



The Caleb Pusey House

# The Uplander



MacQueen Hall

## The official newsletter of historic Upland Borough

(Settled 1683; Incorporated 1869)



Vol. 7-2; February 2015 edition



### Walkin' In A Winter Wonderland



Bailey says: "Ooh baby, it's cold outside!"



The kind of paw-protecting snow boots that Neville, a former service dog, is modeling here may be a good idea for your dog, if you like to take walks on neighborhood sidewalks, some of which may have been treated with de-icers that can badly burn a dog's sensitive paws. Most dogs initially (and somewhat comically) resist wearing snow boots, but most will eventually concede, if you persist.

### Photo IDs For Kids Will Be Mandatory

As part of an ongoing effort to ensure that Upland taxpayers are the sole beneficiaries of Upland tax dollars, **all borough children (ages 6 to 15) will be required to have a borough photo identification card to participate 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.

Two photo ID sessions were recently held to give Upland parents and their children opportunities to prepare for the new rule, but only 27 children turned out to register – a mere fraction of the usual number of participants for free youth activities.

Though disappointed by the sparse turnout, borough officials are determined to make the new ID program work to the benefit of residents. **Additional photo ID sessions for Upland children will be held this winter (dates, time and place to be announced),** so keep an eye on upcoming issues of *The Uplander* or visit the borough's website to learn when you can get your child onboard.

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### Saving Parking Spots In Snow Is A No-No

Code Enforcement Officer Leland Hunter is reminding residents that saving cleared parking spaces on public streets in the wake of a snowstorm is not legal. **Items like folding chairs, grills, and trash cans, that are used to block access to a parking space, are a roadway safety hazard and will be promptly confiscated** by the borough, Hunter warns.

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### Carnival Commits To Return

The company that operates the outdoor carnival that has visited Upland two of the last three springs has made a commitment to return to Bristol Lord Field from **May 19 to 23 (Tuesday-Saturday), 2015.** ...And there was much rejoicing!

### **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.*

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### **Congrats to Home Decorating Winners!**

This season's Holiday Home Decorating Contest winners were announced by Councilwoman and Community Affairs Committee Chairwoman Sandy Miazza at Borough Council's Jan. 13 meeting.

The impressive winning displays were:

**1<sup>st</sup> place – John and Fran Weare of 11<sup>th</sup> St.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> place – Howard Novack of Church St.**

**3<sup>rd</sup> place – Kathleen Conner of Upland Ave.**

The winners received \$100, \$50 and \$25, respectively, for their extra efforts to brighten everyone's holiday season.

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### **New Website Logo?**

Borough Council has approved a \$50 expenditure for a company to re-design the logo used on the official website of Upland Borough. There is no commitment to spend additional money, but the \$50 will give Council a chance to see other logo designs. After some discussion at the Jan. 13 caucus meeting, Council agreed that several historic buildings in Upland could be incorporated into a new borough seal as well, including the Caleb Pusey House (a National Historic Register site, built in 1683), and more modern structures like MacQueen Hall, Old Main, and the Upland Baptist Church.

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### **Upland History Booklets For Sale**

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

### **'Chicken Coop' Demolition On Deck**

Three written quotes recently received by the borough engineer found A. J. Jurich, Inc. to be the low bidder for the planned demolition of 4 Eighth Street, with the Aston-based contractor asking \$7,400 to do the job.

Known to many locals as "the chicken coop," the small one-story structure has long been an eyesore and a public safety hazard, sitting a few yards from the intersection of Eighth Street and Upland Avenue. The vacant building has already been officially condemned by the borough, allowing demolition work to begin as weather permits.

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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.

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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.

### **Police Upgrade In-Car Computers**

Upland Police Chief Nelson Ocasio expects four of his department's patrol vehicles to be equipped with the advanced ForCite E-Citation computer software system (distributed by United Public Safety) by early February.

The self-installed software cost the borough \$7,624 for licensing and one year of hardware support services. The system is managed entirely through Cloud-based software, so there are no server connections and no need for local IT support.

The mobile in-car computer system is designed specifically for police use, and comes with a built-in printer that can produce weatherproof, archival-quality citations, which will convert the job of "writing" tickets into an automated task.

"By adding this system to our vehicles, that 15-minute traffic stop will now be a 3-5-minute incident, which makes traffic stops much safer for the officer and the driver," Ocasio noted.

Other benefits that the ForCite E-Citation system offers to police officers include driver's license and vehicle registration scans, automatic e-filing of citations with state courts in PA and NJ, faster citation issuing from start to finish, accurate proof of violations for each citation issued, and lower court costs realized through less time spent in court.

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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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### **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.

### **Borough Vehicle Swap Approved**

At Borough Council's Jan. 13 session, it was agreed that the usage of two borough-owned vehicles would be changed, effective immediately.

The white 2004 Ford Crown Victoria that had been used by Fire Chief Dan Smith for the past two years will now be driven by Councilman/Code Enforcement Officer Lee Hunter and Borough Health Inspector Bill Kirby, who will be assisting Hunter in his code enforcement duties.

Meanwhile, the navy blue 1999 Chevrolet Impala that Hunter had used for the past two years will now be utilized by Councilwoman Sandy Miazza. As chair of the Community Affairs Committee, Miazza makes frequent trips to local stores to purchase food, decorations, and children's items that are needed for the many borough-sponsored events that she orchestrates every year.

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**\*\* PLEASE LOCK ALL VEHICLES AT NIGHT \*\***

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### **Borough Council Meetings**

6pm caucus; 7pm regular voting session  
Tuesday, Feb. 10, March 10 and April 14  
on ground floor of MacQueen Hall

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### **Soup & Salad Dinner Fundraiser**

4-6pm on Saturday, Feb. 28

(Note time change – was previously 4-7pm)

**Homemade soups & chili; Build your own salad**

**All-you-can-eat at MacQueen Hall; Take-out available**

**Tickets available at borough office and at door:**

**\$8 adults; \$6 seniors; \$4 kids under 12**

**\*All proceeds benefit Community Affairs Committee\***

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### **Annual St. Patty's Day Ham & Cabbage Luncheon For Seniors**



at Noon on Monday, March 16  
at MacQueen Hall



**All Upland senior citizens are invited  
to enjoy this free lunch!**

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### **Oldies But Goodies Dance**

Starts at 7pm on Saturday, March 21  
at MacQueen Hall

**Take a musical trip down Memory Lane with a DJ,  
while enjoying bottled beer, snacks & refreshments**

**Admission: \$25 per person**

**\*All proceeds benefit Community Affairs Committee\***

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**The Upland Senior Citizens Club is taking  
its annual winter hiatus, until Monday, March 9.**

**If you are a senior citizen (you don't have to be  
an Upland resident), feel free to come out and join  
the group for cards, games, and plenty of good  
conversation every Monday from 9am to 3pm at  
MacQueen Hall, from March through December.**



At last year's Soup-n-Salad Dinner fundraiser, Borough Council Vice President Chris Peterson and Police Chief Nelson Ocasio pitched in as volunteer soup servers. This year's annual **Soup-n-Salad Fundraiser will be held at MacQueen Hall**

**on Saturday, Feb. 28 from 4-6pm.**

All proceeds will go to the Community Affairs Committee to help fund free community events.

**Hope to see you there!**

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### Speed Monitors Reflect Driving Habits

A pole-mounted speed monitor that recently recorded the traffic on Upland Avenue, near the intersection of Fifth Street, provided some interesting data for analysis by the Upland PD. The digital data can be a very useful tool for suppressing speeding hotspots, so Chief Nelson Ocasio is hoping to secure more of the solar-powered devices through a federal grant in the near future.

The traffic sample recorded on Upland Avenue over a one-week period totaled about 1,650 vehicles, with most drivers respecting the posted 25 MPH speed limit. Below is a listing of how many vehicles were moving at various speeds:

# Vehicles	Speed(MPH)	# Vehicles	Speed(MPH)
362	5 - 10	127	31 - 35
2,500	11 - 15	9	36 - 40
8,200	16 - 20	3	41 - 45
4,300	21 - 25	1	46 - 50
994	26 - 30	2	56 - 60

The good news is that fully 93% of the clocked motorists were traveling within the legal speed limit, while less than 1% were speeding excessively.

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

**(See story on page 2)**

## Website Provides Valuable Info

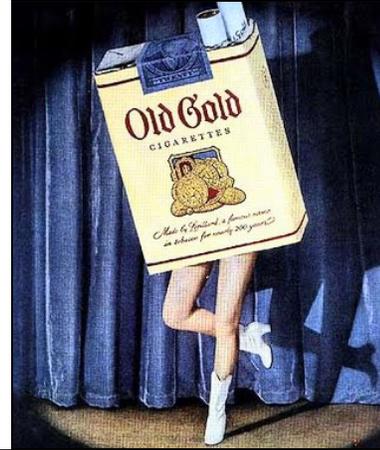
Visit [www.uplandboro.org](http://www.uplandboro.org) to find an expanded version of the borough's monthly newsletter, a current events calendar, historical narratives, public health notices, borough ordinances, council meeting minutes, live surveillance video feeds, and lots of photo galleries of recent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

**To share digital photos or information on the borough's website, send email to**

**[mcrawford@uplandboro.org](mailto:mcrawford@uplandboro.org)**

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## Do You Remember...?



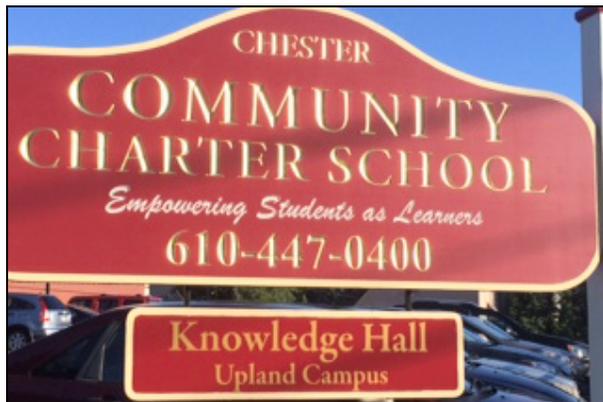
...When tobacco companies could go so far as to have svelte-legged packs of cigarettes dancing across your TV screen to entice you to buy their products.



...When Blondie's husband's lust for super-sized meals gave birth to the Dagwood Sandwich – a hoagie prototype.



...When you could learn a new language or memorize an entire set of encyclopedias in just one day using the Direct-Knowledge-Download System – oh wait, that's in the future!



The CCCS sign on Main Street now reflects the new name of the three-story school building.

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### **Do Not Feed Wildlife**

The Delaware County Health Department is urging all residents to NOT feed the wildlife. Pet owners who leave food and/or water outside for their pets should stop the practice, while all trash containers should be tightly sealed with lids, as accessible food/garbage will attract wildlife to your house. This year, the Health Department has seen a spike in the number of skunks and raccoons that are roaming the county at night. Both wild animals are known carriers of diseases, including rabies.

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### **Non-Compliant Landlords Notified**

According to Fire Marshal David Favinger, 26 non-compliant Upland landlords have been directly contacted by Favinger "as a last resort," to notify them that they are in violation of the borough code. In some cases, the rental property cannot be inspected or is not in compliance with safety regulations, and in other cases, landlords are renting the property without a Use & Occupancy permit.

In Favinger's Nov. 10 report to Borough Council, he noted that he had received "a large response" to his phone calls, with several landlords promising to act swiftly to avoid additional citations and fines.

Those landlords who continue to be non-responsive and uncooperative will be turned over to the borough solicitor in December. Legal proceedings against the scofflaws will be initiated in district court this year.

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### **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 been installed over the past six months, 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.**

### **All Mattresses and Box Springs Must Be Wrapped For Disposal**

Responding to a plea from our trash haulers, the Borough now requires the disposal of any mattress or box spring to be done using a sealed plastic bag. Mattress disposal bags are sold in various sizes at Home Depot stores, but an improvised wrapping, using a plastic sheet sealed with duct tape, is acceptable.

**To dispose of a mattress or box spring on the borough's heavy trash day (the last Wednesday of every month), residents must call the borough office (610-874-7317) to be put on the heavy trash pick-up list.**

**\*\*\* No Call or No Wrapping = No Pick-up \*\*\***

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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](http://www.ready.gov/floods), while information on how to obtain a flood insurance policy can be found at [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov).

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### **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.

## Halloween Costumes Are Spooktacular



The colorful outfits worn by Upland children at the annual Youth Halloween Party on Oct. 25 (the winners of the five and under age group are seen above) were impressive, and some families even made it a theme night. About 60 costumed kids attended the free event, which was sponsored by the Community Affairs Committee.



### Halloween Costume Winners

Many borough residents did a ghastly good job with the costumes they wore to the annual Youth Halloween Party, held at MacQueen Hall on Oct. 25. Winners in three age groups were named by Mayor Michael Ciach and Councilwoman Sandy Miazza.

#### Age 5 and under winners were:

- 1<sup>st</sup> place - Malany Carrion
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place - Autumn Irving
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place - Irving Satchell

#### Age 6 to 10 winners were:

- 1<sup>st</sup> place - Leann Sokolovich
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place - Iyannah Dickerson
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place - George Michaelies

#### Age 11 to 13 winners were:

- 1<sup>st</sup> place - Victoria Hansell
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place - Madison Hahn
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place - Alexa Collins

**Congratulations to one and all!**

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### P.A.L. Program Gearing Up

Acting Police Chief Nelson Ocasio and Officer Michael Curran came before Borough Council on April 22 to report the substantial progress recently made in preparation for the launch of a Police Athletic League (PAL) program in Upland.

When the borough took ownership of the James W. Reese Center on West 24<sup>th</sup> Street last year, the first hurdle to starting a PAL program was cleared. More recently, Ocasio and Curran have been working with other PAL coordinators and visiting sites in

Philadelphia, where the PAL program now has eight locations spread across the city.

A PAL program is not a community daycare service, Ocasio noted, but it is “a safe haven, where kids can be kids.”

And while the name suggests that a PAL program is all about sports, the chance to participate in team sports is just one avenue used to draw local youth into the free program.

Sports offered by PAL programs include baseball, flag football, basketball, ping-pong, soccer, and martial arts, but these offerings are often the springboard to group activities like school/homework tutoring, computer labs, spelling bees, nature walks, reading & math challenges, and trips to the zoo.

PAL members range from 6 to 18 years of age. With roughly 1,000 youth in Upland alone, the new PAL program will be primarily open to Upland residents, but non-resident children with ties to Upland (through schools or churches) will also be welcome. PAL programs typically operate Monday through Friday, from 4-9pm, with longer hours (9am-5pm) offered in the summer months, according to Curran. While some paid staff will ultimately be needed, most of the staff would be volunteers, including college and high school students, corporate sponsors, and community and church leaders.

Funding for a PAL program in Upland will primarily come from the borough at first, but must ultimately include private donors, event sponsors, and local organizations that are eager to give back to the communities they serve.

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### Resident Praises Police Response

A Church Street resident, whose home was recently robbed, came to Borough Council’s Nov. 10 meeting to publicly say thank you to the Upland PD.

The resident was happy to report that the perpetrator had been promptly caught, and he complimented the Upland officers involved for their professional demeanor.

“Not only did they arrest the perpetrator the next day, but in all my dealings with them, they’ve shown the utmost courtesy and professionalism,” the grateful resident said of Upland’s finest. “Thank you, Chief Ocasio, and congratulations to the entire police department.”

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Colonial musicians John and Jan Haigis of Past Times Present were at the Welcome Day celebration on Oct. 25 to entertain visitors to the historic Landingford Plantation on Race Street.



Councilman Lee Hunter, who also serves as president of the Upland Senior Citizens Club, presented Councilwoman Sandy Miazza with a token of the group's appreciation at the Nov. 10 Council meeting. As chairwoman of the Community Affairs Committee, Miazza has organized free outings for borough seniors every year since she joined Council in 2006, including a ham and cabbage luncheon in March, a trip to Shady Maple restaurant in the fall, and a traditional holiday dinner in November.

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### Ciach Defeated, But Encouraged

Upland Mayor Michael Ciach (R) was defeated by incumbent Thaddeus Kirkland (D) by 5,000 votes on Nov. 4, as the two candidates vied for the 159<sup>th</sup> Legislative District seat in the PA House of Representatives. But even in defeat, Ciach was upbeat about the voter support he received.

Kirkland garnered 70% of the total number of votes cast by carrying his native Chester City, which has three times the population of the other nine 159<sup>th</sup> District municipalities combined.

Ciach may have only gotten 30% of the vote total, but he carried six of the 10 communities involved, so it can also be said that Ciach won the majority of 159<sup>th</sup> towns. Ciach is the twelfth consecutive Republican challenger that Kirkland has held off, but he is the first to win the support of the majority of Chester's smaller municipal neighbors.

Based on that success, Ciach has already announced that he will be running against Kirkland again in 2016. With one election campaign now under his belt and a two-year run-up to his next opportunity, Ciach hopes to mount a successful challenge and unseat Kirkland in November 2016.

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### Council Hikes Commercial Parking Tax

Upland Borough has adopted an incremental increase in the Commercial Parking Services Tax over the next four years. The tax is paid by the only parking vendor in town – the operator of the parking facilities at Crozer-Chester Medical Center.

The parking tax was originally adopted at 10% of gross revenue in March 2010, and was stepped up to 11% over the next two years.

An amendment to the parking tax ordinance was unanimously approved by Borough Council at its Dec. 9 meeting. Under the amended ordinance, a tax rate of 12% will go into effect in January 2015. The rate will automatically increase by one percent each year thereafter for the next four years, bringing the parking tax rate up to 16% by 2019.



Resurrection Life Church held its annual Community Thanksgiving Turkey Dinner on Nov. 29, serving up a free holiday meal to over 300 thankful local residents.

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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](http://www.facebook.com/groups/334480793300363)

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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. Picking up and properly disposing of pet waste is a common courtesy that *should* be part of every pet owner's regular routine.

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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 8<sup>th</sup> Street, as its first priority for CDBG funding. This project would see the demolition of the vacant house at 227 8<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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. 24<sup>th</sup> Street.

## Santa Claus Comes To Town



Santa Claus paid his annual visit to Upland on Nov. 28, posing for photographs and handing out gifts to 119 pre-registered Upland children.



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### Council Approves Rifle Racks

In an effort to give Upland police officers a margin of safety in their dangerous line of work, Council has authorized the purchase of locking rifle racks, which will be installed inside the cabs of six police vehicles. The difference of an officer being able to access his rifle inside the car, as opposed to opening the trunk, could be the difference of life and death in a shootout.

Each rifle rack will cost \$499, installed. Council authorized the expenditure of \$3,000 to cover the purchase.

Upland Police Chief Nelson Ocasio requested the rifle racks for his officers to give them "a tactical advantage." According to Ocasio, someone recently took a potshot at a Chester Township cop, and in another incident, a vehicle involved in a Chester City shooting was riddled with bullets fired from assault rifles.

### No-Tax-Increase Streak Extended

Upland Borough taxpayers will enjoy a 28<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of the property tax millage holding steady at 2.0 mills in 2015. Furthermore, the annual trash collection fee, which was set at \$135 per household in 2008, will remain the same for the seventh straight year.

The 2015 general budget total is balanced at \$2,902,955. After cresting the \$3 million mark for the first time in 2014, the new budget total represents a \$157,206 (or roughly 5%) reduction in revenue and spending for this year.

The final 2015 budget for the borough-owned Auburn Village apartment complex totals \$778,000, which is the exact same amount that was budgeted for last year.

Maintaining the budgetary status quo for another year led Council President Edward Mitchell to thank his fellow Council members.

*"The financial progress that we've made over the past eight years is significant, and a result of working together to achieve all the goals that we have set," Mitchell said.*

*"We have an excellent streets department, fire department, and police department. Borough Council functions well, and we do everything we can to promote education, and that's very important.*

*"So I want to say thanks to all of you," Mitchell added. "Twenty-eight years without a tax increase speaks volume about what we're doing."*

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The Upland Senior Citizens Club's annual Christmas Luncheon was hosted by the Community Affairs Committee on Dec. 15, when Santa stopped by and handed out gifts, with the help of members of the Upland Garage motorcycle organization. The Upland Garage gifts were dedicated to the late Betty Kondracki, who served as president of the Upland Senior Citizens Club for many years.

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