

County of Dauphin, Pennsylvania

**Popular Annual Financial Report
For the Year Ended December 31, 2019**



**Prepared by the Office of the Controller
TIMOTHY L. DEFOOR, CONTROLLER**

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#14 Best Place to Live
in Pennsylvania
Hershey
(2018- *WalletHub*)



#44 Best Places to Live
Greater Harrisburg Area
(April 16, 2019- *U.S. News & World Report*)



Dauphin County was founded in 1785 with a population of approximately 18,000. Now, Dauphin County’s population has grown to 278,299 residents. The County is unique in that it boasts both energetic towns and countryside farmlands. The County is perhaps best known for Pennsylvania’s capital city, Harrisburg, and “The Sweetest Place on Earth ®,” Hershey. Dauphin County has much to offer residents and tourists alike.

Photo Credit: The cover image features the National Civil War Museum and was taken by Paige Fowler, resident of Dauphin

County. The photos on pages 1, 7, & 16 are courtesy of the Hershey Harrisburg Regional Visitors Bureau.

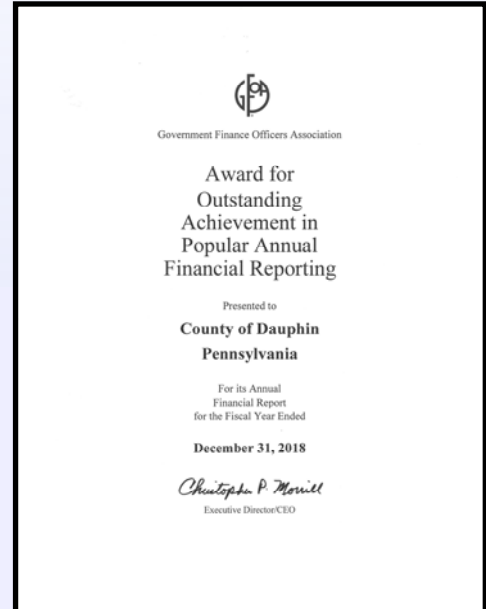
Awards

Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR)

Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has given an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting to Dauphin County, Pennsylvania for its Popular Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018. The Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting is a prestigious national award recognizing conformance with the highest standards for preparation of state and local government popular reports.

In order to receive an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting, a government unit must publish a Popular Annual Financial Report, whose contents conform to program standards of creativity, presentation, understandability, and reader appeal.

An Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting is valid for a period of one year only. Dauphin County, Pennsylvania has received a Popular Award for the last three consecutive years (fiscal years ended 2016-2018). We believe our current report continues to conform to the Popular Annual Financial Reporting requirements, and we are submitting it to GFOA to determine its eligibility for another Award.



Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR)

Dauphin County's comprehensive annual financial reports for the years ended 2017-2018, from which the information of pages 9-11 has been drawn, were awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA). The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition for excellence in state and local government financial reporting.

In order to be awarded a Certificate of Achievement, a government unit must publish an easily readable and efficiently organized comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR), whose contents conform to program standards. Such a CAFR must satisfy both generally accepted accounting principles and applicable legal requirements.

A Certificate of Achievement is valid for a period of one year only. We believe that our current CAFR continues to conform to the Certificate of Achievement Program's requirements, and we are submitting it to GFOA to determine its eligibility for another Certificate.

A Message from the Controller

It is with great pleasure that I present to you the 4th Annual Dauphin County Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR). The PAFR is an informative overview of Dauphin County’s Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and is intended to allow the reader to easily understand the financial changes and financial position of Dauphin County. The PAFR includes demographic, economic, and statistical information about Dauphin County, and highlights why Dauphin County is a great place to live, work and raise a family.

I would like to thank the citizens of this great County for electing me to serve as your Controller. As Controller, I am fully responsible for the checks and balances of County funds. It is my responsibility to ensure taxpayer dollars are spent efficiently, and in accordance with the Pennsylvania County Code.

Since taking office in 2016, my goal for the Controller’s office has been government transparency. In 2016, I created the Controller’s office first ever Audit Division, which includes two Certified Fraud Examiners. In 2017, we successfully filed the first CAFR in Dauphin County history for the year ended December 31, 2016. The CAFR, in addition to being an independent audit, also provides statistical and historical data that makes the financial information easier to understand and analyze. Some benefits of a CAFR can include a better credit rating by rating agencies and greater transparency for the public. Also in 2017, we introduced the “Fraud, Waste and Abuse Hotline.” If you have concerns about fraud, waste, or abuse, I urge you to contact our Hotline at 717.780.6888. In 2018, we issued the first County pension fund summary report for the year ended December 31, 2017. All reports are available electronically on the Controller’s page of our website at www.dauphincounty.org.

It is a great honor to work alongside the many Dauphin County employees who are doing the good work of the people with professionalism and integrity. I would like to thank the staff in the Controller’s office who have worked tirelessly to accomplish these milestones for the citizens of Dauphin County. I can confidently say my office is constantly improving, and we are dedicated to accomplishing our goals of efficiency and transparency for you. I hope you find this report interesting, helpful, and informative to the people who matter most, you, the citizens of Dauphin County.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tim". The signature is stylized and appears to be written on a light-colored surface.

Timothy L. DeFoor
Dauphin County Controller

Meet our Elected Officials

Board of Commissioners



Jeff Haste
Chairman



Mike Pries
Vice Chairman



George P. Hartwick III
Secretary

Row Officers



Dale Klein
Clerk of Courts



Graham Hetrick
Coroner



James Zugay
Recorder of Deeds



Jean Marfizo King
Register of Wills &
Clerk of Orphans' Court



Francis T. Chardo
District Attorney



Matt Krupp
Prothonotary



Nicholas Chimienti, Jr.
Sheriff



Janis Creason
Treasurer



Timothy L. DeFoor
Controller

Dauphin County at Work

New Services for 2019

Register of Wills Launches Online Public Record Search Portal

Jean Marfizo King, Dauphin County's Register of Wills/Clerk of Orphans' Court, launched a user-friendly online portal that gives the public immediate access to records such as marriages, estate, and non-secured Orphans' Court files and documents. Through the records management application, CountyFusion™, Powered by Kofile, constituents can now locate, review, and purchase documents online. The project, funded by a county local share gaming grant and the office's automation computerization fund, preserves birth and death records that date back to the 1800s, adoptions that date back to the early 1900s, and wills dating back to the 1700s. Explore it by visiting www.dauphincounty.org and going to the Register of Wills' page and click 'Search Records.'

District Attorney Creates New Co-Responder Program

Throughout 2019, the Dauphin County District Attorney's Office examined ways to better address individuals with mental health needs. Based on that review, in March 2020, District Attorney Fran Chardo instituted a new Co-responder program in cooperation with the police departments in Harrisburg City, Lower Paxton Township, Susquehanna Township, and Swatara Township. The Co-responder is not a police officer and each has a degree in the social sciences. The Co-responder works side-by-side with law enforcement officers to identify calls for service where behavioral health might be the underlying factor placing an individual at risk of arrest.

The Co-responder coordinates with the police to reduce the incidence of arrest, deescalate situations involving individuals with mental health needs, and identify appropriate cases that the District Attorney can divert away from the criminal justice system. The Co-responders are also part of the District Attorney's ongoing Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training program that helps give police officers tools to deescalate situations involving individuals with immediate mental health needs. The Co-responders are members of the District Attorney's Office and report to Ashley Yinger, Ph.D., who serves as the Criminal Justice Programming Administrator and Stepping Up/Certified CIT Coordinator. Dr. Yinger conducted several weeklong CIT trainings for police in 2019 and will do so throughout 2020.

BE THE CHANGE. RECYCLE

Did you know that, on average, a person creates 4.7 pounds of trash every day? Most of the waste we make can be recycled into new products. Make an impact today on your community by recycling any materials such as paper, aluminum, and plastic at drop-off recycling depots. Recycling helps make a positive impact on your community and even the world.

1625 South Cameron Street
Harrisburg PA 17104
717.982.6772



Dauphin County at Work

2019 County Government Performance



2,266

*Seniors Served
through Farmer's
Market Program*



1,334

*Veteran Discount
Cards Issued
to date*



124

*First-Time
Homebuyer Loans*



1,886

*Marriage Licenses
Issued*



16,428

*Dog Licenses
Issued*



13,615

*Doe Licenses
Issued*



124

Adoptions Filed



254,989

*Total Police
Dispatch Events*



12,230

*Total Fire
Dispatch Events*



52,079

*Total Medical
Dispatch Events*

See Fraud, Waste or Abuse?

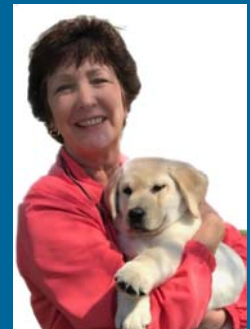


Report it.

717-780-6888

Did you know?

The Treasurer's Office has helped reunite dozens of dogs with their owners through its licensing program.

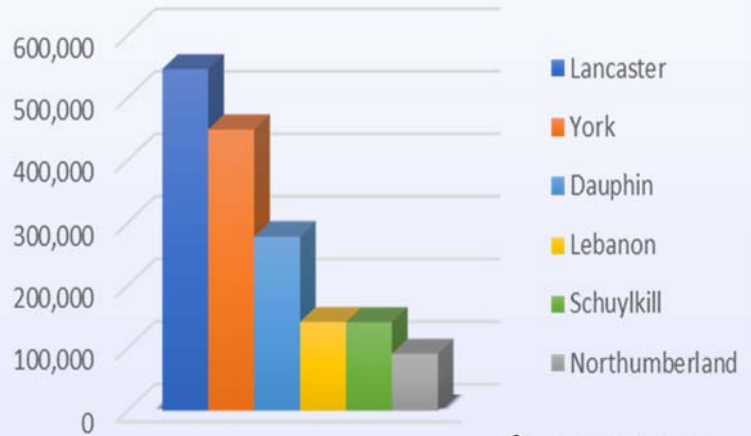


Janis Creason

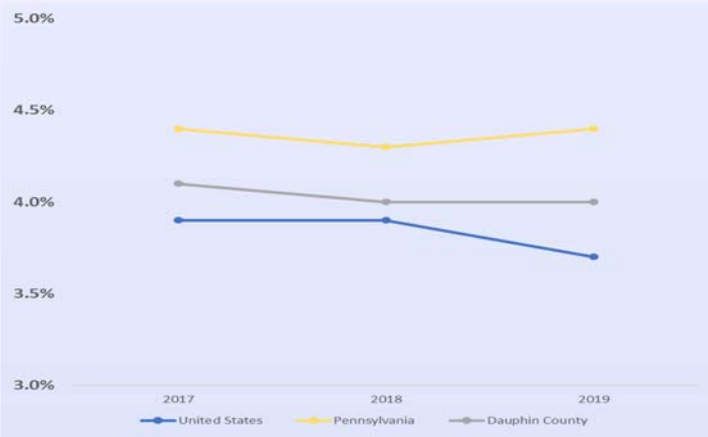
License your dog today!
www.padoglicense.com

Dauphin County at a Glance

Population: The graph to the right shows the population in Dauphin County as well as some of Dauphin County's adjacent counties for the year 2019. The population of Dauphin County was 278,299 when last recorded and has grown 3.7% since the 2010 census.



Source: census.gov



Employment: The chart to the left compares the unemployment rate of Dauphin County to the rates of both Pennsylvania and the United States. The unemployment rate for Dauphin County has not changed from 2018 to 2019.

Source: The Bureau of Labor Statistics

#4 Best City
for New College Grads
Harrisburg
 (April 29, 2019– *realtor.com*)

Top 10 Employers

1. State Government
2. Milton S Hershey Medical Center
3. Hershey Entertainment & Resorts Co.
4. The Hershey Company
5. UPMC Pinnacle Hospitals
6. Federal Government
7. United Parcel Service Inc.
8. PHEAA
9. Pennsylvania State University
10. Tyco Electronics Corporation

County's Bond Rating
"AA/Stable Outlook"
 As of December 31, 2019
 (Standard & Poor's)

A Safe Community
Crime Rate of 15.7
 (7 points lower than U.S. Average)
 (*bestplaces.net*)

Median Household Income
\$58,916
 (*census.gov*)

Introduction to Finances

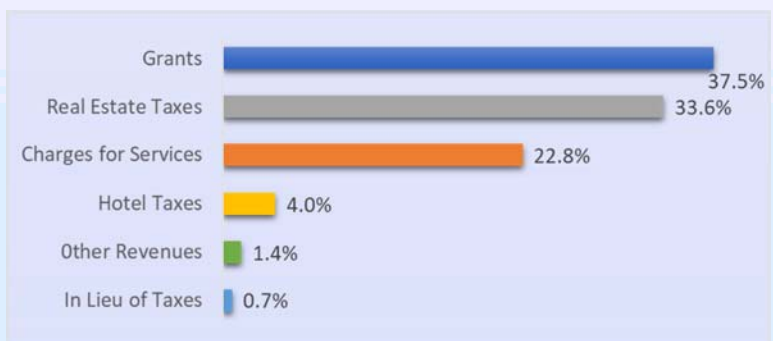
In an effort to maximize transparency, the following information represents our county's financial position and how our funds are allocated. We anticipate that you will gain a basic understanding of how your tax dollars are distributed and where our revenues and expenses come from. It's critical for taxpayers to become informed on how government funds are distributed and the services that rely on their taxes. Contained within the information are various graphics, which serve to highlight the County's current performance compared to historical data. We hope you find the following information informative and promising as a resident of Dauphin County.

This report serves as a summary of county financial statements and information, and does not comply with the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). Only the financial data for the general government is included in this report. All of the County's discretely presented component units are excluded, as well as certain statements and note disclosures required by GAAP. For complete details and notes to the financial statements, refer to the 2019 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), which can be found online at www.dauphincounty.org.

Revenues

For the year ended December 31, 2019, the County's revenue totaled \$314,516,963. The revenues decreased by about 15.7% from 2018.

Where the Money Comes From



Where the Money Goes to



Expenditures

For the year ended December 31, 2019, the County spent \$322,137,985. The expenditures decreased by about 12.5% from 2018.

Revenue & Expenses

This statement of net activities shows the difference between the County's revenues and expenses on a full accrual basis. Accrual basis means that revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when the liability is incurred. The net position represents the difference between revenues and expenses; a positive net position is promising, illustrating a surplus.

Revenues:	2017	2018	2019
Charges for Services	\$ 114,224,322	\$ 121,973,455	\$ 71,860,662
Grants	140,465,382	128,207,236	117,799,755
Real Estate Taxes	104,379,322	103,088,831	105,637,703
Hotel Taxes	11,717,786	12,077,750	12,562,023
In Lieu of Taxes	2,157,821	2,225,269	2,198,474
Other Revenues	3,644,652	5,628,204	4,458,346
Total Revenues	\$ 376,589,285	373,200,745	314,516,963
Expenses:			
General Government	\$ 15,881,489	\$ 16,935,084	\$ 16,700,619
Judicial	66,831,997	66,653,315	71,356,859
Public Safety	50,114,628	50,692,732	58,083,978
Public Works	3,080,970	3,069,821	2,760,870
Human Services	202,552,975	196,770,582	137,773,178
Cultural & Recreation	14,334,994	16,789,417	18,492,470
Conservation & Development	13,610,471	12,988,612	11,473,611
Interest on Long Term Debt	3,834,082	3,185,232	3,043,211
Bond Issuance Costs	0	0	185,000
Other Programs	921,092	913,588	2,268,189
Total Expenditures	\$ 371,162,698	\$ 367,998,383	322,137,985
Change in Net Position:	\$ 5,426,587	\$ 5,202,362	(7,621,022)
Net Position at beginning of year	56,207,115	42,863,069 *	48,065,431
Net Position—Ending	61,581,768	48,065,431	40,444,409

See Page 20 of the Dauphin County CAFR YE 2019 for the Condensed Statement of Activities * Restated from prior year report

Statement of Net Position

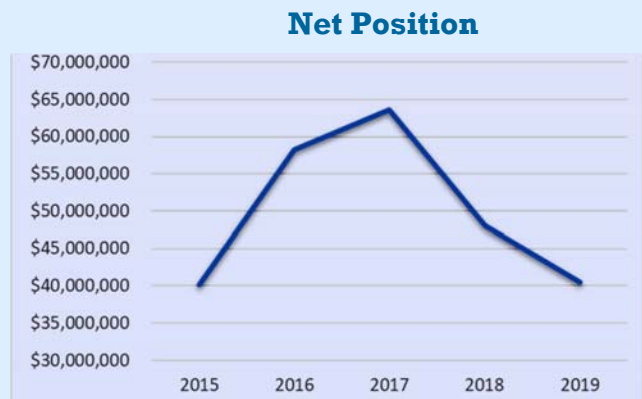
This summary represents the County’s financial position by taking the total resources at year-end versus the amount owed at year-end. It includes both governmental and business-type activities. These amounts are recorded on a full accrual basis (see page 9 for explanation).

	2018	2019	Change %
Assets:			
Capital Assets	\$ 111,047,814	\$ 106,943,073	(3.7)
Current and other assets	124,900,238	126,153,886	1.0
Total Assets	235,948,052	233,096,959	(1.21)
Deferred Outflows of Resources:			
Total Deferred Outflow of Resources	31,445,465	23,947,696	(23.8)
Liabilities:			
Long-Term Liabilities	185,164,719	170,720,983	(7.8)
Other Liabilities	31,954,738	31,141,531	(2.5)
Total Liabilities	217,119,457	201,862,514	(7.0)
Deferred Inflows of Resources:			
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	2,208,629	14,737,732	567.3
Net Position:			
Net Investment in Capital Assets	47,088,102	42,515,802	(9.7)
Restricted	22,307,689	32,079,214	36.1
Unrestricted	(21,330,360)	(34,150,607)	51.1
Total Net Position	\$ 48,065,431	\$ 40,444,409	(15.9)

See Page 19 of the Dauphin County CAFR YE 2019 for the Condensed Statement of Net Position

County’s 5-Year Net Position

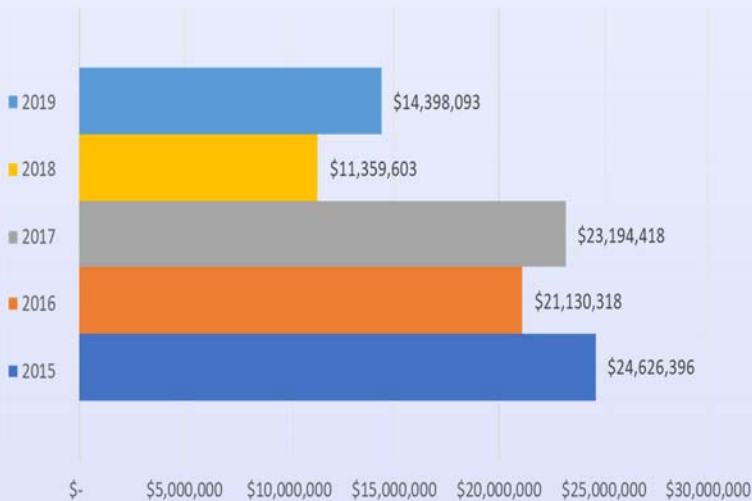
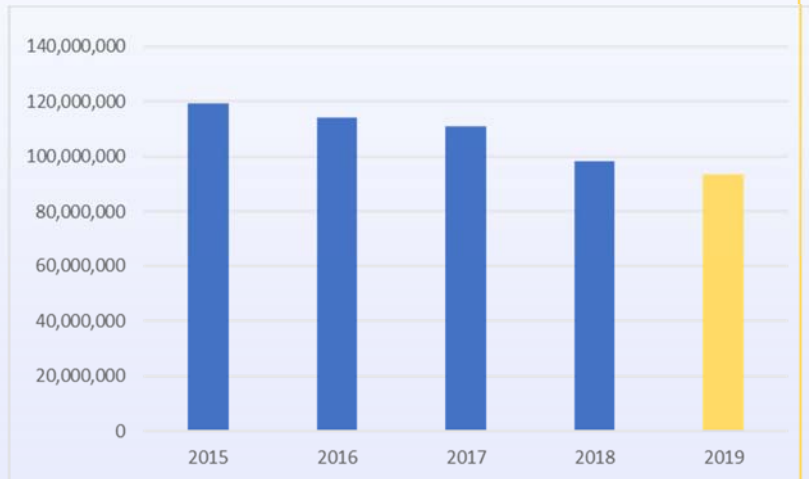
The County’s net position decrease was primarily due to a change in governmental accounting standards aimed at improving the reporting for post-employment benefits other than pensions. This caused a prior period adjustment and a restatement of the County’s beginning net position in 2018. The net position was also affected by a decrease in grant revenues in 2019.



County Funding

DECLINING DEBT OBLIGATIONS

Counties utilize bonds to borrow money that they are obligated to pay back in the future. The illustration on the right shows the County has experienced a decline in debt for the 4th consecutive year.



Unassigned General Fund Balance

The illustration on the left represents the County's Unassigned General Fund balance. These funds are available for any purpose. In 2019, the balance ended at \$14,398,093, increasing 27% from the previous year.

Library: 1¢ Municipal: 15¢ County: 21¢ Local School Districts: 63¢



Above: Chart illustrates an average distribution of property tax dollars to county and municipal services

General Fund Expenditures

Function	2019 Budget	2019 Actual	Savings/(Over)
General Government	\$17,269,070	\$13,692,317	\$3,576,753
Judicial	62,852,165	57,991,031	4,861,134
Public Safety	44,300,020	43,674,119	625,901
Human Service	5,172,880	5,197,435	(24,555)
Culture & Recreation	2,608,206	2,379,332	228,874
Conservation & Development	5,708,210	5,354,191	354,019
Other Financing Departments	17,840,146	14,581,252	3,258,894

See Pages 184-192 of the Dauphin County CAFR YE 2019 for the Schedule of Departmental Expenditures

Departments by Function*

General

- Budget & Finance
- Commissioners
- Controller
- Data Processing (IT)
- Facilities Maintenance
- Gasoline Center
- Personnel (HR)
- Public Defenders
- Purchasing
- Recorder of Deeds
- Solicitors
- Tax Assessment
- Tax Collectors
- Treasurer
- Veterans' Affairs
- Voter Registration

Public Safety

- Emergency Services
 - Prison
- ### Culture & Recreation
- Parks
- ### Conservation & Dev.
- Conservation Programs
 - Cooperative Extension
 - Economic Development

Human Service/Other

- Children & Youth
- Drug and Alcohol
- EMA Communications
- Mental Health (MH/ID)
- Solid Waste

Judicial

- Adult Probation
- C.I.D. (Detectives)
- Clerk of Courts
- Coroner
- Cost & Fines
- Court
- Court Reporters
- District Attorney
- District Justices
- Judicial Center
- Juvenile Probation
- Law Library
- Night Court
- Pretrial
- Prothonotary
- Register of Wills
- Sheriff
- Victim Witness

*This list is illustrative only, and not all inclusive.

Entertainment, Tourism & Arts

Gamut Theater

Gamut® Theatre is the combined company of Popcorn Hat Players Children's Theatre and Harrisburg Shakespeare Company. Each year Gamut presents approximately 250 performances to 30,000 people. Moreover, 20,000 students per year enjoy their theatre school classes, workshops, and shows.



Chocolate World

See, smell, touch, do, and, of course, taste all the excitement at Hershey's Chocolate World. Admission and the Hershey's Chocolate Tour are free for all guests. Other activities include Create a Candy Bar, 4D Chocolate Movie, and Hershey's Unwrapped. Chocolate World offers multiple food and bakery options and a huge candy and merchandise store.

National Civil War Museum

The Museum incorporates collections of artifacts, manuscripts, documents, photographs, and other printed matter that exceed 24,000 items. The Museum portrays the struggle as a timeline, from the issues straining the nation through the war's conclusion at Appomattox Court House. Nowhere can you find a better understanding of the Civil War.



Entertainment, Tourism & Arts



Lake Tobias Wildlife Park

The park focuses on providing fun family activities and animal-themed attractions for residents and central Pennsylvania visitors to enjoy. The park features an open-air safari, petting zoo, and hundreds of animals to see at exhibits throughout the park. One of the newest attractions features giraffes that visitors can hand-feed.

Ned Smith Center

The Ned Smith Center for Nature & Art was founded in 1993 and features twelve miles of trails and offers public hunting on a portion of its 500 acres. The Ned Smith Center already plays an active role in education about nature, art, and conservation through a year-long series of lectures, field trips, seminars, and other special events.



Fort Hunter Day

Once a year we close Front Street and get a sense of the area before automobiles. This annual autumn festival features tons of activities for the kids. Children's crafts and games, pony, hay and carriage rides, live music, a terrific craft show, food, and quilt displays are only a part of this free event!

Parks & Recreation

*View from
Fort Hunter Park*



**Need a quiet walk in the woods?
Visit 7 miles of trails in Detweiler Park.**



Tavern House, Fort Hunter

**Planning a family reunion?
Rent one of our pavilions.**



*Sunset Movie Series
Fort Hunter Park*

Looking for an outdoor movie experience? Join us at the Sunset Movie Series.

County Sights



Downtown Harrisburg



Indian Echo Caverns



The Pride of the Susquehanna Riverboat



The Year in Review

Highlights

No Tax Increase for 15 Consecutive Years

The Dauphin County Commissioners approved a \$255 million budget for 2020, which marks the 15th consecutive year with no tax increase. A \$15,008,563 drawdown on fund balance was necessary to cover the initial expenditure budget. Six new positions were approved at the cost of approximately \$415,000. The approved 2020 budget was \$3.5 million or 1.92% greater than the final 2019 budget.

Northern Human Services Building 10th Anniversary

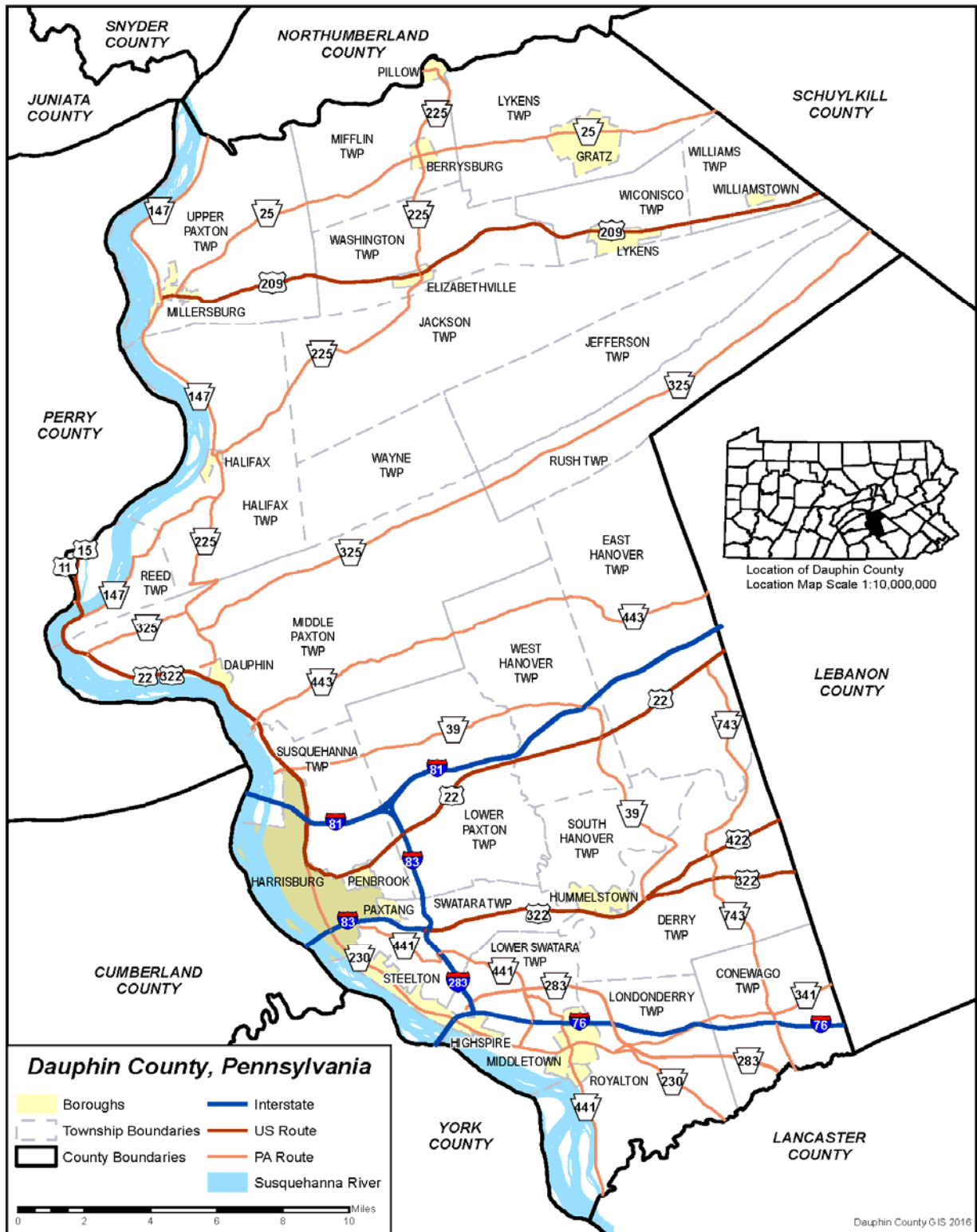
For the past decade, the Northern Dauphin Human Services Center (NDHSC) in Elizabethville has truly “been there” for area families and residents, providing compassion and high-quality care in a convenient location, whenever needed. The popular center at 295 State Drive, by Walmart, opened in January 2009. In 2019, a celebration of the Elizabethville-based center’s 10th anniversary featured a year-long menu of special events. In addition to 14 in-house agency services, other agencies provide access to their services at the center. Annual events have been created to meet identified needs of the community like Career Fairs, Family Wealth thru Health and Ladies Night Out Health and Wellness Events, community engagement events like the Fall Festival, Town Hall Meetings, First Responder Appreciation.

Challenges

State Mandate for New Voting Machines

In April 2018, the Pennsylvania Department Of State mandated that all counties must have voter-verifiable paper record voting systems no later than December 31, 2019. In October 2019, Governor Wolf signed Act 77, authorizing a \$90 million bond to help counties fund the purchase of the new voting systems. Despite the funds from the State, the mandate imposed an unexpected and significant burden on the taxpayers of Dauphin County. The County’s Elections Bureau took on the challenge, meeting with vendors, taking public comments on potential solutions, and then implementing the chosen system throughout the County’s 159 precincts.

Map of Dauphin County





Dauphin County Courthouse

101 Market Street, Room 106

Harrisburg, PA 17101

717-780-6570

Dauphin County's Veteran ID Discount Card Program



Memorial Day Services, Fort Indiantown Gap

Recorder of Deeds Jim Zugay offers a reward program for those who have bravely served our country. This Veteran ID discount card program offers veterans discounts on local business products and services. To obtain a Dauphin County Veteran ID Discount Card, please visit the Dauphin County Recorder of Deeds Office or one of the veterans' events held throughout the County.

Please bring your DD-214, as well as an official ID, such as a driver's license. We will record the discharge papers, take a photo, and provide you with an ID card immediately. This card will enable you to receive special discounts at local businesses.



Veterans: Scan this QR Code with your phone for additional information about the program and a complete list of participating businesses!

