

Welcome to AUTUMN

in Upper Allen Township



Mark Your Calendar: Fall Fest 2026

Join us for our 4th Annual Fall Festival on September 25th from 4pm-9pm at Winding Hill Park North (901 East Winding Hill Road). This FREE family-friendly event will feature: 30 craft vendors, 25 community resource organizations, emergency services showcase with canines, a petting zoo, hayrides, live music performances, photo opportunities, 18 unique food vendors, inflatables, and, for the Grand Finale, a laser light show!



Fall Fest 2025

Introducing Savvy Citizen

Upper Allen Township is excited to launch Savvy Citizen, our new resident notification and community engagement platform. Savvy Citizen provides timely updates on road closures, community events, public meetings, park and recreation programs, emergency notifications, and other Township news through push notifications, text messages, and email alerts. Residents can select the categories most important to them, ensuring they receive the updates that matter most. By providing information directly from the Township, Savvy Citizen helps residents stay informed about the issues and events that matter most to them.

The free platform is available on Android, iPhone/iPad, and desktop devices. For residents who would like to receive emergency and high-alert notifications via a landline telephone, please call 717-766-0756 and provide your name, address, and landline phone number. This option is available for critical notifications only.

Scan the QR Code to get the app on your smartphone or sign up at

<https://savvycitizenapp.com/signup>.



Open Space Referendum Question to Appear on November 3, 2026, Ballot

Following several Township meetings with educational presentations and public comments, on August 3, 2026, the Commissioners approved an Open Space Referendum question that will appear on the November 3, 2026, General Election Ballot. The ballot question will read:

"Do you favor the imposition of an additional Earned Income Tax at the rate of One Twentieth of One Percent (1/20 of 1%) (.0005) and an increase in the real property tax at a rate not to exceed .20 mills (\$.20 per \$1,000 assessed valuation) by Upper Allen Township to be used for some or all of the following: financing acquisition of open space, acquiring conservation easements, acquiring recreation lands and acquiring development rights?"

The Upper Allen Township EIT and Property Tax Fact Sheet is available to help explain who may be affected by the potential tax increases if the referendum is passed by the voters. For example, a resident with median annual Earned Income of \$65,000 would pay \$32.50 more and a Property Owner with median assessment of \$214,200 would pay \$42.84 more to support land preservation in Upper Allen Township.

Should the referendum pass on November 3, a Land Preservation Review Board or similar advisory committee will be established to administer the program and prioritize land for preservation. The program would be strictly voluntary for landowners and any land preserved would require an independent appraisal. The Board of Commissioners will be responsible for final approval of land selected for the preservation program. Further details and FAQs can be found on the Township website under Land Preservation Referendum.

MASD Backpack Program

In partnership with New Hope Ministries, Operation Wildcat, Wildcat Foundation, and other community members, Mechanicsburg Area School District (MASD) is privileged to offer a weekend food distribution program for students in need. The purpose of the program is to provide non-perishable, vitamin-fortified, and easy to prepare foods to children at times when school resources are not available, such as weekends and school vacations. Bags will include two breakfasts, four meals, and two snacks.

The program is free of charge to students during the school year. Caregivers can reach out to their school counselor for more information on how to sign up.

Interested in donating?

Financial donations can be made to Operation Wildcat or Wildcat Foundation at Mechanicsburg District Office located at:

600 South Norway Street, 2nd Floor Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

Phone: 717-691-4500

Financial and non-perishable food donations can be dropped off at New Hope Ministries located at:

5228 E Trindle Rd, Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

Phone: 717-766-7333



Congratulations to Our Staff!

- Jacob Leshar, Sewer Department Technician, passed the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Wastewater Classification E, Subclassification 4 exam and is now a certified wastewater operator of collection systems and pump stations.
- Daren Waters, Operator Trainee, passed the PA DEP Wastewater Classification E, Subclassification 4 exam and is now a certified wastewater operator of collection systems and pump stations.
- Chad Krebs, Parks Director, and Eddie Mera-Aguilar, Assistant Parks Director, both recently passed the Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) course.

Leaf Pickup Schedule

Beginning on October 5, 2026, and continuing through December 11, 2026, Upper Allen Township's Public Works Department will be conducting its annual leaf pickup. They will circulate throughout the Township based on the below schedule:

Monday

Miller's Acres, Diehl Road, Old Grove Road, Sinclair Road, Hamilton, Peachtree, Trindle Station, Country Estates, Fisher Road, Williams Grove Road, Shepherdstown, Gettysburg Pike (from 114 to Rider Ln), Meadowview, Arborfield, York Street.

Tuesday

Grantham Road, Mill Road, W. Lisburn Road, Bowmansdale, Route 114 (S. Market Street), Arcona Road, Ford Farm, Allen Glen, Apache Trail, Pima Circle, McCormick Road, E. Lisburn Road (S. Market Street to Township Line) Fair Oaks, Allendale Road and Wilson Road area, Winding Hills Development, and Orchard Glen.

Wednesday

Flintlock Ridge, Holiday Crest, Park Hills, Winding Hill Heights, Winding Hill Road, Gettysburg Pike (Cumberland Parkway to Route 114), Sunnyland, Webercroft, Georgetown, South Market Street (Gettysburg Pike to Mechanicsburg line), Lindenwood.

Thursday

Rosegarden, Ashcombe Farms, Mallard Way, Gettysburg Pike (Grantham Road to Township line), Center Square, Country Square, Canterbury, Stumpstown Road, Creekstone, Gettysburg Pike (Rider Lane to Grantham), Spacious Acres, Edgewood.

Friday

The entire Mt. Allen area, Witney Ridge, Bowman's Hill, Bumble Bee Hollow, Kimberly Meadows, Allenview, Spring Run, Reservoir.

Fall Stormwater Tips

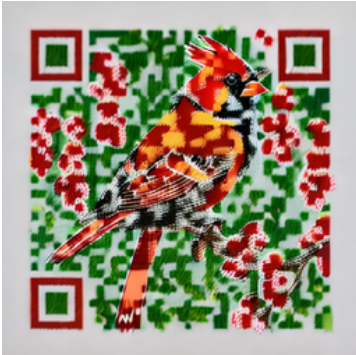
1. Sweep up grass clippings and fertilizer from driveways, sidewalks and streets, and rake, mulch, or compost yard waste. Remove leaves from your gutters, ditches and driveways, sidewalks, and streets.
2. Don't burn leaves in ditches or sweep them down storm drains. Burning in ditches causes erosion and allows pollution to wash downstream to our waterways. Even though leaves are natural, if too many flow into the waterway, they break down and release extra nutrients that can create algae blooms and kill fish. You can also break your leaves down into a natural fertilizer, just like grass clippings.
3. Fall is the time for seeding and fertilizing your lawn; but fertilize only if needed. To save yourself time and money, first have your soil tested for acidity (pH) to determine the amount of fertilizer required. Be sure to read and follow product instructions carefully when applying. Lastly, do not use fertilizers immediately before a rainstorm, as that will increase the amount of nutrients that wash off as well as making the fertilizer less effective.
4. Consider using alternative lawn-care techniques to reduce the number of pesticides necessary.
5. When the weather turns colder, make sure to continue to take care of your pet's waste. You may be tempted to leave it on the ground, but your pet's waste contains phosphorus, nitrogen and harmful bacteria that can get into our local waterways through stormwater runoff.
6. If you are performing a fall tune-up on your car or lawn care equipment, be sure to check for any leaks. Rainstorms can send gasoline and oil drips from automobiles, lawnmowers, and power equipment into waterways.



Pennsylvania
Audubon Council

Join the Bird Habitat Recognition Program!

Is your yard a pollinator's paradise? Do you have a plethora of native plantings? Upper Allen Township's Bird Town PA Committee is looking for homeowners or renters who maintain outdoor spaces with the following four bird necessities: food, water, shelter, and nesting opportunities. The program is coordinated by the Pennsylvania Audubon Council. If you qualify, you will receive a nifty yard sign to recognize your yard, deck, or patio, as a "Bird-Friendly Habitat!" The application process is quick and easy, and does require a \$30 "donation" to the organization. If you think you may qualify, and are interested in joining the program, please email birdtown@uatwp.org to let us know. Scan the QR code below to learn more and register your habitat!



In addition to providing a significant source of renewable energy, the project is projected to achieve a return on investment within 7 to 8 years through reduced utility costs. This investment demonstrates the Township's commitment to fiscal responsibility, energy independence, and environmental sustainability.

Upper Allen Township's Solar Power

As part of the 2026 budget, a solar energy project was approved to install a 269.44 kW solar system at the Township administrative offices at 100 Gettysburg Pike (see aerial shot below). Installation began in the spring of 2026 and was completed at the end of June. The system is now fully operational and producing up to 1.8 megawatt hours of electricity per day.



Coming Soon: Phase II of Grantham Park Renovations

The second phase of the Grantham Park renovation project is scheduled to begin in late July and is expected to continue through the end of October. This phase of construction will include the installation of approximately one-half mile of walking trails, a new parking lot, and stormwater management improvements to enhance accessibility and park infrastructure.

These improvements build upon the successful first phase of renovations completed last year, which included a full pond restoration, a new playground, and the addition of an accessible fishing pier. Together, these projects represent a significant investment in Grantham Park and will greatly enhance the recreational opportunities available to residents.

We are excited to see this project come together and continue transforming Grantham Park into an even greater community destination. During construction, visitors should use caution when accessing the park and expect occasional temporary closures. The park is anticipated to be completely closed for a period of time in mid-September to accommodate construction activities.

We appreciate your patience and understanding as these improvements are completed and look forward to reopening a renewed and enhanced Grantham Park for the community to enjoy.



Grantham Pond Phase I

Public Works to the Rescue! New Duties

Amongst their other duties, UAT's Public Works Department has taken on additional responsibilities within the organization structure. Four team members from PW will now assist our Code Enforcement Officer, Mr. Mike Welt, in investigating complaints. Public Works employees assist with field inspections by documenting conditions, taking photographs, and reporting

their findings to Township staff. They also help verify whether previously reported issues have been corrected by property owners. Staff have been receiving hands-on training related to common concerns such as high grass, rubbish accumulation, work completed without permits, and other property maintenance issues. The Township is also exploring additional training opportunities that could allow Public Works employees to take a larger role in addressing certain property maintenance and zoning violations in the future.

Save the Date! December 6th, 2026 - Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony

Upper Allen Township will host its 3rd Annual Tree Lighting Celebration on December 6 from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at Winding Hill Park North, sponsored by Alba Orthodontics. This year's event will feature a new live Norway Spruce, generously funded by Alba Orthodontics and selected by the Township Parks Department. The tree, measuring approximately 18 feet tall with a 15-foot canopy spread, is scheduled to be installed in late August and will serve as the centerpiece of the Township's holiday tradition for years to come.

Honoring Chief Andy Parsons: Celebrating 34 Years of Dedicated Service

For more than three decades, Chief Andrew Parsons has been a steady, reassuring presence in Upper Allen Township, and today we reflect on his legacy as he prepares for retirement.

Chief Parsons began his career with the Upper Allen Police Department in 1992 after graduating from the Harrisburg Police Academy. Over the course of 34 remarkable years, his steady leadership and vision have helped shape our police force into the modern, community-focused agency it is today.

A Career Built on Service and Leadership

Rising through the ranks, Parsons was promoted to Sergeant in 2001, managed the department's field training and accreditation programs, and graduated from the prestigious FBI National Academy leadership program in 2009.

In August 2020, during the peak of the global pandemic and a remarkably complex era for law enforcement, he stepped forward to lead the department as Chief. During his initial months as head of the agency, Chief Parsons ably managed critical departmental operations while overseeing Upper Allen's first homicide investigation in 40 years.

Key Achievements and Lasting Impact

Under Chief Parsons' guidance, the Upper Allen Police Department achieved significant milestones in public safety, officer wellness, and community partnership:

- **Community-Centric Safety:** Implemented the first School District Resource Officer (DRO) in both department and school district history, strengthening relationships with local youth and schools.
- **Excellence in Standards:** Earned prestigious Premier Agency Status through the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Accreditation Program.
- **Modern Technology & Safety:** Outfitted the entire agency with body-worn cameras and integrated red dot optics to enhance officer safety, transparency, and marksmanship.

"Speaking on behalf of our entire department, Chief Parsons led us with steady resolve and genuine care for both our officers and the community through some of the most challenging times in law enforcement. He leaves behind an agency built on trust and professionalism, and his 34 years of service set a high standard that will shape Upper Allen Police for years to come. It has been an honor to serve alongside him, and we wish him the very best in a well-deserved retirement." Lieutenant Brian Barnes

Looking Ahead

On behalf of the Upper Allen Township Board of Commissioners, department officers, staff, and residents, we thank Chief Andrew Parsons for his decades of selfless devotion to our community's safety. We wish him all the happiness, health, and relaxation in his retirement!

What's Next for Upper Allen?

Effective September 10, 2026, Brian Barnes will be the Chief of Police for Upper Allen Township. Since 2004, Barnes has honorably served on the UATPD, and risen through the ranks from Sergeant, to Lieutenant, and now, Chief. Barnes has embodied the spirit of teamwork throughout his tenure, often going above and beyond his regular duties. Let's welcome Brian into his new role!



Meet the UATPD's Newest Officers

The Upper Allen Township Police Department welcomed Officers Katherine Wilhite and Alexander Groff on July 1 following their graduation from the Pennsylvania Municipal Police Academy at Harrisburg Area Community College.

Both officers earned recognition during their academy training. Wilhite served as class president and delivered remarks at graduation, while Groff received the academy's Top Academic and Top Driving awards. Chief Andrew Parsons praised both officers for their dedication, professionalism, and commitment to public service.

Wilhite said her passion for helping others inspired her career choice. "I'm passionate about serving people, especially those who are most vulnerable," she said. Groff, a Penn State graduate, said he was drawn to law enforcement because it offered a direct way to serve others. "I became more passionate about public service and helping the community," he said.

As they begin their careers, both officers are eager to learn from experienced colleagues and build relationships throughout the township. "I just want to be a sponge and learn as much about the job and the area and how to be the most effective, fair law enforcement officer that this community deserves," Groff said. The Township is proud to welcome Officers Wilhite and Groff and looks forward to their service to the Upper Allen community in the years ahead.

Chimney and Wood Stove Safety: Get Ready for Fall

As cooler weather approaches and fireplaces and wood stoves return to use, the Upper Allen Fire Department encourages residents to take a few simple steps now to help prevent chimney fires and keep their homes safe throughout the heating season.

Before lighting your first fire of the season, schedule a professional chimney inspection and cleaning. Creosote, a flammable byproduct of burning wood, can build up inside chimney walls over time and is a leading cause of chimney fires. An annual inspection can also identify potential hazards such as cracks, blockages, or animal nests before they become serious problems.

When burning wood, use only seasoned, dry hardwood. Wet or green wood burns less efficiently, producing more smoke and creosote buildup. Never burn trash, cardboard, or wrapping paper, as these materials can create dangerous flare-ups and send sparks into the air. Keep furniture, curtains, holiday decorations, and other combustible materials at least three feet away from fireplaces and wood stoves. Using a sturdy fireplace screen can help contain sparks and embers and reduce the risk of accidental fires.

Proper ash disposal is also important. Hot embers can remain hidden in ashes for days after a fire appears extinguished.



Always allow ashes to cool completely before placing them in a metal container with a lid and storing it outdoors, away from your home and other structures. Residents should also be aware of warning signs that may indicate a chimney fire, including loud cracking or popping noises, dense smoke, or unusual odors coming from the chimney. If you suspect a chimney fire, evacuate everyone from the home and call 911 immediately.

Finally, test your smoke alarms regularly and make sure every member of your household knows two ways out of every room. Working smoke alarms remain your first line of defense in a fire emergency. Taking a little time to prepare now can help keep your home and family safe all season long. Stay warm and stay safe this season, Upper Allen Township!

Upper Allen Township
100 Gettysburg Pike
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055



Sign Up for Our New Notification
System, Savvy Citizen! Scan the
QR code to get to the app.



hello, autumn

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