



IT'S BEEN THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR

On Saturday, December 4, Santa Claus joined the people of Taneytown to celebrate the lighting of the City Christmas Tree! In addition to the tree lighting and arrival of Santa, there were a candy cane hunt, hay rides, and food trucks.

On Sunday, December 5, the Taneytown Police Department held its annual Pack the Police Car food drive event. This year, the event was part of a County-wide municipal food drive organized by the Carroll County Chapter of the Maryland Municipal League.

Q: What do Santa Claus and the Taneytown Police Department have in common?

(ANSWER & MORE PICTURES ON PAGE 26)



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The Mayor's Message

The humid and rainy summer gave way to a crisp and cool fall, which seems to be lingering into the winter months. The year has flown by so quickly, yet it still seems challenging to recall the first few months. It has been a constant whirlwind as we ever so slowly remember how to go about normal days.

I have found it very refreshing as I see my schedule fill up like it was before the pandemic. It's exciting to speak to different groups and provide updates on the city's progress over the last two and half years. I'm honestly in awe at how far we have come and am equally excited at the opportunities that lay ahead of us.

The City has received the first portion of federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, just over \$3.3 million. We have been studying long overdue projects that qualify for use under this complicated plan and see many opportunities to improve our aging sewer system. While we have made efforts to tackle the replacement or relining of old sewer pipes, the financial side of the projects and lack of grant funding available have consistently hindered a large-scale repair. This influx of funding has made it possible to finally make major improve-

ments that will drastically improve our sewer position.

In addition to sewer improvements, we are looking at more creative ways to use these funds that will broadly benefit our residents. As we narrow down the restrictions and determine possibilities for best use, I will present a plan to the City Council for their approval.

I, and your City Council, am committed to being the best stewards of public money possible. We take these positions very seriously and are always very careful to ensure that funds are used appropriately and provide the most benefit to our residents. Sometimes this poses tremendous challenges with the limited funds that are available. As we quickly approach the next budget season, I am looking at ways to make the process as easy to understand and acquire for our residents as possible.

Thank you for your support as we continue this path to success. I am dedicated to the residents of this great city, and hope that you continue to feel confident in my service. I hope you had a great holiday season!

-Mayor Bradley J. Wantz



The holiday season is always a busy time for downtowns. Veterans' Day banners come off the lamp posts, snowflake decorations and Christmas garland go on, and the hustle and bustle increases as people look for gifts for loved ones. "Shop Small" is the buzzword for most of November and December! But what about the rest of the year?

"Black Friday" got its name from the times when account credits were written in black ink, and account deficits were written in red ink. It would often take a business until the Friday after Thanksgiving to turn a profit for the whole year! Therefore, Black Friday was the day when businesses finally turned a profit. In modern times, most businesses can't afford to run a deficit for eleven months a year, but we still use the term.

If November and December are known to be the busiest shopping weeks of the year - and some of the busiest for restaurants and bars too - then January and February are known as some of the slowest weeks of the year. Many businesses cut back hours, say goodbye to seasonal employees, turn the thermostat as low as possible, and run down their inventory. At least, that's what they did in the "old days." But what about in 2021?

At a time when it's difficult to find staff, stores and restaurants will be cautious about cutting anyone's hours this year, just in case those employees decide to go elsewhere. And at a time when it's difficult to get inventory from across the country or across the ocean, businesses will be cautious about getting low on inventory, in case customers decide to go to Walmart or Amazon.

The people of Taneytown are always looking out for each other and supporting one another. Carry those instincts into January and February 2022, and when you decide where your money is going, consider keeping it local.

Where Does the Money Go?

The City of Taneytown spends more than \$6,000,000 per year on general fund expenses. Where does that money go? We're glad you asked.

Each Tuesday night, residents of Taneytown put out their trash and recycling, and on Wednesday morning or afternoon, it disappears. But they never get a bill for that! Why? Because the City pays for it out of the taxes it collects.

Ecology Services is currently the City's waste hauler. In this sense, waste includes both trash and recycling. Ecology Services bills the City to pick up waste from each residential household. It takes the waste to the landfill and then Carroll County bills the City for the trash dropped off (\$60 per ton in Fiscal Year 2021) and the recycling dropped off (\$30 per ton in Fiscal Year 2021).

In Fiscal Year 2021 (July 2020-June 2021), the City paid Ecology Services a set rate of \$8.48 per household per month. Because Taneytown is growing, the total grew every month

of the year. In July 2020 there were 2,740 households and by the end of June there were 2,862 households. (There are also a few properties in the City that use our recycling but pay for their own trash removal. Where the numbers don't quite add up here, it's probably because of them.)

Let's use June 2021 to break down the numbers. That month, Ecology Services picked up from 2,862 households at a rate of \$8.48 each, and the City paid a total of \$24,295.20 for pick up. The residents of Taneytown put out 61.6 tons of recycling at a tipping fee of \$30 for a total of \$1,848.00. They put out 245.26 tons of trash at a tipping fee of \$60 for a total of \$15,941.90.

But wait, there's more! The City also disposes of its own waste from construction or other projects and collects and disposes of yard waste. Last June that added another \$1,305.60 to the bill. For a grand total of \$43,390.70. For all of Fiscal Year 2021, the City's waste removal costs totaled \$478,948.53.

Averaged out across the 2,862 households at the end of the year, that comes to \$167.35 per year or a little under \$14 per household per month.

There are a few important things to know about Fiscal Year 2022 (which we are currently in). First of all, the County has increased the tipping fee for trash to \$65 per ton but the tipping fee for recycling stayed the same. That means each home in Taneytown can keep government costs down by recycling everything that is recyclable! In addition, Ecology Services is in the final year of their three-year contract for waste hauling. Each year of the contract included an increase in the rate per household. This year, it costs \$8.64 per household. And because it's the final year of the contract, the City is accepting bids for who will haul our trash in the future. We'll revisit this topic in two years when we can compare the new rates to the old ones.

It is our hope that "Where Does the Money Go?" helps Taneytown residents and taxpayers understand what their government pays for with tax money and why those choices get made. Upcoming topics include how much the City spends on: postage, office supplies, lawn maintenance, and phone bills. Find a past issue to learn about how much the City spends annually on fuel and electric.

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Civics in Taneytown

15th Annual Holiday of Trees, Wreaths & Centerpieces *Sponsored by Taneytown Heritage & Museum Association, Inc.*

The Taneytown Heritage and Museum Association again sponsored their annual event from November 17 – December 11, 2021. Individuals, businesses, schools, and organizations were invited to participate by decorating a tree, wreath, and/or centerpiece and donating the decorated item to the silent auction benefiting the Taneytown History Museum.

The History Museum Committee held the first Holiday of Trees in December 2006 as a fund-raising event to benefit the museum. It consisted of a tree decorating contest and silent auction. This event continues to 2021 making this the 15th annual event and has expanded to include wreaths and centerpieces. Over the years we have had various raffle items and this year we have beautiful decorative wood turnings by Doug Heck, a local artist, for our raffle. These items were made from a tree that was located on the History Museum property that had to be cut down.

The decorated items were on display in the lobby of the NWSB Bank, a division of ACNB, Taneytown office, located at 222 East Baltimore Street, Taneytown. All items were voted on by the general public. Public viewing, voting, and silent auction hours were: Monday through Friday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. – 12 Noon; Saturday, December 11 from 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

The decorated items were voted on by the public with a collection box by each item, and monetary donations were used as the voting system. For example, 1 penny = 1 vote, 1 quarter = 25 votes. The public can record their bid for an item on the card located with each decorated item.

The closing date was Saturday, December 11 with visitor voting and silent auction bids both closing at 11:00 a.m. Raffle prize winners were immediately drawn following the presentation of awards. First place winners are listed below.

The Taneytown Heritage and Museum Association, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to “keeping Taneytown’s history alive.” For further information about the organization please visit www.taneytownhh.org and/or visit our Facebook page Taneytown History Museum. -by Elaine Hoover, TH&MA Publicity Chair

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Tree

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The Taneytown History Museum, 340 East Baltimore Street, Taneytown, is closed for the season. It will re-open in April 2022.

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Local Sunday School Teacher to Compete in Miss Maryland USA 2022 Contest

Not since 1999 has a Carroll County woman been crowned Miss Maryland USA. In May, a Harney resident will try to bring the crown back home again.

Mount Saint Mary's University graduate Jody Shuey didn't grow up participating in the pageant circuit. At a time when other contestants might have been perfecting their walk or teasing their hair, she was practicing violin and preparing lesson plans for her weekly job as a Sunday School teacher. She spent part of each summer helping her mother, an elementary school reading teacher, with summer school classes.

Even now that she's involved with the Miss Maryland USA organization, Shuey hasn't changed her outlook or activities much. After graduating with her bachelor's degree in business with concentrations in marketing and finance and a minor in business analytics, she found work as the marketing and project coordinator at Erickson Senior Living in Catonsville. When weather allows, she spends her free time hiking Maryland's trails with friends.

The winner of the Miss Maryland USA pageant represents the Old Line State at the Miss USA pageant. The first Miss USA pageant was held in 1952, and the first Miss Maryland USA pageant debuted a year later. In 1957, Miss Maryland USA won the national title, and in 2012 Miss Maryland USA was the first runner up, taking over the title when Miss USA became Miss Universe.

The Miss Maryland USA pageant does not have "preliminary pageants" like some other organizations do, instead accepting candidates based on an interview and their accomplishments. As a result, Shuey will be expected to begin soliciting donations now from area businesses to help pay for her expenses as she competes with approximately 100 other young women for the Miss Maryland USA title. The state-wide pageant will be held May 13-15, 2022 at the Bethesda North Marriott Hotel & Conference Center. Contestants are judged in three categories: evening gown, interview, and swim suit.



Photos of Jody Shuey courtesy of the candidate



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How Do They Do That?

The City of Taneytown gets a lot of work done that City employees don't do themselves. How do they decide who repaves a parking lot, picks up residential trash, get to put a fountain in a pond?

Part I, Chapter 46 of the City Code deals with Purchases and Contracts. It exists to assure that purchases with tax money are made "efficiently, effectively, and at the most favorable prices available to the City."

With some exceptions, any purchase over \$25,000 has to be "put out for bid." That means the City Manager has to publicly advertise that the City is looking for a product or service and allow any interested person or company to put together a proposal for the work. The official notice is called a Request for Proposals (RFP). The process is like the reverse of an auction. In an auction, everyone is going higher and higher to try to win whatever is for sale, and everyone knows what the most recent bid is.

When the City puts something out for bid, it includes specifications that must be met. If it's a bid for lawn mowing services for parks, it might specify how often mowing should be done. If it's for paving for a basketball court, the bid might specify what type of material or what color the court should be painted or the date by which the work must be completed.

Bids are advertised on the City website, on the Carroll County government website, in the Carroll County Times, on Facebook, and wherever else it seems relevant. Businesses that hope to be awarded the bid put together their proposal, explaining how much they will charge for materials, labor, and any other costs.

On the advertised day, the City Treasurer and City Manager, along with the relevant department head, go to the City Council Chamber and publicly open all of the bids and announce the name and amount of bidders. This lets everyone know the total number of bidders and the range of prices.

From there, the department head reviews the bids, makes a professional decision on which bid is best, and makes a recommendation to the Mayor & City Council. They choose to award the project to one of the bidders or re-start the process if no bid was satisfactory.

And that's how they decide who gets what government contract!



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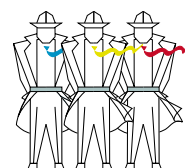
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A Tradition of Carroll County Holidays

Holiday customs serve an essential role in marking the changes of time in our personal lives as well as the history of our communities. This is especially true during our end-of-the-year holidays when we repeat rituals that continue local traditions in the home and community.

It is reassuring to return to these traditions each year, ones that provide a connection with the past. As we prepare for the holidays, nostalgic images of past holiday celebrations fill our memories and provide a perspective by which we measure our accomplishments. A delightful Christmas custom of the past in Carroll County, which unfortunately did not survive the test of time, was masquerading, commonly referred to as “Kris Kringling.”

In the weeks preceding Christmas, the young people of a community would prepare their costumes and skits. Dressed in costume, they would go door-to-door providing entertainment. In return, the household which had just been entertained by the Kris Kringlers would offer refreshments. The costumes would range from literary figures to historical personages as well as fanciful clothing. Mary Shellman’s writings mention the Kris Kringling tradition. In a letter to her brother, James, she described the characters of a skit in which she played the “Inquisitive Lady:”

Some of the characters were very good. We had two from Dickens, ‘Dick Swiveller’ and ‘Sam Weller,’ besides there was ‘Paul Pry,’ two ‘Turkish girls,’ the ‘Rose of Lucerne,’ the ‘Arkansas Traveler,’ ‘Rip Van Winkle,’ ‘Osceola,’ ‘General Washington’ and several others.

One will find additional information on the pages of our local newspapers. These sources reveal that the masqueraders were at times unruly, as reported in the January 3, 1873, issue of Westminster’s Democratic Advocate:

Christmas - The day was generally observed, and pleasantly spent by many in making Christmas calls. From early in the morning until late in the evening, ‘Young America’ amused themselves by firing crackers, blowing horns and enjoying themselves generally. Christmas masqueraders were out in full force

on Wednesday [December 24] and Thursday [December 25] nights. If they behaved with more propriety when entering the residences of our citizens, they would be treated better, but as it is they seem to take the occasion for showing how rudely they can misbehave.

It is, of course, in the tradition of Mary Shellman to take a bad situation and turn it into something useful and for the public benefit. It appears that she reformed at least some of the masqueraders into singing carols and collecting money for the poor. The Democratic Advocate of January 4, 1879, noted:

A baker’s dozen of merry maskers, composed of ladies and gentlemen, went from house to house on New Year’s Eve, singing New Year’s carols. They bore a small white banner inscribed ‘Happy New Year’ and another ‘Remember the Poor,’ also a box inscribed ‘For Charity.’ They realized ten dollars and the money was expended on New Year’s Day in gifts to the poor, deserving and sick children. Miss Mary B. Shellman, always foremost in affairs of this nature, led the party. Presents were dispensed to thirty children.

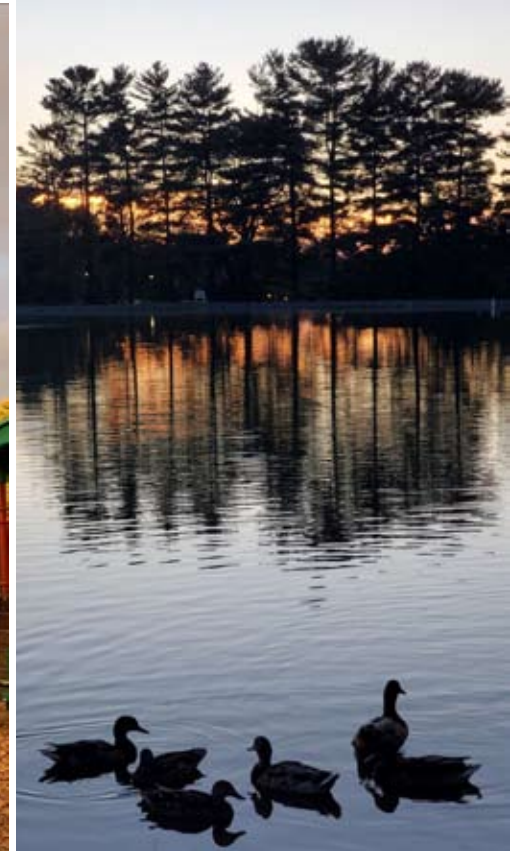


While some traditions, such as masquerading, have not survived, looking after the needs of local needy families is still a part of the Carroll County Christmas.

(Photograph of Mary Bostwick Shellman, courtesy of Historical Society of Carroll County.)

The “Taneytown History” column is written by David Buie, a Taneytown Resident who has a passion for Carroll County and its place in history. For more information on the history of Taneytown, visit Downtown Taneytown on Facebook or he can be contacted at teambuie05@msn.com.

Historic Investment in Parks & Recreation to continue in 2022



Taneytown Director of Parks & Recreation Lorena Vaccare was appointed to her role in early 2020. Since her appointment, the Mayor & City Council of Taneytown have approved nearly \$750,000 in improvement projects for town parks.

Vaccare hasn't limited herself just to infrastructure projects at the parks. She also instituted a variety of contests focused on encouraging people to enjoy the parks. One of those contests was the recent Parks & Recreation Photography Contest. The photograph above left (by Courtney Levin) won 1st place in the "Play" category while the above right picture (by Shana Johnson) won 1st place in the "Nature" category.

Infrastructure investment since 2019 includes:

- \$42,000 to refurbish pavilions in Memorial Park and Roberts Mill Park
- \$85,000 to improve and modernize park athletic facilities
- \$152,000 to upgrade outdated playgrounds with new and completely accessible equipment and improve safety measures at Taneytown High School Park
- \$14,000 to restore the Memorial Park War Memorial to its property dignity as a monument to America's military

- \$208,000 to refurbish Roberts Mill Park, including restructuring the pond walking path and stabilizing the shore, installing a fountain to improve water quality, and resurfacing the basketball court
- \$203,000 to demolish and reconstruct Memorial Park's largest parking lot, which is expected to last for more than 20 years

Of the approximately \$750,000 in improvement projects, \$169,559 or 22% have been funded by grants and rebates.

Continued improvements in 2022 include plans to resurface Memorial Park's tennis courts, convert a tennis court into a pickleball court, and resurface the Memorial Park basketball court. The City has also received a \$15,000 grant to install new trash and recycling receptacles at Memorial Park.

Additional contests in the Parks have included: Tails of Taneytown Pet Costume Contest, Tales in the Parks Scavenger Hunt with the Carroll County Public Library - Taneytown Branch, Reading in the Parks Contest, and the Annual Fishing Derby.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 23)



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After February 15, a late Water/Sewer bill will be mailed to anyone with an outstanding balance and will be due by February 22, 2022. **Water shut-off is scheduled after February 22, 2022.** If water service is interrupted for non-payment, there will be an additional restoration fee of \$50.00 to reconnect water service. **On the day of water shut-off only cash payments will be accepted.** Questions regarding your bill can be directed to the Water/Sewer Department at (410) 751-1100.

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City offices are closed on Monday, January 17 for Martin Luther King Jr. Day and Monday, February 21 for Presidents' Day.

DEAR PROPERTY OWNERS:

The City of Taneytown uses a radio reader to collect water meter information. If the City does not get a radio read (we do not need to enter the property for this) from your property, the system will estimate your bill based on the previous three (3) quarters' usage. There will be a water mark behind current reading/previous reading/consumption usage on your bill stating "Estimated Reading" if it has been estimated.

If your bill has the "Estimated Reading" image, please contact the City Office at (410) 751-1100 immediately and we will schedule a time to physically check the meter, obtain an actual reading and/or complete the needed repair so we can obtain future radio reads. This process takes 10-15 minutes. *Thank you.*

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Community Policing in Taneytown

Hi,

I'm Pfc. Williams with the Taneytown Police Department. It's been a pleasure serving and protecting the citizens of Taneytown for the past three years. On my shifts, I meet many individuals and each experience is unique. The citizens I talk to are very supportive in striving to make a difference in the community we serve. As we work together to create a safe and thriving city, we recognize the importance of the support of every individual in our community. We couldn't do it without you.

The City of Taneytown is growing, and welcoming new families to our town is a very important part of my job. During my shifts, I see children playing basketball, riding their bikes, playing on the playground, and performing tricks and stunts at the skate park. It's imperative that we stop and communicate with the children to establish a healthy relationship of mutual trust and respect. Inside of my patrol vehicle I carry a plastic bag filled with stickers, pencils, coloring books, Taneytown PD wrist bands and child identification information booklets. I enjoy handing these out to the children as we talk about many different topics, such as their baseball games, playing Fortnite, sports at school, their current interest, and other topics they wish to talk about. I always like to offer them a chance to get in my patrol vehicle and play with the lights and sirens. Seeing the smiles on their faces makes my tour of duty feel complete. While speaking to the children, I encourage them to talk with their parents about coming to visit the Taneytown Police Department for a tour.

On October 20th, 2021, Blakely, along with her parents, got to tour the Taneytown Police Department for her birthday. Sgt. Castellar was tasked with the duties of this tour and was excited to have the opportunity to make Blakely's birthday wish come true! Upon her arrival, Blakely was greeted by Sgt. Castellar, Cpl. Shaffer, myself and other members of the Taneytown Police Department. As the tour began, Blakely enjoyed playing with the lights and sirens in Sgt. Castellar's patrol vehicle. Blakely then requested to tour the holding cells here at the station. After the tour concluded we got to talk with Blakely about her favorite parts of the tour. It was a joy to see her smile and know that we had a small part in celebrating her birthday. Blakely told us that she enjoyed her tour and wants to be a police officer one day.

As we continue to serve the community, I ask that you stop and talk to an officer whenever you see us out on patrol. We are here to protect and serve and will continue to do our best to provide a safe and educational community experience for the citizens of Taneytown.

If you are interested in a tour, please email us at: hengels@taneytown.org. I look forward to seeing you in the future.

Pfc. Ralph S. Williams

The Taneytown Police Station is located at 120 East Baltimore Street, Taneytown, MD 21787. Monday through Friday, non-emergency calls can be placed to 410-751-1150. City of Taneytown police officers protect and serve inside the City limits 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

January

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2	3 City Offices Closed (New Years Obs.)	4	5 Regular Trash & Recycling Pick Up BERC Virtual Job Fair Adults 1:00pm Taneytown Library Mayor & Council Workshop Meeting 7:30pm City Hall	6	7 Soup's On! Storytime Age: Birth-8 10:00am Taneytown Library	8
9	10 Mayor & Council Regular Meeting 7:30pm City Hall	11 Family Storytime Age: Birth-8 10:00am Taneytown Library	12 Lets Explore Nature Ages 3-6 10:00am Puppet Show Ages: 3-12 6:30pm Taneytown Library Parks & Rec Advisory Board & TAA Meeting 6:30pm City Hall	13 Puppet Show Ages: 3-12 10:00am Taneytown Library	14	15
16	17 No Parking 5a-10a York, Frederick E&W Baltimore Sts City Offices Closed (MLK Day)	18 Family Storytime Age: Birth-8 10:00am Taneytown Library	19 Regular Trash & Recycling Pick Up Board of Appeals Meeting (Zoning) 7:30pm & 8:00pm City Hall	20 Family Storytime Age: Birth-8 10:00am Taneytown Library	21	22
23	24	25 Family Storytime Age: Birth-8 10:00am Taneytown Library	26	27 Family Storytime Age: Birth-8 10:00am Taneytown Library	28 Preschool STEAM Age: Birth-8 10:00am Taneytown Library	29
30	31 Water Bills Due Planning Comission Regular Meeting 7:30pm City Hall	January 3-10 Library Book Box Pick Up: First Steps Adults Taneytown Library	January 10-17 Library Loot Box Pick Up: New Year, New You Age 11-17 Taneytown Library	January 18-25 Library Loot Box Pick Up: Winter Age 6-10 Taneytown Library	January 18-25 DIY Pokémon Snow Globe Age 10-17 Taneytown Library	Red = Public Works Green = Parks & Athletics Blue = City Government Light Blue = Taneytown Library (Registration REQUIRED)

February

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Family Storytime Age: Birth-8 10:00am Taneytown Library	2 BERC Virtual Job Fair Adults 1:00pm Taneytown Library	3 Family Storytime Age: Birth-8 10:00am Taneytown Library	4	5
6	7	8 Family Storytime Age: Birth-8 10:00am Taneytown Library	9 Valentine's Messy Masterpieces Ages 2-6 10:00am Taneytown Library Mayor & Council Workshop Meeting 7:30pm City Hall	10 Family Storytime Age: Birth-8 10:00am Taneytown Library	11 Fun With Frozen Ages Birth-8 10:00am Taneytown Library	12
13	14 Mayor & Council Regular Meeting 7:30pm City Hall	15 Family Storytime Age: Birth-8 10:00am Taneytown Library	16 Parks & Rec Advisory Board & TAA Meeting 6:30pm City Hall	17 Family Storytime Age: Birth-8 10:00am Taneytown Library	18	19
20	21 No Parking 5a-10a York, Frederick E&W Baltimore Sts City Offices Closed (Presidents Day)	22 Last Day Before Water Shut-Offs Family Storytime Age: Birth-8 10:00am Taneytown Library	23 Regular Trash & Recycling Pick Up	24 Family Storytime Age: Birth-8 10:00am Taneytown Library	25 Preschool STEAM Age: Birth-8 10:00am Taneytown Library	26
27	28 Planning Comission Regular Meeting 7:30pm City Hall	February 7-11 Valntine's Fun Craft & Activity Kits Ages 3-6 Taneytown Library	February 7-14 Library Book Box Pick Up: Book Lover Adults Taneytown Library	February 14-21 Library Loot Box Pick Up: Short But Sweet Age 12-17 Taneytown Library		Red = Public Works Green = Parks & Athletics Blue = City Government

Recycling & Waste Reminders & Rules

RECYCLING

The following items **are not** permitted in curb-side recycling:

- Plastic shopping and grocery bags
- Newspaper bags
- Bread and produce bags
- Food storage bags
- Wrap packaging (the thin plastic wrap covering items such as water, napkins, paper towels, etc)
- Air pillows from packaging

Although these items can't be recycled by our local hauler, some of them may be accepted for recycling at local stores. You may also choose to not use them at all! According to ThoughtCo, plastic bags are used for an average of 12 minutes, take 1,000 years to break down into smaller particles, and can continue to pollute soil and water for years. Reduce the use of plastic bags by using alternative methods such as bringing your own reusable bags.

More information regarding Carroll County recycling programs may be found on the County website and a guide to Waste Management & Recycling is also available.

www.carrollcountymd.gov/medi/3128/acceptable.pdf
www.recyclecarroll.org

BULK TRASH

If you are in need of having large items removed from your property, you may call Ecology Services at 1-866-427-8389 to set up a time for them to remove it. Ecology Services will charge you for this service. **This fee will not be paid by the City.** You will need to send pictures of the item(s) so they can properly price the cost of this service. Fees are based on size and volume of materials that you are having collected.

PLEASE REMEMBER

Trash collection is for household garbage only. The City's hauling company will not collect yard waste, building materials, and bulk items. Recycling containers containing trash will not be picked-up. **Remove empty cans from curbside and open common areas before the next day.**

5 Reverse Mortgage Myths - Busted!

The full story about reverse mortgages.

Myth 1	The bank owns my home.
Answer	The bank does not "own" your home. Just like a traditional mortgage, the bank places a lien on your home.
Myth 2	The bank can kick me out of my home by foreclosing on my home.
Answer	As long as the borrower(s) meet the requirements of the loan, they cannot be forced out. Borrower must occupy home as primary residence and remain current on property taxes, homeowner's insurance, the costs of home maintenance, and any HOA fees.
Myth 3	The bank can foreclose on a home and kick out the borrower's spouse, partner or significant other.
Answer	If the borrower no longer meets the requirements of the loan such as the home is no longer their primary residence, they've passed away, or are not making the required payments (see myth 2), the loan has to be satisfied. If the spouse, partner or significant other are not on title they will need to refinance the loan in their name or purchase the home.
Myth 4	Reverse Mortgages are for those who have no money.
Answer	A Reverse Mortgage is designed to support all socio, economic communities. In fact, individuals with a financial advisor may, by using a Reverse Mortgage, be able to leave a larger legacy to their heirs or estates.
Myth 5	My heirs or estate will be responsible for repaying the Reverse Mortgage.
Answer	The loan is a non-recourse loan. The home is the only asset the lender can pursue to repay the principal loan balance (PLB). The repayment amount can never exceed the home's value (at the time of repayment).



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jmccarron@mutualmortgage.com
www.mutualreverse.com/james-mccarro



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NEW EXPLORATION COMMONS OPEN AT WESMINSTER LIBRARY BRANCH!

Carroll County Public Library is excited to announce that starting Saturday, December 18, 2021, Exploration Commons at 50 East will open to the public. Located at 50 East Main Street with the Westminster Branch, this location offers a makerspace, teaching kitchen, and several meeting rooms varying in size.

We are so excited to finally have Exploration Commons at 50 East open and available to the public. We know this space will be a great benefit to our community. It offers access to equipment, resources and knowledge to anyone who is interested in learning something new. Our staff and guest presenters will provide instruction and education to the community through hands-on programming. This space also promotes workforce development by providing access and training for those looking to learn new job skills, connecting career mentors with youth and adults seeking new workforce opportunities, and providing tools, training, and support for startups and businesses to develop innovative products and services.

Exploration Commons offers a tech-focused makerspace. Makerspaces are community-based workshops with access to equipment, resources, and instruction to allow anyone to design, prototype, and manufacture items to bring their ideas to life. The

makerspace offers a collaborative classroom and working environment in addition to four dedicated labs for printing, digital fabrication, augmented and virtual reality, and audio/video editing and production. Makerspace equipment includes 3D printers, 3D scanner, laser cutters, and CNC router to allow for rapid prototyping and production; studio equipment to support audio/video recording and production; design software for graphic design and 3D modeling and animation; augmented and virtual reality equipment to support access to and the creation of immersive media; sewing machines for textile development; and more.

Users must be certified to use select equipment. Programs held in the Makerspace will be led by an instructor and may also have age restrictions depending on the equipment used or content of the program. View all makerspace programming here: <https://bit.ly/31o3Psr>.

Exploration Commons offers a commercial teaching kitchen with hands-on classroom space. This unique education space will provide programs for community members to learn basic cooking and life skills, healthy eating and nutrition, and safe food handling practices. The teaching kitchen will support hands-on cooking classes and demonstrations. To find the full list of programming in the

teaching kitchen visit, <https://bit.ly/3HQOTDK>.

The new space also expands meeting space for community use, including a large meeting room that seats up to 150 people, a classroom, and two small meeting rooms. All of these spaces will include state-of-the-art audio/visual equipment. You can check availability and reserve a room at <https://ccpl.librarymarket.com/reserve-room>.

To learn more about Exploration Commons at 50 East, visit <https://explorationcommons.carr.org/>.

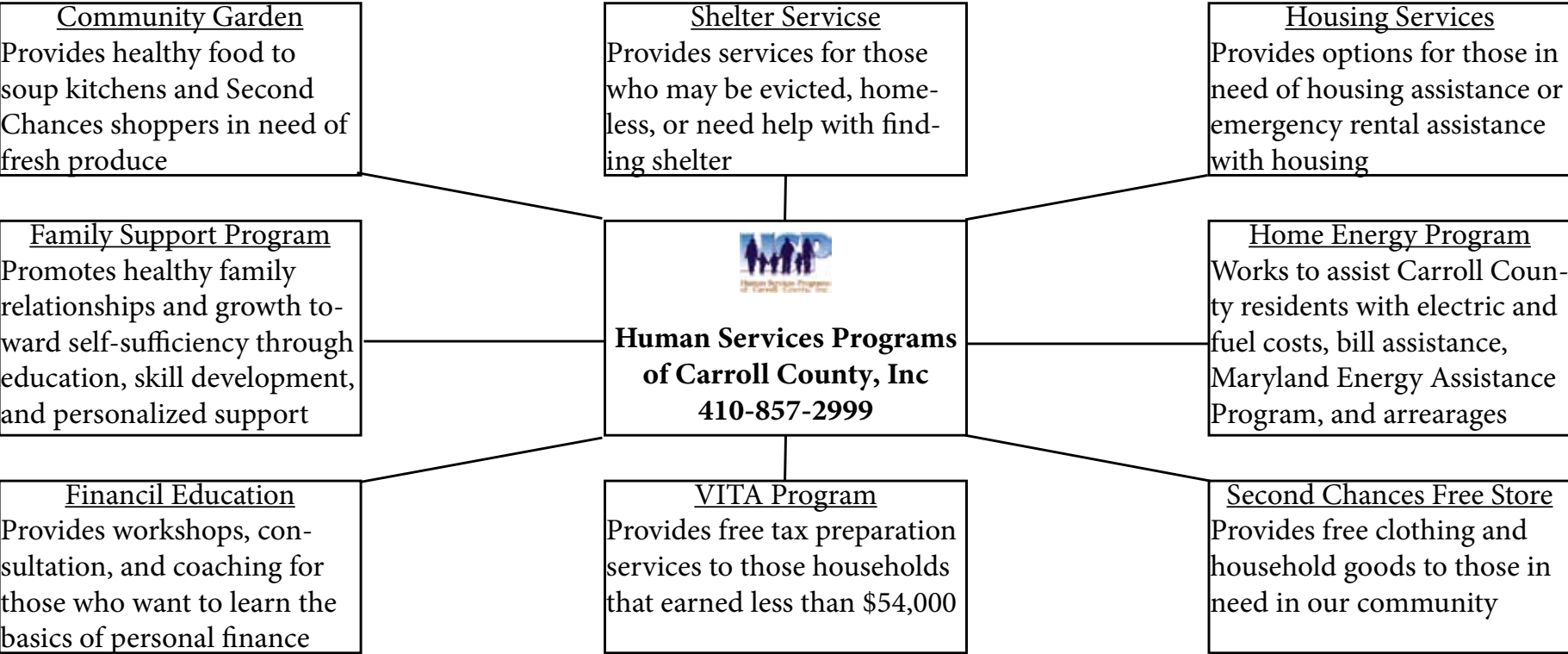
Photographs on page 21 courtesy of Carroll County Public Libraries. Clockwise from top: Commercial teaching kitchen, Exploration Commons sign on the Library's tower, Classroom.

“For generations libraries have connected communities. We are excited to enter this next phase of library service with the addition of Exploration Commons, where we will connect our customers with engaging experiences in a collaborative environment to achieve professional, educational, and personal goals.”

**–Leza Griffith, President
Carroll County Public Library
Board of Trustees**



Help in the Community



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(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10)

The Parks & Recreation Department also coordinates Wine, Art, and Music Fest, Memorial Day commemorations and the parade, Independence Day festivities and fireworks, the 9/11 Observation, Harvest Fest, and the Taneytown Christmas Tree Lighting.

If you are interested in volunteering to help plan or work at any Parks & Recreation Department events, email Director Lorena Vaccare at lvaccare@taneytown.org.

Photo above: Roberts Mill Park by Destiny Halpin (Overall Grand Prize). Photo at right: Kids & Coach at Memorial Park by Ariel Jacobs (1st Prize, Action Category).



Parks & Recreation

October

Engineers are working with the Carroll County floodplain specialist about two areas in Bollinger Park that are proposed to cross a designated flood zone.

We are installing a split rail fence at Roberst Mill Park along the property with Food Lion to deter drivers from entering the soccer fields and leaving ruts.

New park rules signs and dog waste stations are installed.

The project to improve surfaces on tennis and basketball courts, and the adaptation of one court for pickleball will be funded by Program Open Space grant money.

November

The Taneytown Planning Commission is reviewing our plans for Bollinger Park. We hope they and the County approve everything in late Winter/early Spring and we can have shovels in the ground this summer.

A building permit has been issued for the THS Park storage building, and the contractor is scheduling the work, which will be partially dependent on weather.

Rodkey Electric has been updating and correcting wiring in Memorial Park as the Public Works Department has also been replacing some old water infrastructure in the park.

We have inspected all of the playgrounds in our parks and made necessary repairs. The Roberts Mill and Flickinger Parks playgrounds were in better shape than anticipated as far as our replacement timeline is concerned. The tot lot at Memorial Park was determined to be in need of replacement as soon as we can get to it. We hope to use Program Open Space funding for it during the next cycle we're eligible for.

Some of the Taneytown Athletic Association teams have opened registration for their Spring seasons.

Public Works

October

Eleven Use and Occupancy Inspections occurred, allowing dwellings to be occupied. All were in Meades Crossing. A total of 488 work orders were completed, and 73 of them were from other City departments.

The most recent recycling bill was for \$2,072.70 for 69.09 tons of recycling collected. Ecology Services will be working to implement some changes due to complaints from residents about the throwing of cans and lids as well as sloppy collections. This will take some time.

Well levels continue to be stable. It is recommended to keep the voluntary water restrictions in place.

During our October leak detection, we found one leak along E. Baltimore Street. This leak was traced back to the service line at 40 E. Baltimore Street and the property owner has since fixed the leak.

We purchased a new Teleskid that is being up-fitted with LED lights and backup camera by the vendor. We will take delivery on November 1, 2021.

November

Four Use and Occupancy Inspections occurred, allowing dwellings to be occupied. All were in Meades Crossing. A total of 371 work orders were completed, and 43 of them were from other City departments.

The most recent recycling bill was for \$1,297.20 for 43.24 tons of recycling collected. Ecology Services is continuing to work on complaints from City residents.

Well levels continue to be stable. It is recommended to keep the voluntary water restrictions in place.

During the November leak detection, no leaks were found.

We hope to take delivery of an F350 truck by the end of November. We are waiting to hear from the dealership as to when the second F350 truck will arrive from the factory.

Economic Development

October

Several commercial properties are currently available for sale or for rent, and we have been talking with landlords and potential business operators.

Convened the first-ever quarterly Taneytown Manufacturers’ Roundtable; EVAPCO, Flowserve, Taney Corporation, and Curaleaf attended. We hope that FP Duffy, Hexagon Purus, and Craft Mart will join us in the future.

Discussing with DHCD and one of their partner-lenders whether any of their government-backed loan programs is appropriate for any of our businesses.

Investigating a variety of upcoming grants to refresh and possibly replace historical interpretative signage and improve way-finding and parking signage.

November

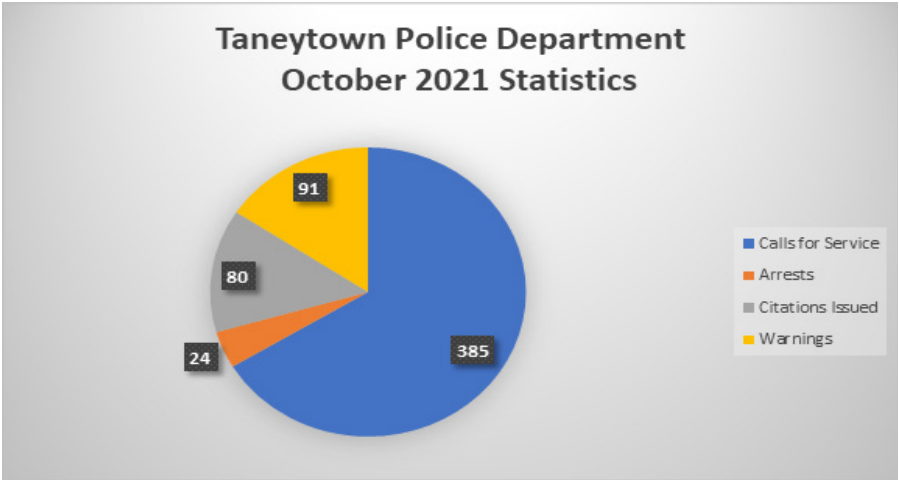
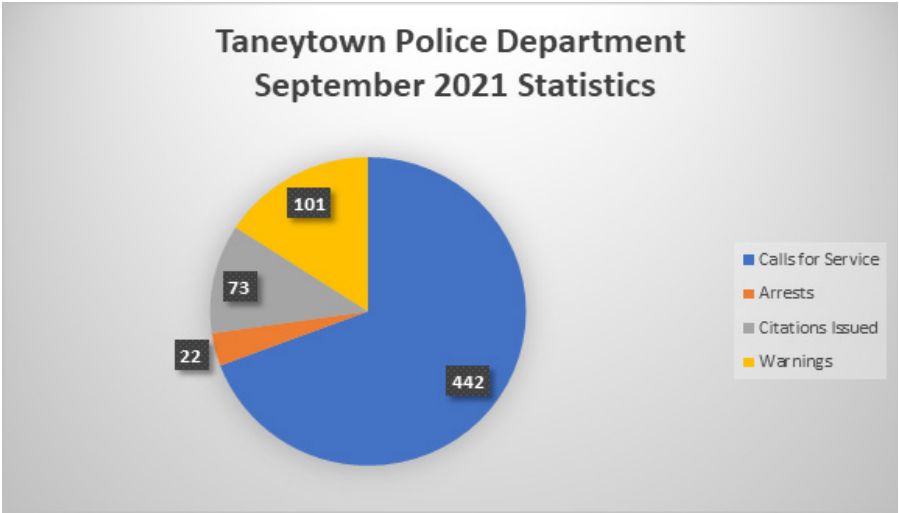
Exploring business retention and expansion software to improve level of service to business community. Buyer and potential tenant of 25 E. Baltimore Street have contacted the City to begin the process of opening a new business.

Connected several manufacturers with Westminster Rescue Mission for job training and hiring opportunities. Partnering with other workforce development groups to try to assist businesses with staffing levels.

Organizing Twelve Days of Taneytown Christmas and participation in Carroll County Downtowns Small Business Saturday Passport program. Hosted US Senator Chris Van Hollen’s Western Regional Director for a tour of Taneytown.

Attended South Carroll Business Association monthly meeting to prospect any businesses that might be looking to expand into the northern end of the County. We stress our proximity to Gettysburg and the interests of guests at Antrim 1844 and Georges on York Bed and Breakfast.

Police Department



Continued From Page 1

(IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR CONT.)

A: Both Santa Claus and the Taneytown Police Department know who's been naughty and who's been nice.

Other seasonal events included Wantz Chevrolet's Christmas For Local Children toy drive with drop off locations at Wantz Chevrolet, Thunderhead Bowl & Grill, Taneytown Liquor Barn, Kennies Market, and Carroll Vista Club House (see ad on page 6) and the Taneytown Heritage & Museum Association's Holiday of Trees, Wreaths, and Centerpieces (see article on page 4).

City of Taneytown Offices will close at 12:00pm on Friday, December 24 and Friday, December 31 and will be closed all day on Monday, December 27 and Monday, January 3.





Front Page Photos Courtesy of Taneytown Parks & Recreation Department; right side: Taneytown Christmas Tree. Left side: Taneytown Police Department members with Santa Claus.

Page 26 Photos Also Courtesy of Taneytown Parks & Recreation Department; clockwise from top left: Mayor Bradley J. Wantz welcomes Santa Claus to Taneytown's Memorial Park, Taneytown Mayor Pro Tem Joseph Vigliotti with Council Members Diane Foster (L) and Judith Fuller (R).

Page 27 Photos clockwise from top left: Sheila Wantz (L) and Scott Wantz (R) accept a \$250 donation for Wantz Chevrolet's Christmas For Local Children toy drive from Debby McCoy (middle) on behalf of Thunderhead Bowl & Grill; photo by Jodi Narowanski. Santa hears Christmas wishes from Taneytown children; photo courtesy of Taneytown Parks & Recreation Department. Taneytown Police Officer Steven Sakadales poses with six-year old Jase Stewart at the Taneytown Police Department's Annual Pack the Police Car food drive at Kennie's Market. Jase is a student at Choe's Hap Ki Do Academy of Taneytown; the Academy participated in the food drive as part of their mission of teaching participants to serve the community.

Wantz Chevrolet is located at 1 Chevro Drive, Thunderhead Bowl & Grill is located at 4337 Old Taneytown Pike, Kennie's Market is located at 11 Grand Drive, and Choe's Hap Ki Do Academy of Taneytown is located at 417 E. Baltimore Street. The City of Taneytown is grateful for their efforts to ensure a happier holiday for all!

Social Page

January 5 - Jean Brown - 96th Birthday



January 5 - Kody Wilson - 20th Birthday



January 9
Derek Miller
7th Birthday



January 22
Stephanie Sullivan
36th Birthday



January 25 - Catherine Lafortezza - 22nd Birthday



February 4
Brandi Bollinger
39th Birthday

February 5 - David & Terri Collins
39th Wedding Anniversary



February 6
Brittany Gootee
31st Birthday



February 13
Krystal Johnson
Birthday

February 14 - Ronnie & Jaime Fields
16th Wedding Anniversary



February 20
Kim McCord Golliday
Birthday
(photo by Kelly Heck)



February 26 - Cathy Stone - Birthday

February 28 -Karen Sorto - 23rd Birthday



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This issue of *The Taneytown Record* includes our first Social Page. The goal of the Social Page is to celebrate the people of Taneytown! Please submit birthdays or anniversaries via email to jmeashey@taneytown.org. We will also post on Facebook so people can let us know there.

We need the first and last name of each person with a birthday or wedding anniversary. If it seems like someone is trying to pull a fast one on us with a made-up name or putting their birthday in multiple times to get cake from friends and family, we reserve the right to verify names and dates by getting in touch with honorees. It is up to you whether or not to include the age of someone celebrating - we know better than to ask our elders their ages!

Photographs may be included if space allows. Please include the photograph in your email or Facebook message. Please also make sure that no one is included in the pictures who doesn't want their face in the newspaper!

To include the March or April birthday or wedding anniversary of you or a loved one, please submit information by Friday, February 11, 2022!

Doing Business in Taneytown

Are you thinking about starting your own business? Moving a home-based business into a storefront? Expanding your successful business to a second location? Check out some important statistics about Taneytown!

<u>City Demographics</u>		<u>Distance to Major Highways</u>	
Population	7,234	US Route 15	12 miles
Workforce-Aged Population	4,072	Interstate 70	25 miles
Owner-Occupied Housing Rate	77.10%	Interstate 83	38 miles
Median Household Income	\$73,649	Interstate 76 (PA Turnpike)	43 miles
Per Capita Income	\$35,122	Interstate 81	47 miles
Daytime Population	21,842	Interstate 95	50 miles
<u>Distance to Key Cities</u>		<u>Distance to Mass Transit</u>	
Westminster (pop. 20,126)	10 miles	Carroll County Regional Airport	12 miles
Frederick (pop. 78,171)	21 miles	Frederick Amtrak Station	21 miles
Baltimore (pop. 585,708)	42 miles	BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport	44 miles
Washington, DC (pop. 689,545)	65 miles	Harrisburg International Airport	58 miles
Harrisburg, PA (pop. 50,099)	65 miles	Dulles International Airport	65 miles
Annapolis, MD (pop. 40,812)	69 miles	Reagan National Airport	73 miles
Philadelphia, PA (pop. 1,603,797)	140 miles	Philadelphia International Airport	130 miles

Look for the Taneytown Community & Business Directory at the Taneytown Library, Taneytown Senior Center, Kennie’s Market, Food Lion, and Taneytown City Hall on February 1!

Well, it's certainly been a first "year" on the job as Economic Development Director, Main Street Manager, and Taneytown Record Editor & Publisher! And in fact, it hasn't even been a full year. My first day on the job was March 1, 2021. But the end of the calendar year seemed like an okay time to look back over the year.

I learned a lot about Taneytown in a few short months. I started with a listening tour, and boy was there plenty to hear! I've said several times that people in Taneytown want to be listened to, and I stand by that. A side effect of learning so much about the town and its people is that I tend to give a lot of tours to government officials and other people visiting from out of town. And I always make sure to tell them something about the people of Taneytown:

The people here are generous, enthusiastic, and patriotic!

Frankly, no one will convince me otherwise. When I got to town, one of the first things that people told me was that I MUST join the Taneytown Neighborhood and Taneytown Community Group on Facebook. So I did. Day in and day out I see people offering extra baby formula, posting about escaped pets they see, giving rides to neighbors whose car broke down, answering questions about when Trick-or-Treat is or when Santa will come by on a fire engine.

I also see people share how proud they are of family members who are serving in the armed forces or have served in the past. I see lots of red, white and blue, and posts about Memorial Day, 9/11, Veterans Day, and Wreaths Across America. From time to time, I see some nasty posts too, but I think that those are decreasing in frequency. I hope they are. It doesn't always work, but I try to remember a lesson I learned from the Disney movie Bambi: "If you can't say somethin' nice, don't say nothin' at all." As we start 2022, I hope that even the quickest keyboard warrior remembers that classic lesson.

And lastly, yes, I learned how many people value the Taneytown Record. Thank you for your continued enthusiasm!

<i>www.taneytown.org</i>	<i>City Directory</i>	<i>(410) 751-1100</i>
Mayor Bradley J. Wantz bwantz@taneytown.org		Mayor Pro Tem Joseph Vigliotti jvigliotti@taneytown.org
Councilwoman Diane A. Foster dfoster@taneytown.org		Councilwoman Judith Archie Fuller jfuller@taneytown.org
Councilman Daniel Haines dhaines@taneytown.org		Councilman LeRoy (Lee) Hand lhand@taneytown.org
City Manager James A. Wieprecht jawieprecht@taneytown.org		City Clerk Clara Kalman ckalman@taneytown.org
Public Works Director Kevin Smeak ksmeak@taneytown.org		City Treasurer Barri Avallone bavallone@taneytown.org
IT Director Daniel Dennis ddennis@taneytown.org		Parks & Recreation Director Lorena Vaccare lvaccare@taneytown.org
Planning & Zoning Director Darryl Hale dhale@taneytown.org		Economic Development Director & Main Street Manager Jay Meashey jmeashey@taneytown.org

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