

# State of the Township



**Council President**  
**Craig Bowen**  
**Council Vice President**  
**Cindy Murphy**  
**Bristol Township**  
**January 16, 2020**

## 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 make 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 all 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. Additionally, we thank our Township Consultants for their knowledge and assistance to us on Council. And last, but certainly not least, our wonderful Township Employees. They keep the day to day running operations, while making recommendations to us on Council for an improved community.

Let's review all our accomplishments from 2019.

## 2019 Year in Review

Mary Ann Wagner, Patrick Antonello and Joe Glasson were re-elected to Council for another four-year term; and recently sworn in. We are happy to have harmony and consistency among our Council and Consultants. The Municipal Building was named after long standing Councilman John P. (Jack) Monahan to recognize his lifetime dedication to Bristol Township.



We were able to successfully negotiate and approve new five (5) year Collective Bargaining Agreements with our Municipal and Public Works Employees. Together we continue to strive for excellence as we work together for our community, residents and business owners. Bristol Township Council was able to honor the

outstanding accomplishments of some of our residents, including Sarah Hughes for being crowned Miss Bucks County and Mae Krier as one of the original “Rosie the Riveters”.



We continued to work on remediating vacant and blighted home concerns in the Township. The Blight Program has been in effect for four (4) years now and has been a huge success. The Township continues to work with the Redevelopment Authority (RDA) of Bucks County in accordance with the Urban Renewal Law. In 2019, another 14 homes were blighted by Township Council. Later tonight, you will hear an update from Heather Mahaley, Director of Community Development on the program results. To give you a little teaser... we are now down to 75 homes on the vacant homes list. Let's not forget four (4) years ago we started with 208. To say this is a success story does not begin to do it justice!

### [Safety and Community Interactions](#)

The Bristol Township Police Department was able to upgrade some long overdue safety and equipment needs for our officers. Patrol cars were retrofitted with armor and new laptops. We replaced 40-year-old shotguns with new state-of-art. We also purchased traffic speed study equipment and software. The Department also continued the rigorous requirements of police training. In addition, a new K9 Handler was trained, and all sworn officers completed active shooter training.

We continued our community outreach last year with Coffee with a Cop, National Night Out and Trunk or Treat at Millcreek Elementary and look forward to more of these events in 2020.



On the Fire and Ambulance front, Bristol Township again allocated \$125,000 in “Glasson Grants” for the Township’s five (5) Volunteer Fire companies and two (2) Rescue Squads. Additional grants in the amount of \$160,000 from the Redevelopment Authority of Bucks County were awarded and on the agenda for acceptance later this evening. Council’s commitment to public safety will ensure that our Fire Departments and Rescue Squads have the state-of-the-art equipment they need to assist our community.



Rescue Squads have the state-of-the-art equipment they need to assist our community.

The Office of the Fire Marshal responded to 326 Fire and Rescue calls and 27 medical emergencies. Personnel from the Fire Marshal’s Office were credited with two CPR saves. 18 schools and daycares and 3 businesses were provided fire

safety education, 65 smoke alarms were installed in residents' homes and the Fire Marshal's Office/Engine 225 scored 100% for re-accreditation as a Fire Department through the PA State Fire Commissioner's office. Additionally, the first Citizens Disaster Emergency Training" was conducted for our residents and requested back by popular demand.



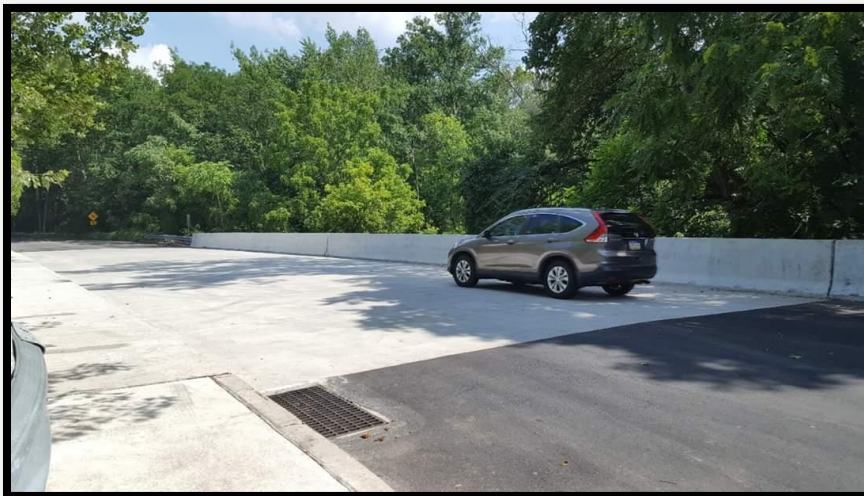
I would ask at this time we give a standing ovation to all of our First Responders - Police, Fire and Rescue personnel who run towards danger to keep our community safe.

### Continued Capital Improvements

Bristol Township had another busy year in infrastructure and public improvements.

With the assistance of over \$3 million in grant funds, additional capital and infrastructure improvements were started, with some completed in 2019 including:

- Wistar Road Bridge Deck Replacement



- Traffic Signal Modernization and Upgrades to all signalized intersections of Route 413; Mill Creek and Haines Roads; Radcliffe Street and Randall Avenue; State Road and Cedar Avenue and S. Oxford Valley Road and S. Queen Anne Drive
- Installation of new generator at the Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Lining of main 36" Interceptor to the Wastewater Treatment Plant and 19 manholes for a significant reduction in inflow and infiltration which is a cause of concern for overloading at the Plant
- Upgraded Croydon Manor Pump Station
- Upgraded Digital Sign at Municipal Complex
- Municipal Complex - Park Expansion

### Parks & Recreation

The Parks and Recreation Department also had a busy year. Annual events included the Egg Hunt, Four (4) Outdoor Movie Nights, Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting and Touch-A-Truck. Additionally, a 7 (seven) week Summer Camp Program was provided by the Township Recreation Department.



The biggest Capital Construction and Investment in 2019 was the beautiful Municipal Park Recreation Expansion Project. The War Dogs were able to play last year on a new turf field and practice on the adjacent practice field. Additionally, added amenities included the installation of an amphitheater, concession stand, restrooms, walking trail, ADA-compliant playground and spray park with a new and improved softball field. We are all looking forward to the grand opening on May 16<sup>th</sup> and the smiles and fun stories we'll be able to create for our community with this additional outdoor recreation space.

The Parks and Recreation Department continues coordination with the Community Development Department on eligible Community Development Block Grant Funds to upgrade several parks and their structures throughout the Township. Upgrades that were completed in 2019 include the newly installed basketball hoops at

Humphreys Park, a new playground at JFK Park and fencing installed at Violetwood Park. 2020 will see a continuation of playground equipment upgrades and Master Park planning and construction.

### Encourage Economic Development

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

Bristol Township welcomed 97 new businesses last year and approved 11 subdivisions and land developments. The Fire Marshal's office conducted 1,631 annual fire safety inspections for our businesses and 3,902 apartment safety inspections. The Department of Building and Planning issued over 3,700 permits including 950+ residential resale use and occupancy permits and worked on over 840 property maintenance concerns reported to the Township.

Many businesses and developments have come before us not only for approval but to expand their existing business within the Township. This goes to show you that we are doing it right! And we look forward to working with our Legislators, County Commissioners, Bucks County Planning Commission and the Redevelopment Authority of Bucks County to continue to bring new development into the Township, especially since the I-95 and Turnpike Connection was completed last year.

### Investment in Bristol Township

Bristol Township also had another busy year for changes on a staff level. Many long-standing employees retired... thankfully the Township was lucky to be able to recruit and promote so that we continue to employ the best of the best.

With a few long standing officers retiring, we were able to promote two (2) new Sergeants and add three (3) new officers to the Department. As retirements are set to continue, the Township will continue to hire new officers, as you will see one (1) sworn-in tonight. Sadly we suffered the loss of Marie Titano, who worked 35 years with the Police Department.

Andrew McAdams was promoted to Public Works Director and continues to bring us cost savings with his years' worth of construction knowledge. And at the end of 2019 our Township Manager, William J. McCauley, III retired after eight extremely successful years. He took the Township from the brink of bankruptcy to the current innovative and successful municipality that we are today.



Let's be honest, no one ever thought that was possible for the Township of Bristol!!! It's hard to believe with all the success in 2019 that we have even more in store for 2020, but we do, all while maintaining fiscal responsibility to the residents!

Thank you.