

UNION TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

FALL/WINTER 2024-2025

TOWNSHIP NEWS IN A FLASH

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



EFFECTIVE October 1, 2024 – NEW TOWNSHIP HOURS: Union Township will be open to the public Monday-Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Code Enforcement Officer is available every Wednesday from 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. (Appointment is Required)



Election Day, Tuesday, November 5, 2024

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

Winter Tips from the Public Works Department

SNOW REMOVAL

1. Inspect your mailbox before the winter season. To prevent damage during a storm, make sure they do not extend past the road edge and that posts are sturdy
2. The best way to avoid having to clear snow from your driveway multiple times is to wait until plowing operations are completed. If you'd like to get a head start but don't need to get out of your driveway, consider not shoveling the last six feet toward the street until plowing is completed.
3. If you need to clear your driveway before plowing is complete, you can minimize the amount of snow plowed into the driveway. Clear not only your driveway out into the street, but also all of the snow at least 10 feet along the street. This will allow plows to unload most of the snow before crossing in front of your driveway.
4. Not Permitted: Don't throw or blow snow into the street, pile the snow behind the street edge where it will not obstruct traffic movement or the Township's plowing operation.
5. Residents can help minimize flooding by clearing snow from storm water catch basins located along your property and by clearing snow around fire hydrants.
6. If you do not have to be on the roads during a winter storm, please stay off until they are clear.



Red Corner Benefit – Saturday, October 19th, 2024

The Red Corner Benefit Crew presents...

The 15th Annual Red Corner Benefit Dedicated to Piper Irias!

See website for details and purchase tickets:

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



Snow Emergency Routes – Ordinance 2024-02



In order to facilitate the movement of traffic, the removal of snow, and to combat the hazards of snow and ice on Township roads and streets, the roads listed below have been designated as Snow Emergency Routes. After any snow and ice emergency is declared by the Township through radio, newspaper, or available media, it shall be unlawful, at any time during the continuance of the snow and ice emergency, for any person to stand, stop, or park a motor vehicle or to allow a motor vehicle to remain standing, stopped or parked anywhere on any snow emergency route. The following are designated as snow emergency routes, proper signage will be 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).

Burning Ordinance

This time of year many residents have questions in regard to burning in the Township. Below is a summary of the township's burning ordinance. To see the complete ordinance with the full list of regulations please visit: <https://ecode360.com/11641060#31897613> Within the Union Township limits, no persons shall:



- Ignite, feed or fail to extinguish any open fire for the burning of any material whatsoever between one hour prior to sundown and sunup.
- Cause, suffer, allow or permit the maintenance of any open fire for the burning of any material whatsoever, on property under their control, between one hour prior to sundown and sunup.
- Allow any open fire, ignited by them or occurring on property under their control, to at any time go unguarded by one or more responsible adult persons prior to the time the fire has burned out or been fully extinguished.
- Allow any open fire, ignited by them or occurring on property under their control, to at any time burn at a distance of less than 50 feet from any property line, building, fence, hedge or other combustible material.
- Accumulate, receive, except for burning, ignite or permit to burn any material originating on or transferred from the land of any other person, company, job site or business.
- Ignite, maintain or allow to occur on property under their control, at any time, the burning of demolition and construction waste, furniture, tires, vehicles, mattresses, box springs, metal scrap, appliances, batteries, petroleum products, vinyls or hazardous materials.

UNREGISTERED & INOPERABLE VEHICLES IN UNION TOWNSHIP

Union Township adopted the International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC) in 2018. It is illegal to have an unregistered or inoperable vehicle on private property unless it is stored in a garage. Major vehicle repairs are not permitted unless done in a garage, no vehicle may be parked in the grass at any time



302.8 Motor Vehicles: Except as provided for in other regulations, inoperative or unlicensed motor vehicles shall not be parked, kept or stored on any premises, and vehicles shall not at any time be in a state of major disassembly, disrepair, or in the process of being stripped or dismantled. Painting of vehicles is prohibited unless conducted inside an approved spray booth.

Exception: A vehicle of any type is permitted to undergo major overhaul, including body work, provided that such work is performed inside a structure or similarly enclosed area designed and approved for such purposes.

Inoperable Motor Vehicle: A vehicle that cannot be driven upon the public streets for reason including but not limited to being unlicensed, wrecked, abandoned, in a state of disrepair, or incapable of being moved under its own power

OUTDOOR LIGHTING

In order to protect drivers and pedestrians from the disabling glare of nonvehicular light sources and to protect neighbors and the night sky from glare and light trespass from poorly aimed or shielded light sources, the township enacted a lighting ordinance (1/19/2009). No direct beams of light shall be directed toward adjacent properties or toward public roads. In order to be fully compliant with the ordinance, be sure all dusk to dawn flood lights and any other outdoor lights are fully shielded, and the light does not extend over your property line. Union Township Outdoor Lighting Ordinance Codified in Chapter 124 of the Union Township Code can be found on our website by visiting <https://ecode360.com/UN1916>.



NO HUNTING:



Please be aware that there is no hunting in Union Meadows Park except for archery hunting which is permitted by the Parks and Recreation Board and the number of hunters is limited. The permitted hunters have been briefed as to where they can and cannot hunt for the safety of the public. NO RIFLE HUNTING is permitted at all.

In 2007 and 2008 the Union Township Recreation Board commissioned a Wildlife Habitat Management Study done by the Pennsylvania Game Commission Southeast Region and a Pennsylvania Forest Stewardship Plan done by David Steckel, Forester and Claudia Steckel, Botanist. One of the management recommendations in both plans included the development of a deer management program.

Overabundant deer is a problem that affects most natural areas in our region. Deer impact forest health by consuming seeds (particularly acorns) and browsing on seedlings, shrubs, and herbaceous plants. As population density increases, this activity can adversely affect populations of other animals, especially songbirds, through a decrease in plant species and structural diversity within the forest.

In order to maintain a healthy forest community, the deer density within the property should be approximately 10 per forested square mile (640 acres). This level will allow for adequate tree and shrub regeneration and the perpetuation of native wildflower species. With approximately 90 forested acres, Union Meadows Park can only support 1 to 2 deer without negative effects to forest health.

By allowing archery hunting, the Recreation Board seeks to strike a balance between recreational use and care of the natural resources.

Union Township Archery Hunt runs from September 21, 2024 through January 25, 2025

Application deadline is September 1st of each year.

Permits Required, contact Township for additional information.

Did you know about [1.5 million motor vehicle accidents](#) in the U.S. are caused by deer, with November recording the highest rate of deer collisions?

With that in mind, here are four tips to take with you as you hit the roads this fall, especially at dawn and dusk when deer are most active.

- **Stay alert:** Pay attention to deer crossing signs and keep an eye out for any movement along the roadside, especially in wooded or grassy areas.
- **Use high beams:** When there is no oncoming traffic, utilize your high-beam headlights. They can illuminate the eyes of deer on or near the roadway, providing extra seconds to react.
- **Brake, don't swerve:** If you see a deer in your path, slow down and brake firmly. Swerving can confuse the deer on where to run and could also lead to a more severe collision with oncoming vehicles.
- **Expect more deer:** Deer rarely travel alone. If you see one deer, others may be nearby.



PREVENT HOME HEATING FIRES

The Birdsboro-Union Fire Department would like to remind all residents to remember to stay safe during this winter and remind everyone that cold weather is around the corner. Please make sure to keep your home safe from fire with these heating safety tips:

Heating equipment is a leading cause of home fire deaths and the third leading cause of home fire deaths, according to the National Fire Protection Association. Most of these fires occur in December, January and February. Some simple steps can prevent most heating-related fires from happening.

- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater.
- Have a three-foot "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Have a qualified professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters or central heating equipment according to the local codes and manufacturer's instructions.
- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
- Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Always use the right kind of fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel burning space heaters.
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before putting them in a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance away from your home.
- Test smoke alarms monthly
- Portable Generator Safety: Portable generators are useful during power outages. However, many homeowners are unaware that the improper use of portable generators can be risky. The most common dangers associated with portable generators are carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning, electrical shock or electrocution, and fire hazards.



Volunteer Today! Support your Community – BUFD is looking for Volunteer Firefighters and Jr. Firefighters visit us at <https://www.bufd7.org>

Union Township Communication-COMCAST



Comcast is continuing work to expand its Xfinity 10G Network that will deliver its full suite of Xfinity and Comcast Business services to Union Township residents and businesses.

Comcast is working closely with the Township and local energy providers to secure the required permits needed to complete construction.

Residents will be notified 7-10 days prior to underground Township Right-of-Way (ROW) construction activities, dependent on weather conditions. Should a resident have questions or concerns about underground construction activities, please email Freedom_SEO@comcast.com.

In the meantime, residents can visit www.Xfinity.com/MyTown and enter an address for additional details on construction timing and upcoming service availability. They can also stop by the Xfinity Store in Pottstown, located at 310 Upland Square Drive, where experts at the Xfinity Store can help with product demonstrations, answer any questions consumers may have and help local businesses schedule an informational meeting with the Comcast Business sales team.

Once available, residents will have access to Xfinity's full suite of Internet products, including the company's Internet Essentials program that provides low-cost, high-speed broadband for income constrained households.



Paper Shredding

2024 Paper Shredding Event

Free to Berks County Residents

October 12, 2024 (8:00 AM - Noon)
Berks County Agricultural Center
1238 County Welfare Road
Leesport, PA 19533

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

5 boxes per vehicle maximum
Absolutely no plastic bags will be accepted.

REGISTER at Eventbrite.com

HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION SCHEDULED OCTOBER 19, 2024. Tickets required. Tickets are free.

**REGISTER at
Eventbrite.com**

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

New PA License Plate Coming in 2025



The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) has unveiled a new standard license plate for vehicles.

The new plate, showcasing Pennsylvania as the birthplace of America, will be available in 2025. It features the Liberty Bell and the text, "Let Freedom Ring." Military, special organization, special fund and specialty plates without legislatively mandated designs will also be updated with the new design.

If you would like to be one of the first to get the new license plate, [sign up for updates](#). You will be notified when the license plate is ready to order. When the plates become available, fee information will be included with replacement instructions on PennDOT's website and will vary based on plate type and any optional personalization. The department and its partners will use all existing [standard issue license plate](#) inventory before transitioning to the new plate design.

DID YOU KNOW?

THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA FIRST REQUIRED ITS RESIDENTS TO REGISTER THEIR MOTOR VEHICLES IN 1903. REGISTRANTS PROVIDED THEIR OWN LICENSE PLATES FOR DISPLAY UNTIL 1906, WHEN THE STATE BEGAN TO ISSUE PLATES.

SAFETY NET SANCTUARY

UNION TOWNSHIP HAS ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES THROUGH SAFETY NET SANCTUARY.

- WILL RESPOND 7 DAYS A WEEK
- WILL MAKE ALL REASONABLE EFFORTS TO REUNITE LOST PETS WITH THEIR OWNERS
- WILL PROVIDE LIE TRAPS FOR TRAP, NEUTER AND RELEASE
- WILL ASSIST IN FINDING HOMES FOR KITTENS BASED UPON FOSTER CARE AVAILABILITY
- IS A NO KILL SHELTER AND ONLY EUTHANIZES IF THE ANIMAL IS IN SEVERE DISTRESS





Don't Forget to Fall Back...
 Turn clocks back 1 hour
 On Sunday, November 3, 2024



**MONOCACY KIDS
 2024 NATURE SERIES**



This Nature Series is designed to encourage children's curiosity, engaging them in hands-on activities in the natural world through stories, games, crafts, scavenger hunts and other outdoor activities.

Series Schedule

CAMPING/SMOKEY Saturday, SEPTEMBER 14 1:00 PM
TREES Sunday, OCTOBER 13 1:00 PM



Programs are 2 hours and are Free to the public.
 Registration is limited to 12 children, ages 4 - 6. Children must be accompanied by an adult throughout the session.
 Email sswanson511@gmail.com to register.

ALL NEWSLETTERS WILL BE PLACED ON THE TOWNSHIP WEBSITE, WE WILL BE MAILING OUT TO TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS 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. ANY LOCAL BUSINESSES THAT WOULD LIKE TO PLACE AN ADVERTISEMENT IN THE NEWSLETTER MAY CONTACT THE TOWNSHIP OFFICE.

LEGO CLUB
 STARTING
TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 10TH
EVERY OTHER TUESDAY
 FROM 5-7 PM
 JOIN MISS AMBER FOR FUN BUILDING
 CHALLENGES EVERY NIGHT
 GEARED TOWARDS AGES 8+
 ALL AGES WELCOME

Lego Club At Boone Area Library

Save The Date
HARVEST FESTIVAL
2024
 SATURDAY
 OCTOBER 19TH
 Rain Date October 20th

New for 2024!
 Scarecrow Contest
 Sponsored by:
 HALTER LANDSCAPING

New for 2024!
 Pumpkin Carving Contest
 Sponsored by:
 Lucky Squirrel

LIVE MUSIC 🎵 INFLATABLE PARK 🎈 CRAFT SHOW
FIREWORKS 🎆 FOOD TRUCKS 🍷 BEER TENT
AND MUCH MORE!!!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND PLAN TO JOIN US AT OUR 2024 UPCOMING EVENTS

Union Township's Park and Recreation Board began presenting Community Events at the Meadows in 2024! Currently the following free events are left for 2024 at Union Meadows, 100 Campbellford Road, Douglassville, PA 19518

Birds of Prey "Hunters of the Sky", presented by Indian Run EEC. Bring the family out for a free presentation on birds of prey at Union Meadows On Saturday, September 21, 2024, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm. 3-4 Live birds will be presented for an up-close look at birds of prey and their adaptations for survival. Meet live hawks and owls (possibly a vulture) and examine feathers, wings and more to learn about these birds, their natural history and conservation efforts to protect them and their habitats.



Haunting for Candy at Union Meadows. On Sunday, October 27, 2024, 2:00-5:00 pm, bring the family out for a fun Boo Bash! Holiday trick-or-treat on the trail, pumpkin painting, and Blind Candy Taste Test Challenge, among other family friendly activities. Craft supplies are limited-first come, first serve. Activities end at 5:00 pm. **NO RAIN DATE.**



Meet your Parks & Recreation Board:

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

Helping Hands



Every Friday @ 10:15am-11:15am
Everyone WELCOME for picture BINGO

BINGO helps people of all ages with

- concentration
- Hand-eye- coordination
- emotional well being

We accept small prize donations for BINGO

Boone Area Library~ 129 N. Mill St. Birdsboro Pa 19508



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.

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

Safety Net Sanctuary: 610-944-8099

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 Wednesday 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:

1145 E Philadelphia Ave | Gilbertsville, PA 19525
1145 E Philadelphia Ave Gilbertsville, PA 19525
Text: 267-225-7444 | Phone: 610-367-7444



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