



Spring/Summer 2023 

UPPER MT. BETHEL

Township



Northampton County, Pennsylvania

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Visit our website at www.umbt.org



512 Deli Food Truck Is coming to Mount Bethel!



WEEKLY SPECIALS

Monday: Sweet Chili Chicken
 Tuesday: Pulled Pork & Sweet Chili Chicken
 Wednesday: Ribs & Oven Roasted Chicken
 Thursday: Shrimp
 Friday: Brisket
 Saturday's: Coming Soon - BBQ

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Spring

Everything is blooming. The Spring breezes feel great. The river water is running deep. Motorcycles are out and about. It's the season of change. Change is everywhere.

We have had a lot of conversations about change. Some don't want it, and some don't mind it. Some struggle with it, and some sail smoothly through it. But no one can deny it is a never-ending debate, throughout our lives.

When we were in school, we all worked hard to change to the next grade. We focused on improving our scribble to change our writing to recognizable.

Athletes needed to change their bodies to achieve success on the playing field. Many of us had to prepare for the change from high school to college. In my time some had to accept the changes we needed to make to serve in the military.

Later if you were lucky enough, you needed to learn what changes had to be made to coexist with a partner. And then, maybe we had to change our lives to adjust to children.

Maybe now you are at that time when you are starting to feel your body change. Maybe some health issues are making you change the way you do some things you have always enjoyed.

We have changed where we lived, the foods we eat, and the locations where we hunted, skied, or hiked.

I think the one thing we should never change is the idea that we make living easier for our children than it has been for us. Not pass the cost on to the next generation.

We can't sit back on our laurels and do nothing because there will be no laurels to celebrate. We need to step up and bite the bullet.

In the long run, the cost of doing nothing is far greater than the cost of taking on the challenges or fears we face today.

Change is healthy.

Ed Nelson

2023

Let's clean up our Township!

Driving through the Township, I am sure you have noticed the accumulation of trash on our roadsides. We are hoping that you may be interested in helping to clean up our beautiful area.

If you would like to be a part of this effort, the first day to help will be Saturday, April 29. The fire police will provide traffic control to ensure the safety of the volunteers. Please check the Township website for the specific time and place to report. If you see roadsides with excessive trash, please notify the Township. Let's all pitch in to keep Mount Bethel litter free!

Dave Friedman,
Supervisor



2023 UMBT Tax Office Hours

TRACY DEFRANCO, TAX COLLECTOR 610-588-5331

email: tracydefranco@gmail.com

1ST, 3RD AND 4TH THURSDAYS OF THE MONTH 4PM – 6PM

2nd MONDAY OF MONTH 4PM – 6PM

2ND SATURDAY OF MONTH 9AM-NOON

ADDITIONAL HOURS FOR 2023 INSTALLMENTS, DISC, BASE AND YR END: HOURS 4PM – 6PM

5/23, 5/30, 5/31, 9/11, 9/19, 9/26, 11/10, 11/21, 11/28, 11/30, 12/28, 12/29

SATURDAY 9/30 HOURS ARE 9AM-11AM

12/30/2023 LAST DAY FOR PAYMENT UMBT REAL ESTATE 9AM-11AM

OFFICE CLOSED 4/7-4/17, 5/15-5/20, 10/15-10/31, 11/23, 12/17-12/27

JUNE 1 THROUGH AUGUST 2 HOURS ARE BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

OTHER HOURS AVAILABLE BY APPOINTMENT, PLEASE CALL TO SCHEDULE APPT.

Keller Zoning and Inspection Services, Inc.

UCC/Zoning • Code Enforcement, 21 N Broad St., Nazareth, PA 18064 • Phone: 610-759-8227 • Fax: 610-365-2954

What Type of Permit(s) Do I need?

The following information is a brief overview. If you are uncertain, always contact the Building Code Official (BCO) and the Zoning Officer to confirm permitting requirements prior to proceeding with your project.

The following guidelines apply to single-family dwellings, two-family dwellings, townhouses and structures that are considered to be accessory to these types of residential structures. Any other uses or proposed construction would be considered "COMMERCIAL" and must comply with the requirements for commercial buildings. Please contact the Building Code Official (BCO) and Zoning Officer for more information on how to determine the requirements for any proposed commercial construction.

Required Residential Permits **ZP: Zoning Permit BP: Building Permit**

1. Decks

- 30" or less at the highest point of the deck walking surface measured from the adjacent grade, **not** located at the main exit door and without a roof: **ZP**
- Over 30" at the highest point of the adjacent deck walking surface measured from the grade or if the deck is located at the main exit door: **ZP and BP**
- Replacing an existing deck requires permits as specified in a. and b.

2. Porches or Decks with a roof

- ZP and BP** regardless of the height of the walking surface

3. Enclosing a Porch or Patio

- ZP and BP**

4. Sheds or Garages

- Under 1,000 square feet of total floor area and accessory to a single family dwelling: **ZP**
- 1,000 square feet of total floor area or larger: **ZP and BP**

5. Fences

- Fences 3 feet to 6 feet high: **ZP**
- Fences higher than 6 feet: **ZP and BP**

6. Retaining Walls

- Up to and including 4 feet high measured from the adjacent grade: **ZP**
- Retaining walls higher than 4' at any point measured from the adjacent grade: **ZP and BP**

7. Swimming Pools

- All** swimming pools that are capable of holding 24" or more of water: **ZP and BP** Barriers (e.g. fence) required by the International Residential Code must be provided.

8. Hot tub or Spa

- Indoor: **BP**
- Outdoor: **ZP and BP**

9. Additions

- Any size: **ZP and BP**
- Garage attached to the house: **ZP and BP**
- Carport attached to the house: **ZP and BP**

10. Alterations

- Alterations that involve structural changes: **BP**

A zoning permit may be required, depending upon the scope of work. Please do not proceed with a project of this type without first contacting the code official for guidance.

11. Changes to an Existing Mean of Egress

- Removal or change: **BP**
- Ramp: **ZP and BP**
- Exit door: **BP**
- Stairs: **ZP and BP**
- Handrails: **BP**
- Guard system: **BP**

12. New Homes

- Traditional: **ZP and BP**
- Manufactured (new or used): **ZP and BP**
- Modular (new or used): **ZP and BP**

13. Demolition

- Residential Structure: **BP**
- Commercial Structure: **BP**

14. The Project Involves:

- Removal, replacement, re-enforcement or cutting of any structural beam or header or any load-bearing support wall: **BP**
- Work or service to the electrical service to the dwelling that will require an inspection by the power company and UCC inspection. Commercial Electrical Service requires BP and Inspection.
- Cutting away of any wall, partition, or portion thereof: **BP**
- Addition to, alteration of, replacement or relocation of any water supply, sewer, drainage, gas, soil, waste, vent or similar piping: **BP**
- Addition to, alteration of, replacement or relocation of any electrical wiring: **BP**
- Addition to, alteration of, replacement or relocation of any mechanical Equipment: **BP**

- Any portion of a dwelling or residential accessory structure that will be used for commercial purposes (open to employees or the public) Examples include but are not limited to:

- Professional offices
- Business offices
- Notaries
- Beauty Shops, nail salons, barber shops
- Car or equipment repair

FEES: A \$135.00 application fee is due with all residential Zoning Permit applications. Any additional zoning fees are due upon issuance of the permit. The building permit fees are separate from the zoning fees and are due upon issuance of the permit. Checks should be made Payable to Upper Mount Bethel.

Any construction that requires a building permit also requires a grading plan review by the Township Engineer.

Please keep in mind that doing work regulated by the Uniform Construction Code (UCC) without a permit will result in an enforcement action being taken against you by the municipality, and upon conviction, you may be subject to fines and penalties up to and including \$1,000 per day of each violation.

Also, occupying any structure without a Certificate of Occupancy issued by the BCO is a serious violation and will also result in enforcement action. Please do not occupy or begin using any structure without a Certificate of Occupancy.

If you fail to obtain permits, inspections and certificates of occupancy, it is very likely that you will have serious difficulties when you eventually try to sell your house or property, as all structures built since April 9, 2004 must have a legal certificate of occupancy.

Road Crew Projects



Upper Mount Bethel Township Road Department News

The UMBT Public Works Department prepared our trucks, plows, and spreaders, for the 2022-2023 winter season. The average cost per storm, which includes the trucks, drivers, and materials is approximately \$14,000 for over 100 miles of roads. With the mild winter, in between inclement weather, we were able to cut 24 lane miles of road shoulders, repair the generator at the Mt. Bethel Fire House, and assist the Fire Department with traffic control various times due to motor vehicle accidents. Guiderails were replaced on Totts Gap Rd. due to a motor vehicle accident. Township signage was replaced due to theft and MVA's. Trees and debris were cleaned up along Township roads. A Dirt and Gravel grant was awarded to the Township to rebuild a portion of Hemlock Dr., which will begin late May/early June. As we move forward, the Public Works Department will be sweeping roads, brush cutting, roadside mowing, replace drain pipes as needed, re-profile black-top roads, and work on the Parks and Athletic Fields.

For everyone's safety, we ask our motorists to respect our flaggers, road closure and roadwork signage, as we try to improve and maintain our public roads.

Thank you
Lindsey Manzi
Road Crew Chief



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Township Emergency Management News

On behalf of the Township, as the Emergency Management Coordinator, I am pleased to announce the Township Emergency Operation Plan is updated, as well as the hazard mitigation plan. I attend local E.M. quarterly training at the County E.M. facility and drills at various locations. I recommend all residents to sign up for CodeRed, our emergency notification program. CodeRed is a critical communication solution to notify residents of general information, emergencies, or urgent notifications. To enroll, you can call the Township Secretary at 570/897-6127.

The EM vehicle is equipped with supplies, such as traffic cones, flares, an AED, a first aid kit, lights, fire extinguishers, a canopy for working in inclement weather, caution tape, an incident command board, and various radios for communications. The E.M. vehicle responds to fires, MVAs, rescues, traffic control, hazmat incidents, and anytime the Fires Companies need assistance.

Lindsey Manzi

E.M. Coordinator

Mt. Bethel Fire Company Fundraising Events



MAY 20, 2023-GUN SHOW

JULY 8, 2023-MURDER MYSTERY DINNER SHOW

JULY 16, 2023-GUN SHOW

JULY 22, 2023-CAR SHOW (RAIN DATE-JULY 23)

SEPTEMBER 16, 2023-STEEL CREEK BAND

OCTOBER 8, 2023-GUN SHOW

OCTOBER 21, 2023-MURDER MYSTERY DINNER (HALLOWEEN THEME)

NOVEMBER 4, 2023-LARGE FLOWER HEADS

NOVEMBER 25, 2023-CRAFT SHOW

DECEMBER 10, 2023-GUN SHOW

PLEASE KEEP AN EYE ON OUR WEBSITE (mountbethelfire.com) FOR ANY UPDATES AND ADDITIONAL EVENTS.


ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT DALE HANDELONG AT 570/688-8268



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Playground Safety . . . A quick checklist for parents

Before your children head out the door for the playground, check that:

✓ **Supervision is present, but strings and ropes aren't.**

Adult presence is needed to watch for potential hazards, observe, intercede and facilitate play when necessary. Strings on clothing or ropes used for play can cause accidental strangulation if caught on equipment.

✓ **All children play on age-appropriate equipment.**

Preschoolers, ages 2-5, and children ages 5-12, are developmentally different and need different equipment located in separate areas to keep the playground safe and fun for all.

✓ **Falls to surface are cushioned.**

Nearly 70 percent of all playground injuries are related to falls to the surface. Acceptable surfaces include hardwood fiber/mulch, pea gravel, sand and synthetic materials such as poured-in-place, rubber mats or tiles. Playgrounds surfaces should not be concrete, asphalt, grass, blacktop, packed dirt or rocks.

Equipment is safe.

Check to make sure the equipment is anchored safely in the ground, all equipment pieces are in good working order, S-hooks are entirely closed, bolts are not protruding, there are no exposed footings, etc.



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Letter from Supervisor John Bermingham

Hello Upper Mount Bethel,

The Upper Mount Bethel Board of Supervisors has town meetings on the 2nd and 4th Monday of every month at the Township Building, which is located at 387 Ye Olde Highway, Mount Bethel, PA 18343. Meetings start promptly at 7pm and end early or late depending on what controversial topic is on the Agenda and how much business is on the Agenda. If you really want to know what is going on in Upper Mount Bethel or see how your tax dollars are being spent, I encourage you to come to a Township Meeting. If you cannot make it to the Township Building, you can watch the Township Meeting on Facebook Live by clicking on the Upper Mount Bethel Facebook Page at <https://www.facebook.com/uppermountbetheltownship> at 7pm on the 2nd and 4th Monday of every month. This is your way to keep a check on local government.

At our Township Meetings, there is an opportunity for "Public Comment." The Public Comment time is when you the People have the floor and your First Amendment right to say what you want to say to the Supervisors, to your fellow residents and to all those in attendance or listening in. It also gives us Supervisors a chance to know what you are thinking. Although the Public Comment period is generally not a question and answer session, I do hope this will change in the future and us Supervisors will answer all questions you have in your allotted three minutes for Public Comment.

The Announcements part of the Township Meeting is when the Supervisors make Announcements about upcoming events or important things going on in Upper Mount Bethel. This is a great opportunity to stay involved with what events are coming up that might be a family activity day, an informational session or an educational opportunity.

A question I get a lot during our meetings is "what goes on in Executive Session when the Supervisors go back into Executive Session and the People cannot listen in?" In Executive Session, the Supervisors discuss legal issues with our Solicitor that are part of the Attorney-Client privilege, meaning these conversations are confidential because they affect legal advice, legal strategy, and possibly individuals' livelihoods. Other reasons for Executive Session might be employee or employment issues and personal information about individuals associated with Township Business. Nevertheless, the Supervisors can never vote on anything back in Executive Session, we MUST do that in public and in front of you the People. Additionally, we MUST inform you what we discussed in Executive Session without revealing confidential, Attorney-Client information.

I have heard many of the People say to me, "I do not want to attend your meetings because you do not listen to us, I am afraid, there is too much fighting among the Supervisors, or it is just a waste of my time." I understand your points and they all are valid points. However, this is how local government is kept in check, by you the People. There is power in numbers, remember you have the power of the Vote. If you do not believe the Power of the Vote is powerful, just ask any politician running for election or reelection. The Politicians can only represent the People if they get enough votes to put them in office.

By attending a meeting, you can see what business the Township is focusing on, what events are coming up in the Township and you have a chance to give a Public Comment about what you stand behind and what you oppose. I would love to see more of you the People attend our Supervisor meetings, the Township needs your voice to be heard. Please do not be apprehensive about standing up for what you believe in, and please fight for a better tomorrow. Standing up to government is what led to our Declaration of Independence, our United States Constitution and our overall Freedom.

One of my favorite quotes is - "Nothing strengthens authority so much as silence." – Leonardo da Vinci.

Do not stay silent, speak up and be heard. By remaining silent, you are giving government more power to do things, and especially things you do not want to see happen. Whether you speak up about a position I am for or against, I will always respect your opinion and know I am listening.

I will always represent you and be the Voice of the People.

God Bless Upper Mount Bethel Township and God Bless the United States of America!

Respectfully Yours,

John A. Bermingham, Jr.

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An update from the Upper Mount Bethel Township Parks & Recreation Board...

UMBT Parks & Recreation

Spring 2023

CRAFT VENDORS needed for our Harvest Festival / Craft Show on September 23rd. All interested should email ParksRec@umbt.org for more information.

Volunteers Needed

We are always looking for volunteers to assist us with programs and events. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please email us at ParksRec@umbt.org.

Parks & Recreation Board

We have one open position on the Board. If you would like to join our efforts on furthering the development of our Community Park and help create more programs and activities for the enjoyment of our community, please email a letter of intent to ParksRec@umbt.org.

We want to recognize and give thanks to **LAMTEC** and **Custom Laminating** for their continued support of our Parks & Recreation programs. On behalf of our community, our residents and the Parks & Recreation Board.

THANK YOU!

Sports Programs & Community Events

UMBT Basketball

UMBT Softball

UMBT Field Hockey

UMBT Volleyball

Movie Nights In The Park—**June 10**

July 4th Fireworks—**July 1**

Food Truck Festival—**August 26**

Harvest Festival & Craft Show—**September 23**

Veterans Day—**November 11**

Christmas Pajama Party—**December 16**



The Open Space Advisory Board

- Did you know that 2023 is the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Endangered Species Act? Adopted in 1973, the main purpose of the Act is to conserve and protect endangered and threatened species and their habitats.
- Did you know that endangered and threatened species are found in Upper Mount Bethel Township? In fact, the township is home to many species of statewide significance, found only here.
- Did you know that The United States has lost 24 million acres of natural area, between 2001 and 2017? (Source Reuters) That is the equivalent of 37,500 square miles. To put it in perspective, Northampton County is 377 square miles, over 100 times the size of the county has been lost.
- Did you know that only 12% of U.S. land area has been conserved as national parks, wilderness areas, and other types of protected areas? (Source Reuters)
- Did you know that EIT, Earned Income Tax, is a payroll tax?
- Employers in the township pay 1.325% of wages for employees that reside in the township. Of the monies collected, 0.700% goes to the Bangor Area School District and 0.625% goes to Upper Mount Bethel Township. The breakdown of the 0.625% received by the township is 0.50% to the township and 0.125% funds land conservation efforts. For an annual salary of \$50,000, the breakdown is as follows, \$350 to BASD, \$250 to UMBT, and \$62.50 to open space. Thank you to all that contribute to saving the land in our township!
- Did you know that Master Plan for the Preserve is nearly complete? For more information on the Master Plan visit the website at <https://www.uppermountbethelpreserve.org/>.
- Did you know that you can walk at the Preserve on the old railroad bed and haul roads to enjoy nature? Feel free to park at the entrance on Million Dollar Highway and explore via the old railroad bed.
- Did you know that restoration of the Preserve, a distributed landscapes will take time and help from the community? Stay tuned for further opportunities to serve your community in this capacity.
- Did you know that the Open Space Advisory Board meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at the township building at 7:00PM? All are welcome to attend to learn more about land conservation and preservation in our township.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Bocko, chair



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THANK
YOU

This publication is produced at no cost to Upper Mount Bethel Township residents thanks to the generous sponsorship of the businesses listed throughout the newsletter. The Township recognizes these businesses as community supporters and encourages residents to also support these local businesses with their patronage.

MT. BETHEL PLAZA

Where Rt. 512 meets Rt. 611 in the Heart of Mt. Bethel

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- Comunale Chiropractic - Dr. Dan Comunale
- HNL Lab Medicine Full Service Lab

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- Stone Lake Winery
- Panda Chinese Restaurant
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Growing Our Business Community Together

Do you have a favorite business that you patronize on a regular basis in our township? How about a business where you have to travel outside of our area because we don't yet offer that product or service? Our township Economic Development Committee has been hard at work partnering with township business owners to address our ever-changing landscape, identifying potential business opportunities where we have existing gaps, and determining the best ways possible to tell not just our residents, but also tourists coming to our area, about the many unique businesses and experiences that our township has to offer.

In November 2022, the EDC sponsored a meet and greet of local business owners at Tuscarora Inn to garner feedback to some ideas from the EDC about the local business landscape. As part of the discussion, the business owners were in agreement that for the area to really shine, it would be imperative to create an identity for our business community. We have restaurants, butcher shops, wineries, breweries, garden and feed centers, gas stations, fruit and vegetable growers, Christmas tree farms... the list goes on and on. But, we aren't an urban area with a downtown built around Main Street. So, what should we be known as now and in the future and what business(es) - products and services - would make a great fit for our growing community? The EDC helps to connect those dots while developing tools and resources like the local business directory (www.umbt.gov, see business directory link), marketing brochures for placement in area rest stops and other businesses to bring people (and revenue) into our township, and facilitate business workshops connecting local business owners and discussing the future direction of our business community.

As a follow-up to our initial meeting, the EDC hosted another business gathering to continue discussions on branding our area and exploring ways to bridge the gap between the Poconos and the Lehigh Valley. If you have lived in Mount Bethel long enough, you know the running joke is that no one comes over the mountain from Stroudsburg down to the Slate Belt and similarly, folks from the Lehigh Valley don't often find themselves traveling north to the Poconos. One of the goals of the EDC and township business owners is to change the perception that there's nothing in between the Poconos and the Lehigh Valley. We have businesses like Pocono Daytripper and Firkin' Brew Tours bringing residents and tourists alike from those locations into our township to patronize the wineries, cideries, breweries and restaurants. This begs the question: What else can we bring to the area and what types of business ventures can be created to do so?

As some of you are reading this, you might be thinking that this is all well and good, but this just amounts to more people, more traffic and more development. That may be true but think of all the township residents who decided to hang up a shingle and operate their business here, raise a family here, own property here and call Mount Bethel home. The EDC is working to support these business owners while attempting to not drastically change the overall aesthetics of the township. In doing so, the EDC is also looking for ways to leverage business development in the township to help offset the burden of tax increases that would be left to be borne by township residents. It's not an easy juggling act to find the perfect balance, but it is our responsibility to do it otherwise, the county or state will ultimately do it for us and no one is going to want that.

As the EDC looks ahead to the Spring and Summer, there are some immediate challenges on the horizon that have been brought to our attention by several business owners. The closure of Route 611 between Portland and the Delaware Water Gap has impacted not just the commuters who use that road daily, but the businesses who count on that traffic bringing travelers to the area to patronize their businesses. The EDC thought that putting up some signage to highlight area businesses along Route 191 and other alternate routes being utilized while Route 611 might be helpful to those businesses being impacted currently. Additionally, as the River Pointe Logistics (RPL) project moves forward, there will be a need for contracted services including, but not limited to, lawn care, landscaping, and maintenance. The EDC plans on sharing the business directory that was created and updated this past year with RPL to assist them in finding those services. The EDC also wants to ensure that there is a method of communication in place for any type of contracted work from RPL to be communicated to business owners in the township so that they are aware of the needs and can bid on the work. This would help create additional revenue for township businesses.

Need for Economic Development in the Township

So why do we need economic development in Mount Bethel? Our township relies on tax revenues to provide on-going services to our residents (fire and emergency services, garbage collection, road paving and maintenance, zoning, and permit processing enforcement, etc.). Eighty four percent (84%) of Mount Bethel's acreage participates in tax exempt or tax reduced government programs. Generally, these programs provide tax discounts to government entities or large landowners. While these programs are very important to maintain open space and keep Mount Bethel rural, they also limit the tax revenues available to the township for vital services and economic growth.

Unfortunately, as with most of our living expenses these days, the cost of providing township services continues to rise. With 84% of township acreage paying no or discounted taxes, township tax collections have been struggling to keep up with the rate of inflationary increases and the needs of the residents. This requires our elected officials to find ways to bring in more tax revenue, and there are only 2 ways to do so: 1) either continue to raise property taxes on our residents, and have ever-increasing taxes continue to burden low and fixed income residents; or 2) seek to bring in economic development to provide additional sources of revenue.

Fortunately, many years ago, the township had the foresight to create specific zoning requirements for such types of development. In the late 1990's, the township completed a comprehensive plan which identified the best geographic areas for commercial and industrial

development. The land area identified for industrial development was very small (less than 2%) in relation to the overall township landmass. This area of the township along River Road was selected because there are very few residential properties along the travel route to/from the industrial zoned area and it enables development to occur with minimal impact on land usage in the township.

Based on current township estimates, township tax revenues may need to increase by almost double the current amount in the coming years in order to fund Mount Bethel's obligations to fix roads, purchase fire safety equipment, purchase vehicles, and meet the needs of its residents.

Without economic development to help offset the rising costs, the only way these costs can be funded is through higher property taxes for township residents.

The EDC will continue working with area businesses to further our goal of branding our community, driving economic growth to help offset the tax burden placed on residents and filling gaps in the products and services needed within our community. If you have an idea or identified a gap that you think would be of benefit to our community post it to our facebook page (UMBT Economic Development Committee) or better yet, come to a meeting! The committee meets the 4th Thursday of every month at the township building and would love to hear about your idea.

About the EDC

The UMBT Economic and Development Committee is composed of township residents including business owners volunteering their time, talents and collective expertise to further the connection between existing businesses and our community. In addition, the committee partners with local, city and state community development organizations and officials to get the pulse of the economic landscape in our region to better provide thoughtful and strategic insight into economic expansion in Upper Mount Bethel Township. The committee measures success by its ability to bring together and promote business development that further enhances the overall experience of township residents and helps business owners prosper within our community.



WAYS TO KEEP COOLING COSTS LOW THIS SUMMER

- **Install a programmable thermostat.** Consider adjusting your thermostat upward during nighttime hours and when you're not home. This will help keep your energy bill low during the hot summer months.
- **Only use ceiling fans when you're under them.** Ceiling fans are more efficient than air conditioners, but leaving them on all the time won't do you much good. A ceiling fan merely circulates air, it will not actually lower the temperature.
- **Install air conditioners in the warmest rooms.** To keep it cool, you may be tempted to turn your thermostat down into the arctic range. The rest of the house will be freezing, but that room will finally be comfortable. This wastes money by making your central air-conditioning system work overtime.
- **Keep it clean.** Cleaning the air-conditioner filters, whether you have window units or a central unit – is just as important as replacing your furnace filter regularly in the winter. When the filter gets dirty, the unit has to work extra hard to pull air into the system, which costs more energy.
- **Hang out the laundry.** Your dryer is probably one of your homes biggest energy users. It takes a lot of electricity (or gas) to generate heat that dries your clothes. Plus, some of that heat escapes the dryer and winds up heating your home unnecessarily. Let the hot sun work for you instead of against you this summer by hanging your clothes to dry outside on a clothesline. The sun is great for bleaching stains out of white clothes and towels, too!
- **Close curtains, blinds and shades.** Thick draperies, window shades and solar screens all help keep heat out of your house during the day, meaning your AC unit won't have to work at max capacity to cool your home. Whatever your treatments, you'll see significant savings if you work to prevent solar heat gain by keeping them drawn all day.



PET FIRE SAFETY

KNOW THE FACTS • BE PREPARED • PROTECT YOUR PETS

THE SCARY TRUTH ABOUT FIRES

40,000 pets die each year in house fires
1,000 fires are started by pets each year

MAKE AN EMERGENCY KIT

Assemble a portable emergency kit with enough supplies to last 7 days.

It should include:

- Medications and medical records
- Leashes, harnesses or carriers for safe transport
- Current photos in case they are lost
- Bowls, cat litter and pan, can opener
- Plastic bags and paper towels to clean up waste
- Toys and pet beds
- Emergency contact numbers
- Food and bottled water

TIPS FOR PREVENTING HOUSE FIRES

Remove or lock the knobs on your stove
 your pet may nudge the stove knobs just enough to ignite a burner. Knob covers are an inexpensive and effective way to prevent this from happening.

Do not leave candles unattended
 extinguish all open flames when you leave a room so they aren't tipped over with a paw or tail. Consider using flameless candles.

Pet-Proof your home
 go through your home as if you're baby-proofing and eliminate any loose wires or other potential hazards.

Beware of water bowls on wooden decks
 the hot rays of the sun, when filtered through a glass water bowl can actually ignite the wooden deck below. Use ceramic or stainless steel instead.

BE PREPARED FOR AN EMERGENCY



GET A RESCUE ALERT STICKER

These stickers, placed on a front-facing window, will alert rescue workers of the presence of pets inside your home.



ARRANGE A SAFE HAVEN

Arrange a place for pets to stay if you evacuate. Do not leave your pets at home. If it isn't safe for you, it isn't safe for them!



MAKE AN EMERGENCY KIT

Have your kit made and keep it in a safe location near your front door for easy access.



KEEP IDENTIFICATION ON YOUR PET

Keep up-to-date license and contact info on your pet at all times. Consider having pets microchipped.

Share this important information with all your pet loving friends.
 Learn more about Pet Fire Safety at www.DogingtonPost.com

JULY 15TH IS NATIONAL PET FIRE SAFETY DAY!



STAYING SAFE *in the great outdoors*

Exploring the beautiful, vast Pennsylvania outdoors can be fun and memorable. However, the most important part of any trip is staying safe. In order to protect yourself and others who may be exploring with you on our remote, public lands, you first need to plan out your trip and learn what to do if you need help.

Plan Your Adventure

By taking the time to plan and follow a few basic rules, a hike, camping trip, or other activity can be a safe experience you can remember with great joy for a lifetime! Here are some tips to help you plan your safe adventure:

- **Always plan out your trip ahead of time.** It is important to lay out your trip, including where you are going, and, if it's a multi-day trip, how far you will travel each day and how long you plan to stay in each area. Plan enough time for day trips to prevent you from traveling after dark without the proper nighttime equipment.
- **Always tell someone where you are going and expected time of return.** Write down your plans and indicate on a map where you are going. Let them know that you will call when you return. If they do not hear from you they can contact the proper authorities and a search can be started. Also leave a copy of your plan in your vehicle, too. Do not leave your plan on the dash or seat, where it can be easily spotted by someone hoping to break into vehicles.
- **Don't rely on your cell phone; take a paper map with you.** Cell phones and GPS units are not reliable in remote areas. You may experience a drained battery or no cellular reception. A compass is also a helpful tool that is a perfect companion to your map.
- **Bring other helpful gear.** Take matches, a knife, a whistle, food, and water with you. Also remember to always dress properly for the outdoors.
- **Follow your plan.** When you're on your adventure, stay on designated trails and learn what trail markings indicate the trail you need to be on.

If You Need Help

If you need help, do not wait to call for help. If you are calling for help for yourself using a cell phone, dial 911. If there is no 911 service, you will need to know the specific number to call or you will need to call someone you know to call help for you.

If You Become Lost

- **Remain calm.** While this sounds easy, many people will panic when in an undesirable, unfamiliar situation. Remaining calm will help a lost individual make sound, rational decisions.
- **Stop walking.** Walking with unfamiliar landmarks will often lead someone who is lost to wander in circles and potentially cause a longer rescue time.
- **Seek/build shelter and a fire depending on weather conditions.** Staying warm and dry are two key elements to surviving an extended period in the wild. Preventing hypothermia -- a condition where your body core temperature is too low to sustain your health -- is critical. Learn about hypothermia and ways to avoid it before you ever become lost in the woods.

As a last resort -- if no one knows your whereabouts, if you do not have the means to stay warm, and if you are at a point of last resort, find a stream and follow the water downstream. All streams in Pennsylvania will eventually lead to a road.





Upper Mount Bethel Township Contact Information

MUNICIPAL BUILDING

387 YE OLDE HIGHWAY • P.O. BOX 520 • MOUNT BETHEL, PA 18343 • 570-897-6127 • FAX 570-897-0108

OFFICE HOURS:

Upper Mount Bethel Township Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

UPPER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP MEETINGS - 2023

All meetings are held in the Municipal Building, 387 Ye Olde Highway, Mt. Bethel, PA 18343

Board of Supervisors - 2nd and 4th Monday at 7:00 p.m.

Open Space Advisory Board - 4th Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

Planning Commission - 3rd Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

Recreation/Park Committee - 2nd Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

Economic Development Committee - 4th Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

Zoning Hearing Board - 4th Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. (as needed)

Board of Elected Supervisors	6 year term	Term Exp
Martin Pinter	Chairman/Treasurer	2024
Robert Teel	Vice Chairman	2024
David Due	Secretary	2025
David Friedman	Supervisor	2028
John Bermingham Jr.	Supervisor	2028

Township Manager	Ext. 5	Annual
Ed Nelson		

Township Secretary/Recording/ Secretary	Ext. 2
Cynthia Beck	

Senior Accounting Clerk/Bookkeeper	Ext. 4
Diann Eden	

Administrative/Office Liaison
David Due

Road Department Inquires

Road Crew Chief/EMC	Lindsey Manzi, Ext. 6
Assistant Road Crew Chief	David Constable, Ext. 6
Road Dept. Liaison	David Due

Zoning Officer/Building Codes Official	Tina Serfass	Ext. 3	Annual

Property Maintenance Officer	Nick Graziano	Ext. 3

Burn Control	John Bocko	570-688-6191

Sewage Enforcement Officer	Scott Policelli	Annual

Township Engineer	Justin Coyle, P.E.	Annual

Board of Supervisors & Planning Commission Solicitor	Ronold Karasek, Esq.	Annual

Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor	Mark Minotti	Annual

Zoning Hearing Board	5 Yr Term
Ron Angle	Chairman 2024
Scott Duddy	2027
Jeff Manzi	Vice Chairman 2025
Lee McDonald	Secretary 2028
Russell Horn	2028

Planning Commission	5 Yr Term
Robert Teel	Chairman 2028
Randy Crane	Vice Chairman 2027
Frank Klein	2025
Jimmy Potter	2024
Faith Sarisky	Secretary 2026

Tax Collector	Tracy DeFranco	610-588-5331	2026

Vacancy Board	Nick Graziano	Annual

Elected Auditors	6 year term	Term Exp
Charles Felker	Vice Chairman	2028
Rod Rufe	Secretary	2026
Gordon Pensyl		2024

BASD Regional Economic Development Authority	Jeff Manzi	2026

STATE POLICE

Emergency: 911 Non-Emergency: 610-759-6106

Mt. Bethel Vol. Fire Co.

Emergency: 911
Non-Emergency/Report Controlled Burns 570-897-6767

North Bangor Fire Co.

Emergency: 911 Non-Emergency: 610-588-0614

PennDot County Roads	Deer Removal	610-250-1840

Game Commission Twp Roads	Deer Removal	610-926-3136

Mt. Bethel Post Office	570-897-5131

Bangor Area School District	Main Number	610-588-2163

Slater Family Network	610-599-7019

Garbage Company	Waste Management	800-633-9096

Met-Ed	Customer Service	1-800-545-7741

Frontier	Customer Service	1-800-447-3140



They count on your mammogram too.

To take care of others, you need to take care of your own health. Screening mammograms can find breast cancer in its earlier, most treatable stages. Make the time for your annual mammogram today – your loved ones will thank you tomorrow.

Schedule your mammogram | [LVHN.org/mammo](https://www.lvh.org/mammo)

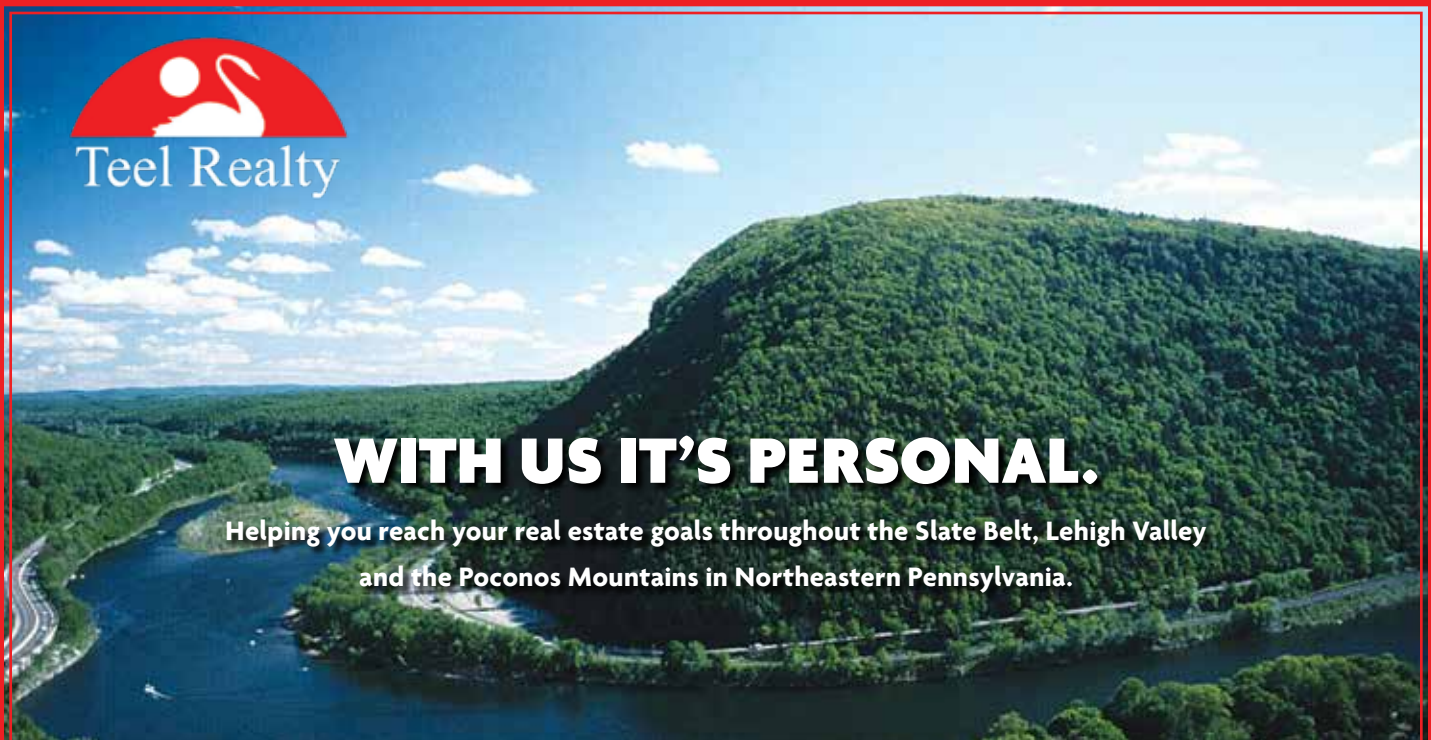


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387 Ye Olde Highway
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Spring/Summer 2023



WITH US IT'S PERSONAL.

Helping you reach your real estate goals throughout the Slate Belt, Lehigh Valley
and the Poconos Mountains in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

TERRY TEEL—BROKER / OWNER
Cell: 570-460-3910 • Email: TerryTeel8@gmail.com

2418 N. Delaware Drive • Mount Bethel PA 18343
Office: 1-570-897-7325 • Fax: 1-570-897-7303



Buyers



Sellers



Tenants and Landlords



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To Place An Ad Call Philip Solomon at Hometown Press • 215-431-4184

