



# COLLIER TOWNSHIP

www.colliertownship.net

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## COMMISSIONERS

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George E. Macino, President • Wilson J. Durisko, Vice President • Wayne M. Chiurazzi, Esq. • Nichole M. Kauer • Jason C. Oskamp

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**For Immediate Release: 14 January 2015**

**Contact: Salvatore Sirabella, Township Manager**  
[ssirabella@colliertwp.net](mailto:ssirabella@colliertwp.net)

## **COLLIER TOWNSHIP COMMISSIONERS ADOPT “BUY COLLIER FIRST” POLICY**

**Collier Township, PA** – at their Wednesday, January 14, 2015 meeting the Collier Township Board of Commissioners adopted a policy that encourages our residents to “Buy Collier First,” an initiative that endorses and aims to support small businesses and the larger corporate citizens that operate within Collier Township.

“Buy Collier First” encourages the citizens, business owners and the Township itself to purchase products and supplies that are made or sold within Collier Township a priority. The philosophy of buying local goods will significantly reduce travel distance for shoppers – generally improving the environment, supports local production and service industries providing living wage jobs for ourselves, our neighbors, and our children, and it preserves local businesses and entrepreneurship.

“In order to strengthen our local economy, encourage new businesses to come to Collier and even strive for the healthy longevity of our current business districts, we all need to unite as a community and support our neighbors who operate businesses within Collier. If the community can come together and pledge to shop, seek the services and frequent our Collier businesses first, we all will see a positive return in our region. Through local business reinvestment, a stronger tax base and a more marketable community can be created. Efforts such as this ensure that sustaining a business in Collier will be a wise and healthy investment,” stated Commissioner and small business owner, Nichole Kauer.

Collier Township has made a list of all Collier Township businesses on its website and is also available in hard-copy at the Township Office. The Board of Commissioners seeks the support of the citizens and our business community to simply think of “Collier Businesses First.” A full copy of the Township Resolution creating this “Buy Collier First” policy is attached.

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**For Immediate Release: 11 February 2015**

**Contact: Salvatore Sirabella, Township Manager**  
[ssirabella@colliertwp.net](mailto:ssirabella@colliertwp.net)

## **COLLIER TOWNSHIP SWEARS IN TWO NEW POLICE OFFICERS**

**Collier Township, PA** – At the February 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Collier Township Board of Commissioners, District Judge Maureen McGraw-Desmet swore into office two new Collier Police Officers, John Vojtko and Brian Blum.

Both Patrolmen Vojtko and Blum have successfully completed and scored exceptionally in the recent eligibility testing offered by the Collier Township Civil Service Commission. The Township Commissioners voted to offer conditional employment to both officers at their January 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Patrolman John Vojtko is a United States Military Veteran, served the last two and a half years with the University of Pittsburgh Police Department and has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Regent University. Patrolman Brian Blum is also a United States Military Veteran, and has a Bachelor of Science degree from Slippery Rock University.

"We welcome Officers Vojtko and Blum to Collier Township. The Board of Commissioners are confident that our two newest officers will be a great addition to the Collier Police Department, will help bring stability back to our police-shift schedules, and will advance our Department's mission to serve and protect," stated Board President George Macino.

Collier Township Police Department is a traditional municipal police agency consisting of 16 officers, under the command of the Craig Campbell, Chief of Police. All officers are state certified and commissioned, many serve various specialty roles within the Department including: heavy-truck inspectors and school resource officers.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
March 10, 2015

**CONTACT:** Sal Sirabella, Manager  
412 279-2525

### Collier Township Honored as a 2015 Banner Community

**Collier Township, Pennsylvania** – has been named a 2015 Banner Community by the Allegheny League of Municipalities for providing effective, efficient and accountable services to its residents and businesses. The designation also acknowledges Collier Township's efforts to inform and engage citizens through frequent and open communication, public events and community activities.

"The Banner Community Program recognizes municipalities that implement best practices in all aspects of their operations and that govern in an inclusive, collaborative manner," said Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, who is also chairman of the Allegheny League of Municipalities. "These are cities, boroughs and townships that understand fiscal accountability, customer service, and civic responsibility."

To be recognized as a Banner Community, a municipality must demonstrate its commitment to the following best practices each year:

- Training and education for its elected and/or appointed officials;
- Active participation in professional organizations, such as the Allegheny League of Municipalities, Allegheny County Boroughs Association, Allegheny County & Western Pennsylvania Association of Township Commissioners, and Allegheny County Association of Township Officials;
- Active participation in its Council of Governments, as well as intergovernmental cooperation, sharing of services, and other joint efforts with one or more municipalities;
- Sponsorship and/or promotion of community events and activities, such as a community day, parade, cleanup day, municipal open house, crime awareness effort, and benefits or fundraisers; and
- Routine communication with residents through a newsletter, website, email or other method, as well as active participation with local elementary, middle and high school students, such as speaking to classes, sponsoring special events, and offering internships and/or student shadow days.

*"Collier Township is very honored to be named for the third consecutive year a Banner Community," said George Macino, President of the Board of Commissioners, "Residents and businesses rely on the various services we provide on a daily basis, and they expect and deserve us to be as efficient, effective and professional as possible. We take that responsibility very seriously. That's why we're always striving to improve our operations and to provide the highest quality of life for our community." I congratulate the staff for their continued efforts.*

A best practice that Collier Township implements is enhanced communications with residents through establishing a cable public information channel, newsletters, events mailings, email blasts, utilization of a new LED Message Board, enhanced website which posts all agendas and meeting minutes of all Authorities, Boards and Commissions, implementation of an internet based complete Parks and Recreation management system called eTrak-plus that will allow residents desktop and online registration, scheduling, membership management, league scheduling and reporting.

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For Immediate Release: 13 May 2015

Contact: Salvatore Sirabella, Township Manager  
[ssirabella@colliertwp.net](mailto:ssirabella@colliertwp.net)

### **COLLIER TOWNSHIP RECOGNIZED BY THE INTERNATIONAL CODE COUNCIL**

**Collier Township, PA** – The Collier Township Commissioners proudly announce that it has been recognized by the International Code Council (ICC) for the efforts of the Township’s Building, Planning / Zoning and Fire Code Official’s to receive ICC certifications, and accrediting that our staff has demonstrated their code knowledge and skills, as well as their ability to apply those skills on the job.

With this recent ICC Certification, all of the Collier Building Code Staff is 100% ICC-Certified, has kept up with continuing education and have successfully passed multiple stringent certification examinations.

“The Board of Commissioners is very proud of this recent ICC Certification, as it is proof that our staff is second to none. They are serious about their duty to enforce and advocate the building and property maintenance codes of the Township, and through this, Collier is a safer and cleaner community,” stated Board President George Macino.

According to the ICC Certificate of Achievement, “Departments with 100% ICC-certified staff demonstrate their commitment to protecting the public health, safety and welfare of the people who live and work in their community. This achievement also recognizes your (Collier Township) commitment to excellence in the industry and advancing your career (Collier Building Officials) through education. Congratulations again for being recognized for your superior efforts. Together we will Build the Best Communities Ever!”

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For Immediate Release: 19 May 2015

Contact: Salvatore Sirabella, Township Manager  
[ssirabella@colliertwp.net](mailto:ssirabella@colliertwp.net)

## COLLIER TOWNSHIP TO BECOME A "LIVE WELL ALLEGHENY COMMUNITY"

Collier Township, PA – The Collier Township Board of Commissioners have adopted a policy meeting that pledges the intent of Collier Township to work along with Allegheny County to accomplish the goals of the *Live Well Allegheny* Campaign.

*Live Well Allegheny* is a County initiative of County Chief Executive Rich Fitzgerald and the Allegheny County Health Department that promotes, supports and enhances wellness campaigns, physical and mental health, nutrition, fitness and sustainability with a goal to improve the well-being, quality of life, education and our standard of living in our communities.

The Collier Commissioners pledge the following steps within our community to advance and support *Live Well Allegheny* in Collier:

- Promote participation in a voluntary wellness campaign for the community's employees
- Share information on wellness campaign events with the broader community to encourage the voluntary participation of residents
- Plan, promote and implement a *Live Well Allegheny* event in cooperation with the campaign that encourages active living
- Develop indoor and outdoor wellness trails accessible to residents of all abilities
- Develop walking maps; measure the distances mapped and encourage residents to meet goals.
- Encourage multi-modal transportation of residents by providing facilities or policies that encourage walking and bike riding
- Promote and support farmer's markets
- Encourage involvement with community volunteer activities
- Promote smoke-free buildings and perimeters
- Provide health information focused on monthly or seasonal events
- Utilize web sites and social media to provide information on physical activity, nutrition, stress management, tobacco cessation, and other health and wellness initiatives

"On behalf of the Collier Commissioners, we are excited to partner with County Chief Executive Fitzgerald and the Health Department to advance *Live Well Allegheny*. Here in Collier, with the recent opening of our multi-faceted Community Center, the connectivity of the Panhandle Trail, the Meadow Path, our special Bike Routes, and recent improvements made to our Parks and Playgrounds by our new Parks and Recreation Department – as a Local Government, *Live Well Allegheny* will recognize our recent achievements and also enable us to do more for the well-being and long-term health of our residents," stated Collier Commissioner and Chair of the Public Affairs Committee, Nichole Kauer.

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## COMMISSIONERS

George E. Macino, President • Wilson J. Durisko, Vice President • Wayne M. Chiurazzi, Esq. • Nichole M. Kauer • Jason C. Oskamp

For Immediate Release: 14 September 2015  
Contact: Craig Campbell, Chief of Police – [craigcampbell@colliertwppd.com](mailto:craigcampbell@colliertwppd.com)  
Salvatore Sirabella, Township Manager – [ssirabella@colliertwp.net](mailto:ssirabella@colliertwp.net)

### COLLIER TOWNSHIP HOSTS POLICE MOTORCYCLE OPERATOR'S COURSE AT COLLIER TWP. COMMUNITY CENTER

Collier Township, PA – Starting on Monday, September 14, 2015 at 8:00AM, through September 25<sup>th</sup>, at the Collier Township Community Center at Collier Park (5 Lobaugh Street, Oakdale, PA 15071), the Collier Township Police Department is hosting an 80-hour basic police motorcycle operator's course taught by the City of Pittsburgh Police Motor Unit.

The course will showcase the two (2) Harley Davidson police motorcycles that were acquired from the North Huntingdon Township Police Department. Both vehicles were used and had been acquired by North Huntingdon new in 2010 and 2011. The two Motorcycles were purchased for \$15,000.00 entirely through the generous support and donation from Jersey Mike's Subs and the Forza Group.

"The training that our officers will undergo as part of this police motorcycle operator's course will enable them to become well versed, skilled and knowledgeable of how to respond to emergencies and perform the duties of a motor officer using the new Police Motorcycles," stated Chief of Police Craig Campbell. "We are grateful to have the expertise of the City of Pittsburgh Police Motor Unit training our officers to become more specialized in their duty, and as a community we are extremely grateful for the support of the business community, including Jersey Mike's Subs and the Forza Group, for contributing to make the Collier Police Motor Unit a reality."



*Photo: Officer Bill Oslick receiving donation for Police Motorcycle from Jersey Mike's Subs  
Pennsylvania Governor's Award for Local Government Excellence - 2015  
Pennsylvania Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence - 2015  
Allegheny County Banner Community - 2015  
Live Well - Collier Township - 2015*

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**For Immediate Release: 20 October 2015**

**Contact: Salvatore Sirabella, Township Manager, [ssirabella@colliertwp.net](mailto:ssirabella@colliertwp.net)**

### **COLLIER TOWNSHIP TO PARTNER WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH TO CLEAN UP THE WOODVILLE STATE HOSPITAL CEMETERY**

**Collier Township, PA** – For the third year in a row, the Collier Township Commissioners have partnered with the University of Pittsburgh in conjunction with their annual “Pitt Makes a Difference Day” to facilitate improvements within the community. This year’s effort is targeted at clearing and cleaning up the cemetery of the former Woodville State Hospital on Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 9: AM.

The Woodville Cemetery is located on property owned by the Township of Collier, adjacent to Hilltop Road, near Interstate 79 and the border of the Borough of Heidelberg, accessible through the residential community of Villages of Neville Park, the site of the former campus of Woodville State Hospital. The cemetery is the only remaining remnant of this former institution that operated on this site in Collier Township from 1867 through the early 1990’s. At the edge of the wooded cemetery stands a memorial dedicating the cemetery by then Governor Dick Thornburgh. The cemetery includes approximately 692 graves of former patients; each grave is marked with a solemn 10” tall concrete marker that does not indicate any name or personal information, only a three-digit identification number. All of the graves are in neat rows in numerical order, tucked into the wooded country-side.

“We are excited about this opportunity to partner again with Pitt to make improvements and continue to clean up this cemetery. As a community, it is important to not forget about the thousands of people who lived, received treatment and even who perished at Woodville. The State Hospital played a pivotal role in our local economy; during its operation by sustaining hundreds of local jobs and providing an essential public service to people in need, and after its closing by spearheaded redevelopment within Collier,” stated Township Manager Sal Sirabella..

Collier Township is also seeking volunteers to help in this effort. If interested in volunteering on October 24<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 9: AM. Please contact the Collier Administrative Office at 412-279-2525.

The University of Pittsburgh and the Office of Pitt-Services sponsor the annual Pitt Makes a Difference Day (PMADD). As part of this program, Collier made application to the University seeking assistance with this Woodville Cemetery Project. Pitt will provide 42 students and two staff members the day of the event to assist in the improvement initiative. In 2014, Collier and PMADD cleared trails and cleaned up the Fossil Cliff trail and area off of the Panhandle Trail. PMADD seeks partnerships in the Greater-Pittsburgh area to ensure that the community receives a meaningful impact while the students have the opportunity to immerse themselves in the local communities and truly “Make a Difference.”

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For Immediate Release: 7 December 2015

Contact: Salvatore Sirabella, Township Manager  
[ssirabella@colliertwp.net](mailto:ssirabella@colliertwp.net)

### COLLIER TOWNSHIP'S 2016 BUDGET TO BE ADOPTED DECEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup> NO TAX INCREASES PROPOSED

**Collier Township, PA** – the Collier Township Board of Commissioners are scheduled to adopt the 2016 Township Budget on Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. The 2016 operating budget is a balanced spending plan equal to \$7,982,650. There are no tax increases proposed for 2016, keeping Real Estate Tax millage at 2.73 mills, and the Earned Income Tax rate at 1% (.50% - Collier Township / .50% - Chartiers Valley School District). There is also a separate capital budget plan proposed in 2016 to provide for larger community improvement projects. Capital budget allocation in 2016 is set to be \$989,335.

Made possible by the Commissioner's 2016 Budget is a number of noteworthy highlights including the following:

#### Parks and Recreation:

- New cardio equipment, projector, and sound equipment for the Community Center
- Addition of Restrooms, New Pavilion, Adult Exercise Equipment and Bocce Court and upgrades to Hilltop Park
- Construction of Phase 1 of the Collier Discovery Path at Hilltop Park
- Construction of a Dog Park (Molly's Dog Park) – funded through private donations and grants.

#### Public Works:

- Upgrade DPW Fleet with the purchase of new truck and machinery (40,000 GVW Dump Truck and Bobcat Tracksteer)
- \$180,000 for contracted road paving work
- Storm Sewer Improvements – Township Wide
- Completion of new street signage program

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*Allegheny County Banner Community - 2015*

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Public Safety:

- Upgrade fleet with the purchase of 2 police vehicles
- Continue to provide two officers to the Chartiers Valley School District to act as Student Resource Officers.
- Fire - \$180,000 in grants to the three Volunteer Fire Companies
- Fire - \$65,000 to fund Fire Liability Insurance
- Fire- \$20,000 toward fuel for fire apparatus
- Property Maintenance Code and Fire Code Enforcement – Blight Elimination Program – raze condemned structures, partially grant funded.

Initiatives:

- Development of the Collier Township Historical Society
- Support Chartiers Valley Flood Control Project
- Update Comprehensive Plan
- Provide support to numerous community organizations such the Collier Township Athletic Association, Panhandle Trail, Woodville Plantation, Chartiers Valley Soccer, Lacrosse and Booster Associations.
- Continue to support contributions to non-uniform and uniform pension plans to a 90% funded level.
- Maintain flat debt service payments to the prior year.

“The proposed budget is posted online at [www.CollierTownship.net](http://www.CollierTownship.net) and available for public inspection at the Township Office through December 9<sup>th</sup>. We encourage the public to review the Township’s budget plan,” stated Township Manager Sal Sirabella.

“As a united Board, we are excited about the fiscal framework outlined within the 2016 Budget as it will allow the community to expand and improve many essential elements of the Township such as public safety, public works, parks and recreation programs and services without a tax increase, something the Board of Commissioner’s has not done in over 30 years,” stated Board of Commissioners President George Macino.

The Collier Township Board of Commissioners will meet Wednesday, December 9, 2015, 7:00 PM in the Commissioner’s Chambers at the Municipal Building at 2418 Hilltop Road, to take formal action to adopt the budget; all are welcome to attend.

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**For Immediate Release:            9 December 2015**

**Contact:            Salvatore Sirabella, Township Manager**  
**ssirabella@colliertwp.net**

## **COLLIER TOWNSHIP SWEARS IN NEW POLICE OFFICER**

**Collier Township, PA** – At the December 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Collier Township Board of Commissioners, District Judge Maureen McGraw-Desmet swore into office new Collier Police Officer Taras "TJ" Hovanec.

Officer Hovanec, a graduate of Miami University of Ohio (B.A. - Political Science) and the University of Cincinnati (M.S. – Criminal Justice) has extensive law enforcement experience. He previously served with the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police for four years and the Borough of Green Tree Police Department for the past two years. Officer Hovanec successfully passed all of the Collier Township Civil Service Testing requirements and was recommended for hiring to the Board of Commissioners by Police Chief Campbell. He is to start his field training with the Collier Township Police Department this week.

"On behalf of the Board of Commissioners, I welcome Officer TJ Hovanec to Collier Township. We are excited to have him on our police force, and are confident that with his six years of experience and his education he will make an excellent resource for our community to rely upon," stated Board President George Macino.

Collier Township Police Department is a traditional municipal police agency consisting of 17 officers, under the command of Craig Campbell, the Chief of Police. All officers are state certified and commissioned; many serve various specialty roles within the Department including motor carrier inspectors, school resource officers and mounted motorcycle officers.

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For Immediate Release: 9 December 2015

Contact: Sal Sirabella, Township Manager  
[ssirabella@colliertwp.net](mailto:ssirabella@colliertwp.net)

### **COLLIER TOWNSHIP COMMISSIONERS APPROVE NEW COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH COLLIER TOWNSHIP POLICE WAGE AND POLICY UNIT**

**Collier Township, PA** – at their Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> regularly scheduled meeting, the Collier Township Board of Commissioners voted to approve a new contract with its police officers through 2019.

The new three year agreement provides for annual salary increases to its police officers of 3% and provides for changes to their bereavement leave. Other points of interest of the new agreement include the elimination of post-retirement health care insurance for any employee hired after January 1, 2017, and employees will also begin to pay a variable percentage for the cost of their health care insurance.

“This agreement truly represents the best interest of both the community and its employees. It acknowledges the quality service and dedication of our police officers, ensures for their tenured retainment while also looking out for the best interest of the taxpayers by reducing future fiscal burdens of post-retirement benefits,” stated Board President George Macino.

The Collier Township Police Wage and Policy Unit serves as the union for the Collier police officers.

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