



The Caleb Pusey House

# The Uplander



MacQueen Hall

## The official newsletter of historic Upland Borough

(Settled 1683)



Spring 2011 edition



### Meeting Room Gets Major Makeover



The recently completed wall murals shown here are the colorful artwork of Joe Chiaravalloti, while borough council's chairs now sit behind a new desk made by Joe 'Parker' Ferguson. Other upgrades to MacQueen Hall's ground-floor public meeting room include a new audio system, window treatments, and the removal of a hallway wall that taps into the warmth of a gas-lit brick fireplace.

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Only close-up inspection will reveal the intricate details that Chiaravalloti put into his early-20th century panoramic view of Upland, as seen from the east side of Chester Creek. This vibrant fall scene was created using a black-and-white reproduction of a winter photograph of the same vista.

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The quaint English cottage built by the Caleb Pusey party in 1683 still sits creekside on Landingford Plantation, which was once an isolated outpost accessed only by boat or Indian trail, as is depicted in Chiaravalloti's rustic setting.

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Retired Handyman/Artist Joe Chiaravalloti at work on the first of his murals, which he started sketching and painting on the council room wall in October 2009.



Stately Netherleigh mansion (c.1869) was once the home of George K. Crozer, located in what is now Camp Upland, but a fire and the subsequent razing of the gothic stone building in 1990 left only the carriage house still standing on the site, which is listed on the National Historical Register.

### **Holiday Decorating Winners Outshine Neighbors**

The winners of this holiday season's home decorating contest were announced at borough council's January meeting.

The judging was done by borough council members during the week prior to Christmas. Cash prizes of \$100, \$50, and \$25 were handed out to the top three holiday displays.

First place was won by Donald and Florence Peterson at 13 Fourth St.; Second place went to Stephen and Jennifer Cunrod at 9 Scott Ave.; Third place was awarded to John and Jennifer Belay of 230 Eighth St.; and Honorable Mention went to Samuel and Debbie DeBardino of 407 Ivy Lane.

In acknowledging the winners, council members noted how difficult it was to select the three best displays.

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### **Residents Get Dinner, Lunch and Breakfast**

The borough's Community Affairs Committee is organizing events for residents that will provide food and fun, and hopefully funding for future family fare.

A Soup and Salad Dinner from 4-7pm on Saturday, **March 5** will be this year's first CAC fundraiser. The meal will feature homemade soups, chili, and chicken dumplings, and is all-you-can-eat on the second floor of MacQueen Hall.

Ticket prices are \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors, and \$4 for children under 12.

A free luncheon for all Upland senior citizens will be held at noon on Monday, **March 14** at MacQueen Hall. The St. Patrick's Day-themed meal will offer ham and cabbage with potatoes.

On Saturday, **April 23**, an Easter Egg Hunt at Bristol Lord Field (Sixth and Church streets) will be free to all borough children. The egg hunt will start at 9am, and features different age groups.

Following the egg hunt, MacQueen Hall will host Breakfast with the Easter Bunny from 9:30-11:30am. Tickets for the complete breakfast are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children 12 and under.

This event is an Upland Fire Co. fundraiser, where photos of kids with the Easter Bunny will be available.

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**No trash or recycling will be collected  
on **Friday, April 22**  
in observance of **Good Friday.****

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### **Historic Site Eyes May 7 Reopening**

In the wake of the Oct. 1 flooding of Chester Creek, the historic Pennock Log House, the Caleb Pusey House, and the Pusey Museum in the old Crozer Schoolhouse next door have been repaired and restored for the public's enjoyment, thanks to financial support from special donations and federal flood insurance and ample elbow grease from a host of volunteers from the Friends of the Caleb Pusey House - the historic site's non-profit owner and overseer.

On **May 7**, the first Saturday of the month, a volunteer crew of workers will give the National Historical Register site a spring cleaning during the morning hours. Any and all volunteers are welcome to help out.

During the afternoon, the three historic buildings will re-open to the general public for another season of free guided tours.

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### **Firefighters Post New Record**

Total 2010 activity for Upland Fire Co. added up to 395 responses, including 13 fire incidents, 153 non-fire incidents, 198 mutual aid assists, and 31 drills. The total sets a new Upland benchmark, eclipsing the company's 2009 record of 394 responses.

The breakdown of calls answered last year includes 228 daytime alarms and 167 at night.

Property losses amounted to \$67,000 in 2010, including \$20,000 in structural damages, \$21,000 in contents, and \$25,000 in vehicle damage.

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### **Fire Co. \$\$\$ Support Declining**

Fire Chief Dan Smith recently reported to borough council that financial support of the borough's lone fire station from Upland residents and businesses declined in 2010, and has been falling for the past three years.

Of the 64 businesses operating within Upland Borough, only five made a contribution to the volunteer fire company last year, generating a 7.8 percent support rate, according to Smith.

Of the 61 apartments in the borough, only two gave donations, for a paltry 3.3 percent contribution rate. Homeowners responded at a rate of 22.6 percent, while non-resident landlords gave at a rate of 16.7 percent.

**Overall, only 17 percent of the community made a donation to support the fire company in 2010.**

In 2009, the support rate was 18.7 percent; in 2008, the number was 19.4 percent; and in 2007, the response rate was 20.9 percent.

"As you can see, we're steadily decreasing," Smith noted.

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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.

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 kicking off the year, a Soup & Salad Dinner 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."

## Public Meetings and Events

### **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

### **Borough Council Meetings**

6pm caucus; 7pm regular voting session

**Tues. March 8, April 26, May 10**

### **Upland Senior Citizens Annual Ham & Cabbage Luncheon**

**noon on Monday, March 14**

FREE to all Upland senior citizens  
on second floor of MacQueen Hall

### **Annual Borough Easter Egg Hunt**

**9am, Saturday, April 23 at Bristol Lord Field**

FREE to all residents up to age 12

### **Breakfast with the Easter Bunny**

**9:30-11:30am, April 23 at MacQueen Hall**

### **Blue Rocks Game for youth - Aug. 12**

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### **Upland-Brookhaven Loop To Be Paved**

Borough council recently received word from PennDOT that postponed plans to repave Upland Avenue and Sixth Street are on again for 2011.

Portions of these two heavily-traveled roadways were originally scheduled for resurfacing last year, but PennDOT decided to redirect funding to the installation of ADA-compliant corner ramps across the state.

According to Borough Engineer Charles Catania, both Upland and Brookhaven residents will benefit from the planned scope of the project, as a U-shaped loop through the two municipalities has been designated for fresh blacktop.

Upland Avenue will be repaved from Edgmont Avenue down to its official terminus at Sixth Street, while Sixth Street/Brookhaven Avenue will be resurfaced from Main Street in Upland all the way up to Edgmont Avenue in Brookhaven.

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**The Upland Senior Citizens Club will resume Monday morning meetings on March 7. The weekly sessions start at 9am in MacQueen Hall.**

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### **Website Provides Valuable Info**

Visit [www.uplandboro.org](http://www.uplandboro.org) to find full-length versions of the borough newsletter, a current events calendar, historical narratives, public health notices, borough ordinances, council meeting minutes, live surveillance video feeds, and photo galleries.

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

## **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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**BULK TRASH will be collected curbside on the last Wednesday of each month on March 30, April 27, and May 25**

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

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### **Aston Elementary Helps Fund Pusey House Recovery**

The historic Caleb Pusey House and other historic buildings nearby were flooded with several feet of muddy water from Chester Creek on Oct. 1. Although all of the antique furnishings were saved by volunteers from the Upland Fire Co., the flood damaged all the creekside buildings, knocking out utility service, and causing the cancellation of the annual Welcome Day Celebration in late October.

When Aston Elementary School 4th-grade Teacher Vivienne Cameron read of the plight of the Pusey House, she passed along the sad news to her students. Cameron has led many field trips to the National Historical Register site, as part of the Passport to History program.

Hearing that the Pusey House needed additional funding to recover from the flood, Cameron's fourth-grade class, Student Council, and the entire student body rose to the occasion and held a campaign to raise money. In December, a check for \$219.54 was sent to the Friends of the Caleb Pusey House.

"It was the process of the kids caring about a piece of history in their community," Cameron says of the student-driven fundraising effort.

The donation check was signed by 15 Aston students, and was sent with a letter that stated: "We know that it is not a ton of money, but we hope it will help make a difference."

FCPH President Ray Peden was most appreciative of the contribution made by both teacher and students.

"Every year we enjoy presenting the Pusey House story to elementary school-age children from all over Delaware County, and it's nice to get some positive reinforcement from members of that audience," said Peden.

"As you can imagine, it was truly heartwarming when we received the contribution from the thoughtful Aston Elementary students. It is wonderful to know that our young folks are being introduced to community service and historic preservation at such an early age. We want them to know that the Friends of the Caleb Pusey house are very grateful for their help and concern," he added.



This group of Pusey House preservationists from Aston Elementary School includes Student Council Leader Duston Gladfelter (left rear corner), Teacher Vivienne Cameron (right rear corner), Miss Cameron's fourth-grade class (standing), and members of Student Council (kneeling).

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The Easter Bunny will be back by popular demand, visiting MacQueen Hall from 9:30-11:30am on Saturday, April 23.

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Mayor Michael Ciach congratulates Joe 'Parker' Ferguson on his 2010 induction into the Delco Sports Hall of Fame.

#### Ferguson Gets Recognition

Lifetime Borough Resident Joseph Parker Ferguson was feted at the Dec. 14 borough council meeting, where the recent Delco Sports Hall of Fame inductee received a formal proclamation.

Ferguson became a Delco Hall of Famer in November, when the former baseball player was recognized for posting a batting average of .421 and pitching his way to a 7-1 record as an Eddystone High School senior in the 1950s. He hit .300 and pitched two no-hitters for the Upland Cubs of the Suburban Baseball Association, and was recruited as a minor league player by the Dodgers.

"The funny thing about this is that, 62 years ago, I got my first baseball award upstairs here (at MacQueen Hall), and tonight I'm getting my last one here," Ferguson noted with a chuckle.

Ferguson has served as Upland Borough's lead building code official for the past 15 years. His carpentry skills were recently applied to construction of a new council desk in MacQueen Hall's downstairs public meeting room.

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Flanked by Police Chief John Easton (left) and Mayor Michael Ciach (right), recently recognized Upland PD officers are (from left to right): Patrolmen Brian Boyd, Dean Kemp, Joseph Norcini, Steve Jackson, and Anthony DeLuise.

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#### FOP Contract Signed; Officers Saluted

In December, Borough Council unanimously approved a five-year pact with Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 27.

Salary increases under the contract renewal, which spans 2011 to 2015, are 3.5% for the first three years and 3% for the last two.

The borough also ratified an agreement to maintain health insurance benefits for police retirees.

At the same council session, several Upland officers were commended for recent actions above and beyond the call of duty.

Officers Brian Boyd, Dean Kemp, Steve Jackson, and Joseph Norcini received unit citations for their tireless efforts in the wake of the Oct. 1 flooding of Chester Creek.

Officer Anthony DeLuise received an FOP Award of Valor, one of two bestowed on Delco policemen this year, for his aggressive actions on June 29.

Giving chase to a vehicle that had fled a traffic stop, DeLuise and Detective Michael Curran drove into an armed robbery in progress in Chester.

As the cruiser happened upon the crime scene, shots were fired by the thieves, wounding a Chester cop and forcing the two Upland officers to take cover. During the ensuing gunfight, DeLuise chased down a fleeing perpetrator on foot and arrested him.



Recently overheard at Bristol Lord Field playground:  
**SEAHORSE:** Didn't we just go through this, like, last year? I'm really starting to dislike winter. It puts frost on my fins!  
**ZEBRA:** Yeah, I know what you mean. I can't wait for spring to get here. More than anything else, I just miss the kids!

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### Cooperation Needed From Property Owners

Borough Council is asking all residents and businesses to help the borough provide essential services and maintain public safety, especially in the wake of a snowfall.

**-Whenever possible, do not park in a public street during a snowstorm.** Fewer cars allows for better plowing.

**-Property owners must keep icy sidewalks treated with rock salt or anti-skid material,** such as ashes or sawdust.

**-Property address numbers must be kept visible at all times to assist emergency responders.** Obviously, this common-sense safety law applies to all seasons of the year.

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### Snow Requires Extra Safety On Roadways

Additional safety precautions must be taken to survive a snow event on the highway. PennDOT urges all motorists to observe the following safety rules during and immediately after a snowfall:

**-Before driving, always clear snow and ice** from the mirrors, front and rear windshields, hood, roof, and tail lights of a vehicle.

**-Maintain twice the normal following distance** behind other vehicles when snow is falling. Following too close is the cause of most snow-related crashes.

**-Stay at least six car lengths behind a snow plow. Never try to pass a snow plow,** as the plow blade is wider than the truck.

**-Since windshield wash is used more frequently** during the winter, the reservoir under the hood needs to be checked and refilled more often.

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### Some Snow Dos and Snow Don'ts

**Do:** Remove snow from sidewalks within 48 hours 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.\*\*\***

**Do:** Rinse and wipe your dog or cat's feet after they walk on treated sidewalks, as prolonged exposure to some de-icers can burn the pads on paws.

**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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### New School Board Rep Reports 'Progress'

Chester-Upland School Director Richard McClintock was unanimously recommended by borough council and appointed to a 14-month interim term on the school board in November.

The energetic octogenarian now serves as the borough's lone representative on the CUSD board. McClintock gave council a brief summary of recent district business at council's January meeting - the first public update council has received from the borough's elected CUSD rep in the last three years. "So far, everything's been great," McClintock said of his first two months as a school director.

In his report, McClintock addressed a letter recently sent to the district by council Vice President Christine Peterson. The letter asserts a lack of training and subpar performance from the school crossing guard at Main and Sixth Streets.

According to McClintock, the district will provide training for the current crossing guard at that intersection, while a district employee will now monitor student flow to and from Main Street Elementary School.

A letter will also be sent out to parents from the Main Street principal, to assure families that the safety issue is being addressed.

McClintock noted that parents and students who do not use the painted crosswalks to cross busy Sixth and Main Streets are part of the problem.

McClintock also reported on a \$5 million loan that the school district has secured to pay off "debt left behind by the empowerment board." According to McClintock, the loan will be paid off by June.

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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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### **Bell Estate May Become Soccer Complex**

As the owner of the 13-acre estate of former State Senator Clarence Bell, Widener University is seeking financial support that would allow the college to team up with Upland Borough to transform the site to provide new services and opportunities to the community.

Widener University President James Harris recently came before borough council to discuss some of the possibilities that could be the future of the now-vacant Bell estate.

Bell passed away in 2002, and his widow lived at their 24th Street estate for a couple more years. Bell's son, a PMC alum, sold the estate to Widener a few years ago for \$2 million, according to Harris.

Widener is now exploring the possibility of converting the estate's lawns to a soccer facility for the community, while the armory building next door could house a charter middle-school.

Harris proposed the construction of one natural grass soccer field, with stadium seating and dressing rooms for players, plus two artificial turf fields and a youth field.

Widener is hoping to have one soccer field ready for use by this summer.

The soccer complex would be available to Widener and Chester-Upland School District teams and for regional tournaments, but would be open to community youth leagues as well, said Harris.

A partnership with the Philadelphia Union pro soccer team has already helped establish the Chester Youth Soccer League, and expansion to Upland could be a next step.

The estimated cost to build the field complex is \$3-5 million, only a fraction of which Widener has commitments to cover.

The US Soccer Foundation has offered \$400,000 to help fund construction of two fields. The inventor of the Magic Jack (a hands-free cell phone adapter), who is a Widener graduate, has also offered money to help build soccer fields, Harris noted.

Once the US Army vacates the armory building in November, the brick edifice could be used to expand Widener's elementary charter school to grades 6 through 8. The expansion is pending approval from the C-USD board of directors, but a charter middle school could be ready to accept enrollment via lottery next year, according to Harris.

Even if the charter school expansion does not happen, the armory could house the university's Widener Cares tutoring and mentoring program, as part of the school's community outreach effort.

Harris said that "finding funding is the next step."

Joint grant applications from the university and the borough may be a funding source.

"This is a great time for both sides to join," council President Edward Mitchell stated. "We've all wanted something better in terms of educational value."

Supporters and donors would not just be helping to finance soccer fields and a new school. The project would be creating a new "hub for the community," Harris suggested.

### **Regulators Need Supporters**

The Upland Regulators, a new Pop Warner Football League team founded last year, is struggling to generate enough fan and financial support to be successful.

During its first season, the youth team posted a winning record. According to founder/coach Reginald Duncan, the fledging football team is now looking for support "to make the difference between a good season and an outstanding season."

Duncan recently told borough council that donations are needed to provide the players with equipment, including new red and white uniforms. Local businesses have been solicited, but "only one or two verbal commitments" were made, said Duncan.

Some money is raised through concession sales during games, but most of that income goes to paying the referees, Duncan noted.

The Regulators are comprised of youth from Upland, Chester, Parkside, and Toby Farms. The Upland Athletic Club pays \$50 towards the registration fee of every Upland resident.

More parental support is also needed, as only a fraction of the team's adult backers show up for fundraising events, such as Tag Day and special corporate fundraisers.

"It's been tough, but I've been trying to take some of the lemons and make lemonade," Duncan stated with optimism.

If you want to help, call Duncan at **610-876-3539**.

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### **Health Officer Replaced; Re-appointments Made**

Longtime Board of Health Officer Dr. Edward McLaughlin is no longer available for public service, so borough council has named Dr. Robert Crowell as his replacement.

McLaughlin had held the health officer post for the past three decades. He was thanked by council for his exceptional service to the community.

Dr. Crowell's office is located at 4000 Edgmont Avenue in Brookhaven.

Other council appointments for one-year terms include Borough Engineer Charles Catania, serving his 48th year in that position, and Borough Solicitor Robert O'Connor, serving his 10th year in 2011.

Re-appointees include Building Inspector Joseph Ferguson, Plumbing Inspector Thomas Kennedy, Electrical Inspector James Skulski, Health Inspector Cathy Warfield, and Fire Marshal David Favinger.

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### **Collection Agency Gets Delinquent Taxes**

The borough office has exonerated interim Tax Collector Linda Mitchell of all delinquent 2010 taxes and forwarded the unpaid accounts to a collection agency.

Berkheimer Associates will now be responsible for collecting last year's delinquent taxes.

The breakdown of overdue tax bills includes \$10,908 in borough real estate tax, \$10,692 in trash service fees, \$2,750 in per capita tax, and \$528 in single per capita tax.

Regarding the annual trash collection fee, borough council has determined that the ordinance that mandates \$135 to be paid by each household allows the billing of each family in a multi-family dwelling.

A total of 38 additional Upland households, that were previously getting a free ride on trash collection, will now be expected to pay the \$135 fee in 2011.

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### **OLC Honors Upland Alum**

Eugene Barr, who served 10 years as a councilman for Upland Borough, was recently presented with a Distinguished Graduate Award and feted by Our Lady of Charity, the grade school from which he graduated in 1969.

OLC has played a major role in Barr's life. He met his wife of 31 years, Mary, at an OLC church mass. The couple now have three children, two of whom were baptized at OLC.

While serving as an OLC altar boy, Barr took a field trip to the Gettysburg Battlefield, which spawned a lifetime interest in Civil War history. He currently serves as board chairman for the National Civil War Museum and has lectured on the war at Gettysburg College.

Barr is also VP of government and public affairs for the PA Chamber of Business and Industry.

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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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### **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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### **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."



**Eagle Scout 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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### **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 have increased in 2011.

The fee charged for building, mechanical, plumbing, and electrical permits for residential work is now \$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 fee changes were unanimously approved by borough council last fall. The adjusted fees more accurately reflect the amount of time that borough inspectors typically spend making site inspections.

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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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### **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; three more came aboard in November, and another pair were added in January.

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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."

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