

# UPPER ALLEN TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

## Upper Allen 2024 Budget Approved

Upper Allen Township Commissioners approved the 2024 budget in December with a slight tax increase for a jewel among the municipality's amenities: its expansive parks system.

The Park Improvement Real Estate Tax will rise from 0.1 to 0.2 mills, resulting in a \$20 increase in the real estate levy on a home assessed at \$200,000. This is the only tax increase, with no rise in General Fund, Permanent Improvement or Fire Operating taxes.

General Fund revenue is budgeted at \$11,450,365, a \$123,563 increase from 2023. Expenditures are budgeted at \$11,221,043, or \$300,195 more than projected for last year.

"We were able to keep taxes relatively flat this year, in addition to last year's reduction in sewer fees," President Commissioner Ken Martin noted. "The Park Improvement Fund will help accumulate a capital reserve to help fund upgrades to our quality parks system."

Martin added that continued annual funding of reserves for equipment, vehicles, roads and parks helps the township avoid piling up deferred maintenance.

The Park Improvement Fund tax increase is expected to generate \$467,353, with about half going to an escrow fund for future replacement of playgrounds, paths and structures. The remaining funds may be used to purchase new equipment and benches, plant trees and build water fountains at the 5.2-acre Grantham Park.

### Generations Park



## Upper Allen Budget for 2024 Approved (cont.)

Among Township Departments, \$5,072,518 is budgeted for police protection, \$1,099,062 for public works, \$1,045,839 for general administration, \$1,017,594 for parks and recreation and \$774,893 for community development.

Expenditures of nearly \$2 million will pay for capital improvements, such as, upgraded accounting software, new police radios, replacement of multiple vehicles and miscellaneous park projects.

A major effort will be the modernization of traffic signals, including a study of all intersections and the updating and coordination of the signals. The \$799,168 project is aided by a state grant of \$639,334.

The Permanent Improvement Fund supports roadway maintenance and upgrades. The township budgeted \$1,656,000 for road projects, with \$550,000 of that amount coming from the State Liquid Fuels Fund.

The Fire Operating Fund tax, unchanged for 2024, should generate \$1,131,021 for volunteer fire company expenses such as fuel, insurance and inspection and debt services, as well as contributions to capital equipment expenses and savings accounts. The fund will transfer \$410,000 to the Fire Escrow Fund, which will put \$260,000 towards half the cost of replacing firefighters' breathing apparatus and vehicle replacement.

The tax does not fully fund the fire department, as such volunteer fire personnel must raise funds and seek donations for their operations.



### Winding Hills North



### Winding Hills South

## Want to Learn More About Upcoming Ordinance Amendments?

From time to time, the Township must amend its ordinances, also known as our local laws. Ordinance changes can occur for a variety of reasons, including changes in state or federal laws which affect local municipalities, meeting the ever-changing needs of the community, official requests from residents or developers, and more.

The Township has a web page (<https://uatwp.org/community/ordinance-amendments/>) dedicated to providing information about upcoming amendments to various ordinances. Located within the “Community” section at the top of our website, select “[Ordinance Amendments](#)”. Each ordinance amendment proposal is listed separately by its Chapter number, and contains information about the proposal, meeting and hearing dates and times, copies of the draft ordinance, etc. Once an ordinance has been adopted, it will be codified and added to the [Township Code](#).

We encourage residents to attend our public meetings to learn more about the adoption process and to provide any comments. If you are unable to attend a meeting, you can submit written comments to be made part of the record. You may do so either online through our “Leave a Public Comment” link on the [Ordinance Amendments](#) page or by mailing or dropping off written comments to the Township building. Please be sure to include your name and address so that your comments will be made part of the public record.

Also under the “Community” tab, there is a “Development Projects” page: <https://uatwp.org/community/development-projects/>. This page provides information about planned and active development projects within the township.

## 2023 Pollutant Reduction Plan Projects

In 2023, as part of the Townships MS4 program and updated Pollutant Reduction Plan (PRP), we have completed three new stormwater management projects located at Aspen Park, Mt. Allen Park, and Creekstone Manor. The PRP is an unfunded Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) mandate that requires our Township to reduce the amount of sediment pollution we are discharging into our local waterways. The three projects completed this year have an estimated sediment load reduction of 101,623 lbs. of sediment per year.

All three projects were completed by Kinsley Construction Site Work with the total value of the work at 79% of the original contract value of \$237,603.00. These projects are possible through the funding acquired by the Townships Stormwater Fee, and we will continue to implement projects through our MS4 program that reduce the discharge of pollution into our local creeks, streams, and rivers.





## Partnering With the Community Benefits Residents & Local Police

With a strong commitment to community policing, the Upper Allen Police Department aims to create interactive partnerships with township residents, businesses and organizations. The department recognizes that it cannot solve all public safety issues by itself.

Two sergeants and two patrol officers spearhead a public relations effort that brings uniformed officers to community events, school programs, public gatherings and businesses about 100 times each year. Upon request, officers will attend block parties, neighborhood picnics and bike rodeos, as well as provide child car seat checks and host tours of the police station.

“It gives the public a better insight about what police do,” said Police Chief Andy Parsons. “They put a name with a face, learn about what services we provide. It’s always good to talk in person.” The program also helps the department. “We learn from the citizens as well,” the chief added. “They bring great ideas and questions to events. It opens lines of communication.”

The PR effort began with the department’s participation in the D.A.R.E program (Drug Abuse Resistance Education). When it ended, officers maintained a connection with Mechanicsburg Area School District through the S.M.A.R.T.S. program, which stands for Students Making Appropriate Responses in Tough Situations. The program’s curriculum includes such topics as stranger danger, sexting and internet safety as well as making smart choices, dealing with bullying, and avoiding drugs, alcohol and vaping. Officers also interact with students during mini-THON fundraisers, the Literacy Night Under the Lights event, bus safety drills and classroom visits. Several officers serve as mentors for middle school students.

The department conducts safety assessments for businesses and houses of worship. At community gatherings such as National Night Out, officers demonstrate their equipment and display police vehicles.

One of the newest popular efforts is Coffee with a Cop, or sometimes two officers, sessions that are advertised on the department website and at businesses.

“We just started and have been to two coffee shops,” Parsons said of the visits that might last a couple of hours. “It’s an informal interaction to show people who we are and that we’re approachable and will listen.”

Residents, businesses and community groups can arrange to have an officer at an event or schedule a station tour by visiting the department website, [Upperallenpolice.com](http://Upperallenpolice.com). Under the website’s Services tab, choose Community Services or click on the S.M.A.R.T.S. program and fill out a contact form. The department can be reached at 717-795-2445.



Pictured: Left, Officer Christopher Desiderio; Right, Sergeant Thomas Dombrowski



## Local Heroes Recognized for Life Saving Efforts

At the December 6th, 2023 Board of Commissioners meeting, the following individuals were recognized with a life saving award:

Pictured below (from left) Lieutenant Adam Harrison, Firefighter/EMT Jacquie Hower, Lieutenant Kevin McArdle, resident Tom Bailey, Assistant Fire Chief Kristopher Kaminski, Firefighter Mike Sucknik. (not pictured: Police Officer Peter O'Connor, Township citizen Diane Howard).



In April 2023, they responded to a cardiac arrest where their quick response and skilled action resulted in not only a life being saved, but the patient made a full recovery. At this meeting, that patient was able to reunite with and shake the hands of the people that helped save him. A heartfelt thank you goes out to our first responders.

## IMPORTANT REAL ESTATE TAX INFORMATION FROM SHARON SHIPMAN, TAX COLLECTOR

**COUNTY/TOWNSHIP BILL DUE DATES** - This bill goes out on/about March 1st of every year. County/Township billing is by calendar year (January-December).

- If paid March 1 thru April 30 – 2% discount
- If paid May 1 thru June 30 – face amount (no discount or penalty)
- If paid July 1 through December 31 – 10% penalty

**SCHOOL BILL DUE DATES** - This bill goes out on/about July 1st of every year. School billing is by fiscal year (July 1 of current year through June 30 of following year, but bill is still due by the end of the current year).

- If paid July 1 through August 31 – 2% discount
- If paid September 1 through October 31 – face amount (no discount or penalty)
- If paid November 1-December 31 – 10% penalty

Note: Interim real estate bills, generated with new builds, have their own billing and due dates!

Please always include a phone number or email address with payment so I can contact you easily in the event of a problem! If you do not receive your tax bills in March and/or July, please contact me at [uataxoffice@gmail.com](mailto:uataxoffice@gmail.com) (preferred) or 717-766-4238 and I will provide you with copies.

## Sewer Advisory Board Vacancy

The Township is seeking an individual, preferably with experience in the wastewater field, to fill a vacancy on the Sewer Advisory Board (SAB). The SAB is a volunteer advisory board consisting of five members who review and discuss projects and issues relating to the wastewater treatment plant and sanitary sewer system. SAB reviews and recommendations are often presented to the Board of Commissioners for consideration or action.

The current vacant position has a term that expires on December 31, 2025, with an option to renew for an additional five years thereafter. Meetings are normally held on the fourth Thursday of the month at 6:30PM. If you, or someone you know, is interested, please contact the Township Sewer Department at (717)-766-0756, option 3, or stop by the Township office for more information. Our volunteer form and further details on the position can be found on the Township website, <https://uatwp.org> on the drop-down menu under "Document, "Forms, "Applications", "Boards and Commissions Applications".

## On Lot Sewage Disposal System (OLSDS) Pumping & Inspection

Property owners who have an on-lot sewage disposal system (OLSDS) are required to have their systems pumped, cleaned, and inspected every three years. The Township is divided into three sewer districts in order to accommodate available pumping service companies. In 2024, District 1 property owners will be required to have their systems pumped, cleaned, and inspected. Also, beginning in 2024, all systems will be inspected by the Township Sewage Enforcement Officer (SEO) at the time of pumping to check for proper operation and identify any defects that may need to be addressed. In addition to the \$20.00 administrative fee, there will be an additional fee of \$60.00 to cover the cost of the SEO inspection. Inspections by an SEO will only be required every third cycle, or every nine years. As a final note, beginning in 2024, the period for pumping will be reduced from January 1 to December 31, to January 1, to October 31.

Welcome to our newest Commissioners, Phil Walsh and Eric Fairchild, who were sworn into office on January 2nd, 2024.



Pictured left to right:

Back row: Richard Castranio, Vice President; Eric Fairchild, Assistant Secretary; Phil Walsh, Assistant Secretary.

Front Row: Virginia Anderson, Assistant Secretary, Kenneth Martin, President.

## Key Actions Taken by the Board of Commissioners

**September 20th** • Approval of Update Pollutant Reduction Plan

**October 4th** • Approval to adopt Daycare Ordinance

**November 15th** • Approval of Amendment to Modwash Land Development Plan. Including fencing and vegetation to address potential noise and light concerns.



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# Township Meetings

Meeting minutes and agendas are available at [uatwp.org](http://uatwp.org)

	January	February	March
Board of Commissioners - 6:30PM	2nd, 17th	7th, 21st	6th, 20th
Administration- 8:00AM	9th	12th	12th
Zoning Hearing Board- 6:00PM	11th-cancelled	8th	14th
Historical Architecture Review Board- 7:00PM	16th	20th	19th
Stormwater Authority- 6:00PM	17th	21st	20th
Sewer Advisory Board- 6:30PM	25th	22nd	21st
Parks & Recreation- 6:30PM	24th	28th	27th
Planning Commission- 7:00PM	29th	26th	25th