



UNION TOWNSHIP

Spring/Summer Newsletter - 2022

Welcome, New Employees!

There are some new faces around the Township! The Township has been working hard to address understaffing issues within the confines of the budget. In January, the Township hired Frank Sever on the Road Crew and as of May, Terri Gladus will be the Township Project Manager full time! Frank says he loves seeing citizens wave and say hi when he is working throughout the Township, but his favorite part of his new job is the consistent schedule the Road Crew offers so he can spend more time with his young family. If you see Frank or Terri around, make sure you welcome them as new members of your community!

Additionally, Union Township is excited to continue its Summer Internship Program by welcoming Colin Chung to help with storm water permitting and GIS mapping of the Township. He will be at the Township for 300 hours, beginning in June!

Citizens may notice a new four-legged addition to the community as well! Monongahela Police Department recently welcomed Officer Mitch to the department. He will be around our Township helping Officer Toth!



PUBLIC MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

- Parks and Recreation: 5:30 PM
1st Wednesday
- Planning Department: 5:00 PM
2nd Wednesday
- Board of Supervisors: 5:30 PM
2nd and 4th Wednesdays

Check out the UT events page at:
<https://uniontp.com/meetings-events/>
for more events happening in our community.

Have a community event you'd like us to add to our board? Email time, date and a flyer if available to: tgladus@uniontp.com!



Parks and Rec Presents: YOGA IN THE PARK!

JULY 10, 2022: SIGN UP AT:
[TINYURL.COM/UNIONTPYOGA2022](https://tinyurl.com/uniontpyoga2022)



Join the Parks and Recreation Board for their Yoga in the Park Event on July 10th 2022 in Elrama Park! Refreshments and breakfast will be provided at the end of class, but please bring your own yoga mat or towel!

Summer Parks Update!

We are all thankful for this warm weather and for the beautiful improvements to our Township Parks! Elrama Central Park will be ready for use and rentals in July 2022. Veterans Memorial Park is available to rent, but the new baseball field is not available for use for several more months until the grass can establish. To rent these parks for events, call or visit the Township building and bring a check or money order for the fees and security deposits.



Park Rental Fees:

Veterans Park:

Resident: \$100.00 + \$150.00 deposit

Elrama Park:

Resident: FREE + \$150.00 deposit

Both Parks Non-Resident: \$200.00 + \$200.00 deposit

*Veteran Status: \$25 discount

**Please note: It is recommended that all renters photograph the park before and after use to ensure ease of your security deposit refund.



Parks and Recreation

Union Township's Parks and Recreation Board has been hard at work putting together fun events for the community! Over the winter, they hosted a wildly successful Santa Breakfast in conjunction with Elrama VFC.



In April, they gathered volunteers to clean up Veterans Memorial Park in honor of Earth Day! Keep an eye out on the Township Facebook and Website for more events, such as Yoga in the Park coming in July!

2021 Waterway Maintenance Ordinance

In July 2021, the township passed the Union Township "Environmental Performance Standards Amendment Ordinance of 2021" focused on regulating the maintenance of waterways and other bodies of water for the public good. The ordinance stipulates that property owners are responsible for the maintenance of the natural waterways and bodies of water that run through or exist within their private property.

"Any stopping up, filling up, confining, paving, filling next to, changing of embankments, or any other interference with or change of the course of any natural waterways and water bodies must be done in accordance with the regulations of the Union Township Code of Ordinance, the requirements of the rules and regulations of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (25. Pa. Code Chapter 105) and any applicable federal statute or regulation." (§280-104.A(b))

Maintaining waterways is an important part in managing storm water flow; mismanagement of waterways can lead to excessive flooding and erosion as the flow of water diverges from previously stable patterns of flow.



Gray Dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*)
Image Credit: Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania



Red Elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa*)
Image Credit: Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania



Chokecherry/Chokeberry (*Prunus virginiana*)
Image Credit: Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania

If natural waterways on your property have begun showing signs of erosion, one mitigation technique is to plant trees or other cover crops with deep and/or fibrous root systems that are good at holding back soil at or around the affected locations. The foliage cover will help dampen the impact of rainwater as it lands on the soil while the roots help the soil clump together to prevent being knocked loose and washed away.

An example of some plants that may both help prevent erosion while also being a welcome sight for your garden include:

- Common Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*)
 - Part Sun - Native to Western PA
- Red Elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa*)
 - Part Sun - Native to PA
- Gray Dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*)
 - Sun to Bright Shade - Native to Western PA
- Redosier Dogwood (*Cornus sericea*)
 - Part Shade - Native to PA
- Meadowsweet (*Spiraea alba*)
 - Part Sun - Native to Western PA

If trees are more to your liking, a couple of species of trees that have been proven to assist in preventing erosion include:

- Hazel Alder (*Alnus serrulata*)
 - Sun to Bright Shade - Native to PA
- Black Willow (*Salix nigra*)
 - Sun to Part Shade - Native to PA
- Chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*)
 - Sun to Part Shade - Native to Western PA

Elrama VFC's New Fire Truck!



We have some exciting news out of Elrama Volunteer Fire Company! The VFC recently purchased a brand new truck: Attack 24! This new truck is a 2022 Dodge Ram 550, which boasts a 400 gallon water tank and can pump 1,500 gallons per minute. The truck is set up for all firefighting and rescue capabilities and it replaces two older trucks, one fire truck and one utility truck, that the VFC previously maintained!



Road Projects!

With the addition of a new road crew member, the Road Crew has been hard at work on projects around the Township. After snow plowing season (finally) came to a close, they got to work on some road projects. So far this year they have fixed a slide on Lobbs Run Road and solved some drainage issues on Davidson Avenue in Elrama by replacing damaged storm water pipes. Also in Elrama, they have been performing manhole inspections to ensure the system is running efficiently. Road Crew also assisted in coordinating the repair of a slide on Pumpkin Center in the gas line right of way. Road crew has also been busy using the Township sewer jetter to unplug storm sewer pipes in the township.

Patterson Road Update



Good news! Patterson Road is once again open to full capacity thanks to the diligent work of the engineers, contractors, and our road crew! On May 8th, a slide occurred on the roadway leading to the closure of one lane. After two special and emergency meetings, the board of supervisors was able to declare a state of emergency for the road to fast-track the repair process. On June 8th, the slide repair portion of the project has been completed. While there still remains some work to be done, namely sealing the cracks, both lanes of the road are now open for through traffic.

Reopening Coal Bluff Road

After devastating damage from Hurricane Ida, Coal Bluff Road had to be closed to through traffic due to serious safety concerns. The Township has been working hard to complete all permitting and has bid documents for the project prepared. Coal Bluff Road is projected to be open for through traffic once again later this fall!



Pulse Point Update

Our Fall 2021 newsletter dropped some exciting news about a new life-saving application possibly coming to Union Township. After meeting with the County Commissioners and County 911, medical student and Township resident, Tanner Smida, along with Township staff, have passed the project to the County. Mr. Smida has secured letters of support from County 911 for the project and we are looking forward to implementation later this year!



New Businesses Coming Soon...

The Township is excited to welcome two new businesses to the community. Pittsburgh Powder Coat and Tractor Supply are both working their way through the permitting processes and we hope to see them both break ground soon.

Pittsburgh Powder Coat is a family owned and operated businesses that is relocating from Bridgeville to Union Township, where their adventure all began! Their new location will feature a 10,000 sq ft facility with plenty of room for expansion in coming years. The company has dedicated staff, a 24' oven, and endless color options that can handle most large industrial or small home projects that come their way!

Tractor Supply is also working through the permitting process for a new store located on Route 88 between Hidden Hollow Road and Curdie Lane. The Township is excited to welcome this retailer to the area and hope residents are looking forward to having our very own Tractor Supply!



Four Township Vacancies



Now is your chance to get involved!

Union Township is currently looking to fill three vacancies on the following boards:

- Board of Supervisors
- Board of Auditors
- Parks and Recreation Board
- Planning Department Alternate

All three positions are appointed positions. Those with interest should mail or email a letter of interest to the Township Offices. For more information about these positions and the boards, please visit the Boards and Professionals page on www.uniontwp.com (www.uniontwp.com/board-of-supervisors/)

*Note: letters of interest for the Board of Supervisor position must be received by July 8th, 2022 at noon.