



The Caleb Pusey House

The Uplander



MacQueen Hall

The official newsletter of historic Upland Borough
(Settled 1683)



Winter 2010/2011 edition



Santa Claus Comes To Town



Upland Borough's 3rd Annual Tree Lighting and Children's Christmas Party on Nov. 26 was one-month-old Malary Carrion's first chance to meet Santa. A performance of *Hot Chocolate* by a dozen students from Joan's Dance Studio accompanied the tree lighting outside, while hoagies, cookies, and beverages were served inside MacQueen Hall.



Even Senior District Judge Kenneth N. Miller had a wish list to pass on to Santa Claus, who posed for photos and handed out gifts to the children.

No trash or recycling will be collected on **Friday, Dec. 24 and Dec. 31** for Christmas and New Years Day holidays.

Regular trash pick-ups will be made on Mondays and Thursdays, while recycling will be collected on the first and third Fridays of each month, unless marked otherwise on borough calendar.

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Reginald Duncan of Church St., the founder of the rejuvenated Pop Warner youth football program in Upland, hands off a special Upland Regulators' first season game ball to Borough Council President Ed Mitchell (right) and VP Christine Peterson, while Mayor Mike Ciach (left) looks on.

The backdrop of this photo is the nearly completed artwork of Joseph Chiaravalotti. Residents are urged to stop by MacQueen Hall's downstairs meeting room to see the mural.

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Taxes, Rent 'Status Quo' For 2011

According to Councilwoman/Finance Chair Moira Crawford, the best descriptor for next year's borough budgets is "status quo."

The preliminary general budget total of \$2,439,166 reflects an anticipated spending increase of about \$8,000, which would be 0.33 percent over this year. If the numbers hold for final budget adoption in December, the borough will be able to maintain its longstanding 2.0-mill property tax rate in 2011 - the 24th consecutive year with no borough tax increase. The preliminary Auburn Village budget of \$752,105 is exactly the same as the 2010 budget for the 156-unit housing complex. Auburn Village apartment rents are expected to remain as is for next year. The borough's annual trash service fee will also hold steady at \$135 per household next year.

Council Fetes Fire Commissioner, As Fire Company Rebounds

Chester City Fire Commissioner Jimmy Johnson was recently praised by Upland Borough Council for serving as a intermediary between borough officials and Upland Fire Co. No. 1.

Setting an example of goodwill between neighboring communities, Johnson has been instrumental in helping the borough and its fire company to work together and cooperate with other fire companies that provide assists in Upland.

Mayor Michael Ciach presented Johnson with a token of appreciation at the Oct. 12 council session. "Commissioner Johnson has assisted and supported us in communicating better with our volunteer fire company. We want to thank him for his professionalism in helping us to get together," Ciach stated.

Through the spring and summer, Upland Fire Co. volunteers were only able to muster a response to about half of the alarms in the borough. The average number of runners responding to alarms in August was four, giving rise to the notion of merging Upland's fire station with a neighboring company.

Upland Fire Chief Dan Smith gave an encouraging report to borough council at its Nov. 9 session, noting that the company had responded to 62 calls (36 daytime and 26 at night) during October - the highest monthly total for the year.

The Upland Fire Co. spent a total of 152 hours in service in October, with an average of eight runners per call. Many hours were logged in response to the Oct. 1 flooding of Chester Creek.

Smith also said that three members of his company recently completed fire training school. Steve Kalichak, Stephanie Johnson, and Matt Doyle are all now senior-level firefighters.

Three new volunteers joined the Upland Fire Co. in September, and three more joined in November.

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**The borough is again sponsoring the annual
Holiday Home Decorating Contest with
cash prizes up to \$100 going to the winners.
Judging will be done during the evening
the week prior to Christmas.**

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Council Tables Proposed Shrub Ordinance

In October, Borough Council discussed amending the borough's property maintenance ordinance to restrict "ornamental shrubs" to four feet in height, citing public safety, as untrimmed shrubs and bushes can provide hiding places for criminals.

Another reason to consider restricting shrub height was the recent issuance of citations to property owners whose hedges presented a pedestrian obstacle and obscured house address numbers.

With both the police and fire departments requesting shorter shrubs, adding a height restriction to the borough code initially seemed like a good idea. But at council's Nov. 9 caucus session, Councilman Harold R. Peden announced that the proposed ordinance was being tabled.

Peden noted that he had found 18 sites that would require enforcement of an ordinance to regulate shrub heights. But many of those locations were not the type of property maintenance issue that was being targeted, he said.

"As I drove around the borough, I realized that there was no consistent way to deal with hedges, ornamentals, flowering shrubs, and trees," Peden stated. "There may still be some concerns about plants growing in front of people's houses. Those things deserve to be considered, and it may lead to a better ordinance or none at all."

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The Upland Senior Citizens Club will yield to Ol' Man Winter and suspend weekly meetings in MacQueen Hall until the first week of March. For details about next year's activities, call USCC President Betty Kondracki at 610-874-4101.

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Flooding Leads To Heroics

The 5th Annual Welcome Day Celebration that was slated for Oct. 30 on Race Street was cancelled, due to the flooding of Chester Creek.

The epic rainfall of Oct. 1 was just the latest chapter in the water-logged history of man versus creek at Landingford Plantation. During the recent storm, over 6 inches of rain fell, turning the creek into a raging river and flooding the first floor of the historic Pennock Log House and Caleb Pusey House.

According to Ray Peden, president of the Friends of the Pusey House, volunteers had about an hour of advanced warning that a flood was coming, allowing just enough time to save the antique furnishings and artifacts on display in the two historic homes.

Peden is grateful to members of the fire company for responding to the pre-dawn flood when two feet of water were swirling around the Pusey House.

"We thank the fire company for their willingness to come out at 2:30 in the morning to help us save 300-year-old furniture," Peden said at the Oct. 12 council meeting. "They did that at significant risk to their equipment, because they almost didn't get out, the water was rising so fast."

The utilities in both houses were lost in the flood, making public tours impossible until next spring.

The historic property is insured, but each building carries a \$2,000 deductible for flood claims.

Special donations to help the site recover from this disaster are being sought. Prospective donors can contact Peden at **610-874-5665** for information.

Elsewhere during the flood, the borough spent an estimated \$4,000 on police and public works department overtime, including the cost to remove tons of creek debris from the Kerlin Street bridge.

Many borough employees and firefighters worked through the weekend to expedite the recovery.

"We had many homes and businesses flooded, but were very fortunate that no one was injured," notes Borough Manager Shirley Purcival. "From the very start, it was a team effort between council, all departments of the borough, and the Upland Fire Co., and everyone did a great job."

McClintock Willing To Serve Again

A Chester-Upland School Board vacancy was recently filled by former borough council president and longtime public servant Richard McClintock. McClintock has lived in the borough his entire life and at 81, is now retired. He was employed as an Upland police officer for 7 years; served as mayor for 7 years; and had been a council member for 26 consecutive years. The Mulberry Street resident has also been a past president of the Upland Fire Company and American Legion Post 871. Approved by the school board on Nov. 18, McClintock's interim term will expire Dec. 31, 2011.

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Public Meetings and Events

Upland Senior Citizens Annual Holiday Dinner
noon on Monday, Dec. 13
on second floor of MacQueen Hall

Santa Tours Borough with Upland Fire Co.
11am and 5pm on Saturday, Dec. 18
Santa hands out candy canes on the morning tour, then arrives with sirens blaring in the evening (a.m. tour only, if raining)

Borough Council Meetings
6pm caucus; 7pm regular voting session
Tues. Dec. 14, Jan. 11, Feb. 8

New Year's Eve Fundraiser Party
Dec. 31, 9pm-1am at MacQueen Hall
\$50 per person for open bar, hors d'ouvres, buffet dinner, continental breakfast & party favors
Free Rides Home On Shuttle
Call borough office for tickets

Soup & Salad Fundraiser Dinner
Homemade soups, chili, chicken dumplings
All-you-can-eat at MacQueen Hall
4-7pm on Saturday, March 5
Tickets: \$8 adults; \$6 seniors; \$4 kids under 12

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Free Events Require Fundraising

Council VP Christine Peterson recently lamented the lack of support for fundraising events, while the borough's free family events always draw a crowd. Unfortunately, you can't have one without the other. The borough's Community Affairs Committee currently holds a few events each year to raise money to finance numerous free events, including an Easter Egg Hunt, Memorial Day Family Picnic, Blue Rocks games for kids, Labor Day fireworks display, and Youth Halloween & Christmas Parties. The fundraisers are spread out, with a New Year's Eve Party slated to kick off the year, a Soup & Salad Dinner planned in March, a fun-filled Carnival in June, and Spaghetti Dinner in September. "This is what pays for all the other events we do for the children," Peterson noted. "We especially need participation from the families that bring their children to all the free things."

Snow Dos and Snow Don'ts

Chances are that we will not be hit with record snowfall again this winter, but we should remember some of the lessons learned in the wake of the crippling snowstorms of February 2010. To survive the next snow emergency, the borough will be counting on the cooperation of every resident.

Do: Remove snow from sidewalks within 48 of the end of a snowfall. By clearing snow immediately, you will use less de-icing material.

Please make sure that the de-icing product you are using is environmentally safe.

Don't: Shovel snow back into a plowed street, as this creates a public safety hazard.

Don't: Attempt to save or block off a cleared parking space with any type of furniture, grills, or traffic cones. The borough will remove any space-saving objects, as this illegal practice amounts to obstructing a public thoroughfare.

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Interim Tax Collector Appointed

Borough Tax Collector Thomas H. Winfree Sr. died on Aug. 7. He had been elected to an unprecedented sixth term at the post last year.

In the wake of Winfree's passing, borough council has named Linda L. Mitchell to the position of interim tax collector.

Mrs. Mitchell was appointed by a unanimous vote at council's Sept. 14 session. Her interim term will last until Upland citizens elect a tax collector at the polls in 2011.

Mitchell brings 16 years of bookkeeping experience and a "strong commitment to learning about personal tax codes" to the position.

The Fourth Street resident has been a community liaison and volunteer in Upland for over 40 years.

"I just hope I can fill the shoes of the man who was ahead of me," states Mitchell. "He was a nice man, a good man, and a perfect gentleman."

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A Thank You from the Winfrees:

Dear Upland Borough Residents,

On behalf of me and my family, I would like to extend to you our sincere appreciation for your kindness during our difficult time. All of your expressions of sympathy provided us with much comfort, and I thank you for that.

Over the years, Tom and I were fortunate enough to meet many of you. We shared many stories together and have wonderful memories. For Tom, this was not just a job, but an opportunity for him to get to know the people who live in our community. I will miss seeing all of you from year to year, and I know that Tom will surely be missed.

Thank you for all of the wonderful years and for the opportunity to serve the residents of the Borough of Upland.

Sincerely, Nancy Winfree and Family

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Halloween Party Was Fun



George Michaelides proudly displays the red sword made especially for him by balloon artist Bubble Gum at Upland Borough's annual Children's Halloween Party on Oct. 30. While a line formed to get one of Bubble Gum's creations, Giggles the Clown entertained the rest of the kids. The free food and refreshments were delicious and a good time was had by everyone in the capacity crowd.

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Some Halloween costumes were works of art...



...and some were both cute and clever.

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Scouts Step Up To Build Walkway



The historic two-story Crozer Schoolhouse on Race St. is now fully accessible, thanks to Eagle Scout-to-be Joel Temple, of Thornton, who heard about the need for a brick walkway through his church.

The bricks that were used to build the 4-foot-wide, L-shaped walkway were collected by the Friends of the Pusey House. The manpower to build a stone and sand sidewalk bed, then lay 985 bricks, was organized by Temple. Nineteen helpers from Troop 970 worked in two shifts on Nov. 6.

Completion of the 57-foot-long sidewalk means that the Crozer Schoolhouse and the Pusey House Museum on the ground floor of the schoolhouse can now be enjoyed by everyone, once public tours resume next May.

"The Pusey House Museum has a lot of rich history and a lot of artifacts, but wasn't accessible to someone in a wheelchair," Temple says of his Eagle project. "It was something that needed to be done, and I felt like I could develop a plan and carry it out."

Temple is hoping to officially become an Eagle Scout at a Court of Honor in December or January.



Eagle Scout-to-be Joel Temple (wearing striped shirt) organized the work crew that recently built a brick walkway to the historic Crozer Schoolhouse on Race Street.

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Website Provides Valuable Info

Visit www.uplandboro.org to read full-length versions of the borough newsletter, a current events calendar, historical narratives, public health notices, borough ordinances, meeting minutes, live surveillance video feeds, and photo galleries.

To share photos or information on the Upland Borough website, send email to Councilwoman Moira Crawford at mcrawford@uplandboro.org

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The leaves are falling late this year, but no need to be alarmed. Our vacuum truck will pick them up, if you'll just rake your yard. So pile your leaves upon the curb, but please, not in the street, then when we're done collecting them, our borough will be neat.

Leaf Collections

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

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BULK TRASH will be collected curbside on the last Wednesday of each month on Jan. 26, and Feb. 23 (no bulk trash pickups made in December) *Items must be placed curbside by 6am*****

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Upland Offers Med Disposal Site

To help promote household safety, any person wishing to turn in unused or expired medications for safe disposal can drop them off at the Upland Police Department, Kenneth N. Miller Law Center, 222 Castle Avenue.

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Upland PD Adds New Officer

A new part-time police officer, Patrolman Aaron Kisela, was sworn in as a member of the borough's police force on Sept. 14.

Kisela, 24, graduated from Upper Darby High School in 2004, and from the Delaware County Police Academy in July. The Upland posting is his first law enforcement job.

"I'm very excited and very happy," Kisela said before taking the oath. "I've been working to get into law enforcement for a long time, and now I'm finally here."

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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 hoping to be joined by at least another half dozen commission 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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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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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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Got Critters?

If a resident encounters wildlife (such as raccoons, rats, 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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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.

To keep pace with costs, permit fees for residential and commercial projects within the borough will increase in 2011.

Effective Jan. 1, the fee charged for building, mechanical, plumbing, and electrical permits for residential work will be \$50 per \$1,000 of work performed. The same permits for work done on commercial sites will cost \$75 per \$1,000 of work.

The pending fee changes were unanimously approved by borough council on Oct. 12. The adjusted fees more accurately reflect the amount of time that borough inspectors typically spend making site inspections.
