



## Gary Scarpello your

### Upper Dublin Township Ward 3 Commissioner

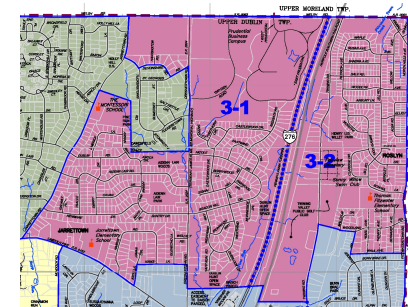
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Winter 2024

Issue 28

### Thank You!

I hope you had a restful holiday season. Thank you very much for electing me to my third term representing Ward 3. As we look forward to 2024 there are exciting times ahead for Upper Dublin.

### JES Sidewalk Completed

The Limekiln Pike sidewalk from Jarretstown Elementary School to the Dreshertown Plaza has now been completed to the delight of school children and parents alike.

### 2024 Budget

The Board of Commissioners passed a 1.5% township tax increase for 2024. There are challenges ahead for the township including the rebuilding of the Township/Police and Public Works buildings. On the horizon is the growing need to address storm water management. The combination of global warming along with our aging 75-year old infrastructure have created a need for Upper Dublin to reinvest in our community.

### Insurance Claim Awarded

The insurance claim for the water leak in the old library was awarded for \$2,325,000.00 to be used for the rebuilding of the Township & Public Works buildings.

### Township/Police & Public Works Buildings Bids Awarded/Timeline

**General Construction:** Bracy Construction, Inc.,  
**Mechanical:** Myco Mechanical, Inc., **Electrical:** Boro Developers, **Plumbing:** Integrity Mechanical,  
**Time Line:** Jan 2024 Bids Awarded,  
Feb 2024 Construction Started,  
June 2025 Public Works Construction Completed,  
December 2025 Township/Police Building Completed.

### BOC Approves Volunteer Firefighter Property Tax/Earned Income Tax Credit

This ordinance allows a tax credit for volunteer firefighters of the Fort Washington Fire Company (FWFC) who live within the Township. The program was made possible when Governor Wolf signed Act 172 into law, allowing municipalities a real estate or earned income tax credit to active members of volunteer fire companies through a volunteer service credit program: A tax credit up to \$1,200 for active volunteer firefighters who achieve specific training requirements and service hours. The program will become effective in 2024 tax year.

FWFC Chief Andy Rathfon: "The success of the Fort Washington Fire Company is due to our proactive approach in the recruitment and retention of our volunteers. We are committed to maintaining a 100% volunteer fire service for our community."

FWFC President Ernie Racz: "The Fire Co. appreciates the continued support of the UDT Commissioners to ensure we have the needed resources to carry out our mission in providing for the protection & well-being of the residents and visitors of UD." For information Visit:

<https://www.fortwashingtonfc.org/news/197/Upper-Dublin-Township-Approves-Tax-Credit-Ordinance-for-Volunteer-Firefighters>

### 2024 Twining Valley Park Outlook

Phase 2 of Twining Valley Park will begin in 2024 with construction of a bike playground. This project is fully funded by county and state grants. The amenity is for children 5+ grade and younger for bikes, scooters, big wheels, wheelchairs and skateboards. The Township has secured 50% of the needed funding for the 5 pickleball courts at TVP and is now seeking to fund the other 50% with another grant.



### UDT Awarded \$300,000 to Improve Drainage in Willow Manor

The award, from a Watershed Restoration and Protection Program is to improve drainage along Willow and Maple Avenues in the Willow Manor neighborhood. Gilmore & Associates identified the main areas for flooding along a tributary to Pennypack Creek. Their study proposed several solutions to address those issues. The most impactful improvements are costly and exceed the amount of the grant awarded. UDT is working with Gilmore & Associates to identify a phased approach to provide both short and long-term benefits to the residents. The first phase will likely include a combination of storm pipe installations/replacements and/or stream bank restoration along the stream. Specific details regarding the project will be released throughout 2024 as the design phase progresses, with construction of an improvement project anticipated to begin in mid to late 2025.

### Parks & Rec 2023 Report

#### 2023 Grants

UDT received a PA DCNR grant for \$105,600 to plant 1,700 trees at Susquehanna Woods (6.4 acre open space area) & Twining Valley Park, and to remove invasive plants at those two sites. The Township's 20% match for the grant will be met with volunteer & staff hours eliminating cash outlay from the Township. To volunteer click on this link:

<https://www.upperdublinrec.net/our-department/upper-dublin-c-a-r-e-s>

#### 2023 Accomplishments

Phase 1 of Twining Valley Park was completed including: construction of nearly 6 miles of paved and dirt trails, the dog park & parking lot, reconfiguration & expansion of existing parking lot, & installation of storm water management. \$520,000 in grants were used to complete this project.

## Open Space Plan 2023 UPDATE

The Township completed its Open Space Plan for short-term and long-range plans and strategies for acquisition, development, and maintenance of open space, community connections and environmental resources within the community. Seventy missing connections were identified - 9 of which are in Ward 3. Of the missing connections of sidewalks, trails, bike lanes, pedestrian crossings, tunnels and bridges, one of the missing connections has already been constructed – the new sidewalk connecting Jarrettown Elementary School with the Dreshertown Plaza. The Plan also highlighted 42 properties of interest – 5 of which are in Ward 3. **Properties of Interest** are properties the Township would acquire or secure access or conservation easement (preservation). The update was 50% funded by a PA DCNR grant. Execution of the Open Space Plan will begin when the UDT Open Space Plan Implementation Advisory Group made up of residents and staff is formed. They will prioritize and recommend projects. The goal is to complete at least one missing connection per year.

## Sunny Willow Swim Club Board Easement

The Township has a preliminary agreement in place with the SWSC Board to create a formal park access from the SWSC property to Twining Valley Park/Twining Valley Dog Park. UDT Staff have applied for a state grant to offset some of the agreement costs. Construction documents were previously developed so if/once an agreement is reached, grants to support the construction of the connection can be applied for almost immediately.

## Upper Dublin Public Library 2023 Report

Friends of Upper Dublin Public Library contributed nearly \$60,000 to the Library through its Friends Shop sales, and corporate sponsorships. The Friends were surprised by an unexpected \$5,000 grant from BLBB Charitable at the end of the year. Also in 2023, the Library staff and Board embarked on a strategic planning process of establishing the UDL as a Center for Community Engagement.

## Public Works Department Moving In!

The UDT Public Works Department is moving back into their newly renovated facility at **801 Loch Alsh Ave.** by mid-February.

Stay in Touch - Your Voice is Important  
Join in the Discussions. Come to Meetings.

Gary Scarpello  
Your  
Township Commissioner for Ward 3

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## UPPER DUBLIN TOWNSHIP Ward 3 News

Upper Dublin is a vibrant community because the citizens care about the quality of life here.

- ✓ Thank You!
- ✓ JES Sidewalk Completed
- ✓ 2024 Budget
- ✓ Insurance Claim
- ✓ Township/Police & Public Works Building Bids Awarded
- ✓ BOC Approves Volunteer Firefighter Tax Credit
- ✓ 2024 Twining Valley Park Outlook
- ✓ UDT Awarded \$300,000 to improve drainage in Willow Manor
- ✓ Parks & Rec 2023 Grants & Accomplishments Report
- ✓ Open Space Plan 2023 Update
- ✓ Sunny Willow Swim Club Easements
- ✓ Library 2023 Report
- ✓ Public Works Dept. Moving In!



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