



# VERNON TOWNSHIP

## 2025 Year In Review

*Serving Our Community with Pride and Dedication*



# A Message from Trustee Florence May

Reflecting on 7 Years of Growth

## Dear Residents of Vernon Township,

As we reflect on 2025, I am pleased to share this Year in Review highlighting the progress that defined the past year. Continued growth in McCordsville, Fortville, and our unincorporated area brought increased expectations for high-quality services and responsible stewardship.

The Vernon Township Fire Department added a life-saving Whole Blood program in partnership with the American Red Cross, expanded operational capabilities with drone technology for search and rescue, and secured funding for the Township's first ladder truck (quint) with delivery anticipated in Summer 2026. Most importantly, we received approval of our Growth Appeal to fund critical staffing for a second ambulance. With nearly 2,000 emergency runs per year and 21 percent call overlap, this second ambulance is essential for timely emergency response. The new training room, completed summer 2025, now hosts fire, EMS, library, and educational programs that strengthen collaboration across departments.

Township Assistance applications increased as population growth and rising costs strained households. Our FARM (food pantry) partnership became more vital as federal services reduced. Community Garden production increased dramatically with Master Gardener support, and our second year of Junior Green Thumb met with strong participation. We concluded the year coordinating the CASA Care Bag program, providing essential items to 170 children after removed from their homes; provided 42 immediate care meal bags during the SNAP crisis and hosting the New Year's Eve Library program.

This report includes a "by the numbers" overview tracking trends from 2019 through 2025, reflecting substantial growth in McCordsville and Fortville—new subdivisions, business development, and school expansion—translating directly into increased service demand.

New State laws took Township funds for road funding and tested our ability to continue all components of the strategic plan. Despite these challenges, Vernon Township continues strict accountability as demonstrated in our successful State Board of Accounts audit.

I am deeply proud of the talented individuals who make this work possible: Vernon Township staff, Fire Department, Township Board, Fire Territory Board, Building Corporation Board, and Vernon Township Merit Board. Our success results from their shared commitment to teamwork, constant improvement, and service to our community.

Thank you for the trust you place in Vernon Township. It is an honor to serve as your Trustee, and I look forward to continuing this work together as we plan for the future.

Sincerely,

**Florence May**

Vernon Township Trustee



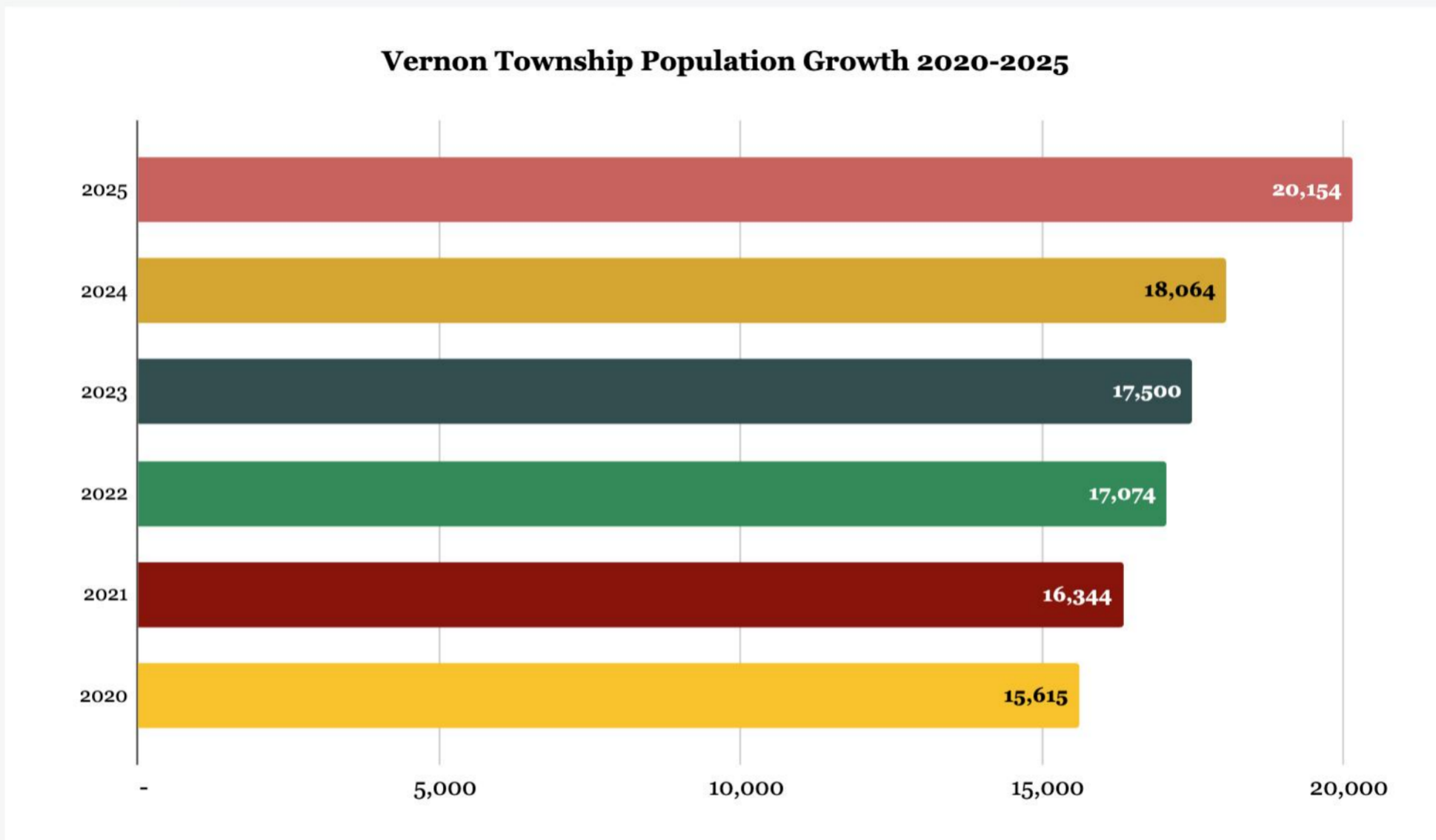
*Celebrating! We finally have signage on our building!*



*Vernon Township board members and Trustee congratulating Marybeth Sears - ITA Board Member of the Year.  
L to R: David Hawkins, Florence May, Marybeth Sears, Tim Plank.*

SECTION ONE

# Population Growth



**29.1%**

Total Growth  
2020-2025

**4,539**

New Residents  
Since 2020



NineStar Connect Grand Opening in McCordsville (credit: Tom Russo - Daily Reporter)



Mt Vernon Elementary School Ribbon Cutting (photo credit: Shelley Swift - Daily Reporter)

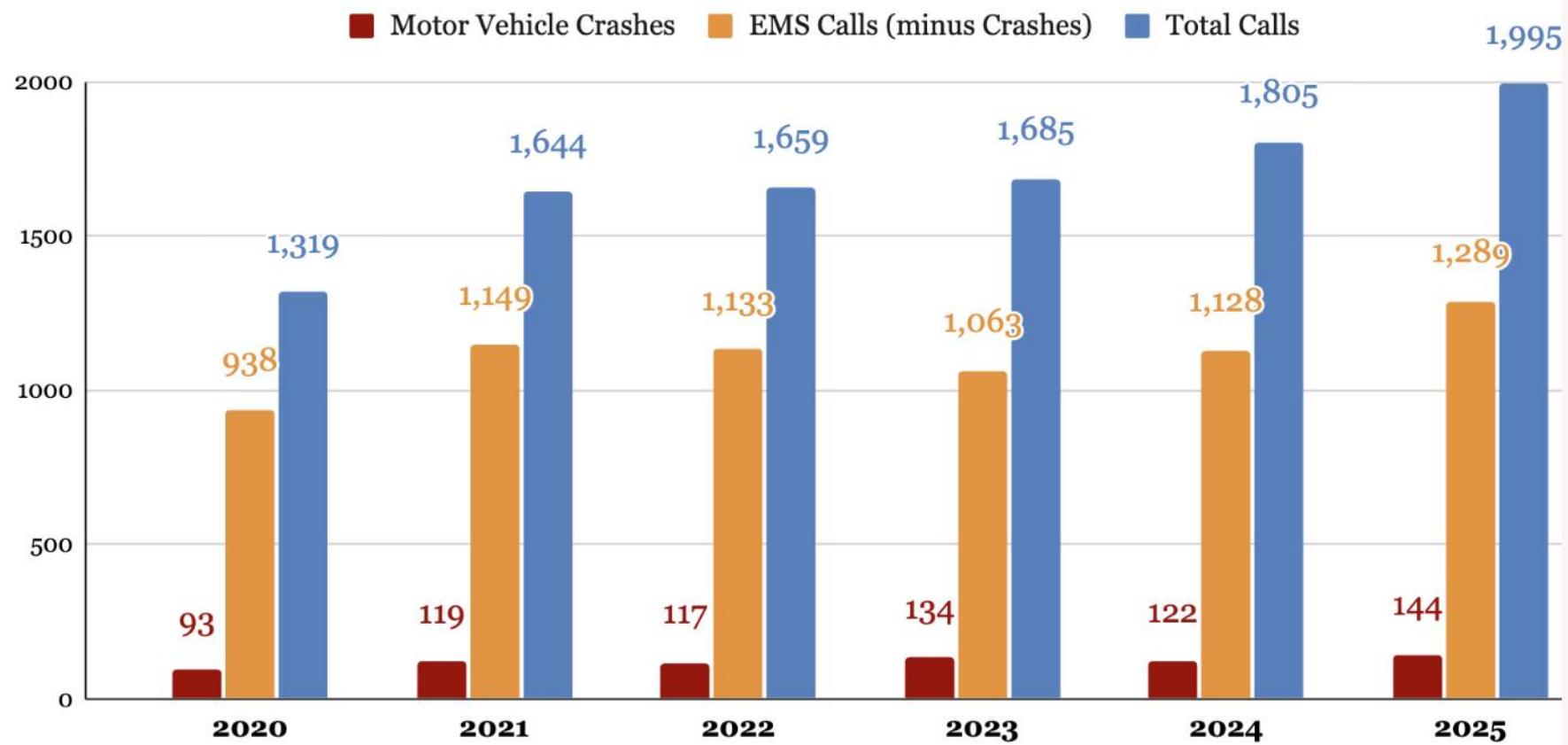


Prana IV Hydration & Wellness Clinic Grand Opening in Fortville (photo credit: Instagram prana\_iv\_wellness)

SECTION TWO

# Fire & Emergency Medical Services

**Motor Vehicle Crashes, EMS Calls (minus Crashes) and Total Calls**



Note: \*2025 data represents January through November

## Major Milestones: Vernon Township Fire Department

The Vernon Township Fire Department continues to expand its capabilities to serve our growing community. In 2025, the Department added a life-saving Whole Blood program in partnership with the American Red Cross; expanded operational capabilities with drone technology for search and rescue, and invested funds in TrustIndiana for the Township's first ladder truck (quint) with delivery anticipated in Summer 2026. Most importantly, we received approval of our Growth Appeal to fund critical staffing for a second ambulance. With nearly 2,000 emergency runs per year and 21 percent call overlap, this second ambulance is essential for timely emergency response. The new training room, completed summer 2025, now hosts fire, EMS, library, and educational programs that strengthen education for our public safety professionals, staff and the public.



VTFD Chief Mark Elder and Director Noah Jaehnert demonstrate the department's new drone for fire rescue operations (credit: Tom Russo - Daily Reporter)



VTFD firefighters saved a woman's life using their new whole blood program to treat a postpartum hemorrhage (credit: Vernon Township Fire Department)

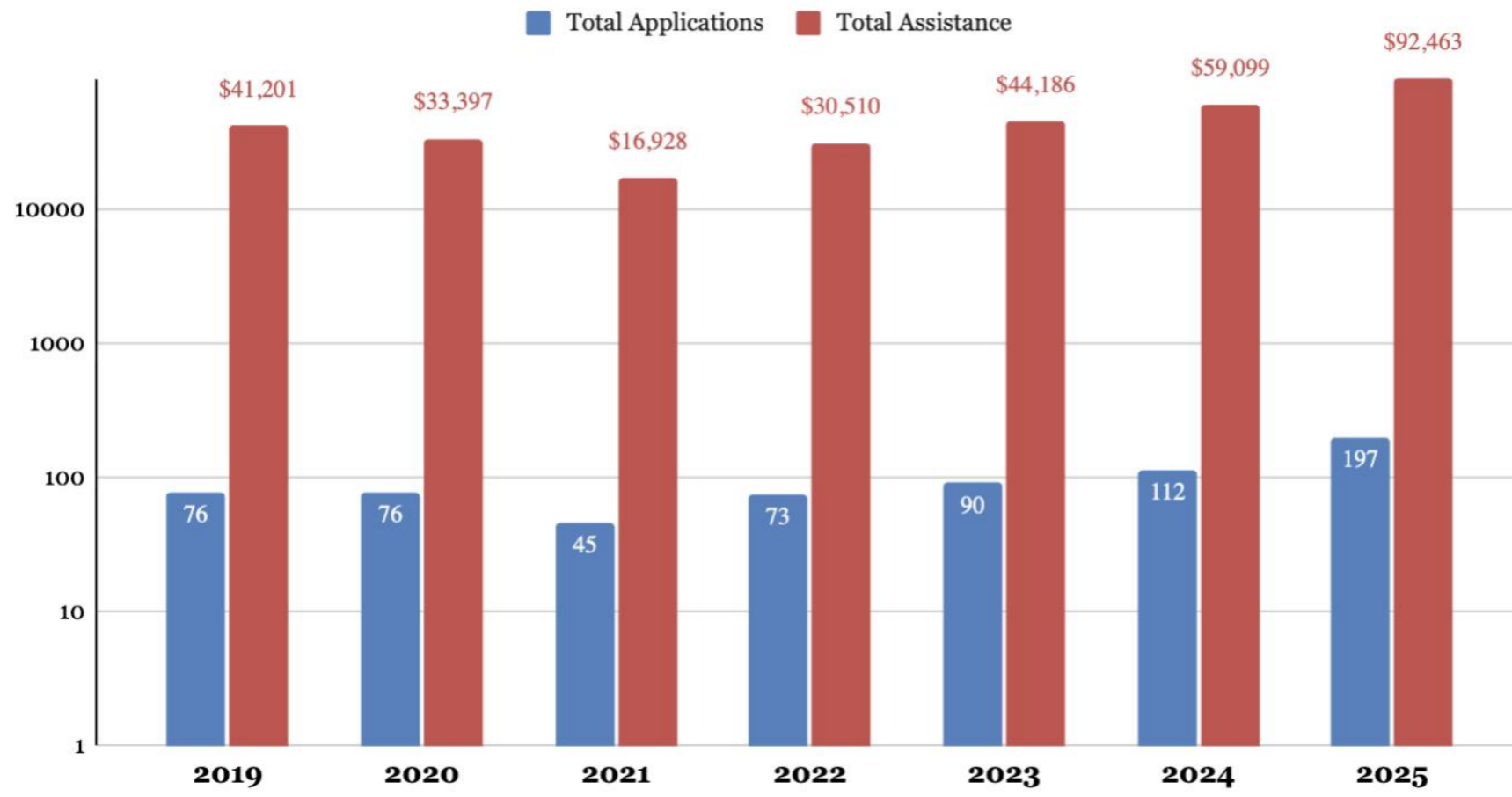


VTFD received growth appeal funding which allows the hiring of manpower for the second ambulance in 2026.

SECTION THREE

# Township Assistance

## Township Assistance Impact (2019-2025)



**Note:** \*2025 data represents January through November. Dollar amounts shown in thousands (K).

The lower assistance numbers in 2021 and 2022 reflect the COVID-19 pandemic years when Vernon Township participated in federal housing assistance programs from 2020-2022. These federal programs provided direct support to residents, reducing the demand for traditional township rental assistance during this period.

## Making a Difference in Our Community

Vernon Township Assistance provides emergency relief to residents facing temporary financial hardships by:

- ✓ Providing rental and utility assistance to prevent homelessness
- ✓ Supporting families with medical expenses and transportation
- ✓ Connecting residents with additional community resources
- ✓ Maintaining compassionate, dignified service delivery

In 2026, we will be expanding in-person service to the McCordsville Town Hall.



# Training Room & Historic Preservation

## Vernon Township Training Center

Thanks to ALT Construction, Director of Administration Stacy Nielsen, and DELV Design, our training facility serves as a multipurpose space for emergency responders, community meetings, and educational programs. It provides essential resources for ongoing professional development and community engagement.



## Preserving Vernon Township's Fire Department History

We are proud to showcase the history of Fortville Volunteer Fire and McCordsville Volunteer Fire through our historical display featuring antique fire equipment, photographs, and artifacts. The merger of these two volunteer departments led to the creation of Vernon Township Fire Department in 2019.



# Gardens of Vernon Township

92

YOUTH PARTICIPANTS

3,000+

POUNDS OF PRODUCE

64

COMMUNITY GARDEN PLOTS

## Jr Green Thumb

Youth gardening education program teaching children sustainable agriculture and healthy eating habits through hands-on learning.



## Master Gardener Partnership

Collaboration with experienced gardeners providing expertise and mentorship to community members.



## Invasive Removal

Environmental stewardship initiative removing invasive plant species and restoring native habitats.



## Composting

Sustainability program teaching residents to reduce waste and create nutrient-rich soil amendments.

SECTION SIX

# Community Partnerships

15

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

3,000+

POUNDS OF PRODUCE DONATED

160

UNIQUE VOLUNTEERS

## FARM Contract & Fresh Veggie Donations

Through the food pantry partnership with Vernon Township Community Garden, we donate fresh, healthy produce to families in need. Our FARM Donations program ensures that fresh vegetables are available to 4,300+ township households, promoting food security and healthy eating.



## CASA Partnership

Vernon Township proudly supports Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) in their mission to serve children in the foster care system. Through holiday programs, resource drives, and ongoing advocacy, we help ensure vulnerable children have the support and resources they need.



# Cemetery Maintenance & Preservation

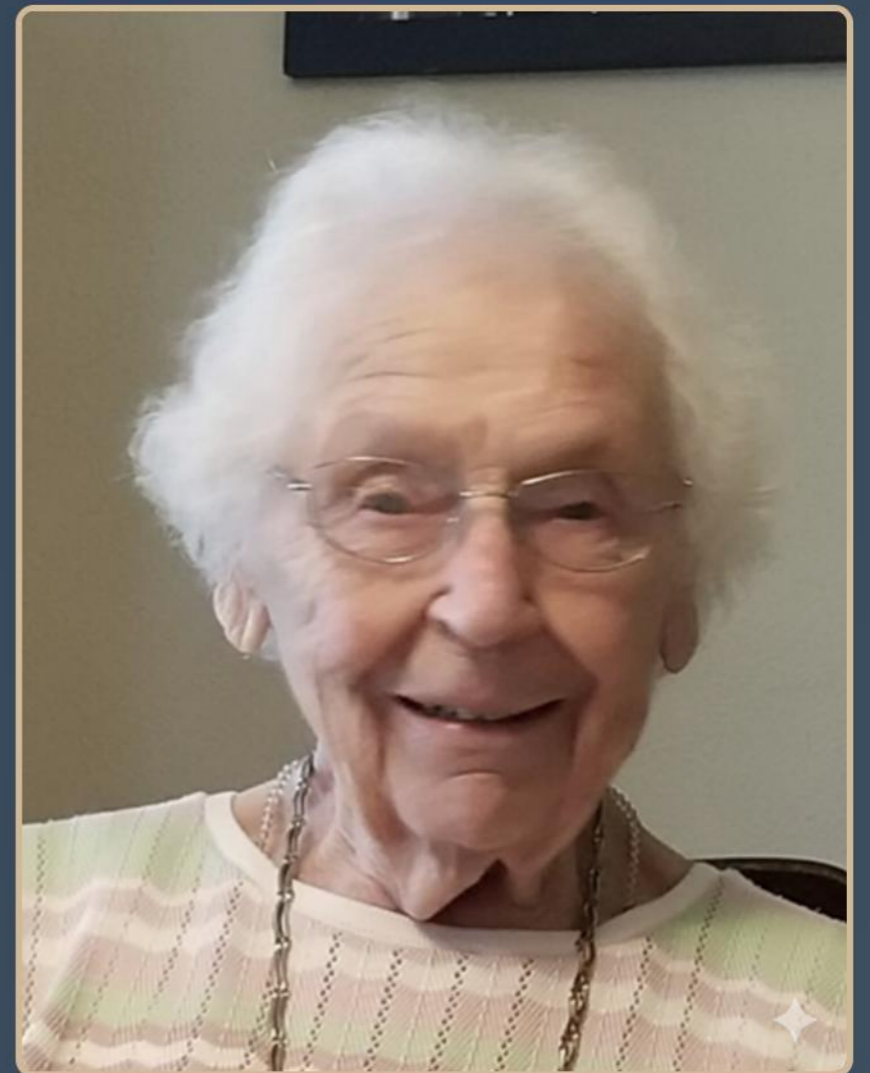
## Maintaining Sacred Grounds

Vernon Township's four historic cemeteries serve as the final resting places for generations of residents. Our dedicated maintenance ensures these sacred grounds remain beautiful and respectful for families visiting loved ones. This year's efforts included expanding the drainage ditch around McCordsville Cemetery and extensively removing invasive honeysuckle bush. When a major storm toppled a 60-foot, 250-year-old maple tree in historic Caudell Simmons Cemetery in Fortville, our team responded swiftly to safely remove the tree while carefully protecting grave sites and memorials—demonstrating our commitment to preserving these sacred spaces with the utmost care and respect.



## Notable Life: Velma (McCord) Thomas

We were honored to temporarily open the McCordsville cemetery for the burial service of Velma Thomas (97). Velma's family deeded McCordsville cemetery to Vernon Township in 2010.

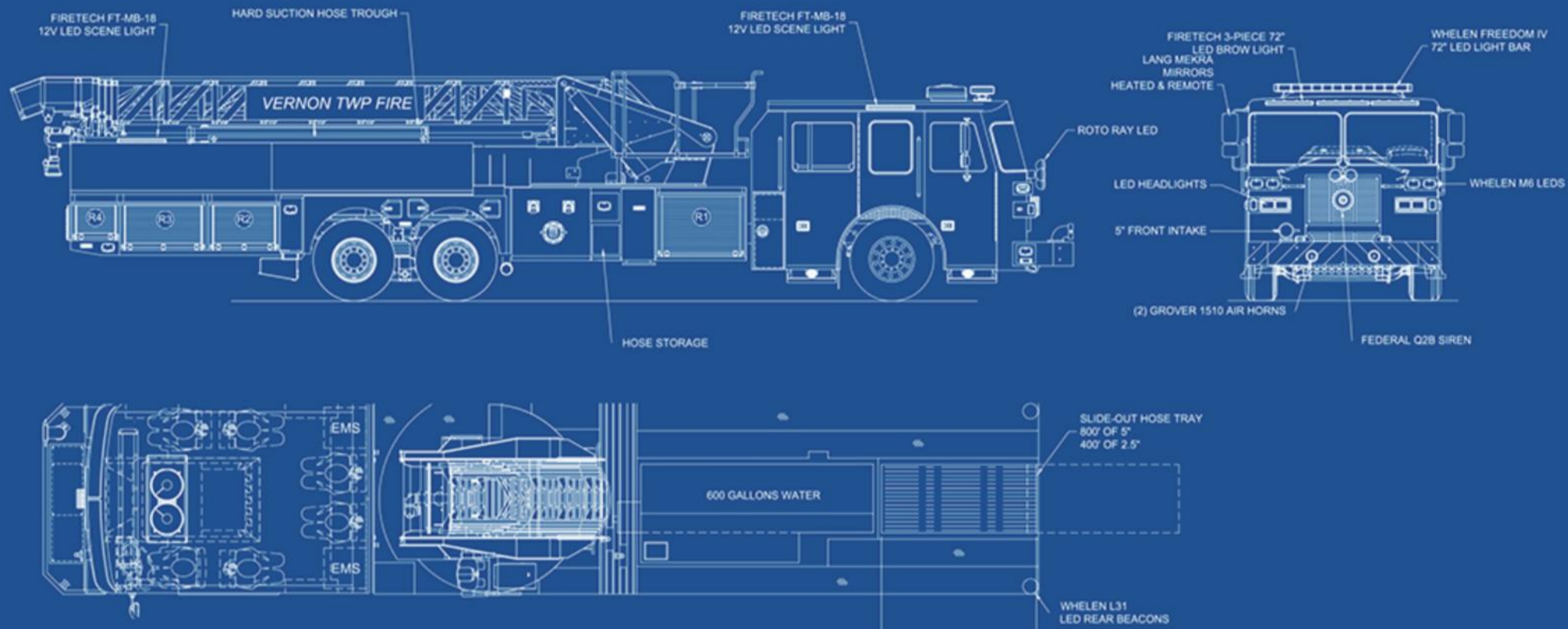


## 🇺🇸 Honoring Our Veterans

The Township annually places honor flags at the cemeteries for Memorial Day, Independence Day and Veterans Day. In addition this December, Civil Air Patrol, VFW, American Legion, Vernon Township staff and volunteers participated in the Wreaths across America program. We laid holiday wreaths at veteran's headstones in the township's historic cemeteries.

## SECTION EIGHT

# Coming Soon in 2026



Vernon Township enters 2026 focused on strengthening essential services. Key initiatives include:

### Expanded Emergency Medical Services

Growth Appeal funding will allow VTFD to staff a second ambulance, addressing increased call volume and improving emergency medical coverage.

### New Ladder Truck (Quint) - Summer 2026

The Fire Department's first Ladder Truck arrives Summer 2026, enhancing fire suppression and rescue capabilities for multi-story and commercial structures.

### McCordsville Township Assistance Office Hours

Starting March 2026, Township Assistance services will be available at McCordsville Town Hall, improving access for residents seeking housing and utility assistance.

### Community Health Fair

In partnership with local healthcare providers and community organizations, the Township will host a Health Fair offering screenings, safety information, and resources.

These initiatives reflect Vernon Township's commitment to public safety, fiscal responsibility, and community well-being.

## Vernon Township Board

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- ▶ Tim Plank – **Board Chair**
- ▶ Dave Hawkins\*
- ▶ Marybeth Sears
- ▶ Larry Longman\*\*

*\*Stepped down in December 2025*

*\*\*Effective January 5, 2026*

## Vernon Township Fire Protection Territory Board

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- ▶ Florence May – **Board Chair**
- ▶ Greg Brewer
- ▶ Tonya Drake Davis
- ▶ Chief Mark Elder – **Ex-Officio**

## Vernon Township Building Corp.

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- ▶ Jeff Augustinovicz – **Board Chair**
- ▶ Brendan Hartnett
- ▶ Robert Holland

## Vernon Fire Department Merit Board

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- ▶ Greg Brewer – **Board Chair**
- ▶ Tonya Drake Davis
- ▶ Daniel Groce
- ▶ Jeremy Holmes
- ▶ Florence May

## Vernon Township Staff

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- ▶ Florence May – **Trustee**
- ▶ Mark Elder – **Fire Department Chief**
- ▶ Jenny Kriger – **Township Assistance Manager**
- ▶ Stacy Nielsen – **Director of Administration**



## Vernon Township

**Township Trustee & Fire Department Administration**

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Website: <https://vernontownship.us/>