

UNION TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

FALL/WINTER 2025-2026



Statement of history regarding the Birdsboro Quarry Zoning Map petition

On February 15, 2024, H&K Group, Inc., submitted to Union Township a Petition to Amend the Township’s Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map. The Petition requested the Union Township Board of Supervisors to amend the Township’s Zoning Ordinance and Map to rezone certain areas of Berks County Tax Parcel Nos. 88534300280563, 8853400296662, and the entirety of Berks County Tax Parcel No. 88534300483952, from their current zoning classification of SR – Suburban Residential to the Q/L-Quarry Landfill Zoning District. The purpose of the rezoning request is to expand the existing Birdsboro Quarry to the rezoned areas.

At the Board of Supervisors meeting held on March 20, 2024, representatives for H&K Group were present and described their request for the Zoning Map amendment and expansion of the Birdsboro Quarry. At this meeting, the Board of Supervisors stated that the Board will not be making any formal decisions at this meeting. Section 402(a) of the Municipalities Planning Code provides that, prior to any amendments to the official zoning map, the governing body shall refer the proposed amendment to the Township Planning Commission and Berks County Planning Commission for review. Pursuant to this requirement, the Board at the March 20, 2024 meeting approved a motion to authorize H&K’s petition to go to the Berks County Planning Commission and the Union Township Planning Commission for their review and comments.

The Union Township Planning Commission discussed the proposed Zoning Map amendment and expansion of the Birdsboro Quarry at six (6) Planning Commission meetings, with discussion beginning at the June 5, 2024 meeting and ending at the January 8, 2025 meeting. At the January 8, 2025 meeting, the Planning Commission approved a motion to hold a Joint Meeting between the Planning Commission, the Board of Supervisors, and H&K in order to discuss and consider the proposed Zoning Map amendment and expansion of the Birdsboro Quarry. This joint meeting was held on March 5, 2025. At this meeting, the Planning Commission approved a motion to make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to deny the Petition to Amend the Township’s Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map.

Pursuant to Section 402 of the Municipalities Planning Code, before voting on the enactment of a proposed zoning map amendment, the governing body is required to first hold a public hearing on the proposed zoning map amendment. This hearing must be held after public notice as defined in Section 107 of the MPC is provided. Section 107 of the MPC defines “public notice” as notice which is published once each week for two successive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the municipality. Such notice will state the time and place of the hearing and the particular nature of the matter to be considered. The notice is to be first published not more than thirty (30) days prior to the hearing, and the second publication shall not be published less than seven (7) days from the date of the hearing. Additionally, when the notice is for a proposed zoning map amendment, Section 609 of the MPC further requires notice of a proposed zoning map amendment to be posted along the affected property at points

deemed sufficient by the municipality to notify potentially interested citizens, and for notice to be mailed to the owners of Property affected by the zoning map change.

As of this time, H&K Group, Inc. has not requested the Board of Supervisors to schedule the required public hearing for the proposed zoning map amendment. H&K Group, Inc., is required to contact the Township and request to be placed on the Board's monthly agenda in order to make this request.

On Monday, August 25, 2025, the Board of Supervisors held a special meeting which was advertised and open to the public in order to discuss zoning ordinance amendments. At this meeting, the Supervisors authorized the Township Solicitor to draft a Zoning Ordinance Amendment to rename the Quarry/Landfill District by removing the word "landfill" and renaming it the "Quarry District", and to amend and republish the Township Zoning Map to reflect this change. This ordinance will also remove "Solid Waste Disposal Facilities Use" as a use permitted in the Quarry District. The Board also authorized the Solicitor to draft an amendment to the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance to reflect the changes being made to the Zoning Ordinance and to remove any references to the "Quarry/Landfill District" and replace these with the "Quarry District." These draft ordinances will be required to be reviewed by the Union Township Planning Commission and the Berks County Planning Commission prior to the public hearing by the Board of Supervisors for the enactment of said ordinances. At the special meeting, the Board also authorized the Solicitor to send drafts of these ordinances to the Union Township Planning Commission and the Berks County Planning Commission for their formal review.

Road Updates, News, Maintenance

Report problems related to roads to the Township main office via email or phone. We appreciate the help in identifying downed trees, damaged/missing signs, etc. The sooner we know, the sooner we can respond. ***With winter upon us, please be patient with our Road Crew as they work to clear the Township roads when snow hits our area. Be sure to move vehicles, if possible, from the roads.***

Be sure to visit Unionberks.org for updated information on road projects and closures

Winter Tips from the Public Works Department

Inspect your mailbox, make sure it does not extend past the road edge and posts are sturdy

Do not pile snow on the roadway, pile it in your yard

We plow all roadways with the exception of State Roads, if you shovel your driveway before the storm ends, your driveway could be plowed in

If you do not have to drive during a winter storm, stay off the roads until they are clear



Snow Emergency Routes – Ordinance 2024-02

UPDATE 2025



Last year, the Township amended its Traffic Ordinance to designate certain streets as snow emergency routes and set forth regulations regarding these routes. The Township is considering the enactment of an ordinance which will designate additional streets as snow emergency routes. Under the Traffic Ordinance, when a street is designated a snow emergency it is unlawful to stand, stop, or park a motor vehicle on the street during the declaration of a snow and ice emergency. Information on the existence of a snow and ice emergency may be given by the Township through radio, newspaper, or other available media. The Traffic Ordinance permits the Township to charge a **fine of \$50.00** to any person who violates the snow emergency restrictions. The Ordinance also permits the Township to tow away any vehicle standing, stopped, or parked on any snow emergency route during a snow emergency, and charge the owner of the vehicle the cost of towing and storage of said vehicle.

Last year was the first time the Township utilized a Towing Company to remove such vehicles. Often, owners who saw the tow truck before it towed their vehicle voluntarily moved their vehicle first. The Towing Company informed the Township that it normally charges a fee of \$150.00 for coming out to tow a vehicle even if it is moved before they tow it to their facility but did not do so last year as it was the first winter the Township had such regulations. The Towing Company has also informed the Township that it intends to charge this fee starting this winter. **Please be aware that, if your vehicle is standing, stopped, or parked in a snow emergency route during a snow emergency, you will be responsible for the \$50.00 fine set forth in the Traffic Ordinance, plus any costs the Township incurs in utilizing the Towing Company if the Towing Company goes out to remove your vehicle, even if the vehicle is moved prior to the towing of the vehicle.**

The following are currently designated as snow emergency routes, proper signage is posted on the roads/streets listed below:

Cory's Court (entire length); Cross Street (entire length); East Fourth Street (entire length); East Second Street (entire length); East Third Street (entire length); Garey Road (entire length); George Street (entire length); Heather Lane (entire length); Hillside Drive (entire length); Ivy Lane (entire length); Jeffrey Place (entire length); Joni Circle (entire length); King Street (entire length); Lanie Drive (entire length); Linden Street (entire length); Magnolia Drive (entire length); Maple Spring Drive (entire length); Maple Terrace (entire length); Mt. Airy Street (entire length); Queen Street (entire length); Sunset Drive (entire length); Union Street (entire length); Wahl Street (entire length); Washington Street (entire length).

The Board of Supervisors will consider enactment of an Ordinance as advertised at their September 18, 2025 meeting to add the following streets as snow emergency routes, proper signage will be posted on the roads/streets listed below if enacted:

Edison Road (entire length); Furlong Road (entire length); Sovereign Drive (entire length); York Road (entire length)

HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION SCHEDULED OCTOBER 18, 2025.

Tickets required. Tickets are free.

REGISTER at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/berks-county-household-hazardous-waste-collection-october-18-2025-tickets-1323797807879?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>



Paper Shredding

2025 Paper Shredding Event
Free to Berks County Residents

October 11, 2025

Berks County Ag Center
1238 County Welfare Road
Leesport, PA 19533

Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/berks-county-paper-shredding-event-october-11-2025-registration-1335260432899?aff=oddtcreator>

All residents must pre-register to participate in our paper shredding event

Registration is currently open

5 boxes per vehicle maximum

Absolutely no plastic bags will be accepted.

ACCEPTABLE MATERIALS

OIL PAINTS



- Turpentine
- Wood Preservatives
- Paint Thinners & Solvents
- Oil Based Paints, Varnishes and Stains
(ABSOLUTELY NO LATEX PAINT WILL BE ACCEPTED)



OUTDOORS

- Weed Killers
- Pesticides
- Asphalt & Driveway Sealants
- Pool Chemicals
- Herbicides & Fungicides



AUTOMOTIVE

- Antifreeze
- Gasoline
- Transmission Oil
- Motor Oil
- Automotive paints and finishes

HOUSEHOLD

- Solvents
- Disinfectants
- Rug, Oven & Drain Cleaners
- Button Batteries
- Photographic Chemicals
- Floor & Furniture Polish
- Lithium & NiCad Batteries
- Fluorescent bulbs



Don't Forget to Fall Back...
Turn clocks back 1 hour
On Sunday, November 2, 2025

Election Day, Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Polls Open 7:00am – 8:00pm

Union Twp Precinct 1 – Immaculate Conception B.V.M. Church
905 Chestnut Street

Union Twp Precinct 2 – St. Paul's United Methodist Church
1136 Geigertown Road



Annual Daniel Boone Troop 595 Scout Memorabilia show

For those who love patches and scout memorabilia, the Troop is holding its 7th Annual Trade-O-Ree on Saturday January 24, 2026 at 8am

St Gabriel's Episcopal Church

(1188 Ben Franklin Highway Douglassville, PA 19518)



Vendors from all over the Northeast will be present! Bake sale goods!

If you're an adult looking to sell or trade, we still have some tables left for the event. Tables are \$25 each and going fast. Please contact George Gajewski

Scoutmaster of Troop 595

(484)302-9073

Danielboonetrop595@gmail.com to reserve your spot.

The Red Corner Benefit Crew presents...

**The 16th Annual Red Corner Benefit –
Saturday, October 18th, 2025
Dedicated to RYLYNN GRAHAM**

See website for details and purchase tickets:

<https://www.redcornerbenefit.org/event-details/>



Schools in Session....

Union Township would like to remind drivers that they must stop when they meet a stopped school bus with red signal lights flashing and stop arm extended. Drivers must wait until the red lights have stopped and the stop arm has been withdrawn before moving.



PENNSYLVANIA'S SCHOOL BUS STOPPING LAW:

When you meet or overtake a stopped school bus with red signal lights flashing and stop arm activated, you **MUST STOP**.

When approaching a school bus with flashing amber lights, **SLOW DOWN** and be **PREPARED TO STOP**.

When you approach an intersection where a school bus is stopped with red signal lights flashing and stop arm activated, you **MUST STOP**.

You **MUST STOP** at least ten (10) feet away from the school bus.

You **MUST WAIT** until the red lights have stopped flashing and the stop arm has been withdrawn before moving.

DO NOT MOVE until all the children have reached a place of safety.

PENALTIES:

The penalties for violating Pennsylvania's School Bus Stopping Laws are as follows: **Criminal Penalties** – Penalty applies for citations issued by law enforcement for passing a school bus with red lights flashing and stop arm activated. • 60-Day Driver's License Suspension, Five (5) points on your driving record, and a \$250 Fine. **Civil Penalties** -- Penalty applies when you are issued a violation for passing a school bus equipped with an automated side stop signal arm enforcement system. • \$300 fine, No effect to your driving record (no suspension and no points).

FROM UNION TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION BOARD:

2025 UPCOMING FREE EVENTS *

All events will be at Union Meadows, 100 Campbellford Road, Douglassville, PA 19518.

- 1) **Reptile Encounters.** Presented by Indian Run EEC. Join Dawn White, who brought us Birds of Prey/Hunters of the Sky last Fall, for a new exciting show. Bring the family out for a presentation with live native turtles and snakes. Learn their habits and features for survival. Guests can touch and examine the animals, as well as shells and sheds, and learn about the threats to these scaly critters, and how we can help protect them as important parts of our ecosystems. Saturday, September 13th, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm.



- 3) **Haunting for Candy at Union Meadows.** On Saturday, October 25th, 1:00-4:00 pm, (Rain Date: Sunday, October 26th). Bring the family out for our fun annual Boo Bash! Holiday trick-or-treating on the trail, pumpkin painting, and Blind Candy Taste Test Challenge, among other family friendly activities.



Meet your Parks & Recreation Board:

Robert Erb-Chairman
Brenda Berriker-Vice Chairman
Kristen Keeler-Secretary,
William Woodruff-Member
Eric Woodworth-Member

TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION Would like to thank all who came out to our first Easter Egg Hunt and first Touch-a-Truck Event. The Parks & Recreation Board would also like to thank the Union Township Road Crew, PA State Police, Berks County Sherriff's Office, Kona Ice, French Creek State Park, Hopewell Furnace, BUFD and Monarch Fire Company for participating at the Touch-a-Truck event! Check out our photos at Unionberks.org under Our Community/Parks, Parks Recreation Page.

IN ORDER TO KEEP TOWNSHIP COSTS DOWN, PLEASE JOIN OUR MAILING LIST TO RECEIVE FUTURE NEWSLETTERS DIGITALLY

If you haven't joined yet, go to www.unionberks.org



LIFE SAVERS: FIRST RESPONSE SKILLS

Presentation and Certification by:



Reading Hospital

TOWER HEALTH

Advancing Health. Transforming Lives.

129 N. Mill St, Birdsboro, PA 19508



Join us in the community room for life saving skills including, Narcan training, Hands only CPR, and Stop the Bleed Training, presented by Tower Health.

You can also become certified in stop the bleed training. Registration is required for the class as well as the certification.

Please sign up at the circulation desk.

This event is for ages 18+ ONLY.

TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS WILL BE MAILED TWO NEWSLETTERS A YEAR, FALL/WINTER AND SPRING/SUMMER. IN BETWEEN THESE ISSUES, DIGITAL NEWSLETTERS WILL BE POSTED TO THE TOWNSHIP WEBSITE SO YOU CAN CONTINUE TO RECEIVE ALL THE NEWS AND INFORMATION THAT IS IMPORTANT TO YOU. PLEASE SIGN UP TO RECEIVE E-MAILED NEWSLETTERS AT UNIONBERKS.ORG UNDER CURRENT NEWS/COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER.

Have questions? Be in the know.... Visit us at Unionberks.org

Do you need a permit for that new home project? Find out on our website and find additional information on codes at <https://ecode360.com/UN1916>. Union Township Codes Enforcement Officer is at the Township Building on Wednesdays from 2:30-4:00. He can also be reached by calling 610-582-3769, ext. 3.

Things happen, and sometimes they affect our neighbors. If you have a complaint, you must first complete an official Complaint Form and file with the Township. The form is located on the Township website, which can be submitted via fax, email, or dropped off at the Township building.

Do you have a remarkable picture of our Township that you'd like to share with fellow residents? Submit to adminut@unionberks.org. Please include a short description with your submission and you may see it in our next newsletter.

We're On Facebook! <https://www.facebook.com/unionberks.org>

Handy Numbers

Union Township Tax Collector: Margaret Kennedy,
610-582-4655

Real Estate School Tax (Daniel Boone), Keystone
Collections: 1-866-539-1100

Local Services Tax: Berkheimer Associates,
1-800-360-8989

Earned Income Tax: Berks EIT, 610-372-8439

TowerDirect EMS: 484-628-4493

PA One Call: before digging-800-242-1776

Daniel Boone School District: 610-582-6140

State Police/Emergency: 911

State Police Non-Emergency: 610-378-4011

Birdsboro/Union Fire Dept: 610-582-0058

Animal Rescue League: 610-373-8830

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

NELSON OTT, JR., CHAIRMAN

ISAAC JONES, VICE CHAIRMAN

ANDREW BASILE, MEMBER

DEBORAH OLIVIERI, TWP. MGR.

TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING CALENDAR:

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS – 3rd Thursday of each month 7:00 pm

PLANNING COMMISSION – 1st Wednesday of each month 6:00 pm

MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY (UTMA) – 2nd Thursday of each month 6:30 pm

PARKS & RECREATION - 2nd Monday of each month 5:00 pm

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY (EAC) – 2nd Wednesday of each month
6:00 pm

This Community Newsletter is produced for Union Township by:

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Text: 267-225-7444 | Phone: 610-367-7444



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