



Fall/Winter 2023



# UPPER MT. BETHEL

## *Township*



## *Northampton County, Pennsylvania*

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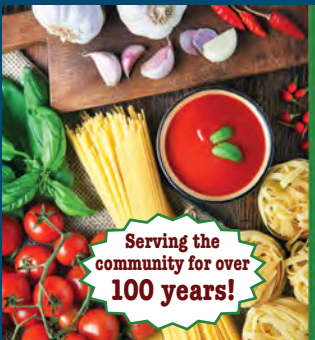
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## Welcome Nick Graziano



### Welcome Nick Graziano -Our new interim manager.

Nick was previously our Property Maintenance Officer but was recently appointed the position of the Township Interim Manager. Best of luck to Nick.

## Come out to the Public Meetings for the Portland to Minsi Lake Trail!

Mark your calendar and join us at the township building at 7:00pm as we explore the feasibility of a trail linking Portland to Minsi Lake.

- Wednesday November 8, 2023
- Wednesday February 7, 2024
- Wednesday April 17, 2024
- Wednesday July 19, 2024

This feasibility study is sponsored by grant monies from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and Northampton County.



## Letter from Supervisor John Bermingham

Dear Upper Mount Bethel:

When I was a younger man, I was afraid of stirring the pot. I wanted everyone to like me as I was a short, insecure guy who wanted to fit in. I admit this is how I have been much of my life. My wife and I had only lived in Upper Mount Bethel for one and a half years when I decided to run for office. There was a local issue going on at the time about the spreading of sewage sludge (or biosolids as some may call it), and I wanted to get involved. I have always been interested in national politics, but I have never paid too much attention to local politics. However, was I able to fight? Was I able to go outside my comfort zone and speak up? I have been on stage before, but this is political. This is about changing the way people live their everyday lives. Could I do it? Could I put my fear aside? Could I live knowing I cannot please everyone?

I joined Sludge Free UMBT, and the fight was on and so was my education about public speaking. For years, we tried to keep sludge out of our town, but it looked like a fight that could not be won. I started speaking up, and I started getting loud. It was awkward at first, but the more I did it, the more people started to support me, and I began to understand what the role of a politician and public speaking is all about. After years of negotiating, we were able to come to an agreement with all parties involved to stop the spreading of sewage sludge, and have continued to do so for the past few years. I could not have done it, and Sludge Free UMBT could not have done it, without you the people getting on board and supporting us.

The purpose of my article is not about me and my role as a politician in public speaking. The purpose of my article is to talk about you and taking that first step in speaking up. Anyone can run for supervisor; it just takes a passion for Upper Mount Bethel and "doing the right thing." If you do not want to be a politician, you can start a movement to change something by speaking up. When I hear people speak up during "public comment" at a supervisors' meeting, I respect them for doing it, and many times I support what they say. I wish more people would speak up, but many are apprehensive, and I understand that. You might need to go outside your comfort zone to get in front of a group of people, but once

you do and the more you do it, the easier it gets. You do not need an education; you do not need an advanced degree to be a good public speaker or a leader. Some of the smartest people I know stopped going to school after high school, but I consider them well-educated. It just takes passion and a belief in yourself and the cause, to be a good public speaker. In other words, just be who you are. People know when they see someone who is fake or who is trying to impress someone.

Once you get that one person who says to you after your first public comment, "thank you for saying that, and I agree with you," everything will change. You will gain confidence, you can start a movement, you can change things, and soon you will get people who will jump on board and support your movement. It is always the first time that is the hardest and scariest. I was at the Bangor Area Middle School when I first publicly spoke up about sludge and how we could work with farmers to support them while protecting our neighbors with vulnerable health conditions. People came up to me and said, "thanks for speaking up, and I agree with what you said." I changed after that. I knew it was not about me and my fear but it was about them. It was about being a voice for the people and speaking up for those who may not be ready to speak up yet or do not want to speak up and that is ok. If you do not want to speak up, get behind someone who will speak up for you until you are ready.

I encourage you to speak up and give it a try, and if you are nervous, that is normal. Speaking up is how government is kept in check. It starts with that one person who says, "hey, this is not right," and is ready to say it publicly. I guarantee when you do, people will get behind you and support you. Take the step, speak up; it is not that difficult. If I can do it, and I was once afraid of my own shadow, anyone can do it. I am still that short, insecure guy, but now I know I must speak up and I must fight, not for me but for those who need their voices heard. I know you can do it as well. The more the people speak up, the more the people will get what they want.

Respectfully,

John A. Bermingham, Jr.  
Board of Supervisors  
Upper Mount Bethel Township

## 2023 UMBT Tax Office Hours And Beginning Of 2024

TRACY DEFRANCO, TAX COLLECTOR 610-588-5331

email: [tracydefranco@gmail.com](mailto: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 INSTALLMENTS, DISC, BASE AND YR END:**

**HOURS 4PM – 6PM 11/21, 11/28, 11/29, 11/30, 12/28, 12/29**

**2024 – 1/10, 3/10, 3/19, 3/20, 3/26, 3/27**

**HOURS 9AM-NOON 9/30/2023 AND 4/1/2024**

**12/30/2023 OFFICE OPEN 9AM-11AM UMBT END OF YEAR 2023 REAL ESTATE**

**OFFICE CLOSED 10/15-10/31/2023, 11/23/2023, 12/17-12/27/2023, 1/14-1/22/2024, 5/31-6/5/2024**

**JUNE AND JULY ARE BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**

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

**THERE IS A PAYMENT BOX ATTACHED TO OFFICE IF YOU WANTED TO DROP YOUR PAYMENT OUTSIDE OF SITTING HOURS**

## Wildlife in Need

[www.WINemergencyresponse.com](http://www.WINemergencyresponse.com)

Our rural township has many forested and open areas for wild animals to roam. Unfortunately, there are still dangers for the animals in our community. Have you ever come across orphaned or injured wildlife and wondered what you could do for them? There may be an option for you.

**Wildlife in Need** is an all-volunteer, non-profit, statewide network for transporting injured, sick and orphaned wildlife throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This organization was founded by Suzanne DeArment in 2017.

Volunteers in WIN are trained to advise concerned citizens about wildlife situations that may occur. They can give advice on locations of wildlife rehabilitators in the area and how to contain the animal. There are also volunteers that are trained in the capture and transport of wildlife who can safely contain

the animal and take it to the nearest rehabilitation center for medical treatment. If you have found a wild animal in need please call: **(814) 414-4224**.

**WIN is not permitted to capture deer over 30 lbs., bear, adult otters, fishers, bobcats, or venomous snakes.** Locate your regional Pennsylvania Game Commission at [pgc.pa.gov](http://pgc.pa.gov) for mammals listed and your regional Fish and Boat regional office at [fishandboat.com](http://fishandboat.com). For venomous snakes, please contact the Venom Institute & Reptile Rescue at 484-525-3512.

There are opportunities for helping this organization. Training is available for dispatchers, Wildlife Couriers and permitted Capture and Transport volunteers. Please go to their website (above) and select "volunteer" if you are interested. There are descriptions of each volunteer opportunity, and applications are available.

## Parks & Recreation

The Parks & Recreation Board continues to strive for park development, sports and recreation programs and community events with its efforts.

**Park Development:** We are working to get the pavilion completed, to plan for and build bathrooms at the Community Park, as well as the needed water and sewer that are required to do so. Recently, the Park entrance was widened to have two lanes and we've had additional electrical accessibility installed. We are currently working to get new equipment sheds for the Community Park and Echo Lake. We are also looking into improving the dugouts at Echo Lake. As a Board, we are also constantly looking for funding opportunities to help finance further park development.

**Sports and Recreation Programs:** We've been re-growing in participation year over year after the COVID pandemic. We want to thank all the coaches, assistants, directors, volunteers, parents, and everyone else who has stepped up to make the UMBT sports and recreation programs the success they are today. These programs would not exist without YOU!

**Community Events:** We've decided to get smaller to get bigger. You may have heard me speak during a BOS meeting explaining that we have been seeing reduced

attendance at some of our events. Based on the trend, we decided to have fewer events, but make them bigger. Our latest strategy is that we are planning for only 1 event per month, weather permitting. We are also working to create new events, such as a Food Truck Festival, a Kite Flying event and maybe a Carnival.

If anyone is interested in volunteering for community events, please email [parksrec@umbt.org](mailto:parksrec@umbt.org). We are constantly looking for volunteers to help with set-up, teardown, parking, sales, etc.

The Park & Recreation Board's focus is giving back to our community and providing an opportunity for our township to be seen and enjoyed in a different, unique way...

The Parks & Recreation Board meets on the second Thursday of each month at the Township Building. Our meetings start promptly at 7pm. If any members of our community have ideas, questions, or feedback that they'd like to share, we would love to hear from you.

Sincerely,

Stavros Barbounis Chairman | Parks & Recreation Board



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## Trash and Recycling

### TRASH-EVERY WEEK

Place your toter at the curb the night before or before 5 a.m. on your service day. Toters must be placed with the handle facing away from the road and at least 3 feet away from other toters, mailboxes, cars, poles or trees.

Please bag all your trash before putting it in the toter to help reduce litter and to keep your cart clean.

All trash must be in the toter, please do not overload or place extra trash outside the cart. Waste Management will not get out of the truck to pick up bags or loose garbage.

### RECYCLING-EVERY OTHER WEEK

Recycling collection will be every other week but on the same day as your waste collection.

Place your toter at the curb the night before or before 5 a.m. on your service day. Toters must be placed with the handle facing away from the road and at least 3 feet away from other toters, mailboxes, cars, poles, or trees.

Please flatten all boxes or cut them down to fit in the toters. Do not pile cardboard beside the cart. Waste Management will not get out of the truck to pick up.

DO NOT bag your recycling before putting it into the toter. Place all recycled items loosely into the cart. NO plastic bags of any kind may be placed in the cart.

### BULK ITEM-EVERY FRIDAY

Residents are permitted to dispose of one (1) bulk item weekly on Friday,

Bulk Item examples include furniture, mattress, box spring, microwave, etc.

Mattresses and box springs must be plastic wrapped for pickup.

Carpet rolls (4 rolls = 1 bulk item) are acceptable when:

Cut into 4 ft width, rolled and bound, less than 50 lbs. each.

Major appliances are acceptable for pickup, including washer, dryer, stove, dishwasher, hot water heater, etc. Refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners and dehumidifiers must be Freon free. Any of these units must have FREON removed by a certified technician, and the unit stickered in a visible location.

We cannot accept demolition debris, TVs, computers, electronic wastes, or hazardous household wastes. If you have any questions about bulk item acceptance, please call the Township Building-570/897-6127.

### OBSERVED 2023 HOLIDAYS

When a holiday falls on or before your collection day, your pickup will only be delayed one day.

**New Year's Day: Sunday, January 1, 2023**

**Memorial Day: Monday, May 29, 2023**

**Independence Day: Tuesday, July 4, 2023**

**Labor Day: Monday, September 4, 2023**

**Thanksgiving Day: Thursday, November 23, 2023**

**Christmas Day: Monday, December 25, 2023**



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## News From the Road Crew

A severe rainstorm dumped over 6 inches of rain in a short period of time in the southeast corner of our township. Roads and shoulders were washed out, roads closed and trees down. Public works prioritized a list of repairs to mitigate future washouts. Repairs were started immediately and will run well into late October or November. I would like to thank our township residents for their patience as our normal work schedule was totally interrupted. I would also like to thank the public works team for the hard work they do each and every day for the municipality.

Boom mowing along township roads will continue during the growing season. Homeowners that wish to not have their trees/shrubs cut with the township boom mower should maintain them for sight distance and township right of way, for safety purposes.

The township has received a Dirt and Gravel Grant for a road project on a portion of Hemlock Drive, which should be completed in early October. A Low Volume Road Grant was also awarded to Upper Mount Bethel Township for upgrades to Vough Lane, which will begin in mid-October.



## Prepare Your Home for Winter

As winter approaches, our thoughts turn to other activities as we plan for the annual hibernation to the indoors. This is also a good time to plan a safe hibernation for your house as well. The constant change in the weather can have a significant effect on your house that, if left unchecked, may result in major repairs in the future.

Now is the time to inspect your house for anything that does not appear to be normal. Things to look for include loose siding, missing or torn shingles, broken or sticking doors, missing caulking around windows or any other item that will leave your home exposed to the elements. Now is the time to start addressing these items before the cold weather sets in and these items are forgotten.

You may also want to take a look at other items that are often overlooked until it is too late. One important item is your home heating system. Most people who are not on a maintenance program forget to have service performed until well into the heating season when the furnace decides to stop working. Unfortunately, this is the time that most heating contractors are busiest and you may have to wait for service. Avoid the headache and plan ahead.

Items such as your water heater may need your attention as well as other home appliances. Remember to check and make sure water pipes are properly insulated and not exposed to freezing temperatures. Be sure that leaves and debris do not obstruct water flow from gutters and downspouts. Water that freezes and is allowed to back up rooftops often provides you with unwelcome leaks. The lists are endless, but remember your home is a major investment - take good care of it.





## News From the Road Crew



Hemlock Dr.



Stone Church Dr.



Hemlock Dr.



Hemlock Dr



## The peaceful path at the Preserve



This picture reminds me of the poem by Robert Frost, "The Road Not Taken". Take a few moments out of a busy day and choose one of the many walking paths at the Preserve. The former railroad bed trail is perfect for enjoying the tranquility of the Preserve.

The entrance for this trail is next door to the public works site at 113 Million Dollar Highway.

-Submitted by Laura Bocko, chair of the Open Space Advisory Board

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## Check out the Master Plan for the Preserve!



<https://www.uppermountbethelpreserve.org/>

## Welcome to the Upper Mount Bethel Preserve Master Plan Webpage!

The purpose of the Upper Mount Bethel Preserve Master Plan is to determine a program, site plan, and potential improvements for the Preserve that will facilitate the passive recreational use of the site while enhancing habitats as the site recovers from the quarrying operations.



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# Portland to Minsi Lake Trail Feasibility Study

## PUBLIC MEETING #1

# YOU'RE INVITED!

Can't Make It?  
Additional meetings  
will be held on the  
following dates:

**February 7th, 2024 @ 7pm**

**April 17th, 2024 @ 7pm**

**July 17th, 2024 @ 7pm**



**Public Opinion Survey**  
will be **LIVE** on  
**November 8th!**

Scan the QR code or  
visit the link below:

<https://qrco.de/PortlandToMinsiTrail-Survey>

Share the links with your friends and on social media!

**November 8th, 2023 | 7-9 pm**

**Upper Mount Bethel Township Building**

387 Ye Olde Hwy, Mount Bethel, PA 18343

Attendees will have the opportunity to ask  
questions and provide input at the meetings.

**For more information, please contact:**

Tim Adams

[tadams@simonecollins.com](mailto:tadams@simonecollins.com)

(610) 239-7601







Winter driving can be hazardous and scary, especially in northern regions that get a lot of snow and ice. Additional preparations can help make a trip safer, or help motorists deal with an emergency. This sheet provides safety information to your residents to help prevent motor vehicle injuries due to winter storms.

### THE THREE P'S OF SAFE WINTER DRIVING:

**PREPARE** for the trip;  
**PROTECT** yourself;  
 and **PREVENT** crashes on the road.

#### PREPARE

- **Maintain Your Car:** Check battery, tire tread, and windshield wipers, keep your windows clear, put no-freeze fluid in the washer reservoir, and check your antifreeze.
- **Have On Hand:** flashlight, jumper cables, abrasive material (sand, kitty litter, even floor mats), shovel, snow brush and ice scraper, warning devices (like flares) and blankets. For long trips, add food and water, medication and cell phone.
- **Stopped or Stalled?** Stay in your car, don't overexert, put bright markers on antenna or windows and shine dome light, and, if you run your car, clear exhaust pipe and run it just enough to stay warm.
- **Plan Your Route:** Allow plenty of time (check the weather and leave early if necessary), be familiar with the maps/ directions, and let others know your route and arrival time.

#### *Practice Cold Weather Driving!*

- During the daylight, rehearse maneuvers slowly on ice or snow in an empty lot.
- Steer into a skid.
- Know what your brakes will do: stomp on antilock brakes, pump on non-antilock brakes.
- Stopping distances are longer on water-covered snow and ice.
- Don't idle for a long time with the windows up or in an enclosed space.

#### PROTECT YOURSELF

- Buckle up and use child safety seats properly.
- Never place a rear-facing infant seat in front of an air bag.
- Children 12 and under are much safer in the back seat.

#### PREVENT CRASHES

- Drugs and alcohol never mix with driving.
- Slow down and increase distances between cars.
- Keep your eyes open for pedestrians walking in the road.
- Avoid fatigue – Get plenty of rest before the trip, stop at least every three hours, and rotate drivers if possible.
- If you are planning to drink, designate a sober driver.





# Put a **FREEZE** on Winter Fires

Home fires occur more in winter than in any other season. As you stay cozy and warm this winter season, be fire smart!



Half of all home heating fires occur in the months of December, January and February.



Heating equipment is involved in **1 in every 7** reported home fires and **1 in every 5** home fire deaths.



Keep anything that can burn **at least 3 feet** from any heat source like fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators or space heaters.



Keep portable generators **outside, away from windows, and as far away as possible** from your home.



Install and test carbon monoxide alarms **at least once a month.**



Plug only **1 heat-producing appliance** (such as a space heater) into an electrical outlet at a time.



Have a qualified professional clean and inspect your chimney and vents **every year.**



Store cooled ashes in a tightly covered metal container, and keep it **outside at least 10 feet** from your home and any nearby buildings.



# SET THE TABLE FOR SAFETY

Whether testing out a new dish or whipping up a family classic, there's one recipe that should also be included on the menu this holiday season: **safety**. Follow this "Recipe for Kitchen Safety" and help this year's festivities create memories instead of danger.

## INGREDIENTS FOR SAFETY

FUNCTIONING  
SMOKE ALARMS



FUNCTIONING  
GROUND FAULT  
CIRCUIT INTERRUPTERS  
(GFCIs)



VIGILANCE



## DIRECTIONS

- 1 Smoke alarms should be installed in **every bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home**. For the best protection, smoke alarms should be interconnected, so that they all sound if one sounds.



- 2 Test the batteries in each smoke alarm **every month**, replace them **once a year**, and replace the unit every **10 years**.



- 3 GFCIs are electrical safety devices that trip electrical circuits when they detect ground faults, or leakage currents, that could shock or electrocute someone. GFCIs should be installed where **electricity and water may come in contact**, such as the kitchen. GFCIs should also be tested **every month**. Additional instructions for testing can be found at [www.esfi.org](http://www.esfi.org).



- 4 Prevent fires by making sure your oven and stovetop are **clean and free of grease and dust**. You should also clean the exhaust hood and duct over the stove regularly. Lastly, vacuum the refrigerator coils every **three months** to prevent potentially dangerous dirt build-up.



CLEAN  
APPLIANCES



KITCHEN  
TIMER



## KITCHEN SAFETY



- 5 **Never leave cooking unattended.** You should not cook if you are sleepy or under the influence of alcohol. Children should also be closely supervised and kept at least **three feet away** from all cooking appliances.



- 6 It's easy to forget about something that's cooking, especially when you're entertaining guests. **Use a kitchen timer** to make sure your dish doesn't become a fire hazard.



- 7 **Enjoy!** Being proactive about safety will give you peace of mind and allow you to enjoy your time with loved ones.

ESFi For more information about cooking and holiday safety visit [www.esfi.org](http://www.esfi.org)



# 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 pm

**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

<b>Township Manager</b>	Ext. 5	Annual
Interim Manager-Nick Graziano		

<b>Township Secretary/Recording/Secretary</b> Cynthia Beck	Ext. 2	
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<b>Senior Accounting Clerk/Bookkeeper</b> Diann Eden	Ext. 4	
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<b>Administrative/Office Liaison</b> David Due		
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Road Department Inquires		
Road Crew Chief/EMC	Lindsey Manzi, Ext. 6	
Assistant Road Crew Chief	David Constable, Ext. 6	
Road Dept. Liaison	David Due	

<b>Zoning Officer/Building Codes Official</b> Tina Serfass	Ext. 3	Annual
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<b>Property Maintenance Officer</b> Open	Ext. 3	
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<b>Burn Control</b> John Bocko	570-688-6191	
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<b>Sewage Enforcement Officer</b> Scott Policelli		Annual
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<b>Township Engineer</b> Justin Coyle, P.E.		Annual
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<b>Board of Supervisors &amp; Planning Commission Solicitor</b> Ronold Karasek, Esq.		Annual
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<b>Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor</b> Mark Minotti		Annual
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Zoning Hearing Board	5 Yr Term
Ron Angle	Chairman 2024
Jeff Manzi	Vice Chairman 2025
Lee McDonald	Secretary 2028
Scott Duddy	2027
Russell Horn	2028

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

<b>Tax Collector</b> Tracy DeFranco	610-588-5331	2026
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<b>Vacancy Board</b> Nick Graziano		Annual
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Elected Auditors	6 year term	Term Exp
Charles Felker	Vice Chairman	2028
Rod Rufe	Secretary	2026
Gordon Pensyl		2024

<b>BASD Regional Economic Development Authority</b> Jeff Manzi	2026
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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

<b>PennDot County Roads</b>	Deer Removal	610-250-1840
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<b>Game Commission Twp Roads</b>	Deer Removal	610-926-3136
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<b>Mt. Bethel Post Office</b>		570-897-5131
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<b>Bangor Area School District</b>	Main Number	610-588-2163
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<b>Slater Family Network</b>		610-599-7019
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<b>Garbage Company</b> Waste Management		800-633-9096
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<b>Met-Ed</b>	Customer Service	1-800-545-7741
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<b>Frontier</b>	Customer Service	1-800-447-3140
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# 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://LVHN.org/mammo)





## Upper Mount Bethel Township

387 Ye Olde Highway

P.O. Box 520

Mount Bethel, PA 18343

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Fall/Winter 2023



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### TERRY TEEL—BROKER /OWNER

Cell: 570-460-3910 • Email: [TerryTeel8@gmail.com](mailto: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