

UNION TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2024 EDITION— DIGITAL



NAME THE UNION TOWNSHIP'S SNOWPLOW CONTEST:

ON 12/20/2023, DUE TO THE MANY FANTASTIC ENTRIES, THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DECIDED TO CHOOSE **FOUR** CONTEST WINNERS INSTEAD OF ONE, AND ALL HAD THEIR WINNING ENTRY STENCILED ONTO A SNOWPLOW.

ALL WINNERS CAME TOGETHER TO HAVE THEIR PICTURE TAKEN WITH THEIR NAMED SNOWPLOW ON JANUARY 6TH.

THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE CHILDREN THAT PARTICIPATED.
THE WINNERS WERE...

LILLIAN P, AGE 12 with THE SNOWASAURUS REX
KYLER B., AGE 7 with ARCTIC CRUSHER
MILES T., AGE 10 with PLOWARD
LILLIAN M., AGE 10 with SNOW BEAR



RESIDENT'S LILLIAN, KYLER, MILES, AND LILLIAN STAND IN FRONT OF THEIR SNOWPLOWS AS THE FIRST SNOW OF THE SEASON FELL ON JANUARY 6, 2024.
See Full Story at [Readingeagle.com](https://www.readingeagle.com) (image courtesy of Reading Eagle)

UNION TOWNSHIP 2024 EVENTS:

**THERE'S STILL TIME TO REGISTER FOR OUR FREE ROCK AND BIRDHOUSE PAINTING EVENT.
EVENT TAKES PLACE UNDER PAVILLION BY THE BOAT RAMP.**

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 total 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.



PUBLIC ALERT & NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

ALERTS DELIVERED TO YOUR PAGER, CELL PHONE AND E-MAIL FOR
**PUBLIC SAFETY EMERGENCIES | ROAD CLOSURES
SEVERE WEATHER EVENTS**

Berks Alert is an effort by county government to notify residents and visitors in Berks County about hazardous conditions and other significant community events. You can register at www.countyofberks.com/departments/emergency-services/911-communications-branch/berks-alert

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

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

Be Winter Wise

As the weather continues to be cold, you can take simple steps to ensure proper operation of natural gas and other fuel-burning equipment to prevent build-up of carbon monoxide (CO) inside homes and workspaces. Stay safe this winter with the following tips:

- Ensure carbon monoxide detectors are in working order and appropriately located.
- Have a qualified professional check your furnace, water heater, and other internal combustion appliances to ensure safe operation.
- Change or clean furnace filters regularly.

CO is an odorless, tasteless, toxic gas. Symptoms of CO poisoning include headache, fatigue, shortness of breath, nausea, and dizziness. CO poisoning is serious and can be fatal. Individuals who believe they may be experiencing symptoms of CO poisoning should immediately seek fresh air and prompt medical attention.

Winter storms have arrived. Here are a few tips for you to prepare your home and keep you and your family safe.

- **Stay Informed:** Be sure to track a storm's latest location and stay up to date with related news using sources like [Weather.Gov](https://www.weather.gov) and [The Weather Channel](https://www.theweatherchannel.com). If you have a smartphone, sign up for emergency alerts and notifications from your local government or weather agencies to get real-time updates on the storm.
- **Plan for Power Outages:** Make sure your electronic devices and power banks are charged in advance. You may also want to have a supply of flashlights or battery-operated lanterns, which are safer than candles. Have a First Aid kit ready. Stockpile bottled water, blankets, canned goods, and anything else you might need in case the power goes out for long periods of time.
- **Prepare Your Home:** To prevent freezing pipes, allow your faucets to drip slightly, and open cabinet doors to let heat reach uninsulated pipes under sinks. In addition, check to make sure your heating system is in good working order. If you may use a generator, make sure it's fully functioning and has enough fuel to last you the duration of the storm — and ensure that you are aware of how to use it safely. (Remember, never use one inside!)
- **Consider Special Needs:** If you or a family member has mobility issues or special medical needs, ensure you have the necessary supplies and a plan in place for assistance during the storm. Consider creating an emergency contact list that includes the names and phone numbers of healthcare providers, pharmacies, and specialists who can provide guidance during a storm.

If you experience an outage, don't rely on your neighbors to report it. Please let your utility company know if you're without power. Report your outage and stay informed throughout the restoration process.

CURBSIDE DELIVERY GUIDELINES

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

HELP US TO SERVE YOU BETTER!

Properly Cleared

Insufficient Snow Removal

20 FEET

A properly cleared mailbox area ensures safe and prompt delivery of your mail and packages!

Approaches and exits to rural or curbside mailboxes should be clear of snow, ice, vehicles, trash-cans, objects or obstacles. Snow should be cleared at least ten feet on each side of your mailbox and all the way up to the mailbox post to allow for safe delivery of your mail. Some postal customers opt to put a temporary mailbox in the snow in situations where snow removal is not practical; the same guidelines apply for clearance as permanent mailboxes. The carrier needs to be able to deliver to the mailbox without backing up. Your consideration and cooperation is appreciated!

Questions may be directed to your local post office.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!

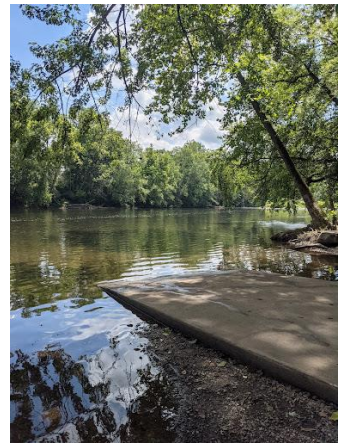
REMINDER: Use Caution - Hunting in Progress

Union Township Archery Hunt runs from September 16, 2023, through January 27, 2024



NIGHT FISH/WATERFOWL HUNT PARKING PERMITS

Residents are permitted, by permit, after sunset, to night fish/waterfowl hunt by completing an application. Application can be found on our website. Permit must be displayed in vehicle. Applications for Overnight Parking Permits can be obtained Monday – Friday 9am – 3pm at the Township Building. Overnight Parking Permit is valid for the vehicle for which was registered, permit should be displayed in a visible place on the front or rear window, any vehicle without a permit will be towed at the owners' expense. Permits are good for one year from the date issued.



PARK REMINDER:

UNION MEADOWS RESTROOMS WERE CLOSED OCTOBER 31, 2023

2024 Tax Increases

COUNTY:

Berks County adopted their 2024 budget with an 8.99% tax increase. It is their first increase in 6 years. Taxes will increase from 7.657 mils to 8.345 mils equating to \$834.50 per \$100K of assessed value.

FEATURED LOCAL BUSINESSES

Thank you to Monty's Mulch for their generous donation of rocks for our Rock Painting event on April 20, 2024. Located at 1379 E. Main St., Douglassville, PA 19518. www.montysmulch.net



Thank you to Weaver's Ace Hardware for their generous donation of birdhouses for our Birdhouse Painting event on April 20, 2024. Located at 905 W. Postal Rd., Douglassville, PA 19518, www.weavershardware.com

WEAVER'S
ACE HARDWARE

Right Products, Right Price, Great Service

ANY LOCAL BUSINESSES THAT WOULD LIKE TO PLACE AN ADVERTISEMENT IN THE NEWSLETTER MAY CONTACT THE TOWNSHIP OFFICE.

LOCAL EVENTS:

Helping Hands BINGO



Fridays at 10:15am

Everyone Welcome for Picture BINGO

BINGO helps people of all ages with:

- concentration
- hand-eye coordination
- emotional well-being

Boone Area Library ~ 129 N. Mill St. Birdsboro, PA 19508

JOIN BOONE LIBRARY FOR HELPING HANDS BINGO EVERY FRIDAY AT 10:15. THIS PROGRAM IS DESIGNED TO CREATE MEANING CONNECTIONS BETWEEN COMMUNITY MEMBERS OF ALL AGES AND ABILITIES. SENIOR CITIZENS, ADULTS, AND CHILDREN (3+) WILL HELP EACH OTHER PLAY PICTURE BINGO. THERE WILL BE SMALL PRIZES, BUT THE REAL REWARD IS MAKING NEW FRIENDSHIPS. REGISTRATION IS NOT REQUIRED. SMALL PRIZE DONATIONS ACCEPTED.

SEE ADDITIONAL EVENTS AT YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY AND SIGN UP FOR THEIR NEWSLETTER HERE: [HTTPS://WWW.BERKSLIBRARIES.ORG/BRANCH/BOONE](https://www.berkslibraries.org/branch/boone)

TICKETS
ARE \$15
EACH

ADULT
PROGRAM
(18+)



SATURDAY,
JANUARY
13TH
4 - 5 PM

EACH TICKET
HOLDER WILL
GO HOME
WITH SOME
MOCKTAIL
GOODIES!

JOIN US FOR A...

Mocktail Workshop

Snacks will be supplied!



All proceeds benefit
the library

Quench your thirst this dry January and go home with some of the ingredients you will be using as well!

Pre-registration is encouraged. Tickets for the event will be on sale at the Library Circulation Desk for \$15. You may also email the director mirielle.vasselli@boonelibrary.org to reserve a ticket.



Spare glasses just sitting around at home?



We have a drop-box located at the library for the Amity Lions Club. They will clean and test the prescriptions and redistribute the glasses to those in need! Look for the Yellow Donation box or see the Circulation Desk if you have questions!

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: 911

State Police: Non-Emergency: 610-378-4011

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