



The Uplander



The Caleb Pusey House

MacQueen Hall

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



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Easter In Upland Is SWEET!



These young ladies show off the bounty they collected on April 19 at the annual Easter Egg Hunt at Bristol Lord Field, which is co-sponsored by Upland Fire Company # 1 and the Upland Athletic Club.



At the borough-sponsored Easter Breakfast, family photos with the Easter Bunny were once again a popular keepsake.



The annual Easter Breakfast in MacQueen Hall followed the Egg Hunt. The selection of delicious breakfast foods was obviously something to smile about, while the special holiday cupcakes were good enough to...wear.



At an Open House on April 12, the Friends of the Caleb Pusey House displayed four recently framed historic documents that date back to the late-1600s and early-1700s. The rare documents include a property deed for 20 acres conveyed from William Penn to Caleb Pusey (held by FCPH Treasurer Harry Jackalous, far left), a property deed conveying 17.5 acres from Pusey to John Salkeld (on wall), and the wedding certificate of Lydia Pusey, Caleb's daughter (held by FCPH President Ray Peden). Each framed document is accompanied by a modern English translation of the old English text (seen hanging on Crozer Schoolhouse #1 wall behind FCPH Secretary Joanne Peden's head).

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FCPH Hosts Plant & Herb Sale

On Saturday, May 10, the Friends of the Caleb Pusey House will be holding a Spring Plant & Herb Sale on the Pusey House grounds on Race Street. This event will be open to the general public, running from 11am to 4pm, rain or shine. A wide variety of bedding plants, annuals, vegetables, hanging baskets, and potted herbs will be offered at below-retail prices, so the FCPH can save you some green on your gardening this year. And while visiting Landingford Plantation, take a free tour of the historic Pusey House (built in 1683) - the oldest English cottage in America.

Free Smoke Alarms Available

Since January, Upland Fire Co. #1 has been giving away free smoke/fire alarms to any borough resident who wants one. Request forms are available at the borough office. As of mid-March, only about a dozen requests had been received.

If a resident needs help installing their free battery-operated smoke detector, fire company volunteers will be providing 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.

"If any of our resident homeowners need smoke detectors, both Borough Council and the fire company are more than willing to make that happen," stated Upland Fire Chief Dan Smith.

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Read *The Spire* On Upland Baptist Church Website

If you want to know what's going on at the Upland Baptist Church at 325 Main Street, the first place to check is the church's new and improved website at www.uplandbaptist.org.

The church's monthly newsletter (*The Spire*) is posted on the website, along with a full slate of upcoming summer events, and a Food Bank News section (found under Outreach) that specifies the types of groceries that the church's community food bank needs most.

For more Upland Baptist Church information, call the church office at **610-874-7474**.

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P.A.L. Program Gearing Up

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

When the borough took ownership of the James W. Reese Center on West 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.

Ocasio and Curran shared their vision of what an Upland PAL program might offer to the community. They suggested that neighboring towns might want to "build off of our model," noting that 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.

"There are so many things that have to come together to make this thing work," stated Council President Ed Mitchell. "It's no secret that the youth of this community have been deprived of their recreational needs for a long time," he added.

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Upland P.A.L. Needs Your Support

Although it may be a couple months yet until the actual start-up of Police Athletic League activities at the Reese Center, the time for the community to embrace this youth program with financial support has arrived.

Ultimately, the fiscal goal of Upland's PAL program will be self-sufficiency, much like the independence achieved by the established PAL program in Philadelphia. Aiming to create a foundation of financial supporters, the organizers of the Upland program are asking the community to step forward now with individual donations and corporate sponsorships.

To be among the first citizens to stand up and support the non-profit Upland PAL, send email to uplandpaldonations@yahoo.com or call Upland PD headquarters at **610-872-3040 ext. 208** to speak to Officer Michael Curran.

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War Memorial Gets Facelift

The war memorial at Bristol Lord Field recently received a makeover, just in time for the annual Memorial Day festivities at the site.

Several of the plantings around the two memorial stones (which bear the names of 100 of Upland's native sons) were replaced and the entire fenced area was spruced up in preparation for Memorial Day – Monday, May 26.

Kirby Returns As Health Inspector

William Kirby, of Church Street, has been appointed by Borough Council to once again serve as Upland Borough's Board of Health inspector. Kirby held the same post from 2006 to 2008.

Catherine 'Cathy' Warfield most recently held the health inspector position, serving the borough from August 2008 until she resigned in January 2014.

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Police Ramp Up Enforcement

During this Spring, the Upland Police Department has been utilizing a \$1,000 grant to pay officers to work special Aggressive Driving details. The state-sponsored road-safety program has been in effect for several years and has produced notable results.

Another successful public safety effort has been the annual Buckle-Up Program, which runs this year from late-May through June, and includes officers making traffic stops to remind motorists to use their seat belts.

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Fire Co. Improves Insurance Rating

Upland property owners should check with their insurance carriers to see how much the fire company's improved insurance rating will save them on property insurance.

Insurance Services Office (ISO) out of Marlton, NJ recently completed a Public Protection Classification (PPC) survey of the borough's fire suppression delivery systems. In the ISO's survey summary, significant advances in Upland Fire Company's capabilities, equipment, training, and document-keeping were noted since the last PPC survey, conducted in 2004.

Due to those advances, Upland Borough's PPC rating has now dropped from 5 down to 4.

According to Fire Chief Dan Smith, that one-point drop is very significant to borough residents, since it moves Upland Borough into the best of three insurance categories.

In terms of fire safety, a community's PPC is rated from 1-4, 5-6, or 7-9, with escalating insurance premiums applied to the higher numbers.

To take full advantage of this new 10-year PPC rating, which is effective as of May 1, 2014, Smith advises all borough property owners to contact their insurance agents soon.

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Firefighters Slate Tag Days

The men and women who volunteer to serve their community under the banner of Upland Fire Company No. 1 will be collecting donations from motorists at the intersection of Upland Avenue and Kerlin Street during their Annual Tag Days on **Fridays, May 2 & 9 and Sept. 5 & 12**, from **3:30 to 7pm** each day. (Rain dates will be on the next Friday.)

The all-volunteer fire company appreciates the financial support it receives from Upland residents and their neighbors, with an estimated \$7-8,000 being raised on Tag Days in recent years. Please give generously.

Seniors Plan Flea Market Encore

Last June's fundraising Flea Market drew such a good response, garnering \$300 to defray the cost of group activities, that the Upland Senior Citizens Club will be hosting an encore event from **9am-3pm on Saturday, June 14** at MacQueen Hall.

Vendor tables are available at \$15 per table, but must be reserved by June 9. Please call the borough office at **610-874-7317** to reserve a table or for more information.

*** * * Important Notice:** During the Flea Market, borough residents can pick up the wristbands that will give them unlimited access to all food and amusements at the Annual July Fourth Family Picnic at Bristol Lord Field.

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Borough Council Meetings

6pm caucus; 7pm regular voting session
Tuesday, May 13, June 10, and July 8
on ground floor of MacQueen Hall

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Annual Spring Clean-up of Pusey House Grounds

8:30am to noon on Saturday, May 3

All able-bodied volunteers are welcome to help spruce up the 13-acre Landingford Plantation on Race Street, in preparation for another season of free tours of the historic site

Bring work gloves; Tools will be provided

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FCPH Spring Plant & Herb Sale

11am to 4pm on Saturday, May 10
at Landingford Plantation on Race Street

Save money on a wide variety of plants & herbs for landscaping, gardening, and Mothers' Day gifts, while supporting historic preservation

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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

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Carnival Returns!

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

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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

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Upland Seniors Club Flea Market

9am to 3pm on Saturday, June 14
on second floor of MacQueen Hall

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Mild weather allowed construction of the firehouse addition to move forward at full speed throughout April.



Firehouse Addition Nears Completion

The first major upgrade of Upland's lone fire station began in mid-November, with a target date for completion of March 8, but construction was stalled by inclement weather in January and February.

The welcome arrival of Springtime temperatures in early March allowed construction crews to pick up where they left off, with the laying of concrete block being the first order of business. As of Borough Council's March meeting, the projected completion date was April 28.

Beyond adding another fire truck bay, the \$315,000 construction project will also add some office space to the home of Upland Fire Co. #1.

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 age 62) pay \$4 for dinner.

Diners can call the Park Row office at **610-872-0100** to get menu information or to make reservations.

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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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Catherine Warfield, who served as Upland Borough's health inspector for the past six years, recently received a service award from Mayor Michael Ciach, in recognition of her service to the community.

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At Borough Council's April 22 meeting, Patrolman Brian Boyd, Jr. was re-sworn as a part-time member of the Upland Police Department. Boyd, 29, spent the last year working with the Delaware County Park Police, after working the previous six years (two part-time, four full-time) on the Upland force. The reinstated officer poses here (center) with Mayor Ciach and Acting Police Chief Nelson Ocasio.



Upland Mayor Michael Ciach (far right), who recently announced his candidacy for the 159th District's seat in the PA House of Representatives, is congratulated by Lt.-Governor Jim Cawley (center) and members of the Upland Police Department, including (l to r) Patrolman Michael Curran, Patrolman Craig Scully, and Acting-Chief Nelson Ocasio.

Upland Mayor Announces Run For PA House

A host of local Republican Party officials gathered at the Marcus Hook Community Center on March 1 to formally announce the candidacy of Upland Borough Mayor Michael Ciach for the 159th Legislative District's seat in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

That seat has been held by Democrat Thaddeus Kirkland of Chester since 1993. Ciach is the latest in a string of GOP challengers to take on the entrenched Kirkland, who is currently serving his eleventh consecutive term as a state representative. "I'm going to make this a street fight, and go after him down and hard," Ciach promised his supporters. "I'm going to go into his backyard, right down into the City of Chester and go to the (council) meetings."

"District 159 used to be one of the strongest political organizations in the county, and we're going to get it back to being that way," Ciach added to applause.

The 159th District encompasses the City of Chester, Chester Township, Lower Chichester Township, parts of Ridley Township and Upper Chichester Township, and the boroughs of Upland, Parkside, Trainer, Eddystone, and Marcus Hook.

In his attempt to unseat Kirkland, Ciach brings an extensive resume of public service, including 12 years on borough council, prior to serving the last nine years as mayor. Ciach has also served as vice president of the Delaware County Association of Boroughs for the past three years.

Ciach's duties as mayor have broadened the scope of his experience, as he oversees the operations of the Upland Police Department, while serving as the borough's liaison to all public and charter schools and to Crozer-Chester Medical Center.

Ciach, 47, has lived in either Upland or Chester his entire life. He is currently employed as a copier salesman, and considers rearing his two adult children as a single parent to be among his greatest personal achievements.

Ciach feels that his experience as a decision-maker, both public and private, will help him make sound choices on behalf of the residents of the 159th District.

"I'm ready to go. I've got 20 years of municipal experience and the drive to see this area succeed again," Ciach says of his skill set.

The most urgent issues facing the 159th District are education, job creation and retention, and overall economic recovery, in that order, according to Ciach.

Among the Republican dignitaries who came to Marcus Hook to endorse Ciach's candidacy were Pennsylvania Lieutenant-Governor Jim Cawley, representatives from each of the district's municipalities, and about 60 of the party faithful.

"Mike Ciach is exactly the kind of candidate and public servant that we need in the 159th District," Cawley stated. "He's going to go door-to-door in his campaign and talk about a better way to get things done. I think he represents the true feelings of the people of Delaware County, and particularly this district."



These World War II veterans were honored on Feb. 25 at an annual event at Marine Corps League Detachment 288 headquarters in Upland, held each year on the anniversary of the bloody five-week battle for the island of Iwo Jima.

Sadly, the number of vets available for this tribute is shrinking every year.

The pictured Iwo Jima survivors include Jack Depew, Alan Macauley, and Joe Hinderhofer (all from Detachment 288), and George Edelmann and Lou Camilli (of Smedley Butler Detachment 741).

(photo provided courtesy of George Patterson)

Soup-n-Salad Fundraiser Loses Money

According to Community Affairs Committee Chairwoman Sandy Miazza, the Soup-n-Salad Dinner fundraiser held in MacQueen Hall on Feb. 22 came up short of expenses, actually losing \$107.

"I'm not too happy about that," Miazza reported to fellow Council members at their March 11 meeting.

Miazza noted that the free events that the borough offers each year, which are financed in part by fundraisers like the Soup-n-Salad Dinner in February and a Spaghetti Dinner in the Fall, are always well attended. She urged residents who enjoy the freebies handed out at Easter, Halloween and Christmas parties to help fund those popular youth events by attending fundraisers.

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 *****

Council Amends Parking Regs

Borough Council voted unanimously 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 is 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 is restricted to no more than two hours between 6am and 10pm.

The amended ordinance also bans 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) is 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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Tax Collector Hands Over Delinquents

At its March 11 meeting, Borough Council exonerated Borough Tax Collector Linda Mitchell of the collection of delinquent 2013 taxes.

A total of \$11,314 in unpaid real estate taxes will now be turned over to the Delaware County Tax Bureau for collection, while a total of \$11,583 in unpaid trash service fees will now be collected by Centax.

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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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Brutal Winter Has Been Costly

The winter of 2013-2014 saw 16 measurable snow events deposit a total of 67.4 inches on the Philadelphia area, which was good for second place all-time in total snowfall for the season. As you might expect, the cost of plowing and salting the borough's roadways was also well above the norm.

According to the borough office, Upland's Public Works Department spread 388 tons of road salt this winter, at a cost of \$19,405. By way of comparison, during the winter of 2012-2013, a total of 50 tons of road salt were used, at a cost of about \$3,000.

De-icing salt has become so scarce this winter, that one person was even seen sweeping Upland streets and sidewalks to collect a few handfuls of salt. And just for the record, while this may seem to be frugal, it is, in fact, illegal.

Other snow-related costs incurred by the Borough this winter include replacement of a \$1,200 gas tank on a plow truck and the replacement of plow blade edges. Snowblower repairs also added to seasonal costs, and the purchase of two heavy-duty Honda snowblowers was ultimately deemed necessary.

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Home Improvement Tips That Protect 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.

The next Heavy Trash Pick-ups will be made on Wed., May 28.

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.



The annual St. Patty's Day Ham & Cabbage Luncheon For Seniors was held on March 17, with the event drawing about 50 attendees, despite a light snowfall that morning, giving friends a chance to enjoy a traditional Irish meal, provided courtesy of the Community Affairs Committee.

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."



Wrought iron fencing was recently installed atop the stone wall along Main Street, between 4th and 6th Streets, as the first step of a public safety/beautification project.

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

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.

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 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.



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

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...and many of our pets enjoyed the snow too!

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.

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.

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.



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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