



The Caleb Pusey House

The Uplander



MacQueen Hall

The official newsletter of historic Upland Borough

(Settled 1683; Incorporated 1869)



Vol. 7-1; January 2015 edition



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.



Some of the age-appropriate gifts that Santa gave out led immediately to new friendships.

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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.



No-Tax-Increase Streak Extended

Upland Borough taxpayers will enjoy a 28th 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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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.

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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.

Public Works Stacked With CDLs

Congratulations to Auburn Village Maintenance Man Mike Diggins for recently passing his Commercial Drivers License test, giving the borough four employees who hold a CDL.

Now that four members of the Public Works Department hold a CDL, the borough will enjoy greater flexibility in getting crucial jobs (like plowing and salting roadways) done this winter.

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Fire Co. Cancels Tree Sales, But Raises Funds With Wreaths

The volunteer members of Upland Fire Company No. 1 were forced to cancel their plans to sell Christmas trees as a fundraiser in December, but Fire Chief Dan Smith was pleased to report that the pre-holiday sale of decorated pine wreaths, swags and blankets was a resounding success.

Just over 100 real pine items were ordered by fire company supporters, with the firefighters delivering the goods on Nov. 29 and getting a percentage of each sale.

"I was really impressed by the quality," Smith said of the Elwyn Institute-made holiday decorations.

Encouraged by the success of their first fundraising attempts (including the sale of 208 Nelson's BBQ Ribs & Chicken dinners in September), Upland Fire Company volunteers will be holding more fundraisers in the near future – Stay tuned!

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The winners of this holiday season's Home Decorating Contest will be announced at Borough Council's Jan. 13 meeting.

Thank You and Happy Holidays to all the residents who decorated their homes to help brighten the Season of Light for their neighbors.

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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.

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Upland PD Logs Busy 2014

According to Mayor Michael Ciach's Dec. 9 report, the Upland Police Department was very busy last year.

As of Nov. 30, the Upland PD had written 1,075 citations in 2014, while answering 5,050 calls. The call total was higher than normal, but the number of citations handed out is down, compared to 2,082 tickets written in 2012 and 1,666 in 2011.

Ciach also noted that a federal grant that will fund the purchase of body cameras for police officers is pending, and the installation of car cameras was slated for mid-December

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Borough Renews Appointments; Sets Compensation

At Council's Dec. 9 meeting, a laundry list of annual re-appointments was approved to retain all of the borough's current employees, while the 2015 compensation was set for those positions.

Catania Engineering, Inc. will continue to provide civil engineering services to the borough, being paid \$750 as an annual retainer, plus fees for professional services rendered. In 2015, Charles J. Catania, P.E. begins his seventh decade as Upland's borough engineer – Wow!!!

Borough Solicitor Robert E. O'Connor, Esq. will be serving his 14th year, and will be paid \$1,000 as a retainer, plus \$85 per hour for professional services and \$50 for every council meeting attended.

Police Chief Nelson Ocasio will be serving his second year in 2015. His four full-timers (Officers Anthony DeLuise, Sean Dougherty, William Meyer, and Detective Michael Curran) will earn between \$19.26 and \$27.21 per hour, depending on tenure. Part-time police officers will earn \$19.26 per hour.

Borough Council members will continue to get a monthly stipend of \$156.25, while the mayor and council president will both receive \$208.33.

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The entire staff of the borough office will be retained in 2015, including Borough Manager/Secretary/Treasurer Shirley Purcival (starting her 13th year as manager), Administrative Assistant & Recording Secretary Shannon Strigle, and Borough Clerk Cynthia Romeo.

The five-man Public Works Department returns this year as well, including Auburn Village Foreman Tim Peticca and Mike Diggins, and general maintenance Foreman Patrick White, Chuck Boyd and Peter Hartshorn.

Code Enforcement Officer Leland Hunter will remain at his post in 2015, as will Elected Tax Collector Linda Mitchell.

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Other one-year re-appointments included Building Inspector & Zoning Code Officer Joseph Ferguson, Plumbing Inspector Thomas Kennedy, Electrical Inspector James Skulski, Health Officer Dr. Robert Crowell, MD, Health Inspector William Kirby, Fire Marshall David Favinger, Zoning Solicitor John J. Wills, Esq., and Civil Service Solicitor & Special Legal Counsel Michael L. Maddren, Esq.

Also returning for another year of service on the borough's three advisory boards are:

Zoning Hearing Board – Dorreda Shaw (chair), Joanne Peden (secretary), Edward Klepacki, William Dennon, and Ronald Reynolds

Planning Commission – Edward Mitchell (chair), Dana Dudek, George Oronzio, and Joseph Stephano

Civil Service Commission – Edward Mitchell, Denise Crawford, and Dorothy Patrick

Thank you all for your valuable service to Upland Borough!

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Corner Wall To Be Rebid

A curved section of stone wall, which would continue the Main Street wall and wrap around the southwest corner at Sixth and Main, turned out to cost almost four times the available funds, so the public improvement project will be rebid.

Extending the stone wall on Main Street and landscaping that corner of the Auburn Village complex has been planned for the past two years, as part of a larger project that recently included new wrought iron railings atop the existing wall.

Borough Council had submitted the stone wall's corner cap as a 2014 Community Development Block Grant project, and was awarded \$10,000 from the county to complete the wall. Unfortunately, at a Dec. 5 bid opening, the lowest bid submitted among eight contractors was for \$38,500, with other bids ranging as high as \$93,050.

Given the disparity between cost and available funds, Borough Engineer Charles Catania has recommended rebidding the project, while he asks the county for more funding, in the hopes of narrowing the money gap.

Planning Commission Hearing

7pm on Thursday, Jan. 8

on ground floor of MacQueen Hall

RE: 1103 Woodside Ave. subdivision plan

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Borough Council Meetings

6pm caucus; 7pm regular voting session

Tuesday, Jan. 13, Feb. 10 and March 10

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 in January:

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

All proceeds benefit Community Affairs Committee

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Oldies But Goodies Night

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



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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The Upland Senior Citizens Club will be 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.**

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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.

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

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Do You Remember...?



...When these colorful metal drinking 'glasses' were popular? They didn't feel very good on the teeth, but they were unbreakable and hence lasted forever.

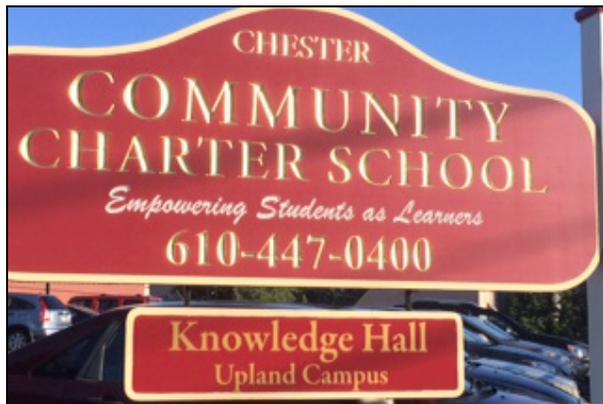


...And if you recall when this camera was state-of-the-art, then you were probably taking snapshots in the 1950s.

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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 100th anniversary celebration in 1969, has been reprinted and is available at the borough office for \$20 per copy. Get yours while supplies last!



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

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.

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 in January.

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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.

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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 *****

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.

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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:

- 1st place - Malany Carrion
- 2nd place - Autumn Irving
- 3rd place - Irving Satchell

Age 6 to 10 winners were:

- 1st place - Leann Sokolovich
- 2nd place - Iyannah Dickerson
- 3rd place - George Michaelies

Age 11 to 13 winners were:

- 1st place - Victoria Hansell
- 2nd place - Madison Hahn
- 3rd place - Alexa Collins

Congratulations to one and all!

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Website Now Faster

According to Councilwoman & Webmaster Moira Crawford, the borough website now has its own server, which should allow visitors to move about even faster, as they check out the many links to information and photographs that are offered. During October 2014, the website set a new benchmark with 2,478 visits, averaging 88 visitors each day of the month.

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 24th 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.

Upper Darby Township and Chester City have the only other PAL locations in Delaware County.

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.

All PAL activities strive to teach values, said Ocasio, which in turn serves as a crime preventative.

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."

Upland Pays Tribute To Catania

In 1954, Upland Borough was the second municipality to hire Charles J. Catania, Sr. P.E. to serve as its borough engineer, following the lead of neighboring Chester Township. Since then, Catania has become an invaluable asset for both of his original clients, while tacking on another two dozen Delco clients in the process.

Catania founded his engineering firm, located on MacDade Blvd. in Milmont Park, in August 1964. Catania Engineering Associates now handles the civil engineering duties for almost half of the municipalities in Delaware County.

At a 50th anniversary celebration on Sept. 26, Upland Mayor Michael Ciach presented a special award and read a proclamation aloud, as a gesture of appreciation from the borough. The presentations were repeated at Borough Council's Oct. 14 meeting, to make the formal recognition part of the borough's official record.

The proclamation credits Catania for his role in securing countless grants for Upland Borough, while overseeing a broad range of public improvement projects.

"Chuck has brought millions of dollars into this community for any number of projects, and it speaks volumes about Council's ability to keep the right people in place to do the right things," stated Council President Ed Mitchell.

Seniors Enjoy Holiday Meal



The annual Senior Citizens Holiday Dinner (sponsored, prepared, and served by the Community Affairs Committee) drew 80 borough residents to MacQueen Hall on Nov. 15.



...And while a free turkey dinner with all the trimmings was the main attraction, the chance to sit at the table with loved ones was the blessing for which these seniors were most thankful.



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.

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 159th 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 159th 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 159th 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.

Ciach expressed his gratitude to his supporters:

"Thank you all for the great support throughout the campaign. The overall numbers don't tell the whole story, as we did something that hasn't been done in many years, in winning 6 of 10 towns.

"That tells me that a majority of the towns in this district are tired of their current state representative, especially considering that 25% of the votes that I received were split votes.

"If you are unable to get help from your state rep's office, as I've heard so many times throughout this election, let me know, and I will see if I can reach out on your behalf. Use my Facebook page for now and MESSAGE me, so your information and issues remain private. I will do all I can to get you help.

"Again, thank you all," Ciach stated.

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(Above) 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, while other re-enactors (Below) intrigued guests with hands-on displays of colonial toys and games.



Willow Way Speed Limit Lowered

In response to numerous complaints about fast-moving traffic on Willow Way in Auburn Village, the Upland Police Department has lowered the speed limit on the residential street to 10 MPH.

There are no sidewalks along one-way Willow Way, where many children live, giving Police Chief Nelson Ocasio good reason to post a minimal speed limit. One Borough Council member had even suggested making the new speed limit 9 MPH, thinking that the odd number would be more eye-catching.

In another traffic control matter, Ocasio recently told council that he is seeking grant funding to purchase a half dozen solar-powered speed detector signs for future use throughout the borough. The pole-mounted signs tell drivers how fast they are going, while recording speed data for subsequent analysis.

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Construction Time Restrictions Changed

Another curative amendment adopted at the Nov. 10 Council meeting will allow greater flexibility for contractors and homeowners who might want to work into the evening. Council has amended the noise ordinance in the borough code by cutting three hours off the restricted construction period, or in other words, adding three hours (from 7-10pm) of potential work time on weekday evenings.

Unanimously adopted, the amended ordinance now restricts "construction work or activities relating to construction work between the hours of 10:00pm and 7:00am...on weekdays, and if the following day is Saturday or Sunday, from 10:00pm to 8:00am."

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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

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

Along with every other Delco municipality, Upland Borough Council recently submitted an application to Delaware County Council, seeking consideration for a 2015 Community Development Block Grant.

CDBG funds are generally awarded in April. Each town is allowed to submit two public improvement projects for grant consideration.

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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