



The Caleb Pusey House

The Uplander



MacQueen Hall

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



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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.



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

(See story on page 2)



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



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



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



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.

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."*

Council President Ed Mitchell expressed his gratitude to fellow Councilman Harold R. Peden, who served as an interim manager to create a three-week bridge between Purcival's last day and Grillone's first day, and to borough office Secretaries Shannon Strigle and Cindy Romeo, both of whom carried an extra work load over the past two months to facilitate the manager transition.

"Our hats are off to you for setting us up, but the Marines are coming!" Mitchell said, assuring the exhausted workers of pending relief. *"You and Ray have all done a great job,"* he added.

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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.

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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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.

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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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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

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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*** 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. Upland residents should use this email address exclusively for fundraising matters, however. 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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FREE Environmental Workshop

Learn how to create your own eco-friendly rain garden at a free **Do-It-Yourself Rain Gardens** workshop presented **from 1-3pm on Sunday, May 3** at the Nether Providence Township building and again **from 2-4pm on Sunday, May 17** at Media Borough Hall/Community Center.

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The Second Annual Pusey House Spring Plant & Herb Sale on May 9 has been cancelled,

to avoid conflict with the fire company's flower sale on the same weekend.

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The Friends of the Caleb Pusey House are planning other public events for this touring season, so stay tuned for more information on opportunities to enjoy this special historic site on Race Street.

Fire Co. Slates Fundraisers

The volunteer members of Upland Fire Company No. 1 will be counting on Upland residents to support a series of fundraisers that will help maintain and improve the borough's only fire station. Please mark the following dates on your calendar:

* **Tag Days** are when volunteers collect donations from motorists at the intersection of Upland Avenue and Kerlin Street on:

Fridays, May 1 & May 8 AND Sept. 11 & Sept. 18
All dates from 3:30 to 7pm

(rain dates will be the following Friday or Saturday)

* **May 8-10 Mothers' Day Flowers** will be sold in front of the firehouse on McClintock Drive, from 10am-7pm on Friday & Saturday and from 10am-2pm on Sunday

* **May 17 Nelsons BBQ** returns, along with baked goods sale and "in-house" dining; Pre-orders accepted starting Easter weekend

(Note: Pre-orders must be received by May 10)

* **May 19-23** Volunteers will be at the **Outdoor Carnival** offering summer raffle tickets and manning a game of chance wheel.

* **July 11 Rubber Duck Race on Chester Creek** is one of the most creative fundraisers you'll ever enjoy, as contestants launch their toy ducks on the creek above Toby Farms, then float to the finish line at historic Landingford Plantation. Watch for more details on this unique upcoming event in the next edition of *the Uplander*.

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Borough Council Meetings

6pm caucus; 7pm regular voting session

Tuesday, May 12, June 9, and July 14(tent.)
on ground floor of MacQueen Hall

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Free Buffet Breakfast For Seniors

10am on Monday, May 4
at MacQueen Hall

All Upland seniors (62 and over) are invited to enjoy another offering from the Community Affairs Committee

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Outdoor Carnival

Tuesday thru Saturday, May 19 to 23
at Bristol Lord Field

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Annual Memorial Day Celebration

Monday, May 25

Parade starts at 9am, followed by memorial service at war memorial (Sixth and Church Sts.) about 10am

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Co-sponsored Church Community Picnic at Bristol Lord Field pavilion from 11am to 2pm

The combined congregations of Upland Baptist Church and Resurrection Life Church throw their annual Memorial Day party for the community, complete with hot dogs and burgers off the grill and plenty of homemade foods & desserts



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

LOCK ALL VEHICLES AT NIGHT

Upland Police Chief Nelson Ocasio is asking all residents to help police stem nighttime vehicle break-ins by taking the simple precaution of locking the doors of all vehicles parked outside overnight.



Upland Fire Company No. 1 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. Among the day's best-sellers were the hot dogs and soft pretzels offered by fire company personnel.



Upland History Booklets For Sale

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



Councilwomen Moira Crawford (left) and Christine Peterson share a laugh with Council President Ed Mitchell, after the mischievous duo presented him with a framed World's Best Photographer award and a children's camera. The joke started when Mitchell took a few photographs of historic Upland buildings, to help enhance the borough's newly-renovated website, but alas, Webmaster Crawford deemed the photos to be "commendable," but somewhat short of our website's high standards.

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.

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

Safety Inspections Begin Anew

The annual cycle of fire safety inspections for all rental properties in Upland Borough began again on March 15, according to a recent report from Fire Marshal David Favinger.

Borough Solicitor Robert O'Connor confirmed that there are four landlords who remain non-compliant with the required 2014 fire inspection. Those cases are currently pending a district court appearance.

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Flood Safety Awareness Could Save Your Life and/or Property

Every year in the United States, flooding claims nearly 100 lives and causes an average of \$8 billion worth of property damage. To highlight these frightening facts, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) are offering valuable flood safety tips online at www.ready.gov/floods, 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.

- 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.

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Poop-Scoop Law Now In Effect

To address the persistent problem of people allowing their pets to poop on public and private property, then leaving the pile behind for someone else to clean up (or step in), Borough Council adopted a curative amendment to the borough code on Nov. 10, redefining the term "Nuisance" to include uncollected pet waste.

If you choose to leave your own property and walk your dog through the neighborhood, be aware that the amended ordinance now makes it officially illegal to leave your pet's waste lying "in any gutter, on any street, driveway, alley, curb, sidewalk, recreational trail, or public parkland in the borough, or upon the floors or stairways of any building or place frequented by the public."

Failure to comply with the new poop-scooping requirement could lead to citations and fines from the code enforcement officer, but there should be no need for such measures.

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Council Applies For CDBG Funds

Upland Borough recently submitted an application to Delaware County Council, seeking consideration for a 2015 Community Development Block Grant.

Upland has chosen construction of a cut-through driveway, which would link the police headquarters parking lot to 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.

Needles & Chemo Waste Cause 'Hot' Trash Loads

Upland Borough's trash hauler is once again asking all residents to take extra care when disposing of used needles and chemotherapy waste. The presence of unwrapped needles or radioactive material will cause a trash truck to be labeled as a "hot load" which needs to be inspected by hand at the dump – a tedious process that is both time-consuming and costly to our trash hauler.

As a reminder, used needles should always be secured in a container that is taped shut, while chemotherapy waste must be also be tightly contained and disposed of through proper channels, but never in the regular trash.

Auburn Village Upgrades Keep Coming

This year's budgeted improvements to Auburn Village units that are either pending or already underway include the replacement of cabinets and railings (where needed) and new fire extinguishers for all units, according to Auburn Village Committee Chairwoman Christine Peterson.

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In January, Borough Council contracted for the demolition of 4 Eighth Street, aka 'the Chicken Coop.' The long-vacant structure was close to falling over on its own.



In early February, the blighted Eighth Street site was cleaned up and converted into an empty lot, putting an end to a neighborhood eyesore.

Kirby Named Code Enforcement Assistant

The title of Assistant Code Enforcement Officer was officially bestowed on William Kirby at Borough Council's Feb. 10 meeting, providing some help for Code Officer Leland Hunter, who has performed the borough's code enforcement duties by himself for the past six years.

"I want to thank Bill Kirby for his assistance, which I very much need and appreciate," Hunter told his fellow Council members. "He's been doing a heck of a job for us," Hunter added.

Kirby will be paid \$10 per hour for the part-time position, while sharing use of the borough's code enforcement car with Hunter.

Kirby also currently serves as the borough's health inspector – a position to which he was re-appointed just last year, but a post where he has a total of nearly 20 years of experience overall.

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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.



MacQueen Hall was teeming with happy diners on Feb. 28, as a roomful of Uplanders turned out to support the Annual Soup-n-Salad Dinner Fundraiser. Unlike last year, when this fundraiser lost money, this year was a financial success, raising over \$200 to help fund other borough events.

Upland PD Seeks Corporal

Borough Council has approved the preliminary steps to identify the best candidate to serve as a corporal in the Upland Police Department. Members of the borough's Civil Service Commission will soon be conducting the necessary testing and interview process that will ultimately lead to the most qualified candidates.

Police Chief Nelson Ocasio is currently the only member of the Upland PD who carries rank. The creation of a new corporal will provide the Upland force with a second tier of leadership, to handle situations when the police chief is not available.



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.



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.

Dennon's interim appointment expires in January 2016, which means that two years of Smith's unexpired term will be filled by voters in this year's elections. Council's newest member says he will be running as an incumbent Republican in 2015 to secure that two-year term.



Interim Borough Council Appointee William Dennon (left) poses with Council VP Christine Peterson and Mayor Michael Ciach, after Dennon was sworn in on March 10.

Sports Donations Approved & Denied

A pair of sponsorship requests from local youth sports teams came before Upland Borough Council on March 10, with mixed results.

A one-time request from Upland Resident Dennis Martinelli for a donation of \$150 was unanimously approved by Council to help support the George Carter Boys & Girls Club Basketball League. Martinelli said that, out of the 10 players on the team that he coaches in this league, eight of them are Upland residents.

A request for an unspecified amount to help support the Chester Panthers Football Association was unanimously denied by Council, since this team "is not an Upland organization" with only nine Upland residents on the football team's roster.

Martinelli told Council that local teams are recruiting Upland players, so that they might get a donation. According to Martinelli, sports team donations are hard to come by in Chester City and Chester Township, whereas Upland Borough has a reputation for supporting youth sports.



Retiring Borough Manager Shirley Purcival was surrounded by well-wishers, including the borough employees that she worked with every day, at a Farewell Luncheon on March 20.

Borough Manager Retires

Borough Manager Shirley Purcival retired from 32+ years of service to Upland Borough, effective March 20. She had served 10 years as the police secretary, 10 years as recording secretary, and was in her 13th year as borough manager.

At Ms. Purcival's Farewell Luncheon, a host of friends, co-workers, and colleagues thanked the retiree for her dedicated and compassionate service to Upland, and wished her all the best. Purcival received an engraved remembrance from Borough Council, and was presented with a plaque-mounted police badge and made an honorary sergeant of the Upland Police Department.



On March 10, Reverend Brenda Shaw of Upland Baptist Church was thanked by Police Chief Nelson Ocasio and Mayor Michael Ciach for her congregation's generous and ongoing support of the Upland Police Department.

Upland PD Grateful For Support

Police Chief Nelson Ocasio recently presented Reverend Brenda Shaw with a framed Certificate of Appreciation and an official Upland PD patch to thank the congregation of Upland Baptist Church for providing homemade snacks to the borough's on-duty police officers since January.

"To have this kind of community support is a great thing," Ocasio stated with gratitude.

Tax Collector Exonerated For Unpaid Taxes

At its March 10 meeting, Borough Council exonerated Borough Tax Collector Linda Mitchell of the collection of all unpaid 2014 taxes. A total of \$9,225 in delinquent real estate taxes will now be turned over to the Delaware County Tax Bureau for collection, while a total of \$9,801 in unpaid trash service fees will now be collected by Credit-Tec.

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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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This before (above) & after comparison shows the difference a new cedar shake roof makes in the appearance of the **1683 Caleb Pusey House on Race Street.** This National Historic Register site is the oldest English vernacular cottage in America, and the only building still standing that can verify multiple visits by William Penn. **FREE Pusey House tours are available every Saturday, from Noon to 4pm, May thru October**





Upland senior citizens celebrated St. Patty's Day with the wearin' o' the green at the Annual Ham & Cabbage Luncheon provided by the Community Affairs Committee on March 16.



Park Runoff Creates Concern

The borough engineer will be looking into the source of water trickling off Bristol Lord Field that has led to significant icing on Church Street, between the intersections of Sixth Street and Castle Avenue.

"It's not just small spots of ice. These are big blotches of ice, and someone is going to get hurt bad one day," Councilman Leland Hunter asserted, as he brought the slippery issue up for discussion at the March 10 Council meeting.

Hunter noted that water flow off the field is clearly visible at several points along Church Street. The trickles all drain to the intersection of Church and Castle, where the runoff tends to gather and pond.

Over this past winter, the borough's Public Works Department was frequently dispatched to this intersection to chip ice and spread salt for pedestrian safety, so the freezing runoff is not an isolated event and could be a chronic problem.

The task of Borough Engineer Charles Catania will be to first determine the source of the runoff, then to come up with a plan to contain or redirect the flow.

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