

UNION TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

FALL/WINTER 2023-2024

TOWNSHIP NEWS IN A FLASH

NEW AMBULANCE SERVICE

Effective March 17, 2023, Union Township's new Emergency Ambulance Service is Tower Direct. If you are interested in a membership, you may contact them directly at 484-628-4493.



BIRDSBORO/UNION FIRE DEPARTMENT

PROVIDES FIRE SUPPRESSION, RESCUE, QRS (QUICK RESPONSE SERVICE) EMS, AND FIRE PREVENTION SERVICES FOR THE RESIDENTS WHO LIVE, WORK AND TRAVEL THROUGH BIRDSBORO BOROUGH AND UNION TOWNSHIP, BERKS COUNTY, PA.

We are always looking for volunteers, visit us at <https://www.bufd7.org>

PENNSYLVANIA STATE POLICE WAS CREATED BY AN ACT OF LEGISLATION WHICH WAS SIGNED INTO LAW BY GOVERNOR SAMUEL W. PENNYPACKER ON MAY 2, 1905. IT WAS THE FIRST UNIFORMED POLICE ORGANIZATION OF ITS KIND IN THE UNITED STATES. PENNSYLVANIA STATE POLICE (PSP) PATROLS UNION TOWNSHIP, TROOPERS PROVIDE FOR THE REGULATION OF TRAFFIC, CRIME SCENE REPOSE AND INVESTIGATION, AND MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER AND SECURITY. VISIT THEIR WEBSITE WWW.PSP.PA.GOV FOR SAFETY RESOURCES, AND OTHER VALUABLE INFORMATION INCLUDING COMMUNITY AWARENESS BULLETINS.



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

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.

FATS	OILS	GREASE
<i>Solid at room temperature</i>	<i>Liquid at room temperature</i>	<i>Turns to liquid during cooking, but solidifies when cooled</i>
Butter, shortening, margarine Peanut butter Meat trimmings Uncooked poultry skin Dairy: Cheeses, milk, cream, sour cream, ice cream	Vegetable oil Canola oil Olive oil Corn oil Salad dressings Cooking oils	Gravy Mayonnaise Melted meat fat Bacon and sausage Boiled poultry skin Salad dressing

MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY WATER/SEWER TALK



The Union Township Municipal Authority (UTMA) would like to remind residents that cash payments are no longer accepted. UTMA can be reached by calling 610-582-3769 ext. 4

Water/Sewer Payment Options

Check, Credit Card, Debit Card or Money Order. Cash is not accepted.

By mail: Payable to: UTMA 1445 E. Main St. Douglassville, PA 19518

In person: 1445 E. Main St. Douglassville, PA 19518

24/7 Payment Dropbox: The payment drop-box is located to the left of the entrance of the township building.

Online payments: unionberks.org. At the top of the page, click on pay your sewer bill. You must have a copy of your bill to provide the **account number** and **"CID"** number to process the payment. There is a fee for all credit card payments based on a percentage of the total amount.

Have you heard of F.O.G. Monster
(fats, oils, grease)?

Help protect our sewer system from backups and overflows! What do you do after frying bacon? Pouring fats, oils, and greases down our drains solidify further down and wreak havoc on our sewer system, including back-ups. Pour excess fats, oil and greases into cans (old coffee cans work great) and then toss into the trash.

Here's what you can do help:

- *Do not pour oil, grease, or fats down the drain.*
- *Soak up the grease after frying bacon with paper towels & put in trash.*
- *Pour larger amounts of used cooking grease into a container with a lid, once hardened, place in trash (great way to recycle those takeout containers)*
- *Only put food scraps down disposal.*
- *Never pour motor oils down the drain. This is illegal!*



This Community Newsletter is produced for Union Township by:



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

**Available to Union
Township Residents:**



Union Township has a plug aerator that Township residents are welcome to use. There is a sign out sheet and waiver to be signed. Aerator will be given on a first come, first serve basis, and will be offered for a 2-week period. Call Union Township offices or stop in during regular business hours to request use of the aerator.

With winter weather around the corner, please remember...

Keep the Inside of Your Home safe with Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors

To help make your winter even safer, it is recommended that you take the time to test your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. A smoke detector is the most effective way to detect smoke from a fire and signal an alarm so that you and your family can get out safely. A carbon monoxide detector can alert you to the buildup of this dangerous odorless and colorless gas. Make sure you test the detectors monthly, and after you change the batteries to ensure they work properly.

No Parking after Sunset in Township Parks:

Ordinance 2023-02

Any motor vehicle parked in Township Parks after sunset will be towed at owner's expense.



Use Caution - Hunting in Progress

Union Township Archery Hunt runs from September 16, 2023 through January 27, 2024. Permits Required, contact Township for additional information.



Residents are permitted, by permit, after sunset to night fish/waterfowl hunt by contacting the Township. Permit must be displayed in vehicle.

Time to Stay Indoors... But should you?

***Be sure to get a breath of fresh air during the crisp temperatures of
Fall and Winter***

When it's cold outside, we may all feel like staying bundled up inside but don't forget to get outside and enjoy the fresh crisp air. Research suggests regular exposure to the cold could deliver an avalanche of surprising health benefits, helping you to torch more flab, fire up your metabolism, reduce your risk of diabetes, strengthen your heart and lungs, train harder and even fight off depression. Exercising outdoors in the winter makes our heart muscles stronger because they work harder to pump blood and maintain the body's temperature. Cold air can also help with inflammation.

You can hike our beautiful Union Township's Parks and Recreation sites: Hopewell Furnace, Big Woods Trail at French Creek State Park, and Union Meadows Park. Union Meadows Park is a 2-mile walking trail with multi-use fields, boat ramp, pavilion, and natural areas.

French Creek State Park: <https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

Hopewell Furnace: <https://www.nps.gov/hofu/index.htm>



2024 UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Go to www.unionberks.org to join the mailing list.

Union Township's Park and Recreation Board will begin presenting Community Events at the Meadows in 2024! Be on the lookout in future newsletters for upcoming events and additional details. Currently we have scheduled the following free events for 2024.

1) *Birdhouse and Rock Painting*. Celebrate Earth Day with Anvil Art Studio on April 20, 2024, 1:00-4:00 pm, the pavilion at the boat ramp, 20 seats available. Adults and children welcome, all supplies will be provided by Anvil Art Studio and the Union Township Parks and Recreation Board. Registration will be required for this event. Please email contactus@unionberks.org to register. Include name(s) and age(s). You will receive a confirmation email back.



2) *Wildflowers and Pollinators at Union Meadows West*. Presented by Mengel Natural History Society at Union Township's Butterfly Meadows in July, 2024, exact date will be announced in future newsletter. A meandering path through this former ball field converted to a 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. A butterfly checklist for this location will handed out at this walk so you can easily record what you see.

*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) *Birds of Prey "Hunters of the Sky"*, presented by Indian Run EEC. Bring the family out for a free presentation on birds of prey. 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. This event is scheduled for Saturday, September 14, 2024, 11:00 -12:00 pm at Union Meadows.



4) *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.



Meet your Parks & Recreation Board:

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

For a list of additional events in Berks County this Fall/Winter 2023 please visit Pennsylvania's Americana Region website at www.visitpaamericana.com. Check out such events as the 27th Annual Chili Pepper Festival, Taste of Hamburger Festival, Berks Fiddle Fest and Reading Film Fest.

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 right around the corner, 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.***

WINTER DRIVING SAFETY TIPS

REMEMBER, IF WINTER WEATHER IS FORECAST, ELIMINATE ALL UNNECESSARY TRAVEL. THIS WILL KEEP YOU AND YOUR FAMILY SAFE AND ALLOW PENNDOT TO MORE EASILY PERFORM ITS WINTER DUTIES. HOWEVER, IF YOU MUST TRAVEL, PENNDOT OFFERS THE FOLLOWING TIPS FOR SAFE DRIVING THIS WINTER SEASON

- Carry a winter emergency travel kit.
- Listen to weather and travel advisories, but if you don't have to travel in bad weather, don't.
- Keep your gas tank at least half full.
- Slow down and increase following distance
- Beware of roads that may look wet, but are actually frozen, often referred to as "black ice."
- Use extra caution on bridges and ramps, where ice can often form without warning.
- Carry a cellphone.
- Do not use cruise control while driving on snow-covered roads.
- State law requires you to turn on your headlights when your wipers are on.
- Use your low beams in particularly bad weather, especially in cases of heavy or blowing snow.
- Remove ice and snow from windows, mirrors, and all vehicle lights before you drive and as often as needed.
- Remove snow and ice from the hood and roof of your vehicle. State law states that if snow or ice from your vehicle strikes a vehicle or person and causes death or injury, you can be ticketed.
- For more tips, visit <https://www.penndot.pa.gov/TravelInPA/Safety/TrafficSafetyAndDriverTopics/Pages/Winter-Driving.aspx>

NAME THE UNION TOWNSHIP'S SNOWPLOW!

UNION TOWNSHIP CONTEST:

OPEN TO CHILDREN AGES 12 AND UNDER, MUST BE A RESIDENT. SUBMIT YOUR ENTRY TO CONTACTUS@UNIONBERKS.ORG BY 11/30/2023, THE WINNER WILL BE CHOSEN ON 12/20/2023 BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS. THE CONTEST WINNER WILL RECEIVE A \$25.00 GIFT CARD TO DAIRY QUEEN AND WINNING NAME AFFIXED ON THE PLOW. VISIT WWW.UNIONBERKS.ORG FOR RULES



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 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: 911

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