



April, May, June

100 Gettysburg Pike, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

Phone: 717-766-0756

PARKS CREW TO BUILD STORY WALK, ROTATE SOFTBALL FIELD, ACRYLIC COATING FOR COURTS



Display cases such as those pictured above will contain enlarged pages of children's books for a story walk at Winding Hill Park South.

A walk in the park can be invigorating or relaxing, but a story walk in the park can transport children to a place where only a book can take them.

In conjunction with Joseph T. Simpson Public Library in Mechanicsburg, Upper Allen's Parks Department will erect about 30 display cases along a walking path at Winding Hill Park South. The 17-inch-by-23-inch cases will house enlarged page images from books selected by the library.

The display boxes will present a new story each month, from spring to fall each year.

The story cases, expected to be in place by summer, will complement a book-reading program at the park.

Other projects on the Parks Department's work list include:

- Addition of a mister pad at Friendship Park's inclusive playground, as well as a water fountain compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Installation is expected by summer.
- Paving of the stone path at the Dog Park at Daybreak, between June and September.
- Replacement of 1,000 feet of the macadam walking path at Fisher Park, with its width expanded from 6 to 8 feet.
- Application of a two-color protective acrylic coating to the basketball courts at Winding Hill Park North and Fisher Park. Work will take place in summer.
- Purchase of replacement playground equipment for Fisher Park, to be installed in 2023. The Township aims to replace playground equipment every 15 years.
- 180-degree rotation of softball Field 4 at Winding Hill Park North for safety reasons. Currently, batters face into a low evening sun. Work is planned between the spring and fall softball seasons.

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NEW DEPARTMENT TO MAINTAIN TOWNSHIP'S EXPANDING PARK SYSTEM



With Upper Allen Township's network of parks growing in size and offerings, the Township has moved the parks operation out of the Public Works Department and created a Parks Department, with Chad Krebs as its director.

Krebs had served as Parks Maintenance Supervisor before becoming Public Works Assistant Director, with a continuing responsibility for the parks. He now leads a staff that has doubled in size, to four full-time employees, plus seven to eight seasonal workers, based at Winding Hill Park North.

The addition of two full-timers will allow more projects to be undertaken by Township employees, without the need for an outside contractor, Krebs said. The Parks Department built the newest park pavilion at Fisher Park, a task that previously would have been assigned to a local builder.

The Parks Department will maintain 212 acres across 13 highly utilized parks. A 60-acre tract on McCormick Road, purchased in 2020, will become the 14th park.

President Commissioner Ken Martin said the reorganization will better align staffers with their skill sets and interests.

"Parks tend to focus of turf management and maintenance, assuring that playground equipment is safe and making sure that our parks look nice and are presentable," Martin said. "Public Works tends to repair and maintain our roads, assure that our stormwater systems function well, and maintain Township signage."

"The two departments will continue to share equipment and specialty staff to contain costs and will work in tandem to remove snow, trim and remove trees, and pick up leaves and brush," he said.



NEW FIRE LIEUTENANT MAINTAINS FAMILY LEGACY OF TOWNSHIP SERVICE



Gaige Zettlemoyer, who was promoted to lieutenant at the Upper Allen Volunteer Fire Department in January, sums up his role as a firefighter in a simple sentence.

"I lead a small group of people into big events."

But the eight-year veteran, who joined the department at age 16, does much more than that. As a resident of the renovated firehouse's new dormitory, he's on-call in a big way.

"Being the only live-in I am the right-hand man for a lot of people," he said. "The Chief or Assistant Chiefs rely on me to get things done."

Those duties can include clearing snow from the station's front pad, washing the rigs and other chores.

One of three lieutenants, Zettlemoyer most recently served as department engineer, responsible for preventive maintenance on all trucks and apparatus. Now he's in charge of the engine, a truck that carries ground ladders, water and a lot of hose. He makes sure all the equipment works on the rig,

which he rides to emergencies.

"I'm good with my hands. I love working on stuff in my free time. I know how to get things done," said Zettlemoyer, whose full-time job is with the Township Public Works Department.

At the Fire Department, he also writes and maintains Fire Department incident reports and helps develop firefighter training programs. Additionally, he chairs Upper Allen Township's Safety Committee that puts in place policies and procedures for all Township agencies.

Zettlemoyer, who recently received the department's Member of the Year award for 2021, comes from a family with a proud history of Township service.

"My dad and grandmother were EMTs years and years ago. They both worked out of the Upper Allen Fire Department," he said. "I have an uncle and two grandfathers who were volunteer firefighters. They definitely were a push for me to go toward it."

Zettlemoyer can add another job description to his resume: Upper Allen booster.

"I was born here, I live here, I work for the Township, I volunteer time with the Fire Department and I take tremendous pride in knowing all sorts of things about the Township," he said.

That knowledge is a major plus for a firefighter, who must be familiar with the community.

"I know all the streets. There's not one I don't know, not one thing I don't take pride in," Zettlemoyer said.

"I take a tremendous amount of pride in dealing with citizens. I consider myself the No. 1 supporter of Upper Allen Township."

RETIREMENT LANDS LONGTIME EMPLOYEE IN NEW POST IN FAMILIAR SETTING



Sharon Shipman, Administrative Assistant to Upper Allen Township's Manager for 23 years, had reached retirement age but wasn't ready to stop working.

So last spring, she decided to do something she had been pondering for quite a while: running for Township Tax Collector.

"I thought about what I could do in retirement, using my previous experience in customer service and enjoyment of working with the public," said the newly-elected Shipman. "I talked with residents quite a bit, giving them information and helping them solve their problems."

There were no candidates for the post on the May 2021 primary ballot, and her decision came at the last minute. Shipman engaged in a successful write-in campaign. She prepared fliers, which supporters handed out at the polls on Election Day. She also visited polling places, asking for residents' votes.

Her campaign earned her a spot as the lone candidate on the general election ballot. She was elected in November, retired as a Township employee on December 31 and was sworn in to the four-year Tax Collector position in January.

With office hours from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays year-round, except February, Shipman and her assistant, Patty Hamm, will process \$30 million in Township, County and School taxes annually. In addition to assisting residents, the office also provides tax information to mortgage and settlement companies.

Shipman's office is in the Township building, but taxes that residents pay by mail should be sent to 275 Cumberland Parkway, # 325, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055. There is also an outside drop off box for payment of taxes during hours when the Township office is closed, and another drop off box right inside the main entrance doors that can be used during their normal business hours, Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

Settling into her new position, Shipman is grateful for and is benefitting from the institutional memory of her predecessor, Dennis Zerbe.

"He's been very helpful," she said. "There are just a lot of things that aren't cut-and-dried that I need to know, and, his history, along with the things he has in his head, are invaluable to me."

Similarly, Shipman is helping her successor transition into her former position as well as tying up loose ends on projects she had begun in that office.

Popping in to her former work space is something she's happy to do. "The thought of just walking out of there and not seeing anyone, I wasn't ready for that," she said.

Shipman can be reached at 717-766-4238 or at uataxoffice@gmail.com.

POLICE ACADEMY GRADUATES BEGIN TRAINING WITH UPPER ALLEN FORCE

Dane Travers and Amanda Knaub are the Upper Allen Police Department's newest officers.



Amanda Knaub and Dane Travers have begun serving as Upper Allen Township Police officers after completing the six-month certification course at the Police Academy at Harrisburg Area Community College in March.

The new officers will undergo further instruction with the department, which includes becoming familiar with policies, observing with a training officer, being assigned as primary officer on calls and then serving as a primary contact officer.

Upper Allen extended employment offers to the pair after they participated in the Cumberland County Consortium, where prospective officers undergo physical fitness testing. The results are forwarded to county law enforcement agencies.

"We feel fortunate to have Amanda Knaub and Dane Travers join the Police Department," Police Chief Andy Parsons said. "

They are two talented and dedicated young people who are taking on a challenging and rewarding career

during difficult times. We have been impressed with each of them from the start of the hiring process."

Knaub, a native of Hampden Township, holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and a master's degree in criminal justice with a focus on homeland security. She was interested in law enforcement from an early age.

"I had the utmost respect for law enforcement growing up," Knaub said. "With college, I had to figure out what I wanted to do with my life. I was an athlete and considered physical therapy. I took a few criminal justice classes. The department was amazing and my interest continued to grow."

Travers, who holds an associate degree in welding, originally is from Milwaukee. He said being a police officer is an extension of his desire to put on a uniform and help others.

"I serve in the (Army) National Guard. It's a call to service for the country," he said. Travers, a corporal in the Guard, served in Wisconsin and now in Pennsylvania.

The police department has 24 officers.

UPPER ALLEN TOWNSHIP RAIN GARDEN WORKSHOP

Presented by: Lori Glace, Cumberland County
Conservation District & Andy Yench, Penn State
Extension



CUMBERLAND COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



PennState Extension

MAY 19, 2022 | 6:00 PM
100 GETTYSBURG PIKE
MECHANICSBURG, PA 17055

Learn how to design, install, and maintain your own rain garden during this unique hands-on workshop and installation.

The workshop cost is FREE and will include gardening-related door prizes. Please provide your name and phone number using the contact information below to register. Registration deadline is May 6, 2022.

Garrett Vandebrake, Stormwater Program Manager
email: gvanabrake@uatwp.org
Phone: 717-766-0756

ALL ABOUT RAIN GARDENS

While the start of spring and warmer days is certainly exciting, it's important to not overlook what else comes with an increase in seasonal rain – stormwater pollution. Stormwater is any water that comes from precipitation and snow/ice melt. As this water flows toward your local bodies of water, it picks up pollutants along its path. These pollutants include debris, sediment, pesticides, fertilizers, pet waste and more. These excess stormwater flows, or runoff, can cause soil erosion, stream impairment, flooding, and harm fish and wildlife. With the season being a great time for homeowners to think about lawn care and home improvement projects, consider building a rain garden as this year's outdoor activity that can help mitigate these stormwater impacts.

WHAT IS A RAIN GARDEN?

In its most simple design, a rain garden is a type of garden strategically located so that it can intercept stormwater and allow it to soak into the soil. It is an attractive landscaping feature planted with perennial native plants and can reduce flooding while also filtering polluted rain runoff from impervious surfaces like streets or sidewalks, parking lots, rooftops, etc. A rain garden is not a water garden, nor is it a pond or a wetland. Rain gardens are dry most of the time, and typically only hold water during and following a rainfall event.

BENEFITS OF A RAIN GARDEN AND WHY WE NEED THEM

Rain gardens assist with recharging the groundwater supply, filtering stormwater runoff before it enters local waterways, and reducing peak water flows. Rain gardens can also provide habitat for birds, butterflies and other wildlife. Join our Rain Garden Workshop and learn more.

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 OFFICES WILL
BE CLOSED**

FRIDAY, APRIL 15TH

AND

MONDAY, MAY 30TH

TOWNSHIP MEETINGS

April

- 6 Board of Commissioners - 6:30 p.m.
- 12 Administration - 7:30 a.m.
- 13 Public Safety - 6:30 p.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.
- 25 Planning Commission - 7:00 p.m.
- 27 Park & Recreation - 6:30 p.m.
- 28 Sewer Authority Board - 6:30 p.m.

May

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

June

- 1 Board of Commissioners - 6:30 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 and Recreation - 6:30 p.m.
- 23 Sewer Advisory Board - 6:30 p.m.
- 27 Planning Commission - 7:00 p.m.

Primary May 17 2022

VOTE
Election November 8 2022

UPPER ALLEN TOWNSHIP

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Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

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Website: www.uatwp.org



TALL, OVERGROWN GRASS AND WEEDS

The mowing season is upon us, and we would like to remind residents that keeping your grass areas properly managed is vital for public health and safety. Tall grass and weeds can harbor rodents and vermin, conceal trash, and create unpleasant odors. All property owners are responsible for maintaining their property's lawn. The Township's property maintenance code states it is unlawful for grass and weeds to be in excess of ten (10) inches in height on all premises and exterior property. Section 302.4 of the code states that all premises must be free from weed growth in excess of 10 inches. "Weeds are defined as all grasses and vegetation, other than trees, shrubs or vegetation that is edible, provided, however, this term shall not include farm fields, cultivated flowers and gardens. Noxious plants are also prohibited. This applies to all land that is located 200 feet or less from any building or structure available for use for human occupancy.

Furthermore, when mowing your lawn, be sure not to blow grass clippings into the roadway or the sidewalk. Grass clippings in the roadway and on sidewalks can cause slippery conditions. Wet grass clippings make roads and sidewalks extremely slippery, causing potential hazards to pedestrians, and motorists; especially those on motorcycles and bicycles. It is also important to keep grass clippings from entering storm drains, which can cause pollution to our rivers, lakes, and streams. Grass clippings and other debris can clog storm drains, which causes roadways to flood and water to back up into basements of homes and businesses. For more information on stormwater best practices, you may log on to the Township website at uatwp.org or log on to StormwaterPA at www.stormwaterpa.org.

If you suspect a violation, contact the Community Development Department. You can also fill out a complaint form, which is available online at uatwp.org/documents/forms.

