Board of Commissioners Considering Implementation of a Stormwater Authority Fee for Property Owners

A stormwater authority, operating much like a water or sewer utility, may collect fees related to the control and treatment of stormwater that can be used to fund the Township’s ongoing Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Program.

Keeping an active and successful MS4 Program will assist in both meeting stricter standards and discharging cleaner stormwater into our rivers, creeks and streams. It will also reduce flood risks and damage, improve recreational and aesthetic values and protect property values. If established, all of the revenue collected will be used solely for the operation, maintenance, and management of the MS4 Program. Stormwater fees secure funding in the most equitable way to assure that all mandated rules and regulations are being met; all mandated by the Chesapeake Bay clean up.

Every property in the Township will be considered for the stormwater user fee, to include residential property owners, commercial property owners, nonprofit entities, tax-exempt properties and public facilities. The user fee being considered is proposed to bill according to the amount of impervious area coverage on every property parcel. Impervious surfaces are hard surfaces that do not allow rain or snowmelt to infiltrate at the same rate as natural surfaces such as grass or dirt. They include rooftops, driveways, patios, parking lots, and other man-made structures.

The Township plans to provide presentations and discussions at upcoming public meetings to present additional information on this subject. These meetings will be announced via the Township website, newsletters and media sites; therefore, we ask residents to be watchful for upcoming announcements.
CONGRATULATIONS TO BILL ANDERSON FOR 40 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH UPPER ALLEN TOWNSHIP!

Bill Anderson, Wastewater Treatment Superintendent, was recognized by Lou Fazekas, Township Manager, in front of township employees for his 40 years of dedicated service during the annual staff update. Bill is the longest serving township employee. He started working for the Township on January 3, 1978.

One of Bill’s major highlights occurred in 2002 when he was featured on NBC’s “The Today Show” for finding a 90 year old diamond ring after it was accidentally flushed down a toilet. Bill climbed down a sewer manhole and sifted through sewage for about an hour before finding the diamond ring.

WATER QUALITY BASIN ADJACENT TO MEADOWVIEW

This year the Township will be converting the existing Township-owned dry-extended detention basin adjacent to Meadowview development to a bio-retention/rain garden facility. This project is a result of the Township’s National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit, which requires the development and implementation of a Pollutant Reduction Plan (PRP). Ultimately, the goal of the PRP is to reduce the three (3) specific pollutants (sediment, phosphorus, and nitrogen) from being discharged to the local receiving waters of the Commonwealth and Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

The new bio-retention/rain garden facility will contain Pennsylvania native vegetation that is well suited for water filtration and uptake. These plants will also provide a habitat for pollinators like monarch butterflies. The new bio-retention/rain garden facility will differ slightly in that it will retain and treat collected stormwater. The new facility is designed to allow the water to slowly infiltrate and filter into the ground, reducing stormwater pollution. This also reduces the quantity of water flowing off-site into the municipal stormwater system. For more information on the Township’s Pollutant Reduction Plan and associated projects, check the Township’s website under the Stormwater Management – MS4 page.

HIGH GRASS AND WEEDS

The mowing season is upon us, and we would like to remind residents that it is unlawful for grass and weeds to be in excess of ten (10) inches in height on all premises and exterior property.

Section 302.4 of the Property Maintenance Code states that all premises and exterior property within any districts shall be maintained free from weeds or weed growth in excess of 10 inches. All noxious plants shall be prohibited. “Weeds” shall be defined as all grasses and vegetation, other than trees, shrubs or vegetation that is edible; however, this term shall not include farm fields, cultivated flowers and gardens. The provisions of this section shall be applicable to land that is located 200 feet or less from any building or structure available for use for human occupancy.

If you suspect a property is in violation of this statue, contact our Community Development Department.
2018 ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

The Board of Commissioners took action to award bids for 2018 Road Improvements totaling over $1.4 million for the following roads:

- Gettysburg Pike – from Yellow Breeches Creek to Cumberland Parkway
- Kimberly Meadows Development
  - Hellam Drive
  - Belvedere Drive
  - Conway Drive
  - Glendale Drive
  - Manor Drive
- Old Hollow Road (west side of Route 15)

Staff is currently finalizing all the necessary bid documents and financial security. A preconstruction meeting still needs to be scheduled. Once the schedule is finalized information will be posted on the Township website (www.uatwp.org) under Current News and on the Facebook page. The engineering plans are also available for inspection at the Township office.

UPPER ALLEN TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

It is BBQ Fundraising Season! We now do it DRIVE THRU style so you don't even have to get out of your car. Please come and support the Fire Department at these fundraisers. The dinners are $7.00 each. You get 1/2 chicken, potato chips, applesauce and a bottle of water. Thank you, in advance, for helping support the Upper Allen Fire Department!

- Saturday, April 14th at Fisher Park (part of UABA Opening Day for baseball)
- Saturday, May 5th at Country and Town Baptist Church (corner of S. Market and Gettysburg Pike)
- Saturday, June 2nd at Country and Town Baptist Church (corner of S. Market and Gettysburg Pike)
- Saturday, August 4th at Country and Town Baptist Church (corner of S. Market and Gettysburg Pike)
- Saturday October 6th at Country and Town Baptist Church (corner of S. Market and Gettysburg Pike)

The greatest danger of wildfires in Pennsylvania is during the spring months of March, April, and May, and the autumn months of October and November. In Pennsylvania, 98 percent of our wildfires are caused by people. Conditions that must be present for a wildfire to occur are as follows: an available fuel source, such as grasslands or fields; dry conditions, including the fuel source; and an ignition source.

One of the major causes of forest fires in Pennsylvania is debris burning. A careless person burning accumulated trash can be responsible for causing thousands of acres of valuable Pennsylvania forests to burn. These fires most frequently start in someone’s backyard and travel through the dead grass and weeds into the bordering woodlands.

While media often give more coverage to spectacular western wildfires, interestingly more fires occur east of the Mississippi River than west.
Upper Allen Township Dog Park at Daybreak

The Upper Allen Township Board of Commissioners is pleased to announce the Township’s first dog park, which is being developed for a grand opening in late spring of 2018. The dog park will feature over two acres of open space divided into three separate fenced-in areas—two for larger dogs and one for smaller canines—plus a secure entry gate, dog-waste stations, a shade structure and plenty of trees. The park will be located near Daybreak Church at 321 Gettysburg Pike, Mechanicsburg.

Only dogs registered with the Township will be permitted to use the park. Registration forms will be available on the Township’s website or at the municipal building closer to the opening date once it is determined. There will be a fee for registration which will include a key fob for entry into the park, along with a dog tag, which will be valid for one year.

The Commissioners would like to give special thanks to the Upper Allen Dog Park Committee, Daybreak Church and Purina for their continued partnership, which has helped make the future park possible. More Information will be available in late April of this year.

UPPER ALLEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Upper Allen Township Police Department is a Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission Accredited Agency (PLEAC). Accreditation is a progressive and time-proven way of helping institutions evaluate and improve their overall performance. The cornerstone of this strategy lies in the promulgation of standards containing a clear statement of professional objectives. Participating administrators then conduct a thorough analysis to determine how existing operations can be adapted to meet these objectives. When the procedures are in place, a team of independent professionals is assigned to verify that all applicable standards have been successfully implemented. The process culminates with a decision by an authoritative body that the institution is worthy of accreditation.

The Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Program was designed and developed by professional law enforcement executives to provide a reasonable and cost effective plan for the professionalization of law enforcement agencies within the Commonwealth. The underlying philosophy of the program is to have a user-friendly undertaking for the departments that will result in a “success” oriented outcome. The benefits of accreditation include:

♦ Establishes a credible framework for evaluating agency practices and procedures
♦ Reduces agency risk and exposure to lawsuits
♦ Decreases some liability insurance expenditures
♦ Improves law enforcement – community relations
♦ Increases employee input, interaction and confidence in the agency
♦ Enlarges the outlook and viewpoints of managers, officers and employees
♦ Identifies and highlights the capabilities and competence of the agency
♦ Furnishes a solid foundation for the agency to build upon for further progress
♦ Provides reliable methods to improve essential management procedures
♦ Extends agency accountability to the public and elected officials
♦ Enhances planning and innovative activities by all agency personnel
♦ Develops improved methods for providing services to the community
♦ Encourages problem-solving activities within the agency

We are proud to say that the Upper Allen Township Police Department became an accredited agency in 2010 and remains an accredited agency through the PA Law Enforcement Accreditation Program.
TOWNSHIP MEETINGS

April
4  Board of Commissioners - 6:30 p.m.
10  Administration - 7:30 a.m.
11  Public Safety - 7:30 a.m.
12  Zoning Hearing Board - 6:00 p.m.
17  Public Improvements - 8:00 a.m.
17  HARB - 7:00 p.m.
18  Board of Commissioners - 6:30 p.m.
25  Park & Recreation - 6:30 p.m.
26  Sewer Advisory Board - 7:00 p.m.
30  Planning Commission - 7:00 p.m.

May
2  Board of Commissioners - 6:30 p.m.
10  Zoning Hearing Board - 6:00 p.m.
14  Pension Board Meeting - 7:30 a.m.
14  Administration - 8:00 a.m.
15  Public Improvements - 8:00 a.m.
15  HARB - 7:00 p.m.
16  Board of Commissioners - 6:30 p.m.
21  Planning Commission - 7:00 p.m.
23  Park & Recreation - 6:30 p.m.
24  Sewer Advisory Board - 7:00 p.m.

June
6  Board of Commissioners - 6:30 p.m.
12  Administration - 7:30 a.m.
14  Zoning Hearing Board - 6:00 p.m.
19  Public Improvements - 8:00 a.m.
19  HARB - 7:00 p.m.
20  Board of Commissioners - 6:30 p.m.
25  Planning Commission - 7:00 p.m.
27  Park & Recreation - 6:30 p.m.
28  Sewer Advisory Board - 7:00 p.m.

CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT

The Township was awarded the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the third time for its 2016 comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR). The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents continued accomplishment by Township staff. Commissioner Martin acknowledged Township Manager Lou Fazekas, Assistant Township Manager Scott Fraser, Accounting Manager Laurie Yohe and Accounting Clerk Julie Roth for their hard work and effort in achieving the award for a third year.

Residents interested in viewing the CAFR may find it and other financial documents on the Township’s website in the financial document section.

The township offices will be closed on May 28th for Memorial Day and July 4th for Independence Day.

Upper Allen Township Board of Commissioners

Ken Martin, President (seated - right)
Paul Rigney, Vice President (seated - left)
Rick Castranio (standing – left)
Ginnie Anderson (standing – middle)
Jim Cochran (standing – right)
NEW PLAYGROUND COMING SOON TO WINDING HILLS PARK

The Board of Commissioners took action on February 21 to authorize staff to advertise for bids to install new playground equipment and make necessary site improvements at Winding Hills Park, adjacent to the concession stand. The Board is expected to take action on the bids at their meeting on March 21. If all goes as planned, construction should start in the spring or early summer.

Phase 1 of this project includes construction of a Central Hub Development that creates an inclusive recreational environment, as recommended by the 2015 Winding Hills Park Master Plan. The project is expected to cost $475,000, with $200,000 of those funds coming from the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR). The Central Hub will be located next to the existing concession stand and will provide accessibility to the surrounding Winding Hills Park by tying all existing amenities of the park facility into the new additions at one central area. Phase 1 of the project includes the grading of the proposed site, improvements to the current storm water collection system, installation of an accessible youth playground and tot lot, installation of poured in place safety playground surfaces, construction of ADA compliant porous paths, placement of project acknowledgement signs, native landscape plantings and related site improvements. The overriding theme of the Central Hub Development Plan for Winding Hills Park is to create a safe and clean recreational space that will encourage inclusive play and is accessible to visitors of all walks of life and abilities.

The Grantham Women’s Club invites ladies from the area to the following events. They will be held at the Grantham Brethren in Christ Church, 421 Grantham Road, Mechanicsburg (near the entrance to Messiah College), beginning at 7:00 p.m. Husbands and friends are welcome.

Donna Benson will present a program about Children’s Disaster Services, a program of the Church of the Brethren on Monday, April 9, 2018.

"Preparations for the ‘Trip to the Hereafter’" will be presented by Robert Buhrig from the Myers Buhrig Funeral Home on Monday, May 14, 2018. This was postponed from January 8.

For more information, contact Diane Koenig at 717-697-0071.
NEW TRAFFIC SIGNALS PLANNED

The Township will have five new traffic signals installed over the two years. Four new signals will be installed along the S. Market Street corridor between Shepherdstown Road and the intersection of East and West Winding Hill Road. A new emergency services traffic signal is also being installed at the intersection of English Drive and Gettysburg Pike this year. This signal can be activated when the fire company responds to emergency calls.

The new Legacy Park development, adjacent to the former Book of the Month club, is scheduled to start construction in the spring. Legacy Park is a Mechanicsburg Borough development that includes 780 new homes and some commercial sites. The developer is required to install a new traffic signal at Shepherdstown Road and S. Market Street and another signal at the intersection of Hemlock Drive and S. Market Street. The Hemlock Drive signal will serve as the main entrance to the new development.

A new traffic signal will also be installed at the Allen Distribution entrance, which was the former Book of the Month Club, located next to the PA Turnpike. A northbound right turn lane will also be constructed starting in the spring or early summer for use by traffic entering the property. The traffic study conducted by Allen Distribution also identified the need for a new traffic signal at the intersection of East-West Winding Hill Road and S. Market Street. In addition, the study identified the need to increase the southbound stacking lane on S. Market Street at the Cumberland Parkway intersection.

PennDOT was originally scheduled to pave S. Market Street from Main Street in Mechanicsburg Borough to Lisburn Road in 2018; however, due to all the road improvements that developers have to make along S. Market Street, PennDOT has decided to postpone paving until 2019. PennDOT plans to make base repairs this summer along the entire corridor in anticipation of paving next year. PennDOT may still move ahead with paving S. Market Street from Route 15 south to Lisburn Road this year.

RAIN GARDEN WORKSHOP

Rain Garden Workshop Registration Form

Please Register by April 12

First Name: ____________________________
Last Name: ____________________________
Email Address: _______________________
Phone Number: _______________________

Registrations can be mailed to Upper Allen Township, 100 Gettysburg Pike, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055. If you have any questions, please call Megan McNamee, Environmental Planner, at 717-766-0756. Thank you!

Thursday, April 19, 2018
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

There will be a presentation by Lois Kriens and Maggie Pepe, Penn State Master Gardeners. Maggie and Lois will share information about creating and planting your own rain garden, using native plants to enhance pollinator and wildlife habitat. We would be happy for you to attend!

UPPER ALLEN WOMAN’S CLUB
GFWC

LUNCHEON
&
FASHION
SHOW

The Upper Allen Woman’s Club GFWC will host their 18th Annual Fashion Show Luncheon “A Fashion Affair” on Sunday, April 22, 2018, at 12:30 p.m., at the West Shore Country Club, 100 Brentwater Road, Camp Hill. Luncheon will be served at 1:15 p.m. followed by a fashion show presented by J. Jill and Taylored for You. A Chinese auction begins at 12:30 p.m. For ticket information, please contact BPRigney2@gmail.com.

Proceeds benefit community organizations.
A NOTEWORTHY ACCOMPLISHMENT
FROM THE KEYSTONE FC U12 SOCCER CLUB!

On behalf of the Board of Commissioners, we would like to thank the Keystone FC U12 Soccer Club for their generous donation of two Defibtech Lifeline AEDs to be placed in Winding Hills Park and Friendship Park. This group of boys decided this past Fall that they would like to do something to give back to our soccer community. After being inspired by the Peyton Walker Foundation, they were able to raise almost $3,000 in donations from family, friends and companies for purchase of the AEDs.

We believe organized sports are a positive force in the development of our youth and contribute many benefits including discipline, camaraderie, and community involvement. The U12 boys have distinguished themselves with their hard work in sports and in service to the community. Thank you again for the generous donation!