

# 2018 State of the Township



Council President - Craig Bowen

January 18, 2018

## ❖ STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP 2018: BUILDING ON OUR MOMENTUM

- ▶ Let me start by declaring that the State of the Township is stronger than it has ever been.
- ▶ The robust health of the township is reflected in the Aa3 median credit rating from Moody's.
- ▶ The township's net cash balance as a percent of revenues (64.3%) is "far superior to other Moody's-rated Cities nationwide."
- ▶ The township's "very healthy" credit rating sends a clear signal to the business community that Bristol Township is without a doubt a safe and very stable investment.



# STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP 2018: BUILDING ON OUR MOMENTUM

- ▶ Looking at this picture which represents your tax dollar, you might be surprised that only 9 cents of every tax dollar goes to Bristol Township, while another 9 cents goes to Bucks County and 82 cents goes to the Bristol Township School District, which is a separate taxing authority.
- ▶ Considering that just 9 cents of every tax dollar goes to Bristol Township, you get an incredibly high level of service from your local government.
- ▶ Part of the reason is that Bristol Township is always trying to improve with an emphasis on innovation and creativity. We constantly strive to do more with less. We should all be proud of Bristol Township's dedicated employees who make this possible!
- ▶ Council and administration continue to take pride in its efforts to prudently manage expenses. We've worked hard to hold the line on taxes. In fact, we've actually reduced taxes twice since 2012.
- ▶ In 2018, residents will pay \$20 less in real estate taxes and refuse fees than they did in 2010!



# STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP 2018: BEST PLACE TO LIVE IN AMERICA

- ❖ We all know that Bristol Township is great, but just listen to what other people are saying about us..
- ❖ The Levittown section of Bristol Township was the only Pennsylvania community to be included in Money Magazine's list of "Best Places to Live."
- ❖ Money Magazine evaluated 823 towns. They cited jobs, affordable housing, property taxes, public schools, healthcare, recreational opportunities, and low crime in determining their rankings.
- ❖ And that's not all! Just last month, Bristol Township received national recognition again and was named as one of the "Safest Cities in the United States" and ranked #15 in Pennsylvania according to a study completed by SafeHome, a professional security organization.
- ❖ SafeHome analyzed the most recent FBI crime data from 2015, along with population demographics and other ranking factors, such as police officer to population ratio, and gave Bristol Township a score of 79.42 for its safe environment and low rates of crime.



# STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP 2018: INCREASING PROPERTY VALUES

Now, let's look at home sales for 2017. The average sales price in 2017 was up more than 6% from 2016. And the average sales price has increased 15.6% over the past two years!

The average number of days on the market (DOM) fell from 52 days in 2015 to 34 days in 2016, to 24 days in 2017! Homes are selling in Bristol Township!

We are increasing property values and restoring pride in Bristol Township as a direct result of programs implemented by this Township Council!



## STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP 2018: EXPANDING RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

“As we focus on the youth of our Township, we know that growing Bristol Township means creating more recreational opportunities for children. Our young people must be kept safe and engaged.”



# STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP 2018: EXPANDING RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

- ▶ In 2017, we hired Jessica Fox, as the Township's first full-time Recreation Director and increased recreational opportunities for residents of all ages.
- ▶ Residents are now experiencing new fun ways to enjoy our community with family friendly activities such as "Movie Night."
- ▶ Last year, Fox who is a certified safety inspector, conducted a playground safety audit of all 32 parks/recreational spaces.
- ▶ Significant upgrades, such as the installation of safety surfacing and repairs were completed as a result of the audit. Below is a picture of Sara Johnson Park, just one of the many parks that has been spruced-up and is again attracting visitors.
- ▶ We are bringing new life and imagination to Township parks and events!



## STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP 2018: RECREATION

- ▶ The exciting thing is, we are just getting started...
- ▶ In 2017, the Township acquired the former Miller Trailer Park with CDBG funds. With a \$240,000 DCED Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program Grant and \$450,000 from CDBG, Bristol Township will TRANSFORM this former dilapidated Trailer Park into an attractive passive recreation community park this year.
- ▶ Bristol Township will also provide a fun opportunity for families to come together by building a splash pad at Policemen's Park with the help of a \$265,000 DCNR grant that we received last year.



## STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP 2018: REVITALIZING NEIGHBORHOODS

- ▶ Reinvestment and revitalization in neighborhoods around Bristol are making Bristol Township one of the hottest zip codes around!
- ▶ Thanks to the efforts of Project Manager Randee Elton and the Bucks County Redevelopment Authority, the Township blighted 19 properties and another 22 homes are undergoing rehabilitation in 2017.
- ▶ Since 2015, the number of abandoned homes has decreased from 208 to 81.
- ▶ You can see from the photos, that the former Freightliner building site was blighted and recently demolished! We are moving the Township forward!



# STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP 2018: PUBLIC SAFETY-POLICE

- ❖ Public safety and safe neighborhoods are the building blocks of a strong community.
- ❖ After inheriting a police department in need of reform, Chief Robert Coulton has made great progress in his efforts to bring about change.
- ❖ Implemented a proactive service-oriented department that now focuses on customer service and addressing complaints.
- ❖ Installed body cameras and deployed in-car cameras in every cruiser to enhance accountability for everyone.



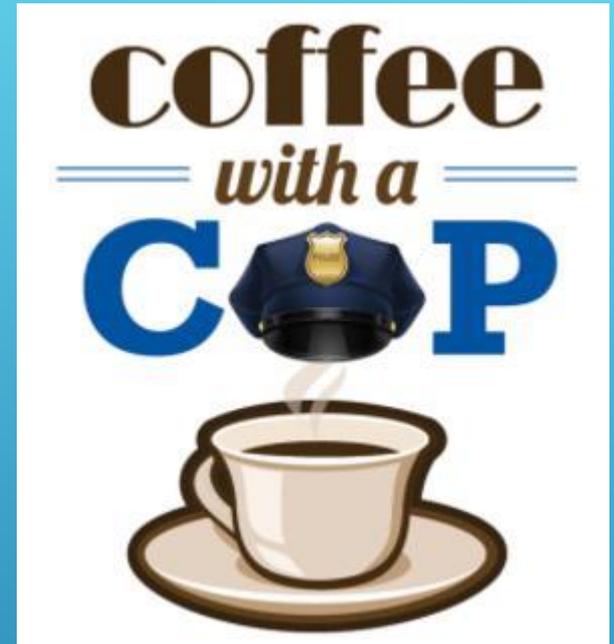
# STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP 2018: PUBLIC SAFETY-POLICE

- ❖ Under the leadership of Chief Coulton, Bristol Township is indeed a safe community!
- ❖ Crimes such as burglary are down more than 21% and aggravated assault is down almost 44%.
- ❖ Last year, the Township saw a 12.8%\* overall decrease in major crimes.
- ❖ The department achieved a milestone last year when it became an “Accredited Law Enforcement Agency” under the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission.
- ❖ The dedication and hard work of all department personnel led the department to this achievement.



# STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP 2018: PUBLIC SAFETY- POLICE

- ❖ In 2017, we focused on new ways to communicate with our residents
- ❖ During tours of the mobile command center, children and parents had the opportunity to meet officers and learn about public safety initiatives.
- ❖ The Police Department hosted multiple outreach events such as “Coffee with a Cop” a casual meet and greet where officers and community members could chat about Bristol Township.
- ❖ These events, among others allow officers and residents opportunities to build strong relationships with one another.



# STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP 2018: PUBLIC SAFETY-FIRE

- ▶ Bristol Township's 'Engine 225' led by Fire Marshall Kevin Dippolito responded to 402 calls of service in 2017 and saved lives three times by performing CPR.
- ▶ Received grant funding from the Pennsylvania Office of the Fire Commissioner for rope rescue and hydraulic vehicle extrication equipment carried on Engine 225
- ▶ Provided \$20,000 in "Glasson Grants" to each of the township's volunteer fire companies.



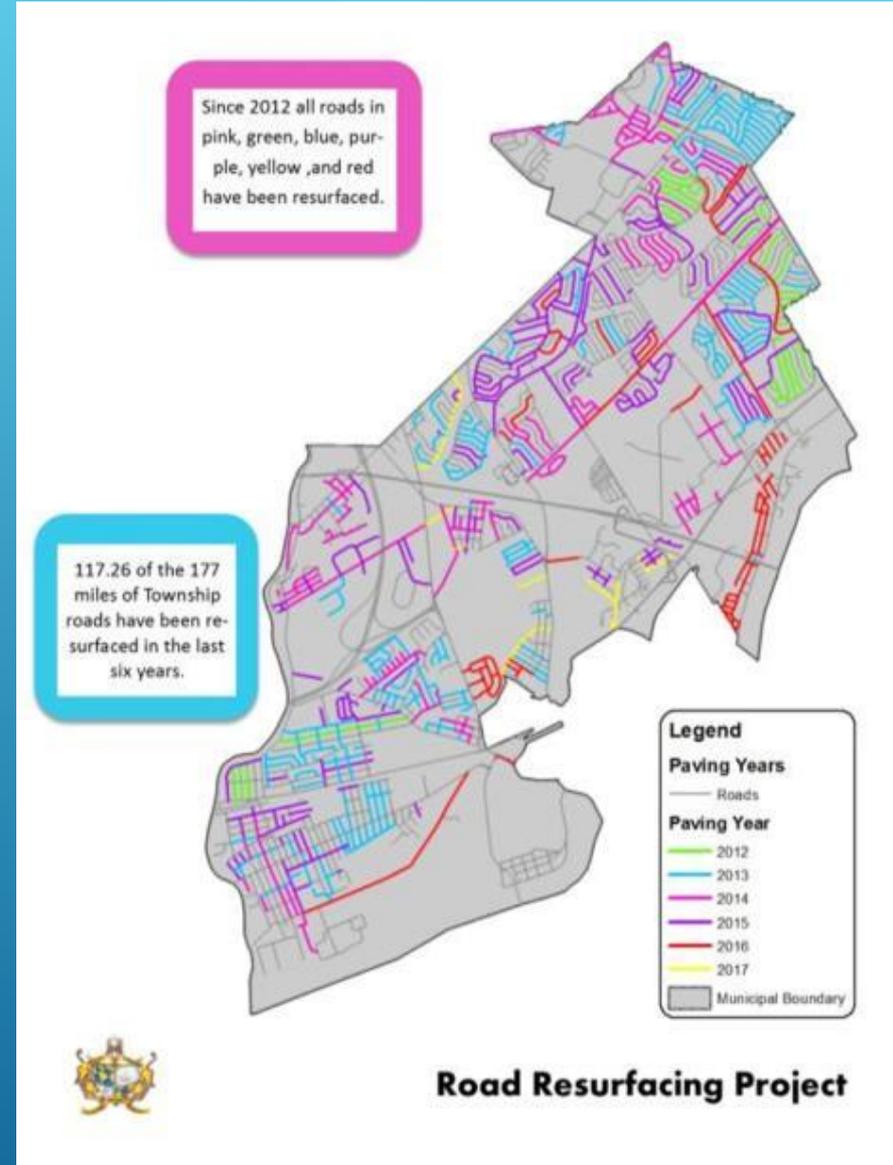
# STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP 2018: INFRASTRUCTURE

- ▶ “Every day we work hard to make your priorities our priorities. It is our goal to meet the needs of the community by placing a high priority on maintaining and improving our infrastructure.”



# STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP 2018: INFRASTRUCTURE

- ▶ Council and Administration realize the important role streets play in our township's economic development and overall community image.
- ▶ Last year, Bristol Township paved another 3.36 miles of township highways, bringing the **total miles of road paved to over 120 miles since 2012!**
- ▶ Street Maintenance will continue to be a high priority, since it is less expensive to maintain a road than it is to replace it.



# STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP 2018: INFRASTRUCTURE

- ▶ In 2017, the township initiated a curb ramp rehabilitation project as a way to improve accessibility and comply with ADA requirements.
- ▶ 211 curb ramps were completed at a total cost of \$822,796 or \$3,899/ramp.
- ▶ The township rehabilitated 22% of all township ramps in just one year! (958 ramps remain)



# STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP 2018: INFRASTRUCTURE

- ▶ Completed Phase 3 of the Croydon Streetscape Project on Rt. 13 (improvements were from Walnut Avenue to Neshaminy Creek. Improvements included curbs, sidewalks, decorative lighting and landscaping. (\$1 million TAP Grant).
- ▶ Croydon is on a roll....The new Streetscape provides a more attractive gateway into Bristol Township, is revitalizing the business district and is helping existing businesses to prosper.
- ▶ We are a township that is prepared for the future....Replaced old copper system wires on Rt. 413 with a new fiber optic communication system that is connected to PennDOT's traffic control center to ensure improved traffic flow using \$300,000 of funding from the RDA.



# STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP 2018: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- ❖ We continue to grow, create new jobs, thrive and welcome new business!
- ❖ The Township's Business and Planning Department continues to work with dozens of small businesses in every corner of the township to help them update their facilities, expand their output and add more employees. I want to thank Tom Scott and his incredible team for driving this success.
- ❖ Wawa, CVS Pharmacy, U-Haul, and Republic Bank are just a few of the new businesses that are enhancing the business climate in Bristol Township.
- ❖ As we speak, new development projects are taking off across Bristol Township.
- ❖ Bristol Township is "Open for Business!"



# STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP 2018: INCREASING RECYCLING

- ❖ Led by Deputy Township Manager Scott Swichar, the township's recycling program has increased by 70% since the township began its new automated program in 2014.
- ❖ Our recycling success has earned the Township additional revenues through performance grants (\$173,117 in 2017) from the PA DEP.
- ❖ Bristol Township is the only municipality in Bucks County that operates a free electronics recycling collection service for its residents.



# STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP 2018: INVESTING IN HUMAN CAPITAL

- ❖ I hope that the things we have discussed so far fill you with pride in what we have accomplished and with hope for the future.
- ❖ But what if things were not great? Many Bristol Township residents struggle day-to-day.
- ❖ To be a strong community, we also have to invest in our human capital...And we are!
- ❖ For those struggling with housing issues or homelessness or considering suicide there are terrific organizations like the Family Service Association of Bucks County that provide hope for the future. We are proud to partner with and support this important organization!



Contact: Nicki Bedesem, Director of Communications  
Phone: (215) 757-6916, ext. 214  
Email: nbedesem@fsabc.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
09/28/2017

## Bristol Township Awards \$99,975 Community Development Block Grant to Family Service's Homeless Shelter



Levittown, Pa. (September 28, 2017) – Bristol Township recently awarded a \$99,975 Community Development Block Grant to Family Service Association of Bucks County. Family Service, a non-profit organization that serves more than 27,000 people in need each year in Bucks County, offers a variety of programs and services including emergency housing, suicide prevention, parent education, recovery support, counseling, job coaching and more. The funds from Bristol Township were needed to rehabilitate the HVAC system and dorms at the Bucks County Emergency Homeless Shelter.

Last year, Bristol Township received \$3,782,000 in Community Development Block Grant Funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. As a result, the Bristol Township Office of Community Development was able to help carry out many projects for social and recreational services, crime awareness and prevention, child abuse prevention, homeless assistance and more.

Craig Bowen, Council President, shared: "As a member of Bucks County Human Services Housing Coalition, our Township is involved in the fight to end chronic homelessness. With more than 500 homeless in Bucks County, we are glad to be able to help a large portion of those in need by supporting Family Service and the Bucks County Emergency Homeless Shelter."

# STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP 2018: BUILDING ON OUR MOMENTUM

