

UNION TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2024 EDITION– DIGITAL



NOTICE TO RESIDENTS
EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2024
UNION TOWNSHIP OFFICE HOURS CHANGED TO
MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:00AM - 2:30PM

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

Snow Emergency Routes – Ordinance 2024-02



In order to facilitate the movement of traffic, the removal of snow, and to combat the hazards of snow and ice on Township roads and streets, the roads listed below have been designated as Snow Emergency Routes. After any snow and ice emergency is declared by the Township through radio, newspaper, or available media, it shall be unlawful, at any time during the continuance of the snow and ice emergency, for any person to stand, stop, or park a motor vehicle or to allow a motor vehicle to remain standing, stopped or parked anywhere on any snow emergency route. The following are designated as snow emergency routes, proper signage will be posted on the roads/streets listed below:

Cory's Court (entire length); Cross Street (entire length); East Fourth Street (entire length); East Second Street (entire length); East Third Street (entire length); Garey Road (entire length); George Street (entire length); Heather Lane (entire length); Hillside Drive (entire length); Ivy Lane (entire length); Jeffrey Place (entire length); Joni Circle (entire length); King Street (entire length); Lanie Drive (entire length); Linden Street (entire length); Magnolia Drive (entire length); Maple Spring Drive (entire length); Maple Terrace (entire length); Mt. Airy Street (entire length); Queen Street (entire length); Sunset Drive (entire length); Union Street (entire length); Wahl Street (entire length); Washington Street (entire length).

Letters were mailed out via USPS to all property owners on November 15, 2024.

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



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

PREPARING FOR AN EMERGENCY AND WINTER

ARE YOU PREPARED FOR STORMS AND POWER OUTAGES

DON'T WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO PUT TOGETHER AN EMERGENCY KIT. YOU MAY HAVE TO EVACUATE AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE AND MAY NOT HAVE TIME TO SEARCH FOR YOUR ESSENTIALS. AFTER A DISASTER, HELP MAY ARRIVE IMMEDIATELY OR IT MAY TAKE A FEW DAYS. UNTIL HELP ARRIVES, YOU MAY NEED TO SURVIVE ON YOUR OWN.

BASIC EMERGENCY KIT:

- ONE GALLON OF WATER PER PERSON PER DAY (3 DAYS)
- 3 DAY SUPPLY OF FOOD/CAN OPENER FOR FOOD
- BATTERY POWERED RADIO AND EXTRA BATTERIES
- FIRST AID KIT/WHISTLE TO SIGNAL FOR HELP
- DUST MASK TO FILTER CONTAMINATED AIR
- PLASTIC SHEETING AND DUCT TAPE TO SHELTER-IN-PLACE
- MOIST TOWELETTES, TOILET PAPER AND PLASTIC BAGS
- WRENCHES/PLIERS TO TURN OFF UTILITIES
- LOCAL MAPS/PHONE CHARGER



ADDITIONAL ITEMS:

- PRESCRIPTION MEDICINE AND GLASSES (A LIST OF MEDICATIONS FOR EACH FAMILY MEMBER)
- BABY FORMULA/DIAPERS/PET FOOD
- IDENTIFICATION FOR EACH FAMILY MEMBER, COPIES OF INSURANCE POLICIES AND BANK ACCOUNT INFO., STORED IN A WATERPROOF CONTAINER
- CASH/CHANGE OF CLOTHES
- FIRE EXTINGUISHER/WATERPROOF MATCHES
- PERSONAL HYGIENE ITEMS
- PAPER CUPS, PLATES AND
- PLASTIC UTENSILS
- BOOKS, GAMES, PUZZLES

AS WE LOOK AHEAD TO WINTER WEATHER, START THINKING ABOUT WHAT YOU CAN DO NOW TO BE READY WHEN “OLD MAN WINTER” ARRIVES.

- HOW ABOUT YOUR CAR OR TRUCK? DO YOU HAVE A KIT – OR AT LEAST SOME WINTER WEATHER GEAR – IN YOUR VEHICLE, LIKE ROAD FLARES, BOOSTER CABLES, A SHOVEL AND WINDSHIELD SCRAPER, TIRE CHAINS, A FLASHLIGHT, WATERPROOF MATCHES OR A CHARGER FOR YOUR CELL PHONE?
- HAVE YOU SIGNED UP FOR EMERGENCY WEATHER ALERTS FROM BERKS ALERT [HTTPS://BERKS.ALERTPA.ORG](https://berks.alertpa.org)
- HAVE YOU TALKED WITH CHILD CARE PROVIDERS AND AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS ABOUT HOW TO HANDLE POSSIBLE WINTER WEATHER THAT MAY AFFECT YOUR COMMUTE HOME FROM WORK IN CASE YOU’RE STUCK AT THE OFFICE OR IN TRAFFIC DUE TO SNOW OR ICE?

THESE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE THINGS TO THINK ABOUT AND SOME OF THE SIMPLE STEPS YOU CAN TAKE NOW TO MAKE STORMS AND WINTER SAFER FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

UNION TOWNSHIP DECLARED A BURN BAN AT THE END OF OCTOBER , DUE TO DANGEROUSLY DRY CONDITIONS. PLEASE BE SURE TO CHECK FOR UPDATES ON THE WEBSITE OR WITH THE BIRDSBORO UNION FIRE DEPARTMENT.



COUNTY WIDE BURN BAN IN EFFECT

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO BE AWARE OF THE RISK AND TAKE THE FOLLOWING STEPS TO PROTECT YOURSELF, YOUR FAMILY AND YOUR PROPERTY:

- AVOID BURNING OUTDOORS AND USING ANY EQUIPMENT THAT CREATES SPARKS.
- DISPOSE OF CIGARETTES RESPONSIBLY. NEVER THROW THEM FROM A MOVING VEHICLE.
- CLEAR DEAD SHRUBBERY AROUND YOUR HOME AND AVOID PARKING VEHICLES ON DRY GRASS.
- KEEP MOBILE DEVICES CHARGED AND STAY IN TOUCH WITH LOVED ONES, ESPECIALLY THOSE WITH DISABILITY OR MOBILITY ISSUES.
- INSTALL SMOKE DETECTORS IF NEEDED OR REPLACE BATTERIES IN EXISTING DETECTORS.
- STAY UPDATED ON WEATHER CONDITIONS AND FIRE STATUS THROUGH THE LOCAL MEDIA.
- FOLLOW ALL SAFETY ALERTS AND EMERGENCY INSTRUCTIONS FROM LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

IF YOU LOSE POWER, MANAGE THROUGH SAFELY BY FOLLOWING THESE TIPS:

- USE A FLASHLIGHT OR BATTERY-POWERED LANTERN FOR LIGHTING. USE EXTREME CAUTION WHEN BURNING CANDLES AS OPEN FLAMES ARE A DANGEROUS FIRE HAZARD.
- ASSUME ALL DOWNED OR LOW-HANGING POWER LINES ARE ENERGIZED AND DANGEROUS. STAY AT LEAST 30 FEET AWAY FROM THE LINE AND ANYTHING IT MIGHT BE TOUCHING. REPORT DOWNED LINES ASAP TO 9-1-1.
- REPORT YOUR POWER OUTAGE TO YOUR ELECTRIC COMPANY.

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

Winter Tips from the Public Works Department

Inspect your mailbox, make sure it does not extend past the road edge and posts are sturdy

Do not pile snow on the roadway, pile it in your yard

We plow all roadways with the exception of State Roads, if you shovel your driveway before the storm ends, your driveway could be plowed in

If you do not have to drive during a winter storm, stay off the roads until they are clear

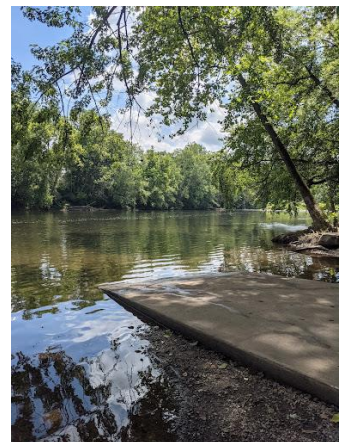
REMINDER: Use Caution - Hunting in Progress

Union Township Archery Hunt runs from September 21, 2024 through January 25, 2025



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 – 2:30 pm 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 date issued.





SANTA'S COMING TO TOWN...

SANTA WILL BE JOINING THE BIRDSBORO UNION FIRE DEPARTMENT TO SEE ALL THE CHILDREN! SEE SANTA ON THE FIRETRUCK ON SUNDAY DECEMBER 22ND STARTING AT 9AM. WE WILL BE STARTING ON THE WEST SIDE OF BIRDSBORO AND WORK OUR WAY TO THE EAST SIDE OF UNION TWP., FINISHING IN THE SOUTH END OF UNION TWP. ROUTE PLAN WILL ALSO BE POSTED ON THE FIRE DEPARTMENT'S FACEBOOK PAGE. PLEASE VISIT FACEBOOK PAGE FOR ALL CURRENT UPDATES ON THIS EVENT

LOCAL EVENT:

Join Hopewell Furnace on Saturday, December 7, 2024 to celebrate and "Iron Plantation Christmas"

The National Park Service (NPS) invites the public to celebrate an "Iron Plantation Christmas" and stroll through the historic community of Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site. This free event will take place on Saturday, December 7, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and will feature Christmas as celebrated during the 19th century at Hopewell Furnace. The program will be presented rain or shine.

Visitors will have the opportunity to experience and engage with various Christmas traditions from the early/mid-19th Century. These activities include making gingerbread ornaments, creating holiday decorations out of greens and other natural sprigs, the traditions of writing holiday letters and cards, plus discovering the customs, foods, and traditions of the holiday season from an early American perspective. Visitors will also get to meet Der Belsnickel, a mischievous character similar to Santa Claus, who rewards good children with treats. Support for these programs comes from park volunteers, the Berks and Chester County Master Gardener chapters, and the Friends of Hopewell Furnace.

Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site preserves the late 18th and early 19th century setting of an iron-making community, including the charcoal-fueled furnace, and its natural and cultural resources. This community illustrates the essential role of industrialization in the growth of the early United States.

For more information, call 610-582-8773 or visit the park website at www.nps.gov/hofu



Gift Wrap Night At Boone Library

Thursday, December 19th

6:00 to 8:00 PM

Do you need time and space to wrap those holiday gifts? Come to the Library's Community Room for a wrapping getaway!

Some supplies will be provided on a first come, first served basis.

Recommended Ages: 19+

Countdown Till Noon Party At Boone Library

Tuesday, December 31st

11:30 to 12:30 PM

Celebrate with us at the Library for a pre-New Year's Eve party!

Enjoy activities, light refreshments, photo booth, and a balloon drop at 12:00 PM. Come dressed to impress!

All ages welcome.



Union Township is looking for 2 Board of Trustees Members to serve on the Boone Area Library Board.

As a Trustee, you will govern library operations and actively participate in fundraising projects.

Requirements: Must be 18 years or older and reside in Union Township, if interested please call the Township Office at 610.582.3769



FROM UNION TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION BOARD:

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO CAME OUT TO OUR VERY FIRST YEAR OF COMMUNITY EVENTS. RESIDENTS ENJOYED CELEBRATING EARTH DAY AT THE BIRDHOUSE & ROCK PAINTING IN APRIL, THE BIRDS OF PREY SHOW IN SEPTEMBER AND THE HALLOWEEN FEST IN OCTOBER. WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK THE VOLUNTEERS THAT ASSISTED WITH THE HALLOWEEN EVENT. VOLUNTEERS AND RESIDENTS MADE ALL OF OUR EVENTS A SUCCESS. BE ON THE LOOK OUT AFTER THE NEW YEAR FOR THE 2025 SCHEDULE.

PARK NOTICE:

UNION MEADOWS RESTROOMS WERE CLOSED OCTOBER 31, 2024



As the holidays approach, it should be a time of joy and cheer.

But for those who have lost loved ones or are going through a difficult time, this time of year can result in periods of sadness. It's ok to not be ok. If you feel overwhelmed,

PLEASE REACH OUT FOR HELP. OPERATORS ARE AVAILABLE TO TALK, TEXT OR CHAT ANY TIME, ANY DAY. PLEASE CALL. HELP IS AVAILABLE WHEN YOU NEED IT!

We can all prevent suicide.
Help is available 24/7/365

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS
LIFELINE

24/7 CALL, TEXT, CHAT



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.



Safety Tips for the Holiday Season

Candles and Christmas trees add a joyous mood for the season, but when decorations such as these are not used properly or safely, they can cause fires, injuries and death. More and more holiday decorations feature candles and lights, lending a beautiful touch to ceremonies and events. However, consumers should remember that lighted candles left unattended could bring tragedy. The following safety tips will help prevent many of the holiday decoration-related fires and tragedies that occur each year-

TREES: When purchasing artificial trees, look for the label “fire resistant”. When purchasing a fresh tree, check for freshness. Place trees away from fireplaces and radiators. Keep live trees moist by keeping the stand filled with water.

LIGHTS: Whether indoors or outside, use only lights that have been tested for safety by a recognized testing laboratory, such as UL or ETL, which indicates conformance with safety standards.

DECORATIONS; Use only non-combustible or flame-resistant materials to trim a tree.

FIREPLACES: Use care with “fire salts” which produce colored flames when thrown on wood fires. They look very pretty but can spark and pop outward. Do not burn wrapping papers in the fireplace. A flash fire may result as the wrappings ignite suddenly and burn intensely. **HAVE A SAFE & JOYOUS HOLIDAY SEASON**

TOWNSHIP BUILDING HOLIDAY HOURS



Township Offices will be closed Wednesday, December 25, 2024

in observance of the Christmas Holiday



Township Offices will be closed Wednesday, January 1, 2025

in observance of New Year's Day



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

15 New Year's Superstitions to Bring you Good Luck in 2025
At the stroke of midnight...

1. Get a Midnight Kiss – kiss someone you love and keep those sentiments for the next 12 months
2. Eat 12 grapes (no more, no less) – bring good luck for the year
3. Keep some extra cash in your wallet – fill your wallet for a year of financial prosperity
4. Fill up those cupboards – it's bad luck to start the new year with bare cupboards
5. Open those doors at midnight – let the old year out and welcome the new one (doesn't have to be for long – even those who believe in superstition can get a cold!)
6. Don't clean the house – don't "sweep" or "wash" away any luck coming your way! This includes dishes and laundry
7. Fill up on collard greens & black-eyed peas on New Years Day – will bring good luck & prosperity in the months ahead
8. Avoid the tears – save your tears for another day, because crying on New Year's Day could set a year of sadness in motion.
9. Skip eating lobster, even if it's calling your name – because they move backwards, this will set you up for a year of setbacks
10. Don't leave the house – until someone enters from the outside first and that person will say a lot about the luck you'll have in the new year.
11. Eat Herring – considered good luck if eaten at midnight
12. Make Some Noise – making loud noise at midnight will scare evil spirits and omens away
13. Beware of eating chicken – because they have wings, all your luck could fly away!
14. Carry an empty suitcase around – even if just for a few minutes around your home, to set yourself up for adventures in the new year
15. Were you born on New Year's Day – you'll automatically be lucky throughout your whole life – even more so if you're born at midnight!

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

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