



UPPER ALLEN TOWNSHIP SUMMER NEWSLETTER



July/Aug/Sept

100 Gettysburg Pike, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

717-766-0756

BIKE PATROL BRINGS POLICE CLOSER TO COMMUNITY



Officer Pete O'Connor is one of six members of the Upper Allen Township Police Bike Patrol.

If you spot a member of the Upper Allen Police Bike Patrol this summer, feel free to approach the officer and ask about the bike and its equipment. The patrol aims to engage residents as much as to keep the peace.

The Bike Patrol began in 2008 and mainly deploys to neighborhoods and parks. The officers also attend Township events.

“It’s great for interaction with the community,” said Police Chief Andy Parsons. “Citizens get to see an officer in another capacity than in a patrol car.”

Sgt. Brett Snyder supervises the Bike Patrol. He joined the force in 2014, began riding on the patrol in 2015 and has led the unit since last year.

He is one of six riders who patrol individually as staffing requirements allow. Each member is certified through 40 hours of bicycle training.

“It was one of the most fun trainings I’ve ever gone to,” Snyder said. “You think you know how to ride a bike, and you find there’s a lot more to it.”

The instruction included obstacle courses.

“You have to be in bike shape,” he explained. “With the geography of the Township, you could ride extensive distances to get to a call, and you don’t want to have lost all your energy when you get there.”

The officers carry a regular duty belt and radio, along with drinking water. The bikes are equipped with an air canister to inflate flat tires and a battery pack for the lights and siren.

Patrolling on a bike can raise an officer’s awareness, the chief said. While they primarily ride during the day, bike officers can play a special role at night.

“The whole idea is being able to move quietly and not be as obvious in patrol cars,” Snyder said. On a bike, perpetrators “won’t see you coming until you’re right on them.”

Mainly the patrols aim to bring the police and residents together.

“I try to use the time to meet new people, build relationships,” Snyder said.

Recently, he was on patrol on opening day for Township youth baseball.

“I spoke at length with a family whose son was playing. I would never have met them otherwise,” he said. “It allows the public to learn about the police, that we’re human, we’re just like them.”

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FIRE TRAINING CREATES A SKILLED VOLUNTEER FORCE



Air tanks:

A lieutenant reviews components of a self-contained breathing apparatus. All interior-qualified firefighters must be experts in the use of the equipment.

The safe environment that Township residents enjoy exists in part because of 30 or so volunteers who are willing to put their lives on the line. They are the Upper Allen Township firefighters, some of whom respond to hundreds of calls annually. These are selfless men and women who join the department as young as age 16.

“The biggest thing is you have to want to help people and have a sense of duty,” said Fire Chief Tom Shumberger Jr.

Assistant Chief Ken Kise stressed how much the Township depends on the unpaid force. “If you don’t have volunteers, there is no one to answer the call,” he said.

Dispel any notion of thrill-seekers hanging around the fire station waiting for some excitement. In addition to 150 hours of initial training, volunteers train three days a month to practice techniques and remain current on evolving dangers.

Basic firefighter training costs around \$2,000, and the skills taught mirror those of full-time paid firefighters. “They are absolutely the same skills,” Shumberger said.

Initial training includes fire scene safety; interior and exterior firefighting; hazmat awareness; lifesaving techniques; and air- and blood-borne pathogens.

Members can specialize in such duties as vehicle operations. “A lot of regular members get in a niche, such as rope rescue,” Shumberger explained. “Some specialize in trench rescue, vehicle rescue. We have some I consider to be among the best.”

Kise has built his career around firefighting as a full-time driver in Reading. He also is a volunteer driver in Monroe Township. He became a volunteer as a teenager.

Standardized training for new volunteers helps ensure safety and success.

“I don’t want to send someone into a burning building without training,” Kise said. “You don’t just go in and put water on the fire. You have to pay attention to the color of the smoke, or if the floor is soft.”

The turnpike and Route 15 have presented some of the department’s most significant challenges.

“One night we had freezing rain and a really bad crash on the turnpike involving six tractor-trailers and two cars, with a fatality,” Kise said. “We were out there at least three to four hours.”

The department welcomes new volunteers. It provides training, equipment, dorm space and even the possibility of free-living quarters at the renovated fire station on Gettysburg Pike.

“They don’t need to buy anything,” Shumberger said. “We have the newest, most modern, top-of-the-line turnout gear.”

Residents can learn more about volunteer firefighting by calling 717-697-9595, visiting the department’s Facebook page or its website at UpperAllenFire.com, or emailing membership@upperallenfire.com.



Garage door cutting:

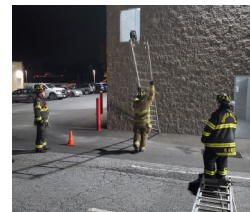
A triangle cut to a garage door provides firefighters access to a building as well as an exit should the door’s electronic opener fail.

FIRE DEPARTMENT FUNDRAISERS RETURN

With the lifting of pandemic restrictions by the state, Upper Allen firefighters will resume fundraising activities to pay for renovations to the fire station and cover general operating costs.

Chicken barbecues are planned for August and September. Jim Salter, who leads the fundraising effort, said that public events will appear on the department calendar online at www.UpperAllenFire.com.

He described the ability to resume fundraisers in two words: “It’s great.”



Ladder at the wall:

The demands of fire-fighting make the ability to throw a ground ladder without help a crucial skill.

VETERANS HONOR THE MEMORY OF BLACK TROOPS WHO FOUGHT TO SAVE THE UNION



If being forgotten is the worst fate for an old soldier, then being remembered even 135 years later is cause for celebration.

The memory of 12 members of the U.S. Colored Troops from the Civil War lives on thanks to the Vietnam Veterans of Mechanicsburg. They cut through tangles of brush and fallen trees to reveal the soldiers' final resting place in Lincoln Cemetery on West Winding Hill Road.

The segregated cemetery's revitalization began in 1998 when the group asked Cumberland County Veterans Affairs at which cemetery they could place American flags at military graves for Memorial Day.

"They said there was a forgotten one. It needed TLC," said Nancy Kreiner, wife of the group's commander, Paul Kreiner.

In March of that year, the veterans visited Lincoln Cemetery, whose 80 burials began in 1862 and ended in 1968. They found it overgrown, abandoned and, like the soldiers, forgotten.

"The grass was so high we couldn't get in," Nancy Kreiner said.

The group cleared dense growth and downed trees for two months, filled groundhog holes, mowed grass, repaired tombstones, and planted trees and flowers. By Memorial Day, the restoration was complete.

That morning, the veterans placed flags and attached white silk ribbons to the soldiers' tombstones before hosting a solemn remembrance, an event that takes place every year, attracting about 100 people.

"We get 80 red carnations and ask those in attendance to help decorate the cemetery as the 'Battle Hymn of the Republic' plays," Kreiner said.

The veterans recently asked Upper Allen Township to help it seek historical status for the cemetery from the Cumberland County Historical Society. Megan McNamee, Township environmental planner, nominated the site. The designation was granted and a ceremony to dedicate the plaque is set for July 24.

While the veterans maintain the cemetery, Kreiner said businesses and the public have helped to pay for its flagpole, a stone marker honoring the troops and other amenities.

The veterans appreciate and welcome that support.

"I feel it is important that the public be part of caring for the cemetery, Kreiner said. "These soldiers deserve our respect." Every Memorial Day, about 100 people gather for an observance at the cemetery.

A public dedication of the plaque will occur at 11 a.m. on July 24. The Township has commissioned a second plaque detailing the cemetery's historical significance.



UPPER ALLEN TOWNSHIP'S RAIN GARDEN WORKSHOP AND INSTALLATION

At the Township's annual stormwater workshop held on May 20, 2021, residents had the opportunity to learn how to design, install and maintain a rain garden.

The workshop included inside presentations by Lori Glace, Cumberland County Conservation District on "Local Watersheds in Cumberland County" and Andy Yench, Penn State Extension on "How to Construct Rain Gardens." A door prize drawing of gardening items was held for residents who participated. The workshop ended with a live demonstration of planting a rain garden at the Upper Allen Township municipal building.

Financial and other support for this project was provided by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, Inc. through a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act, administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.



UPPER ALLEN TOWNSHIP

2021 ROAD IMPROVEMENT PLAN



The Board of Commissioners has awarded paving contracts to EK Services and Martin Paving for this year's roadway improvements. Temporary "No Parking" signs will be placed by the contractor if/when parking restrictions are needed. Additionally, motorists are urged to use caution in work zones. We are grateful for your patience and recognize the potential inconvenience of this important infrastructure improvement in your neighborhood.

The 2021 roadway improvement projects are part of the Township's Comprehensive Roadway Management Plan, a 15-Year Roadway Management Plan for approximately 70 miles of Township-owned roads. The roads listed below are scheduled for roadway maintenance this summer. *** Please note: HPCS means High Performance Chip Seal and CIRP means Cold In-Place Recycling.*

Allegheny Drive - Profile mill, base repair, scratch, fabric, overlay; **Arbor Court** - Mill and fill repair with a fog seal; **Baker Drive** - HPCS and fog seal; **Broad Circle** - HPCS and fog seal; **Broad Street** - Pavement repairs, HPCS and fog seal; **Cedar Avenue** - Profile mill, base repair, scratch, fabric and overlay; **Charles Circle** - Mill and fill repair, double chip seal and fog seal; **Conley Drive** - HPCS and fog seal; **Country Drive** - HPCS and fog seal; **Coventry Drive** - Mill and fill repair, HPCS and fog seal; **Emily Drive** - Mill and fill repair, HPCS and fog seal; **Forest Drive** - Base repair, double chip seal and fog seal; **Frost Road** - HPCS and fog seal; **George Circle** - Mill and fill repair, double chip seal and fog seal; **Hamilton Avenue** - HPCS and fog seal; **Hamilton Circle** - HPCS and fog seal; **Herman Drive** - Profile mill, base repair, scratch, fabric, overlay; **Herman Drive Extended** - Base repair, scratch, fabric, overlay; **High Street** - Base repair, wedge mill, scratch, fabric, overlay; **Kent Drive** - Profile mill, base repair, scratch, fabric, overlay; **Knepper Drive** - Mill and fill repair, HPCS and fog seal; **Mallard Way** - Profile Mill, base repair, scratch, fabric, overlay; **Miller Avenue** - Base repair, HPCS, and fog seal; **Mt. Allen Drive (Pennington to Lisburn)** - Widening, CIRP, scratch, overlay; **Old Grove Road** - Partial fabric/scratch course, base repair and double chip; **Orchard Boulevard** - Traffic calming improvements; **Paul Circle** - HPCS and fog seal; **Pinetree Drive** - Profile mill, base repair, scratch, fabric, overlay; **St. James Circle** - HPCS and fog seal; **W. Elmwood Avenue** - Base repair, HPCS and fog seal.

In addition, the Miller's Crest Basketball Court and Spring Run Basketball Court will be renovated; Winding Hills Park will have the pedestrian crosswalk raised; and the Fire Station parking lot will have stormwater replacement with some repaving and constructing a concrete pad.

For more information on Township Street Paving, please go to our Street Paving webpage at: <https://uatwp.org/street-paving/>.

LAWN MAINTENANCE REMINDERS



When mowing your lawn be sure to not blow your grass clippings into the roadway or the sidewalk. Grass clippings that lay in the roadway or sidewalks make their way to our stormwater inlets, having the potential to cause pollution to our rivers, lakes and streams. Grass clippings, along with other debris such as leaves, can clog storm drains. Clogged drains can cause intersections to flood and water to back up into basements of homes and businesses.

Not only do we want to keep grass clippings from entering our stormwater inlets, we want to keep them off our roadways. Dry grass clippings can blow upwards and create visibility issues. Wet grass clippings make the roadway extremely slippery and cause potential hazards to motorists; especially those on motorcycles and bicycles. Instead of blowing the grass clippings into the roadway, try some of the alternatives below to help do your part:

- After mowing, use a broom or leaf blower to blow the grass clippings back into your yard. Do not use a hose to wash them into the street or storm drains. It is illegal to discharge grass clippings into the municipality's storm drains.
- Mow your lawn when the grass is dry. Mowing your lawn when the grass is dry will minimize the amount of clumping in your yard and hide the grass clippings better.
- Leave the grass clipping in your yard. Grass clippings are roughly 80% water and contain anywhere from 2% - 4% nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. These nutrients are returned to the soil resulting in healthier turf and grass. Grass clippings decompose very quickly and do not cause thatch buildup. They can also help reduce your lawn's need for additional fertilizer.
- For more information on stormwater best practices you may log on to the Township website at www.uatwp.org or log on to StormwaterPA at www.stormwaterpa.org.

DOES MY PROJECT REQUIRE A PERMIT?

If your project involves new construction, demolition, an addition or alterations, then the answer is yes. Permits are also required for many accessory structures for your home or business, such as detached garages and other additions, fences, decks, patios, pergolas, sheds, swimming pools, playground equipment, and more. Some improvement projects such as painting a room, replacing kitchen cabinets or installing new flooring do not require a permit.

Permits (and sometimes plans) are required to ensure that your repairs, additions, and alterations are done according to state and Township codes and regulations. Additional supplemental permit information may also be required if your project is in a historic district, a floodplain/floodway, or contains more than 1,000 square feet of new impervious surface. A building permit is also required for basement alterations. Please discuss any project with the Building Code Official.

This information is intended as a guide only. Additional plans and permits may be required prior to the issuance of a Building Permit and/or Zoning Permit. For more information, contact the Community Development Office before starting any work at your home or business.

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)

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TOWNSHIP MEETINGS

July

- 8 Zoning Hearing Board - 6:00 p.m.
- 13 Administration - 7:30 a.m.
- 20 Public Improvements - 8:00 a.m.
- 20 HARB - 7:00 p.m.
- 21 Stormwater Authority - 6:00 p.m.
- 21 Board of Commissioners - 6:30 p.m.
- 22 Sewer Advisory Board - 6:30 p.m.
- 26 Planning Commission - 7:00 p.m.
- 28 Park & Recreation - 6:30 p.m.

August

- 4 Board of Commissioners - 6:30 p.m.
- 9 Pension Board - 7:30 a.m.
- 9 Administration - 8:00 a.m.
- 12 Zoning Hearing Board - 6:00 p.m.
- 17 Public Improvements - 8:00 a.m.
- 17 HARB - 7:00 p.m.
- 18 Stormwater Authority - 6:00 p.m.
- 18 Board of Commissioners - 6:30 p.m.
- 25 Park & Recreation - 6:30 p.m.
- 26 Sewer Advisory Board - 6:30 p.m.
- 30 Planning Commission - 7:00 p.m.

September

- 1 Board of Commissioners - 6:30 p.m.
- 9 Zoning Hearing Board - 6:00 p.m.
- 14 Administration - 7:30 a.m.
- 15 Budget Kickoff - 5:30 p.m.
- 15 Stormwater Authority - 6:00 p.m.
- 15 Board of Commissioners - 6:30 p.m.
- 21 Public Improvements - 8:00 a.m.
- 21 Budget Meeting - 6:30 p.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.
- 28 Budget - 6:30 p.m.

The Township Offices will be closed
on July 5th (Independence Day Holiday)
and
September 6th (Labor Day)



**UPPER ALLEN
TOWNSHIP**

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