



The Caleb Pusey House

The Uplander



MacQueen Hall

The official newsletter of historic Upland Borough

(Settled 1683; Incorporated 1869)



Vol. 6-3; March 2014 edition



Had Enough Snow Yet?



Apparently, not ALL the world's greatest snowboarders were in Sochi last month.



...and while many of our pets enjoyed the snow...



...some of our furry friends found the frozen landscape to be a challenge, leading this hungry squirrel to tackle a finch feeder in search of food.



Among the Upland residents who turned out on Feb. 22 to enjoy the annual Soup & Salad Dinner fundraiser at MacQueen Hall were the Nickersons (above) and the Kirbys (below). The Community Affairs Committee event raises money to fund other borough-sponsored offerings.



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Send Us Your Snow Photos!

Did someone in your family take a good photo during or after a recent snowstorm?

If so, please send a jpeg (digital only) of your favorite shot and we will put the best ones on the front page of the April edition of *the Uplander*. We especially like close-ups of kids or pets at play in the snow, but any interesting subject will qualify!

Send photos (in focus, please) via email to

spurcival@uplandboro.org

OR

kennstark@comcast.net

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Public Works Department Earns Kudos

Despite having more snow fall this winter than in the previous five winters combined, the streets of Upland have been promptly plowed and salted in the wake of every snow and ice event.

At the Feb. 11 Council meeting, the Borough's Public Works Department and Police Department personnel were publicly thanked and applauded for their stalwart efforts to keep our streets safe and navigable through all kinds of weather, while Peter Hartshorn, of the Public Works Department, was singled out for recognition.

Streets & Equipment Committee Chairperson and Council VP Christine Peterson read aloud two communications recently sent to the borough office detailing the fine work of Upland's plow drivers. One note thanked Hartshorn for taking the time to help dig an elderly resident's car out of the heavy snow.

After Peterson had praised borough employees for a job well-done, a Woodside Avenue resident also chimed in with an unsolicited salute.

"I'd like to reaffirm what's already been said about the streets department. They've done an outstanding job!" the grateful resident reported.

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Upland PD Preps For P.A.L. Start-up

The official launch of a new Police Athletic League branch at the Reese Center is still months away, but momentum is beginning to build within the Upland Police Department.

Acting Police Chief Nelson Ocasio gave Borough Council a progress report at the Feb. 11 meeting. Ocasio stated that he and Upland Patrolman Michael Curran would soon be meeting with a sergeant from the Philadelphia PD and touring the city's PAL facilities. Other regional contacts that will help get the new youth program started in Upland include personnel at PAL's national headquarters in Virginia, and DARE contacts, as well.

Curran noted that the PAL program is not just sports oriented, but also includes educational and cultural aspects for local youth.

"We're going to get as much information as we can from other people who have started this kind of program, then use the best elements to create our own program," Curran said.

Upland PD PAL organizers will present Borough Council with a preliminary 2015 operating budget this summer, but it is hoped that some PAL services can be launched this year.

"Speed is of the essence," Council President Ed Mitchell reminded Ocasio and Curran. "Summer is coming, and the youth of our town will be needing something to do."

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Reese Center Upgrades Continue

At Borough Council's Feb. 11 meeting, the expenditure of \$13,230 was approved to pay Logan Technologies for improvements to the Reese Center's electronic access gate, which will be controlled by Keyscan access cards held by select borough officials and employees.

Council To Amend Parking Regs

Borough Council is planning to amend Upland's parking regulations at its March 11 meeting.

Under the amended parking ordinance, overnight parking (on streets or private property) in any residentially-zoned area will be prohibited for all commercial vehicles, trucks, tractors, trailers, or vans with a DOT Class 3 or higher rating and/or a GVWR above 9,000 lbs. Street parking of these vehicles will be restricted to no more than two hours between 6am and 10pm.

The amended ordinance will also ban the parking or storage (for a period exceeding two hours) of all recreational vehicles and utility trailers on borough streets, while storage of no more than one RV (under 30 feet in length) or one trailer (under 20 feet in length) will be permitted on private property (in a garage, rear yard, or driveway) with a minimum setback of 10 feet from the paved street.

Violators will receive fines of \$25 plus costs, and non-compliant vehicles can be towed at the owner's expense, after a warning is issued.

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Building Improvements Completed

According to Buildings & Grounds Committee Chairperson Sandy Miazza, a number of facility improvements were recently completed at MacQueen Hall and Upland police headquarters.

Some leaky pipes in the basement of MacQueen Hall were fixed, and a new 32-inch flat screen TV was installed upstairs behind the bar.

Several damaged floor tiles were replaced at the Kenneth N. Miller Law Center, while the recent retirement of Chief Easton provided the opportunity to paint his office – the only part of the four-year-old building that had never been painted.

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Free Smoke Alarms Available

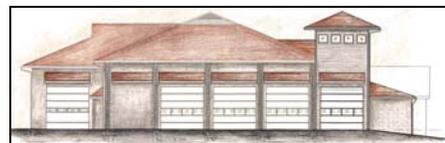
Since January, Upland Fire Co. #1 has been giving out free smoke/fire alarms to any borough resident who wants one. Request forms are now available at the borough office.

If a resident needs help installing their free battery-operated smoke detector, fire company volunteers will provide that service for free as well.

A total of 50 9-volt First Alert alarms (each with a 10-year guarantee) were donated to the borough by BRK Electronics, while an additional 100 units were purchased at the discounted price of \$600.

This offer of free alarms and free installation will continue as long as supplies last, so don't delay in taking advantage of this home-safety program.

"We want to take the safety of our residents one step higher," stated Upland Fire Chief Dan Smith.



This architectural sketch shows what the front of Upland's firehouse will look like once another truck bay is added.



Winter Survival Tips

Hopefully, the end of this brutal winter season is near, but it's still worth offering a few basic winter weather tips that might help us all survive until Spring arrives:

- Brush off (don't shake) snow from tree branches and shrubs to avoid limb breakage.
- Consider using sand or sawdust as an anti-skid substance on ice, as both are cheaper than rock salt and also more environmentally-friendly.
- To prepare for extended power outages, put together a winter storm emergency kit that includes basic necessities like bottled water, dried foods, prescription drugs, and a flashlight and extra batteries. And don't forget to provide for your pets' needs, as well.
- Stay indoors during extreme cold weather, if possible, and avoid over-exertion when shoveling snow. When you shovel, break the job up into segments to allow for breaks, and stretch your muscles before each work session.
- Change out of wet clothing as soon as possible, as only dry clothes will retain body heat.
- Minimize the amount of time that your pets are left outside. Despite their fur coats, animals can suffer from hypothermia and frostbite too.
- Refuel kerosene heaters outside the house, and when in use, keep them at least 3 feet from any flammable object, and beware of toxic fumes. Take care to keep pets away from heaters.
- Never use a generator, grill, camp stove, or any gas-, propane- or charcoal-burning device inside the house, garage, or any enclosed area.
- If stranded on the road, turn on flashing hazard lights and remain with the vehicle, unless you can see shelter nearby. While awaiting rescue in the car, run the engine and heater for 10 minutes every hour, while cracking a window for ventilation and keeping the exhaust pipe clear of snow to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.

Park Row Offers Affordable Meals

The best-kept secret in Upland Borough may be that delicious dinners are available to senior citizens and their family members at Episcopal Place at Park Row (421 West 24th Street, across from the James W. Reese Center), every Tuesday and Thursday from 5-6pm. Seniors pay just \$2 for their meal, while visitors under 62 pay \$4 for the complete dinner. Diners can call the Park Row office at **610-872-0100** to get menu information or to make reservations.

Weather Stalls Work On Firehouse Addition

The first major upgrade of Upland's lone fire station since 1975 began in mid-November, with a target date for completion of March 8, but construction has now been stalled by inclement weather.

Concrete footers for a new truck bay were poured in January, but then the inability to lay concrete block in sub-freezing temperatures stopped progress.

"The work on the firehouse has slowed down to a crawl because of the weather, but hopefully we'll get some Spring weather soon," Borough Engineer Charles Catania told Council on Feb. 11.

Once workers can dig out from the snow and ice and temperatures rise back above freezing, the \$315,000 construction project will also add some office space to the home of Upland Fire Co. #1.

Upcoming Public Meetings and Events

Borough Council Meetings

6pm caucus; 7pm regular voting session
Tuesday, March 11, April 22, and May 13
 on ground floor of MacQueen Hall
 (note April meeting to be held on 4th Tuesday)

Grocery Bingo

1-4pm at Upland Baptist Church
 on last Saturday of month thru April
 Fun for the entire family!

Vacation Bible School (VBS) Night

(For children ages 5-12)
 Starts at 6:30pm every Monday thru May 19
 at Upland Baptist Church
 Come for dinner, Bible story and activity

Seniors' St. Patty's Day

Ham & Cabbage Luncheon
 Starts at noon on Monday, March 17
 at MacQueen Hall

Free to all Upland senior citizens

Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt & Breakfast with the Easter Bunny

 Saturday, April 19 

Egg Hunt starts at 9am at Bristol Lord Field,
 followed by Breakfast and Photos with Easter Bunny
 at MacQueen Hall

Carnival Returns!

Tuesday thru Saturday, May 20 – 24
 at Bristol Lord Field

Annual Memorial Day Parade & Family Picnic

Monday, May 26

Parade starts at 9:15am;
 War Memorial service starts about 9:45am;
 Picnic at Bristol Lord Field from 11 - 2pm

CCMC Keeps Upland Officers Busy

Acting Police Chief Nelson Ocasio recently reported to Borough Council on exactly how much the Crozer Chester Medical Center leans on assistance from the Upland Police Department.

CCMC security personnel are permitted to carry mace, but not guns, to subdue unruly persons, while security supervisors can carry a taser. Since last June, a pair of Upland officers has been assigned to the hospital on Fridays and Saturdays, when violent crimes peak and the need for an armed officer at CCMC is the greatest.

Ocasio noted that Upland PD manpower shortages had reduced the part-time police presence at the hospital down to one officer, but recent hirings will soon allow a pair of cops to be posted again.

Ocasio detailed the need for police officers at CCMC, noting that Upland responded to a total of 262 calls from the hospital from January 2013 to present. Those requests for police service break down to three fire calls, 15 assaults, 23 crowd-control incidents, 59 domestic fights in the emergency room, and 162 non-emergency calls.

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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 *****

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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.

The borough's website recently added a new **Items From Public** tab to the **History** section. If you have photographs of Upland of yesteryear that your neighbors might also enjoy, contact the borough office or Webmaster Moira Crawford to get photo prints scanned to a digital format.

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

mcrawford@uplandboro.org

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Upland Business Matters

Upland Borough Council proudly supports this hometown business and encourages Upland residents to patronize this establishment:



Dr. Susmita Parab has been seeing dental patients at the Dream Smile office in Upland for less than a year, but her practice has already developed a loyal customer base.

Dream Smile Dental

801 Upland Ave., Suite B

(on eastern end of Upland Furniture building)

Phone: 610-499-999 Fax: 610-571-3393

Email: dreamsmileonline@gmail.com

Website: www.DreamSmileOnline.com

Dr. Sue Parab is a 2005 graduate of the New York University College of Dentistry and a member of the American & Pennsylvania Dental Associations. While working in Philadelphia at her general dental practice, Dr. Sue volunteered her dentistry skills to provide dental care for needy children through the Give-A-Kid-Smile program. Her community outreach in Upland and Chester has included free instructional clinics at nearby schools, day-cares, and senior citizen centers to teach oral hygiene.

OFFICE HOURS: Mon. & Fri. 9am-4pm; Wed. 9am-5pm; Tues. & Thurs. 11am-6pm; and Sat. 11:30am-2:30pm

Dr. Sue wants her patients to know:

- Patients can call our office or visit our website or stop by our new state-of-the-art facility to make appointments.
- Our family-friendly services are personalized and affordable, including dental hygiene, cosmetic, endodontics, restorative, pediatric, and periodontic.
- Our simple philosophy is to listen to the patient and give them all the education they want and need to make informed decisions about oral health and treatment needs. Our highest priority is to protect our patients' well-being.
- Our current New Patient Special is a Comprehensive Dental Exam for just \$79 (a \$240 value), which includes a complete set of digital x-rays, cleaning, and a consultation with the dentist.
- Flexible payment plans are available, and we accept most PPO, HMO and government dental insurance plans, including Aetna, MetLife, Cigna, Delta, United Concordia, Keystone Mercy, Bravo, local union plans, and Medicaid.

Council Approves 'Go Bags' For Police Officers

Sergeant Jeff Brown, of the Aston Township Police Department, came before Borough Council on Feb. 11 and, on behalf of the Upland PD, recommended the creation of 'Go Bags' for all police vehicles and any officer who might get involved in an "active shooter" scenario.

Brown is a former U.S. Army Ranger, and started his law enforcement career with the Upland PD in 1996. Now he is a crisis management specialist with the Aston PD.

Brown noted that most, but not all, 'active shooter' cases involve a gun, but more importantly, all such incidents involve "the potential for a lot of casualties in a short span of time." On average, an 'active shooter' will rack up one casualty every 15 seconds, according to Brown.

Attempting to intervene and stop such a dire situation obviously puts a police officer at extreme risk. When confronting an 'active shooter,' the "priorities of life" that an armed officer will follow are hostages first, then civilian bystanders, then the officer himself, and lastly, the shooter, said Brown.

Go Bags are small, wearable satchels that contain hand tools, extra ammunition, and basic medical supplies that a responding officer might need, if wounded in a shootout with a suspect. In the critical minutes when shots are being fired, each officer has to be able to take care of himself, Brown noted.

The cost of each Go Bag will depend on exactly what is put inside. Council was quick to thank Brown for his sage advice on how to keep our police officers as safe as possible, even when their jobs put them directly into the line of fire.

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Mulberry St. Asks Council To Impede "Racetrack"

Speaking on behalf of several of her neighbors, a Mulberry Street resident came before Council on Dec. 10 to ask for help in curbing a speeding epidemic.

The concerned citizen said that the stop sign at Gray & Mulberry Streets is "worthless," and that the length of Mulberry "has gotten to be a racetrack." She asked if the borough would consider installing a speed bump on Mulberry to slow down the traffic.

Council President Ed Mitchell noted that speed bumps cannot be used during the winter months, as they interfere with snowplowing, but such a traffic-calming measure might be considered in the spring, he said.

Mayor Michael Ciach also suggested that adding a series of new stop signs along Mulberry Street might help reduce the chronic speeding.

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Borough Hires Resident

At Borough Council's Jan. 14 meeting, Juniper Lane Resident Tim Peticca was hired, effective immediately, to fill a vacant full-time position in the borough's' maintenance department.

Welcome aboard, Tim!

The next Heavy Trash Pick-ups will be made on Wed., March 26.

Curbside collections of bulk trash items are made on the last Wednesday of the month. Residents must notify the borough office in advance for all bulk pick-ups and items must be **curbside by 6am** on collection day.

Bulk trash does not include electronic items like computers and televisions. These items will be collected at special recycling events.

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. The value of being kept informed became apparent during Superstorm Sandy in October 2012. After the storm, over a dozen households called the borough office to get their names added to the calling list.



As a token of appreciation for the recent purchase and housing of a \$750,000 fire truck, the members of Upland Fire Co. #1 recently gave a framed print of the new Squad 57 to Upland Borough Council.

At the Jan. 14 presentation, Council was represented by Vice President Christine Peterson and President Ed Mitchell, while the fire company reps included Housing Committee Member Kim Kalichak, Fire Chief Dan Smith, and 50-year member Lee Hunter.

Council Adopts Satellite Dish Regs

Borough Council has adopted a new ordinance aimed at removing the rooftop satellite dishes that are often left behind after a subscriber moves or switches to cable.

The accumulation of abandoned satellite dishes “is a growing community eyesore and creates potential public safety and building maintenance issues,” according to Ordinance No. 3 of 2013.

Under the ordinance, the proliferation of abandoned satellite dishes (measuring less than one meter in diameter) will be controlled through Use & Occupancy inspections, giving a property owner 30 days from the end of a service subscription to remove the inactive dish.

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Upland Now Owns Reese Center

The vacated U.S. Army Reserve complex that sits on West 24th Street has officially been deeded over from the federal government to the Borough of Upland. A quitclaim deed was finalized in early June, transferring ownership of the 5-acre facility to the borough at no cost.

With an estimated value of roughly \$5 million, the 5-acre Reese Center is comprised of three large buildings, all enclosed in a fenced compound.

The former Army depot was named after James William Reese of Chester, who was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions during the Sicily campaign of World War II. Borough Council plans to convert the complex into a community center, utilizing revenue generated by the parking tax.

“This is something our administration has been planning for years,” Council President Ed Mitchell said of obtaining the Reese Center keys. “We haven’t placed any burden on the taxpayers, and the money has already been appropriated to secure the future of the children and provide athletic programs for the community.”

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Borough Council Reorganizes

At Borough Council’s Jan. 6 reorganization meeting, Edward Mitchell was unanimously elected by his fellow Council members to serve his seventh consecutive year as council president. Council Vice President Christine Peterson was also unanimously elected to her seventh consecutive year as VP.

The reorganization meeting also featured the swearing in of Council Members Sandy Miazza, Moira Crawford, and Dan Smith by Mayor Michael Ciach, all of whom were re-elected to four-year terms at the polls in November.

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RLC Thrift Shop Open

The Church Street Thrift Shop, located at Resurrection Life Church on the corner of 8th & Church, is open to the public from **10am-2pm** on the first and second Saturday of month thru June.

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Santa Claus Visits Upland



Santa stopped by MacQueen Hall for the annual tree lighting ceremony on Nov. 29, then handed out gifts to all the good girls and boys of Upland Borough – 125 in all!

Newsletter Photos Will Omit Names

In response to some residents’ concerns, Upland Borough’s monthly newsletter will no longer include the names of the smiling children that so often grace the pages of *the Uplander*.

This new policy is adopted to protect our children, even while we celebrate them in print.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Council Applies For Grant Funding

Borough Council has submitted a pair of projects to the county for consideration as a 2014 Community Development Block Grant.

One potential grant-funded project would be the erection of a waist-high modular wall and landscaping on the corner of 6th & Main to complement the fencing that is being installed to keep pedestrians off the Auburn Village grass and on the sidewalk.

An alternate CDBG project would be the demolition of the blighted building at 36 Upland Avenue.

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At Upland Borough Council’s Jan. 6 reorganization meeting, Mayor Michael Ciach (far right) swore in (l-r) Councilwoman Sandy Miazza, Councilman Dan Smith, and Councilwoman Moira Crawford. All four Upland officials were re-elected in November.

Mummers Strut Their Stuff In Upland



The Greater Overbrook String Band held a dress rehearsal of their 2014 Mummers Parade routine at the Reese Center in Upland on the eve of performing in front of the judges on Broad Street on New Years Day.



Greater Overbrook Strutters Enlist Upland Supporters

The evening of Dec. 30 was very cold, but not too cold for the Greater Overbrook String Band to hold a full dress rehearsal outside the Reese Center, where the marching band has recently secured much-needed storage space in exchange for services to Upland Borough.

If you watch the annual Mummers Parade on New Years Day, you have seen the Greater Overbrook String Band strutting down Broad Street for many years. Competing in the String Band Division, the brightly-clad musicians play a total of 15 songs during the parade, but must put their best feet forward in front of the judges during an elaborately choreographed 4-minute and 30-second routine.

This year's theme was Showboatin on Broad Street. The song and dance routine involved five rolling scenery panels and 40 costumed musicians, led by Captain Bill Razzano.

Razzano was the only band member who was not in costume at the Dec. 30 rehearsal, as tradition demands that the captain's eye-catching outfit remains a secret until New Years Day.

Uplanders have been fortunate to see string bands marching in the borough's annual Memorial Day parade, and will now get to enjoy the Greater Overbrook String Band on a regular basis. Razzano has led his band down the streets of Upland the past couple of years, and could easily be described as the hardest-working man in the parade, never passing up an opportunity to entertain and generate a wave or a smile.

Razzano came before Borough Council on Jan. 14 to publicly express his appreciation.

"I'd like to thank the Borough of Upland for their hospitality this year and for granting us some space. It was a real shot in the arm for us. I can see a future of us working together," Razzano said.

"Thank you, and it's been a pleasure having you here," responded Council President Ed Mitchell.

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Security Cameras Approved For Reese Center, Carriage House

A total expenditure of \$30,200 was approved by Council at its Dec. 10 meeting, to cover the purchase and installation costs of three high-resolution, tilt-and-zoom dome security cameras. Two cameras will police the new driveway area of the Reese Center on West 24th Street, while the other pole-mounted surveillance device will stand guard over the historic Carriage House, located on the grounds of Camp Upland, off Sixth Street.

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No-Tax-Increase Budget Extends Streak To 27 Years

Upland's no-tax-increase streak and its paltry 2-mill real estate tax rate has been stretched to 27 consecutive years in 2014.

According to Finance Chair/Councilwoman Moira Crawford, the final 2014 general budget, which was unanimously approved at Borough Council's Dec. 10 meeting, will balance at \$3,060,161, breaking the \$3 million mark for the first time ever.

The borough's operating budget slowly surpassed the \$1 million mark in 2007, but expenditures AND revenue have both tripled since then, making the no-tax-hike streak even more impressive.

The annual trash collection fee, which was set at \$135 per household residence in 2008, will also be maintained, under the adopted budget.

The 2014 final budget total represents a \$91,419 or 3.1% increase over this year's budget. The additional spending is due to a 3% pay hike for all employees, higher health care premiums, the rising cost of doing borough business, contractual increases for the police department, and expenses related to several special community improvement projects.

The additional revenue needed to balance the budget was found by "fine-tuning" revenue projections for Earned Income Tax collections.

Meanwhile, the 2014 operating budget for the borough-owned Auburn Village apartment complex totals \$778,000 and reflects a modest 1.9% increase to support costs associated with ongoing renovation projects.

"This is the 27th straight year that we have not raised taxes in this town, and that's saying a lot about what we do and all the services we provide," noted Council President Edward Mitchell.

"Everyone here should be proud to be a part of this," Mitchell said to his fellow Council members. "It couldn't be done without everyone's efforts to keep our costs down, while we increase services."



Rabid Skunk Attacks Dog



An Upland dog recently had a close encounter with a skunk and the dog has now been quarantined.

The dog came across the skunk in the backyard of a residence, and the nocturnal visitor quickly turned aggressive and attacked the dog, spraying and scratching the surprised canine.

Fortunately, the skunk was put down on site by animal control authorities, but unfortunately, the varmint tested positive for rabies – the first recorded case of rabies in Upland Borough.

While one Upland family is now hoping and praying that their dog has not contracted rabies, other pet-owning families are being cautioned to check their yards carefully and to keep their dogs on a leash when taking them outside to do their business. Several species of wild animals roam the borough, especially at night, so this public safety notice applies to more than just skunks.

If you see any wild animal acting strange or unusually aggressive, **do not take any action yourself, but immediately call 911** and have police notify the borough's Animal Control Officer.

Residents should not feed any wildlife from their homes, and should keep trash can lids secured tightly to discourage late-night visitors.

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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

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Holiday Decorating Winners Named

Lead Judge/Councilman Dan Smith apologized for leaving the list of holiday home decorating contest winners at home on the night of the Jan. 14 meeting, but promised those in attendance that the results would be printed in *the Uplander*.

Here are the 2013 winners who brightened all of our lives with their impressive holiday displays. Prizes of \$100, \$50, and \$25 were awarded to:

1st place – Raymond Bajerski of 18 Hill St.

2nd place – Howard Novak of 1115 Church St.

3rd place – Harry Vernon of 219 Ninth St.

...and an Honorable Mention winner was Harry & Adelaide Richardson's decorated tree at 7 Third St.

Borough Council congratulates the winners and extends a sincere thank you to all the residents whose cheerful and colorful displays help to make the holiday season the Season of Light.

Fire Prevention Alert:

Two discarded 9-volt batteries in the same trash container can create a spark and start a fire.

The best preventives are to secure a piece of electrical tape over the battery connectors or to **never** throw away two 9-volt batteries in the same trash bag.

Police Chief Easton Retires

At its Jan. 14 meeting, Borough Council accepted with regret the resignation of Police Chief John Easton, whose retirement was effective Jan. 21.

During his 5½-year tenure, Easton transformed the Upland PD into one of the finest law enforcement agencies in the county by sharing his vast personal arsenal of knowledge and experience with the young officers under his tutelage.

Easton started his law enforcement career at the Delaware County Prison in 1970. He later transferred to the Delaware County Courthouse and Parks Police Department, then took a position as an undercover operative with the U.S. Department of Defense, working at the Navy base in Philadelphia.

Easton then accepted a position with the Chester Township PD, and worked there for several years, rising in rank from patrolman to patrol corporal, patrol sergeant, detective sergeant, and eventually Officer In Charge.

In 1987, Easton moved to the Criminal Investigation Division of the Delaware County District Attorney's Office, where his investigative specialties were physical and sexual abuse of children and homicide cases. After retiring from a 21-year career at CID, Easton agreed to take the helm of the Upland Police Department in 2008.

In a statement to the people of Upland, Easton said: ***"I sincerely hope that I am leaving the residents of Upland Borough in a more secure and safer peace of mind than before I arrived. I hope that I have bestowed upon our younger officers knowledge and experiences that will, in turn, enable them to perform in a positive manner, always keeping the Law and our citizens at heart.***

"I will certainly miss Upland, and I wish that I could squeeze out 20 more years of service to the Borough. I have found a home here, and I will greatly miss Tiny Town. THANKS TO ALL."

According to Council Vice President Christine Peterson, Deputy Police Chief Nelson Ocasio will handle the chief's duties for the immediate future.

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Upland Firefighters Keep Raising Bar

Year-end totals for Upland Fire Co. #1 activities show that the volunteer emergency responders set a new benchmark in 2013, with a total incident count of 407. The Upland record of 397 incidents was set in 2012, edging the 2010 record of 395.

Last year's record-setting performance by Upland firefighters included 12 fire incidents, 154 non-fire incidents, 199 mutual aid assists, and 42 drills. The activity log breaks down to 215 daytime calls and 192 at night, with a total of 334.2 hours spent in service by an average of seven runners per call.

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