

Welcome to Upper Milford Township

# Upper Milford Township

A Great Place to Live, Work and Play!



Spring 2025

## UPPER MILFORD TOWNSHIP INTRODUCES A FIRE TAX FOR 2025

Upper Milford Township residents will see a new line item on their property tax bill in 2025, a Fire Tax. All members of our community rely on the Township for critical services, and among the most vital is the protection of life and property from fires, as well as assistance during motor vehicle accidents, health emergencies, and other disasters. Upper Milford Township is required by law to provide reliable fire protection services to the community.

All members of our community rely on the Township for critical services, and among the most vital is the protection of life and property from fires, as well as assistance during motor vehicle accidents, health emergencies, and other disasters. A fire company's budget consists of funds to cover general operating expenses and major capital expenditures – principally fire trucks. Firefighting vehicles are among the most expensive pieces of equipment serving our community. Funds collected through the Fire Tax will be strictly reserved for fire protection services and may not be redirected by our Supervisors for any other purpose.

Why Do We Need a Fire Tax - For over 80 years, two volunteer fire associations have served Upper Milford Township: Citizen's Fire Company of Vera Cruz and Upper Milford Western District Fire Company of Zionsville. These organizations are staffed entirely by dedicated volunteers who receive no compensation for the countless hours they spend responding to emergencies, training, maintaining equipment, and pursuing certifications to enhance their skills and expertise. Their unwavering commitment ensures the safety and well-being of every resident in our community.

Since their founding in 1942, the volunteer fire companies have relied on a combination of fundraising events, state and federal grants, and contributions from the Township to sustain their operations. In addition, support comes from residents in the form

of voluntary subscriptions. While the percentage of residents who contribute has steadily increased, only 1/3 of households currently support the fire departments through voluntary donations. As the fire companies are committed to the provision of emergency services to all residents, the current system is neither fair nor equitable to those who shoulder the financial responsibility; nor is it sustainable in the long term.

In 1990 the Township Supervisors created capital savings accounts for each fire company. The amount dedicated to these accounts has increased over time. In 2018 that amount was increased with the development of a 5-year outlook for capital needs from the Fire Service. This proactive measure was intended to minimize the need for expensive loans to finance critical equipment. However, inflation has outpaced the funds set aside, creating a shortfall that requires additional financial support. Without a municipal water system throughout the Township, we need fire trucks capable of carrying on-board water to areas without fire hydrants. The cost of these more complex units, called pumper tankers, has nearly doubled over the past few years. For example, a truck that cost \$785,000 in 2018 is now quoted at over \$1.45 million. The Township anticipates needing to replace three similar aging vehicles over the next decade.

Upper Milford is not alone in facing this challenge. Currently, 50 municipalities in Lehigh and Berks counties have implemented a Fire Tax to fund fire protection services, with most of these communities relying entirely on volunteer fire companies. On average, the millage rate, the basis for property tax assessments, stands at 0.72 mills among these municipalities. Starting in 2025, Upper Milford will adopt a similar approach, with a millage rate of about .54 mills.

*Continued on page 4*

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

Yard Waste Collection Program .....	3	From Your Real Estate Tax Collector .....	8-9	Planning On Digging? .....	11
Unlawful To Burn Or Landfill Yard Waste ..	3	Tree & Shrub Pruning Within The Township .....	9	Emmaus Senior Golf League .....	11
Upper Milford Township Introduces		Senator Jarrett Coleman.....	9	Upper Milford Township Recreation	
A Fire Tax for 2025.....	cover,4	Greetings From State Rep. Milou Mackenzie	10	Committee Survey .....	11
Pennsylvania Invasive Plants .....	4	The Citizens Fire Company .....	10	Jasper Day.....	12
Hivel Und Dahl Preservation Society .....	6	Macungie Ambulance Corps .....	10	Please Don't Blow Grass In The Street! ....	13
Upper Milford Historical Society .....	7	Permits Required.....	11	Township Directory .....	14



**Landscape & Construction Supply Yard**

**484-408-5505**

A Division of Zgura's Concrete Services

**BULK MULCH (BLACK, BROWN, TRIPLE GROUND)  
MUSHROOM SOIL / STONE (1B, 2A, 2B, SCREENINGS)  
DECORATIVE STONE / SCREENED TOP SOIL  
5102 BECK ROAD, EMMAUS**



**RL LANDSCAPE AND DESIGN, INC.**

PA Contractor# PA012834

[www.rllandscapeanddesign.com](http://www.rllandscapeanddesign.com)

**610-965-2054**

[rllandscapeanddesigninc@gmail.com](mailto:rllandscapeanddesigninc@gmail.com)

**Greg's Auto & Tire Service**

15 South 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Emmaus, PA 18049



**610-966-5995**  
fax 610-966-5550

[gregsauto12@yahoo.com](mailto:gregsauto12@yahoo.com)



**Ott**  
**CONSULTING INC.**

CIVIL ENGINEERS • SURVEYORS • LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS  
BANGOR, PA      EMMAUS, PA



**Voted "Best Real Estate Office"**

**in the Lehigh Valley**



[wesleyworksrealestate.com](http://wesleyworksrealestate.com) | 610.928.1000

\*The Morning Call Reader's Choice Award 2024



# 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 5th – 9th 2025 and again for November 10th – 14th 2025.

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, or e-mail [info@uppermilford.net](mailto: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](http://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.

*Continued from cover*

What are the Alternatives – While the volunteers anticipate being able to raise sufficient funds to cover operations, they cannot secure enough funding on their own to make the needed capital investment in facilities and vehicles. The Township will need to shoulder a significant share of the capital equipment purchase burden if we wish to retain an effective volunteer fire service.

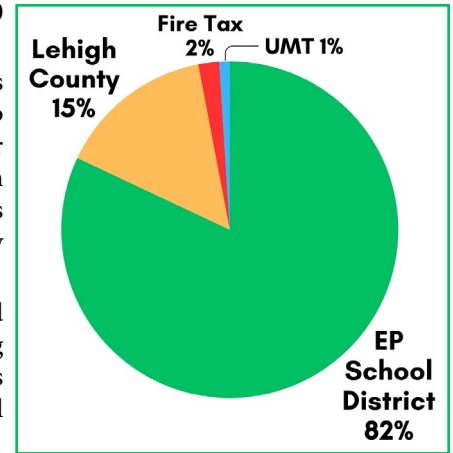
If the Township were to lose its volunteer fire service, replacing it with a paid fire department would require a substantial increase in property taxes. Nearby communities, such as the Borough of Emmaus, have experienced significant tax hikes after transitioning to paid fire services, with some residents seeing their taxes increase significantly. This alternative not only places a heavy financial burden on homeowners but also diminishes the strong sense of community and volunteerism that has been a hallmark of Upper Milford for over 80 years.

Similarly, if the companies were to disband, at the very least the Township would have to pay other communities to provide fire protection. A concurrent impact would likely be an increase in homeowner’s insurance rates given the increased distance firefighters would need to travel to respond to an emergency.

What will it Cost – Last year, a property assessed at \$200,000 in Upper Milford Township would have received a tax bill of \$90. Of that amount, and before a specific Fire Tax was implemented, \$62 was allocated by the Supervisors to support our volunteer Fire Services. In 2025, the projected residence tax for the same property would be \$150, with \$108 dedicated to the Fire Tax, an increase of \$46 to support fire protection services. The total cost of fire protection services will amount to less than \$0.30 per day for most residents.

Putting Things in Perspective – The Township collects revenue other than real estate taxes to support operations. While the Fire Tax will make up approximately 70% of the Township 2025 property tax assessment, funding for fire services will account for less than 10% of our community’s overall budget in 2025. Our local property tax will remain among the lowest in Lehigh County. In considering the overall property tax burden, the Fire Tax will represent less than 2% of the average resident’s assessment compared to about 15% collected by the County and 82% levied by the East Penn School District.

The Township remains committed to its responsibility as stewards of residents’ funds and will continue working with both volunteer fire companies to explore additional funding opportunities from regional, state, and federal sources, all with the goal of keeping taxes as low as possible. To ensure transparency and fiduciary responsibility, the fire companies will provide an annual, auditable accounting of all funds received from the Township.



## PENNSYLVANIA INVASIVE PLANTS

Plants that are considered invasive are not native to our area, spread quickly, and can cause economic or environmental harm or are harmful to human health. Identifying invasive plants and understanding the possible impact they may cause is important to protect native vegetation. These non-native species can be difficult to control and can take over entire habitats. The majority of invasive plants arrived from other continents either by accident or intentionally. Anyone who drives along Main Road East in Vera Cruz can see the dense stands of Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) along the banks of Leibert Creek. It is a semi-woody perennial with bamboo-like stems that can reach over 10 feet in height. This species can grow in a wide range of habitats including wetlands, along stream banks, ditches, roadsides, and along fence lines. It has been known to grow right through asphalt and masonry work. Japanese knotweed has no natural predators to keep it in check. It limits biodiversity by altering the natural ecosystem and as a result, is harmful to native wildlife habitats. This plant was brought to the United States in the late 1800s as an ornamental and for erosion control. It escaped from cultivation and spread throughout North America. It is thought to be found on every continent besides Antarctica and is considered one of the

most invasive plants in the world. Removal of Japanese knotweed is expensive and time consuming.

What can a homeowner do to protect their property? The most important first step is to learn how to identify invasive plant species. Choose the right plants for your land: shade or sun, wet or dry, acid or neutral soil. Not buying the pretty burning bush (*Euonymus alatus*) or the ground cover *Pachysandra* (*Pachysandra terminalis*) and planting vegetation native to Pennsylvania and the mid-Atlantic region will help your property overall. Walk your property at least annually to assess if there are invasives present. There is a wealth of information found online as well as locally at the nurseries in the Lehigh Valley. Penn State Master Gardeners are another source of good information for native species that will thrive in our area.

It is estimated that the United States spends \$138 billion per year in total economic damages and associated control costs for the control of invasive species according to the United States Forest Service. The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), has information on their website that provides additional details on invasive plants in Pennsylvania. Educate yourself and improve your property values at the same time.

# Pediatric Care in Your Neighborhood



Monica Lancellotti, MD  
General pediatrics



Jessica DeNigris, CRNP  
General pediatrics

**NOW ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS**

**Kids are not little adults.** They're built differently, which is why they require specialized care that's built just for them. Now you can find the comprehensive care your child needs to stay healthy and grow up strong, close to home.

**LVPG Pediatrics—Macungie**  
3371 State Route 100, Macungie

**888-402-LVHN**  
[LVHN.org/MacungiePeds](http://LVHN.org/MacungiePeds)

 **Lehigh Valley  
Reilly Children's Hospital**

part of  **Jefferson Health**



## 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](http://www.hivelunddahl.org)

### News from Hivel Und Dahl

We have started a new Facebook page, Schubert-Graber Log Cabin, with news about what is happening at the cabin. We have also started a GoFundMe page. Information on how to reach this page is posted later in this article.

The Board has welcomed a new member, John Qualley, who has a great interest in history. He has started a new fundraising effort for our society. As part of our fundraising campaign, we are giving back to our donators. With each \$50 donation or more we will say “thank you” by cleaning a revolutionary war headstone for America’s 250th, or your family headstone(s), if you wish. In just a short time we have raised over \$1400, and we have cleaned 35 Revolutionary War stones & 10 family stones located at Salem UMC, Zion’s Evangelical Lutheran Church, Zion Lehigh Lutheran Church, and Old Zionsville UCC. We have received permission to clean 60 more stones, and your continued support will enable us to continue to say “Thank You!”

You can donate through [www.gofundme.com](http://www.gofundme.com) searching “Support Schubert Graber Cabin”, or you can reach us to arrange a paper check at [john.a.qualley@gmail.com](mailto:john.a.qualley@gmail.com).

### 2025 PROGRAMS

#### MARCH 25 – AN EVENING WITH RUSS RENTLER

Russ Rentler discovered bluegrass in high school, which led to a life-long love of acoustic music. He became a doctor but continued his passion for acoustic music. Come and enjoy the music of a local gifted songwriter and musician.

#### JUNE 24- AMERICAN INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION IN THE LEHIGH VALLEY

A small slice of Eastern Pennsylvania became the cradle of industry that supplied many of the world’s core materials. The rise of the silk industry in Pennsylvania was a direct result of these materials.

#### SEPTEMBER 30 – THE FORTS OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

When the Pennsylvania Regiment was formed in 1756, one of the first things they did was build a series of forts along the Blue Mountains. This program highlights those forts, their purposes and their value.

#### NOVEMBER 25 – RALPH BERKY

Ralph Berky (1890-1977) was known in the Butter Valley area as “The Birdman.” He was an eccentric figure walking the valley in a long overcoat that had pockets filled with birdseed.

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. In addition to our quarterly meetings, we are planning to attend the Macungie Flea Market in May, Stahl’s Pottery Festival in June and October, and have the cabin open on a Saturday in September for the Passport to History Weekend. Check our Facebook pages for exact times and dates.

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_

# UPPER MILFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Mark Benjamin 610.780.3412, Vice President: Gary Heller 732.801.3620,  
Treasurer: Dennis Lagler, CPA, Secretary: Marlene Heller, Historian/Archivist: Neil Moser 484.719.6363  
Check Facebook or website for current information [www.uppermilford.org](http://www.uppermilford.org)

### 2025 PROGRAMS

#### MARCH 27

##### Scott Bieber – Local Mining

Early mining operations for the rich magnetic iron ore veins in the area of Vera Cruz

#### APRIL 24

##### Chris Hornaman – African Safari

Local wildlife photographer will take us on a tour of Africa through the animals he has observed in their natural habitats.

#### MAY 29

##### Dana Bala – Unraveling History: Textiles and Quilts in the 18th & 19th Centuries

Beginning with the late 1600s and early 1700s. Learn about quilting up to the Civil War, when quilting became a truly American tradition and format for expression. This presentation will be “hands on” as textiles will need to be touched to be appreciated.

#### JUNE 26

##### Ed Johnson – Fries Rebellion

The armed tax revolt among Pennsylvania Dutch farmers between 1798 and 1800.

#### JULY 31. 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 28

##### Candace Perry – History of the German Fraktur

Ms. Perry is the curator of the Schwenkfelder Library and Heritage Center in Pennsburg

#### SEPTEMBER 25

##### Mike Jesberger – Farewell: 'Tis the end

Final words of military leaders in history.

**Also: Nominations for Officers**

#### OCTOBER 30

Neil Moser – Kings Highway & The Great Philadelphia Road Mile markers and the significance they played in history.

**Also: Election of Officers**

**Unless otherwise noted, all programs begin at 7 p.m.**

The archive is open for browsing one hour before the program.

### Make checks payable to Upper Milford Historical Society

Mail to: Dennis Lagler 202 N. 7th Street Emmaus, PA 18049

The Upper Milford Historical Society is registered as a 501(c)3 organization.

If you would like to have your membership card mailed to you, please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope along with your dues.

Annual Membership Individual \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Family \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Lifetime: \$200

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

\$ Dues for # of members \$ Donation \_\_\_\_\_



## Thank You!

Thank You to the Businesses! 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.

# 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](mailto: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 17th and 24th • 10am to Noon

August 23rd and 30th • 10am to Noon

Other hours by appointment

## IMPORTANT PAYMENT DATES:

Upper Milford Township 2025 Real Estate Tax bills will be mailed April 1st 2025, and cover the calendar year 1-1-2025 through 12-31-2025.

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

East Penn School District 2025-2026 Real Estate Tax bills will be mailed July 1st, 2025, and cover the school fiscal year 7-1-2025 through 6-30-2026.

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

## 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.

## 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 1-1-2025

- Upper Milford Township 0.750 mills Broken down as .211 mills to General Fund and .539 mills dedicated to Fire Service for 2025
- East Penn School District 21.000 mills for 2024-25  
(2025-2026 millage determined mid-June 2025)
- Lehigh County 3.78000 mills

## 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

Questions, due dates, and assistance filing a rebate claim State Representative Office, 131st Legislative District RepMilouMackenziePA.com. Bethlehem Office: 1425 Mountain Dr N, Bethlehem, PA 18015 610-965-5830. Red Hill Office: 56 W Fourth St, Red Hill, PA 18076 Call for hours 215-679-3152

- **Pennsylvania Property Tax / Rent Rebate Program** (PA-1000) [myPATH.pa.gov](http://myPATH.pa.gov). Instruction booklet and tax forms 610-966-8300 [https://www.revenue.pa.gov/FormsandPublications/FormsforIndividuals/PTRR/Documents/2023\\_pa-1000\\_inst.pdf](https://www.revenue.pa.gov/FormsandPublications/FormsforIndividuals/PTRR/Documents/2023_pa-1000_inst.pdf). **New for 2024: Income limit for Homeowners and Renters raised to \$45,000 Maximum Standard rebate \$1,000**
- **East Penn School District Property Tax Rebate Application** (PTR-1000) Instructions, FAQs, and form <https://www.eastpennsd.org/businessoffice/property-tax-rebate-program/>

*continued on next page*



**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

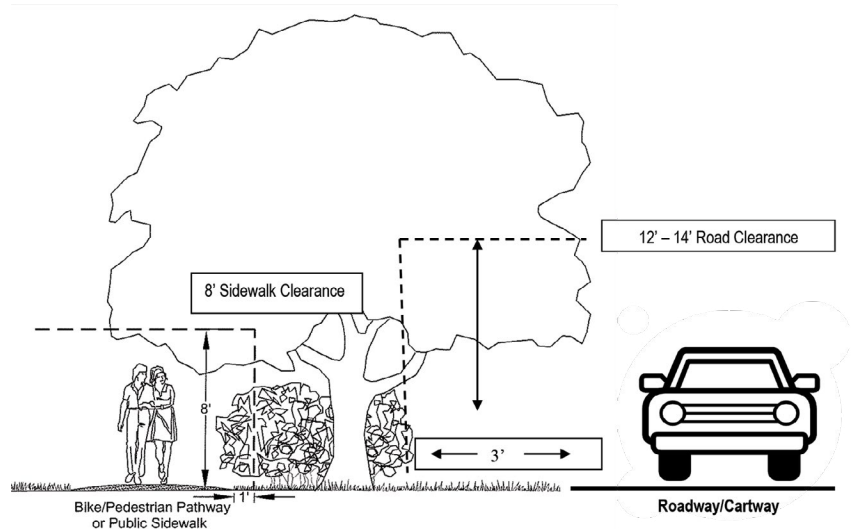
Lehigh County 2025 Real Estate Tax bills will be mailed April 1st  
2025, and cover the calendar year 1-1-2025 through 12-31-2025.  
Lehigh County Government Center, Room 119, 17 South Seventh  
St., Allentown PA 18101-2400.

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

## 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.



# FIND AN EVENT NEAR YOU

[www.senatorcoleman.com/events](http://www.senatorcoleman.com/events)

### Visit our offices 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.



Follow me on Facebook at [Facebook.com/SenatorJarrettColeman](https://www.facebook.com/SenatorJarrettColeman).

Sign up for weekly newsletters at [SenatorColeman.com/eNewsletters](https://www.SenatorColeman.com/eNewsletters).

LEHIGH COUNTY OFFICE | 7535 Windsor Dr., Suite 200B, Allentown • 484-861-4964

## GREETINGS FROM STATE REP. MILOU MACKENZIE

As state representative of the 131st Legislative District, I want to make sure everyone knows about the many services available at my district offices in Bethlehem and Red Hill. My team is available to help you navigate state government and connect you with the resources you need. We assist with PennDOT paperwork, such as driver's license and vehicle registration issues, and help seniors apply for PACE and PACENET programs to lower prescription costs. If you are eligible for the Property Tax and Rent Rebate program, we can guide you through the application process.

We also provide voter registration forms and absentee or mail-in ballot applications, offer state tax forms, and refer you to state agencies to address specific concerns. For those who have served in the Armed Forces, our offices assist with accessing veterans' benefits. Whatever the issue, my staff and I are available to help resolve state-related matters.

You may reach my Bethlehem office at 610-965-5830 or stop by to see us at 1425 Mountain Drive N., Bethlehem. You may reach my Red Hill office at 215-679-3152 or stop by to see us at 56 W. Fourth St., Red Hill. Please feel free to reach out to discuss your concerns.

I'd also like to inform you that the federal REAL ID Act will go into effect on May 7, 2025. At that time, federally accepted identification will be required to board domestic flights or enter secure federal buildings. Pennsylvanians can meet this requirement with a REAL ID driver's license or ID card, a U.S. passport or passport card, or a military ID. Obtaining a Pennsylvania REAL ID is optional, as PennDOT will continue to offer standard driver's licenses and photo IDs. To learn more about REAL ID or how to obtain one, visit [www.pennDOT.gov/REALID](http://www.pennDOT.gov/REALID).

-Rep. Milou Mackenzie



## THE CITIZENS FIRE COMPANY

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

Citizens Fire Company (Vera Cruz) is currently taking donations to purchase a new engine tanker to replace the aging truck currently in the fleet. The new truck will have a Commander Chassis and hold 2,500 gallons of water which is more than what the current truck holds. The current truck is quickly becoming too expensive to repair and is becoming more unreliable. Any donations would be greatly appreciated. Citizen's Fire Company is a 501C3 organization so your donations are tax deductible.

The Fire Company is also always seeking volunteers.

If you ever thought about making house calls, now is the time!

Tuesday nights are practice nights so stop in and see us.

**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...

Upper Milford Township

- Has been serving our community since 1955
- Provides Emergency Medical Services for over 40,000 residents in Alburdis 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](http://www.macamb.org)



## 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.

## 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 SENIOR GOLF LEAGUE



**Emmaus Senior Golf League League Play Tuesday Morning**

**Contact Information: [EmmausSeniorGolf@gmail.com](mailto:EmmausSeniorGolf@gmail.com)**

**Website: [www.EmmausSeniorGolfLeague.Com](http://www.EmmausSeniorGolfLeague.Com)**

**Facebook: Emmaus Senior Golf League**

Emmaus Senior Golf League is beginning its 40th Year in April 2025. We were formed to give the opportunity for golfers of all handicaps over 55 years old a place to enjoy a weekly golf outing with a friendly group of members from around the Lehigh Valley Area.

We currently play 20 regular week rounds rotating play on two courses, Butter Valley in Bally and Wedgewood in Coopersburg with a few popular "fun" rounds. Our tee times are between 7:30 and 8:00 AM. Groups are flighted according to their average scores and paired up with a team from different flights.

The annual dues are \$50 which includes a Spring Coffee & Donuts orientation meeting, a September Annual Awards Banquet with cash awards.

## UPPER MILFORD TOWNSHIP RECREATION COMMITTEE SURVEY

Please express your thoughts about the recreation opportunities within and surrounding Upper Milford Township in the survey below. Please use the link or the QR-Code to access the survey from the Recreation Committee.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/G37RKJN>



UPPER MILFORD TOWNSHIP

Upper Milford Township Recreation Commission and UMYA



**JASPER DAY**



**CELEBRATION**

*Tour de Vera Cruz 5K Trail Run and 1.5K Family Summer Stroll*

FAMILY-FRIENDLY  
GAMES,  
PLAYGROUND

JOIN US!

**JUNE 21, 2025**  
**10 AM - 1 PM**

RAIN DATE: JUNE 22, 2025

JASPER PARK, UPPER MILFORD TOWNSHIP

REGISTRATION FOR THE 5K AND 1.5K WILL BE  
AVAILABLE ON [RUNSIGNUP.COM](https://www.runsignup.com) SOON

Learn More at [www.uppermilford.net](http://www.uppermilford.net)

# Please Don't Blow Grass in the Street!

When mowing your lawn please refrain from blowing grass into the street. Please blow it back into your yard. If blown into the street, grass clippings will find their way to storm drains and may clog them during heavy rain events that would contribute to localized flooding. The grass clippings in the street are also a hazard to motorcycles and bicycle riders.



## WHAT IS GRASSCYCLING

Grasscycling is the simple practice of leaving grass clippings on the lawn when mowing. Once cut, grass clippings first dehydrate, then decompose, quickly disappearing from view.

### Grasscycling —

Encourages a healthier lawn by returning nutrients to the soil beneath the lawn.

Reduces work because you don't have to bag or rake and dispose of your clippings.

Saves you money because you don't have to pay for disposal of your clippings.

Benefits the environment by naturally recycling the clippings.

Simply put, grasscycling is good for your lawn and can help you reduce waste. Learn how easy it is for you to begin grasscycling.

### How To Begin

Proper mowing is required for successful grasscycling. Cut grass when the surface is dry, and keep mower blades sharp. Follow the "1/3 Rule": mow your lawn often enough so that no more than 1/3 of the length of the grass blade is cut in any one mowing. Frequent mowing will produce short clippings that will not cover up the grass surface. You may have to cut the lawn every 7 days when the lawn is growing fast but only every 7 to 14 days when the lawn is growing slowly.

You can grasscycle with most any mower (push, electric or gas). The mower collection bag should be removed to allow clippings to drop on the lawn. However, if your mower does not have a safety flap covering the opening where the bag fits into the chute, it is important that you purchase a retrofit kit from your local retailer.

Most lawnmower manufacturers have developed "mulching" mowers which cut grass blades into small pieces and force them into the soil. These types of mowers are effective in grasscycling and have become very popular. They are sold at many yard and garden equipment retailers, nurseries, and home supply stores.

### Common Grasscycling Questions

#### *Does grasscycling cause thatch?*

No! Research has shown that grass roots are the primary cause of thatch, not grass clippings. Thatch is composed primarily of roots, stems, rhizomes, and other plant materials. These plant materials contain large amounts of lignin (fibrous material) and decompose slowly. Grass clippings are approximately 80-85 percent water with only small amounts of lignin, and decompose rapidly.

#### *Does grasscycling spread lawn disease?*

No. Improper watering and fertilizing are the primary cause of disease spread. If an accommodating environment for turfgrass disease is present, infestation will occur whether clippings are collected or not. Will grasscycling make my lawn look bad?

No! If a lawn is properly mowed, watered, and fertilized, grasscycling can actually produce a healthier looking lawn. It is important to cut the lawn frequently to produce small clippings that will decompose quickly. If a lawn is not cut frequently and clippings are left on the lawn, it will produce a "hay-like" look which can be unsightly.

#### *Are there alternatives to grasscycling?*

Yes! Grasscycling does not work in every situation. Prolonged wet weather, mower breakdowns, or infrequent mowing are situations where grass clippings should probably be bagged since a large number of clippings may be generated. But don't throw the clippings away! Add clippings to your compost pile, or use them as mulch around trees, flowerbeds, and shrubs.

#### *Does grasscycling require special equipment?*

Refer to your owner's manual or contact a local lawnmower dealer to learn if you can safely grasscycle. You may need to purchase a retrofit kit, and your mower dealer can assist you with selecting the correct one. Mulching mowers make grasscycling easy by cutting grass blades into small pieces and forcing them into the soil. Electric mulching mowers can also help reduce air pollution.



# 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](mailto: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



### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Daniel Mohr • [info@uppermilford.net](mailto:info@uppermilford.net)  
John Zgura • [jzgura@uppermilford.net](mailto:jzgura@uppermilford.net)  
Angela Ashbrook • [Ashbrook@uppermilford.net](mailto:Ashbrook@uppermilford.net)

### TOWNSHIP MANAGER

Edward Carter • 610-966-3223

### TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR

Gross McGinley, LLP • 610-820-5450

### TOWNSHIP ENGINEER

Ott Consulting, Inc • 610-928-4690  
Fax • 610-928-4695

### TOWNSHIP ELECTED AUDITORS

Thomas Unruh  
Daniel DeLong  
Alicia DuPlooy

### TOWNSHIP AUDITOR

Campbell, Rappold & Yurasits CPA.  
Phone • 610-435-7489

### PLANNING COMMISSION

Matthew Hunter  
Anthony Koneski Jr.  
Philip Hartranft Jr.  
Ronald Guth  
Angelika Forndran  
Charles Peters Jr.  
Luke Lichtenwalner  
Ellen Larmer (Alternate)  
John Zgura (Alternate)

### ZONING OFFICER / BUILDING INSPECTOR

Alan Brokate • 610-966-3223  
Keycode • 610-866-9663

### ZONING HEARING SOLICITOR

Steckel & Stopp LLC – Stephen Strack  
Phone • 610-760-1644  
Fax • 610-767-5821

### ZONING HEARING BOARD

Aroua Pattishall  
Thomas Roland  
April Schiel  
Bennett Kohler  
Dannell MacIlwraith  
Frank Reith (Alternate)  
Shelly Zgura (Alternate)  
Vacancy (Alternate)

### RECREATION COMMITTEE

Andrew Dudle  
Olivia Fay  
Angie Ashbrook  
Lauren Haponski  
Vacancy  
James Hayes  
John Lebeduik

### ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (UMT MEMBERS)

Kyle Wagner  
Tassia Schreiner  
Lisa Haus  
Jon Levin

### OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

Vacancy  
Vacancy  
Philip Hartranft Jr.  
Scott Bieber  
Anne Meltzer  
Jessamy Killingsworth  
Houstin Lichtenwalner  
John Zgura  
Jon Levin

### SEWAGE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER/PLANNING COORDINATOR

Brian Miller • 610-966-3223

### TOWNSHIP/SCHOOL DISTRICT TAX COLLECTOR

Deborah Seibert Schevets • 610-928-1030  
Email • [taxinfo@uppermilford.net](mailto:taxinfo@uppermilford.net)

MORE INFORMATION AT [WWW.UPPERMILFORD.NET](http://WWW.UPPERMILFORD.NET)

Office Phone 610-966-3223

# **WHEN YOU'RE WASHING YOUR CAR IN THE DRIVEWAY, REMEMBER YOU'RE NOT JUST WASHING YOUR CAR IN THE DRIVEWAY.**



**All the soap, scum, and oily grit runs along the curb. Then into the storm drain and directly into our lakes, streams and into coastal waters. And that causes pollution which is unhealthy for fish. So how do you avoid this whole mess? Easy. Wash your car on grass or gravel instead of the street. Or better yet, take it to a car wash where the water gets treated and recycled.**

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) 772-5661 or visit [www.dep.state.pa.us](http://www.dep.state.pa.us). Thanks to the Washington State Water Consortium for permission to adapt and use this poster



**UPPER MILFORD TOWNSHIP**  
**MUNICIPAL CENTER**  
 5671 Chestnut Street, PO Box 210  
 Old Zionsville, PA 18068  
 Phone: (610) 966-3223

PRESORTED  
 STANDARD  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
 HARRISBURG, PA  
 PERMIT NO. 609



Spring 2025

**hometownpress**

This Community Newsletter is produced for  
 Upper Milford Township by **Hometown Press**  
 (215) 257-1500 • All rights reserved®



To Place An Ad Call Brittany Cook At Hometown Press • 267-625-1368 • Brittany.cbn@gmail.com



## We're Peep Protectors

**Hosfeld Insurance • InsuranceChix.com**

Call Donna or Lola for an insurance quote today!

# 610-530-0304

**AUTO - HOME - BUSINESS - LIFE**

**339 Franklin St., Alburtis, PA 18011**




Real People, Real Lives, Changed by **God**.



# LEHIGH VALLEY

## Baptist Church

**Watch Sunday!**  
10:30 AM



HELD BY CHURCH, AND THE GATES OF HELL SHALL NOT PREVAIL AGAINST IT.

**Sunday School.....9:00 AM**  
**Sunday Morning.....10:15 AM**  
**Sunday Evening.....6:00 PM**  
**Wednesday.....7:00 PM**

4702 Colebrook Ave. Emmaus, PA 18049 (610) 965-4700  
[www.lvbaptist.org](http://www.lvbaptist.org)