

Spring 2024

DCNR COMMUNITY GRANT AWARDED FOR LENAPE PARK UPGRADES

November of 2023 the Township received word that the DCNR Community Grant that was applied for in April, had been awarded to the Township for \$250,000.00. Senator Coleman met with the Board of Supervisors in late November to celebrate the grant money coming to the Upper Milford Township.

This grant money will go toward upgrading the basketball and tennis courts at Lenape Park. This will include a reconfiguration of the existing macadam area. There will be two basketball courts with fencing and benches, two tennis courts with Pickleball lines and new fencing. This will also include an additional ADA

Accessible walking trail away from the parking lot, new landscaping, and natural buffer area along the creek. The Township is in the process of developing official plans and bid requirements and hopes to award bids with construction to start the end of the summer 2024 or the Spring of 2025. Keep an eye out for notices for the start of construction!



John Zgura, Daniel Mohr, Joyce Moore,
Senator Jarrett Coleman

TREE AND SHRUB PRUNING WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP

Trees should be pruned and maintained to provide a minimum of 12 to 14 feet clearance directly above the curb and edge of shoulder. To reduce the frequency of pruning, we recommend that limbs and branches be pruned beyond the curb or, in some cases, to the edge of the right-of-way. Clearance above sidewalks should be a minimum of 8 feet.

Additionally, lines of site at curves and intersections must be maintained. The removal of branches etc. will improve driving conditions and will result in reduction of liability for the homeowner and the Township.

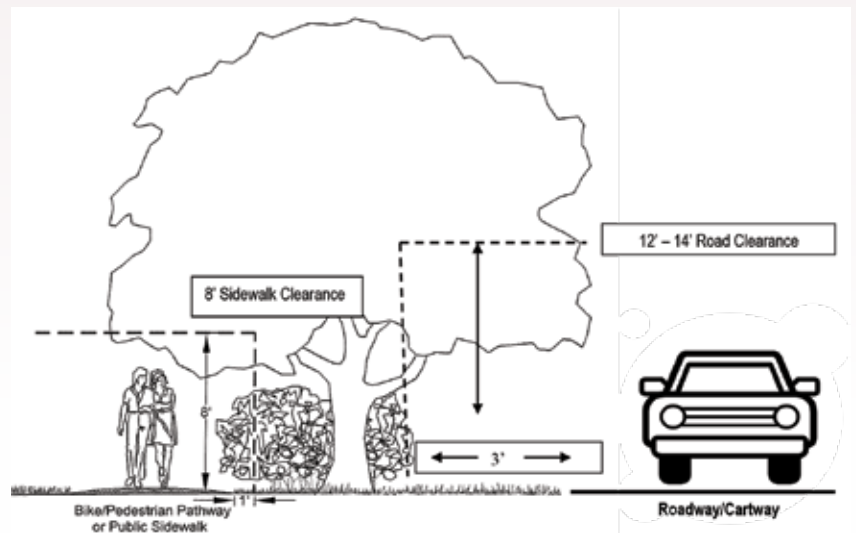


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UPPER MILFORD TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS

UPPER MILFORD TOWNSHIP YARD WASTE COLLECTION PROGRAM

Upper Milford Township is offering residents a fee-based roadside yard waste collection program as a supplement to the Township's Yard Waste Drop-Off site program.

The collection dates will be scheduled for May 6th – 10th 2024 and again for November 4th – 8th 2024.

Residents desiring to use the roadside pick up service will be required to purchase a yard waste pick up sticker for each container or bundle to be picked up at a cost of \$1.00 each and comply with the following procedures:

ONLY the following materials or items will be accepted and collected:

- Leaves
- Tree and Plant Trimmings
- Tree Limbs and Branches, less than 4 feet long and 4 inches in diameter
- Garden and flower bed plant materials

The following items **WILL NOT** be accepted and if placed out for pick-up will result in material not being collected:

- | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|---------|
| • Grass Clippings | • Animal Waste | • Sod |
| • Garbage | • Lumber | • Rocks |
| • Tree Stumps | • Dirt | • Trash |

Acceptable materials must be placed in open containers no larger than 32 gallons in size and have a total weight of less than 50 pounds. Limbs and branches less than 48" long and 4" in diameter may be tied in bundles no larger than 48" x 18" x 18" (maximum weight 50 pounds). Ties must be biodegradable material.

A new "yard waste sticker" must be fastened to each container or bundle or the material will not be collected. The sticker on the container will be removed or voided after one use.

Residents must contact the Township Office by either calling at (610) 966 – 3223, faxing (610) 966 – 5184 or e-mail info@uppermilford.net to schedule pick-up. Notification must be received by the Township prior to 12:00 noon on Friday of the collection week or material may not be collected.

Stickers may be purchased at the Upper Milford Township Office, 5671 Chestnut Street, at a cost of \$1.00 each. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Stickers may be prepaid, and they can be mailed to the resident.

The Township is required to offer this program or service in order for the Township to comply with current Pennsylvania Recycling Regulations.

For more information visit the Township's website at www.uppermilford.net.

RESIDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO BRING THEIR YARDWASTE AND LEAVES TO THE YARD WASTE SITE BEHIND THE PUBLIC WORKS GARAGE

Upper Milford Township encourages the composting of leaves and yard waste. For more information about composting, please contact the Township.

Yard Waste Drop Off Site Information:

The Township accepts yard waste dropped off by residents at the Township's Yard Waste Drop Off area behind the Township's Garage, accessed via Church View Road. Materials may only be dropped off by Township residents and this service is not offered to lawn maintenance or landscape businesses.

Grass, leaves, and brush or branches must be kept separated and unloaded at the appropriate location as identified by the signage at the site.

Branches are limited to 4" diameter and must be no longer than 8'.

Winter Hours:

December 1st to March 31st
Wednesday 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.
Saturday 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.

Summer Hours:

April 1st to November 30th
Monday – 12:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.
Tuesday – Closed
Wednesday – 3:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. /
dusk whichever comes first
Thursday – Closed
Friday – 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.
Saturday – 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.
Sunday – 12:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.

The Township, at times, has a supply of coarse wood mulch available to the public. Residents may load their own vehicles or the Township may load your truck or trailer by appointment only for a fee of \$10.00 per scoop or part thereof. The Township will also deliver mulch at a cost of \$40.00 for single ground mulch or \$60.00 for double ground mulch per truck load which is approximately 7 cubic yards. You must prepay at the Township for the mulch to be either loaded onto your vehicle or delivered to your residence. Appointment hours are based on employee availability. Please call to schedule loading service.

WHAT IS THE VERA CRUZ COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION?

The Vera Cruz Community Association has been serving our community for the past 72 years. Established in 1952, the association grew from the desire to provide the local area with events that would draw people together and celebrate our community. We are deeply grateful to all those who continue to help us achieve our goals of sponsoring and organizing these traditions.

We sponsor three events every year:

We start the year with our annual **Easter Egg Hunt**, which is held at the Mystic Chain Park, in Vera Cruz, and provides prizes and eggs to all participants.

The **Homecoming**, which is an all day festival, held in August, brings friends and families together for food, music, and conversation. This is our biggest event, and the one that requires much preparation and assistance on that day. The Homecoming generates the monies needed to provide the community sponsorship that we know to be so important. This is enabled by the ads from local businesses and the individual contributions for notations in our "Homecoming Book". Gathering the ads and sponsorship in this program book takes many hours from dedicated members and where we could use assistance. If you are willing to sponsor an ad or place a memorial or notation in the book, please contact us.

And finally, the **Halloween Parade**, held in the center of Vera Cruz, provides monetary prizes to all participants. We welcome all to fill our parade with music and fun costumes.

In addition to these events, we contribute to our local community non-profit organizations. These include, but are not limited to, the Citizen's Fire Company of Upper Milford, Eastern District, the Vera Cruz EC Church, and the local food pantry.

We extend our sincerest thanks to all of you who help and continue to support us in all of these worthy endeavors. Our goal is to promote that wonderful sense of community not only in the

small town of Vera Cruz, but in our neighboring towns as well, and we would like to extend a warm welcome for all to become active members and be a part of our events.

Unfortunately, many small organizations like ours are facing a loss of members and the time has come to attempt to safeguard these cherished traditions. Without growth of both members and dedicated volunteers, our beloved traditions might be at risk. Whether you are a longtime resident or new to our area, your presence and ideas will help us plan and sustain all of these traditions.

Our monthly meetings run every second Thursday, starting at 6:30pm at the Vera Cruz Fire Hall. Mark your calendars, become a part of our association, and help us secure the continuing of our traditions.

The dates for our 2024 events are as follows. Come and join us!

Easter Egg Hunt - Held at the Mystic Chain Park- 3/20/2024. We start promptly at 1:00pm. In the case of bad weather we will bag our eggs and prizes, and hand out as you pass through the driveway.

Homecoming celebration - Held at the Mystic Chain Park - 8/18/2024 from 12:00-8:00pm.

The Vera Cruz Halloween Parade (all are welcome) - 10/16/2024 with rain date of 10/17/2024. We assemble for the parade at the Mystic Chain Park in Vera Cruz between 6:00-6:30pm. The parade moves at 7:00pm.

If you are willing to assist us or desire to become a member, you can contact us the following ways.

You can join us for our meeting at the mentioned time or you can contact the following members.

Betsey Schmeltzle - 484-357-2894

Susan Mohr - 484-515-1080

Dan Mohr - 610-967-5726



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Email me at JColeman@PaSen.Gov

Visit our Lehigh County office for help with:

- Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program applications.
- PACE/PACENET prescription medication programs for senior citizens.
- Programs and services tailored to meet the unique needs of veterans.
- PennDOT driver and vehicle services.
- Any other state government-related needs.

LEHIGH SENIOR EXPO
Thursday, May 23rd

LEHIGH OPEN HOUSE
Thursday, June 6th

Lehigh County Office
7535 Windsor Drive, Suite 200B
Allentown, PA 18106
(484) 861-4964



WHEN YOUR CAR'S LEAKING OIL ON THE STREET, REMEMBER IT'S NOT JUST LEAKING OIL ON THE STREET.

Leaking oil goes from car to street. And is washed from the street into the storm drain and into our lakes, streams and into coastal waters.

Now imagine the number of cars in the area and you can imagine the amount of oil that finds its way from leaky gaskets into our water. So please, fix oil leaks.

If you have questions regarding storm water, please contact your municipality or Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Regional Office. For general questions, you may also contact DEP's Bureau of Water Management at (717) 772-5666 or visit www.dep.state.pa.us. Thanks to the Washington State Water Quality Consortium for permission to adapt and use this poster.

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HIVEL UND DAHL PRESERVATION SOCIETY

6561 Powder Valley Rd., Zionsville, PA 18092

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 416, Old Zionsville, PA 18068

www.hivelunddahl.org

Preserving the History of Powder Valley

The Board of the Hivel Und Dahl Preservation Society was busy in 2023 meeting with our United States Senators and Legislators along with our State representatives to acquire grant funding for our Schubert-Graber (Cabin) undertaking. All of them were interested in helping us with this restoration project. Several of them requested to see the cabin to get a better insight as to what needed to be done.

The Schubert-Graber Log Post Shop (the Cabin) is one of the oldest standing buildings in the Upper Milford community, circa 1760's. It is on the National Register of Historic Places, and on the Lehigh County Log Cabin Trail.

Among our goals is to make this structure a repository of 18th century culture, and an educational center in Powder Valley, available to the public. 2024 will be an important year to get this project underway.

2024 PROGRAMS

MARCH 26 – AN EVENING WITH STEVE BROSKY

Come and be entertained by Steve Brosky – subject of the play, “Living Here in Allentown”, and 1983 recipient of the keys to the city. The bard of Allentown will tell in song and story about growing up in the 6th ward, shipping off to Vietnam and 40 years of life as a saloon singer. Don't miss this experience of living history!

JUNE 30- MOVING TRADITIONS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA GERMANS

Bob Roeder, Editor of the Town and Country, will present the program. Hear about their traditions, superstitions, and how they moved out of their old home and into the new one.

SEPTEMBER 24 - CIDER MAKING AND HISTORY OF BAUMAN'S CIDER

History of apple cider and the story of the Bauman Family Apple Butter business in Sassamansville. Sample Bauman's cider and fruit butters.

NOVEMBER 26 – LOTTERIES IN EARLY AMERICA: FUNDING PUBLIC PROJECTS

From the settlement in Jamestown, VA to the early 1800's, lotteries were used to fund bridges, churches, and many other public projects. Program presented by Edward Johnson.

All meetings are held at the Upper Milford Township Building, 5671 Chestnut St., Old Zionsville at 7:00 PM. All programs are free of charge and open to everyone. More information is available on our website and Facebook page.

BECOME A PART OF THE HISTORY

When joining the Hivel Und Dahl Preservation Society, you become part of the History of Powder Valley. Your contribution in our organization helps us with our annual responsibilities and with the (Cabin) restoration fund. Fill out the form below and mail it to:

Hivel Und Dahl Preservation Society

P.O. Box 416, Old Zionsville, PA 18068

Hivel Und Dahl Preservation Society is a 501 (c)(3) organization.

Your donation may be tax deductible.

Make your check payable to Hivel Und Dahl Preservation Society

Annual Membership Individual \$20.00 _____ Family \$25.00 _____

Contribution to Restoration Fund \$ _____ Check # _____

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ email _____

BOROUGH OF EMMAUS & UPPER MILFORD TOWNSHIP

Joint Environmental Advisory Council (EAC)



SAVE THE DATE

Earth Day 2024 – Community Cleanup (8:30 - 11AM)

Paper Shredding and Electronics Recycling

Saturday, April 20th • 9:00 AM to 11 PM • RAIN or SHINE

Community Clean-up organizes at 8:30 am



UPPER MILFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

5671 Chestnut St, PO Box 210, Old Zionsville, PA 18068



President - John Fegley (610) 967 - 2092 • Vice President - Lori Fegley (267) 451-6460
Treasurer - Jerald Lagler (610) 769 - 0302 • Secretary - Marlene Heller (732) 801 - 3621
Historian - Neil Moser (610) 966 - 4376

Whether you've lived in Upper Milford all your life, have recently moved to the township, or are just interested in our history, we welcome you to explore our archives and visit our growing displays. In the last year, we've added a display of military veterans, added new artifacts that have been donated, and begun the process of updating our website.

Membership is affordable! At just \$15 per person, \$25 per family, or \$200 per life member, your membership helps us maintain our archives and provide enriching programs. Only paid members can attend our picnic in July, which will be held at Domaine Pterion again this year.

Except for the picnic, all programs begin at 7 p.m. on the last Thursday of the month, January to October. The archives will be open one hour before the program for visitors. **You may also visit the archives during our Open Houses on the third Sunday of February, April, June, August, and October, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Other times are by appointment.**

Remaining programs for 2024 include:

MARCH 28

Bob Swain

Bob will show and discuss his collection of human-powered toys, such as the very popular Slinky.

APRIL 25

Edward Johnson

The Great Philadelphia Wagon Road

Davy Crockett and Daniel Boone both used it. Where is it? What was its importance? Does it exist today? Where does it end? Learn all this, and more, on our evening's journey.

MAY 30

Mike Jesberger – The Road to Valley Forge

In the fall of 1777, the Continental Army fought two key battles and marched hundreds of miles through all types of terrain and in all sorts of weather. Often deprived of food, sleep, and comfort, the soldiers deserve recognition for what they endured during this campaign for the cause of liberty.

JUNE 27

Exploring the Jasper Pits

John Fegley will tell us the history of the Jasper pits and explain the importance they played in the lives of the Lenape Indians.

JULY 25. NOTE: 6 PM START

Annual Picnic at Domaine Pterion

Potluck and Fellowship are on the menu! More details as we get closer, but start thinking about what dish you'd like to bring! Your dish is your entry ticket. MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS ONLY.

AUGUST 29

Mystic Chain Park

Lori Fegley will disclose the storied history of Mystic Chain Park, which has been a members-only club since its inception.

SEPTEMBER 26

Kirk Brown: Impersonator

Benjamin Franklin, inventor, statesman, founding father, and journalist will be joining us through the vehicle of Kirk Brown, master impersonator.

OCTOBER 31

Woody Benner

Woody will regale us with stories of his naval experience encompassing his trip to the Arctic Circle.

THE UPPER MILFORD AREA MINISTERIUM

The Ministerium in the Upper Milford Area (including Upper Milford Mennonite Church, Zion's Lutheran Church, Old Zionsville United Church of Christ, and Salem United Methodist church) would like to let you know about two upcoming opportunities to celebrate, learn and grow.

GriefShare will be offered at Old Zionsville United Church of Christ starting on Wednesday evening, May 1, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. This nationally acclaimed course consists of 13 weeks of meetings for support offered to people who have lost loved ones. Each session includes a video to offer thoughts and ideas to learn about. There is a workbook which is helpful for each participant to follow along, take notes of the video, and then do some homework before the next session. There is also time to share and support each other through grief. There is no cost for the sessions, but the fee for the workbook is \$15 or whatever you can afford. We meet in the handicap accessible, air-conditioned lower social hall at

OZ UCC which is found at the intersection of Fountain Road and Kings Highway in Old Zionsville. To register for these sessions, or ask questions, you can contact The Rev. Lori Esslinger at <MomAndPastorToo@yahoo.com> or by calling the church office at 610-966-3601. The course concludes July 24, 2024.

Celebrate history at the Dillingersville Schoolhouse located at 7226 Schoolhouse Lane, Zionsville. Informal worship begins at 10:30 a.m. on June 30, 2024, under a big tent on the grounds, rain or shine. This service is open to all and especially those who enjoy the outdoors and being in nature. Tours of the schoolhouse are available. A lunch and a bake sale is available for a donation. And the entertainment to follow will be something special. This is a great day to learn about local history, the beginnings of education in this area, and to spend some time outdoors. Parking is available on site. Questions? Call 610-966-3601.

FROM YOUR REAL ESTATE TAX COLLECTOR

This office collects real estate taxes for Upper Milford Township and the East Penn School District only.

For questions regarding millage rates, contact the taxing authority: UMT 610-966-3223, EPSD 610-966-8300

Deborah Seibert Schevets, Tax Collector

Phone: 610-928-1030

E-mail: taxinfo@uppermilford.net

U.S. Mail: P.O. Box 265, Old Zionsville, PA 18068

Office: 5671 Chestnut Street, Zionsville, PA 18092

Located in Upper Milford Township Building

Drop box located to right of building entrance, checked daily.



Tax Collector Office Hours:

To accommodate those who would like to make their tax payments in person: April, May, July, August, October and December (excluding major holidays)

Tuesdays and Thursdays • 10am–12pm, 1pm–3pm
Saturday mornings in May and August as listed below:

May 18th and 25th • 10am to Noon

August 24th and 31st • 10am to Noon

Other hours by appointment

IMPORTANT PAYMENT DATES:

Upper Milford Township 2024 Real Estate Tax bills will be mailed April 1st 2024, and cover the calendar year 1-1-2024 through 12-31-2024.

2% Discount	Face Amount	10% Penalty
Apr 1 - May 31	Jun 1 - Jul 31	Aug 1 - Dec 31

East Penn School District 2024-2025 Real Estate Tax bills will be mailed July 1st, 2024, and cover the school fiscal year 7-1-2024 through 6-30-2025.

2% Discount	Face Amount	10% Penalty
Jul 1 - Aug 31	Sep 1 - Oct 31	Nov 1 - Dec 31

Option: Installment Payments (School only) See back of tax bill for detailed instructions.

1st Installment	2nd Installment	3rd Installment
Aug 10	Oct 10	Dec 10

From 12/15 thru 12/31 only

No personal or business checks accepted. Cash, Money Order, or Certified Funds only. No payments accepted after a 12/31 USPS Postmark. Postage bought online, and payments by bank disbursement do not meet USPS postmark requirements.

After 12/31

Unpaid taxes as of 12/31 are turned over to Elite Revenue Solutions, dba Lehigh County Tax Claim Bureau, for collection. 610-782-3119, <http://lehighcountytaxclaim.com> Lehigh County Government Center, 17 South 7th St, Room 120, Allentown, PA 18101

Miscellaneous:

- Failure to receive a bill does not entitle the owner to discount or remission of penalty on taxes.
- If you no longer own the property, please provide the name of the new owner on the bill and return to tax collector's office.
- If serviced by a Mortgage Company, it is the property owner's responsibility to forward township bills and school bills to them immediately.
- Township tax payments & school tax payments cannot be combined. Separate checks are required.
- On-Line Bill Pay is accepted – request a paper check be mailed to the tax office.
- Credit cards are not accepted.
- Partial payments are not accepted — exact amount required.
- Contact this office with any questions and/or to obtain Taxpayer Receipts, Surviving Owner Change and Mailing Address Change Forms.

Millage Rates as of 1-1-2024

- Upper Milford Township 0.45000 mills
- East Penn School District 20.17000 mills for 2023-24
- Lehigh County 3.78000 mills

(2024-2025 millage determined mid-June 2024)

Earned Income Tax and Local Services Tax:

Berkheimer at 866-701-7206 (EIT) or 610-599-3142 (LST)

Website: <https://www.hab-inc.com>



Property Tax Rebates

For assistance with completion of forms: State Representative Office, 131st Legislative District RepMilouMackenziePA.com 1425 Mountain Dr N, Bethlehem, PA 18015 610-965-5830

- 2023 Pennsylvania Property Tax / Rent Rebate Program (PA-1000) myPATH.pa.gov Application Deadline – June 30, 2024 (deadline may be extended) https://www.revenue.pa.gov/FormsandPublications/FormsforIndividuals/PTRR/Documents/2023_pa-1000_inst.pdf (Instruction Booklet and Tax Forms) **New for 2024: Income limit raised to \$45,000 Maximum standard rebate increased to \$1,000**
- 2022 East Penn School District Property Tax Rebate Application (PTR-1000) File between 7/1/23 and 5/31/24
- 2023 East Penn School District Property Tax Rebate Application (PTR-1000) File between 7/1/24 and 5/31/25 <https://www.eastpennsd.org/businessoffice/property-tax-rebate-program/>

continued on next page

Exception Real Estate Tax Bills:

- A “Change in Assessment” (due to a new house, improvements such as a garage, pool, or home addition, lot-line adjustments, etc.) may result in an “Exception Bill”, an additional pro-rated bill covering the difference between the prior assessed value and the new assessed value. These bills are mailed in February, May, August, and September and cover the period from the “effective date” of the change until the new taxable rate is reflected on your tax bill. Exception Bills will have different discount, flat and penalty periods than the original tax bill.
- Exception bills received throughout the year are usually NOT paid by the mortgage company. Property owners are encouraged to contact their mortgage company to determine if they will pay any supplemental bills.

Veterans Affairs: 610-782-3295

Pennsylvania Disabled Veterans Real Estate Tax Exemption
Lehigh County Government Center, 17 South 7th St., Room 230,
Allentown, PA 18101-2400
<https://www.lehighcounty.org/Departments/Veterans-Affairs-Home>
(Eligibility, Documents, Procedures)

Lehigh County Assessment Office: 610-782-3038

Taxpayer Relief Act (Homestead /Farmstead Exemption), Act 4
(Open Space), Act 319 (Clean & Green), Search Records, Maps,
Millage Rates, American Heroes Grant, Assessment Appeal,
Address Changes. Lehigh County Government Center, Room
517, 17 South Seventh St., Allentown, PA 18101-2401
<https://www.lehighcounty.org/Departments/Assessment-Home>

Real Estate Taxes are based on the assessed value of a property,
determined by the Lehigh County Office of Assessment.
Property owners can appeal the assessed values yearly. Any
questions related to assessed value or how to appeal assessed
value should be addressed to the Lehigh County Assessment
Office.

Lehigh County Real Estate Tax: Lehigh County Fiscal Office
at 610-782-3112

Lehigh County 2024 Real Estate Tax bills will be mailed April 1st
2024, and cover the calendar year 1-1-2024 through 12-31-2024.
Lehigh County Government Center, Room 119, 17 South Seventh
St., Allentown PA 18101-2400.

<https://www.lehighcounty.org/Departments/Fiscal-Tax-Claims>

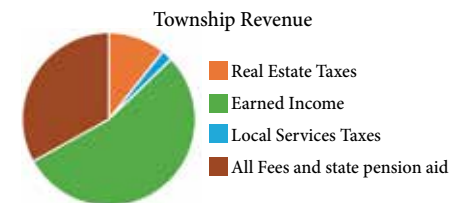
TOWNSHIP REVENUE/EXPENSES AND FIRE COMPANY/EMS ALLOTMENT

* Township Budget for 2024 minus Land Development Engineering and DCNR Grant
line items.

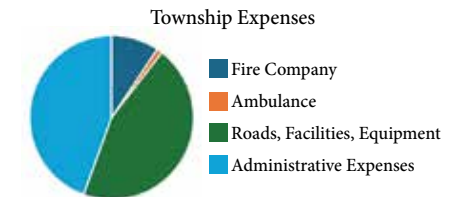
The only revenue source the Township **can adjust** is Real Estate Tax. Local Services
Tax, which can only be allocated to EMS Fire and Roads, is already at the max \$52.00
amount allowable by law. The Foreign Fire Allotment from the state must be turned over
to the Fire Companies. The 2024 average Real Estate Assessment per parcel in Upper
Milford Township is \$231,978.00 with the average Township Real Estate Tax per parcel at
\$104.39. Of the combined Real Estate Tax, LST and Foreign Fire Allotment at a total of
\$512,249.78, the amount of \$308,000.00 or 60% is already allocated to the Fire Companies.
\$38,000.00 or 7% of the funds are allocated to the Ambulance Corps. The total funds
allocated to EMS and Fire Services equals 67% of the controllable revenue. To the right is a
breakdown of how funds are dispersed to the Fire Company and Ambulance Corps.

Each year, the Township gives the Volunteer Fire Companies a donation for their
operating expenses, out of the Township budget. For the 2024 Budget year, the amount
donated is \$35,000 to each Fire Company. There also is a yearly donation given to both
Emmaus and Macungie Ambulance Corps in the amount of \$19,000 each, for serving the
Township. The Township also has been depositing \$88,000 per Volunteer Fire Company
into a Capital Reserve savings account, for the purpose of future equipment purchases.
Given cost increases and the lessened ability for fund-raising, the Fire Companies need
more support. They need volunteers and funds.

Join the discussion of how to best come together as a community to support the volunteers
who answer those emergency calls.



Real Estate Taxes	\$387,149.78
Local Services Taxes	\$75,100.00
Earned Income	\$1,955,000.00
All Fees and state pension aid	\$1,193,670.00
Foreign Fire Payment	\$50,000.00



Fire Company	\$308,000.00
Ambulance	\$38,000.00
Roads, Facilities, equipment	\$1,481,284.44
Administrative expenses	\$1,461,950.34

Permits Required

Upper Milford Township is a zoned community. The following
are required:

- **Bonfire Permit:** required at least 10 days in advance of the proposed bonfire.
- **Building and/or Zoning Permit:** required for new construction, additions, or alterations of existing structures; deck, patio, pool, spa or hot tub; electrical work or wiring; plumbing and HVAC work; and shed.
- **Driveway Permit:** required for a driveway or other means of ingress or egress onto a State/Township road.
- **Fence or Wall Permit:** required for the installation of any fence or wall over two feet high.
- **Grading Permit:** required if not in conjunction with another permit.
- **Moving Permit:** required when moving into, out of or within Upper Milford Township. (NO FEE)

- **Occupancy Permit:** required prior to occupying a newly constructed building.
- **Park Permit:** required in order to reserve a pavilion in a township park.
- **Peddler's Permit:** must be obtained before engaging in solicitation or peddling in Upper Milford Township.
- **Sewage Permit:** required for a new septic system and repair or enlargement of an existing system.
- **Tree cutting and Logging Permit:** required if more than 10 trees/year or more than 30 percent of total number of trees on lot are taken down. Call the Township office for specific information.
- **Use or Change of Use:** required for any activity, occupation, business, or operation carried on or intended to be carried on in a structure or lot.

Other permits may be required for certain activities.

YOUR VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT NEEDS YOUR HELP!

As we celebrate over eight decades of dedicated volunteer service by the Upper Milford Western District Fire Company in Zionsville, we are profoundly grateful for the support and trust shown to us by our neighbors. Since 1942, our organization has been a testament to the enduring power of community spirit and volunteerism. No matter the need, our volunteers are always ready to respond, day or night, in any weather, ensuring the safety of our homes, businesses, and loved ones **without any financial compensation in return.**

Volunteering with the fire department offers a unique opportunity to make a real difference in our community. Whether serving actively as a firefighter, fire police member, or by donating your professional talents in administration, grant writing, finance, or other areas, your contribution is invaluable to our mission. If you're seeking a way to give back to the community, visit our website to discover how you can be part of something extraordinary! Your participation is appreciated more than we could possibly express.

The financial aspect of running a volunteer fire department is often a challenge that we have not effectively communicated to our community. As fellow residents of Upper Milford Township, we are all aware of our individual contributions to property taxes. It's a common misconception that the fire department receives a substantial portion of these funds. However, the truth is that only 1.29% of property taxes go toward volunteer fire services, equating to only about \$75 per home, per year.

While we are incredibly grateful for the annual contributions from the township, state or federal grants, and donations from the 27% of households who participate in our annual support drives, the reality is that these funds alone are insufficient to meet the long-term needs of our department. Our tanker truck, (used for water supply due to lack of hydrants in the township), is nearly 30 years old and in desperate need of replacement, with a cost of **nearly \$1.5 million.** Additionally, our facilities, older than many of our residents, were originally built for the much smaller trucks of the past. Significant renovations are required to accommodate the height and length of modern firefighting apparatus.

With the price of major firefighting equipment nearly doubling in the past five years, along with the costs for much-needed building renovations, the resulting funding shortfall for these essential investments presents a significant challenge. Our

dedicated volunteers, who selflessly give their time, expertise, and personal finances, find themselves increasingly devoting more time to fundraising than to their primary mission of fighting fires and responding to emergencies. This shift in focus detracts from their crucial role in safeguarding our community and places an undue burden on the volunteers.

The needs are significant, yet we are confident in the generosity and community spirit of our residents to continue the 82-year legacy of our volunteer services for many years to come. Each additional participating household helps to 'shoulder the load,' representing a remarkable investment in the immense value of safeguarding our loved ones, homes, and property. Your support empowers the selfless efforts of our volunteers, who are always at the ready to protect the community. Every donation, no matter the amount, combines to make a truly transformative difference.

We humbly ask you, our neighbors, for your support. Your monetary donations and participation in our community events provides numerous ways to help equip our firefighters to keep the community safe. These events include sportsman raffles, chicken BBQs, the Firehouse Christmas tree sale, just to name a few. For information on upcoming events, please visit our website or follow us on Facebook.

We understand that financial donations aren't possible for everyone; your efforts in advocating for us and raising awareness are equally important. Sharing information with neighbors, friends, and family helps to build a network of support that is invaluable to our success.

On behalf of the entire Upper Milford Fire Department family, we extend our deepest thanks for your continued support. Together, we can ensure that all-volunteer fire services remain a robust and vital part of our community, safeguarding and enriching our lives for many years to come.

To learn more about our fire department, community events, or to contribute or discover volunteer opportunities, please visit our new website at www.uppermilfordfire.com or follow us on Facebook.

With heartfelt appreciation,

The Upper Milford Western District
Volunteer Fire Department Family



CONGRESSWOMAN SUSAN WILD



Hi all, Congresswoman Susan Wild here! I wanted to remind you that my offices are here to help. Whether you need assistance with a federal agency or have questions or comments about legislation being considered in Congress, please do not hesitate to reach out.

My district offices in Lehigh, Northampton, and Carbon Counties can help with Social Security and Medicare, Veterans Affairs, the IRS, military academy nominations, and other federal issues.

<http://wild.house.gov>

Carbon County Office
1001 Mahoning St.
Lehigh, PA 18235
570-807-0333

Northampton County Office
1 South 3rd St.
Suite 902
Easton, PA 18042
610-333-1170

Lehigh County Office
504 Hamilton St.
Suite 3804
Allentown, PA 18101
484-781-6000

How is Fire Service Currently Provided in Upper Milford Township...

HOW MANY FIRE COMPANIES SERVICE UMT?

Since the 1940's there have been two fire companies that work together to service the township. One is located along Hwy 100 and is called Upper Milford Western District (or Zionsville, or #19). The other is located in Vera Cruz and is named "The Citizen Fire Company of Upper Milford" or #28. The numbers are their identification with the county. The township is divided into two districts, and each fire company covers one territory. However, if a fire is big, or not enough fire fighters from the first company can respond, then surrounding companies are called in to assist.

HOW MANY FIRE TRUCKS DOES EACH COMPANY HAVE?

Each fire company has a command vehicle with special radios. The largest fire engine we have, and is what most people see responding to a call, is simply called an "Engine." Tanker trucks are needed to transport water to locations where fire hydrants are not nearby. Neither company owns a ladder truck – the largest and most expensive type of truck. But they are rarely needed and can be called in from a neighboring borough.

WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST FIRE YOU'VE HAD TO HANDLE IN RECENT HISTORY?

In 2018 the Dan Schantz Greenhouse had a major fire which spread to several buildings. Both of our fire companies and several surrounding companies were called in to assist on that fire.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO REPLACE A FIRE ENGINE?

In 2014 a Pumper Truck was purchased and it cost \$450,000. Replacement tanker trucks today cost between 1 million and 1.6 million dollars with ladder trucks costing even more.

WHO PAYS FOR THE REPLACEMENT TRUCKS?

Each fire company has to find ways to help put money aside for major purchases in the future. The township puts money into a capital reserve account for each Fire Company to help with future large purchases. With current inflation, that still leaves a gap between the purchase price and the savings amount. Those costs are usually taken in the form of a 2% loan through the state to the Fire Company.

HOW MUCH MONEY DO FIRE FIGHTERS MAKE?

Well, you may be surprised to know that all of our fire fighters in UMT are VOLUNTEERS and no one earns money doing it. Each fire fighter has a full time job to pay their mortgage and bills and gives of their time to respond to emergency calls, do training, etc. Some of the cities and boroughs around us have paid staff, but the payroll for that becomes very expensive as you can imagine. That is one reason our UMT taxes are about one-tenth of what surrounding communities pay.

HOW OLD DOES SOMEONE NEED TO BE TO WORK AT THE FIRE DEPARTMENT?

Teens as young as 14 can volunteer to do some tasks around the fire house, but cannot go out on calls. At 16 a young person can begin to assist on emergency calls. Most members officially join at 18 and many stay on long past retirement age. Both companies need new volunteers.

WHY WOULD SOMEONE VOLUNTEER TO WORK AS A FIRE FIGHTER IF THEY'RE NOT GETTING PAID TO DO IT?

Fire fighters have a passion to help their fellow citizens by protecting their lives, homes and properties. They get fulfillment out of a job well done, knowing that not everyone can do what they do. They enjoy the camaraderie of their fellow fire fighters as they get to know each other by working together.

HOW DOES ONE GET STARTED AS A VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTER?

Most come because they know someone who is already in the company who invited them, but it's not an exclusive club. Volunteers are always welcome! It starts with filling out an application, and getting background checks done. There is on-going training required, and on-the-job experience, and weekly practices.

HOW MANY FIRE FIGHTERS VOLUNTEER AT EACH STATION?

Each company has about 25 members. When an emergency call comes through to their pages, typically 5-10 can respond quickly and get on a truck within a few minutes. About 10-15 minutes after the call, the crew arrives on the scene of the emergency.

UPPER MILFORD WESTERN DISTRICT FIRE COMPANY

Are you looking for an easy dinner for Saturday June 22nd, 2024? Buy tickets ahead of time for the Kaufman's Chicken BBQ! Pick up dinner and support our Fire Company.

Chicken BBQ Fundraiser Sat, June 22 Diners include 1/2 chicken, baked potato, apple sauce, and a dinner roll. Tickets can be purchased on our website, Facebook page, or from a member.

Also, join us for breakfast the first Sunday of each month. Information is on our website: www.uppermilfordfire.com



THE CITIZENS FIRE COMPANY

4093 Main Road West, Emmaus, Pa. 18049 • (610) 965-9444

Vera Cruz Fire Department would like to introduce their 2024 officers: Chief Kris Bawden, Assistant Chief Lucas Andrews, Deputy Chief Kyle Reiss, and Fire Police Captain Terry Schmeltzle!

Our all-volunteer department ran 216 calls during 2023.

Are YOU Interested in Volunteering? Our department meetings are the first Monday of the month at 7:00pm. If you are interested in joining our department (either as an active member responding to emergency calls or a social member helping with fundraisers or general upkeep of the department) feel free to call the station 610-965-9444 and leave a message or see any member for more information. Volunteers are always needed and appreciated!

Our fire team meets every Tuesday at 7:00pm to practice skills and continue education. You are welcome to stop in on practice night to see what we do and how to learn more about how to become a volunteer.

Vera Cruz Fire Department hosts and participates in various fundraisers. Currently, we host quarterly \$5 drawings, participate in Matey's Pizza Sales and H&K Hoagies Fundraisers throughout different times of the year. We participate in several parades and trunk or treats, Vera Cruz Easter Egg Hunt and Homecoming, Fire police for Macungie Park, and Fire Prevention.

The Annual Open House is scheduled for 10/5/24 and Hometown

Christmas on 11/23/24.

Our goals for the next few years include replacing apparatus and equipment. The truck committee is working on specifications to build a new Pumper Tanker to replace their current tanker that is over 30 years old.

Our social hall is available for rent! For details on pricing and availability please contact the station 610-965-9444 and leave a voicemail or message us on Facebook!

Reflective Address signs are available for purchase. Address signs help responders quickly and accurately find your residence in emergencies.

Whether you would like to jump in and join to help with fundraising or like our Facebook page to help spread the word by sharing our post to help broaden our reach. Keep an eye out for our annual mailers! Your support and contributions to our donation mailer has a significant impact on our department!

We respectfully thank the residents of the Upper Milford Eastern District for their continued support! Like and follow us on Facebook! Vera Cruz Fire Department (@vcfd28) Check our Facebook page for frequent updates about our department, events, and our fundraising!



Macungie Ambulance Corps – Quick Facts

The Macungie Ambulance Corps...

- Has been serving our community since 1955
- Provides Emergency Medical Services for over 40,000 residents in Alburtis and Macungie Boroughs; as well as the Townships of Lower Macungie, Lower Milford, and Upper Milford
- Responds to over 5,000 calls for assistance annually
- Provides "stand-by" services for dozens of community events each year
- Annual operating budget of over 2 million dollars; much of which is funded by community donations!
- Equipment
 - 5 Ambulances
 - 1 Supervisor's / Community Outreach Vehicle
 - 1 Special Operations Vehicle
 - 1 ATV, 2 Bicycles, 2 Support Trailers
- Supports Public Access Defibrillation Programs for over 20 organizations quarterly. This helps to ensure that over 50

Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) in the community are always ready in an emergency

- Annually provides First-Aid and CPR training for nearly 1,000 emergency responders and community members
- Responds to over 30 large scale incidents throughout the region each year providing emergency responder rehabilitation as part of their special operations program

The vision of the Macungie Ambulance Corps is "To provide the highest quality community based care." Through the continuing efforts of their dedicated members, and with the support of our community, the Macungie Ambulance Corps will continue to serve our community for decades to come. Feel free to contact them at (610) 966-2601 with any questions, comments, or ideas and see how we can all work together to make a safer and healthier community!

www.macamb.org



PLANNING ON DIGGING?

Call Pennsylvania One Call System, Inc. (POCS) three business days before you dig at 800-242-1776 or 8-1-1.

PA Act 287 as amended requires excavators as well as private landowners to call POCS three days prior to any type of digging occurring with powered equipment.

Mark your excavation area in white paint before calling with a dig notification.

By calling you allow the facility owners the opportunity to locate and mark their underground facility in advance of the planned excavation (gas and liquid pipelines will mark underground facilities using yellow stakes, flags or paint.)



Know what's below.
811 before you dig.

EMMAUS PUBLIC LIBRARY

MONTHLY ADULT EVENTS:

Daytime Book Group** - 1st Tuesday of the month at 2:00 p.m.
Ask at the front desk about copies of the book!

March 5th - The Paris Library by Janet Skeslien Charles

April 2nd - Caleb's Crossing by Geraldine Brooks

May 7th - Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil by John Berendt

June 4th - Lady Tan's Circle of Women by Lisa See

Evening Book Group** - 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:45 p.m. Ask at the front desk about copies of the book!

March 12th - Code of the Woosters by P. G. Wodehouse

April 9th - Squeeze Me by Carl Hiaasen

May 14th - You'll Never Believe What Happened to Lacey: Crazy Stories about Racism by Amber Ruffin.

Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group** - 2nd Tuesday of every month at 10:30 a.m. Join us in person at the library to learn more about caring for someone living with Alzheimer's.

Creative Writing - 3rd Tuesday of the month at 2:00 p.m. Join us in person for a creative writing group hosted by Pat Johnson, an accomplished and long-time creative writer. The group is open to all who are interested in writing creatively for fun and/or publications. Call or RSVP at the desk!

Crochet Group - Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. Drop in for our weekly crocheting club! All skill levels are encouraged to join in. Bring in your current crochet project or get started with advice from more experienced crocheters.

Find Your Ancestors** - 3rd Wednesday of the month at 5:00 p.m. Sign up in advance for a 30-minute appointment with Chris to get in-person assistance uncovering your family tree and insight using Ancestry.com.

Memoir Writing Group** - 4th Tuesday of the month at 1 p.m. Join renowned author Jerry Waxler and others on a ZOOM video conference to write about your life.

Pinterest Party - 1st Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m. This event is first come, first served with all supplies for the first 30 people provided.

Notary Public Service** - Thursdays from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. The library is offering notary services free of charge via appointment for residents of Emmaus Borough, Macungie Borough, or Upper Milford Township. Please call the library to make an appointment and to indicate the type of notarization requested.

Representative Susan Wild's Mobile Office - 2nd Thursday of the month from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Drop in to meet with a representative from Susan Wild's office for in-person constituent services.

EPL Board Meeting - Open to the public, the Emmaus Public Library Board Meeting is held monthly on the third Tuesday at 4:00 p.m.

SPECIAL ADULT EVENTS

Financial Literacy** - Thursday, March 14th at 10:30 a.m. Join a representative from Fulton Bank in Emmaus to learn more about budgeting, investing, borrowing, taxation, and personal financial management.

Show and Tell for Adults - Monday, March 18th at 6:00 p.m. Show & tell isn't just for preschool! Share those small objects with big meaning, whether it's a collectible figurine, hobby item, souvenirs from a trip, or a favorite book. If there's an item that's too big to bring, then bring a photograph. Light refreshments will be available.

MONTHLY FAMILY, KIDS & TEEN EVENTS

Storytime For All Ages - Weekly on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m., March through May. Join Miss Sue for this all-ages spring storytime series in the Margaret Knoll Gardner Lecture Room. We'll have seasonal tales, songs, crafts, and fun!

Books 'n' Barks - 4th Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. The Lehigh Valley Therapy Dogs will be at the Emmaus Public Library to listen to kids reading! Bring your own book, or choose from the selection at the library!

Teen Writers Group** - 2nd Thursday of the month at 6:00 p.m. Join Miss Sue to write from new prompts and talk about the process of writing-reading aloud not required!

Facebook Writing Prompts - 1st Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. Join us on Facebook for a new prompt every 15 minutes. Write about each one or save them for later!

SPECIAL YOUTH EVENTS

Teen Pen & Ink Workshop** - Thursday, April 18th at 6:00 p.m. Join renowned artist Margie Kavchok and learn to use pen and ink to create your own artistic vision. For 6th grade and up.

Parent & Child Workshop** - A weekly workshop series for families with toddlers; siblings 5 and younger are also welcome to attend! Beginning Tuesday March 5th and running for 5 weeks, each session will feature a new facet of learning with a community partner. Limited to 15 families. Sign up in advance for one, some, or all sessions!

****Please send Adult Event RSVPs to Lauri by email to eplcollection@cliu.org or call 610-965-9284 x210 and send Kids & Teens Event RSVPs to Miss Sue by email to eplkids@cliu.org.**





TOWNSHIP DIRECTORY

UPPER MILFORD TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL CENTER

5671 Chestnut Street • P.O. Box 210 • Old Zionsville, PA 18068

Phone: 610-966-3223

Email: info@uppermilford.net • Web: <http://www.uppermilford.net>

Office Hours: Monday through Friday from 8:00 A.M. until 4:00 P.M.

The office is closed on Saturday and Sunday



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Deborah Seibert Schevets • 610-928-1030
Email • taxinfo@uppermilford.net

MORE INFORMATION AT WWW.UPPERMILFORD.NET

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This publication is made available throughout the generous advertising sponsorship of the businesses listed throughout our newsletter. We wish to encourage your patronage of these establishments; they play a substantial role in the economic vitality of our community.

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Sunday Morning.....10:15 AM
Sunday Evening.....6:00 PM
Wednesday.....7:00 PM