



The Caleb Pusey House

# The Uplander



MacQueen Hall

The official newsletter of historic Upland Borough  
(Settled 1683)



Fall 2011 edition



Olivia Jones attended her first Fourth of July Family Picnic this year, with help from Kristi Morris and Mom-Mom Judy.



The free food apparently passed muster with T.C. Covey and Ron Billick, who devoured their meatball sandwiches.



Nicole Oliver of Front Street enjoyed the Family Picnic with her daughters Addison, Alanna, Autumn, Ava, and Adrianna.



Byron Watson let his inner cowboy come out with a fun-filled pony ride at the Family Picnic.



...and the ever-popular SpongeBob Squarepants was there too, much to the delight of his fan club.

### **West Nile Vigilance Still Important**

Residents are reminded that the fight to control the spread of West Nile Virus continues, with the best weapon being the elimination of stagnant water that can serve as a breeding area for disease-carrying mosquitoes.

Mosquitoes recently tested positive for West Nile in both Brookhaven and Parkside Boroughs.

All property owners should strive to eliminate potential breeding grounds **from April through October**. Preventive measures should include disposal of empty cans, ceramic pots, and any other container that can hold water. Roof gutters should be unclogged; wading pools should be turned over when not in use; and swimming pools should be chlorinated and cleaned regularly.

To learn more about the prevention and control of West Nile Virus, visit [www.westnile.state.pa.us](http://www.westnile.state.pa.us).

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### **Council Grateful For Donations**

The recent generosity of others will benefit borough residents in numerous ways, causing borough council members to publicly sing the praises of a host of contributors.

Councilwoman Sandra Miazza started the lovefest by thanking Phantom Fireworks for the \$500 donation that was recently made to the Community Affairs Committee. The money helped fund borough-sponsored activities, such as the annual Fourth of July Family Picnic and a Blue Rocks game for youth on Aug. 12.

Both Catania Engineering and the Chester Water Authority were thanked for donating services to get new plumbing in the park pavilion up and running for Memorial Day festivities at Bristol Lord Field.

Borough Engineer Charles Catania was personally thanked for his role in securing a \$91,000 Community Development Block Grant. The county grant will finance a storm sewer extension to resolve a longstanding drainage problem at the intersection of Race, Griffith, and Main streets.

Council also thanked the Upland Fire Co. for agreeing to excavation of an embankment adjacent to the firehouse to create 10 parking spaces. The new lot will be utilized by Dogwood Lane residents in the borough-owned Auburn Village apartments.

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### **Comcast Offers Internet Discounts**

A new program from Comcast Cable called Internet Essentials will help low-income households enjoy the benefits of home computer use and Internet access.

All families that have an annual income of less than \$30,000 and households with children who receive free lunches through the National School Lunch Program qualify to take advantage of this offer, provided they have not had Comcast Cable service in the last 90 days and do not have overdue invoices or unreturned Comcast equipment.

Under this program, a computer can be purchased for \$149.99, plus tax; free Internet training will be provided; and the cost of online service is just \$9.95

per month, plus tax. There are no activation fees or equipment rental fees, and the price for service will never go up.

To sign up or to get more information, call Comcast toll free at **1-885-8-INTERNET (1-885-846-8376)** or visit [www.InternetEssentials.com](http://www.InternetEssentials.com).

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### **Lawn Care Helps Manage Stormwater Runoff**

The way that each homeowner tends to their lawn can have a significant impact on stormwater management for the entire borough. The following lawn care practices will promote rainwater absorption and help reduce runoff:

-Test your soil to determine what kind of fertilizer is needed to grow healthy turf. Lush lawns have deeper roots, which can absorb more rainwater.

The best time of year to fertilize is after Labor Day, using slow-release fertilizers that are less water-soluble and less polluting to streams.

-Adding trees and shrubs to a yard helps control excess rainwater and prevents soil erosion. Large broad-leaf trees (such as oak, maple, or black gum) can intercept over 1,000 gallons of rainwater each year, once mature.

Fall is the best time to plant young trees and shrubs. Planting flowering native perennials will attract pollinating birds and butterflies, while their extensive root systems will absorb rainwater and enrich the soil.

-Cutting grass to no less than 3 inches in height will help keep lawns green and healthy. Mowing often enough that clippings are no more than one-third the length of grass blades allows clippings to decompose easily into the soil. Mulched grass clippings can supply up to 50% of your lawn's nitrogen and phosphorus needs.

-Sweep up grass clippings blown into the street. Clippings left curbside can clog stormwater inlets and lead to street flooding.

-Mulched flower beds or rain gardens trap and infiltrate more rainwater than bare lawns or soil. Layers of mulch should not be more than 3 inches deep and should not cover the roots of trees or contact the bark.

\*\*\*Never spread fresh wood chips around trees or shrubs, as their decomposition may harm plants.

-Creating strategically-placed rain gardens or pocket meadows on a lawn can help absorb runoff from gutter downspouts, paved areas, and compacted soil areas. Consider replacing impervious surfaces like asphalt and concrete with pervious materials like gravel or pavers that will allow runoff to absorb.

-The best time to use pesticides is Spring or early Summer, with biological controls being preferable to chemical treatments that can damage soil and kill off beneficial insects.

-To reduce chemical runoff into streams, spot treat weed patches, rather than treating the entire yard; and leave a 3-foot unmowed apron along stream banks, ponds, and drainage channels.

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**Read a full-length version of *the Uplander*  
at [www.uplandboro.org](http://www.uplandboro.org)**

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### **Council Designates Parking Tax Uses**

Borough Council has formally designated revenue from a new parking tax on Crozer-Chester Medical Center employees as a funding source for Community Affairs events and the future upkeep of the James W. Reese Armory.

The parking tax was enacted in January, collecting 10 percent of the revenue generated by employee parking at the hospital. A similar tax on CCMC visitor parking was adopted in March 2010.

According to council President Edward Mitchell, the employee parking tax is expected to produce about \$48,000 in borough revenue annually.

The money will help support several public events that are organized by the borough's Community Affairs Committee each year, including a St. Patty's Day luncheon for seniors, a Wilmington Blue Rocks game for youth (Aug. 12), the Fourth of July Family Picnic, and a Labor Day fireworks display, et al.

The borough hopes to take ownership of the Armory complex sometime this Fall. The quest to take over the Armory buildings started in 2005, when the Department of Defense put the 24th Street complex on the closure list. Federal agencies have indicated that the transfer will be free to the borough.

Erected in 1958, the Armory consists of a two-story, 25,687-square foot administration building, a two-bay, 5,376-square foot maintenance shop, a 2,700-square foot storage building (added in 2004), and two fenced parking lots.

Revenue from the employee parking tax will be used to create an interest-bearing sinking fund that will cover general maintenance and repairs.

Plans have not been finalized, but Borough Council is considering the creation of a community center and/or a Widener University-sponsored charter middle school on the 5-acre Armory site.

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***No trash or recycling will be collected***

***on Monday, Oct. 10***

***in observance of Columbus Day***

***or Thursday and Friday, Nov. 24 and 25***

***in observance of Thanksgiving***

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***In addition to these holidays, borough offices***

***will be also be closed on Tuesday, Nov. 8***

***in observance of Election Day***

***and on Friday, Nov. 11***

***in observance of Veterans Day***

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### **C-USD Reduces Staff Cuts**

In preparation for the loss of over \$20 million in state funding for the 2011-2012 school year, Chester-Upland School District officials furloughed 171 teachers in June. After the state had restored about \$10.5 million of lost funding to the district's

budget, 35 of the furloughed teachers were put back on the payroll for the upcoming year.

The staffing adjustment will slightly reduce anticipated class sizes in lower grades, but high school classes will remain at the projected size of 35 students per classroom, according to C-USD Superintendent Dr. Joyce Wells.

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### **Public Meetings and Events**

#### **9/11 10th Anniversary**

#### **Candlelight Memorial Service**

**7pm on Sunday, Sept. 11 at war memorial  
at Bristol Lord Field**

#### **Borough Council Meetings**

6pm caucus; 7pm regular voting session

**Tuesday, Sept. 13, Oct. 11, and Nov. 8  
on ground floor of MacQueen Hall**

#### **Annual Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser**

**4-6pm on Saturday, Oct. 24**

**on second floor of MacQueen Hall**

\$8 adults; \$6 seniors; \$4 children under 10

#### **Annual Youth Halloween Party**

**4-6pm on Saturday, Oct. 29**

**on second floor of MacQueen Hall**

Free food, fun and entertainment for kids

Prizes for best costumes!

#### **Annual Christmas Tree Lighting/Santa Visit**

**6pm start at MacQueen Hall on Friday, Nov. 25**

Tree lighting precedes Youth Christmas Party, featuring snacks, gifts and photos with Santa

**(Deadline for gift registration: Nov. 11)**

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#### **Website Provides Valuable Info**

Visit [www.uplandboro.org](http://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.

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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)*

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#### **Council Members Re-Elected**

There were no surprises at the polls in 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.

### Borough Approves Trash Contract

The borough has approved a five-year trash collection contract, moving from doing its own collections to outsourcing to save money.

Upland was facing the expenditure of nearly \$200,000 for the purchase of a new trash truck, in addition to the need to hire an additional employee to staff the public works department.

The June 30 bid opening found five local companies vying for the borough's trash contract. Under the terms of each multi-year proposal, the hauler would provide trash and garbage collections, as well as recycling and bulk trash pick-ups, starting as of Jan. 1, 2012.

The trash contract was awarded at council's Aug. 30 meeting, with Air-Up LLC, doing business as B & L Disposal Services, of Wallingford, beating out the competition.

B & L's low bid of \$89,880 to provide all collection services in 2012 bested the next lowest bid by about \$25,000, according to borough Engineer Charles Catania. Other bids for year-one collections ranged as high as \$249,408.

The contract with B & L provides for a sliding scale across the five years of the pact. Year #2 will cost the borough \$91,678; year #3 will cost \$94,422; year #4 will cost \$98,136, and the final year (2016) will cost Upland taxpayers \$103,043.

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### RECYCLE Stickers Available

Residents are invited to stop by the borough office in MacQueen Hall and pick up a free RECYCLE sticker.

Since the borough expanded its co-mingled recycling program to include more types of paper products this summer, the need for additional storage space has arisen. By affixing a RECYCLE sticker to a trash can, the labeled receptacle will augment the red recycling collection cans issued by the borough.

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Wilmington Blue Rocks mascot 'Rocky' embraces several members of the youth group that took in a game on Aug. 12, courtesy of the Upland Community Affairs Committee. (photo by George Patterson)

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**BULK TRASH** will be collected curbside on the last Wednesday of each month on **Sept. 28, Oct. 26, and Nov. 30** \*\*\*Items must be placed curbside by 6am\*\*\*

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The carnival that came to Upland for five days in June served as a fundraiser for the borough's Community Affairs Committee, while providing fun for kids of all ages.



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Siblings Angel and Ashley Sastre of Toby Farms could barely carry all the prizes they won at the Upland carnival this year.

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Above, Police Chief John Easton and Mayor Michael Ciach are flanked by part-time police officers Patrolmen Nicholas Maraini (left) and Robert Pistoria (right). Below, Easton and Ciach are joined by (from left to right): the Upland PD's newest full-timers Patrolmen Steven Jackson, Sean Dougherty, and Nelson Ocasio, and new part-timers Patrolmen Michael Birney and Craig Scully.



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### Upland PD Welcomes New Officers

On July 5, Mayor Ciach swore in part-time Patrolmen Robert Pistoria and Nicholas Maraini.

Pistoria, 44, is a resident of Bear, DE. He graduated from the Philadelphia Police Academy in 1994, and served with the Chester Police Department from 1994-96.

Maraini, 26, lives in Broomall. He graduated from the Delaware County Police Academy last December, and has been working in the extradition unit of the Delaware County Sheriff's Department since January. On Aug. 30, part-time Patrolmen Sean Dougherty, Nelson Ocasio, and Steven Jackson were promoted to full-time status.

Dougherty, 25, graduated from the DCPA in 2006, before joining the Upland PD in April 2011. The Brookhaven resident had been working as a Delaware County park police officer, prior to his full-time posting in Upland.

Ocasio, 22, resides in Chester. He graduated from the DCPA in June 2010 and joined the Upland PD two months later.

His Upland posting is Ocasio's first law enforcement job, but he is no stranger to a uniform. He recently served a year in Iraq as a specialist in the US Army, and is a member of the PA National Guard.

Jackson, 22, hails from Drexel Hill. He came to Upland as a part-time officer in June 2010, after spending one year with the Millbourne PD.

Mayor Ciach also swore in part-time police Officers Michael Birney and Craig Scully on Aug. 30.

Birney, 32, lives in Norwood. He has served 18 months part-time with the Chester Township PD and the last two months on the Brookhaven force.

Scully, 26, is a Ridley Park resident, and graduated from the DCPA in June. Joining the Upland PD represents his first law enforcement position.

In other police business, borough council has approved \$30,613 for the purchase and outfitting of a 2011 Dodge Charger squad car.

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### Used Squad Cars Get Second Life

The borough has announced its intention to add two vehicles to its fleet by using retiring police cruisers for less demanding duties.

The 2011 budget includes replacement of the two oldest Ford Crown Victorias (a 2004 and 2006) in the police department's fleet of five cars.

Rather than selling off the two high-mileage vehicles to the highest bidder, the borough has reconfigured the squad cars for non-emergency use.

One car will be utilized by police officers who are in court, where department personnel might spend several hours each day. Having a fully-equipped police cruiser parked outside the courthouse is not an efficient use of borough resources, suggested Council President Edward Mitchell.

The stripped-down Crown Vic will also be used by Borough Councilman/Code Enforcement Officer Leland Hunter, who had been using his own vehicle.

The other used squad car has become an official vehicle for Upland Fire Chief Dan Smith.

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### Fire Co. Commended For Flood Response

At Borough Council's Aug. 30 session, council members applauded the herculean efforts of members of the Upland Fire Co. during the state of emergency brought on by Hurricane Irene.

The widespread flooding of Chester Creek - the second such event in the past year - brought out the best from the volunteer firefighters, at a time when their hometown needed it most.

Under the direction of Fire Chief Dan Smith, Company No. 1 members worked endless hours throughout the weekend of Aug. 27-28 to help residents spare their belongings from the muddy waters, while directing motorists away from the flood-stricken areas of the borough.

"The fire department and all of our police officers really stepped up and went above and beyond, and council would like to thank them all," Mayor Michael Ciach stated.

Unlike the flooding of the historic Pusey House on Oct. 1, 2010, the owners of the site had ample warning this time around and used it wisely. At 7 PM on Friday, a full day before the rain even began to fall, Upland firefighters were on the scene with a flatbed trailer, loading up priceless artifacts and antique furnishings to keep them out of harm's way.

"I don't know how to thank you, other than to say that we'll have a pizza party over at the firehouse one night," Councilman/FCPH President Ray Peden told Smith.

Smith had his own kudos to hand out, thanking the Trainer Borough Board of Health for delivering sandwiches to many of the fire companies that were battling flood waters across the county.

The Upland Fire Co. will house Pusey House and Crozer Schoolhouse items until the historic sites can be cleaned and restored.

Peden noted that the long and arduous process of securing federal flood insurance money will now start anew, as the familiar cycle of flood recovery begins again.

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In the wake of Hurricane Irene, the historic Pennock Log House off Race Street is surrounded by flood waters from a swollen Chester Creek. Ironically, repairs to the Pennock House stemming from the Oct. 1, 2010 flood had been completed the week before Irene arrived.

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### Recycling Program Expanded

As of May 2011, the borough is 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 are being 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 are now being accepted include newspapers, junk mail, magazines, catalogs, envelopes, phone books, paperback books, cardboard, clean pizza boxes, office or school papers, cardboard 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.

### 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 keeps borough residents informed of important public meetings and community activities, and would be utilized in the event of a borough-wide emergency.

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### Food Bank Offers Help

The Food Bank that operates out of the basement of the Chapel at Upland Baptist Church benefits low-income borough residents and 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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### Regulators Need Supporters

The Upland Regulators, a Pop Warner Football League team founded last year, is struggling to generate enough 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 says that donations are needed to provide the players with new equipment and 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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### 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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