

UNION TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

SPRING/SUMMER 2025

TOWNSHIP NEWS IN A FLASH

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



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.



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. Bathrooms will re-open April 1st.

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.

VACCINE CLINIC

by the Animal Rescue League of Berks County

ARL has scheduled a clinic and will be in the Township Parking lot on March 27th from 4:00-6:00 pm.

Current Services & Prices:

Canine and Feline rabies vaccine.....	\$25.00
Canine distemper/parvo combination vaccine.....	\$20.00
Canine influenza H3N2 vaccine.....	\$30.00
Leptospirosis (canine) vaccine.....	\$25.00
Feline distemper combination vaccine.....	\$20.00
Canine Bordetella (kennel cough) vaccine.....	\$20.00
Canine Lyme vaccines.....	\$30.00
Microchip identification & registration.....	\$25.00



PLEASE REGISTER AT berksarl.co/uniontwpclinic

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

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, your neighborhood oasis where everyone is invited to connect, play, and relax! Our park boasts a 2-mile walking trail for nature lovers, a Butterfly Meadow and a large open field perfect for picnics or spontaneous games of frisbee or baseball. Join us for our upcoming community events, hosted by your Parks & Recreation Board, listed in this newsletter, and experience the joy of a vibrant community space right in your backyard

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:



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.



The DBOC Scholarship Program is now open for applications. 2025 graduating seniors who live the Daniel Boone Area School District are invited to apply for our scholarship program. This year we are offering five scholarships. Daniel Boone Area High School students can access the information through their Naviance System.

Register Here: <http://danielbooneoptimist.com/scholarships>

**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>

2024 Property Tax/Rent Rebates Available
Applications are due by June 30, 2025
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 \$46,520 or less annual

Apply Here: <https://www.pa.gov/services/revenue/apply-for-property-tax-or-rent-rebate.html>



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.

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, Birdsboro/Union Fire Department, Monarch Fire Dept, and Tower Health Ambulance (State Police may be making an appearance) on June 7th, from 1:00 – 3:00pm. (Rain Date June 8th) Kona Ice will 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 for events will be posted as they become available

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://efaidnbmninnibpcjpcglclefindmkaj/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)

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.**



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

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>

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 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

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1145 E Philadelphia Ave | Gilbertsville, PA 19525
EverythingPrinting.com
Customer Service Text: 267-225-7444 | Phone: 610-367-7444
Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-4pm



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

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