

UPPER ALLEN TOWNSHIP



FALL 2021 NEWSLETTER

Oct. Nov. Dec.

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TOWNSHIP WELCOMES NEW ASSISTANT MANAGER

Kelly Palmer, a 12-year veteran of government operations, became Upper Allen Township's Assistant Manager in August. She fills the post vacated by Scott Fraser, who moved into the Township Manager position in January. Palmer, a Carlisle native, most recently served with the state House of Representatives in a bipartisan role that involved project management and strengthening of daily operations.

"I have always had an enthusiasm for public service," Palmer said. "In the last couple of years, I have found my niche in day-to-day operations. Municipal management was a natural fit for me and has always been a long-term goal of mine."

Palmer holds a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology with a concentration in Organizational Development from Penn State University and is working on a Master's Degree in Public Health at Temple University. As Assistant Township Manager, Palmer will wear many hats.

"I will be assisting with general oversight of the Township's day-to-day operations. I will also be involved in project management and grant writing," she explained. "I have oversight of the Finance Department, and I will be assisting Scott [Fraser] in the budget process."

Palmer will administer Upper Allen's Information Technology program and be extensively involved with the Township's internal and external communications.

One of her primary responsibilities will be overseeing the Township's 13 parks. "I am very much looking forward to that part of this role," she said. "That being said, I think Scott's influence and accomplishments on park development is nothing short of incredible. The Township's Park system is phenomenal."

Palmer hit the ground running at the Township. She works on parks, recreation and infrastructure projects and looks forward to becoming more involved in overall operations. Palmer said she has entered into a positive situation at Upper Allen Township. "I have been overwhelmingly impressed by the caliber and dedication of the Township staff and Board of Commissioners," she said. "The quality and delivery of essential services in this Township go well above and beyond the statutory obligation. The area is well-planned and safe. The infrastructure is managed correctly, and the parks are unparalleled."

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NEW COORDINATOR FOCUSES AN EMERGENCY READINESS



Emphasizing the word “preparedness,” Upper Allen Township has created two critical positions, both of them filled by Katelyn Hooker.

In June, Hooker became Township Fire Marshal and Emergency Management Coordinator. The native of Liverpool, Perry County, previously was an Emergency Management Coordinator in Silver Spring Township and before that worked for the Emergency Health Services Federation, focusing on education and provider support.

She is a certified emergency medical technician and is earning her emergency preparedness and fire investigation certifications as she works toward a fire science degree from Bucks County Community College.

“The Township took a very proactive approach and realized that the state can respond but can’t always be there immediately; all emergencies start at the local level” she said of community preparedness. “They wanted to have a local advocate.”

Every municipality must have an emergency coordinator, and the position often is lumped in with a current employee’s responsibilities. Upper Allen Township recognized that the fire and emergency posts go hand in hand, she said, and wanted to have someone focused on local needs and state regulations. Hooker’s priority is making sure the Township’s emergency operations plan, its resource manual and an emergency checklist are up to date. Those documents, which address tornadoes and pandemics, power outages and flooding, must be filed with the state.

“If there’s an emergency, the first thing we do is open these documents and follow what they say,” she explained. “Everything in there will help us get through tough times. They are a true playbook.” She expects to be busiest with her Fire Marshal duties, especially ensuring that businesses follow fire regulations concerning the safety of employees and first responders who might be called to an emergency.

She will stress security issues, the importance of fire drills and making sure that workers know various ways to exit a building and know what to do in an emergency situation.

Hooker also will be a liaison to the volunteer fire department. If firefighters identify a shortcoming when responding at a business, she will step in to correct the situation.

Both of her roles will emphasize community preparedness, Hooker said, because residents and businesses need to be ready for the unexpected.



Trick or Treat night is scheduled for Thursday, October 28th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Rain date is Saturday, October 30th from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. No other date will be designated if Thursday and Saturday are both inclement.

Emergency preparedness starts at home

Are you ready for the next power outage? How about the next flood? Do your family members know what to do in an emergency? Katelyn Hooker, Upper Allen Township's new Emergency Management Coordinator, says everyone needs a plan, and she stresses that one size doesn't fit all.

"You must look at your individual family," she said. "Do I have special needs, children, pets or someone with a language barrier? You need to develop a plan based on those needs."

All family members must know the plan when an emergency forces them out of the home, she added.

"We get out, but where are we going? To a neighbor? Does an older child call mom and dad? Where do we meet? Make sure all of that is worked out before an emergency," she said.

Some things people don't think about are having a radio or flashlight with fresh batteries, an extra pair of eyeglasses and a written list of medications, allergies, and phone numbers, she pointed out. Information contained on a cellphone is useless if its battery is spent.

Hooker stated, "Practice and visualization are important. I know talking about this topic can be intimidating and not the easiest to discuss, but it's something that needs to be done."

"My child knows what to do if there is a fire and how to climb out of a bedroom window in case of immediate threat. We practice that," she said. "Look at your house and make a plan. Draw a map of the house to help family members know how to get out. Make sure everyone understands."

www.ready.pa.gov

One of her favorite resources is the website www.ready.pa.gov, which explains how to prepare if disaster strikes. You can sign up for emergency alerts, learn to create preparedness plans and kits, and join a local emergency team. Hooker said she uses the website daily. Those without Internet access can contact Hooker at 717-766-0756 to receive printed emergency materials. She also can provide planning assistance to those with specific questions or mobility issues.

Knox Box

The Township also participates in the Knox Box program, which allows emergency responders to enter a business or home without damaging the structure. In a fire or other emergency, responders can use a special tool to open the box, attached to the building, and access the keys and contact information inside.

Businesses and residents with mobility issues can learn more about the program and its fees by contacting Hooker. She hopes to secure grants that would allow residents with special needs to acquire a box through a lending program.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REACHES MILESTONE WITH HIRING OF OFFICER



As Upper Allen Township police respond to more calls, the department welcomed its 24th officer: Caleb Puleo.

Puleo, a Harrisburg native, completed the six-month training at the Police Academy at Harrisburg Area Community College just before joining the department.

"Adding Officer Puleo will help us to address the increasing number of calls for service in Upper Allen," said Police Chief Andy Parsons. "During a time when it is difficult to recruit police officers, we feel very fortunate to have Officer Puleo, who is willing to step forward and to serve and protect the community."

Puleo brings with him the distinction of winning the academy's physical fitness award in his class of 47 cadets. A plaque with his name will be displayed at the academy.

The competition involved push-ups and sit-ups, a 300-meter run and a 1.5-mile run. His only second-place finish came in the push-up event.

Puleo graduated in 2017 from Harrisburg Christian School, where he played soccer and basketball and ran track. His advanced courses allowed him to graduate in three years from Messiah University, where he majored in criminal justice with a minor in business administration.

At Messiah, he was a decathlon athlete, competing in 10 track and field events over two days.

Puleo says he likely was headed for military service before finding his career path.

"I thought I wanted to join the military, like my grandfather. I always looked up to him," he said. "But as I got older I realized that a lot of things that threaten society are right here at home. I was attracted to the fact that I could help people in my community, and I decided to study criminal justice."

Familiarity with the Township was a big factor in his desire to serve here.

"I graduated from Messiah, and my wife is attaining her master's at Messiah," he explained. "Our family is here. I love Upper Allen Township. I spent a lot of time here at Messiah. I applied a lot of places, but this was the number one place I wanted to work."

Puleo is in the observational phase of field training, after which he will be assigned calls as the primary officer working with a field officer.

His final stage of training involves serving as a primary contact officer working with a field officer.



DID YOU KNOW? The Upper Allen Township Police Department originated on July 1, 1966 by a resolution of the Board of Supervisors of Upper Allen Township. In December 1966, the Township purchased Walters Roadside Market at 52 Gettysburg Pike, which became the Township and Police headquarters.

LEAF PICK UP SCHEDULE

Beginning on October 11, and continuing thru December 10, our Public Works Department will be conducting our annual leaf pickup. Please check the days below for your pickup day. Note that all scheduling is weather dependent – if winter weather arrives, leaf collection may be suspended for the remainder of the year. If leaves are not picked up on your posted day, our crews will be back the next day to finish the posted area before they move on with the schedule.

If the Township is closed for a holiday on your scheduled day, pickup in your area will be skipped for that week unless crews get ahead in other areas and are able to return. If you see a crew in your area before your posted day, it means they are ahead of schedule; however, they will return on your designated day.

Monday

Flintlock Ridge, Holiday Crest, Park Hills, Winding Hill Heights, Winding Hill Road, Gettysburg Pike (Cumberland Parkway to Route 114), Sunnyland, Webercroft, Georgetown, South Market Street (Gettysburg Pike to Mechanicsburg line), Lindenwood.

Tuesday

Rosegarden, Ashcombe Farms, Mallard Way, Gettysburg Pike (Grantham Road to Township line), Center Square, Country Square, Canterbury, Stumpstown Road, Creekstone, Gettysburg Pike (Rider Lane to Grantham), Spacious Acres, Edgewood.

Wednesday

The entire Mt. Allen area, Witney Ridge, Bowman's Hill, Bumble Bee Hollow, Kimberly Meadows, Allenvue, Spring Run, Reservoir.

Thursday

Miller's Acres, Diehl Road, Old Grove Road, Sinclair Road, Hamilton, Peachtree, Trindle Station, Country Estates, Fisher Road, Williams Grove Road, Shepherdstown, Gettysburg Pike, Meadowview, Arborfield, York Street.

Friday

Grantham Road, Mill Road, Grantham area, W. Lisburn Road, Bowmansdale, Route 114 (S. Market Street), Arcona Road, Ford Farm, Allen Glen, Apache Trail, Pima Circle, McCormick Road, E. Lisburn Road (S. Market Street to Township Line) Fair Oaks, Allendale Road and Wilson Road area, Winding Hills Development, and Orchard Glen.

TOWNSHIP RESPONSE TO HURRICANE IDA

On September 1, 2021, Upper Allen Township was part of the region that experienced the effects of Hurricane Ida, where we received several inches of rain in a short amount of time. This amount of rainfall led to flooding of the Yellow Breeches Creek, roadways, and the basements of some residents.

Due to a cooperative response by the Police and Public Works Departments, they were able to assist residents by blocking and clearing flooded roadways and pumping water from these roadways to keep basements free from flooding.

Throughout this storm the various departments of the Township worked together and responded in a timely manner to address the needs of the community.

During these significant storms please contact the Township Administrative office, Public Works, or the Police Department and we can provide assistance.

MILAGE TAX RATE COMPARISON CHART

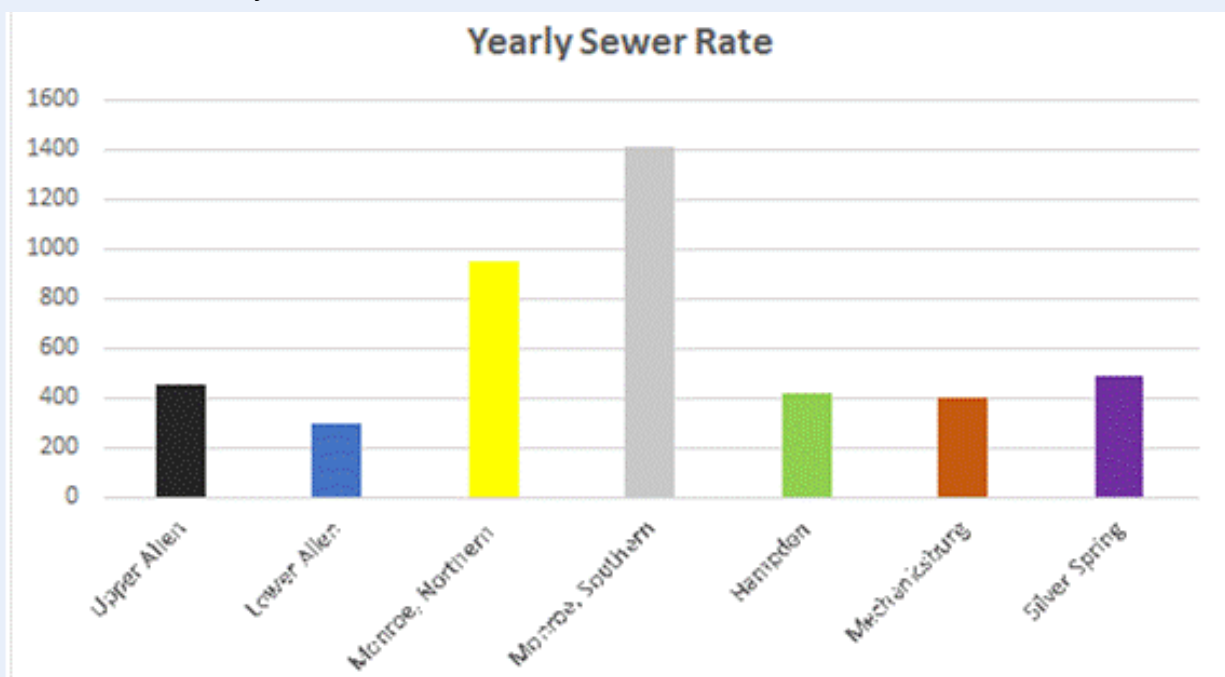
The chart below compares Upper Allen Township's millage rate to the millage rate of adjacent Cumberland County municipalities. Data was collected from Cumberland County's *2021 County and Municipal & 2021-22 School Tax Rates*. Upper Allen Township is a First Class Township in which essential services are delivered in the most cost-effective, efficient and responsive manner.



Citation: *2021 County and Municipal & 2021-22 School Tax Rates*, Cumberland County, PA (RE2. 195 LIB .166)

SEWER RATE COMPARISON CHART

The chart below compares Upper Allen Township's yearly sewer rates to the yearly sewer rates of adjacent Cumberland County municipalities. Data was collected from the corresponding municipality's websites. The Township operates quality and cost-effective sewer/wastewater utility services.



TOWNSHIP MEETINGS

October

- 5 Budget Meeting - 6:30 p.m.
- 6 Board of Commissioners - 6:30 p.m.
- 12 Administration - 7:30 a.m.
- 14 Zoning Hearing Board - 6:00 p.m.
- 19 Public Improvements - 8:00 a.m.
- 19 HARB - 7:00 p.m.
- 20 Stormwater Authority - 6:00 p.m.
- 20 Board of Commissioners - 6:30 p.m.
- 21 Sewer Advisory Board - 6:30 p.m.
- 25 Planning Commission - 7:00 p.m.
- 26 Budget Meeting - 6:30 p.m.
- 27 Park & Recreation - 6:30 p.m.

November

- 3 Budget Meeting - 5:00 p.m.
- 3 Board of Commissioners - 6:30 p.m.
- 8 Pension Board - 7:30 a.m.
- 8 Administration - 8:00 a.m.
- 9 Budget Meeting - 6:30 p.m.
- 10 Zoning Hearing Board - 6:00 p.m.
- 16 Public Improvements - 8:00 a.m.
- 16 HARB - 7:00 p.m.
- 17 Stormwater Authority - 6:00 p.m.
- 17 Board of Commissioners - 6:30 p.m.
- 18 Sewer Advisory Board - 6:30 p.m.
- 24 Park & Recreation - 6:30 p.m.
- 29 Planning Commission - 7:00 p.m.

December

- 1 Board of Commissioners - 6:30 p.m.
- 8 Public Safety - 7:30 p.m.
- 9 Zoning Hearing Board - 6:00 p.m.
- 14 Administration - 7:30 a.m.
- 15 Stormwater Authority - 6:00 p.m.
- 15 Board of Commissioners - 6:30 p.m.
- 21 Public Improvements - 8:00 a.m.
- 21 HARB - 7:00 p.m.
- 22 Park & Recreation - 6:30 p.m.
- 23 Sewer Advisory Board - 6:30 p.m.
- 27 Planning Commission - 7:00 p.m.

ELECTION DAY IS NOVEMBER 2nd

UPPER ALLEN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Ken Martin, President

(seated center)

Rick Castranio, Vice President

(seated left)

Ginnie Anderson

(seated right)

Jeff Walter

(standing left)

Jim Cochran

(standing right)

The Township Offices
will be closed on the
following dates:

November 11th
(Veterans Day)

November 25th & 26
(Thanksgiving Holiday)

December 24th
(Christmas)

In the event of snow, please visit our website at
<https://uatwp.org/snow-removal> for helpful information on
Township guidelines and procedures.

UPPER ALLEN TOWNSHIP

100 Gettysburg Pike
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

Phone: 717-766-0756
Fax: 717-796-9833
Website: www.uatwp.org



DON'T FORGET TO VOTE

Outlined below are the voting districts for the General Election on November 2, 2021. If you have any questions regarding your voting or voter registration, please contact the Cumberland County Bureau of Elections at 717-240-6385 or go to their website at <https://www.ccpa.net/66/Bureau-of-Elections>.

