

UNION TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY
NEWSLETTER
MAY 2025 EDITION– DIGITAL



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>



FROM UNION TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

Water and Sewer billing Q&A.

Q- I did not receive a bill and now there are penalties and interest on my bill.

Can they be waived?

A – The short answer is no. The Administrative Assistant is not authorized to remove late fees from any customer's bill without the Municipal Authority Board's approval.

If you wish to dispute your sewer or water charges, you must attend a Municipal Authority Meeting and discuss your dispute with the Board and they will render a decision.

There are several reasons why you may not have received your bill.

- 1) Bill was lost in the mail.**
- 2) If you get a bill via E-mail (ebill), did your email address change? Or did it go into your spam folder?**
- 3) Did you move from the residence that the bill is addressed to?**

The Municipal Authority issues bills four times a year on the last day or 1st day of the following month.

The 2025 billing schedule is as follows;

April 1st - Due date April 30th. for service -Jan. 2025 – March 2025

July 1st - Due date July 31st. for service - April -2025 – June 2025

October 1st – Due date – October 30th for service July 2025- September2025

January 2nd – Due date – January 31st for service Oct 2025 – December 2025.

The Authority suggests that you put a reminder in your calendar when the bills are issued. If you do not receive a bill by the second week of the month that the bills are issued, please call our office and request a copy of your bill. This will eliminate any possibility of incurring late fees.

If you have any questions, you can contact our office by phone at 610-582-3769 Extension 4 or by email at UTMA1145@outlook.com.

READY TO GARDEN? LET PENN STATE BERKS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM HELP

Call our Garden Hotline

A free service to local residents and gardeners to provide advice and guidance on all things horticultural.

Call us today!

The Berks County Garden Hotline is typically staffed five days a week, April through October by Penn State Master Gardeners with advanced training in diagnosing plant problems. We annually answer more than 1,200 calls, offering free, research-based information on everything from houseplants to towering trees, lawns, vegetable gardens, fruit, composting, insects, weeds, mulch and more. Our Master Gardeners can also identify plants and insects.



There are several ways county residents can take advantage of the Garden Hotline Services:

In-person

The Penn State Extension Office in Berks County is located in the Berks County Agricultural Center 1327 County Welfare Road, Suite 110 Leesport, PA. The Garden Hotline office is open to the public Monday through Friday 9:00am - 4:00pm. Residents can stop in with plant or gardening questions, if they have a plant or insect they need help identifying or if they simply need some general gardening advice. One of our Master Gardener volunteers will be happy to assist.

Email Hotline

The Berks County Master Gardeners can be reached at the Garden Hotline email address: berksmg@psu.edu When submitting a question by email, county residents are encouraged to provide as much information as they can about the plant and the problem. In addition, we recommend submitting at least three (3) clear, in-focus, high resolution photos which clearly highlight the problem outlined in the email. Please also include your contact information (name, address, phone #, email address) in case we have additional questions or need additional information. You should expect to hear from a Master Gardener within 48 hours of submitting your question.

Phone Hotline

County residents can call the Garden Hotline at 610-378-1327 to speak with a Master Gardener during Hotline Office Hours Monday through Friday 9:00am-4:00pm.

Soil Test Kits and Water Test Kits

County residents can purchase soil test kits and water test kits at the Penn State Extension Office located in the Berks County Agricultural Center at 1327 County Welfare Road Suite 110 Leesport, PA.



[HTTPS://EXTENSION.PSU.EDU/PROGRAMS/MASTER-GARDENER/COUNTIES/BERKS/HOTLINE](https://extension.psu.edu/programs/master-gardener/counties/berks/hotline)

2025 UPCOMING 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) ***Touch-a-Truck.*** Celebrate the end of the school year with Union Township Road Crew Trucks, Birdsboro/Union Fire Department, Monarch Fire Dept, Tower Health Ambulance and Berk's County Sheriff's office with Prison Transport Van (State Police may be making an appearance), Hopewell Furnace, and French Creek State Park on June 7th, from 1:00 – 3:00pm. (Rain Date June 8th) Kona Ice will be on site with special treats to purchase.



- 2) ***Wildflowers and Pollinators at Union Meadows West.*** Presented by Mengel Natural History Society at Union Township's Butterfly Meadows, July, 19th 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.

- 3) ***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.



- 4) ***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

*Additional details for events will be posted as they become available

UNION TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION Would like to thank all who came out to our first Easter Egg Hunt on April 13th. The Parks & Recreation Board would also like to thank Bo, the dog and Legend & Jack, the horses, for stopping by to see the children and pose for pictures with the Easter Bunny! Check out our photos at Unionberks.org under Our Community/Parks, Parks & Recreation.

<https://www.unionberks.org/copy-of-community-newsletter>



SUMMER SUPPLIES NEEDED!

Want to help with Library Programs?

Check out our Amazon Summer Supplies Wishlist!

All items will be used for NEW upcoming Summer Reading Programs!

We thank you for all your support!❤️🙏

CLICK HERE FOR AMAZON WISH LIST:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1ZC4CANZFPE0Y/ref=hz_ls_biz_ex



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.



KEEP GRASS CLIPPINGS OFF OF THE STREETS!



Clippings act as a natural mulch which helps **CONSERVE SOIL MOISTURE** preventing your lawn from drought stress!



Keeping grass clippings in your lawn recycles nutrients your lawn needs to stay **HEALTHY!**

If you sweep your clippings into the street grass clippings can cause...



BACTERIA GROWTH in receiving water bodies



PENALTIES. It is **ILLEGAL** to litter in the streets: grass clippings included



FLOODING
A storm water system clog which may lead to **FLOODING**



SAFETY HAZARDS for motorists



PESTICIDES AND CHEMICALS to runoff into storm water drains, causing more filtration needs.



Eligibility

This program supports Pennsylvania homeowners and renters who meet the following criteria.

Age Criteria

- 65 and older

Income Criteria

- Widows and widowers 50 and older
- People with disabilities 18 and older
- In addition to the age requirements, to qualify for the Property Tax/Rent Rebate, your household income must be \$46,520 or less annually.

Application Deadline

Applications for the 2024 Property Tax/Rent Rebates are due by June 30, 2025. Under Pennsylvania law, the Department of Revenue evaluates the program before the June 30 deadline every year. If extra funds are available, the deadline is extended to December 31. Applications postmarked by that date will be accepted for processing.

<https://www.pa.gov/services/revenue/apply-for-property-tax-or-rent-rebate.html>

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>

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](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: 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

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

UNION TOWNSHIP OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:00AM - 2:30PM

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO COME DURING BUSINESS HOURS, PLEASE CALL 610.582.3769 TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT