review

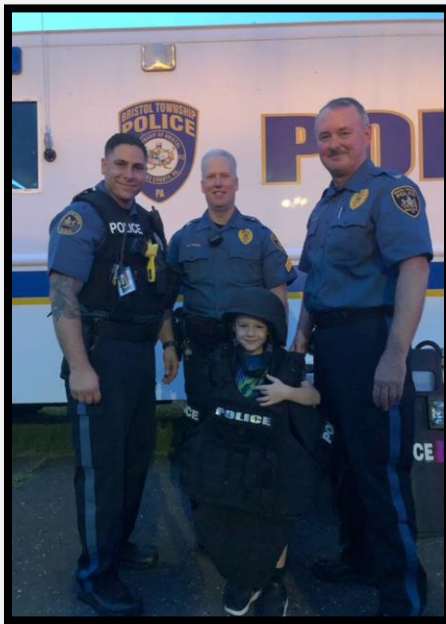
Craig Bowen, John Monahan, Mary Ann Wagner, Ray Blalock and I were all sworn in for additional terms to represent the residents of Bristol Township. We began the year continuing to work on the vacant and blighted home concerns in the Township. The program has been in effect for three years now and has been a huge success. The Township Continues to work with the Redevelopment Authority (RDA) of Bucks County after the homes have been deemed blighted in accordance with the Urban Renewal Law. In 2018, nineteen homes were blighted by Township Council. Eight of these homes have gone through the blight program with the RDA and will be rehabbed by contractors and the remaining eleven have been or are undergoing private rehabilitations.



### Safety and Community Interactions

While police departments across the country are under scrutiny for using excessive violence, we've taken many steps to build trust between police officers and the community. That trust is critical to achieving our goals for public safety and necessary for avoiding the division and tragedy that has rocked other communities in America over the past few years.

The Bristol Township Police Department has continued its community outreach last year with Coffee with a Cop at various locations; brought back National Night Out; Trunk or Treat at Millcreek Elementary; and a 12-week Citizen Police Academy that was a huge success, with all 22 residents graduating this past November. Kudos to Chief Coulton for firing up the program and Lieutenant Hughes and all the other officers involved.



On the fire safety front, Bristol Township again allocated \$125,000 in "Glasson Grants" for the township's five volunteer fire companies. Council's commitment to public safety will ensure that our fire departments have the state-of-the-art equipment they need to keep our community safe.

### Continued Improvement to the Infrastructure

Bristol Township had a busy year in infrastructure and public improvements. The Mill Creek Pedestrian Bridge was completed, all existing Section Signs throughout the Township were replaced. The program was so successful that we will be adding new signs to neighborhoods that never had them.

The Wistar Road Bridge Deck Replacement was awarded last year, and the pre-construction meeting was held last week with work to begin in February. The Township has continued with its curb ramp and milling and paving road programs. The Township has paved 125 miles of long overdue streets since 2012.



With the assistance of over \$3 million in grant funding, additional infrastructure improvements completed in 2018 include:

- Traffic Signal Modernization and Upgrades to Oxford Valley, Bath and Lakeland Roads and Oxford Valley Road and Levittown Parkway
- Radio Responder Replacements
- Additional Police SUV

And finally, the Department of Environmental Protection approved the Township 537 Plan for Sewage Planning for the Township. This will allow the Wastewater Treatment Plant in Croydon to begin the \$6 Million expansion project that will allow for continued growth in the tax base and economic development for the Township.

### Parks & Recreation

The Parks and Recreation Department has had another busy year. Annual events include the Annual Egg Hunt, Four Outdoor Movie Nights, Fall Festival, Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting. Additionally, a seven-week Summer Camp Program is provided by the Township Recreation Department.



The Parks and Recreation Department has been coordinating and working with other departments including the Community Development Department with eligible Community Development Block Grant Funds to upgrade several parks throughout the Township. Those that had been completed in 2018 include the construction of Cedar Avenue Park in Croydon and replacement of playground equipment in Marie Lowe Park.



Additional parks are on the books for 2019; including the Municipal Complex Park Expansion and JFK Park upgrade and expansion.

### **Encourage Economic Development – Keeping Life Safety in Mind**

Encouraging businesses to locate in Bristol Township and creating jobs continues to be the highest priority for Council.

Bristol Township welcomed 95 new businesses last year, approved eight subdivisions and land developments, issued over 3,300 permits including 900+ residential resale use and occupancies, conducted 1,635 annual fire safety inspections in our businesses and 3,902 apartment safety inspections.

Late last year we approved a modification of an existing approved land development for Urban Outfitters to begin construction on a 309,000 square foot warehouse at the Bristol Commerce Center. Once completed the warehouse is projected bring about 200 jobs initially, a figure that could eventually grow to 600 jobs.

### Investment in Bristol Township

Bristol Township had a busy year with many changes on a staff level. Many long-standing employees retired, but the Township was lucky to be able to recruit and promote as well and continues to employ the best of the best.

We saw a few retirements this year. Over eighty years of experience in the police Department, with Detective Robert Lebo retiring after 30 years, Officer James Tully, after 24 years and Officer Tony DaSilva after 29 years. We were able to recruit and swear in six new officers in 2018 and hope they have long tenured careers like our recent retirees.

On the administration side, long standing Community Development Director Tom McDermott retired after 44 years of service. The Township was able to hire Heather Mahaley, with Community Development experience to replace Tom, as well as work with him for a few months for a smooth transition.

Ray “Hoppy” Hopkins was promoted to Public Works Director with 47 years’ experience and came highly recommended from the Acting Public Works Director, and Andrew McAdams was hired as Assistant Public Works Director.

Additionally, Bob McTague was brought back to the Building and Planning Department as Building and Planning Supervisor, Debra Juno retired as Code Inspector after 40 years, and Randee Elton was promoted to Deputy Township Manager after Scott Swichar left to become Township Manager in another community.

### A Brief Look Ahead for 2019

Township Council and staff will continue to approve and monitor the many infrastructure improvements scheduled for 2019 all while maintaining fiscal responsibility to the residents. It truly is a pleasure to be at the forefront of an innovative and successful municipality that keeps striving and hitting all the marks no one ever thought possible for the Township of Bristol.