

UNION TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

July 2026 EDITION– DIGITAL

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

PARK NOTICES:

Union Meadows Restrooms were opened April 1, 2026.
Since opening the bathroom for the season, there have been instances of vandalism. Vandalism can come with high cost for repairs. We are asking if you see something, please report it immediately to the State Police and the Township.



The Berks County Solid Waste Authority has set the dates for our 2026 special waste collections.

Spring Events – Governor Mifflin Intermediate School, 600 Governor Drive, Shillington, Pa. 19607



Fall Events – Berks County Ag Center, 1238 County Welfare Road, Leesport, Pa. 19533

Hazardous Waste – October 10, 2026

Shredding – October 3, 2026



Below are links for registration for both events.

Hazardous Waste Collection - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/berks-county-household-hazardous-waste-collection-spring-2026-tickets-1973825452061?aff=oddtcreator>

Paper Shredding - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/berks-county-paper-shredding-event-april-18-2026-registration-1973993338213?aff=oddtcreator>

SUMMER IS UPON US! HERE IS A QUICK LAWN CARE TIP:

Did you know...

- By leaving grass clippings on the lawn, nitrogen application can be reduced by 20-50 percent.
- Healthy trees and shrubs do not require annual fertilizer applications.
- Chemical fertilizers can add salt to the soil and can harm soil structure. High salt concentrations can kill soil building microorganisms and promote soil compaction. Grass clippings and compost are better answers, returning needed bacteria and enzymes to the soil along with nutrients.
- Simple and practical tips like these are easily accessible. Call your Cooperative Extension Service. Our local office is Penn State Extension Berks County, in Leesport, PA, (610-378-1327), or check your local library for guidance books.
- The key is to know your soil and know your fertilizer if, in fact, you need additional nutrients.
- Take the time to learn some simple landscaping techniques that can produce a healthy, green lawn and garden without polluting ground water or surface water.

Grass Clippings can cause bacteria growth in creeks and streams, clogs in the storm water system which can cause flooding and motorcycles to lose traction and potentially result in an accident. Do not mow or blow your grass clippings into the street. Instead, use it as a natural mulch which helps conserve soil moisture which prevents your lawn from drought and stress and recycles nutrients your lawn needs to stay healthy.

PULL THOSE WEEDS

Grass and weeds seem to grow everywhere! Who maintains the area between the curb and street when this happens? This is a great question. The answer to this question is simply the homeowner. Homeowners are responsible for this area as well as the sidewalk and curb. If you were unaware of whose responsibility it was in the past, hopefully this clears up the confusion. If you have been maintaining this area, thank you for helping keep our community looking neat and tidy!



UNION TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

Have questions regarding your water and/or sewer bill or account?

We can be reached by calling 610-582-3769, EXT 4.

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.

Reminder to motorists, please be aware of the road crew making repairs to various roads throughout the township and slow down where they are working. Also please observe the road closed signs when posted. They are posted for everyone's safety. Be sure to visit [Unionberks.org](https://www.facebook.com/unionberks.org) for updated information on road projects and closures. Also stay up to date by following us on Facebook! <https://www.facebook.com/unionberks.org>

⚠️ ROADSIDE ARM MOWING ⚠️

PLEASE BE ADVISED THE ROADCREW WILL BE CONDUCTING ROADSIDE ARM MOWING ALONG TOWNSHIP ROADS THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER. THESE OPERATIONS ARE ESSENTIAL TO MAINTAIN CLEAR, UNOBSTRUCTED SIGHTLINES AND ENSURE SAFE DRIVING CONDITIONS. MOTORISTS ARE URGED TO REDUCE THEIR SPEED AND STAY ALERT, WE APPRECIATE YOUR PATIENCE AND COOPERATION AS WE WORK TO KEEP OUR ROADS SAFE AND CLEAR.



TOWNSHIP OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED ON FRIDAY JULY 3, 2026 AND MONDAY JULY 6, 2026

Friendly Reminders:

- Be considerate of neighbors.
- Let neighbors with dogs know if you'll be setting off fireworks.
- Pet owners take extra precautions if possible to avoid pets running off.

Consumer fireworks cannot be intentionally ignited or discharged:

- On public or private property without permission.
- Within 150 feet of an occupied structure.
- While the person is under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance/other drug.
- Into or at a motor vehicle or at another person.



THERE IS NO SAFE AMOUNT OF TIME TO LEAVE CHILDREN OR PETS IN CARS

As the summer weather moves in, officials are issuing a reminder that cars can heat up quickly.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, about 37 children die a year from being left inside a hot car.

During the summer, that's about two children every week. Just like children, pets are also susceptible to heat, so you should make sure to bring them with you or just leave them at home when you're running errands.

Just cracking the windows isn't enough to prevent overheating in animals.

If you see a child or pet left in a car, please call 911 immediately.



SCHOOL TAX

Daniel Boone Area School District real estate tax bills are typically mailed on or about July 1st each year. For exact millage rates, assessment values, or to obtain duplicate copies of your current 2026 invoice, you can access your account and payment options via the

Keystone Collections Group Invoice Finder

<https://pay.keystonecollects.com/>

NEWS FROM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Union Meadows East Community Garden is bursting with life and ready for another healthy season! Many thanks to Nelson Ott, Jr., who once again generously donated all the plants that make up our garden. We have herbs, tomatoes, cabbage, zucchini, peppers, and more for your cooking and eating pleasure. Feel free to help yourself to the produce as you enjoy the park. (Please leave the plants in the garden so they can keep growing)

On August 22nd, come to the same place and join us for the biannual Nature Fest! There will be a search and rescue dog demonstration, nature walks, and much

more, provided by our local environmental organizations. We hope to see you outside!

New This Year... 5K Run beginning at 8 am
Union Meadows East Park (\$20 to enter)
See Flyers [Here](#)



PAUL MILLER'S LAW (THE HANDS-FREE CELL PHONE BAN) IS FULLY IN EFFECT
ACROSS PENNSYLVANIA.

AFTER A 12-MONTH WARNING PERIOD, POLICE BEGAN ISSUING \$50 CITATIONS
FOR VIOLATIONS ON JUNE 5, 2026.

WHAT THE LAW PROHIBITS:

- NO HANDHELDS: YOU CANNOT PHYSICALLY HOLD OR SUPPORT AN INTERACTIVE MOBILE DEVICE (PHONE, TABLET, ETC.) WITH ANY PART OF YOUR BODY WHILE DRIVING.
- STOPPED IS STILL DRIVING: THE BAN STRICTLY APPLIES EVEN WHEN YOU ARE SITTING AT A RED LIGHT OR STOP SIGN.
- PRIMARY OFFENSE: POLICE CAN PULL YOU OVER AND CITE YOU SOLELY FOR HOLDING A DEVICE.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- HANDS-FREE ONLY: YOU MUST USE BLUETOOTH, DASHBOARD MOUNTS, OR VOICE-ACTIVATED COMMANDS TO MAKE CALLS, PLAY MUSIC, OR USE GPS.
- SAFE STOPS: YOU MAY ONLY HANDLE YOUR PHONE IF YOUR VEHICLE IS PULLED OVER SAFELY OFF THE HIGHWAY.
- EMERGENCIES: EXCEPTIONS ARE MADE FOR CALLING LAW ENFORCEMENT OR EMERGENCY SERVICES.

For further details on the legislation, visit [Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Distracted Driving](#)

<https://www.pa.gov/agencies/penndot/traveling-in-pa/safety/traffic-safety-driver-topics/distracted-driving>



FROM UNION TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION BOARD:

2026 REMAINING EVENTS *

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST TO RECEIVE UPDATED INFORMATION ON THE FOLLOWING FREE
EVENTS HOSTED BY UNION TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION BOARD

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

- 1) ***Wildflowers and Pollinators at Union Meadows West.*** Presented by Mengel Natural History Society at Union Township's Butterfly Meadows, July, 18th at 10:00 am. A meandering path through this pollinator meadow provides good access for observing and netting a variety of species. All levels of interest are welcome: children, adults of all ages, novices and advanced. *Close focusing binoculars and a camera will be helpful. For a good look we will capture some insects and put them in viewing jars so you can get a close look before releasing them. Listen to educators about the various butterflies, dragonflies, plants, and insects you'll find at the meadow.



- 2) ***Haunting for Candy at Union Meadows.*** On Saturday, October 24th, 1:00-4:00 pm, (Rain Date: Sunday, October 25th). Bring the family out for our fun annual Boo Bash! Holiday trick-or-treating in the park, 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,
Eric Woodworth-Member, Tammy Matthews-Member



What Are Rain Barrels and Why Should I Use One?

A rain barrel is a container that collects and stores the water from roofs and downspouts for future uses such as watering lawns, gardens, and house plants; cleaning off gardening tools; and washing your car.

Rain barrels help to **lower your water bills**, particularly in the summer months by collecting thousands of gallons of free water a year that you don't have to buy!

Rain barrels are also important for our environment because they help reduce water pollution by decreasing the amount of stormwater runoff reaching our streams and rivers. **Think about it.** The average rainfall of one inch within a 24-hour period can produce more than 700 gallons of water that run off a typical house! While it's running from our homes and lawns, this stormwater picks up anything on the ground such as litter, excess fertilizer, pet waste, and motor oil and transports it to storm drains that **DO NOT** treat the water before dumping it directly into our waterways. So, rain barrels play an important role in protecting our water resources by collecting the stormwater runoff from our homes before it reaches our local streams and rivers.

Using rain barrels is a great way to decrease your household's impact on local waterways and to help you become a good steward of our local waterways. For a brochure to show you how to make your own rain barrel by following a few simple steps, see link below.



Important Tips for Using your Rain Barrel

- Do not use collected water for drinking, cooking or bathing.
- Keep lid secure so children and pets cannot fall in and make sure that all other openings are secured to help prevent mosquitoes from entering the barrel.
- The atrium gate should prevent most mosquitoes, but eggs could still fall through, so for added mosquito prevention add a tablespoon of vegetable oil to the water every season or try a mosquito dunk that kills mosquito eggs but is nontoxic to plants and animals.
- When using the overflow valve, make sure water drains away from structures and does not flow onto pavement, sidewalks, or neighboring properties.
- Disconnect the barrel from the downspout during winter months to avoid the formation of damaging ice in the barrel.
- Paint or decorate your rain barrel to make it a distinct part of your yard or garden!

For more information contact: Delaware Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Control. Division of Watershed Stewardship #302-382-0335 or #302-739-9922.

Information provided by Delaware Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Control/Division of Watershed Stewardship. To get started on making your own Rain Barrel, Visit: <https://documents.dnrec.delaware.gov/Watershed/NPS/Build-a-Rain-Barrel.pdf>

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. If you need to reach the Zoning Officer, please contact the Township at 610-582-3769.

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>

SpotCrime is a public facing crime map and crime alert service. With SpotCrime, it's easier than ever to check crime anywhere in the United States. SpotCrime allows you to easily look up city and county crime data and reports -- all the way down to local neighborhood statistics. Sign up for email alerts near your home address at **SpotCrime.com**



If you See Something, Say Something. You may get a cash reward. Report crime via crimealertberks.org, call 1-877-373-9913 or text alertberks at 847411 with your crime tip. Tipsters are given a code number-the tipster's name is never used.

Handy Numbers

Union Township Tax Collector: Berks County
Treasurer's Office. Contact Union Township Mgr.

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

ANDREW BASILE, VICE CHAIRMAN

JOSHUA ADAMS, 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