



ISSUE 02
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City of Taneytown

NEWSLETTER

2025: A Year of Progress

Mayors Message

2025 was a year focused on public safety, economic development, continuous improvements across our parks, public works, and planning and zoning efforts. These weren't abstract goals, these were deliberate priorities aimed at making Taneytown safer, more efficient & better positioned for long-term stability.

Public safety remained our top priority. In 2025, Taneytown joined the Carroll County Drug Task Force, continued active use of our K-9 program, added additional officers & reached full staffing within the Police Department for the first time in many years. These were steps that were taken to provide tangible and meaningful results in the realm of public safety, towards issues we face in our community. In 2026 we'll expand on this, working towards officer retention & additional tools to detour unsafe traffic conditions throughout the Taneytown area to include work on truck traffic in the downtown area & traffic bypassing through our residential neighborhoods.

We also welcomed new members to City staff who made an immediate impact. Makenzie Albin joined us as Executive Administrative Assistant, and Andrew Gray stepped into the role of Planning & Zoning Director. Both have hit the ground running; supporting food drives, navigating complex commercial additions and expansions such as Evapco and Taco Bell, and helping move projects forward efficiently and responsibly.

Community involvement remained strong in Taneytown in 2025. Through food drives, toy drives, and initiatives like Pack the Police Car, residents once again showed that when a need arises, this town comes together. In the face of adversity, we help our neighbors.

2025 also brought new leadership to City Council. Please welcome Mayor Pro Tem Rachael Miller, Councilmember Harry Meade & Councilmember Nick Kalinock. Each joined City government as fresh faces and immediately got to work. Together, we advanced legislation that has already set several initiatives in motion, including the approval of a 5% water rate reduction. I'm confident this team will continue to deliver results that benefit the residents in 2026.

Our community calendar remained full, with events such as the Wine, Arts & Music Festival, Harvest Festival, and Independence Day celebration bringing residents together. Looking ahead, residents can expect additional America 250-related events throughout Taneytown & Carroll County in 2026.

Finally, I want to thank our residents, volunteers, City staff, first responders, and local businesses for their continued support. Communication was a focus in 2025 and will remain one in 2026. We've resumed regular newsletters and will be rolling out additional communication tools to ensure transparency, explain decision-making, and keep residents informed on city priorities and events.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve. I look forward to continuing a residents-first approach in 2026, and I encourage you, as always, to reach out.

- Mayor Christopher Miller

443-487-3115 | Cmillers@taneytownmd.gov



Be sure to check out our various events to celebrate America's 250th Birthday this Summer!

2025 By the Numbers



20 Community Events Hosted



30 Park Upgrades



10 Public Safety initiatives



2+ Tons of food Donated locally

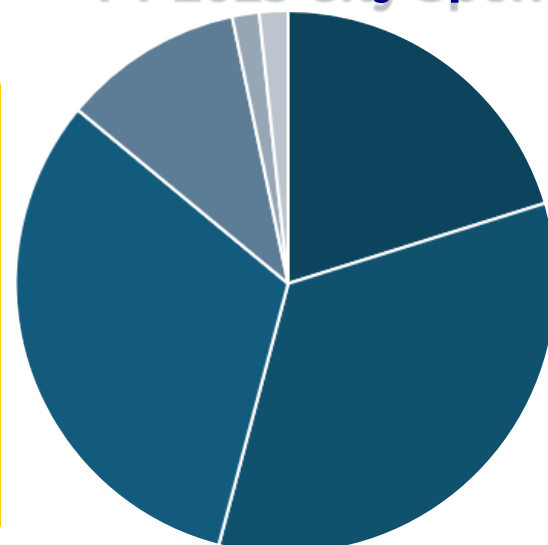
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FY 2025 City Spending by Category



34% Public Safety
32% Public Works
20% General Government
11% Parks
2% Economic Development
2% Debt Service

In FY 2025, Taneytown's budget prioritized **public safety and infrastructure**, with 66% of spending dedicated to Public Safety and Public Works. Additional investments supported city operations, parks and recreation, economic development, and responsible debt management, ensuring a strong foundation for the years ahead.

Parks & Recreation

2025 Highlights

- We continued to improve and maintain our 6 parks by: installing additional security cameras; installing new ceilings at Memorial Park pavilions; installing new floors in Roberts Mill Park pavilions; installing new playground surfacing at Memorial Park; re-lining basketball court at Roberts Mill Park; installing a paved pathway from the pond path to the dog park at Roberts Mill Park; adding more riprap (rocks to stabilize the shoreline) at the Roberts Mill Park pond; planting additional trees at Memorial Park, Roberts Mill Park, Flickinger Park, and Bollinger Park; expanding the plantings at the Bollinger Park pollinator meadow - not to mention all the myriad maintenance tasks performed every day by our wonderful Public Works crew!
- We held 20 events, 4 recreational programs, and 6 contests - not including events held by other organizations in our parks. Event Highlights were: Easter Egg Hunt, Fishing Derby, Memorial Day activities, the Wine, Art & Music Festival, Independence Day Celebration, Harvest Festival, and Christmas Tree Lighting. Favorite recreation program offered (based on participant feedback received): Yoga in the Park. Favorite contest offered (based on participant feedback received): Summer Scavenger Hunts. [Note: in 2026, we are slated to hold 22 events, 4 multi-week recreational programs, and 6 contests. Check out our Facebook page for info on each one!]

Why it Matters

Improving and maintaining our parks and providing a wide variety of events and recreational programs in them is essential to ensure the community's health, safety, and well-being on so many levels, and we want to make sure everyone has the best experience we can provide in our parks, whether it's for a simple stroll in the serenity of nature or attending a large event. We will continue to strive to meet our community's needs with additional improvements, events, and programs next year! We'd love to hear from you - if you have a few moments, take our Parks & Recreation survey and let us know how we're doing and what you'd like to see in our parks! Scan Here



Planning & Zoning

In 2025, the **Department of Planning and Zoning** (DPZ) continues to ensure new development and existing property, in the City, complies with the publicly adopted code. DPZ is comprised of three different functions: 1. Planning, 2. Zoning, and 3. Code Enforcement. Each of these DPZ functions affects each of our lives every day, including for 2025:

- Planning:** City staff and the Planning and Zoning Commission have been working hard at updating the City Comprehensive Plan, that will hopefully be adopted by the City Council in 2026. The Planning Commission held 11 public meetings, in 2025, to specifically discuss the Plan update. This Plan update is extremely important because the Plan, that was developed with community input, is the guiding city growth document for the next ten years. Major tools that implement this Plan are subdivision and zoning regulations.
- Zoning:** DPZ has been hard at work to ensure that new development complies with the adopted zoning and subdivision code. In 2025, DPZ approved 82 Zoning Certificates, 24 sign permits, and 43 fence permits. City staff and the Commission have been reviewing site plans for new commercial, industrial and residential development in the City including a self-storage facility; two new fast-food restaurants; a hardware store; and a 50-dwelling unit residential development. The city strives to ensure new development in the City protects the health, safety, and general welfare of residents while adding to their quality of life.
- Code Enforcement:** To ensure all city zoning and property maintenance laws are being followed, DPZ has resolved 69 code violations this year. Zoning Code violations are mainly driven by citizen complaints.

Public Works

2025 Project Highlights

- In 2025, the Department of Public Works (DPW) oversaw several key infrastructure projects that improved efficiency, reduced costs, and addressed long-standing drainage and water system concerns.
- One major project was the dewatering system installation at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. This improvement reduces the amount of water contained in biosolids removed from the plant and used as fertilizer. Because disposal costs are based on weight, removing excess water has already helped lower overall operating expenses.
 - DPW also completed the Westview Drive water main replacement, addressing a section of aging infrastructure that had experienced repeated leaks over many years. Replacing the main has significantly reduced water loss, helping conserve water resources and decrease pumping demands on the City's production wells.
 - The third project was the Riffles Lane storm drain replacement. The original drainage system was poorly defined and contributed to ongoing water issues near nearby structures. The new storm drain and established easement now provide proper drainage, reducing the risk of water damage and improving long-term stormwater management.

Winter Reminders & Safety Tips

City crews prioritize main roads, followed by side streets, courts, and alleys. Residents are encouraged to park vehicles in driveways, especially in cul-de-sacs—to allow for efficient plowing. Do not push or blow snow into the street, and avoid approaching plow operators. Please clear snow around fire hydrants and shovel space for trash and recycling containers on collection days.

Prevent Frozen Pipes:

Maintain heat in all buildings (no lower than 40°F), insulate exposed pipes, seal drafts, and keep exterior doors closed. Shut off and drain water lines in unoccupied buildings when possible. Know the location of your main water shut-off valve, and never thaw frozen pipes with an open flame.

These reminders help keep Taneytown safe, accessible, and protected throughout the winter season.

Economic Development

In 2025, the City of Taneytown focused on laying the groundwork for long-term economic growth through strategic planning, partnerships, and support for local businesses. Efforts emphasized strengthening the small-business environment, supporting existing businesses, and identifying opportunities for responsible commercial growth that aligns with the City's character.

As we move into 2026, the City looks forward to building on this foundation by continuing to explore initiatives that strengthen the local economy, enhance quality of life, and support a resilient community.

Police Department

In 2025, the Taneytown Police Department successfully filled vacant positions with the hiring of three officers – one returning to our agency, one lateral transfer, and one entry level officer. This internal growth has had a profound external impact – strengthening the departments ability to serve our community in a more intentional way. In fall of 2025 we were able to assign an officer to the Carroll County Drug Task Force. This was a long-awaited accomplishment that has already made Taneytown better. Increased staffing has enhanced our capacity to be proactive, not only in addressing crime, but also in engaging with community members, assisting local nonprofits, being present at events, and making sure our neighbors are taken care of. We look forward with anticipation as we plan and work towards a better future in 2026.



2026: Events to Look forward to

Spring

- 3/28: Easter Egg Hunt (1:00_{pm}) @ Memorial Park
- 5/9: Fishing Derby (8:00_{am}) @ Roberts Mill Park
- 5/16: Community Flea Market (9_{am}-2_{pm}) @ Memorial Park
- 5/25: Memorial Day Celebrations - Ceremony @ 10_{am} (Memorial Park) & Parade @ 1_{pm} (From ACNB Bank to Kennies)
- 5/30: Wine, Art & Music Festival (11_{am}-4_{pm}) @ Memorial Park

All dates subject to change

Summer

- 7/3: Independence Day Celebration (6pm-10pm) @ Memorial Park
- 7/4: Red, White & Blue Run
- 7/5: Family Fun Day (3pm-6pm) @ Memorial Park
- 8/4: National Night Out (6pm-8pm) @ Memorial Park (TPD Event)

Fall/Winter

- 9/26: Harvest Festival (11am-3pm) @ Memorial Park
- 10/31: Trunk-or-Treat and Tails of Taneytown (2pm-5pm) @ Memorial Park
- 12/5: Christmas Tree Lighting & Candy Cane Hunt (4:30pm-8pm)

If you would like to have your community event posted in next months newsletter, please contact Makensie Albin at malbin@taneytownmd.gov or 410-751-1100. **All events must be apolitical and community-oriented