



The Caleb Pusey House

# The Uplander



MacQueen Hall

The official newsletter of historic Upland Borough  
(Settled 1683)



Fall 2010 edition



## Fireworks On Sunday, Sept. 5



Come one, come all to enjoy the Labor Day weekend fireworks display at Bristol Lord Field. The show starts at dusk. Food and refreshments will be sold at the pavilion.

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## School Year Begins Sept. 7

The first day of classes for grades 1-8 at Main Street Elementary School for the 2010-11 school year will be Tuesday, Sept. 7. Classes start at 8:45am, with dismissal at 3:45pm.

*- Please drive through school zones carefully...  
Our borough has many children, but none to spare!*

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No trash or recycling will be collected  
on **Monday, Sept. 6**  
in observance of the Labor Day holiday.

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## Oronzio Joins Planning Board

George Oronzio of Woodside Ave. was recently appointed to the five-member Upland Planning Commission. His term will expire on Dec. 31, 2012.



Ava White of Church St. found a shady spot to relax during this year's Fourth of July Family Picnic.



Pony rides are a perennial favorite at the Family Picnic.



...and take it from Ruth Alpini, the hot dogs were tasty too!

### **Upland PD adds chaplain, officers**

Reverend Brenda Shaw, who has ministered at Upland Baptist Church for the past nine years, was sworn in on June 7 as a volunteer chaplain for the borough's police officers.

As the Upland PD chaplain, Shaw will provide confidential ministry and emotional support to all department personnel.

Mayor Michael Ciach also administered the oath to new part-time police officers this summer. Patrolman Eric Hanna, 34, resides in Coatesville. His position in Upland is his first law enforcement job.

Patrolman Steven Jackson, 21, is from Drexel Hill. He comes to Upland after spending one year with the Millbourne PD.

Patrolman Nelson Ocasio, 21, lives in Chester. Being hired by Upland is his first police posting, after serving a year in Iraq as a specialist in the US Army.

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**\*\*\*To learn about weekly Upland Senior Citizens Club meetings in MacQueen Hall, call USCC President Betty Kondracki at 610-874-4101.\*\*\***

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### **Historical Commission Seeks Members**

Borough Council is ready to fill the seats of the historical commission that was created last year.

Councilman Harold 'Ray' Peden, who is president of the Friends of the Caleb Pusey House and the borough's resident history expert, is the only member of the new historical commission so far. Peden is hoping to be joined by at least another half dozen volunteers.

The citizens who will become charter members of Upland's historical commission will have an interest in preserving historic resources. Residents can submit resumes to the borough manager at MacQueen Hall, 225 Castle Ave., Upland PA 19015.

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**BULK TRASH will be collected curbside on the last Wednesday of each month - Sept. 29, Oct. 27, and Nov. 24**

**\*\*\*Items must be placed curbside by 6 am\*\*\***

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### **Zoning Updates Approved; More Pending**

Borough Council has unanimously adopted language changes to the borough's zoning code and appointed Joanne Peden as a regular Zoning Hearing Board member.

Several significant changes were contained in the unanimously approved code revisions.

The definitions of a bed and breakfast establishment and a dwelling were modified.

Prohibited activities within the borough's five zoning districts now include carnivals, fairs, and circuses; display of animals customarily displayed in zoos; helicopter rides; bungee jumping; fireworks; and use of a public park or recreation area after 11pm.

Exceptions to the above restrictions include activities authorized and/or sponsored by Upland

Borough Council. Overnight youth camp-outs lasting no more than three days are only allowed with adult supervision, adequate provisions for parking, sanitation, and security, and a special event permit from the borough.

Penalties are outlined for zoning code violations. First-time offenders will face fines up to \$350 or imprisonment for up to six months, while the fine for a third-time offender can be as high as \$1,000.

Compensating Zoning Hearing Board members, who currently serve as volunteers, is also among the revisions. Borough zoners will receive \$50 per person per official hearing attended, starting in January 2011.

To further update the zoning code, a committee of seven residents held their first meeting on Aug. 4.

The session marked the start of the process of reviewing and modernizing all borough zoning ordinances, which could take up to a year, working under the guidance of the Delaware County Planning Department.

Membership of the Review and Steering Committee for Zoning Ordinance Modernization includes the following borough residents: Councilmen Edward Mitchell and Harold R. Peden, Senior Magisterial District Judge Kenneth Miller, and citizens William Dennon, Ronald Reynolds, Richard Mason, and Brock Peterson.

Zoning Hearing Board alternate Joanne Peden, of Mulberry Street, was recently sworn in as a regular member of the board. Peden was one of two alternates to the five regular members on the board. Her appointed term will expire in 2015.

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### **Leaf Collections**

*The borough's annual leaf collection program will be done on Tuesdays and Wednesdays as needed through the fall, weather permitting. Please do not bag leaves, but rake them to the curb (not into the street), where the highway department will pick them up.*

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### **Boroughs Brace For Animal Control Changes**

How will Delco municipalities handle stray animals, once the SPCA becomes a no-kill shelter in 2012?

Dave Schlott, who serves as the animal control officer for 13 Delaware County towns, is urging proactive thinking.

The SPCA will continue to accept stray animals until July 2011. Currently, the SPCA handles about 8,000 animals per year, with only a fraction of that number being spared through adoption.

Schlott thinks every municipality should tighten enforcement of animal control ordinances in an effort to reduce the stray population.

Laws that would make landlords accountable for the pets in their rental units should be adopted, and prohibitions on feeding wildlife, including stray cats, but excluding wild birds, should also be put in place to stem the need for euthanization, says Schlott.

After the SPCA becomes a no-kill shelter, Delco residents will still be able to retrieve lost and found

licensed animals there, or surrender a pet that has health issues or cannot move with the family. A new animal shelter will need to be built to handle the thousands of dogs and cats that do not have responsible owners. Choosing a location for a facility to process strays will not be easy.

A Coalition of Governments (COG) has been formed between neighboring communities in a quest to find a solution to the pending stray dilemma.

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### **Got Critters?**

#### **...Call The Borough To Save**

If a resident encounters wildlife (such as raccoons or possums) on their property, a call to the borough office will put them in touch with the borough's contracted animal control warden. The warden will then trap and remove the wildlife from private property and will charge the resident a discounted price for services rendered.

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### **Council Wants C-USD Updates**

Borough Council has repeatedly asked for Chester-Upland School District updates from the borough's lone school board rep, but never finds elected School Director Francis Kamp in attendance at council meetings.

Kamp visited council shortly after his four-year term began in 2008, but only to report that he did not feel comfortable being the mediary between council and the school board.

To give Kamp a nudge, the borough solicitor recently sent the absentee school director and the school board president a letter, explaining that the Sunshine Law allows Kamp to speak in public about topics discussed at public school board meetings.

According to Council President Ed Mitchell, Kamp's reluctance to interact with borough officials amounts to "taxation without representation."

When the state turned control of the financially-distressed C-USD back over to locally elected board members on July 1, pressure mounted for the borough to have a dynamic board representative.

"Having locals run the school board is the way to make things work. But we don't want to be the district's orphan," Mitchell laments. "The needs of our kids are not going to be met without an active representative."

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### **Website Provides Valuable Info**

Visit the website at [www.uplandboro.org](http://www.uplandboro.org) for borough news and information, including a current events calendar, historical narratives, public health notices, borough ordinances, meeting minutes, live surveillance video feeds, and photo galleries.

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### **Permits Protect Homeowners**

Certain home repairs require building, plumbing, and/or electrical permits, and all contractors must be licensed. These regulations are in place to protect residents from shoddy work done by fly-by-night contractors.

Contact the borough office at **610-874-7317**, when in doubt as to whether a permit is needed or not. Many jobs around the home do not require permits, but it is better to be safe than sorry, so please call.

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### **Public Meetings and Events**

**Labor Day Fireworks Display**  
**starts at dusk (approx. 8:30pm) on Sun., Sept. 5**  
at Bristol Lord Field

**Upland Fire Co. Tag Days**  
fundraising at Kerlin St./Upland Ave. intersection  
**3:30-7pm on Fri., Sept. 10**  
**10am-3pm on Sat., Sept. 11**  
(in event of rain, dates move to next weekend)

**Borough Council Meetings**  
6pm caucus; 7pm regular voting session  
**Tues. Sept. 14, Oct. 12, Nov. 9**

**Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser**  
**4-6pm on Sat., Sept. 25**  
at MacQueen Hall  
(proceeds benefit Community Affairs Committee)

**Youth Halloween Party**  
**4pm start on Sat., Oct. 30**  
at MacQueen Hall

**Tree Lighting / Youth Christmas Party**  
**6pm start on Fri., Nov. 26**  
at MacQueen Hall

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### **Council Prez Joins DCBA**

Now serving his third consecutive year as Borough Council president, Edward M. Mitchell was recently invited to join the Board of Directors of the Delaware County Boroughs Association.

The DCBA will hold its next board meeting on Sept. 14. Mitchell is not exactly sure what his role will be as a freshman member, but is honored to have been nominated by his fellow council members.

"It's an honor to be nominated by your peers. That's the biggest thing to me," said Mitchell. "My serving at the county level can only help us here in Upland."

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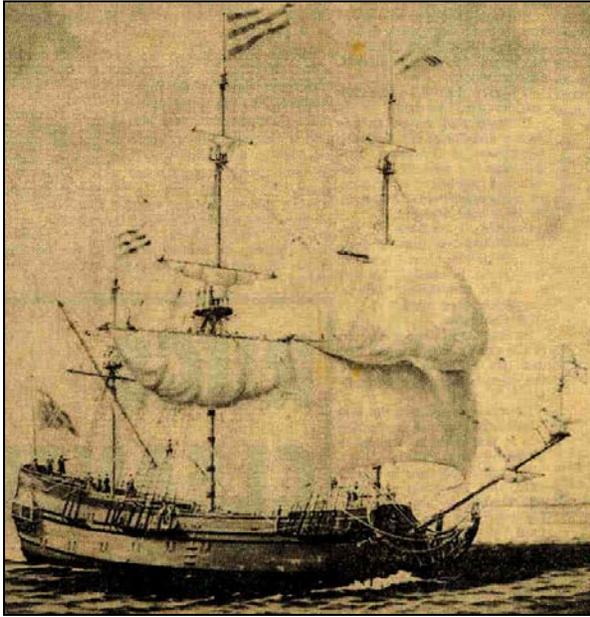
### **Interim Tax Collector To Be Named**

Borough Tax Collector Thomas H. Winfree Sr. died at Riddle Memorial Hospital on Aug. 7, after serving a record number of years at his elected post.

Winfree was elected to an unprecedented sixth term as the borough tax collector last year. He was sworn in to serve his 21st year in January.

"Upland has lost a dear friend," noted council President Ed Mitchell. "He was an all-around good guy and certainly will be missed."

Council has a 30-day window to appoint an interim tax collector. The appointee will perform the duties of the tax collector until a replacement is elected in 2011 and installed at the January 2012 reorganization meeting.



### The Voyage of the *Welcome*

(Aug. 30 to Oct. 27/28, 1682)

In 1682, the *Welcome's* trip from Deal, England to Pennsylvania was a hazardous and, at best, unpleasant voyage of 57/58 days on a very small wooden ship.

The *Welcome* carried William Penn and Caleb Pusey to America. The vessel was an average size ship for that time - likely around 120 feet in length, 24 feet wide, and weighing 300 tons. Robert Greenway was in command, and the ship had a crew of about 36. She carried 100 passengers, mostly Friends (Quakers), from Sussex, England.

When the *Welcome* left London, the passengers had no idea how long they would be onboard, as these ships were "slow sailers". Although they could go as fast as 10 mph when there was a fair wind and smooth seas, they rarely maintained this speed. The length of a trans-Atlantic voyage could vary from 49 to 128 days. Ships that left at the same time might arrive in America 8 or 9 weeks apart.

Conditions on the *Welcome* were likely far from ideal. The ship was overcrowded with passengers, and private cabins were available only to the ship's captain, and perhaps William Penn. All the others slept on the floor on the deck below the main deck, where there was very little light or air.

During rains and rough seas, water would pour in through the cracks and joints in the ship's planking, drenching the passengers and their belongings below. There were no bathrooms onboard. If anyone wanted to wash, they had to wash in salt water from the sea. Most likely, the passengers wore the same clothes for the entire voyage.

From time to time, fresh fish or sea turtles might be caught, but meals usually consisted of "salt horse" (salted beef, pork or fish) and "hardtack" (hard, dry biscuits). There were dried peas and beans, cheese and butter.

Weather permitting, food was cooked over charcoal fires in metal boxes called braziers. But it was often too dangerous to have a fire, so food was often

eaten cold. Food became infested with bugs; the biscuits got too hard to eat; the cheese got moldy; butter turned rancid; and even the beer began to go sour by the end of the voyage.

Even though a large amount of water would have been taken onboard, after standing in barrels for weeks, it was not safe to drink. As a result, everyone, even the children, drank beer instead.

Storms were a great danger, and the Atlantic Ocean had many, especially in the fall, when the *Welcome* sailed. The pitching and rolling of this small ship, in even a minor storm, caused most of the passengers, many of whom had never been on a ship before, to become seasick. There was the ever-present fear that a major storm could easily capsize a ship of this size or cause it to break apart.

Sickness, other than seasickness, was also a major problem. Even a minor illness could quickly spread among passengers and crew alike. Serious illnesses, often called "ship's fever", killed 31 of the passengers on the *Welcome's* crossing. Penn's party was pretty fortunate, however, since as many as half the passengers died on some trans-Atlantic voyages, never reaching their destination.

The prospect of this long, dangerous and unpleasant voyage was not made any more tolerable by the conditions passengers faced upon arrival. They were arriving at the start of winter, and would not be able to build their permanent homes until the spring. Still, they chose to face these hardships and exhibited the faith and spirit that embodied the birth of their new home-Pennsylvania.

- Ray Peden, *president Friends of Caleb Pusey House*

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### Welcome Day is Sat., Oct. 30

Visit the historic Pusey House on Race St. from noon to 4pm to enjoy colonial craft demonstrations and music, re-enactors, guided group tours, and light refreshments.

It's educational fun for the family...and it's FREE!

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At this year's Memorial Day parade, it was apparent that patriotism comes by the wagonload in Upland.

To share photos or information on the Upland Borough website, send email to Councilwoman Moira Crawford at [mcrawford@uplandboro.org](mailto:mcrawford@uplandboro.org)

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### **Cause of Intersection Icing Found**

A stormsewer blockage was recently located and removed from under the intersection of Kerlin St. and Upland Ave., hopefully resolving frequent winter icing at the busy crossroads.

PennDOT crews conducted a video inspection of the underground sewer line that had been blocked by debris. The blockage was found under the pavement of the Citgo gas station that sits on the intersection's southeast corner.

PennDOT has now agreed to be responsible for maintaining the sewer lines under the intersection.

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### **'Nuisance' Cars and Calls Addressed**

To reduce the number of abandoned vehicles and the frequency of frivolous police calls, Borough Council has approved new ordinance language that redefines a "nuisance" and cuts the limit on repeat calls in half.

A campaign to rid the borough of abandoned vehicles has been ongoing for several months. According to Council President Ed Mitchell, the borough has towed about 100 vehicles that have been deemed to be abandoned over the past year.

Under the new definition, a vehicle will be considered abandoned, and hence a nuisance, if a resident is "maintaining any unregistered or uninspected motor vehicle(s) on a lot, except for properly licensed new or used car dealers."

While Council has no interest in invading residents' privacy, the elected body does have a responsibility to address safety hazards in town. Abandoned vehicles can be "attractive nuisances" to children, who may see a tarp-covered car parked in a driveway as a play area, when, in fact, it could become a death trap.

"The problem that we deal with is people keeping vehicles on their property, while saying that they are going to fix them up someday," Councilman Harold R. Peden noted. "We've been fighting this battle for a long time...The only way to manage it legally is to treat everybody the same, and say that there are no cars allowed to be stored on private property in the Borough of Upland."

"If you have a car on your property that is not licensed or inspected, it is considered to be, by law, an abandoned vehicle," Peden added.

Residents who own classic or antique cars that are in storage at their homes should make sure that registrations for those vehicles are kept current, to avoid future conflict with borough officials.

Another potentially expensive nuisance to the borough is repeated calls for police service, in some cases adding up to several per month. Not only is tying up limited police resources costly to taxpayers, it can also lead to a delayed response in an emergency situation.

Council hopes to discourage this practice by now limiting free police responses to the same address to three in a six-month period. The previous limitation was three calls per year.

If police are called to a particular home more than three times in a six-month span, the resident can be fined up to \$300 for each response over the limit.

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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 there to benefit low-income borough residents.

The Food Bank is open for pick-ups from 9-10am every Wednesday. Donations of non-perishable foods can be made 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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### **Please Cut, Sweep Grass**

Residents are reminded that the borough has an ordinance that mandates property maintenance, including the regular cutting of grass. Grass clippings should be swept up and dumped in the trash, whether a property owner is doing the mowing themselves or paying a professional landscaper. Grass clippings left in the street can lead to clogged stormsewer inlets and roadway flooding.

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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 automated phone service was instituted to keep every borough resident informed of community events, and would be utilized in the event of a borough-wide emergency.

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### **Flood Plain Laws Revised**

Council recently approved changes to Chapter 90 of the borough code, updating flood plain management to keep pace with state and federal regulations.

Much of the credit for revamping the borough's flood plain laws goes to Councilman Harold R. Peden, who has served the borough for several years as the flood plain management coordinator. Peden recently attended a seminar sponsored by the federal government to make sure Upland Borough was abreast of recent flood plain policy changes.

The ordinance amendments approved by Council were contained in 11 pages of detailed text. A total of 47 technical definitions, many with sub-headings, accounted for half of the language changes.

Among the revised regulations are the issuance of building permits in flood plains, inspection of flood-prone premises, revocation of permits, and the process by which a property owner can make an appeal to the Zoning Hearing Board.

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