



The Caleb Pusey House

The Uplander



MacQueen Hall

The official newsletter of historic Upland Borough
(Settled 1683)



Fall 2009 edition



Upland Shows Its True Colors

Hundreds of residents turned out in their finest red, white and blue attire this year to celebrate the borough's annual patriotic events...



Memorial Day services began at Upland Baptist Church.

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The Fralinger String Band joined the Memorial Day parade.

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The Upland Fire Co. proudly led the procession of fire trucks.



Marine Corps League Commandant Joseph Clark honors the borough's fallen veterans with a salute and the laying of wreaths at the war memorial.

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There was no shortage of star-spangled bikes, scooters and riders at Memorial Day festivities.

Police Station Rising

The borough's first free-standing police headquarters is currently under construction behind MacQueen Hall. The new police station will be accessed from the existing borough hall parking lot. A groundbreaking ceremony for the 2,080-sq. ft., two-story structure was held on July 31, with a host of borough officials in attendance.

Police Chief John Easton called the new building "council's promise of forward progress to the borough and the police department."

"This is the completion of a process that started in 1972, but a flood demanded the building of a new fire station then," Borough Council President Ed Mitchell stated. "It's a pleasure to get this done. Hopefully within two or three months we'll be cutting the ribbon and going inside for coffee."

An \$850,000 loan has been secured from TD Bank to cover the estimated cost of construction. With a fixed tax-free interest rate of 4.83%, the borough will be making monthly payments of about \$5,500 for the next 20 years.

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Police Officers Commended

Several Upland Police Department officers were recently applauded by Borough Council and Police Chief John Easton for their exemplary service to the community.

Investigator Michael Curran was promoted to the rank of Detective in June, having served on the force since 2005. Curran was recognized for his habit of donating countless unpaid hours of extra effort to department matters.

Curran and Patrolmen Daniel DiNardo and Brian Boyd all received the Superior Performance Award for actions above and beyond the call of duty when the police department recently suffered a manpower shortage. Until new officers could be hired, the three volunteers each worked 12-hour shifts and slept on the floor of the police station, all in the name of maintaining protection for borough residents.

Curran and DiNardo were also commended for another drug arrest and conviction in a case involving the intent to deliver a large amount of cocaine.

Easton himself was recognized by council for the job he has done during his first year as police chief. The chief received a proclamation from the borough, while his officers gave him a first anniversary plaque.

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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 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 business hours of 9am to 1pm. Helpful donations include canned vegetables, meats, and potatoes, peanut butter, pasta, rice, and cereal.

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Upland Seniors Gather

The Upland Senior Citizens Club meets on the second floor of MacQueen Hall every Monday, from 9am to 3pm. The club takes a meeting break from Christmas until the first week of March to avoid inclement weather.

Meeting activities include enjoying snacks and beverages, playing card games, and socializing among members. For more information, call USCC President Betty Kondracki at 610-874-4101.

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Public Meetings and Events

Labor Day Fireworks Display

Sun. Sept. 6 (rain date: Sept. 7), starting at dusk
at Bristol Lord Field

Borough Council Monthly Meetings

Tues. Sept. 8; Oct. 13; Nov. 10
6pm caucus; 7pm regular meeting
at MacQueen Hall

Upland Fire Co. Tag Days

Fri. Sept. 11, 3:30 to 7pm
Sat. Sept. 12, 10am to 3pm
Upland Ave./Kerlin St. intersection

Annual Spaghetti Dinner

(under 10 - \$4; seniors - \$6; adult - \$8)
Sat. Sept. 19, 4 to 7pm
at MacQueen Hall

Upland Baptist Church Fall Festival (grocery bingo, games, food, and music)

Sat. Sept. 26, 2 to 6pm
at church, Main St.

Lighthouse Community Church Chicken BBQ

Sat. Sept. 12, 10am to 3pm
at church, Sixth St.

Upland Fire Co. Open House

Mon. Oct. 5, 6:30 to 8pm
at firehouse, McClintock Dr.

Welcome Day Celebration

(guided tours, historical musicians, colonial crafts)
Sat. Oct. 24, from noon to 4pm
at historic Caleb Pusey House, Race St.

Annual Youth Halloween Party

Sat. Oct. 24, 4 to 6pm
at MacQueen Hall

Holiday Tree Lighting - Christmas Party

Fri. Nov. 27, starting at 6pm
at MacQueen Hall

Lighthouse Church Annual Youth Explosion

(youth ministry, music, praise dancing, refreshments)
Sun. Nov. 29, 4pm until...
at church, Sixth St.

Town Watch Program Needs Volunteers

According to Mayor Michael Ciach, the borough's attempt to rejuvenate a Town Watch program is still in need of more volunteers to create an effective crime prevention network.

Vigilant residents willing to serve as block captains to help keep their community safe can contact the borough office or police department for more information.

A meeting to recruit community support for a Town Watch program is slated from 6-8pm on Wednesday, Aug. 26 at MacQueen Hall.

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Curbside Leaf Collections

The borough's public works department will start curbside collections of raked leaves in late October, as weather permits.

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.

Curbside leaf pick-ups will continue through November or until every borough street has been cleared of raked piles.

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Sprucing Up The Town

In recent months, Upland council has approved a laundry list of purchases and improvements that will benefit residents throughout the borough.

The upgrades include starting construction of a police station; hiring more full-time police officers; installing security cameras to protect public property; continuing an ongoing street light replacement program; buying a new pickup truck for the public works department; securing 16 state-of-the-art self-contained air backpacks/masks for the fire company, complete with locator equipment to quickly find a disabled firefighter; mounting 100 American flags to brackets on utility poles; placing flower planters at the Kerlin St./Upland Ave. intersection; and erecting a new sign/planter at borough hall.

Additional paving was also done this year, including the Sixth St. parking lot and several residential streets. With completion of the 2010 road program, every roadway in the borough will have received a fresh coat of blacktop in the last few years.

This fall, the gazebo at Bristol Lord Field will be expanded and secured with locking window panels.

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More Memorial Space Needed

More engraving space will soon be needed on the war memorial at Bristol Lord Field. The current monument holds the names of 99 deceased borough residents, all of whom served honorably in the US military.

A full-size monument stone that would sit behind the original or two smaller stones that would be placed on either side are both being considered as options.

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Web Site Provides Information

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 email Councilwoman Moira Crawford at mcrawford@uplandboro.org or contact the municipal office at 610-874-7317.

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Free Thanksgiving Dinners

Two Upland churches will be offering free Thanksgiving dinners to borough residents on the same day - Saturday, Nov. 21.

The Lighthouse Community Church on Sixth St. will be serving Thanksgiving dinner from 2-4pm, while Resurrection Life Church at the corner of 8th and Church Sts. will offer holiday meals from 3-5pm.

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Upland Fire Co. Offers

Museum Tours

Among the services that the Upland Fire Co. provides are tours of an impressive collection of fire company memorabilia that is housed in one wing of the firehouse, located on McClintock Dr., off Sixth St. According to Fire Chief Dan Smith, the fire company does not advertise the presence of a museum at their stationhouse, but the members are proud of the artifacts on display, including "Dilly" - a 19th-century hand pumper that was once clogged by a pickle.

To arrange a tour of your hometown fire museum, call the firehouse at 610-874-4885.

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School District Update

- from Council President Edward M. Mitchell
Borough Council has formally petitioned the state to overturn the 1972 mandate that merged Upland students into the Chester School District.

I now want to create a joint exploratory committee, with neighboring Chester Township and Chester city officials in attendance, to discuss the best course of action for both satellite communities to break away.

Since Upland only has an elementary school (Main Street), our secondary school students would have to be bussed. Where? - Anywhere would be better than Chester, where test results have fallen while spending has soared.

2009 test score results will be out in September and will determine our next step in this process.

Upland Council supports Gov. Rendell's proposal to reduce the state's school districts from the current 501 down to 100 - a move that could facilitate the separation of Upland from Chester schools.

At the July 14 council meeting, I protested the transfer of Main Street Principal Janet Russello to central administration.

Following two straight years of Main Street students improving PSSA test scores and meeting the school's Adequate Yearly Progress goal, I fear that the transfer of our school's leader could bring Upland's performance streak to an end.

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Upland Maintains AAA Flood Rating

Through the continued diligence of the borough office, Upland has retained its top-shelf AAA flood rating from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

AAA ratings are earned by keeping all borough waterways clean and in good repair, while keeping up on state paperwork as well. Upland has received a AAA rating since 2004, and was singled out for the state's Keystone Award in 2008 for flood prevention efforts.

Having the highest flood rating would be vital for the borough to secure federal aid and for homeowners to get emergency loans in the event of a disaster.

******Please sweep grass clippings from streets to avoid flooding caused by clogged storm inlets.***

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Party On!

The borough's annual Memorial Day and Fourth of July family picnics were well attended this year...

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The face-painters are always popular with the kids.

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SpongeBob Squarepants was passing out bouncy high-fives left and right.



Upland's #1 Senior Citizen Betty Kondracki (center) comforts Rose Redding, while Lois Pysher looks on.

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Jade Rose Mack and Sean Bradley shared the edible bounty.

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Dora the Explorer was busy handing out hugs.