



The Caleb Pusey House

The Uplander



MacQueen Hall

The official newsletter of historic Upland Borough

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UPLAND SHOWS ITS COLORS ON MEMORIAL DAY



The annual Memorial Day parade kicked off the Upland Borough festivities on May 25.



Part of the service at the war memorial in Upland Memorial Park was a gun salute, to honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.



...And the 12th Annual Memorial Day Family Picnic, provided free to the community by the combined congregations of Upland Baptist and Resurrection Life Churches, was another resounding success.

THE CARNIVAL RETURNS!



The bright lights of the outdoor carnival made a triumphant return to Upland in late May, offering fanfare, food, and family fun for one and all.



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The Community Affairs Committee hosted the Annual Seniors Breakfast on May 4, with dozens of Upland's senior citizens taking advantage of the free meal.

Upland PD Hires Intern

The Upland Police Department has hired an Upland teenager to work with the borough as a non-uniformed summer intern. Only one student, Meghan Bush of Sixth Street, applied for the position, which was announced at the May 12 Council meeting and advertised on the borough website, making the selection process easy.

The internship will pay \$8.50 per hour for 15 hours of work per week, from June (after school is over) through Labor Day. Some of Miss Bush's duties will include working in the borough office.

Officer Runs For Memorial

Upland Police Officer Samantha Wilding was among the many law enforcement agents to participate in the 19th Annual Law Enforcement Memorial Run from May 12-14. The event included scores of police officers and police academy cadets from this region either biking or running from Philadelphia to Washington, D.C. to raise funds to maintain the Law Enforcement Memorial in our nation's capital.

Wilding ran about 30 miles during the three-day event, despite taking a tumble and injuring her elbow on the first day. She felt the candlelight vigil, which saw the names of recently fallen police officers added to the memorial, was an especially moving tribute.

"It was an awesome experience," Wilding reported. "This was my first time, but I hope to participate again next year."

We'll Try One AV Man For Now

In the wake of the recent resignation of one of two Auburn Village maintenance men, Borough Council is not sure if an immediate replacement is needed, or if all services can be delivered to the borough-owned complex with just one full-time employee and the occasional use of outside contractors.

The manpower situation will be closely monitored over the summer to determine if hiring a second Auburn Village maintenance person is necessary.

Reese Center Upgrades Approved

At its May 12 meeting, Borough Council approved spending another \$11,078 for more improvements to the James W. Reese Center (aka the Armory) on West 24th Street.

The expenditure breaks down to \$7,558 to Tri-County Comfort Systems for a stainless steel exhaust hood and a fire protection system, and \$3,520 to Logan Technology Solutions for key scan replacement and a central processing control board. Council President Ed Mitchell noted that all the money spent on upgrades and renovations to the Reese Center since the borough took ownership of the aging 5-acre complex in January 2013 (roughly \$500,000, so far) has come exclusively from revenue generated by the commercial parking tax that was enacted in 2010. In effect, Crozer-Chester Medical Center visitors who pay to park there are financing the Reese Center improvements, not Upland taxpayers.

Cops Hired To Fill Vacancies

A special Borough Council meeting was held on May 26 - the fourth Tuesday of the month, which is always scheduled as a second meeting, but usually cancelled, if no business action is required. But May was different, as immediate Council approval was needed to expedite the hiring of three new part-time police officers.

The start of the summer season is not a good time for the Upland PD to be low on manpower, so the filling of three recent vacancies was of prime importance at the time of year that sees an uptick in police calls and patrols, including the return of summer bike patrols.

Details on these new police department hires will be provided in the next edition of *the Uplander*.

Oldies Dance Raises Funds

Not only was a good time had by the spirited crowd that attended the Oldies But Goodies Dance at MacQueen Hall on March 21, but the Community Affairs Committee-sponsored event also managed to raise \$800 that will be put towards other community events, such as the upcoming annual Fourth of July Family Picnic - a day of free food, fun and frolic at Bristol Lord Field.

Parade Committee Forming

To handle the complex task of organizing the borough's annual Memorial Day parade in the future, Borough Council is putting together a special Memorial Day Parade Committee, comprised of a mixed panel of community servants.

Discussion of the topic at Council's May 12 meeting led to the appointment of Councilman Bill Dennon as committee chairman, joined by Councilwomen (and Community Affairs Committee members) Sandy Miazza and Moira Crawford, along with Borough Manager Greg Grillone as the Memorial Day Parade Committee's charter members.

Police Chief Nelson Ocasio will help identify two Upland police officers who would like to serve on the committee, while a pair of seats are reserved for any resident who might want to serve their community as a parade organizer.

Call the borough office at **610-874-7317** to learn more about serving on the parade committee.

Council Amends U & O Inspection Fees

Borough Council has approved changes to the borough's Comprehensive Fee Schedule, specifically the Use & Occupancy Inspection Fee schedule, effective immediately.

While all residential U & O inspections will still cost the property owner \$100, it is the fee for property re-inspections that has been amended to more accurately reflect the associated costs.

Re-inspections used to generate a flat fee of \$75, but U & O re-inspection fees will now be calculated as \$25 for each inspector required to participate in the re-inspection, plus \$25 for administrative costs.



'Excellence' Rewarded With Raises

The Upland Borough office and the Public Works Department have both gone through some personnel changes in recent months, which has meant that some employees have been asked to step up and perform above the normal call of duty to get the borough through a transition period. Now that office routines are beginning to stabilize, Borough Council unanimously agreed that now was the time to show some gratitude by giving \$2 per hour raises to three key hourly employees for the remainder of the fiscal year.

The \$2 hourly increase was given to Administrative Assistant Shannon Strigle, Borough Clerk Cynthia Romeo, and Maintenance Worker Peter Hartshorn. The mid-year wage bump was approved for these employees "in recognition of their willingness to strive for excellence under unusual and challenging conditions," as stated in the approved borough resolution.

Congratulations to Shannon, Cindy, and Pete!
...And (please) keep up the good work!

Seniors Seek More Seniors

If you are over 55 years of age and are looking to spend more weekday hours with friendly folks like yourself, then this invitation might be the answer to your prayers.

All senior citizens who reside in Delco towns like Parkside, Brookhaven, Upland, Bethel, and Aston are cordially invited to join their peers every Monday at MacQueen Hall and every Thursday at the Redwood facility at the county-owned Camp Upland, from 10am to 3pm both days. These gatherings are purely social and casual in nature, but the true purpose is hidden behind the guise of playing cards (pinochle, anyone?) and group games like Bingo or Dominoes.

Light refreshments are often served, but attendees are encouraged to bring their own lunch, unless the date is a special occasion that is being catered.

Annual membership dues are \$5 per person at MacQueen Hall (on Main Street) or \$12 per person at Redwood (off Sixth Street in Toby Farms).

For more information, contact Ron Hoffman at **610-945-8737** or mrlhoffman@aol.com

Flooding Questions Answered

The Upland Borough website recently added a new feature that is essentially a PDF file of a 65-page FEMA booklet that answers the most commonly asked questions about flooding, flood plain management, and flood insurance.

To access this information at **uplandboro.org**, first select the 'Departments' link, then 'Floodplain Management,' then 'Answers to Questions about the NFIP' (National Flood Insurance Program).

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Fire Company Lands Grant

Fire Chief Dan Smith reports that Upland Fire Company No. 1 recently received an \$11,791 state grant from the Pennsylvania Fire Company & Volunteer Ambulance Company Grant Program. The all-volunteer fire company had sent in an application requesting \$15,000, so the lion's share of the request was fulfilled.

According to Smith, the grant will be used to fund the installation of Internet, phone, and cable lines to the firehouse, and cover the cost of scanner keys for the doors to the new firehouse addition.

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***** Fire Co. Email Correction *****

To make transactions and fundraising information flow more easily, Upland Fire Company #1 has set up an email account (ufcfund57@yahoo.com) for the use and convenience of their supporters.

For general information or to express any concerns to the fire company, please call the firehouse at **610-874-4885** to speak directly to either Fire Co. President Doug Scott or Fire Chief Dan Smith.

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Rubber Duck Race on Saturday, July 11

This wet and wonderful fundraising effort promises to be one of the most unpredictable, fun-filled events you'll ever enjoy. Contestants will launch their toy ducks on Chester Creek above Toby Farms, then float to the finish line adjacent to historic Landingford Plantation on Race Street.

The Upland Fire Company will be coordinating the duck race. Those who want to get a creekside view of the home stretch might want to wear boots, as the path through the woods may be damp and soft.

*** For more information on this upcoming event, send email to ufcfund57@yahoo.com ***

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Borough Council Meetings

6pm caucus; 7pm regular voting session
Tuesday, June 9, and July 7, and Aug. 25
on ground floor of MacQueen Hall
(NOTE: Special dates for summer meetings)

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Annual Fourth of July Family Picnic

11am to 2pm on Saturday, July 4
at Bristol Lord Field

Upland residents must wear wristbands for unlimited free access to all food and amusements



Volunteers from Upland Fire Company No. 1 hosted a series of fundraisers over the month of May, starting with a three-day sale of Mother's Day flowers...



...then an encore offering of delicious Nelson's Barbequed Ribs & Chicken dinners on May 17...



...and selling t-shirts at the outdoor carnival, all of which provided funds for firehouse improvements. "I'd like to thank the residents of Upland for helping us with our numerous fundraisers," stated Fire Company Fundraising Committee Chairman Paul Michalkiewicz at the end of a successful month.

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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



The Upland Police Department brought home the first place trophy in the Police Motorcycle category at the 1st Annual Police, Fire & EMS Appreciation Car & Bike Show, held in Rose Tree Park on May 9. Below, Upland Officer William Meyer rides the award-winning 2014 Harley Davidson 1600cc police motorcycle in the borough's Memorial Day parade.



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Part-time Police Officer Andrew Nicholl was sworn in by Mayor Michael Ciach on May 12 to join the Upland PD. The 1996 Interboro High School grad also attended Shippensburg University and Delaware County Community College in pursuit of a criminal justice degree, before graduating from the Delco Police Academy in 2000. Nicholl has worked in the security field for the last 15 years, serving as security director for the King of Prussia Mall, and currently as a full-time security manager at Crozer-Chester Medical Center.



Flood Safety Awareness Could Save Your Life and/or Property

Every year in the US, 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.

- 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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Council Applies For CDBG Funds

Upland Borough has 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.

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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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.



Part-time Police Officer Daniel Massi was sworn in on March 24, while his six-year-old son, Angelo, held the Bible.



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.



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Dennon Joins Council As 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.

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New Public Works Employee Hired

To fill the vacant position of Auburn Village Maintenance Mechanic, hiring Dariusz Grodzki was approved by Council on April 14, to be effective as of April 20. The Aston resident will be paid a starting wage of \$20 per hour, as he brings 25 years of residential and commercial construction experience to the Upland Public Works Department.

Welcome aboard, Dariusz!

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Easter Was Hoppin' In Upland



The Annual Easter Egg Hunt in Bristol Lord Field was held on the morning of April 4, with scores of children participating and most carrying off a nice haul of cash-stuffed eggs and prizes. This popular youth event is sponsored through the cooperative effort of the Upland Fire Company, the Upland Athletic Club, and Borough Council.



The Easter Bunny was on hand to pose for photos...



...and the delicious breakfast served up by the Community Affairs Committee was nothing short of fork-lickin' good!

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Resident Grateful For Police Response

An Ivy Lane resident recently came before Borough Council to express his gratitude for the timely response of Upland police officers, after the resident had called in a vehicle break-in incident.

Thanks to a quick response to the scene of the crime, Upland officers were able to locate and arrest the two perpetrators.

"Today, the police don't get enough thanks, so..." the resident said of his reason for making a public statement.

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**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.

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



Greg Grillone took an oath as a public official, while his niece, Shannon Bruner, held the Bible.



After he was officially sworn in, Mr. Grillone could relax and smile with Council President Ed Mitchell and Council Vice President Christine Peterson.

**Upland Welcomes
New Boro Manager**

Upland Borough Manager Gregory Grillone was formally introduced to the public and sworn in by Mayor Michael Ciach at a special Borough Council meeting on March 24. He officially started his new job on April 13.

Grillone is following in the footsteps of Shirley Purcival, who retired from 32 years of service to Upland Borough on March 20, after serving as borough manager for the last 12+ years.

Grillone, age 67, had been employed as Norwood Borough's manager for the past 5+ years, while volunteering his service on the YMCA Foundation Board of Directors and Big Brothers/Sisters.

Grillone has also taught college courses, logging three years as adjunct faculty for Neumann University in Aston, teaching sports management.

Other employment history includes working 31 years for the City of Philadelphia in a variety of capacities, including 12 years as the manager of Veterans Stadium.

Grillone graduated from South Philadelphia High School in 1965, before he earned an undergraduate degree in management at St. Joseph's University and a Masters in Business Administration (MBA) at Temple University in 1971.

The Norwood resident has been married to wife Debra Bruner for 23 years. The couple have no children of their own, but are very close to extended family. Both Greg and Debra are active in St. James Episcopal Church, serving on several committees.

"I'm excited about the opportunity and the challenge. It's something new!" Grillone said of his new position. *"I like municipal government, primarily because in that type of work, you have the ability to affect people's lives more directly than in federal or state government. You get to see the results of some of your initiatives and some of the things that you do."*



Upland Fire Company No. 1 held the first of a series of Spring 2015 fundraisers with a successful flower sale on Easter weekend, selling out 284 potted plants.



The fire company also held a successful Craft Fair & Flea Market fundraiser in the Upland Baptist Church parking lot on April 18. About a dozen vendors displayed goods for sale ranging from old attic treasures to brand new handbags, handtools, and handmade doggie sweaters.

Council Appoints Zoning Replacement

Seeking to fill the vacancy created on the Upland Borough Zoning Hearing Board by the recent interim appointment of Councilman William Dennon, Borough Council moved unanimously on April 14 in appointing Sixth Street Resident Harris Bloom to fill the vacant seat on the advisory panel. Bloom has been an Upland resident for the past 22 years.

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Council Awards 2015 Road Contract

This year's road resurfacing contract has been awarded to low-bidder A. F. Damon, Inc., of Upland. The hometown contractor beat out two other local bidders, offering to complete the 2015 road-paving program for \$67,287.50 – about two-thirds the amount of the highest bid.

If former Upland Borough Councilman "Fuzzy" Damon holds true to form, Upland Borough will be among the first Delco municipalities to have their road resurfacing program completed this year, probably before summer officially begins. The streets destined for a fresh layer of asphalt this year include:

Seventh Street, from Church St. to Upland Ave.
JFK Drive, from Main St. to the end
Hill Street, from Upland Ave. to the end

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Boro Website Sets New Benchmark

Yes, it's yet another announcement detailing yet another record-setting performance by the Upland Borough website. But what may sound like a broken record to some, is music to our ears, and a point of pride that the entire borough can share.

Spikes in visits to the borough website often follow major public events, where prospective photographs for the borough newsletter are taken, then posted as a collection for all website visitors to enjoy.

But such was not the case in March, after the borough's Community Affairs Committee had hosted a St. Patty's Day Ham & Cabbage Luncheon on March 16 and an Oldies Dance on March 21.

This time, it was the debut of a new and improved borough website design that drew most of the e-visitors in March, with a new single-day high of 386 website page-views being set on March 17.

A new monthly high in borough website traffic was set in March at 2,730 visitors, averaging about 88 visitors per day, with a new single-day high of 169 visitors being set on March 12.

The borough website was created by Councilwoman and Webmaster Moira Crawford in 2008, and she oversaw the recent makeover. If you haven't visited in the last month or two, please stop by sometime to see what the buzz is all about.

"The re-design took a little bit of time, but now it's up and running, and I think it should be a little more user-friendly, Crawford reported to Council in April.

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Upland PD First To Launch Computerized Ticket System

It is not often that a small town like Upland Borough can claim a county first, but that is the case with implementing the newest high-tech device in law enforcement, as the Upland Police Department was the first Delaware County police force to go live with e-Citations on April 14.

The e-Citation Solution is a mobile in-car computer system that not only automates and shortens the ticket-writing process, but also electronically files citations with local courts as well, saving administrative time and expense.

Other Delco police departments have already joined Upland in implementing e-Citation in their vehicles, as the computerized process promises to replace the antiquated agony of hand-writing tickets and filing the subsequent paperwork.

"I am looking forward to making the traffic stop safer for the officers and the community," Police Chief Nelson Ocasio said, focusing on the main advantage of using the e-Citation system.

Through this program, we as a community will be able to remove unwanted drugs from the medicine cabinet, where they could get into the wrong hands, and cut down on the contamination of our drinking water from pills being flushed down the toilet."

– Upland Police Chief Nelson Ocasio



Chief Ocasio stands next to the drug drop-off box that was recently installed in the vestibule of the Upland police station. Residents can now dispose of unwanted prescription drugs safely and anonymously. The drop box can be accessed from 8am-4pm, Monday thru Friday.

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