

Venango Borough Council

2020 Accomplishments

1. Upgraded **streetlights** from high pressure sodium to LED and added one fixture.
2. **Improved communication** with new website, Facebook group and bi-annual newsletters.
3. Improved **safety** by adding five blinking red lights, replacing faded stop signs, passing a resolution for crosswalks, and addressing vehicles speeding on South and Meadville Streets.
4. Hosted **Spring Clean-Up Day** for residents and added appliance removal service (10 volunteers).
5. Hosted **Fall Community Service Day** and completed borough property improvements, sidewalk edging, leaf clean-up, and post office property improvements (29 volunteers).
6. **Improved roads** by paving sections of South and Meadville Streets and sweeping US 6 & 19.
7. **Updated** process for **junk ordinance enforcement**.
8. **Added lock box** for tax payment drop-off at Borough Office.

2021 Accomplishments

1. Adopted **shade tree ordinance** for trees in the right-of-way.
2. Created **beautification committee** and establish a **beautification fund**.
3. Discussed **comprehensive planning process** and attended Venango Township meeting.
4. Hosted **Spring Clean-Up Day** for residents and provided appliance removal service (7 volunteers).
5. Hosted **Fall Community Service Day**, cleaned the Borough garage, completed leaf clean-up, tree Cherry Alley) and hedge trimming (Plum Alley) and post office yard improvements (15 volunteers).
6. Addressed **vacant and dilapidated structures** by applying for, and being awarded, CDBG funding for blight remediation (\$41,000).
7. Completed **"Trees of Light" Project** with 9 tree installations totaling \$7,125.40 invested by individual residents and donors.
8. **Completed Banner Project** by raising \$6,044 and purchasing of two sets of 22 seasonal banners.
9. Planning began for the **Karl Gerdon Park Improvement Project** which raised \$147,385.57 from CDBG funding, Crawford Heritage Community Foundation and Crawford Gives. A **Park Advisory and Planning Committee** was established.

2022 Accomplishments

1. Adopted a **Property Maintenance Code Ordinance** with the goal of reducing the number of vacant and dilapidated structures and securing grants to address blight.
2. Improved **safety** by painting arrows and stop bars at the blinking light and crosswalks in five locations.
3. Hosted **Spring Clean-Up Day** for residents and provided appliance removal service (8 volunteers).
4. Hosted **Fall Community Service Day** and completed sidewalk edging along the north and south sides of Cussewago Street, rehabilitated the old bridge/French Creek overlook area and removed leaves on all borough owned properties (14 volunteers).
5. Assembled **new crew** with three loaders and a dump trailer for sweeping US 6 & 19 (7 volunteers).
6. Repaired a section of the **East Alley** shoulder using material from street sweeping efforts.
7. Researched **End Brake Retarder signs** and **object marker** additions to speed limit signs.
8. One property owner **removed a blighted trailer**.
9. **Created** <https://www.visitvenangopa.com/> park and tourism site.

10. Secured seven grants, held two fund raisers and sought donations for the **Karl Gerdon Park Improvement Project** with a total of **\$815,055.64** committed for investment in Venango Borough.

2023 Accomplishments

1. Appointed five member **Venango Planning Commission** that meets monthly.
2. Completed Environmental Reviews and **removed two blighted structures** along Cussewago Street.
3. Created **passive green spaces** after blighted structures were removed by planting grass.
4. Began **Karl Gerdon Park design and build process**.
5. **Sealed cracks** on all Borough streets and alleys.
6. Hosted **Spring Clean-Up Days** for US 6&19 sweeping (8 volunteers x 3 hours), dumpsters (8 volunteers x 4 hours, 33 participants), and sidewalk edging (15 volunteers x 4 hours) along Church Street.
7. **Invested \$50,000** in a CD at PNC Bank.
8. Provided leadership in properly dissolving the **Clark Memorial Library** and distributing its assets.
9. Donated **\$5,000 (ARPA)** to the Venango Volunteer **Fire Department**.
10. Led multi-municipal fundraising for the new fire siren and **contributed \$5,500 to the VVFD**.
11. Formed the **Historical Committee** to organize and display Venango's documents and artifacts.
12. Applied for a **DCED Local Share Account grant (\$225,957.48)** to resurface all streets and alleys.
13. Applied for a **Crawford Heritage Community Foundation Grant (\$3,000)** for a new park sign and historical preservation.

2024 Accomplishments

1. Awarded **Crawford Heritage Community Foundation Grant (\$3,000)** for a new park sign and historical preservation work.
2. Assisted the **Historical Committee's** efforts to organize, preserve, and display **local artifacts and photos of historical significance** now located at the Venango Borough Building.
3. Planted **16 crabapple trees** in the center of town that were awarded by a TreePennsylvania grant.
4. **Applied cold patch** with volunteers to improve streets.
5. **Reinvested \$51,561** in a CD at PNC Bank.

2024 Goals

1. Support the **Planning Commission** in their efforts to **survey** the community.
2. Complete the **Karl Gerdon Park Improvement Project**.
3. **Remove old signs** that are not enforced or no longer necessary. Fix leaning signs.
4. Host **Spring Clean-Up Days** for US 6&19 sweeping (May 10), sidewalk edging (May 10) along Church and River Streets, and annual clean-up day for residents (dumpsters).
5. Address **code violations of public concern**.

2025 Goals

1. Add a new **"Venango" sign** to the green spaces in the diamond (Act 13 of 2012 grant).
2. **Resurface all streets and alleys** with a DCED/LSA grant (if awarded).
3. Begin planning for **sidewalk and streetscape improvements**.