

UNION TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2025 EDITION– DIGITAL



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](https://www.unionberks.org) UNDER CURRENT NEWS/COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER.

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.

Be sure to visit [Unionberks.org](https://www.unionberks.org) for updated information on road projects and closures as well as snow emergencies

FROM UNION TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY: -NEW RATES-

The Union Township Municipal Authority, at a Special Meeting held November 18, 2024, approved a quarterly \$35.00 rate increase to the base water rate, and a \$15.00 increase to the sewer rate effective January 1, 2025. The increase will be reflected in your first quarter bill issued the first week of April 2025. Letters were mailed to residents via USPS and can also be found on the UTMA page of our website: <https://www.unionberks.org/general-8>

NEW TOWNSHIP PLAYGROUND

Union Township is excited to announce the Township was awarded a grant in 2024 from DCED (Department of Community and Economic Development) with the help from Senator Katie J. Muth to replace the old playground equipment located at the Township Building with new equipment that is ADA Compliant. We still have some work to do in the Spring to finish the project, residents are encouraged to bring their family and enjoy the new playground equipment.



Union Township enters in service agreement with the Animal Rescue League of Berks County

Union Township signed a service agreement with the Animal Rescue League of Berks County (ARL) for animal control services in 2025. As part of this initial agreement, the ARL will accept and care for a maximum of 10 stray dogs showing signs of ownership originating from within the township's municipal border.

"The ARL's animal control program offers residents and municipal agencies progressive solutions that provide outcomes and support services in alignment with our lifesaving approach," said Ashley Mikulsky, ARL's CEO. "We recognize that animal control is not a one size fits all service and are proud to offer the new pilot MOUs to select municipalities that inquire about our services."

Dogs will be accepted only by authorized township representatives and no member of the public should bring dogs directly to the ARL.

The agreement will also offer TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return) surgeries for residents. To access this service, residents must contact the township manager to receive a code to be redeemed at the shelter.

For more information about the new animal control agreement, please contact Deborah Olivieri, Township Manager at 610.582.3769 ext. 2.



Friday, February 21, 2025 at 4:00 PM EST

Teen Movie Night

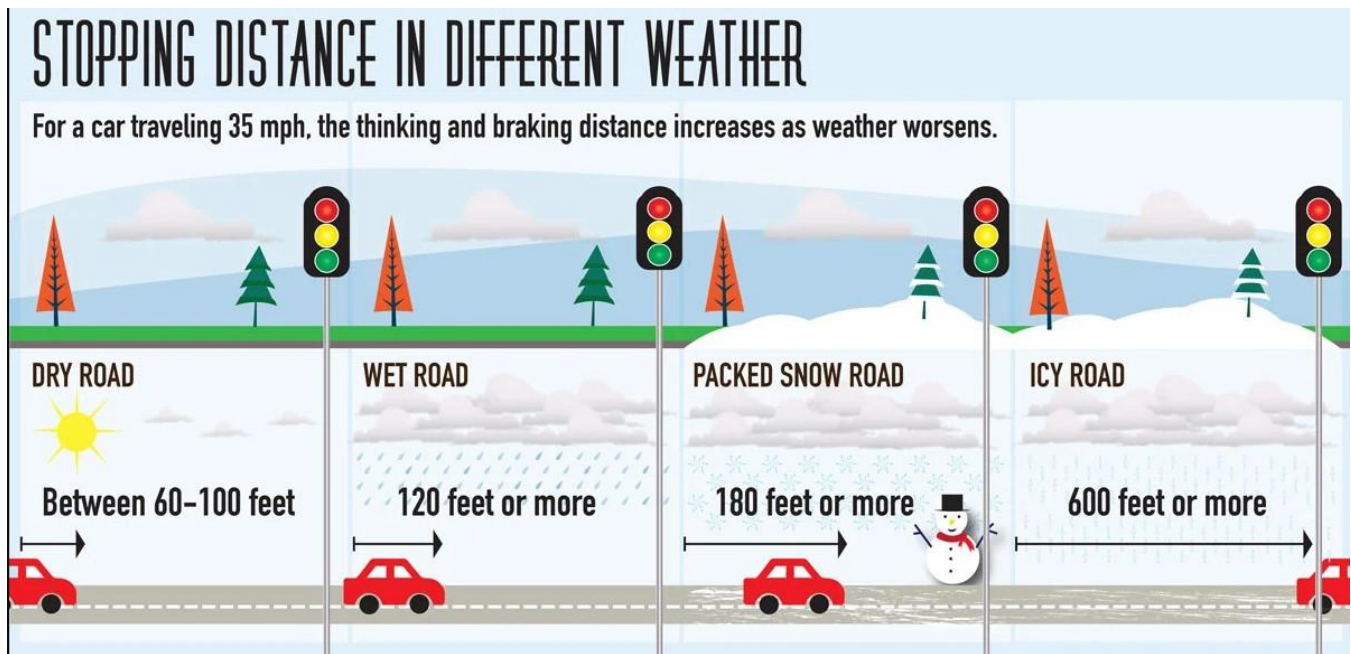
129 N Mill St, Birdsboro, PA, United States, Pennsylvania 19508

Join us for a Teen Movie Night for a showing of "TRAP" Directed by M. Night Shyamalan rated PG-13. Come enjoy the movie and some free popcorn on us. You **MUST** be 13 years or older or accompanied by an adult. Movie starts at 4:00. Run time is 1 hr. 45 minutes. No registration required.



WINTER DRIVING TIPS

- ✓ Reduce your speed to counteract the traction lost due to the slick road surface
- ✓ Increase your following distance, compared to when you drive in clear, dry conditions
- ✓ Be smooth when accelerating, turning and braking
- ✓ Be prepared by having a fully-stocked emergency kit aboard
- ✓ Keep your fuel tank at least half full
- ✓ Ensure your tires have plenty of tread and are properly inflated





The 12th Annual Golfin' in the Galleries - Friday, February 14, 2025 | 6-9pm

Spend this year's Valentine's Day at RPM challenging your date, friends, family, or colleagues in an intense 18-hole round of mini golf through all of the galleries on our first and second floors! Golfin' in the Galleries will be this year's perfect date night, double date, Galentine's celebration, or chance to blow off steam with your coworkers and friends. Along with a full game of mini golf, the night will include:

- Open Bar and roaming Bar Cart
- Delicious food stations
- Parting gift
- Putting Contest
- Raffle with fantastic prizes!

TICKETS: \$50 per Member individual, \$75 per Non-Member individual; \$200 per Member Foursome, \$300 per Non-Member Foursome

Purchase your tickets and register for the event using the form below!

Would you or your business like to join in on the fun?

Ask Hannah how you can register your foursome or how your business can sponsor & support The Museum at Golfin' in the Galleries 2025! Contact Hannah at hannah.alarcon@readingpublicmuseum.org. Sponsorships levels start at \$500.

FROM UNION TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION BOARD:

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 the Meadows, 100 Campbellford Road, Douglassville, PA 19518.

- 1) **Easter Egg Hunt.** Celebrate Easter with your Township's Park & Recreation Board, April 12th (Rain Date April 13th) with a candy and toy filled egg hunt. There will be 2 separate hunts - ages up to 6 and a 2nd hunt for ages 6-10. The Easter Bunny will be stopping by! Enjoy pictures and a little treat from the bunny! This event will start promptly at 1:00 pm.



- 2) **Touch-a-Truck!** Celebrate the end of the school year with the Union Township Road Crew, the Birdsboro/Union Fire Department, Monarch Fire Dept and Tower Health Ambulance (State Police may make an appearance) on June 7, 2025, from 1:00 – 3:00pm. (Rain Date June 8th) The Board is currently working with an Ice Cream Truck or Kona Ice to be on site with special treats to purchase.



- 3) **Early Migrants.** Presented by Baird Ornithological Club at Union Meadows Park on April 19th 8:00 am. This is a very popular venue for birders eager to get out in the early spring and observe a number of perching birds passing through on their way to final nesting destinations at higher altitudes. Look for migrant warblers, thrushes, and vireos that travel northward along this riparian corridor. This event begins with quite a chill in the air but when the April sun burns off the mist, it ends up being balmy; dress in layers.

- 4) **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.

- 5) **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.



- 6) **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-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

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

DON'T RECYCLE



PIZZA BOXES

The grease from the pizza causes problems for recycling centers. Pizza boxes can also have coupons, stickers or other adhesives that can cause problems at the recycling center. Throw your pizza boxes in your regular trashcan.

Ready to think about Spring Cleaning?

Electronics

Electronic Recycling Center is open every
Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 8:00 AM - Noon
Free for residents of Berks County

All Visitors Must Remain In Their Vehicle, While On Site.

Please Have All Electronics In The Trunk Of Your Car Or Bed Of Pickup
Truck. VIEW BROCHURE HERE:

<chromeextension://efaidnbnmnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.berkspa.gov/getmedia/2dce910e-bd18-41d6-8d6b-bcaaca092af8/Full-time-E-waste-2023-fee-schedule.pdf>



ELECTRONIC & TIRE RECYCLING CENTER: 1316 Hilltop Road, Leesport, PA 19533

Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. 8 AM – NOON (year-round)



2025 Hazardous Material Event

Free to Berks County Residents
April 12, 2025 (8:00 AM - Noon)

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

All residents must pre-register to participate in our hazardous waste collection event-must register, by appointment only

Absolutely no Latex Paint will be accepted
Put all empty containers in your regular trash collection

REGISTER HERE:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/berks-county-household-hazardous-waste-collection-spring-2025-tickets-1101159199809?aff=oddtcreator>

Paper Shredding Event: April 19th, 2025 – must register, by appointment only



7 (Better) Alternatives to Salt for De-Icing Driveways

1. Rubbing Alcohol: In a bucket, mix 1/2 gallon of warm water with 6 drops of dish soap and 1/4 cup of rubbing alcohol. Splash this around on your icy spots and watch the ice bubble up and melt away.
2. Epsom Salt: Combine sugar and Epsom salt in a 1:1 ratio to speed up Epsom salts' melting power.
3. Garden Fertilizer/Alternative Salts: Calcium chloride mixed with sand (mix one part to 3 parts) or Magnesium chloride.
4. Urea: ASPCA says urea-based products are gentlest on pet's paws and are nontoxic to dogs.
5. Calcium magnesium acetate (CMA)
6. Natural Fertilizer: Alfalfa meal, wood ashes, coffee grounds.
7. Salt Plus Hot Water: Boil a large pot of hot water and gently pour on ice. Sweep the water off the surface so that it doesn't get cold and freeze and then sprinkle the salt.



Residents struggling with their home heating bills may apply for assistance from the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

LIHEAP is a federally funded program that helps individuals and families pay their heating bills through home heating energy assistance grants. It also provides crisis grants to help in the event of an emergency or if a resident is in danger of losing his or her heat due to broken equipment, lack of fuel or termination of utility service.

The income eligibility guidelines for LIHEAP are \$22,590 for an individual, \$30,660 for a couple and \$46,800 for a family of four. Residents may apply for LIHEAP online, by phone 610-736-4228 or by contacting their local county assistance office 610-736-4211.

The program runs through April 4, 2025.

Downsizing? Decluttering? Full House?



Pickup service offered for all household goods from furniture, clothing, housewares, and books.

Arrange for a pick-up by calling 484-957-3861 or email Denise Harner dharnar@opphouse.org. We ask for 1 week's advance notice. Next day pick-up is not available.

100% of the proceeds support the programs and services at Opportunity House.

Items are sold at OppShop located at 3045 N. Fifth St Hwy Reading PA 19605
Hours are Monday – Saturday 10AM to 7:30PM and Sundays 11AM to 6PM.

Donations accepted Tuesday to Saturday 10AM-6PM.

Unaccepted Donations:

- chemicals
- older model console TVs and stereos
- copy machines/printers
- building supplies
- infant/toddler furniture
- computer monitors
- offices chairs with four or fewer wheels
- carpets
- tires



And over 500 more!

Located at 5370 Allentown Pike Temple PA 19560 (next to Walmart)

****Donations accepted Mon-Sat 9am-6pm. Store/Donations closed on Sundays.****

Discount Days (must show ID) – 50% off

Monday – Hero Day

-firefighters, EMS, police, active-duty military, veterans, healthcare workers and clergy

Tuesday – Senior Day

-everyone 55 and older

Wednesday – Family Day

-everyone

Thursday – Education Appreciation Day

-students, teachers, and all school employees

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 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