



The Caleb Pusey House

The Uplander



MacQueen Hall

The official newsletter of historic Upland Borough

(Settled 1683; Incorporated 1869)



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Fireworks Wow the Crowd



(Above) Skip Markacs (left) and Gerry Mack of D & M Fireworks Co. inspect the launching tubes loaded with 1,020 2-inch, 3-inch, and 4-inch shells; (Below) As dusk gathers, the fuses that set off the special-effects boxes (each loaded with 150-1,000 individual charges) are double-checked.



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The Blissick and Steigerwalt families came out early to set up prime seats for the display (above); While the Fitz family of Mulberry Street watched from the bleachers (below).



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And just in case anything went wrong, a half dozen fire companies and scores of firefighters, including Upland's own Company No. 1 volunteers, were on hand to intervene.



...and some families just grabbed an open picnic table.

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Council Restricts 'Unlawful Loitering'

At the Sept. 11 meeting, Borough Council adopted two ordinances. One new law could have far-reaching consequences for some residents, as the borough addresses the issue of unlawful loitering.

In creating Chapter 110 of the borough code, Council is attempting to accurately define loitering, while providing significant penalties for violators.

One type of unlawful loitering is "persons on public property, public places, or business property (that) impede, obstruct or otherwise interfere with access to places open to the public or public rights-of-way." Under this new ordinance, the formal definition of loitering is now: "Remaining idle or gathering essentially in one location; lingering, including sitting or standing in or outside a motor vehicle; spending time idly; loafing or walking about aimlessly in a vicinity or neighborhood; or 'hanging out.'"

The new law also intends "to prohibit parents and/or guardians of minors, under age 18, from enabling or permitting said minors to loiter in any public or semi-public areas of the Borough."

Violators will be subject to fines of at least \$100, up to \$600, plus costs. Non-payment of fines and costs can result in imprisonment for up to 30 days.

Council Vice President Christine Peterson praised the new law enforcement tool as "a lovely thing" - a sentiment that was unanimous on Council.

While the loitering ordinance will help police target drug-related activity, Chapter 110 does not apply to orderly picketing, demonstrating, or other forms of free speech or the right to assemble, which are guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution.

The other agenda item that was formally adopted on Sept. 11 was an ordinance amendment, which attached a time limitation of one year for actual construction to begin, following the borough granting a special exception or variance to the borough code.

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Per Capita Tax Slated For Repeal

Councilwoman/Finance Committee Chairperson Moira Crawford announced at Council's July 10 meeting that the borough's longstanding \$10 per capita tax was being considered for repeal.

At the Oct. 9 meeting, the proposal will likely become a reality, as the tax repeal is slated for adoption, effective as of January 1, 2013.

Assessed on every Upland resident 18 years of age or older, the per capita tax had generated about \$12,000 in annual revenue, while costing the borough about \$2,500 for mailings and delinquent collections. In short, the per capita tax was simply not worth the trouble to collect.

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Subdivision Hearing Slated

A public hearing will be held at the Upland Planning Commission meeting at MacQueen Hall, starting at 7pm, on **Tuesday, Oct. 2**. Any parties interested in a proposed subdivision at 1103 Woodside Avenue, where a large vacant lot would be converted into two lots, are encouraged to attend.

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Main Street Widening Proposed

The portion of Main Street that funnels traffic into a narrow two-lane gauntlet has always been a traffic safety hot spot in the borough.

"We want the engineers to take a look at that and see what can be done to open that up," Council President Ed Mitchell recently said of the stretch of Main Street, from 13th Street (the borough border with Brookhaven) down to 8th Street.

Mitchell said that the widening project could take years to complete, tackling one block at a time, if necessary, and moving the existing stone wall on the north side of the road back about 15 feet.

Mitchell realizes that this transportation improvement will not be popular with Main Street residents that lose a piece of their properties, but he feels that the proposed widening would be a safety plus for many motorists.

"This is a long-range plan, and not something we have the money for now," Mitchell noted.

A street plan that shows the extent of proposed Main Street widening is now on display in the borough office lobby.

Mitchell noted that some street widening will likely be a prerequisite to the construction of a charter school at the corner of 11th and Main. The charter school operators have announced their intent to open by September 2013, but so far, no site work has been done.

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.

One 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.

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

Council Plans To Adopt Fire Prevention/Emergency Entry Regs

At Borough Council's Oct. 9 meeting, three ordinance amendments will be weighed for adoption. Under Chapter 85, the Fire Prevention section will be changed to add the standards included in the 2003 edition of the International Fire Code; while a new section would require certain structures to have an exterior lock box installed, to give emergency responders rapid entry access.

Another pending ordinance will create a schedule of reasonable costs associated with the collection of delinquent earned income and net profits taxes.

Uplanders Get Regional Recognition

Two of Upland Borough's favorite sons were recently given the honor of being named to leadership positions in regional government organizations.

Borough Council President Edward Mitchell, who is currently serving his fifth consecutive year as council president, and also has six previous years on council and 16 years as a Chester-Upland School Board member under his belt, was recently named to serve on the board of directors of the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs.

Mayor Michael Ciach, who has served 13 years as a councilman and the last seven years as mayor, was recently seated to serve as the vice president of the Delaware County Association of Boroughs.

Congratulations to both men on their well-deserved recognition!

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Fight Against West Nile Virus Ramps Up

2012 has been the worst year yet, since West Nile Virus first appeared in the United States in 1999. Worse still, the active mosquito season lasts until the first hard frost, so more WNV cases are bound to arise.

As of late August (near the peak of the May-October season), a total of 1,118 cases of West Nile Virus had been reported in 38 states, including 41 deaths. Texas has been hardest hit, but every state that had a mild winter, followed by a hotter-than-average summer, has also seen rising WNV numbers.

In Pennsylvania, two women recently contracted WNV, with a Franklin County resident being hospitalized with meningitis, while the Lancaster County resident only had a fever.

Delaware County has mobilized to prevent the spread of WNV-carrying mosquitoes by recently spraying low-lying portions of several municipalities, including Norwood, Ridley Park, Prospect Park, Glenolden, and Folcroft - all communities that border the marshlands of Heinz Wildlife Refuge.

All Delco residents are being urged to take this health threat seriously and join nationwide efforts to stem the WNV tide by taking the following precautions:

- *Use insect repellants (but not on infants)
- *Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants outdoors, especially around dawn and dusk
- *Eliminate standing/stagnant water around your home
- *Install or repair window and storm door screens
- *Use air conditioning, when possible

There is no cure or specific treatment for West Nile Virus.

About 20% of WNV patients develop symptoms such as headache, joint pain, fever, skin rash, or swollen lymph glands. Only about 1% of those infected with WNV will develop paralysis or cognitive difficulties.

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Upcoming Public Meetings and Events

Borough Council Meetings

6pm caucus; 7pm regular voting session
Tuesday, Oct. 9; Nov. 13; and Dec. 11
on ground floor of MacQueen Hall

Annual Youth Halloween Party

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

Annual Holiday Dinner for Seniors

6pm on Saturday, Nov. 10
at MacQueen Hall

**Free to all Upland senior citizens;
Register w/ borough office (610-874-7317) by Oct. 29**

5th Annual Holiday Tree Lighting; Youth Christmas Party with Santa

Tree lighting at 6pm;
Christmas Party starts at 6:30pm
on Friday, Nov. 23
at MacQueen Hall

*****For Santa to have a gift for your child (ages 10 or under), parents or guardians must pre-register with the borough office by Nov. 9.
- No exceptions will be made this year.**

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Upland Baptist Church Events

Every Monday Night (6:30-7:30pm) - VBS Night offers Vacation Bible School to children in grades K-6. Sessions include singing, playing games, a Bible lesson, and sometimes a craft.
Sunday, Oct. 14 (10:45am) - Celebrate the Faith worship service recognizes 56th anniversary of rededication of church chapel after 1955 fire.
Saturday, Oct. 27, and last Sat. of every month (1-4pm) - Grocery Bingo
Wednesday, Oct. 31 (6-8pm) - Trunk-or-Treat offers candy handouts to kids in the parking lot.

Fireworks Make An Impression

At Borough Council's Aug. 14 meeting, a motion was unanimously passed to add \$2,500 to the \$5,000 pricetag for this year's fireworks display to get "the same show as Harrah's Casino," according to Community Affairs Chairwoman Sandra Miazza.

At Council's Sept. 11 meeting, in the wake of an eye-popping Labor Day weekend show at Bristol Lord Field, the consensus was that the extra money was worthwhile to create what many were calling "the best municipal show in the county."

"The whole thing seemed like it was the finale!" Council President Ed Mitchell marveled.

Fire Chief Dan Smith publicly thanked the volunteer fire companies from Essington, Brookhaven, Eddystone, Parkside, Chester Township, and Folsom for their assistance in keeping the borough safe during the show.

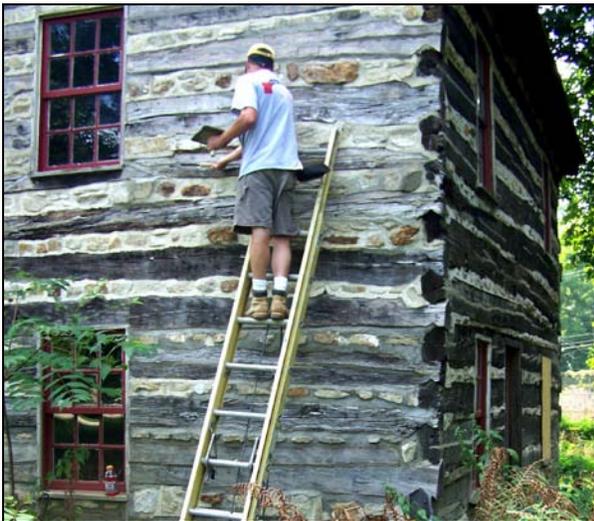


Though the camera fails to capture all the luster of the Labor Day fireworks display, these photos give you some idea of what you may have missed.





Bad guys, beware: This powerful 2013 Chevy Tahoe 4 X 4 is the latest addition to the Upland PD fleet.



Re-thinking the logs of the Pennock Loghouse (built 1790) was done by craftsmen this summer, but the restoration and preservation of the structure is only partially complete. Once the walls are shored up even better, the interior will be restored, so that the historic loghouse can once again be enjoyed by visitors to Landingford Plantation on Race St.

Upland Business Matters

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



Gary Timmes, of GT Realtors, works with his wife, Bobbi, who also serves as Gary's assistant in the many sports-related activities that the Timmes family supports.

G T Realtors

corner of 8th St. & Upland Ave. (second floor)
 phone: **484-816-0762** (office); **610-637-8731** (cell)
 website: www.gtrealtorsonline.com

This family-owned and operated brokerage business was established in 2008. Although the Timmes family has lived in Aston for the last 15 years, Gary was born and raised in Upland and says: "No matter what address is on my driver's license, Upland will always be my home."

Gary started his real estate career in 2005, working for Century 21, after spending a dozen years in home construction and as a property investor. Despite breaking his neck and back in a 2009 car accident, Gary managed to outsell every other real estate agent in Southeast PA over the next two years, earning him Philadelphia Magazine's Five-Star rating for 2010 and 2011.

The Timmes are proud parents to four children, ages 8-14, and have volunteered much of their time supporting and coaching local sports programs, including Brookhaven girls softball and basketball, Northley Middle School football, and the Upland Hurricanes youth football team.

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Gary Timmes wants his customers to know:

- We outsell all our competitors by a 3:1 margin, because we can work with anyone and do any deal - "Even if it doesn't fit in the box, we can still get it done."
- Our creative options for financing turn renters into homeowners every day. We are the only brokerage with a \$500-down program.
- We believe kids and pets are part of the family, so we encourage them to come along on visits to our office.



In September, workmen from Ellis Construction of Glen Mills applied a fresh coat of paint to the stucco walls of this Elm Lane home.

AV Improvements "Looking Good"

With the recent completion of Phase II Auburn Village improvements, including new roofing, storm doors, and concrete work, the upgrades outlined in Phase III have begun with exterior stucco walls being repaired and painted on some porches.

"The units are really looking good from the street," Auburn Village Committee Chairwoman Christine Peterson said of the recent work.

On the ground floor of MacQueen Hall, new carpeting was recently installed to give borough offices, the lobby, and the public meeting room a fresh look.

Meanwhile, the end of summer signals the time for public property at Bristol Lord Field to be put away.

Electricity to the park's pavilion was recently shut off, and picnic tables and porta-potties were put into storage, but not before the latter was vandalized, as if to emphasize the need for winter storage.

Dead Trees Will Be Replaced

The dozen spruce trees that had been planted last year alongside the newly-paved Elm Lane parking lot in Auburn Village all died this summer, due to a lack of watering. Members of the Upland Volunteer Fire Co. had watered the trees on occasion, but not enough for the young trees to survive one of the warmest and driest summers on record.

The parched remains of the dead trees were recently removed by township workers, but the evergreen buffer will be replanted this fall.

During Council's Sept. 11 caucus session, Council VP Christine Peterson suggested the purchase of 300-gallon water barrels, that the public works department could utilize as portable containers for watering and weed spraying in summer, and dispensing road brine in winter.

Peterson's suggestion was well-received by Council, but no immediate decisions were made.

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.

Upland Keeps Pace With Pensions

To keep the pension plans of police officers and non-uniformed borough employees fully funded, the borough recently had to budget minimum obligation payments for both funds for fiscal year 2013.

The Upland Police Pension Plan will require a payment of \$54,059 next year, representing a slight increase over this year's minimum payment, while the Upland Non-Uniformed Pension Plan will require a payment of \$33,398, which is about the same amount as 2012.

The police department's pension requirements are much greater than other borough employees, due primarily to the number of police officers and the relative youth of most of the department.

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Generator Installation Pending; 11th St. Extension On Deck

According to Borough Engineer Charles Catania, the installation of a recently purchased emergency generator for MacQueen Hall should get underway by mid-October.

The planned construction of a 250-foot-long 11th Street extension (which would connect 11th to Hill Street) must first be reviewed and approved by the Delaware County Office of Housing & Development. Once approved, the project can be put out to bid, which should be possible "two or three months" from now, Catania said.

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Too Many Cars Hurt Neighbors

A Third Street resident recently came before Borough Council to complain about the number of cars that her neighbors leave parked on the street. Even when one car is idled with a broken window or flat tire, and left parked on the street for months, a second and a third car always manage to turn up to fill the transportation void.

With three vehicles owned by each family in a house where multiple families reside, the neighborhood competition for on-street parking spaces is keen.

"It used to be that when you had a car parked on the street, and it didn't move, you got cited," the frustrated neighbor told Council, pleading for a return to the good old days.

BULK TRASH is collected curbside on the last Wednesday of each month. Residents must call the borough office to schedule pick-up and bulk items must be placed curbside by 6am on Oct. 31.

Tax Collection Agency Replaced

On the heels of Borough Council naming e-Collect LLC as the organization that will now be collecting delinquent Earned Income Tax accounts on the borough's behalf, another move has been made to ensure a continuous tax revenue stream.

At Council's Sept. 11 meeting, Keystone Collections Group (KCG) was designated as an Earned Income Tax collections agent, replacing Central Tax (aka Centax), which is going out of business. KCG will be taking over where Centax left off in counties across Pennsylvania.

Centax was facing legal action from a consortium of 22 Delco municipalities, all of whom had suffered an interruption of EIT collections this year.

"We probably won't see any EIT money for at least another month, until this changeover process is completed," Borough Manager Shirley Purcival told Council in September.

Upland Borough had also been using Centax to collect revenue from its commercial parking tax, but no revenue was received for the months of July and August. According to Purcival, ImPark claims to have sent a \$14,000 check to Centax in July, but the parking tax payment was never delivered to the borough.

"We should note that there's nothing here that's going to trigger off any kind of changes in (borough) services," stated Council President Ed Mitchell. "Financially, we're still in good shape."

Fortunately for the borough, Michael Hill of e-Collect has agreed to handle future parking tax collections for Upland as well, charging only 1.25% as a collection fee.

Hill also has a good working relationship with Keystone Collections Group, which will be charging the borough a 1.45% collection fee - a considerable savings, compared to the Centax fee of 1.75%.

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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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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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Ordinance Tweak Clarifies 'Mobile Home' Restriction

At its Aug. 14 session, Borough Council adopted 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 still prohibits "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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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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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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Please respect the safety cones that our Public Works crews put out on borough streets to temporarily detour traffic away from a work site. These cones block roadways for your safety, as well as the safety of borough employees.

July 4th Picnic Offered Family Fun



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.



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.

Main Street PTO: "Calling All Parents!"

Main Street Elementary School PTO President Steven Edwards came before Borough Council on Aug. 14, to enlist the borough in his campaign to draw more participation from the parents of Main Street students.

"The main thing we need is for more parents to get involved," Edwards stated, noting that the same four parents show up at every PTO meeting. "If we don't have communication between parents and staff, the students suffer."

Edwards said that monthly bake sales and a holiday shop, where students can buy gifts for under \$5, are two ways that the PTO is trying to raise funds for educational support activities.

As of this school year, Main Street families can register to receive a newsletter via email that will keep them abreast of PTO efforts.

Edwards noted that any parent can sit in on classes for up to an hour to directly observe classroom instruction at Main Street. Parental involvement usually translates to better student attendance and performance, he said.

"Parents have a right and an obligation to be involved in their child's education," said Edwards.

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NAACP Seeks Education Advocates

Jean Arnold, of the Educational Committee of the Chester Branch of NAACP, is hoping to find a few willing volunteers to help her organization support the Chester-Upland School District.

The public education advocacy group meets at 6pm on the third Monday of the month at Temple Baptist Church on Seventh Street.

Volunteers workers are needed for marketing efforts, photography, writing press releases, and getting information out through the use of social media, Arnold said.

If you have some extra time and the skills that can help advance the cause of educational support for C-USD students, call Arnold at **610-497-1930** or send email to ajejanarnold@gmail.com.

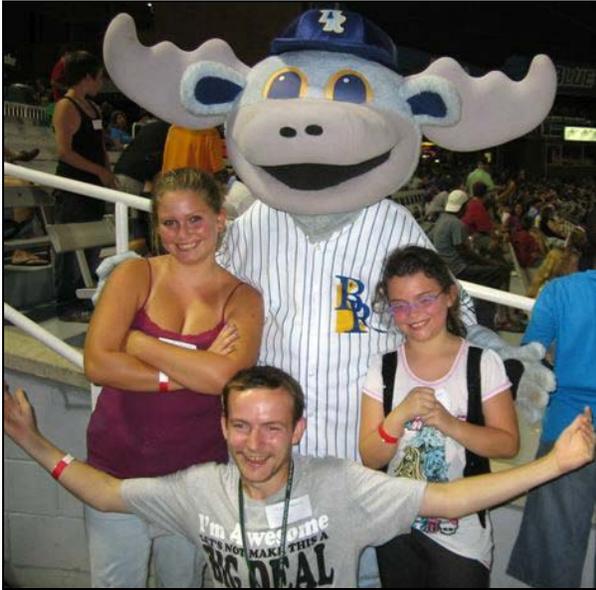
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How To Disconnect & Redirect Sump Pumps and Downspouts

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**.



Rocky, the Wilmington Blue Rocks mascot, was happy to pose with the group from Upland at the Aug. 17 game. The free baseball game for borough youth is sponsored by the Committee Affairs Committee.

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Loan Secured For Fire Truck, Firehouse Expansion

Borough Council has unanimously approved a low-interest \$1 million bank loan through the Delaware Valley Regional Finance Authority to pay for a new fire truck and building upgrades to the home of the Upland Volunteer Fire Co. The Borough went to closure on the 20-year loan on Sept. 17 with a fixed interest rate of 2.292%. The interest rate is about half of the best offer from commercial banks.

Non-electoral debt service will start in December, and will amount to about \$5,100 per month over the term of the loan.

The 2012 engine (to be custom built by Seagrave Fire Apparatus), plus ancillary equipment, is expected to cost about \$750,000, with the balance of the loan being earmarked for an addition to the borough-owned firehouse on McClintock Drive.

Council President Ed Mitchell was among the council members who expressed their gratitude to the team of borough officials who worked together to procure the best interest rate available, saving Upland taxpayers thousands of dollars in the process.

"You've all really done a terrific job, and I thank you," said Mitchell.

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Council Talks Flood Emergency Routes

Borough Council wants all resident motorists, and especially vehicles like ambulances, to know exactly how to navigate around the parts of the Upland that are prone to flooding.

According to Council President Edward Mitchell, the flooding of the Kerlin Street bridge area creates the greatest traffic impact, but historic flooding of the lower end of the borough can also cut off access to some main thoroughfares, creating the need for another route.

The borough recently purchased a small parcel of land to create an emergency cut-through road that would connect Mulberry Street to Hill Street, to maintain access to Upland Avenue for the western side of the borough in the event of a flood.

"We need to let people know about the emergency routes to get in and out of here," Mitchell stated at Council's Aug. 14 session.

A sub-committee of Borough Council's Streets & Equipment Committee (chaired by Council VP Christine Peterson) has been charged with the task of making emergency route information accessible to all drivers.

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Council Approves Inspector Trainee

Joseph 'Parker' Ferguson has served as Upland Borough's building inspector and Building Code Official (BCO) for 20 years, and now he wants to start training his successor. At Ferguson's request, Councilman Harold R. Peden suggested that Jeff Ferguson (Parker's son) be approved as a building inspector-in-training for the immediate future, so that the son can be ready to take over the role, once his father is ready to retire.

According to Peden, like his father, the younger Ferguson has extensive experience in the construction field and has the "people skills" to be a good borough inspector.

The training of a building inspector successor was approved unanimously by Council, with no time frame specified to complete the task.

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Police Chief John Easton recently welcomed Officer Shane Coyle as the newest part-time member of the Upland PD.

Officer Joins Upland Force

Patrolman Shane Coyle was sworn in by Mayor Michael Ciach as a part-time member of the Upland Police Department at Borough Council's Aug. 14 public meeting.

Coyle, 23, is an Aston Township resident. He graduated from Sun Valley High School in 2007; from the Williamson Free School in 2010; and from the Delaware County Police Academy in June 2011. Coyle comes to Upland with some law enforcement experience, having served the past year with the Lower Chichester Police Department.