



The Caleb Pusey House

The Uplander



MacQueen Hall

The official newsletter of historic Upland Borough
(Settled 1683)



Summer 2011 edition



You know that a pancake and sausage breakfast is yummy, when it makes you smile like Carlie LaPorte.

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The May 30 Memorial Day service at Bristol Lord Field left the war memorial decorated for the holiday.

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Mom/daughter team Leiah and Linda DiGiandomenico were among the April 23 breakfast crowd.

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The annual Family Picnic that followed the memorial service was co-hosted by Pastor Brian McGouty of Resurrection Life Church and Rev. Brenda Shaw of Upland Baptist Church.

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The Easter Bunny posed for a family photo with Anthony Moretti, his daughter Leiah, and son Michael.



The Evans twins could not agree on the warm Memorial Day weather. Shawn thought the sun-drenched afternoon was refreshing, while Brianna found it to be, well, depressing.

Carnival Moves Council Meeting

The carnival is coming back to town from **Tuesday, June 14 thru Saturday, June 18.**

Due to limited parking around MacQueen Hall, Borough Council's regular monthly meeting will be moved up one day to Monday, June 13.

The carnival will be open from 6-10 p.m. each day at Bristol Lord Field, Sixth and Main streets. The family fun includes a variety of food, rides, games and amusements for all ages.

This will be the second straight year that the midway has visited the borough. The carnival is one of several annual fundraisers for the borough's Community Affairs Committee.

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C-USD Facing Enormous Cuts

Chester-Upland School district representatives have been lamenting the preliminary budget for the 2011-12 fiscal year, which contains cutbacks across the board in response to an anticipated \$22 million reduction in state funding.

According to Acting District Superintendent Joyce Wells, faced with the challenge of reducing spending from \$114.3 million for the current school year down to \$92.4 million for the coming year, C-U officials have approved a preliminary budget that would see at least a 40% cut in the number of teachers, causing average class size to increase from 21 to 35 students.

Under the preliminary budget, the district would also reduce support staff by 50%, operational support by 53%, classroom support by 18%, and administrative staff by 13%, while both the kindergarten and pre-kindergarten programs would be cut from full-day to half-day sessions.

"This could destroy Chester-Upland as a school district," Upland's School Board rep Dick McClintock said of the projected spending cuts at borough council's April session. "I don't know how they'll be able to operate. They're operating on a shoestring now."

At an informational public meeting on June 2, Wells assured about 75 C-U parents and students gathered in MacQueen Hall that the district is not considering raising school taxes or the closure of any of its schools to help balance the final budget, which must be adopted by June 30.

"We will work hard to make this budget work, if we have to, but we are hoping to see a change moving forward, so that we can educate our children in the same manner that we have during this school year," Wells stated.

The district is hoping that the state relents on its plan to reduce C-U funding so drastically. All residents are being enlisted in an effort to change minds in Harrisburg through a campaign of emails, phone calls, and letters.

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**Read a full-length version of *the Uplander*
at www.uplandboro.org**

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Memorial Day Parade Marches On

Upland Borough's annual Memorial Day parade outdid itself this year, with several new marchers joining the holiday procession.

Instead of just one, this year two string bands - Ferko and Fralinger - provided Mummers-style music to accompany the percussion rhythms of the Washington Memorial Pipe Band of Wayne and the Pipes & Drums of Delaware Valley.

Crowd favorites like the Marine Corps League Upland Detachment were joined by a strong contingent from Chester-Upland's ROTC program, while members of the Upland Regulators youth football team, Joan's Dance Studio students, and classic cars from Delco Cruisers also got involved.

After the parade, services at the war memorial featured participation by three active servicemen, including PA National Guardsman Sergeant Nelson O'Casio, who recently served as a cavalry scout in the Mideast, and currently works as a part-time police officer in Upland. O'Casio honored the memory of Upland veterans with the laying of a memorial wreath.

A special guest speaker at the ceremony was Dr. James Finnegan, who served with the US Marines as a battalion combat surgeon in Viet Nam.

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Council Members Re-Elected

There were no surprises at the polls in the wake of the May 17 primary election, where four incumbent Republican council members were unopposed by either party and hence assured of re-election in November.

Returning for another four-year term on Upland Borough Council will be Council President Edward Mitchell, who tallied 167 votes in the primary; Council Vice President Christine Peterson, the top vote-getter with 181 votes; and Councilmen Leland Hunter and Harold R. Peden, who both garnered 161 votes.

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McClintock Takes On Another Role

Dick McClintock, the borough's lone representative on the Chester-Upland School Board, recently volunteered to also serve as the school district's representative on the Delaware County Intermediate Unit Legislative Council. Congratulations, and a sincere thank you, to Mr. McClintock.

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Recycling Program Expanded

In May, the borough started accepting additional recyclable paper items for curbside collection on the first and third Fridays of each month.

In addition to the glass and plastics now co-mingled in red cans (provided free by the borough), many paper and cardboard items will be collected as well. Paper items can be placed inside the can with other recyclables, or bagged or boxed separately and placed next to the can.

Paper items that will soon be accepted include newspapers, inserts, junk mail, magazines, catalogs, envelopes, phone books, paperback

books, cardboard, clean pizza boxes, office or school papers, cardboard (but no styrofoam) egg cartons, paper bags, and boxboard, such as cereal and cracker boxes.

"We're so excited to bring this to the borough," said Borough Manager Shirley Purcival. "It will take some weight out of the regular trash that the (public works department) guys have to pick up and increase our recycling totals, which is always good."

Residents are reminded that certain items are not acceptable for curbside recycling, such as those that are soiled with food waste.

Other non-recyclables include plastic bags, used paper plates, paper towels and napkins, polystyrene cups or plates, motor oil containers, plastic toys, ice cream cartons, light bulbs, clothes hangers, and yard waste.

Recycling questions can be directed to the borough office at 610-874-7317.

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Council Adopts New Policy For False Alarms, Fire Service

In an effort to reduce the budgetary strain caused by repeated false alarms and some fire calls, the borough has amended an ordinance to provide fines and allow emergency service cost recovery.

The new ordinance was unanimously adopted by borough council on April 26, and became effective May 1.

The borough code supplement adds three elements to Chapter 88: security system registration, false alarm fines, and the borough's authorization for the fire company to recoup certain costs for emergency responses.

All borough homes and businesses that have security systems installed must register with the borough office. Registration is free, and will help avoid lock-out situations, if police officers or firefighters are ever needed inside the building.

The growing problem of repeated false fire alarms has led to using hefty fines as a deterrent.

According to Councilman Harold R. Peden, three false alarms within a 12-month span at any given address will constitute "no foul."

The fourth false alarm within a year will cost the property owner \$300, and the fifth incident will carry a \$500 fine.

If a false fire alarm is determined to be a "malicious pull," a \$500 fine will be assessed immediately in all cases, under the new law.

Upland Fire Co. No. 1 will now be able to seek reimbursement for some emergency response expenses, as the cost of equipment and materials used during a fire call can be passed on to the property owner.

An agency will handle emergency service collections for the volunteer fire company.

All borough taxpayers and businesses that financially support the fire company will be exempt from cost recovery billing, as those parties essentially pay for service in advance.

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**No trash or recycling will be collected
on *Monday, July 4*
in observance of Independence Day
or on *Monday, September 5*
in observance of Labor Day**

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Historic Site Reopened

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, a volunteer crew of workers gave the National Historical Register site a spring cleaning during the morning hours. During the afternoon, the three historic buildings re-opened to the general public for another season of free guided tours.

Tours are now available from 1 - 4 pm, every Saturday and Sunday, through October.

For more information or to schedule a group visit, call FCPH President Ray Peden at **610-874-5665**.

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Public Meetings and Events

Borough Council Meetings

6pm caucus; 7pm regular voting session

Monday, June 13,

**Tuesday, July 5 and Aug. 30
ground floor of MacQueen Hall**

Chester-Upland School Board Meeting

2011-12 preliminary budget hearing

Thursday, June 16

6pm at Chester High School

Community Carnival

6-10pm from June 14 thru 18

at Bristol Lord Field

Annual Fourth of July Family Picnic

Food & music, pony rides & face painting

11am - 3pm at Bristol Lord Field

Blue Rocks Game for youth - Aug. 12

Labor Day Fireworks Display

starts at dusk (8:45pm) on Sunday, Sept. 4

at Bristol Lord Field

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Website Provides Valuable Info

Visit **www.uplandboro.org** to find an expanded version of the borough's quarterly newsletter, a current events calendar, historical narratives, public health notices, borough ordinances, council meeting minutes, live surveillance video feeds, and photo galleries.

BULK TRASH will be collected curbside on the last Wednesday of each month on **June 29, July 27, and August 31**
*****Items must be placed curbside by 6am*****

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At this spring's Soup & Salad fundraiser, the satisfied diners included (l to r) Council President Edward Mitchell, Senior District Magisterial Judge Kenneth Miller, and Councilman/Code Enforcement Officer Leland Hunter.

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The happy faces of Desiree and Reginald Duncan (above) and Madison Hahn and Casey Arcomone (below) must come from mixing good food with family and friends.



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The wearin' o' the green was evident at the borough's annual St. Patty's Day Ham & Cabbage Luncheon for senior citizens on March 14.

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Upland PD Welcomes New Officers

Mayor Ciach swore in part-time Patrolmen William Meyer, Charles Fuller, and Sean Dougherty in April. Meyer, 25, is a Havertown High School and Delaware County Police Academy graduate. The Havertown resident works full-time as an electrician. Fuller, 32, is a Marcus Hook resident and a Sun Valley High School graduate. He has been a police officer for the last eight years, and currently works full-time for an armored truck company. Dougherty, 25, graduated from Ridley High School in 2004 and from the DCPA in 2006. The Brookhaven resident works full-time as a Delaware County park police officer.

"I had the privilege of sitting through the interview process for these new officers, and we've got some real sharp talent here," Council President Ed Mitchell said of the new hires.



Chief John Easton stands with his three newest officers, (l to r) Sean Dougherty, William Meyer, and Charles Fuller.

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Squad Car Upgrades Approved

Borough officials recently agreed to purchase "air cards" for onboard computers in three police cruisers, which will permit an officer to do complete background checks and other information searches from his vehicle.

The air cards will cost \$49.99 for each squad car. Two more cruisers will be equipped with air cards at a later date, as the police department's two oldest vehicles are slated for replacement this year.

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Firehouse Seeks Flashing Light

The borough is supporting a request from the fire company to install a flashing overhead emergency signal at the Sixth Street entrance to the firehouse. According to Fire Chief Dan Smith, a previous attempt to get PennDOT permission to install a signal at Sixth Street and McClintock Drive has stalled. Smith reported two recent near-collisions between a fire truck and Sixth Street traffic that failed to yield to the emergency vehicle.

The borough has to approve the project and cover the cost of installation, but PennDOT must also grant permission, as Sixth Street is a state road.

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Upland Seniors Elect New Prez

Borough Councilman Leland Hunter has stepped up to serve as president of the Upland Senior Citizens. Betty Kondracki had served as the group's dynamic president for the last 14 years, but had recently been asking for a volunteer to take over her leadership role.

"It's an honor and a privilege to be nominated and serve," Hunter said of his new post.

Upland Senior Citizens meet every Monday from 9am to 3pm on the second floor of MacQueen Hall. All senior residents are welcome to attend the weekly gatherings for food, games, and socializing.

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CO Requirements Amended

Borough council will be adopting new use and occupancy inspection requirements for rental properties at its June 13 meeting.

Under the new provisions, an annual U & O inspection must be made of every rental property to keep Certificates of Occupancy current. Owners will be responsible for contacting the borough office by May 31 each year to arrange an inspection.

The property owner must be present during the borough's inspection.

An inspected property with a valid CO will be exempted from re-inspection for any given year, if tenants change or the property is sold within one calendar year of the May 31 deadline.

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Borough Faces Trash Decision

To collect, or not to collect? - that is the question. Borough officials are weighing possible alternatives to having public works department employees continue curbside trash and recycling collections.

Now is the time to hash out the pros and cons of this issue, as the borough's 10-year-old trash truck is in need of replacement. A new trash truck would cost an estimated \$160-180,000.

The borough will soon need to hire another public works employee, but may have to add two workers, if that department is going to keep up with a recently expanded recycling collections program.

As it is now, the borough's two active public works employees are often unavailable for other important projects, due to the hours they spend collecting trash and recyclables.

"One of the things we're looking at is just getting out of the trash business altogether," stated council President Edward Mitchell. "We've come to the point where, for the money we're paying, it would cost just about as much to pay somebody else to do collections for us."

Outsourcing collections would free up the borough's own employees, but the borough would also lose the modest revenue (\$17.06 per ton) received from recyclables.

The frequency of regular trash, recycling, and bulk trash collections will determine the ultimate cost of outsourcing.

Currently, Upland residents are accustomed to twice-a-week regular trash pickups, twice-a-month

recycling, and once-a-month bulk collections. It was noted by council members that it could be very expensive to maintain those pick-up schedules year 'round with an outside agency.

As a starting point to assess all the variables, council has authorized the borough engineer to gather bids. The requested cost proposals will be for several different levels of service, to give council options from which to choose, should outsourcing ultimately be deemed desirable.

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Officers Get Weighty Awards

Police Detective Michael Curran and Patrolman Anthony DeLuise were recognized on May 19 (Law Enforcement Appreciation Day) by the Philadelphia Citizens Crime Commission, when the duo was cited for service above and beyond the call of duty.

The accolades stemmed from a harrowing episode last June, when the two officers became embroiled in a shoot-out with armed robbers in Chester. After a Chester patrolman had been shot, DeLuise chased down one of the fleeing felons on foot to make an arrest and end the standoff.

For their brave actions last summer, Curran and DeLuise both received a handsome acrylic trophy, which features an encased policeman's badge.

While displaying the rectangular trophies and complimenting the two feted officers, Borough Council President Ed Mitchell jokingly noted: "These must be the first awards our guys have received that were too heavy to carry. They must each weigh about 30 pounds!"

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

Unlisted Homes Should Register

To enjoy the full benefits of the borough's information phone-message 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 important public meetings and community activities, and would be utilized in the event of a borough-wide emergency.

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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.

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.

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

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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 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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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 council that financial support of the borough's lone fire station 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% support rate, according to Smith.

Of the 61 apartments in the borough, only two gave donations, for a paltry 3.3% contribution rate.

Homeowners responded at a rate of 22.6%, while non-resident landlords gave at a rate of 16.7%.

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 contribution rate was 19.4 percent; and in 2007, the response rate was 20.9 percent.

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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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Loop Repaving To Start Soon

PennDOT is planning to repave Upland Avenue and Sixth Street this summer.

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.

According to Borough Engineer Charles Catania, both Upland and Brookhaven residents will benefit from the planned scope of the project. 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.

Milling and paving work will start in July or August, once the state's new fiscal year begins.