



The Caleb Pusey House

The Uplander



MacQueen Hall

The official newsletter of historic Upland Borough
(Settled 1683; Incorporated 1869)



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Soup-n-Salad Fundraiser Draws Crowd



MacQueen Hall was teeming with happy diners on Feb. 28, as a roomful of Uplanders turned out to support the Annual Soup-n-Salad Dinner Fundraiser. Unlike last year, when this fundraiser lost money, this year was a financial success, raising over \$200 to help fund other borough events.



Interim Borough Council Appointee William Dennon (left) poses with Council VP Christine Peterson and Mayor Michael Ciach, after Dennon was sworn in on March 10.
(See story on page 2)

Last Chance For Kids' ID Photos

All Upland children (ages 6 to 12) will be required to have a borough photo identification card to participate for free in any borough-sponsored events in 2015 and beyond.

Popular annual youth-oriented events include an Easter Egg Hunt in the spring and a Halloween Party and visit from Santa in the fall, et al.

One more photo ID session for Upland children will be held on the ground floor of MacQueen Hall from 12-2pm on Saturday, March 28.



An Oldies But Goodies Dance was held at MacQueen Hall on March 21, giving friends and families a chance to eat, drink and be merry, while taking a musical stroll down Memory Lane. (Below) George Patterson and dance partner Mary Kefalas won a cash prize as the Jitterbug contest champs.



Retiring Borough Manager Shirley Purcival was surrounded by well-wishers, including the borough employees that she worked with every day, at a Farewell Luncheon on March 20.

Dennon Joins Council As Interim Appointee

William Dennon, of Scott Lane, was selected from four qualified applicants to fill the vacant Council seat of Daniel Smith, who resigned in January.

Dennon, age 48, has lived in Upland for over 11 years, and is the father of four children, ages 12-27. His wife Linda held the Bible, when Dennon was sworn in as a Council member on March 10.

"It's an honor to serve with such a great group of people," Dennon said of his Council appointment. *"I look forward to my new position and doing what I can to help the Borough of Upland."*

Dennon is a 1985 St. James High School grad, and also graduated from the American Institute of Drafting & Design in 1988. He is currently in his third year of night school as a plumbing apprentice.

Dennon is self-employed as a part-time concrete contractor, and has worked as a full-time facilities technician in Philadelphia for the past five years.

Dennon had been a member of Upland Borough's Zoning Hearing Board for the last three years, and is active as a Brookhaven girls softball coach.

Dennon's interim appointment expires in January 2016, which means that two years of Smith's unexpired term will be filled by voters in this year's elections. Council's newest member says he will be running as an incumbent Republican in 2015 to secure that two-year term.

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Borough Manager Retires

Borough Manager Shirley Purcival retired from 32+ years of service to Upland Borough, effective March 20. She had served 10 years as the police secretary, 10 years as recording secretary, and was in her 13th year as borough manager.

At Ms. Purcival's Farewell Luncheon, a host of friends, co-workers, and colleagues thanked the retiree for her dedicated and compassionate service to Upland, and wished her all the best. Purcival received an engraved remembrance from Borough Council, and was presented with a plaque-mounted police badge and made an honorary sergeant of the Upland Police Department.

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Code Enforcement Reminder: Must Shovel Walk Within 24 Hours

In the wake of an 8-inch snowfall on March 5, Borough Code Enforcement Officer Leland Hunter found that most Upland homeowners and landlords had their walkways cleared within the required 24 hours after the snow had stopped falling.

Most of the property owners who had not shoveled their sidewalks ultimately complied, once a warning was issued, according to Hunter. One landlord had still not complied a week later, and hence was cited. "Most of our landlords are very cooperative, but a couple are pretty shaky," Hunter reported to Borough Council on March 10. "All landlords are responsible for their rental properties, and all homeowners are responsible for their own properties," Hunter stated for the record.

Park Runoff Creates Concern

The borough engineer will be looking into the source of water trickling off Bristol Lord Field that has led to significant icing on Church Street, between the intersections of Sixth Street and Castle Avenue.

"It's not just small spots of ice. These are big blotches of ice, and someone is going to get hurt bad one day," Councilman Leland Hunter asserted, as he brought the slippery issue up for discussion at the March 10 Council meeting.

Hunter noted that water flow off the field is clearly visible at several points along Church Street. The trickles all drain to the intersection of Church and Castle, where the runoff tends to gather and pond.

Over this past winter, the borough's Public Works Department was frequently dispatched to this intersection to chip ice and spread salt for pedestrian safety, so the freezing runoff is not an isolated event and could be a chronic problem.

The task of Borough Engineer Charles Catania will be to first determine the source of the runoff, then to come up with a plan to contain or redirect the flow.

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Highway Dept. Earns Kudos

After a winter that was long on ice, but somewhat short on snow – actually, early March was long on both ice and snow – Uplanders can reflect on a dangerous season that was managed masterfully by the members of the Highway Department. These are the same four borough employees that we call the Public Works Department at other times, but when winter weather strikes, they whip out their CDLs; step into a nearby snowplow or salt truck; and take off to save hapless motorists from certain destruction.

All kidding aside, the work routinely done by Upland's plow drivers and salt-spreaders during the winter is not an easy mission. Our road crews often drive through horrendous road conditions, so that no other Upland resident must.

Council Vice President and Streets & Equipment Committee Chairwoman Christine Peterson publicly acknowledged the excellent work of the borough's road warriors at the March 10 Council meeting, noting that the borough office has received several positive messages from residents who were grateful for efficient snow removal services.

Shortly thereafter, a resident in attendance added his unsolicited appreciation of Upland's snow and ice removal efforts throughout a challenging winter.

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Sports Donation Requests Approved & Denied

A pair of sponsorship requests from local youth sports teams came before Upland Borough Council on March 10, with mixed results.

A one-time request from Upland Resident Dennis Martinelli for a donation of \$150 was unanimously approved by Council to help support the George Carter Boys & Girls Club Basketball League. Martinelli said that, out of the 10 players on the

team that he coaches in this league, eight of them are Upland residents.

A request for an unspecified amount to help support the Chester Panthers Football Association was unanimously denied by Council, since this team "is not an Upland organization" with only nine Upland residents on the football team's roster.

Martinelli told Council that some local teams are actually recruiting Upland players, so that they might get a donation from Borough Council. According to Martinelli, sports team donations are hard to come by in Chester City and Chester Township, whereas Upland Borough has a reputation for supporting youth sports.

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**Fire Co. Gets Email Address;
Plans Fundraisers**

The volunteer members of Upland Fire Company No. 1 will be counting on Upland residents to support a series of fundraisers that will help maintain and improve the borough's only fire station. To make transactions and fundraising information flow more easily, the fire company has set up a new email account (ufcfund57@yahoo.com), exclusively for the use and convenience of their supporters.

Upland residents are also invited to use this email address for general information, to ask questions, or to express any concerns to the fire company. Please mark the following fundraiser dates on your calendar:

* **April 3-5 Easter Flowers** sold in front of the firehouse on McClintock Drive, from 8am-7pm on Friday & Saturday and from 8am-12noon on Sunday

* **April 18 Flea Market & Craft Show** held from 9am-3pm, rain or shine; Vendor spots available for \$20 (limited tables available for rent for \$5) – set up starts at 8am; Refreshments will be sold Contact Paul (484-682-5000) or Monica (610-364-6701)

* **May 8-10 Mothers' Day Flowers** sold in front of firehouse (same hours as Easter Flower Sale)

* **May 17 Nelsons BBQ** returns, along with baked goods sale and "in-house" dining; Pre-orders accepted starting Easter weekend (pre-ordering is advised, since the first Nelsons event sold out fast)

* **May 19-23** Volunteers will be at the **Outdoor Carnival** offering summer raffle tickets and manning a game of chance wheel.

* **Tag Day dates and times** are when volunteers will collect donations from motorists at the intersection of Upland Avenue and Kerlin Street:

Fridays, May 1 & May 8 AND Sept. 11 & Sept. 18

All dates from 3:30 to 7pm

(rain dates will be the following Friday or Saturday)

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Please support
Upland's lone fire company.

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Upland PD Grateful For Support

Police Chief Nelson Ocasio recently presented Reverend Brenda Shaw with a framed Certificate of Appreciation and an official Upland PD patch to thank the congregation of Upland Baptist Church for providing homemade snacks to the borough's on-duty police officers since January.

"To have this kind of community support is a great thing," Ocasio stated with gratitude.

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ID Photo Session for Kids

**Noon to 2pm on Saturday, March 28
at MacQueen Hall**

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**Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt
& Breakfast with Easter Bunny**

Egg hunt on Bristol Lord Field starts at 9:00am sharp

 **on Saturday, April 4** 

**Followed immediately by Breakfast & Photos
with the Easter Bunny at MacQueen Hall**

**PLEASE NOTE: Children under age 12 with photo IDs
will be admitted free, while those without ID pay \$3
Adult admission for breakfast: \$5 per person**

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Borough Council Meetings

6pm caucus; 7pm regular voting session

**Tuesday, April 14, May 12, and June 9
on ground floor of MacQueen Hall**

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Free Buffet Breakfast For Seniors

**10am on Monday, May 4
at MacQueen Hall**

**All Upland seniors (62 and over) are invited to enjoy yet
another offering from the Community Affairs Committee**

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**Second Annual Pusey House
Spring Plant & Herb Sale**

11am to 3pm on Saturday, May 9

On grounds of historic Landingford Plantation

Back by popular demand!

**The Friends of the Caleb Pusey House invite their supporters
to enjoy a great selection of flowering annuals, assorted
vegetables and herbs, and colorful hanging baskets – all
perfect for your Mothers' Day gift or spring gardening needs.**

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Outdoor Carnival

**Tuesday thru Saturday, May 19 to 23
at Bristol Lord Field**

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Annual Memorial Day Celebration

Monday, May 25

**Parade starts at 9am, followed by memorial service at
war memorial (Sixth and Church Sts.) about 10am**

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**Co-sponsored Church Community Picnic
at Bristol Lord Field pavilion from 11am to 2pm**

**The combined congregations of Upland Baptist
Church and Resurrection Life Church throw their
annual Memorial Day party for the community,
complete with hot dogs and burgers off the grill
and plenty of homemade foods & desserts**



On March 10, Reverend Brenda Shaw of Upland Baptist Church was thanked by Police Chief Nelson Ocasio and Mayor Michael Ciach for her congregation's generous and ongoing support of the Upland PD.

(See story on page 3)

Historic Pusey House Gets New Roof

The stone, brick and mortar walls of the Caleb Pusey House have stood for 332 years, but the roof of the historic English cottage has come and gone countless times over the centuries. This past fall, the Friends of the Caleb Pusey House were forced to concede that, after 20 years, the time for roof replacement had come again.

The FCPH engaged an Amish carpenter who specialized in cedar shake roofs, spending \$11,000 to have a new roof installed. The new hand-split wooden shingles are twice as thick as the old ones, so this new roof should have a longer lifespan.

While the FCPH had the funds available to pay for the new roof, the expenditure put a considerable dent in the Capital Improvements Fund of the non-profit care-taker organization. If you would like to donate to help the FCPH restore its reserve funds, please send your tax-deductible contribution to the FCPH at P.O. Box 1183, Upland PA 19015-1183.



This before (above) & after comparison shows the difference a new cedar shake roof makes in the appearance of the **1683 Caleb Pusey House on Race Street.**

This National Historic Register site is the oldest English vernacular cottage in America, and the only building still standing that can verify multiple visits by William Penn.

FREE Pusey House tours are available every Saturday, from Noon to 4pm, May thru October



Environmental Opportunities:

Volunteers can still register to participate in the **Chester-Ridley-Crum Creek Watershed 18th Annual CRC Streams Clean-up from 9-11:30am on Saturday, April 25.** Clean-up volunteers are invited to attend a picnic at Ridley Creek State Park from 11:45am-1pm.

Visit www.crcwatersheds.org or call **610-359-1440** for more information and to register.

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Learn how to create your own eco-friendly rain garden at a free **Do-It-Yourself Rain Gardens** workshop presented **from 1-3pm on Sunday, May 3** at the **Nether Providence Township building** and again **from 2-4pm on Sunday, May 17** at **Media Borough Hall/Community Center.**



Upland senior citizens celebrated St. Patty's Day with the wearin' o' the green at the Annual Ham & Cabbage Luncheon provided by the Community Affairs Committee on March 16.



Tax Collector Exonerated For Delinquent Taxes

At its March 10 meeting, Borough Council exonerated Borough Tax Collector Linda Mitchell of the collection of all unpaid 2014 taxes.

A total of \$9,225 in delinquent real estate taxes will now be turned over to the Delaware County Tax Bureau for collection, while a total of \$9,801 in unpaid trash service fees will now be collected by Credit-Tec.

Website Provides Valuable Info

Visit www.uplandboro.org to find an expanded version of the borough's monthly newsletter, a current events calendar, historical narratives, public health notices, borough ordinances, council meeting minutes, live surveillance video feeds, and lots of photo galleries of recent community events.

To share digital photos or information on the borough's website, send email to mcrawford@uplandboro.org

LOCK ALL VEHICLES AT NIGHT

Upland Police Chief Nelson Ocasio is asking all residents to help police stem nighttime vehicle break-ins by taking the simple precaution of locking the doors of all vehicles parked outside overnight.

Safety Inspections Begin Anew

The annual cycle of fire safety inspections for all rental properties in Upland Borough began again on March 15, according to a recent report from Fire Marshal David Favinger.

Borough Solicitor Robert O'Connor confirmed that there are five landlords who remain non-compliant with the required 2014 fire inspection. Those cases are currently pending a district court appearance.

Upland History Booklets For Sale

A booklet entitled *The History of Upland, 1683-1969*, which was originally printed for the borough's 100th anniversary celebration in 1969, has been reprinted and is available at the borough office for \$20 per copy. Get yours while supplies last!

Free Smoke Alarms Still Available

Upland Fire Co. #1 has been giving away free smoke/fire alarms to any borough resident who wants one since January. Dozens of free smoke detectors have already been installed, and request forms are still available at the borough office.

If a resident needs help installing their free battery-operated smoke alarm, fire company volunteers have been providing that service for free.

This offer of free alarms and free installation will continue as long as supplies last.

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Flood Safety Awareness Could Save Your Life and/or Property

Every year in the United States, flooding claims nearly 100 lives and causes an average of \$8 billion worth of property damage. To highlight these frightening facts, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) are offering valuable flood safety tips online at www.ready.gov/floods, while information on how to obtain a flood insurance policy can be found at www.floodsmart.gov.

Thanks to Harvey Martin, Facebook members can enjoy historic photos and stories by visiting the "Remembering Upland, PA" group page at

www.facebook.com/groups/334480793300363

Residents Should Sign Up For Emergency Phone Service

To enjoy the full benefits of the borough's information phone service, residents with unlisted phone numbers should call the borough office at **610-874-7317** to register. The automated service was instituted in 2009 to keep borough residents informed of upcoming community events, but is also utilized in the event of a borough-wide emergency.

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Home Improvement Tips For Homeowners

The following tips may save you money and a lot of grief, if you are having any type of repairs or home improvements done around your home.

- Get at least three estimates, so that you can compare the prices of reputable companies. And don't hesitate to tell each contractor that you are shopping for the best price, as competition tends to keep prices down.

- Don't be pushed or rushed into signing any contract, even if you have to finance the project. Take your time and get the most for your money.

- Every contractor must show you proof of their insurance and a Home Improvement State License. They must also have an Upland Borough permit, and in some cases, an Upland Borough Contractor's License. A copy of the borough permit must be displayed in a front window of your home.

- Call the borough office at **610-874-7317** during regular business hours to get answers to any questions or concerns.

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Poop-Scoop Law Now In Effect

To address the persistent problem of people allowing their pets to poop on public and private property, then leaving the pile behind for someone else to clean up (or step in), Borough Council adopted a curative amendment to the borough code on Nov. 10, redefining the term "Nuisance" to include uncollected pet waste.

If you choose to leave your own property and walk your dog through the neighborhood, be aware that the amended ordinance now makes it officially illegal to leave your pet's waste lying "in any gutter, on any street, driveway, alley, curb, sidewalk, recreational trail, or public parkland in the borough, or upon the floors or stairways of any building or place frequented by the public."

Failure to comply with the new poop-scooping requirement could lead to citations and fines from the code enforcement officer, but there should be no need for such measures.

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Council Applies For CDBG Funds

Upland Borough recently submitted an application to Delaware County Council, seeking consideration for a 2015 Community Development Block Grant.

Upland has chosen construction of a cut-through driveway, which would link the police headquarters parking lot to 8th Street, as its first priority for CDBG funding. This project would see the demolition of the vacant house at 227 8th Street and the creation of a small public parking lot on the residential street.

A second choice for CDBG funding is Phase III of the 11th Street Extension. The first two phases of construction of the new roadway have recently been completed, leaving but one more section of roadway to be built to complete the link between Mulberry Street and W. 24th Street.

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Fire Company & Police Department Complete Busy Year

Both Upland Fire Company No. 1 and the Upland Police Department were busier than usual during 2014, as reflected by the year-end totals posted by the two public service organizations.

The borough's lone fire company set a new record for incident responses last year, with a total of 420. Raising the total activity bar has become a habit for Upland firefighters, whose new benchmark beat out the record set in 2013 (407), which bested the 2012 record (397), which outdid the 2010 record of 395 total incidents.

Last year's activity log for Upland fire volunteers breaks down to 8 fire incidents, 150 non-fire incidents, 229 mutual aid responses, and 33 drills. Fire company calls included 223 daytime and 197 nighttime incidents. An average of six runners turned out per call, with a total of 298 hours spent in service for the year.

As for the Upland PD, officers handed out a total of 1,128 citations in 2014, while answering 5,427 calls. The call volume doubled the 2013 total, but the number of citations written was down, compared to 2,082 tickets issued in 2012 and 1,666 in 2011.

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Needles & Chemo Waste Cause 'Hot' Trash Loads

Upland Borough's trash hauler is once again asking all residents to take extra care when disposing of used needles and chemotherapy waste. The presence of unwrapped needles or radioactive material will cause a trash truck to be labeled as a "hot load" which needs to be inspected by hand at the dump – a tedious process that is both time-consuming and costly to our trash hauler.

As a reminder, used needles should always be secured in a container that is taped shut, while chemotherapy waste must be also be tightly contained and disposed of through proper channels, but never in the regular trash.

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Upland Steps Up To Help Neighbor

At about 4am on the morning of Jan. 10, a drunk driver slammed his car into the Feltonville firehouse on Concord Road, setting off a chain of events that called for Upland to assist a neighboring community. Feltonville Fire Company (in Chester Township) and Upland Fire Company No. 1 provide mutual aid and cover for each other, whenever a call comes in.

When Feltonville's fire chief found that structural supports were damaged and the main bay doors would not open, he called Fire Chief Dan Smith.

Smith immediately got Council President Ed Mitchell involved, and passed along Feltonville's request for temporary space to house their fire vehicles.

Upland officials did not hesitate to lend a helping hand by allowing Feltonville Fire Co. to temporarily house four vehicles (a fire engine, rescue truck, command car, and ATV) in the two former Public Works Department garages on Kent Lane.

"It looks like it may take some time for Feltonville to heal that wound," Mitchell said at the Jan. 13 council meeting. "They indicated that the insurance company that they had is going out of business in a couple of weeks, so there might be a long fight.

"We need to make them feel at home and like they have a base of operations, even if it's a little bit out of their way, because that's what good neighbors do," Mitchell added.



Four Feltonville Fire Co. vehicles, including these two fire trucks, are being temporarily housed in the old Public Works garages on Kent Lane.

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Council Adopts Policy & Procedures For Police Recordings

Borough Council voted unanimously on Jan. 13 when adopting a 15-page Policy & Procedure manual for the utilization of Mobile Video/Audio Recording Equipment by the Upland Police Department.

Establishing formal Policy & Procedures guidelines "will allow the Upland PD to direct the retention, duplication, storage, and purging of all video and audio recordings" made by Upland officers. The adopted manual "will direct the Chief of Police and/or his designees to use the proper protocol for the duties, responsibilities, goals, legal requirements, and operational procedures for the proper use and handling of mobile recording equipment," Resolution No. 1 of 2015 states.

According to Councilman and Ordinances & Resolutions Committee Chairman Harold R. Peden, most of the text of Council's first adopted resolution of the new year was taken directly from current state police recording requirements.

Property Liens Pile Up

According to the borough office, a total of 24 property liens remain outstanding for unpaid code violation citations.

Code Enforcement Officer Leland Hunter placed liens on 15 properties in 2013 for lack of maintenance, including failure to cut the grass and clean up debris. Five of these liens were ultimately satisfied, once the debt to the borough had been paid in full, after the properties were sold.

In 2014, Hunter placed liens on another 12 properties, with some being repeats from 2013. Of that dozen, three of the liens have been satisfied through the sale of the property and full payment of debt.

'CHICKEN COOP' IS GOING, GOING...GONE!



In January, Borough Council contracted with A. J. Jurich for the demolition of 4 Eighth Street, aka 'the Chicken Coop' for its tiny size. The long-vacant structure was close to falling over on its own.



In early February, workmen went about the task of tearing down the one-story shanty, after a great deal of trash had been removed from inside.



...And in less than a week from start to finish, the blighted Eighth Street site had been cleaned up and converted into an empty lot, putting an end to a neighborhood eyesore. "It's done, and everybody's happy," declared Councilman Harold R. Peden.



Part-time Patrolwoman Samantha Wilding was sworn in by Borough Manager Shirley Purcival on Feb. 10, while Wilding's husband David held the Bible. Officer Wilding is the second female police officer hired to serve with the Upland PD.

Part-time Officers Join/Leave Upland Force

Part-time Police Officer Samantha Wilding was sworn in as a member of the Upland PD on Feb. 10. Wilding grew up in Aston and is a 2005 graduate of Sun Valley High School. She also graduated from the Delaware County Police Academy in 2013, and has spent the last 15 months working part-time as a Darby Borough police officer.

"I'm happy to be working with the Upland Police Department to help serve this community," Wilding said of her new posting.

Wilding fills a vacancy created by the recent resignation of part-time Officer Joshua Keenan, who has taken a full-time law enforcement position with the City of Norristown. Even though Keenan had only worked for Upland Police Chief Nelson Ocasio for a short five months, Ocasio described the former part-timer as "a great asset."

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Smith Resigns From Council

Fire Chief Daniel Smith has resigned from Upland Borough Council, effective as of Jan. 22. Smith's letter of resignation was officially "accepted with regrets" at Council's Feb. 10 meeting. In the letter, Smith did not give a reason for his decision.

There are nearly three full years remaining on Smith's unexpired Council term. Council's Nominating Committee has been reviewing resumes and applications, in the hopes of making an interim appointment at the March 10 meeting.

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Sign Replacements Planned

A concerted effort to fix or replace damaged roadside signs within the borough is underway. The repainting of sign poles and the signs themselves (where applicable) has already been started by the Public Works Department, while signs that have been damaged beyond repair have been ordered and the replacements will be installed this spring.

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As Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, Councilman Harold R. Peden (far left) recently joined Chief Ocasio in commending Police Officers William Meyer (left center) and Sean Dougherty for their respective roles in saving the life of a Mulberry Street resident on Dec. 11, 2014. Both officers received the Life-Saving Citation Bar for their actions.

Kirby Named Code Enforcement Assistant

The title of Assistant Code Enforcement Officer was officially bestowed on William Kirby at Borough Council's Feb. 10 meeting, providing some help for Code Officer Leland Hunter, who has performed the borough's code enforcement duties by himself for the past six years.

"I want to thank Bill Kirby for his assistance, which I very much need and appreciate," Hunter told his fellow Council members. "He's been doing a heck of a job for us," Hunter added.

Kirby will be paid \$10 per hour for the part-time position, while sharing use of the borough's code enforcement car with Hunter.

Kirby also currently serves as the borough's health inspector – a position to which he was re-appointed just last year, but a post where he has a total of nearly 20 years of experience overall.

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Grateful Marines Say Thanks

In response to Borough Council's recent donation of \$1,500 to the Delaware County Marine Corps League, the leadership of Detachment 288 sent a thank you note to the borough, which was read into the official record at the Feb. 10 meeting.

In his letter to Borough Council, Detachment 288 Commandant Richard Micolucci stated that the donation will be used to repair the access driveway to the group's Sixth Street headquarters.

Members of Marine Corps League Detachment 288 are prominently on display every year in Upland during Memorial Day festivities, providing the honor guard that fires rifle salutes to fallen soldiers at the Upland Baptist Church cemetery and at the war memorial in Upland Memorial Park.

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Auburn Village Upgrades Keep Coming

This year's budgeted improvements to Auburn Village units that are either pending or already underway include the replacement of cabinets and railings (where needed) and new fire extinguishers for all units, according to Auburn Village Committee Chairwoman Christine Peterson.

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Legal Ruling May Let Boroughs Lien Rents On Scofflaws

Upland Borough is currently owed about \$70,000 in unpaid taxes and trash fees (plus penalties for non-payment) from rental property owners. The debt is difficult to collect, however, as some landlords are content to let the borough place a lien on the property, since that means that no debt payments will be made until the property is sold.

Meanwhile, these tax-delinquent property owners are free to rent the property and collect full rents, even while the borough (which is all other taxpayers combined) foots the bill for basic services like police and fire protection and trash collection. But a new court ruling may soon be changing all that.

A recent court decision in western Pennsylvania has set a legal precedent and opened the doors for a municipality to possibly collect on liens immediately by taking a portion of the monthly rent.

Council President Ed Mitchell recently noted that Upland Borough will be closely watching how the legal landscape evolves in the wake of this landmark court ruling.

"We want to be the second borough in the state to go after that money," Mitchell said on Feb. 10.



Upland's Public Works Department recently took delivery of this 2015 Ford F-350 truck to use primarily for Auburn Village maintenance. The truck came fully equipped with a utility/storage box on the rear and a detachable snowplow, which was put to good use just weeks after the truck was delivered.

Upland PD Seeks Corporal

Borough Council has approved the preliminary steps to identify the best candidate to serve as a corporal in the Upland Police Department. Members of the borough's Civil Service Commission will soon be conducting the necessary testing and interview process that will ultimately lead to the most qualified candidates.

Police Chief Nelson Ocasio is currently the only member of the Upland PD who carries rank. The creation of a new corporal will provide the Upland force with a second tier of leadership, to handle situations when the police chief is not available.

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