



The Caleb Pusey House

The Uplander



MacQueen Hall

The official newsletter of historic Upland Borough
(Settled 1683; Incorporated 1869)



Vol. 1-1; December 2011 edition



Upland Remembers 9-11-01 Anniversary



A memorial arch, from which the American flag was draped, was formed by local fire company ladder trucks at the candlelight ceremony recognizing the 10th anniversary of the 9-11 terrorist attacks on our country.



An honor guard consisted of a Chester City police officer and U.S. Navy and Marine Corps veterans.



Members of Upland Fire Co. No. 1 represented the heroic firefighters who sacrificed so much on 9-11-01.



Several memorial wreaths were laid at the war memorial at Bristol Lord Field on Sept. 11, including this one being placed by Upland Police Officer Nelson Ocasio, who previously served as a specialist with the U.S. Army in Iraq.

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Newsletter Now Monthly Publication

In response to positive feedback from residents, borough council is pleased and excited to announce the conversion of *the Uplander* newsletter from a quarterly to a monthly publication. New editions of the borough newsletter, chock full of photos and news items exclusively from your hometown, will generally be delivered to homes at the beginning of each month.

To submit photos or notices for inclusion in the newsletter, please send items of public interest via mail to the borough office at 224 Castle Avenue, Upland, PA 19015 or via email to kennstark@comcast.net. The deadline for inclusion in the next newsletter is the 15th day of the previous month. The borough reserves the right to edit all submissions.

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Read an expanded version of
the Uplander
at www.uplandboro.org

No Tax, Rent Increases Anticipated

The borough's 2012 preliminary budgets for the general fund and the borough-owned Auburn Village apartment complex require no tax, trash service fee, or rent increases to balance.

If the numbers remain the same for final budget adoption at borough council's Dec. 13 meeting, next year would be the 25th consecutive year with no borough property tax increase, maintaining a millage rate of 2.0 mills.

The 2012 general fund preliminary budget total is \$2,681,548, which represents a 10 percent increase in revenue and spending.

On the revenue side of the ledger, the additional \$242,382 in the budget came from increased permit revenue and more income than was expected from the one-percent earned income tax that was enacted in April 2009.

On the expenditure side of the equation, increased spending is attributed to rising insurance costs, employee salary increases, and the purchase of a \$40,000 riding mower and a \$50,000 dump truck for the public works department, according to Councilwoman/Finance Committee Chairperson Moira Crawford.

Rents for the 156-unit Auburn Village apartment complex are projected to remain the same for the third consecutive year and the 12th year since 1999. The borough's annual trash collection fee of \$135 per household is also projected to hold steady for the fourth straight year.

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Leaf Collections Underway

Curbside leaf collections have begun on the borough's residential streets, and will continue as needed every Tuesday and Wednesday until Dec. 28, weather permitting, according to Council Vice President Christine Peterson, who serves as Highway Committee Chairperson.

Leaves should be raked to the curb, but not into the street, where wet leaves can clog stormwater inlets and lead to street flooding.

Residents who cannot rake leaves to the curblines are asked to bag leaves and place the bags curbside for collection with their regular trash.

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Upland Holds 9-11 Candlelight Vigil

The collection of emergency responders on hand at the Sept. 11 candlelight memorial service was almost as diverse as the scores of citizens who attended to remember the pain and angst connected with 9-11-01.

Among the attendees were several local fire companies and personnel from numerous neighboring police departments.

Before the service got underway at the war memorial at Bristol Lord Field, ladder trucks from Milmont Fire Co. No. 49 and Brookhaven Fire Co. No. 52 backed up to each other on Sixth Street. The trucks raised their ladders to form a memorial arch, from which an American flag was hung.

Reverend Brenda Shaw of Upland Baptist Church recalled the heroism of the passengers onboard Flight 93, who gave their lives to protect a probable terrorist target in Washington, D.C.

Upland Mayor Michael Ciach then spoke of how the horrific images of 9/11 were seared into the memory of a generation of Americans. He suggested that Americans were both wounded and strengthened by the events of a day that we should "never forget."

Pastor Brian McCreary of Resurrection Church recounted the staggering losses suffered by emergency service personnel and their families in New York City. He praised the selfless actions of "ordinary people, who became extraordinary heroes" on that fateful day.

McCreary's wife, Patty, led those in attendance in the singing of America the Beautiful and later with Let There Be Peace On Earth.

Wreaths were laid at the war memorial by Upland Fire Chief Dan Smith, Upland Police Officer Nelson Ocasio, and Upland Borough Council President Edward Mitchell.

A color guard was provided by the Marine Corps League Delco Detachment 288, and a rifle salute was given by an honor guard made up of military and police personnel.

After everyone had lit a candle of remembrance, former Marine Corps League Commandant Dick Mansfield blew taps on the bugle to conclude the solemn service.

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Holiday Decorating Contest

For this year's holiday home decorating contest, first place will be worth \$100; second place will be good for \$50; and a third-place display will earn the homeowners \$25. Judging will be done during the evenings of the week before Christmas. The winners will be announced at council's January meeting.

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Charter School Hearing Draws Crowd

A Nov. 7 zoning hearing board meeting was attended by a standing-room-only crowd at MacQueen Hall, where the details of a proposed public charter grade-school on the corner of 11th and Main streets were discussed.

About 50 Upland residents, including all seven members of borough council, packed the meeting room. Most of those in attendance had been at an informational meeting on Oct. 25, when a handout from Chester Community Charter School failed to answer many of the questions that were raised.

Zoning Board Solicitor John Wills noted that the special exception sought by the applicant, which would allow a new school to be built in the residential neighborhood, is a "misnomer."

"A special exception is permission or approval to use land for a purpose other than that permitted outright...provided that the use is not proven to be injurious to the public," Wills stated.

CCCS Attorney George Cordes called three witnesses to give testimony during the three and a half hour hearing. The charter school's expert

witnesses included Facilities Development Consultant Mike Rabena, Executive Vice President Steve Lee, and Civil Engineer Alex Rodriguez, of Catania Engineering Associates.

Residents seized the chance to get answers, with a total of 20 citizens, most of whom live near the proposed 1-acre school site, peppering the witnesses and Cordes with dozens of queries.

Topics of concern included the impact a charter school might have on Chester-Upland School District taxes; the demolition of a vacant house and two-car garage on the corner lot; increased stress on the borough's sanitary sewer system; the viability of 40 proposed parking spaces; potential overspill of night lighting; and the performance of students enrolled at two existing CCCS campuses.

Lee noted that three-quarters of every tax dollar now allotted for C-USD elementary school students would be diverted to CCCS for every student enrolled at the charter school, while 25 cents of those tax dollars would still go to C-USD.

Lee also said that the test grades of CCCS students compare favorably with the results produced by Chester-Upland schools. C-USD has not achieved the state-mandated Average Yearly Progress (AYP) over the last three years, but CCCS has.

The greatest concern of 11th Street, Main Street, and Oak Lane residents is the traffic that a new school (housing 315 students and 35 staff members from 8:30am - 4pm) will bring to their neighborhood. Rodriguez claimed that the proposed traffic circulation plan and an off-street student drop-off area should be sufficient for safe ingress and egress from the school property, but neighbors were skeptical. The engineer conceded that traffic calculations were based on the assumption that the majority of students enrolled in the charter school would be walking to and from school.

Only one resident spoke in favor of a new school. Dennis Martinelli, a C-USD and Chester Boys Club volunteer, made a plea for a charter school to be allowed.

"If the people on 11th and Main streets had kids in this school district, they'd be begging for this school," Martinelli suggested.

The hearing reconvened on Nov. 30, when a 3-2 vote from borough zoners granted the special exception sought by the applicant.

A zoning hearing board ruling is only the first step in the approval process. The next step is a detailed review of the land development plan by the borough's five-member planning commission.

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**No trash will be collected
on *Monday, Dec. 26*
in observance of Christmas Day
or on *Monday, Jan. 2*
in observance of New Years Day
*** Regular trash collections will be made on
Tuesday, Dec. 27 and Jan. 3 *****

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Fire Co. To Host Santa Tours

The Upland Fire Co. will be giving Santa Claus two tours of the borough on a fire truck on **Saturday, Dec. 10**. The first starts at 10am, with Santa handing out candy canes to well-wishers along the route. The second tour starts at 5pm, weather permitting, with Santa's arrival on each street announced with blaring sirens and flashing lights.

Public Meetings and Events

**Borough Council Meeting
6pm caucus; 7pm regular voting session
Tuesday, Dec. 13
on ground floor of MacQueen Hall**

**Santa Tours Upland
10am and 5pm, Saturday, Dec. 10**

**Upland Senior Citizens Christmas Luncheon
9am-3pm, Monday, Dec. 12
second floor of MacQueen Hall
(last meeting of 2011; group reconvenes March 2012)**

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.

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

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Council Members Re-Elected

Four incumbent Republican council members were unopposed by either party and hence assured of a victory at the polls in the Nov. 8 general election.

Returning for another four-year term on Upland Borough Council will be Council President Edward Mitchell, who tallied 299 votes; Council Vice President Christine Peterson, the top vote-getter with 315 votes; and Councilmen Leland Hunter and Harold R. Peden, who garnered 280 and 281 votes, respectively.

Tax Collector Linda Mitchell was also unopposed and garnered 329 votes in being elected to her first full term as borough tax collector. Mitchell has held the post on an interim basis since September 2010, following the untimely death of longtime public servant Thomas Winfree, Sr.

School Director Richard McClintock was seeking to extend his one-year interim term on the C-USD School Board and led all candidates in Upland voting, collecting 308 votes from his fellow Uplanders. However, McClintock and four other Republican candidates were bested in district-wide voting by five Democrat candidates.

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The original hand-made costumes of the Gaines siblings (above) and Steve Shaw (below) were among those judged to be the best at this year's Youth Halloween Party on Oct. 29 at MacQueen Hall.



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Halloween Costumes Ghoulishly Good

At this year's annual Youth Halloween Party, the judges had some tough decisions to make, but declared three winners in three age groups. The ages 0-5 winners were: Caleb Gaines' Mr. Egg, Malary Karrison's duck, and Steve Shaw's robot. The ages 6-8 winners were Jacob Carnaehan's monkey, Tennessee Harper's witch, and Jasmine White's girl in pigtails. The ages 9-13 winners were Cassidy Kirby's Gumby, Amber Kester's witch, and Katie Mason's ostrich.



Above: Mayor Michael Ciach (right) and Councilman Leland Hunter, who was elected to serve as the new president of the Upland Senior Citizens Club earlier this year, enjoy the free Thanksgiving turkey dinner that the borough provided to about 100 senior residents on Nov. 12. Below: A host of volunteer servers and kitchen workers, including members of the Upland Baptist Church and members of Borough Council, kept the delicious food and friendly smiles coming until the diners could eat no more.





A visit from Santa was the highlight of the Tree Lighting Ceremony and Youth Christmas Party on Nov. 25.



The People Speak; Council Listens

Respecting the wishes of an overwhelming majority of residents, borough council has tabled a proposed ordinance that would have made it mandatory for all sewer lateral connections in the borough to be inspected and repaired over the next 10 years.

"If this is something that the town doesn't want, we won't do it. It's just that simple," said Council President Edward Mitchell.

The tabled ordinance was written to address a growing problem for sewer treatment plants, namely the costs involved with processing stormwater that has seeped into eastern Delaware County's aging sewer lines.

A crowd of about 100 residents made it clear to council at a special meeting on Oct. 1 that mandating lateral inspections for the entire borough would not be a popular edict. Many of those in opposition saw the new law - the first of its kind in Delco - as an intrusion on their rights and private property.

By foregoing mandatory inspections, borough officials are essentially agreeing to allow individual sewer systems to "go to failure." Such a policy means that each sewer lateral in the borough will be permitted to continue to deteriorate until nature takes its course and repairs are unavoidable.

"We were trying to take preemptive action through this ordinance," noted Councilman Harold R. Peden, who wrote the ordinance based on similar laws across the country.

To ease the costs associated with mandated lateral repairs, the borough had been prepared to make low-interest financing available for monthly payments. If the fix could not be financed in the short-run, the borough had offered to pay for the repairs, then lien the property to recover expended public funds at the time of future sale.

The tabled ordinance would have included a two-year period (2012 and 2013) when inspections would have only been required for homes being sold, followed by an eight-year period of mandatory inspections.

Even though the original ordinance was officially shelved at council's Oct. 11 meeting, council is still considering enacting a law that would require any and all homes being sold to have lateral inspections done prior to an ownership change. Such a law would protect new homeowners from underground sewer system problems that can cost up to \$6,000 to resolve.

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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 and meats, peanut butter, pasta, rice, and cereal.

Council Adopts New Animal-Control Law

In an effort to prepare for changes in animal control procedures, given the pending conversion of the Delco SPCA to a no-kill shelter on Jan. 1, borough council has adopted a wide-ranging set of new animal-control rules and regulations for residents.

Several aspects of the new law were suggested by Animal Control Officer David Schlott, who serves Upland and several other Delco municipalities.

One suggestion that was not adopted was limiting the number of pets that a household can keep at one time, according to Councilman Harold Peden.

Restrictions do apply to keeping livestock and other "farm" animals. While some types of small pigs can be housed as pets, most types of swine are banned. Several sections of the expanded ordinance deal with the responsibilities of a pet owner or guardian, such as annual licensing, medical care, and restraint of guard/attack dogs. Rules apply to dogs that bite people; to dogs deemed to be a neighborhood "nuisance;" and to those that are injured in a vehicular collision.

Other parts of the ordinance address the handling of stray animals. Since the SPCA will not be accepting most strays (except those that can be adopted) next year, the borough has made provision for private boarding for up to two days at the owners' expense, at a rate of \$25 per day. After the waiting period expires, unclaimed strays will be sent to an animal rescue operation or no-kill shelter, or in the case of vicious and unadoptable animals, euthanized by a veterinarian.

New regulations prohibit the burial of pets in yards, operation of a kennel, unlicensed trapping, leaving animals unattended in vehicles, and allowing a pet to ride in the open bed of a pick-up truck.

Penalties are provided for violations, including fines that range from \$50 up to \$300 for first offenses and from \$500 to \$1,000 for repeat offenders, plus the cost of prosecution.

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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**.



Diners found plenty to smile about at the Community Affairs Committee's annual spaghetti dinner fundraiser on Sept. 24.

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Upland Officer Earns Commendation

One of the borough's newest part-time police officers, Patrolman Craig Scully, was recently awarded a Gallantry Star for his actions on Nov. 4, when he took on a car full of armed suspects.

Scully, 26, graduated from the Delaware County Police Academy in June, and has only been a member of the Upland force since August. Even though the Upland PD posting is the Ridley High School alum's first law enforcement job, the manner in which the part-timer conducted himself in the face of danger was more akin to the actions of a seasoned veteran.

According to Police Chief John Easton, around 3pm on Nov. 4, Scully observed a vehicle passing through the 15mph school zone on Main Street at a high rate of speed. When he tried to pull over the vehicle carrying four male passengers, the car gained speed, heading west on Sixth Street.

In an effort to evade the police cruiser, the suspects turned on to Powell Road in the Toby Farms section of Chester Township. Travelling too fast to negotiate a turn, the driver of the speeding sedan lost control and crashed in the 400-block of WorriLOW Road. All four suspects, ages 19-20, immediately exited the vehicle and fled in different directions.

Scully radioed in his position, situation, and a description of the suspects, then began a foot pursuit of one of the runners. Hurdling fences and running down alleys, Scully managed to catch up to the fleeing suspect and wrestled him to the ground. Though the suspect resisted arrest, the officer was able to apply his handcuffs and bring the young man back to the squad car.

Having stayed in radio contact during his pursuit, Scully now updated his report to notify other police departments that two of the suspects had fled through a wooded area, crossed over Chester Creek, and were headed toward Concord Road in Chester Township. Scully's radio reports soon led to the two soaking wet suspects being apprehended by Aston police officers near Concord Road.

With his detainee secured in the police cruiser, Scully retraced the path of pursuit, finding the suspect's hat (which can be used for DNA samples) and a loaded .45-caliber semi-automatic handgun.

Although the captured suspect denied any knowledge of the discarded handgun, one of his pockets was filled with .45-caliber bullets.

Upon inspection of the crashed car, Scully then found two 9-mm. semi-automatic handguns, both "cocked, locked, and ready to rock and roll," according to Easton. Scully also found another loaded .45-caliber pistol and a cocked and loaded .50-caliber Desert Eagle semi-automatic handgun.

Although one suspect managed to temporarily escape the police dragnet, the three captured men were arraigned before a judge, who set \$250,000 bail on each, and remanded to Delaware County Prison. One week later, the fourth suspect was taken into custody during a SWAT team raid on his Wilmington home.

Officer Scully was presented with a certificate for his Gallantry Star from Easton and Mayor Michael Ciach and at Upland Borough Council's Nov. 9 meeting. For his "act of distinguished bravery," Scully received a rousing ovation from everyone in the room.

"On behalf of borough council, I'd like to congratulate you on a job well-done," stated Council Vice President Christine Peterson.

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Police Chief John Easton and Mayor Michael Ciach congratulate part-time Patrolman Craig Scully, who holds a certificate for the Gallantry Star he recently earned.

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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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BULK TRASH will not be collected curbside on the last Wednesday of December, due to the holidays.

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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. Most repairs to the Pennock House stemming from the Oct. 1, 2010 flood had been completed the week before Irene arrived.

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Welcome Day at Pusey House Cancelled

For the second year in a row, the Welcome Day celebration at the historic Caleb Pusey House on Race Street was cancelled, due to the residual effects of the flooding of Chester Creek.

Slated for the last weekend in October since 2006, the event features colonial music, re-enactors, and craft demonstrations, and marks the arrival of the sailing ship *Welcome*, which brought William Penn and the Pusey party to Chester in October 1682.

Heavy rains on Oct. 1, 2010 forced the cancellation of last year's event. This year, the culprit was the 1-2 punch delivered by Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee in late August and early September.

Although the three historic buildings that sit on the 13-acre Landingford Plantation site have substantially recovered from the repeated floods, work such as mold mitigation and heater replacement was yet to be completed in October.

Determined to triumph in the long run, the Friends of the Caleb Pusey House (the National Historic Register site's overseers) are planning a Welcome Day celebration in May. The event will kick off another season of free guided tours of the Pusey House (built in 1683), the Pennock Log House (1790), and Crozer Schoolhouse #1 (1849).

Cancellation of this year's Welcome Day did not eliminate the need for a Fall clean-up day, however. On Oct. 22, a crew of FCPH volunteers and a group of Community Service workers tackled the semi-annual task of trimming hedges, removing fallen tree limbs, pulling weeds, and cutting back shrubs.

FCPH President Ray Peden expressed his gratitude to Community Service Coordinator Walt Ohmler and the young men who lent a hand with the clean-up effort, and to the borough for donating a trash truck and Highway Foreman Chuck Boyd for the day.

Another spruce-up will be needed in Spring in preparation for Welcome Day and the resumption of weekend tours. Parties interested in participating in the clean-up, or those who want to make a donation of either money or materials to assist in the ongoing flood recovery, can contact Peden at **610-874-5665**.

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.

The selected hauler will 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 Borough 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.

The contract with B & L has 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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Recycling Program Expanded

As of May, 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.

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RECYCLE Stickers Available

Residents can now stop by the borough office in MacQueen Hall to 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.