

HALLOFFAME

Public service is in **John Weber's** blood. For a half century, the 88-year-old has been a local government fixture in Ephrata Township, Lancaster County, where he's given his time and talents to make the community a better place to live and raise a family.

'I'll give John a call'**John Weber****Ephrata Township, Lancaster County
30 years of service**

BY JILL ERCOLINO / MANAGING EDITOR

John Weber is a living, breathing encyclopedia who folks in Ephrata Township, Lancaster County, turn to when they want a lesson about the community.

Born and raised in the township, the 88-year-old retired contractor and business owner has been a local government fixture for half a century, serving first on the township's planning commission and zoning hearing board before being elected to the board of supervisors in 1987.

Needless to say, he knows a lot about his hometown.

"Often, something will come up that I don't know the history of, and the first thing I'll say is, 'I'll give John a call,'" township manager Steve Sawyer says. "He has so much first-hand knowledge about the township. I really do lean on him."

A pet project

With a public service career spanning decades, Weber says his goal over all these years has been to "make the township a great place to live, work, and raise a family."



After 50-odd years in township service, the last 30 as a supervisor for Ephrata Township, Lancaster County, John Weber will be hanging up his municipal hat at the end of 2017, but not before he attends one more PSATS Annual Conference this month.

Perhaps nothing better symbolizes his commitment than the 50-acre Ephrata Township Community Park, which was once the site of an abandoned sand

mine and quarry. Weber saw the property for what it was, a diamond in the rough, and convinced his fellow supervisors and residents to see its potential, too.

"John's passion for the park was unmatched," Sawyer says, "and for the next 10 years, he was a driving force in developing it. Now that it's a reality, he's out there almost every day talking to the people who use it."

Weber is a bit more modest about the undertaking, calling it simply "his pet project." Still, it's clear the supervisor takes a lot of pride in what the abandoned sand mine has become.

"We have walking trails, a lake for fishing, a ball diamond, a large pavilion for picnics, and a playground," he says. "It's a gathering place for people near and far."

As the park has grown in popularity, so has the township, which has attracted former city-dwellers with its quieter way of life, proximity to major highways, and easy commute to their jobs. While Weber has encouraged that growth, he's been just as diligent about managing it, too.

Raised on a farm in the township, the supervisor is proud that two-thirds of the municipality is zoned for agricul-

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tural use. He's also proud that the township has its own municipal building, which he designed and watched take shape from the ground up.

"From big projects to small ones," Sawyer says, "John has been tireless and involved."

Time to say goodbye

This month, Weber will be attending his 30th and final PSATS conference. At the end of 2017, he'll be hanging up his supervisor's hat to travel and spend time with his family.

"It's time for me to step aside," he says, "but I will say this: I've enjoyed every minute of it."

Of course, while Weber may be gone, he won't be forgotten.

"John is just one of those supervisors... the township has been his life," Sawyer says. "I'm going to miss his desire and drive." ♦

How PSATS has helped this Hall of Famer

This month, John Weber, a supervisor for Ephrata Township in Lancaster County, will be attending his 30th and final PSATS Annual Conference and Trade Show. Although he has more than 50 years of local government experience under his belt — first as a planning commission and zoning hearing board member and then as a supervisor — he says he never stopped learning. And the conference helped him stay up to date.

"There's so much presented there between the speakers and the seminars that you learn something new every year," he says. "It's not an old, boring conference by any means. It's a learning experience."



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