



The Uplander



The Caleb Pusey House

MacQueen Hall

The official newsletter of historic Upland Borough

(Settled 1683; Incorporated 1869)



Vol. 2-8; August 2012 edition



Annual July 4th Picnic Draws Record Crowd



It's hard to beat free pony rides - just ask Tyaire Burch of Glenway Avenue...but getting a chance to aim a fire hose is pretty cool too, says John Burgess of Clearwater Lane.



In attendance at the Family Picnic were Seventh Street residents Carissa Long holding her sister Jordana Long (left) and Holly with her son Bryson Armour.

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Extra style points must be awarded to sisters 7-year-old Ashai Young (right) and 2-year-old Heaven Bowens of Third Street, because you can never get too dressed up for face painting.

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Council Considers Tax Repeal

Tax Repeal - possibly the most popular two-word phrase in the English language - is being discussed by Borough Council and could be enacted by 2013. Councilwoman/Finance Committee Chairperson Moira Crawford announced at Council's July 10 meeting that the borough's longstanding \$10 per capita tax is being considered for repeal. Assessed on every Upland resident 18 years of age or older, the per capita tax generates about \$12,000 in annual revenue, while costing the borough about \$2,500 for mailings and delinquent collections. In short, the per capita tax is simply not worth the trouble to collect, so council will be weighing adoption of an ordinance that would repeal the tax, effective as of January 2013.

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Emergency Generator Will Make MacQueen Hall A Shelter

At its July 10 meeting, Borough Council authorized the borough engineer to take bids for an emergency generator. Once the generator is in place to ensure an uninterrupted power supply, MacQueen Hall can be officially designated as an emergency shelter for Upland residents in the event of a disaster. "This will take us one step closer to making MacQueen Hall our emergency management facility," said Councilman/Fire Chief Dan Smith. Dozens of fold-out cots, blankets, and pillows are already stored at MacQueen Hall.

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Borough Solicitor To Join Code Officer In Court

At the behest of Borough Council, Borough Solicitor Robert O'Connor will now accompany Code Enforcement Officer Leland Hunter to district court, in cases where a repeat offender or non-payment of previous citations is involved. It is hoped that the extra billable hours for O'Connor will be more than offset by the issuance of stiffer fines, for which a lawyer may be able to present a better argument than a code officer. Hunter noted that a judge recently handed out a \$50 fine for a violation that calls for a \$1,000 to \$10,000 fine in the borough code book. The goal of stricter enforcement of the borough code - and greater penalties for violators - is to maintain a safe living environment for families. "We have property owners who are thumbing their nose at the borough code, but the people who pay the price are the ones who are living in a house that may be unsafe," noted Councilman Harold R. Peden.

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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 August 29.

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Public Works Hours To Be Monitored

Council VP/Streets & Equipment Committee Chairwoman Christine Peterson and Borough Manager Shirley Purcival recently met with Public Works Department personnel to lay out a calendar of regular activities, which will help everyone keep an accurate account of how many hours are needed to complete certain tasks. Last year, a third man was added to the department to keep pace with demands. But this year, the scheduling demands have changed, in the wake of the borough no longer doing its own trash collections, while adding the monthly delivery of this newsletter to every Upland home. According to Peterson, by keeping track of the hours spent on each assigned task, borough officials will be better able to judge the need for a third man in the Public Works Department.

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Fire officials wish to remind residents that all property addresses must be clearly visible from the street and must be displayed in numbers at least 3 inches in height. Non-compliance with this safety mandate is a borough code violation and can lead to citations.

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Permits Required For Pools; Insurance Recommended

Residents with swimming pools 24-inches deep or deeper on their property must obtain a permit from the borough office. The fee for a pool permit is based on the cost of the pool and installation. Pool owners must have a fenced-in yard and a plot plan to show exactly where the pool will sit. There is no borough law that requires a property owner to have liability insurance, but borough officials strongly suggest that all pool owners be so protected. All Auburn Village residents must submit a written pool request to the borough (their landlord) for any size pool, and must have renters insurance and a locked pool enclosure. All Auburn Village pools must be taken down in the Fall.

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Bid Approved For Fire Truck

Borough Council recently approved the purchase of a new fire truck for the Upland Volunteer Fire Co. Final authorization is pending confirmation of a loan. The fully-equipped engine is expected to cost about \$750,000, while the lone bidder (Foley Fire Apparatus of Piscataway, NJ) came in at \$604,990 for the base vehicle. The sole bid was accepted by Council, contingent on securing a low-interest bank loan - a process that is close to completion. In other fire company matters, membership in the all-volunteer Upland Fire Co. No. 1 is still on the rise, with seven new members joining this summer to swell the ranks to 22 active firefighters. In recent months, the Upland Fire Co. has consistently turned out an average of seven runners for each and every fire call received.

C-USD Clears Hurdles For 2012-13

The end of June saw several developments that brought the Chester-Upland School District's fiscal picture into focus for the upcoming school year.

The school board's unanimous adoption of a \$101.4 million final budget on June 28 included a 2.7% property tax increase for all district residents - the maximum allowed under Act 1, without a voter referendum.

To balance the operating budget, the district needs \$75.7 million in revenue from the state (including \$49 million for basic education; \$5 million for special-ed; \$1.9 million for transportation), and just under \$14 million from real estate taxes.

About three-quarters of the general budget will be spent on student instruction. No existing educational programs were cut, and full-day Kindergarten will be brought back in September.

Eight security officers were laid off, but the only other staff cuts came through attrition or retirement.

To reduce fixed costs, the district's buildings will be reconfigured as follows: Pre-K to 5th-grade classes will be held in Columbus, CUSA, Stetser, and Main Street Elementary Schools; 6th thru 8th-grade classes will be held at Showalter and Toby Farms Intermediate Schools; and grades 9 thru 12 will attend Chester High and a STEM/Magnet school.

C-USD also reached a tentative settlement in its lawsuit against the PA Department of Education in late June. While the details are pending a July 27 hearing and a final hearing on Aug. 15, the basic terms include the state paying off nearly \$30 million in C-USD debt, while providing an additional \$9.7 million in subsidies for the upcoming school year. The additional state funding covers the projected revenue shortfall in the district's preliminary budget.

Chester-Upland is likely to be formally labeled as a district in financial distress, which will allow the PDE to appoint a chief recovery officer to oversee the development of a financial recovery plan, giving the state greater control over the district's future.

Other developments in C-USD leadership include the school board recently extending the contract of Acting District Superintendent Tony Watson through September. In the wake of the July departure of Chief Financial Officer Robert Bruchak, Acting Deputy Superintendent Thomas Persing has now added acting chief financial officer to his title.

The new school year starts on Tuesday, Sept. 4.

Be a good neighbor:

**Please walk your dog on a leash
and pick up after your pet.**

**Help prevent West Nile Virus:
Clean out gutters, discard old tires
and pottery, and fill in wet areas
to eliminate stagnant water
on your property.**

Sweep Up Grass Clippings

All property owners are reminded of the need to cut their grass on a regular basis. Unattended grass in excess of 6 inches in height will generate a citation from the code enforcement officer.

Whether you do your own grass cutting or hire a professional, **clippings must be swept up from the street and sidewalk areas** and discarded with the trash. Grass clippings left along the curb line often end up clogging storm drainage inlets, which is **a major cause of roadway flooding.**

Upcoming Public Meetings and Events

Borough Council Meetings

6pm caucus; 7pm regular voting session
**Tuesday, Aug. 14 (returned to regular date);
Sept. 11; and Oct. 9**
on ground floor of MacQueen Hall

Wilmington Blue Rocks Game for Upland Youth (ages 8-15)

Friday, Aug. 17
Bus leaves MacQueen Hall at 5:00pm

Annual Fireworks Display

starts at dusk on Sunday, Sept. 2
at Bristol Lord Field
Refreshments for sale at pavilion

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

4-7pm on Saturday, Sept. 22
on second floor of MacQueen Hall
Eat-in and Take-out orders available

Annual Youth Halloween Party

starts at 4pm on Saturday, Oct. 27
MacQueen Hall

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 of community events.

A new website feature will highlight borough council meeting minutes of yesteryear, to give today's residents a glimpse into the issues that concerned Uplanders in the past.

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



The 2012 Fourth of July Family Picnic featured the first annual Upland Cops 'n Kids Kickball Game, with the mixed teams playing the inaugural tilt to a 4-4 tie. Despite the heat, a good time was had by all, while the borough's youth got to see another side of their favorite police officers. (Above) Co-Captains Nick Maraini (on base) and Nelson Ocasio (with ball) have a friendly exchange after Nick booted a double off Ocasio's fast ball; (Below) Even the youngest participants made some impressive plays in the field and displayed some serious footwork at the plate, but it was the feeling of team camaraderie that really won the day.



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'Midnight Madness' Is SAT Help, B-Ball Tourney
The Youth Interlock Society's Midnight Madness event combines a free SAT training session with 15 All-Star Basketball games at Chester High School on **Sept. 8 and 9**.

The SAT Strategy Session is slated for 8:30am-noon on Saturday, Sept. 8. SAT strategy books will be given to the first 100 high school students.

The All-Star Basketball Tournament will start each day at noon, featuring some of the best male and female players in the region. A crowd of thousands and cable television coverage of the games is expected. Admission is \$10 per person.

For more information, or to sponsor a team or purchase an ad in the ad booklet, call Leon McMillan at **267-882-2204**.

Upland Business Matters

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



The Sam & Sam Meats storefront sign is a familiar sight to many Uplanders, and the deli counter inside is always one of the grocery store's busiest areas.



Sam & Sam Meats

851 Upland Avenue

phone: 610-874-9484

website: samansammeats.com

This family-owned full-size grocery store was founded by Samuel J. Kushto, Jr. in Chester in 1983; moved to Toby Farms in 1991; and has had its lone location in the Upland Shopping Center since 2008. Despite the store's name suggesting otherwise, Sam is a sole proprietor.

The independent store employs 92 locals and offers groceries, fresh produce (including fruit baskets and veggie trays), dairy products, frozen foods, deli products (including party trays), while specializing in fresh meats. Store hours are 7am-7pm, Monday thru Saturday and from 7am-6pm on Sundays.

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Sam & Sam Meats wants their customers to know:

- We have weekly advertised specials AND unannounced specials, whenever we can pass savings along to our customers.
- We have fair, honest prices - no gimmicks - just LOW prices.
- We started doubling all coupons in June and plan to continue the practice.
- We donate to local food banks and support local charities and youth sports clubs.
- We welcome WIC customers and accept food stamps and all credit cards (except American Express).
- Look for discounted prices at our annual Anniversary Sale in late Sept./early Oct.

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RECYCLE STICKERS AVAILABLE

Residents can pick up a free **RECYCLE** sticker at the borough office. A **RECYCLE** sticker on a trash can will augment the red recycling collection cans.

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Upland Gets Bike Patrol Grant

Upland Borough recently received a \$5,000 grant from the Delaware County Housing Authority. The funds are earmarked for police bike patrols in the lower end of the borough during the summer.

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Borough Inspectors Working Together

Fire Marshal David Favinger met with all borough inspectors (including Building Inspector Joseph Ferguson, Electrical Inspector James Skulski, and Plumbing Inspector Tom Kennedy) in mid-July to plan strategies for the timely completion of mandatory fire and building safety inspections of every Upland business (done every other year) and every rental property (done every third year). Commercial inspections have been ongoing this summer.

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How **HOT** was it at the July Fourth Family Picnic?...



While Borough Employee Chuck Boyd couldn't hand out ice cold beverages fast enough...

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...the White family of Church Street enjoyed the refreshing water ice, soda, and bottled water.

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Some folks resorted to unconventional methods of keeping cool...



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...but it's never too hot to do the Macarena!

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Improvements Moving Forward

According to Auburn Village Committee Chairperson Christine Peterson, ongoing improvements to the Auburn Village apartment complex are now nearing completion of Phase II.

Concrete work, which included sidewalk, patio and step replacement in the amount of \$13,032, was finished in July.

A year-long Auburn Village re-roofing project will be completed this summer, with the last of the new shingles to be laid in August.

Twenty new storm doors were recently purchased and will be installed on an as-needed basis. More doors will be bought and installed as funds permit.

Exterior stucco and painting work will be the next building upgrade.

Phase III of the long-term upgrade plan is on deck, including repair work to Auburn Village porches, Peterson noted.

Beyond Auburn Village, Borough Council recently purchased three large planters for the Upland Avenue intersections at 22nd Street, Kerlin Street, and 8th Street, and four new picnic tables with benches for Bristol Lord Field.

Meanwhile, the ground floor of MacQueen Hall is slated for new carpeting in the council meeting room, the vestibule, and borough offices.

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Ordinance Tweak Will Clarify 'Mobile Home' Restriction

At its Aug. 14 session, Borough Council is planning to adopt a curative amendment to the existing ordinance that prohibits the parking of trailers and RVs on borough streets.

During the recent overhaul of the borough's zoning code, officials found that the broad term "mobile homes" was originally used in Chapter 120 of this ordinance, but that term has now come to mean something other than the intended definition.

According to Councilman/Ordinance & Resolutions Committee Chairman Harold R. Peden, the original intent of the 'mobile home' ban was to restrict residents from living out of a trailer or recreational vehicle that was parked on a borough street. The amended ordinance will still prohibit "the use of automobile trailers or mobile homes for dwelling purposes," with exceptions outlined under the Mobile Home Regulations section of the code.

Residents can temporarily park a boat, trailer or RV at the borough garage on Fourth Street, whenever space is available in the lot.

To obtain a free limited-time parking permit, residents must submit a written request to the borough office, while providing proof of insurance and having up-to-date state vehicle registration and tags. Call the borough office at **610-874-7317** to confirm that space is available. Spaces are offered on a first-come basis, with Auburn Village residents getting preference, as their parking space is limited.

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Grants Help Fund Education

The Chester-Upland School District recently received \$158,309 and the Widener Partnership Charter School got \$114,061 in grants from the 21st Century Community Learning Challenge Program. The federally-funded grants were allocated by the PA Department of Education, and are intended to provide additional educational services to students in high-poverty or low-performing schools.

A total of nearly \$20 million was divided between 61 applicants in Pennsylvania.

"These grants are important because they help fund programs which supplement traditional classroom work, giving our students additional opportunities to achieve and excel," said State Senator Dominic Pileggi.

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It's particularly convenient on Independence Day that the favorite baseball team of 3-year-old Nora and M. J. Gilbert of Church Street just happens to have patriotic colors.

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Chester Plan Could Benefit Upland

The City of Chester's updated comprehensive plan aims to stimulate new business growth and rehabilitate housing, but one aspect of the long-term plan could have a major impact on Upland Borough. Chester's new comprehensive plan calls for the dredging of Chester Creek. Making the creek bed deeper would allow for the passage of more water volume through the portion of the creek that runs through both Upland and Chester, resulting in fewer flooding incidents.

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Road Program Completed

A.F. Damon, Inc., of Upland, won the contract for the borough's 2012 road program with a low bid of \$79,922 in May. Before the month of June was even half over, the designated repaving work had all been completed.

The roadways that received a fresh coat of asphalt included Front St.; Main St.-from 3rd to Front Sts.; Upland Ave.-between 3rd and 4th Sts.; 9th St.-from Main St. to Woodside Ave.; Church St.-from 10th St. to Chelton Rd.; the bottom of 5th St. at Upland Ave. Streets & Equipment Committee Chairperson Christine Peterson noted at Borough Council's June 12 meeting that A.F. Damon crews "did a great job" in fulfilling the contract well ahead of schedule.

Newsletter Now Monthly Publication

New editions of *The Uplander*, filled with photos and news items from your hometown, are delivered directly to every Upland home each month.

To submit items of public interest, send to the borough office at 224 Castle Avenue, Upland, PA 19015 or via email to kennstark@comcast.net. The borough reserves the right to edit all submissions.

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The borough's seniors ate well (and for free!) at the Senior Citizen Breakfast at MacQueen Hall on June 4.



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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.

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Pusey House Rebounds; Open For Tours

The 13-acre Landingford Plantation, located creekside on Race Street in the lower end of the borough, is once again offering public tours.

The site features Caleb Pusey's quaint cottage, which was built in the spring of 1683 and is now the oldest English cottage in America and the only place still standing that can verify visits by William Penn.

The Friends of the Caleb Pusey House (FCPH) hosted their annual Welcome Day celebration on a sun-drenched May 12 to kick off the new touring season. The free family-oriented event featured guided tours of the Pusey House and Crozer Schoolhouse #1 next door, food and refreshments, colonial re-enactors, and craft demonstrations.

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

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Security Improved At Historic Site

In an effort to help preserve Upland's prized historic resources, Borough Council recently donated three new security cameras, all of which will be installed on the 13-acre grounds of Landingford Plantation, where (in 1683) the Caleb Pusey party built the oldest English cottage still in existence in America.

The Pusey cottage and the nearby Pennock Log House (c.1790) have both suffered superficial damage from vandals in recent months. While the installation of 24/7 surveillance cameras might not stop teen vandalism on the historic site, the videotape evidence they provide will help the police department bring the perpetrators to justice.

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Representing the spirit of Welcome Day on May 12, Friends of the Caleb Pusey House President Ray Peden (left) and FCPH Board Member Dave Hay dressed in colonial garb to welcome visitors to the historic Pusey House.

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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. 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 controlling stormwater infiltration, **call DELCORA at 610-876-5523**.

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Did You Know?: The Philadelphia waterfront area known as Penn's Landing has no historical significance. Philly officials paid the City of Chester to borrow the name when the riverfront site was developed as a tourist attraction in the 1970s.



The Upland Borough Council members who attended this year's Pennsylvania State Association of Borough's annual conference, including (left to right) Mayor Michael Ciach, Councilwoman Moira Crawford, Councilman Harold R. Peden, Council Vice President Christine Peterson, and Council President Edward Mitchell, each received a certificate for their participation. Peden received a special honor in the Cecil K. Leberknight Award, which recognizes his continuous participation over the last 10 years.

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Upland PD Preps For Illegal Truckers

Under a recently negotiated three-municipality pact, the Scale House on Third Street in Chester will soon be helping Upland and Parkside police officers keep oversized vehicles off borough roads. The fee for each truck weighed will be \$100, but the payoff for the boroughs will be much greater.

"I'm tickled to death over this tri-municipal agreement," Council President Edward Mitchell said of the cooperative effort. "This is a big plus for us."

Several Upland intersections (Sixth and Main Streets, in particular) have repeatedly been the scene of property and/or utility pole and wire damage caused by tractor-trailers that are not supposed to be using residential streets.

PennDOT and the Pennsylvania State Police offer special training courses for police officers to certify them for oversize-vehicle stops and roadside inspections. In June, two Upland officers (Patrolmen William Meyer and Sean Dougherty) completed a five-day PennDOT course on truck-weighing procedures, according to Easton. The pair attended a three-day course offered by the state police in July, to be certified for roadside inspections.

"Once we get two officers certified, we're going to be on these trucks like flies on honey," said Easton. While the goal of curbing illegal truck traffic is the safety and well-being of borough residents, Easton admits that the financial rewards for enforcement are another incentive. Despite trucking citations often being thousands of dollars, having a truckload of cargo impounded is generally not an option for truckers, so citations are commonly paid "almost instantly" with a credit card, Easton noted.

In a related matter, Easton has informed Borough Council that he will be petitioning the PA State Police to allow the Upland PD to have jurisdiction over the fraction of a mile of I-95 that passes through the borough's eastern side. Easton noted that the state has recently turned over the patrol duties for other high-volume highways to local police departments, so he is hoping that a similar move will soon increase Upland's patrol area slightly, but quite significantly.

Ball-Playing Restrictions Clarified To Reflect Original Intent

Since 1969, the borough has had a law that prohibits certain activities in all public parks, and restricts ball playing in three parks, where playground equipment presents a hazard.

Ball playing is not allowed in Hill Street Park, Third Street Park, and in the Crozer Memorial Playground at Bristol Lord Field for safety reasons.

Ball playing is, of course, permitted on the baseball diamond at Bristol Lord Field.

Council Vice President Christine Peterson was the first to object to the notion of restricting "a 5-year-old from playing with a rubber ball," while she agreed with prohibiting older kids from playing with hardballs near houses.

During public comment at the May 8 meeting, Peterson was joined in dissent by a concerned resident, who said: "That's what the parks are there for, otherwise the kids will be playing ball in the streets."

With the language of the long-standing statute being questioned from both sides of the council table, Ordinance & Resolutions Committee Chairman Harold R. Peden suggested that the matter be tabled. He then reworded the restrictions to better reflect the true intent of the law, which is to prevent injuries and property damage.

At Council's June 12 session, two new sections were added to the longstanding ordinance to define "Ball playing" and put to rest any confusion.

The reworded ordinance now states: "The term "ball playing" shall be intended to include activities that are normally associated with practicing or playing the team-oriented sports of baseball and softball, where a bat and a ball are used. This section is not intended to limit activities of small children playing with wiffle balls, kick balls, large bouncy balls and the like."

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Revised Sewer Inspection Ordinance Adopted

On May 8, a revised sewer lateral inspection ordinance was unanimously adopted by Borough Council. Under this ordinance, prior to sale of a commercial or residential property (where buildings are more than 15 years old), the property owner must allow a video inspection of the sewer line from the building to the street to obtain a Certification of Lateral Compliance from the borough engineer.

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.

Who will cover the cost of the repairs is a matter to be negotiated between the buyer and the seller.

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

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