

Upper Allen Township Winter Newsletter 2023

100 Gettysburg Pike
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
(717)-766-0756



January
February
March

Upper Allen Township 2023 Budget Holds the Line On Taxes and Cuts Sewer Fees

Upper Allen Township's \$25.6 million budget for 2023 holds the line on taxes and includes a \$50 reduction in sewer fees, as well as public safety and park improvements.

Township residents will see a trash and recycling collection increase of \$19.83 per quarter instituted by Republic Services, which the township Commissioners worked to offset by lowering the sewer fees.

In August 2022, the township advertised for vendors to bid on the trash contract. Republic Services was the only vendor to place a bid.

"With the cost of virtually everything on the rise, we wanted to do as much as possible to keep from adding to the economic burden facing our residents," said township Board of Commissioners' President Ken Martin. "When Republic Services announced its trash collection increase, we looked for a way to lower residents' costs in other areas and were able to reduce the sewer fee. The township will have one of its sewer bonds paid off next year, which positioned us to decrease sewer fees." The current sewer fee remains one of the lowest in the area.

Under the 2023 budget, the township's combined municipal real estate tax rate remains at 2.65 mills, which equals \$265 for every \$100,000 of assessment.

The township plans to modernize traffic signals at 16 intersections in the coming year thanks to a \$639,334 Pennsylvania Department of Transportation grant, which will cover 70 percent of the cost.

Under the new budget, the Police Department will receive a new and fully equipped patrol car. Later this year, the township's Fire Department will also receive a new ladder truck that was purchased in 2021.

Additionally, walking/biking trails will be constructed at the township's newest park facility, Generations Park, 1340 E. Lisburn Road, thanks to a \$450,000 grant the township was awarded by Cumberland County.

For more information on Upper Allen Township's budget, visit <https://uatwp.org/documents/financial-documents/>

The Township will be closed Monday, February 20th for President's Day.

Leaf Collection: A Critical Service With Substantial Cost

For 10 weeks every fall, township public works crews undertake an operation that costs roughly a quarter-million dollars. The project is unavoidable as deciduous trees shed their leaves at the end of every growing season.

Leaf collection by township crews begins in October and runs through early December. Primarily using dump trucks with vacuum hoses hooked up behind them, public works crews go through neighborhoods and remove leaves that residents have piled at the curb.

This can't be a once-and-done operation because the leaves don't all drop at once. And the job isn't hit or miss. Workers come through neighborhoods on the same scheduled day every week for those 10 weeks to suck up additional leaves that residents



have raked or blown curbside.



The only times scheduled pickups are altered are when snow falls and when workers move into a new neighborhood a day early because they finish collecting ahead of schedule in another area.

Collection schedules are listed in the township newsletter as the season approaches and on the township website.

The roughly \$125,000 cost results from the labor and equipment needed to get the job done.

"We spend \$12,500 in diesel fuel alone," said Corey Stazewski, the township Public Works

director, noting that the operation requires 2,500 gallons of fuel. "We use eight staffers, with overtime." Township public works collected over 500 tons of leaves in the Fall 2022 collection effort.

Stazewski said workers need an hour and a half to prepare the equipment each morning and the same amount of time to break it down at the end of the day. They keep at it until they've picked up all the leaves in a scheduled area on a given day.

Alternative to raking leaves to the curb, residents can bag them and put them out with their trash.



Leaf mulch and wood chips will be available for township residents. Upper Allen Township will begin delivery in the beginning of April. You can place an order by filling out an order form that can be found on the Township website <https://uatwp.org/documents/forms> The fee is \$150.00 per load and must be prepaid before delivery. Orders must be in no later than March 31st. There is no fee if you opt to pick up and load your own vehicle with wood chips or leaf mulch.

Township Repaired, Resurfaced Nine Roads in 2022

Upper Allen Township completed about two miles of road resurfacing on nine streets in 2022. One notable exception, which might have come as a jarring surprise to drivers, is the section of Hertzler Road beneath the Norfolk Southern railway overpass.

As part of its work on a nearby development, McNaughton Homes rebuilt Hertzler Road, which saved the township the cost of the work. But the developer was barred from paving about 150 feet of roadway below the railroad tracks. Norfolk Southern Corp. revoked the township's permit for improvements to that section of the road, considered the railroad's right of way.

The roads that the township repaved last year were:

- Buckingham Avenue
- Clover Drive
- Derbyshire Avenue
- Emily Drive from Lisburn Road to Hawthorne Avenue
- Hawthorne Avenue, where a new culvert was placed with a crane, and the road paved
- Rye Circle
- Sheffield Avenue
- Thornton Drive
- Wakefield Avenue

The township is in the ninth year of a 15-year Roadway Improvement and Maintenance Plan. Upper Allen will spend \$1.35 million a year on roadwork through the end of the plan.

The township engineer is finalizing a list of 2023 road projects that will be announced in the spring.



UPDATES FROM SHARON SHIPMAN, TAX COLLECTOR

New Builds and Tax Bills – Upon purchase of a building lot on which to build a new home, property owners can expect to receive the following bills: County/Township Real Estate and School Real Estate tax bills for the land only, followed by “Interim” County/Township Real Estate and School Real Estate tax bills once the house is built. A common misconception is that all taxes for the property have been taken care of at settlement, but this is not true in the case of a new build. Interim tax bills are not paid at settlement. Interim tax bills for your newly-built property do not even exist at settlement and are not added to the tax roles until after settlement. Tax amounts charged on Interim bills are calculated starting with the first month after settlement. If you escrow your real estate taxes, keep in mind that your mortgage company may not pay your Interim tax bills from escrow. If they will, you will have to provide them with copies. Feel free to contact me for additional information.

The 2023 County/Township Real Estate tax bills will be mailed out on or about March 1. The “Discount” amount is due March 1 thru April 30. The “Face” amount is due May 1 thru June 30. The “Penalty” amount is due July 1 thru the end of December.

Acceptable payment methods include check or money order, made payable to Sharon Shipman, Tax Collector. There is currently not an option for online payment. Cash is not accepted for payment of taxes. Please always include your phone number and email address with payment so I can reach you quickly in the event of an issue. Resolving issues by contacting you through the US Postal Service could throw you into the next payment period, costing you extra money.

As the property owner, it is your responsibility to ensure that your tax bill is paid. Please report a change of address to me promptly. If you have not received your tax bills, please contact me and I can easily provide you with copies.

Tax Office Email: uataxoffice@gmail.com

Tax Office Phone Number: 717-766-4238

In-person payments accepted Wednesday and Thursday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Address for Mailing Payment:

275 Cumberland Parkway, #325

Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

Physical Office Location (Township Building):

100 Gettysburg Pike

Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

2023-2025 Township Trash Contract Begins

While collection days remain unchanged, Upper Allen Township residents will see an increase in trash collection costs under a new three-year contract with Republic Services of York County.

Republic Services was the only hauler to submit a bid for the new three-year contract, which increases residential collection costs from \$264.24 in 2022 to \$341.76 for 2023, or \$85.44 per quarter. The annual rate will rise to \$362.16 in 2024 and \$384 in 2025.

Looking to soften the impact on residents, the Commissioners worked to offset the increase by lowering the sewer fees by \$50 as part of the 2023 budget.

Republic Services pointed to increased recycling and labor costs as spurring the increase. Company officials said recycling costs have increased from \$33 a ton in 2020 to more than \$100 a ton. The company also provided workers with three raises in the last 18 months and tried to lure new hires with sign-on bonuses of \$5,000 to \$7,000.

The contract includes several new features. Residents can opt to have Republic Services replace their 96-gallon rolling trash container with a 64- or 32-gallon container. Recycling containers are 64 gallons and residents can opt to replace that with a 32-gallon container. The cost is the same for all sizes. All residents need to use carts so that the routes can be fully automated. If you don't currently use a cart or would like a smaller size, please contact Republic Services at 1-800-210-9675 to have carts delivered.

Residents may put up to 144 gallons of trash in plastic bags or metal trash cans for each pickup in addition to using the provided container.

In the past, residents could put a large trash item at the curb without calling for pickup. Now residents must call Republic Services at 800-210-9675 to arrange pickup of items too large for the containers.

All questions or concerns about trash collection and recycling must be directed to Republic Services at 800-210-9675, rather than the township.

Republic Services reminds residents that trash must be at the curb by 5 a.m. on collection days. Containers must be placed at least three feet from each other and any stationary objects. Trash should be bagged before being placed in containers to avoid loose items from being scattered.

Businesses in the township can contract with any trash hauler, but residents must use Republic Services, which also had the previous three-year contract.

96 Gallon



Height: 46"
Width: 27"
Depth: 31"
Wheel: 12"

64 Gallon



Height: 42"
Width: 25"
Depth: 26"
Wheel: 10"

32 Gallon



Height: 38"
Width: 22"
Depth: 22"
Wheel: 8"

ID Theft Rose During COVID, Remains A Problem

Upper Allen Township Police dealt with an average of 14 reported identity theft cases each year leading up to the coronavirus pandemic. Then, in 2020, the number exploded.

"Typically we see a couple of identity theft complaints each month," said Detective Sgt. Trent Mellott, who supervises the township detectives. "During COVID, that spiked dramatically."

From six reported cases in 2019, the number jumped to 42 in 2020, when the pandemic struck, and 134 in 2021. The cases usually were not related to people shopping online while being stuck at home.

"The majority was unemployment fraud when people were laid off because of businesses closing," Mellott explained.

Identity information can be lost or stolen, including birth date, Social Security, bank account, and credit card numbers. Thieves often access the data through phony emails with dangerous links or by using internet and phone scams.

Residents who believe they are victims of identity theft can file a report with Upper Allen Police.

"We prefer that they come in person and bring any documentation they have," Mellott said. "We're going to ask them to give a written statement to document when they first noticed the theft and if they suspect anyone. Sometimes it is a family member."

The type of ID theft determines the course of action. Cases of unemployment fraud, where someone's Social Security number is used to steal benefits, are referred to a state agency.

"If someone reports his name and Social Security number used to open a bank account, we follow up with search warrants to that bank and get records to prove who opened the account," Mellott said.

Additional steps that victims can take include placing fraud alerts on their credit reports with the three credit reporting agencies and closing compromised bank and credit card accounts.

As the pandemic eased, the number of identity theft reports made to Upper Allen Police dropped, sinking to 31 in 2022. Still, the overall problem is getting worse, Mellott said.

"There definitely is more identity theft taking place. I would probably attribute it to technology and the internet," he said.

While police can determine that a crime was committed and by whom, there usually is an enduring mystery in these cases.

"We can prove an identity was stolen, but proving the way someone got that identity is very difficult," Mellott said.

Get help with ID theft, tax fraud

Learn more about identity theft at upperallen-police.com. Search for "Identity Theft."

For information on tax fraud, search for "IRS Tax Fraud and Scams" on the police website.



Board of Commissioners



Pictured, clockwise from upper left:

James G. Cochran, Assistant Secretary

Jeffrey M. Walter, Assistant Secretary

Richard A. Castranio, Vice President

Kenneth M. Martin, President

Virginia M. Anderson, Assistant Secretary

Commissioner's Corner

Key Actions Taken by the Board of Commissioners

September 7 - Resolution Recognizing the 8U Baseball Team for Winning the Cal Ripken World Series

- Approval of the Name "Upper Allen Generations Park" for the Township Property Located at 1340 E. Lisburn Road

September 21 - Resolution to Honor Upper Allen Fire Company President Ronald D. Dean for Over 57 Years of Service

October 5 - Awarded the 2023 to 2025 Trash Contract to Republic Services

November 16 - Resolution Approving the Intermunicipal Transfer of a Restaurant Liquor License into the Township of Upper Allen for the Willows at Ashcombe Mansion for the Premises at 1100 Grantham Road

December 7 - Approved the Revised Preliminary/Final Subdivision and Land Development Plan for Chick-fil-A, UAT File #22-07-05



Upper Allen Township

100 Gettysburg Pike

Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

Phone: (717)-766-0756

Fax: (717)-796-9833

Website: <https://uatwp.org>

Township Meetings

	February	March	April
Board of Commissioners - 6:30PM	1st, 15th	1st, 15th	5th, 19
Administration - 8:00AM	13th	14th	11th
Zoning Hearing Board - 6:00PM	9th	9th	13th
Historical Architecture Review Board - 7:00PM	21st	21st	18th
Stormwater Authority - 6:00PM	15th	15th	19th
Sewer Advisory Board - 6:30PM	23rd	23rd	27th
Parks & Recreation - 6:30PM	22nd	22nd	26th
Planning Commission - 7:00PM	27th	27th	24th