

UNION TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

SPRING/SUMMER 2024

TOWNSHIP NEWS IN A FLASH

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST TO RECEIVE UPDATED
INFORMATION & FUTURE DIGITAL NEWSLETTERS
To join, go to www.unionberks.org



Dog Licenses:

State Law requires all dogs 3 months of age or older to be licensed by January 1st of each year. Owners of non-licensed dogs can be cited with a maximum fine of \$300 per dog plus court cost. Visit the County of Berks website for additional information at <https://www.berkspa.gov/departments/treasurer/dog-license>

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 LIVE 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

Hazardous Waste (April 13, 2024) & Shredding (April 20, 2024) Events Free to Berks County Residents

Governor Mifflin Intermediate School
600 Governor Drive
Shillington, Pa. 19607



All residents must pre-register to participate in our hazardous waste collection & shredding event

Absolutely no Latex Paint will be accepted

Absolutely no plastic bags will be accepted

Put all empty containers in your regular trash collection

Register Here: <https://www.berkspa.gov/departments/solid-waste-authority>

Time to Get outdoors...

It's SPRINGTIME. Don't forget to get outside and 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. Have you walked around Butterfly Meadow? If so, you have probably spotted this beautiful creature, the Monarch Butterfly. Monarch butterflies normally arrive in Pennsylvania in May. These individuals will not live to make the fall migration. They are here to produce offspring during the summer who will hopefully survive to migrate to Mexico. After breeding, the females must find milkweed (*Asclepias*) plants on which to lay their eggs. Check out the Township Events Calendar for the Mengel Society's Wildflowers & Pollinators walk to see these beautiful creatures at our very own Union Township Butterfly Meadow!

Look and listen for birds. Enjoy the open habitat. Experience the Naturalized Basin. Learn about nature as you explore! Be sure to download the free [e-birds app](#) where you can share photos and data of the various birds you find in our community.

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

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



ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL NEWS:

NATURE FEST 2024!

The Union and Robeson Township Environmental Advisory Committees will proudly host this event **from 10am to 2pm on Saturday April 27th** at the Union Meadows East Park (located behind the Fork and Ale in Douglassville). This family friendly experience will showcase local environmental organizations. We will have interactive events, animals from local alpaca farms and equine groups, and light refreshments. This is a totally free event so bring your family and friends for a relaxing and educational day.



Union Township's Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) started a **Community Garden** in 2017. Be sure to stop by to plant or pick some veggies this spring and summer! Located by parking lot for Trail Head behind Fork & Ale.

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

Union Township's Park and Recreation Board will begin presenting Community Events at the Meadows in 2024! Currently we have scheduled the following free events for 2024 at Union Meadows, 100 Campbellford Road, Douglassville, PA 19518

- 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. **THIS EVENT IS NOW FULL.** You may still register to be placed on a waiting list.
- 2) **Early Migrants.** Presented by Baird Ornithological Club at Union Meadows Park on April 21, 8:00 am. Visit our website for additional information on this event.
- 3) **Wildflowers and Pollinators at Union Meadows West.** Presented by Mengel Natural History Society at Union Township's Butterfly Meadows, July, 20, 2024 at 10:00 am. Visit our website for additional information on this event.



- 4) **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 14, 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.



- 5) **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, raffle, 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

Your Local Library offers books, music cds, dvds and special events, among other things. Be sure to check out your local library: Boone Area Library, 129 N. Mill Street Birdsboro, PA 19508, 610-582-5666
boone@berks.lib.pa.us
www.berkslibraries.org/branch/boone





Don't Forget to Spring Forward...
Turn clocks ahead 1 hour
On March 10, 2024

KEEP OUR PARK CLEAN

Please help to keep our parks clean by picking up after your pets and not littering. Trash cans are available for your use at the bathrooms.



IRS SCAM WARNING:

It is tax season and the scammers are out in full force. If you receive a phone call from someone claiming to be from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), hang up. Your caller ID may even reveal that the call is from an IRS phone number. Hang up, for it is a scam. If you remain on the line, the caller will tell you that you owe the IRS money from past tax seasons and they intend to send the police to your home to arrest you if you do not immediately go to a specific facility (which the caller will identify) and wire money to them. The caller may even tell you that he/she is monitoring your phone's GPS and will be able to tell if you do not immediately go to the identified facility and wire the money. The Internal Revenue Service will NEVER contact you by phone if there is a problem with your tax returns. If you have questions about a phone call you received, please call the state police.

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.

Daniel Boone Optimist Club 27th Annual Spring Craft Show

Saturday, March 16, 2024

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Daniel Boone Middle School

1845 Weavertown Road
Douglassville, PA 19518

Free Admission * Free Parking * Refreshments * Raffle



MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY WATER/SEWER-GENERAL INFORMATION

Billing Rates

- Sewer is charged at a flat rate of \$115.00 per quarter.
- Water is billed with a base rental charge of \$130.00, plus consumption in gallons.
- Consumption charge up to 10,000 gallons is \$2.00 per 1,000 gallons.
- Consumption charge over 10,000 gallons is \$4.00 per 1,000 gallons.

Billing

- The Authority bills for sanitary sewer service and water service on a quarterly basis.
- Bills are sent out in January, April, July, and October. Payment is due at the end of the month.
- Customers can elect for a paper bill, or an e-bill sent to your email.
- There is a 3-day grace period beyond the due date in which a customer will not incur penalties or interest.
- The Authority does not extend due dates that fall on a holiday or a weekend.
- All accounts that have not paid their balance by the required due date are subject to penalty and interest on the delinquent balance. The Penalty is \$20.00 per quarter and interest is 2.5% per quarter.
- The Authority will send a Delinquent Notice to all accounts that have not paid their balance by the required due date.
- When the delinquent balance reaches \$400.00, the account is subject to water disconnection and a lien may be placed on the property unless payment arrangements have been made.

Payment Processing & Options

The Authority processes checks, money orders and ACH (debit card) payments Monday – Friday on the same day the payment is received. Credit card payments are processed the next business day and will not be credited until 12:00am the following day.

Payments can be made online via the portal on the Union Township website. (www.unionberks.org), mailed, or placed in the secure drop box located at the entrance of the Township Building.

The Authority does NOT accept CASH payments.

Q&A

Q: “I did not receive my bill can you take the penalty and interest off?”

A: No, the Authority office staff cannot remove, add or alter any bill unless it is approved by the Municipal Authority Board.

You must come to an Authority meeting and plea your case with the board.

The Municipal Authority meets on the second Thursday of every month at 6:30pm. All are welcome.

Q: My sewer is clogged. Who do I call?

A: A Licensed plumber. All customers are responsible to maintain their sewer line from their house to the Authority’s sewer line in the street.

If it is determined that the clog exists in the Authority’s line, please have your plumber contact the Authority.

Other reasons you may not have received your bill are:

- a) Do you pay online, and your email has changed? Did the bill go into your spam file?
- b) Has your address changed?
- c) Has the billing address changed?
- d) You are away for an extended period and mail is not being forwarded.
- e) Someone who paid the bill is no longer residing there.

Have questions? Be in the know.... Visit us at [Unionberks.org](https://www.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

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

2023 Property Tax/Rent Rebates Available

Applications are due by June 30, 2024

Apply at mypath.pa.gov

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

- **Age Criteria**
 - 65 and older
 - Widows and widowers 50 and older
 - People with disabilities 18 and older
- **Income Criteria**
 - In addition to age requirements, to qualify for the Property Tax/Rent Rebate, your household income must be \$45,000 or less annual.



Easter Festivities at the Reading Museum
www.readingpublicmuseum.org

Pictures with the Easter Bunny

March 30 |9-11am

The Reading Public Museum will open its doors early on Saturday morning, March 30th for pre-registered guests to visit and have photos taken by Zerbe Photography with the Easter Bunny. Guests will receive craft kits and treats and can take part in a special Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt in the Museum.

***Registration is required for this event.**

Pricing:

Museum Members - FREE

Non-Members– Activities FREE with Museum admission



Easter Bunny Brunch

March 30 |11am-1pm

Join the Easter Bunny for a special Brunch at the Neag Planetarium! Pre-registered guests will enjoy a catered breakfast, can visit, and take photos with the Easter Bunny. Guests will also receive a special treat and can take part in an exclusive Easter Egg Hunt in the Arboretum!

***Registration is required for this event. SPACE IS LIMITED.**

Pricing:(does not include Museum Admission)

Children (17 and under) \$20

Adults \$15

March 30 and March 31 |11am-5pm

All Museum visitors will have the opportunity during public hours (11am-5pm) on Saturday and Sunday to continue the tradition of celebrating Easter at The Museum. Children ages 2 and up will receive craft kits and treats (WHILE SUPPLIES LAST) and explore The Museum while completing an Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt.

***Registration is NOT required for this event.**

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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