



The Uplander



The Caleb Pusey House

MacQueen Hall

The official newsletter of historic Upland Borough

(Settled 1683; Incorporated 1869)



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Senior Citizens Do Lunch



Guitarist/Vocalist Tom Boyd's gentle renditions of classic ballads inspired Gert Rotunno of Willow Way to join in at the microphone (above) at the St. Patty's Day Ham & Cabbage Luncheon on March 19, while the talented entertainer's upbeat tunes had the ladies dancing in the aisles (below).



Family Photo ID sessions will be held at the Upland Fire Co. station from **6-8pm on Mondays, April 9 and April 23.**

The dates coincide with fire company training and recruitment nights.



At the Ham & Cabbage Luncheon, Darlene Strunk showed her affection for Upland Senior Citizens President Lee Hunter. The traditional Irish meal was provided free to all Upland senior citizens, courtesy of Borough Council's Community Affairs Committee. The new awnings on MacQueen Hall (below) were a timely addition, keeping the gathering crowd of senior citizens out of the midday sun, prior to the luncheon.



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Get Your Family Photo IDs To Enjoy All Freebies For Residents

In an effort to curb outsiders attending borough-sponsored events that residents finance through their taxes, a Family Identification Program is being instituted for 2012 offerings, starting in May.

To get a free photo ID for all your family members to use, every Upland parent and every child must come to the firehouse on McClintock Drive to get photos taken.

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Pusey House Ready To Rebound

After suffering insult and injury from three floods in the last two years, the historic Caleb Pusey House is poised to begin another season of public tours.

The 13-acre Landingford Plantation, located creekside on Race Street in the lower end of the borough, will soon be hosting an event that celebrates construction of the Pusey's English cottage in the spring of 1683.

Pusey House Foundation Day will be held from 12 - 4 pm on Saturday, May 12.

The free family-oriented event will feature guided tours of the Pusey House and Crozer Schoolhouse #1 (built 1849) next door, food and refreshments, colonial re-enactors and musicians, and colonial craft demonstrations.

Starting at 8:30am on the prior Saturday, **May 5**, the Friends of the Caleb Pusey House will host a general property clean-up to prepare for guests. All volunteers are welcome to participate and should bring a pair of work gloves.

Welcome Day, which celebrated the Chester landing of Pusey and Penn on the sailing ship *Welcome* in October 1682, had been the FCPH's annual showcase since 2006. Due to the repeated flooding of Chester Creek in September and October, however, cancellation of the popular October event has been necessary.

The FCPH is now hoping that by moving their annual celebration to the spring, the tides of fortune will literally change.

For more event information, or to schedule group tours from May through October, call FCPH President Ray Peden at **610-874-5665**.

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Parking Tax Revenue Shifted

To focus funding on two major upcoming projects, Borough Council recently approved re-allocating revenue received through the parking tax.

The borough's 10% tax on all Crozer-Chester Medical Center employee and visitor parking fees has only been in effect for two years, but has already generated over \$200,000 in borough revenue that is now being held in a special account. Moving forward, council plans to use parking tax revenue to fund the renovation and restoration of the James W. Reese Center (aka the Armory) on West 24th St. and the carriage house of the historic George Crozer estate (known as Netherleigh), located at Camp Upland off Sixth Street.

Some parking tax revenue had been used to fund a variety of community activities over the past two years. The Community Affairs Committee has been able to provide some of its own financing through fundraising events, however, and gets all the revenue generated by rentals of MacQueen Hall, which totals about \$4,000 per year.

Community Affairs Committee Chairwoman Sandra Miazza is unsure if the \$14,000 currently on hand for 2012 events will cover all the expanses, but she has been assured that no planned community events will be cut due to a lack of funding.

Changes Pending To Limited Sewer Line Inspection Ordinance

At its March 13 public meeting, Borough Council had planned to amend the wording of a recently adopted ordinance that limits mandatory sewer lateral inspections to those properties being sold to new owners and those under major renovation. But when some council members expressed discomfort with the new language during the public caucus session, it became apparent that another rewrite was needed, so the matter was tabled until the April 10 meeting.

Adoption of a limited inspection ordinance came at council's Jan. 10 meeting.

Under this ordinance, prior to sale of a property, the property owner must allow sewer line inspection and obtain a Certification of Lateral Compliance from the borough engineer or his designee.

If repairs or lateral replacement are deemed necessary as a result of the inspection, all work must be completed before a compliance certificate will be issued. Temporary Use & Occupancy permits would give a homeowner an 18-month grace period to complete repairs and get a permanent U & O.

Exactly who will cover the cost of the repairs is something that would ultimately be negotiated between the buyer and the seller.

A sewer lateral inspection is also mandated when a homeowner converts his house from a single family dwelling to a multi-family residence or apartments.

The council discussion at the March meeting focused on a provision that also required a lateral inspection if renovations worth 50% of the total value of the house were made. For Upland homes worth between \$40-\$100,000, improvements worth half the total value would be substantial.

In response to recent public comment and council discussion of this topic, the "curative" inspection ordinance that will be presented for consideration on April 10 will not include the "50% rule," according to Councilman/Ordinances & Resolutions Committee Chairman Harold R. Peden.

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Council Adopts Blight Control Ordinance

Borough Council unanimously adopted a Blight Control Ordinance at its March 13 meeting.

The ordinance creates a new chapter in the borough code to regulate "serious code violations" that impact the surrounding community.

The formal name of the proposed ordinance is the Upland Neighborhood Blight Reclamation and Revitalization Ordinance. The law allows the borough to deny permits and approvals due to existing blight conditions, and empowers the borough to take abatement measures and legal action, if necessary, to protect neighbors from "deteriorated properties that create public nuisances."

Copies of the 8-page Blight Control Ordinance are available at the borough office. This new law is **effective as of May 12, 2012.**

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Council Announces Intent To Revise Code

Two ordinance amendments are pending adoption at the Borough Council meeting on April 10.

Under Ordinance No. 5 of 2012, the borough code chapter that deals with Plumbing and Mechanical Standards will be extended to the licensing of Master and Journeyman HVAC Mechanics, as well as Master and Journeyman Plumbers.

Under Ordinance No. 6 of 2012, a 15% (of total project cost) performance/maintenance bond would be required for any person or company that has to excavate a public street or sidewalk for any reason.

Too often the borough has been left to assume the responsibility of repairing such excavations, so the borough wants to hold an amount (up to 18 months) that will allow the Public Works Department to finish uncompleted jobs, without taxpayers footing the bill.

"We're really sick and tired of people opening up the sidewalks and streets, then putting them back together again and having them sink, so that we have to bear the brunt of fixing them," stated Councilman Harold R. Peden.

Borough residents are invited to attend the April 10 council session to comment on the proposed code amendments, prior to consideration of adoption.

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Radar Speed Boxes Ordered

Borough Council has approved the purchase of two digital radar speed boxes at a total cost of under \$8,000. The portable devices will tell drivers exactly how fast they are moving on Upland's streets.

The battery-operated speed monitors can be mounted to any street sign or utility pole, and moved to different parts of the borough to be utilized wherever speeding is a problem.

One of the flashing speed signs will initially be kept on Main Street, while the other will be deployed along Sixth Street, according to Council VP/Streets & Equipment Committee Chair Christine Peterson.

The smart signs can transmit speed data directly to computers in police vehicles, giving officers an accurate log of the number and degree of speeding violations for every hour of every day. Such data will help police officers know precisely where and when enforcement is needed.

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Caution Needed On Upland Avenue Hill

Vehicles travelling eastbound up Upland Avenue hill, and particularly those that have just made a right turn off Kerlin Street, need to use caution when suddenly coming upon a row of parked cars to their right.

Even though the new left turn lane for shopping center traffic has vastly improved traffic flow on Upland Avenue, motorists still need to be alert and proceed carefully while passing by parked cars.

According to Borough Council Vice President Christine Peterson, PennDOT has already agreed to allow the borough to paint lines and/or put up additional signage to improve safety on the heavily-travelled hill.

State Challenges C-U Schools To Trim Expenses

In federal court on March 13, Pennsylvania Department of Education officials filed a 41-page report that provided the Chester-Upland School District with the remaining \$26.4 million that the state had budgeted for the current school year, but not a dime more, even though the report acknowledges that the remaining funds will be insufficient to cover all expenses through June.

Directing their comments to all Chester-Upland schools, including public schools, two charter schools, and eight cyber schools, state officials called for district leaders to "thoroughly examine and vet their expenses, making difficult financial decisions and exercising fiscal austerity" to get through the next few months.

The PDE's Report & Recommendation Regarding Funding For District & Charter Schools Serving Children in the Chester-Upland School District specifically suggests staff lay-offs and deferred bill payments as means of making ends meet, neither of which is an attractive option to the district.

District officials have agreed to third-party fiscal oversight until June, but have vowed to fight the notion of once again being placed in receivership, as some state officials are now proposing.

**The borough office will be closed on
Friday, April 6 and Tuesday, April 24,
Good Friday and Primary Election Day**

Upcoming Public Meetings and Events

**Community Easter Egg Hunt
& Breakfast with the Easter Bunny
9-11:30am on Saturday, April 7**

**Free Egg Hunt for resident kids (12 and under)
9am at Bristol Lord Field playground
Prizes for different age groups!**

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**Breakfast with the Easter Bunny
9:30-11:30am on second floor of MacQueen Hall
Full breakfast includes scrambled eggs, pancakes,
bacon, sausage, toast, juice, and coffee
Photos with Easter Bunny available!**

**Borough Council Meetings
6pm caucus; 7pm regular voting session
Tuesday, April 10
on ground floor of MacQueen Hall**

**Pennsylvania Primary Election Day
Tuesday, April 24
Polls are open from 7am to 8pm
PLEASE VOTE!**

**Grocery Bingo
1-4pm on Saturday, April 28
at Upland Baptist Church chapel**



Police Chief John Easton and Mayor Michael Ciach welcomed new Upland PD part-time officers Patrolman Jay Rattmann (far left) and Patrolman Joseph Schott .

New Officers Join Police Force

Mayor Michael Ciach swore in Patrolmen Jay Rattmann and Joseph Schott as part-time officers of the Upland Police Department on March 13. Officer Rattmann was sworn while his mother, Marilyn Strosberg, held the Bible. Officer Schott took the oath while his girlfriend, Kaitlin Ziminski, and his mother, Marcie Schott, held the Bible. Rattmann, 21, attended Broome Co. Community College for two years, and graduated from the Delaware Co. Police Academy in June 2010. He has spent the past year working as a police officer in Birmingham Township in Chester Co. Schott, 25, earned an Associates' Degree in criminal justice from Luzerne Co. Community College, and graduated from the Delaware Co. Police Academy in June 2011. His Upland posting is Schott's first law enforcement job.



Borough Tax Collector Linda Mitchell (right) was recently visited by Resident Sandra Freeman, who paid her 2012 tax bill before March 31 to get a discount. Face value is now due until May 31. After that date, penalties will be added.

Website Provides Valuable Info

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

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

Upland Business Matters

Upland Borough Council proudly supports this hometown business and encourages Upland residents to visit this establishment:



R & R Auto is operated by the father/son team of Roger and Lance Ranalli. The body shop has been located at the lower end of Upland Ave. since 1999, and in Upland since 1972.

R & R Auto

1 Upland Avenue, phone: 610-874-0171

Open Monday thru Friday from 8am to 5pm and 8am to noon on Saturdays, R & R Auto specializes in auto body work and collision and frame repair. The motto of the Ranalli family business is: *You bend it; we mend it. No job too small; no job too big.* R & R Auto uses a DuPont paint line that is guaranteed for as long as you own your car. The body shop has done work on borough vehicles for many years, and was named by Borough Council as an Upland Business of the Month in 2011.

The Ranalli's want their customers to know:

- Our shop offers reasonable prices, free vehicle pick-up and delivery, and insurance deductible assistance.
- We do State Inspections on all models of domestic and imported cars.
- We provide 24-hour towing service and have a secure parking area for storage.

Borough Shopping For New Truck

The purchase of a new salt truck for the Public Works Department has been budgeted for 2012, and the borough is now ready to go shopping. According to Council VP/Streets & Equipment Chairperson Christine Peterson, by going through the state's Co-Star program, "a pretty good price" can be expected on a full-size Ford 450 truck.

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Borough Amends Employee Handbook

Borough council recently updated the employee handbook to require all employees with Commercial Driving Licenses (CDL) to report their use of any of the drugs on a list of "controlled substances," which includes some prescription medications.

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Councilman/Code Enforcement Officer Leland Hunter recently had lettering applied to the door of the dark blue used police car that he now drives while on code enforcement duty. Hunter had previously used his own vehicle to discharge his official duties.

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Bids Sought For Auburn Village Lateral Inspections

Borough Council has authorized the borough engineer to re-advertise for bids to select a company to perform sewer lateral inspections on all Auburn Village apartments.

Last month's attempt to attract bidders failed to draw interest. According to Borough Engineer Charles Catania, the bid specifications will be changed to induce "three or four bids" the second time around.

As owner of the 156-unit apartment complex, the borough is taking a proactive approach to identifying and mitigating leaky sewer laterals that contribute to stormwater infiltration and higher sewage processing costs.

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Unlisted Homes Should Register

To enjoy the 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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How To Disconnect & Redirect Sump Pumps and Downspouts

As part of the ongoing countywide effort to reduce the amount of stormwater that infiltrates the DELCORA public sewer system, residents are being provided with tips on how to disconnect and redirect illegal sump pump and downspout connections. In wet weather, such as we've had over the past year of record-breaking rainfall, it only takes a few improperly connected sump pumps to cause a sanitary sewer back-up into nearby basements, streets, and streams.

A DELCORA brochure is now available in the lobby of the borough office that gives step-by-step instructions on how to disconnect subterranean downspout and sump pump discharge lines and redirect the outfall to proper receiver areas, such as rain gardens, lawns, or a rain barrel to store water for future use in a garden.

For more information on efforts to control stormwater infiltration, call DELCORA at 610-876-5523.



Leslie Novak of Church Street and her granddaughter Aubrey Mellor recently supervised, while Public Works Department Foreman Chuck Boyd and Patrick White spread 100 cubic yards of fresh mulch at the Bristol Lord Field playground, to prepare for the scores of Upland children that the April 7 Easter Egg Hunt will draw.

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Food Bank Offers Help

The Food Bank in 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 are accepted during the church office's regular weekday business hours, from 9am to 1pm. Helpful donations include canned vegetables, tuna and meats, peanut butter, pasta, rice, and cereal.



The finishing touches were recently put on a new 10 x 16-foot storage shed next to the Kenneth N. Miller Law Center. The secure structure will be used by the Upland PD.

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Newsletter Now Monthly Publication

The Uplander is now a monthly publication. New editions of the borough newsletter, filled with photos and news items exclusively from your hometown, will be delivered directly to every home each month. To submit photos or notices for inclusion in the newsletter, 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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Upland Police Department Investigator Steven Jackson received an Exceptional Service Award and was promoted to the rank of detective on Jan. 10. Holding his commendation and the red uniform bar that he will proudly wear, Jackson is congratulated here by Mayor Michael Ciach and UPD Chief John Easton.

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RECYCLE Stickers Available

Residents can stop by the borough office in MacQueen Hall to pick up a free **RECYCLE** sticker. 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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Medical Waste Requires Special Disposal

Residents who generate medical waste must take all biohazardous material to a disposal facility or return it to the place of purchase for proper disposal. Please **DO NOT PLACE IN TRASH CANS WITH REGULAR TRASH**, as this represents a hazard to our trash collectors.



The James W. Reese Armory complex on West 24th Street was named after a World War II recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor, from Chester, PA. The buildings are currently vacant, but will soon be bustling with activity, once Upland Borough officially takes ownership.



BULK TRASH is collected curbside on the last Wednesday of each month. Residents must call borough office to schedule pick-up and bulk items **must be placed curbside by 6am on April 25.**

Borough Invests In Records Preservation

Notebooks and folders containing Upland Borough Council meeting minutes and every law ever adopted by a long line of leaders had previously been stored on a bookshelf on the ground floor of MacQueen Hall. Some of the hand-written pages date back to the mid-1800s and have deteriorated to the point that handling them is a risky proposition. "We have to, by law, continue to keep our minutes, ordinances, and resolutions from the day the borough was incorporated (in 1869). Those records literally have to be kept and bound," said Borough Manager Shirley Purcival.

To safeguard these documents, the borough recently contracted with General Code Publishers to copy and store all the information on read-only CDs, to allow risk-free handling. The Rochester, NY-based firm charged \$4,000, plus labor costs, to put 26,000 pages of files onto two CDs, and an additional \$8,500 for the purchase of Kodak reading equipment.

Adding new files to the CD collection will be a simple matter of an annual update, at a cost of 49 cents per page.

The original paper documents that represent Upland Borough's rich history are now secure in a fireproof/explosive-proof metal storage cabinet.

Did You Know?: The City of Chester was ultimately named for a town in England, but was originally named Upland by the first Swedes who settled there, as the site reminded them of a low-lying area in Sweden called Upland.



Jenny Rae Smith held the Bible while her husband, Upland Fire Chief Dan Smith, was sworn in as an interim borough councilman by Mayor Michael Ciach on Feb. 14.

Smith Appointed To Fill Council Vacancy

Borough Council has filled a vacated council seat with the interim appointment of Daniel Smith, of Patton Avenue.

Smith will serve the final two years of Georgianna Cassidy-Hicks' second term on council. The Republican freshman will be running for election to his own four-year term in 2013.

Smith, 38, has been an Upland resident for 12 years, and has served as fire chief of the borough's volunteer fire company for the past seven years.

Smith grew up in Sharon Hill and graduated from Academy Park High School in 1991. He earned an Associate's Degree in Specialized Electrical Engineering from R.E.T.S. in 1993, and has worked as an electrical engineer in Broomall since then.

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"Having Choices Would Be Better"

- a message from Upland Borough Council President Edward Mitchell

In a perfect world, every taxpayer would be able to choose the educational institution to which that family would entrust their children's future. But the reality we face as Chester-Upland School District taxpayers is that we have little choice in the matter, as the system now stands. As a result, what we are putting our kids through is not a fair process.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's constitution guarantees every citizen of this state a "free quality education." I feel that, if the public school district cannot fulfill its mission, then individual parents should be able to decide where their kids can go to school.

I believe Chester-Upland taxpayers have two good alternative choices.

Parents need to accept private schools as a viable option and get behind a voucher system, where money designated by the state to educate a child would follow that child wherever he or she went to school.

Another alternative would be to let new Chester Mayor John Linder run the school district. The man is a professor by profession. When he ran the Village Charter School a few years ago, they made Average Yearly Progress in the first year.



Louise Wiltsie-Sauk pulls the wooden BINGO balls, surrounded by the door prizes at Grocery Bingo at the Upland Baptist Church on the last Saturday of every month.

B-I-N-G-O Spells Family Fun

The Upland Baptist Church on Main Street offers a unique form of family entertainment every month by inviting the general public to play Grocery Bingo on the second floor of the chapel.

Players of all ages have turned out over the last three years to participate in Grocery Bingo, which started as an outgrowth of the church's annual Fall Festival. Now all the money raised through Bingo card sales and kitchen proceeds goes directly into the church's Community Outreach program, making the venture a win-win situation for everyone.

Regular Grocery Bingo cards are sold at 25 cents each or five for \$1. The winner(s) of these games get to select any item found lined up on the edge of the stage. These items are generally worth \$3-4 each, and vary with whatever dry goods are currently in stock at the church's food bank.

Special Grocery Bingo cards are 50 cents each or three for \$1. These special game winners get \$5 gift certificates to local eateries, such as McDonald's.

Of course, a Saturday afternoon of Bingo-ing can make a card watcher hungry and thirsty, and that's where the volunteers in the kitchen come in, offering fresh-made hotdogs, homemade desserts, and a variety of beverages, all at family-friendly prices.

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There is no age limit when it comes to being a Grocery Bingo winner, as both Rose Redding and Ryan Laskey can attest.



Early Spring, you say? When outdoor daffodils look like this in the first week of March, it's an early Spring.

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Council Adds More Comment Time

Starting with Borough Council's Feb. 14 meeting, an additional public comment segment will now be offered at the start of each regular monthly session, allowing residents a chance to speak on any agenda items. The usual practice of allowing comment on any topic whatsoever at the end of council's business meeting will be continued.

By adding an agenda-only public comment segment, Upland Borough is following the municipal meeting format suggested under the Right To Know Act.

"Everybody has a right to present their issues in a manner in which they're comfortable. The residents are supposed to hold us to task and demand answers from us, after giving us a fair amount of time to follow up," Council President Edward Mitchell says of every resident's right to public comment.

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At the Community Affairs Committee's annual Soup and Salad fundraising dinner on Feb. 25, many residents placed take-out orders, while at MacQueen Hall, Councilman Leland Hunter went back for more homemade vegetable soup.

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Borough Fee Schedules Consolidated

For the convenience of contractors, residents, and borough employees alike, the wide variety of fee schedules that exist for borough services, permits, inspections, licenses, hearings, activities, rentals, documents, and codes have now been incorporated into one document.

The Upland Borough Comprehensive Fee Schedule will enable more convenient administration of borough business and improve citizen access to this information. This document can be picked up at the borough office or viewed and downloaded for free from the borough website.

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Zoning Code Update Nears Completion

A two-year joint effort between county and borough officials has brought the quest to update Upland Borough's zoning code close to a successful end.

A committee of borough leaders has met diligently with Delaware County Planning Department consultants to hammer out the details of modernizing a zoning code that was originally adopted in 1946, and not formally amended since 1969.

According to Councilman Harold R. Peden, who has served as chairman of the borough task force, a first draft of the revised zoning code was recently reviewed and approved by the Upland Planning Commission. The last steps in the approval process are final reviews by county planners, borough council, and the general public, all of which will happen over the next few months, with final adoption slated for May.

Peden noted that the former booklet-sized zoning code is now four times larger and has become a one-inch-thick book.

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A new service bar was recently installed on the second floor of MacQueen Hall as an accommodation for the many public events that are held at the venue. The large community room was also repaneled with wood-grain paneling that replicates that original paneling used in the 90-year-old structure. The woodwork was done by Master Carpenter/Borough Building Inspector Joe "Parker" Ferguson, who refurbished the council table in the ground floor meeting room last year.

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New Doors Coming Soon

According to Auburn Village Committee Chairperson Christine Peterson, the installation of new rear doors will soon begin on Auburn Village rental units, on an as-needed basis. Samples of the new storm and screen doors are on display in the lobby of the borough office in MacQueen Hall.

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