



The Caleb Pusey House

The Uplander



MacQueen Hall

The official newsletter of historic Upland Borough
(Settled 1683)



Winter 2009/2010 edition



Police Station Nearing Completion



Borough officials held a groundbreaking ceremony on July 31.

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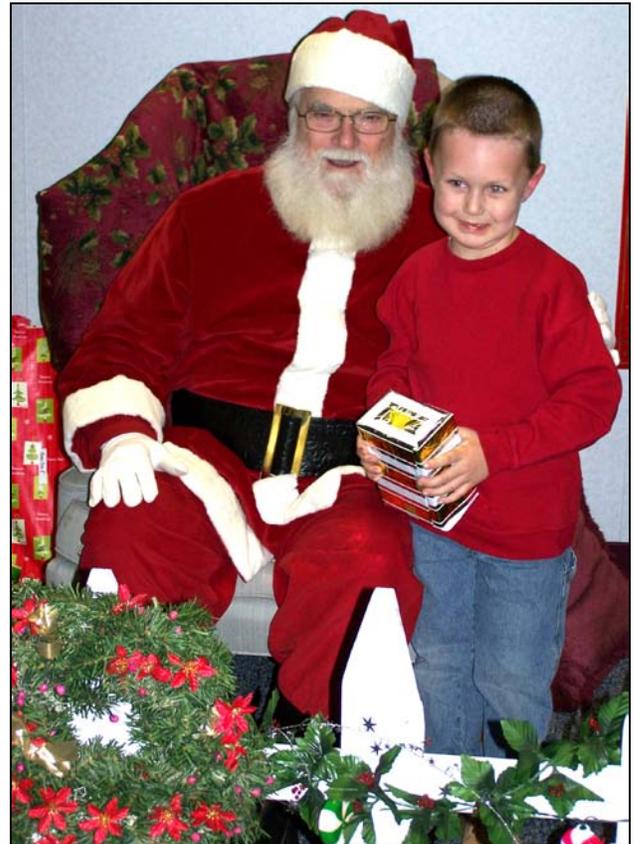
Construction was well underway by early August.

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Interior work was all that remained to be done by December.

Construction of the borough's first free-standing police headquarters is almost finished behind MacQueen Hall. The 2,080-sq. ft. structure will be accessed from the existing borough hall parking lot. A ribbon-cutting ceremony to formally open the police station's doors is planned for January.



Santa paid a visit to MacQueen Hall on Nov. 27 and handed out gifts to the good little girls and boys of Upland, while hoagies, hot chocolate, cookies and cake were served.

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Upland Holds Tax/Rent Line In 2010

If preliminary 2010 borough budgets are unchanged at final adoption in December, Upland property owners will enjoy the 23rd consecutive year of no borough tax increase next year, while Auburn Village renters will be spared from rent increases. Auburn Village rents rose in 2009 (up \$50/month for one-bedroom and \$100 for two- and three-bedroom units) for the first time in 10 years.

The 156-unit apartment complex is now in the second year of a building upgrade program, which includes new shingles, thermal exterior doors, and energy-efficient first-floor windows for every unit. The Auburn Village 2010 operating budget has increased by 35% since 2008 to fund the improvements.

The borough's 2010 general fund budget of \$2,431,217 represents a new record in annual expenditures for Upland, topping this year's record by just over \$44,000. The 1.8% spending increase is attributed to rising employee salaries, insurance premiums, and utility costs.

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Food Bank Offers Help

The Food Bank that operates out of the basement of the Chapel at Upland Baptist Church is intended for use by borough residents who meet income qualifications.

The Food Bank is open for pick-ups from 9-10am every Wednesday. Donations of non-perishable food items can be made any time during the church office's regular weekday business hours, from 9am to 1pm.

Helpful donations include canned vegetables, meats, and potatoes, peanut butter, pasta, rice, and cereal.

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Seniors Take Winter Break

The Upland Senior Citizens Club will be taking a meeting break from Christmas until the first week of March to avoid inclement weather.

The club will reconvene in the spring on the second floor of MacQueen Hall every Monday, from 9am to 3pm. Meetings include snacks and beverages, playing cards and assorted games, and socializing among members.

For more information, call USCC President Betty Kondracki at **610-874-4101**.

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Multi-Municipal Plan Approved

Upland Borough Council has adopted a multi-municipal comprehensive plan that was over three years in the making and will help the neighboring boroughs of Upland, Parkside, and Brookhaven to save money and resources through future cooperative efforts.

Upland's unanimous approval of the joint comprehensive plan came on Nov. 10, during a 45-day period that has also seen Parkside adopt the plan, while Brookhaven, school district, and county officials give the plan a final review.

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History Preserved and Promoted

Borough Council recently adopted a forward-thinking historic preservation ordinance that will help save Upland's rich historical legacy for future generations. The ordinance calls for the creation of an historical commission that could review building plans and advise council of the potential impact on the borough's historic resources. The five-member volunteer commission (members have not yet been named to two-year terms) will also be charged with promoting interest and education in historic preservation among residents.

"This is one of the best things that has happened in this borough in a long, long time," Ray Peden, president of the Friends of the Caleb Pusey House, said of the new ordinance. "Borough Council has been very proactive in trying to formalize historic preservation, and that's a wonderful thing. The board of directors of the FCPH is very excited about this, and we look forward to many years of successful operation for the historic commission."

Public Meetings and Events

Borough Council Monthly Meetings

Tues. Dec. 8; Jan. 12; Feb. 9
6pm caucus; 7pm regular meeting
at MacQueen Hall

Historical Reenactor Catherine Kelly presents "The History of Tea"

11am on Dec. 12 - Crozer Schoolhouse, 15 Race St.

Upland Senior Citizens Club Christmas Party

noon on Monday, Dec. 14
at MacQueen Hall

Santa Tours Borough on Fire Truck

Candy canes handed out - Saturday, Dec. 19
starting at 11am, then again at 5pm

Borough Council Reorganization Meeting

6pm on Monday, Jan. 4
at MacQueen Hall

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Borough Observes Holidays

Borough offices at MacQueen Hall will be closed and no trash or recycling will be collected on the following winter holidays: Christmas Day (Fri. Dec. 25); New Years Day (Fri. Jan. 1); Martin Luther King Day (Mon. Jan. 18); and Presidents Day (Mon. Feb. 15). For a complete listing of 2010 borough holidays, consult the enclosed calendar.

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Upland Keeps Pace With Flood Regs

Borough Council recently approved amendments to chapter 90 of the borough code to comply with 2009 federal changes to flood plain regulations. The new FEMA language further defines the 100-year flood plain. The borough's adoption of the flood ordinance amendments assures Upland residents that flood insurance will continue to be available.

Curbside Leaf Collections

Curbside leaf pick-ups will continue, as weather permits, until every borough street has been cleared of raked piles.

Residents are asked to rake leaves to the outside edge of the sidewalk, but not into the street, where wet leaves can clog stormwater inlets.

Please remove rocks, branches, and other debris from leaf piles to prevent damage to leaf collecting equipment.

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Snow Kidding, It's Illegal

It may seem acceptable during a heavy snowstorm to shovel or blow snow from private property onto public streets, or to "save" cleared parking spaces on public streets with trash cans, folding chairs or cones, but in fact, both activities are illegal and can lead to a citation. Throwing snow into the street contributes to a public safety hazard. Public streets are owned by the borough or state, never individual homeowners, so space-saving technically constitutes intentional obstruction of a public thoroughfare.

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Dogs And Duties

It is the responsibility of every owner of a dog over six months in age to have a current dog license. New 2010 licenses are available at borough hall during regular business hours.

Dog walkers are reminded to pick up after your pets for the sake of everyone's health and safety.

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Residents Protected By Permits

Borough officials urge all homeowners to call the borough office prior to starting any type of remodeling or home repair project, as many home improvements require a permit.

By enlisting borough inspectors, the permitting process ensures homeowners that a state-licensed contractor is doing the work and that acceptable practices and standard materials are being used.

Homeowners who intend to rent or sell their house must have a Use & Occupancy inspection of the property. Call the borough office at **610-874-7317** to set up an appointment.

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Council Room Gets Colorful

The ground floor meeting room in MacQueen Hall is getting a makeover from Woodlyn artist Joseph Chiaravalloti, who is nearing completion of the first of a series of colorful wall renderings behind the council table. A black-and-white panoramic winter scene of the borough was painted over in September, after gracing the meeting room wall for three decades.

Appropriately, the Caleb Pusey House - Upland's historic gem as the only standing structure in America that can verify visits from William Penn - was the artist's first subject. The textured painting of the Pusey House will be joined by color renderings of Netherly Mansion and a fall panorama of the entire borough. Chiaravalloti is using photos of the borough for accuracy, and hopes to complete his superb artwork sometime next year.

Abandoned Vehicles Beware

Borough Council recently passed ordinance amendments to ban vehicle covers, further define abandoned vehicles, and provide for their removal.

Abandoned vehicles that are covered over by tarps can become public health hazards by creating breeding grounds for diseases, rodents, and mosquitoes, as well as a potential entrapment danger for children.

The borough has received numerous complaints of abandoned vehicles parked on public streets and on private property. Officials estimate at least 35 abandoned cars and several boats, RVs and campers are owned, but no longer used, by borough residents.

"With the downturn in the economy, families that lost jobs and had two or three vehicles no longer need all those cars, or don't have the money to fix them," council President Edward Mitchell explained.

A vehicle can be deemed abandoned when it is unattended on a public street or alley for over 48 hours; when it is disabled and inoperative and sits for more than six months; or when it has no valid registration or inspection sticker, has been stripped or partially disassembled, and sits idle on private property for a period of over 30 days.

The borough will be seeking to identify and remove abandoned vehicles in the near future. A 30-day grace period will be given to violators, before the borough issues a citation and tows the offending vehicle.

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Web Site Information Flows

The Upland Borough web site found at **www.uplandboro.org** contains up to date borough news and information, as well as photo galleries from past and recent events.

Any resident who may have old photos or information that they would like to share can send an email to Councilwoman Moira Crawford at **mcrawford@uplandboro.org** or contact the municipal office.

Upland residents can now be self-appointed sheriff's deputies by viewing the web site's 24/7 video feeds from four security cameras placed at MacQueen Hall and at Bristol Lord Field. The police department also monitors the live camera feeds to prevent vandalism and identify perpetrators.

"It's live and it's happening right now, so don't be afraid to take advantage of this and call 9-1-1 to help us out," council President Edward Mitchell advised residents.

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Unlisted Homes Should Register

To enjoy the full benefits of the borough's information phone service, residents with unlisted phone numbers should call the borough office to register. The phone service was instituted to keep every borough resident informed of upcoming public events and offerings, and would be utilized in the event of a community-wide emergency.

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Halloween Party Scares Up Tricks and Treats



It was no time to clown around when the food was served at this year's Youth Halloween Party, sponsored by Borough Council and the Community Affairs Committee.

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An assortment of scary, cute, and clever costumes were seen at the party, where Constantine the Magician performed.

Police Draw Lines To Curb Speeding

In an attempt to stop speeding on residential streets, Borough Council has authorized the measuring and certification of speed lines on a half dozen borough roads, including Main St., Upland Ave., and 8th St.

"Our officers feel that there is entirely too much speeding through our town, especially on streets where we have 15 MPH (posted) and people are going down hills at 50 and 60 MPH," Council Vice President Christine Peterson recently stated.

Police will use the lines to enforce speed limits. When a vehicle covers the distance between two lines in less time than a set standard, it is speeding.

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*** **Curbside Christmas Tree Pick-ups** ***
*** **Wednesday, Jan. 13** ***

See Fire?... "Just Get Out"

Upland Fire Chief Dan Smith is offering sound advice for persons confronted by a fire in their home - call 9-1-1 immediately, then get out of the house.

Two borough residents recently tried to tackle kitchen fires by themselves. Not only did the delay in calling the fire company allow the fire to become more involved, but the homeowners were both burned.

One man struggled alone for 25 minutes, trying to quell the spreading flames. Once he gave up and called for help, firefighters were on the scene in three minutes and immediately brought the blaze under control.

"In cases where people started playing with the fire and tried to put it out themselves, they caused more damage to the residence. Please dial 9-1-1 right away and just get out," Smith advises.

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Holiday Decorating Contest

For this year's holiday home decorating contest, first place will be worth \$100; second place will be good for \$50; and a third-place display will earn the homeowners \$25.

Judging will be done during the evenings of Sunday, Dec. 20 through Thursday, Dec. 24. The winners will be announced at the Jan. 11 council meeting.

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Seniors Get Service Dog Demo

The Upland Senior Citizens Club was recently treated to a demonstration of the amazing skills that certified service dogs bring to their disabled partners. Provided by Canine Partners for Life, the demo included the dog toting a laundry basket, retrieving a cell phone, paying a cashier, and even picking up a nickel off the floor with his teeth- just some of the benefits that recipients realize through the use of trained service dogs. To learn more about service dogs, visit www.k94life.org.



CPL service dog Alex delivers informational brochures to members of the Upland Senior Citizens Club.