



The Caleb Pusey House

The Uplander



MacQueen Hall

The official newsletter of historic Upland Borough

(Settled 1683; Incorporated 1869)



Vol. 4-11; November 2012 edition



Spaghetti Dinner Helps Raise Funds For Community Activities



Some attendees of the annual Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser enjoyed having their picture taken more than others, as evidenced by Tatiyana (left) and Alyssa Miller...



...but as the plates loaded with spaghetti and meatballs and garlic bread disappeared, it was obvious that a good time (and a good meal) was had by all. This year's dinner turned a profit, which will help the Community Affairs Committee offer more free events, such as the upcoming Christmas Party for borough youth.



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Upland Baptist Fall Festival Draws Crowd



Pat Irace (left) and Bea Smith sampled some of the delicious food available at the Fall Festival...



...while Katie and Sara Mason showed off their smiles...



...and Rev. Bill Scott made new friends with Champ, his adorable monkey puppet.

Per Capita Tax Repealed

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 popular proposal became a reality, as the tax repeal was formally and unanimously adopted, effective as of Jan. 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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ATTENTION ALL PROPERTY OWNERS

The borough's Code Enforcement Department had a very busy summer handing out citations to property owners in violation of the property maintenance ordinance. Although summer may be over, the grass is still growing, and will continue to grow until the first hard frost.

Upland's Code Enforcement Department reminds residents that the property maintenance ordinance remains in effect, and violators who allow grass to go untrimmed (or allow trash to get out of control or sidewalks to fall into disrepair) will be subject to fines.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our borough beautiful. – **Leland Hunter, Code Officer**

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Seniors Enjoy Luncheon Road Trip

Contrary to popular opinion, there is such a thing as a free lunch! A group of 47 Upland senior citizens boarded a rented bus and rode out to the Shady Maple restaurant in Lancaster County on Oct. 8, while the borough's Community Affairs Committee picked up the tab.

"I think everyone enjoyed themselves," Community Affairs Chairwoman Sandy Miazza reported to Borough Council.

In addition to a free lunch and bus ride, several lucky attendees won door prizes as well, including two \$25 gift certificates to the Upland Diner, three \$25 gift certificates to Giant Food Store, and five lovely fall centerpieces.

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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-November. The installation will be done by Charles A. Higgins & Sons, Inc.

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 & Community Development. Once approved, the project will likely be put out to bid in early November, which should allow a contract to be awarded in December, Catania said.

Fire Company Keeps Improving

Upland Volunteer Fire Co. Member Robert 'B.J.' Covey, acting as the company's liaison to Upland Borough Council, recently reported that Company No. 1 is on the upswing on several fronts.

During September, the average number of runners turning out for fire alarms was 10 – the highest monthly average this year. The increased turnout is a result of a recent rise in membership.

Firefighters Stephanie Johnson and Gregory Zyla were both recently certified to drive the company's tactical unit – the pickup truck-sized vehicle that is the first vehicle out for car accidents and brush fires. Covey also reported that 11 members of Company No. 1 recently passed the Flashover Self-Survival course offered at the Delco Training Center. A flashover is a fast-moving wall of flame and one of the most dangerous aspects of firefighting, so knowing how to survive one is crucial.

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Borough Poised To Take Over Armory

The borough's quest to own the 5-acre US Army Reserve Armory complex on West 24th Street is expected to come to closure in January 2013.

The borough has been pursuing opportunities to secure the James W. Reese Center since the site was placed on the US Department of Defense's Base Realignment and Closure list in 2005. Recent efforts through a federal land acquisition program finally yielded the desired result, with the borough now poised to take over the recently-closed complex at no cost.

The findings of a year-long environmental assessment study of the site are available online. The 198-page report found "no significant impact" on the proposed future use of the buildings.

The Armory consists of two permanent structures built in 1958, including a two-story, 25,687-square foot administration building and a 5,376-square foot, two-bay maintenance shop. A 2,700-square foot storage building was added in 2004.

Upland officials have long seen the Armory as a potential location for a community center. Among the potential plans are use of the Armory's weight room by the Upland Police Department; establishing a variety of after-school programs; and using the site as a base for Police Athletic League activities.

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Please Clean Up Pools

A resident recently came before Borough Council to report two addresses where a few inches of pool water have been allowed to sit stagnant for weeks or months. One neglected pool has turned into a toxic mosquito breeding ground "that would gag a maggot," in the words of the concerned citizen.

West Nile Virus season lasts until the first overnight freeze, so residents still need to be on guard.

"You don't have to wait until a council meeting to tell us about something like this. Call us, and we'll get right on that. That's very serious," said Council President Ed Mitchell, thanking the resident for his vigilance.

Upland Joins Renewed Push To Build Stray Facility

If at first you don't succeed... The Delaware County Animal Protection Board (DCAPB) is ramping up for a second try at garnering the financial support that is needed to build and operate a central depository for the county's stray animals.

Delaware County produces about 8,000 stray dogs and cats per year, but has not had a central facility for handling all strays since the Delco SPCA converted to a no-kill shelter on Jan. 1. Throughout 2012, Delco towns have been receiving stray services through an interim agreement with the Chester County SPCA.

A Delco stray facility was supposed to be built off Calcon Hook Road and was to open this past Spring, but the estimated \$2.1 million cost of construction led county council to pull the plug on the proposal.

Now, the DCAPB is once again seeking non-binding commitments from all Delco municipalities, and is asking for those commitments to be firmed up with formal resolutions in November.

Upland Borough Council addressed the DCAPB's renewed request for support at its Oct. 9 meeting, voting unanimously to formally enter into the proposed agreement at Council's Nov. 13 session. The conditions that the DCACB is proposing for member municipalities include membership from Jan. 1, 2013 through 2017, and payment of an annual fee of \$1,250.

The annual membership fee will rise over the five-year term of the commitment, with increases being tied to the consumer price index. With payment of annual dues, each municipality will be given credit for the handling of five stray animals over the next year.

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

Thanks to Harvey Martin, Facebook members can enjoy historic photos and stories by visiting the "Remembering Upland, PA" group page at www.facebook.com/groups/334480793300363

Council Adopts

Fire Prevention/Emergency Entry Regs

At Borough Council's Oct. 9 meeting, three ordinance amendments were adopted.

Under Chapter 85, the Fire Prevention section was changed to add the standards included in the 2003 edition of the International Fire Code.

A new section was added to the ordinance requiring certain structures to have an exterior lock box installed, to give emergency responders rapid entry access.

Another new ordinance creates a schedule of reasonable costs associated with the collection of delinquent earned income and net profits taxes.

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Police Contributions To Pension Plan Eliminated For 2013

Borough Council has officially exempted all Upland Police Department officers from making contributions to their own pension plans during the upcoming calendar year.

The same measure has been enacted by Council over the past several years, and must be approved prior to adoption of the 2013 budget. The elimination of police pension payments for 2013 was unanimously approved at Council's Oct. 9 session.

The amount that can be taken out of each paycheck for pension plan payments varies between police departments, but can be as high as 5% of an officer's gross pay.

Upcoming Public Meetings and Events

Election Day – Tuesday, Nov. 6 – *Please vote!*

Borough Council Meetings

6pm caucus; 7pm regular voting session
Tuesday, Nov. 13; Dec. 11; and Jan. 8
on ground floor of MacQueen Hall

Annual Holiday Dinner for Seniors

6pm on **Saturday, Nov. 10**
at MacQueen Hall

Free to all Upland senior citizens

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.



Mayor Michael Ciach (left) and Police Chief John Easton (right) were among the first to welcome part-time Officer Glen Greenwalt back to the force.

Officer Returns To Upland PD

Now that former Upland patrolman Glen Greenwalt has retired from a 32-year career with the county's CID, he has returned to his roots as a part-time patrolman.

Greenwalt, 57, is now a Middletown resident, but he was born and raised on 22nd Street in Upland.

The law enforcement veteran started his career as a police officer working part-time for Parkside and Upland Boroughs from 1976-79. He then moved on to spend three decades as a detective in the Criminal Investigation Division, retiring in March.

In welcoming Greenwalt back to the Upland PD, Borough Council President Edward Mitchell recalled how Greenwalt had helped the borough cover patrol shifts several years ago, when the police department was under-staffed.

"A long time ago, Glen started here, and we're tickled to death to see him back," Mitchell stated, after Greenwalt was sworn in by Mayor Michael Ciach. "Five years ago, when this administration got its start, we were short-handed, and if it wasn't for Glen jumping in and helping us out, I don't know what we would have done. He found time on his own to come down and give us a hand, and that speaks volumes about this Upland boy."

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The Annual Youth Halloween Party on Oct. 27 featured a collection of creative and clever costumes.

Curbside leaf collections will be made on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, weather permitting and as needed this Fall.

Upland Business Matters

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



Capitol Insurance Agency (aka CIC Insurance Co.) shares building space with G T Realtors.

Capitol Insurance Agency

corner of 8th St. & Upland Ave. (ground floor)

phone: **610-876-0272**

This family-operated business is one of two branch offices (the other is in Harrisburg), having moved to Upland from Chester in January 2010. Agency Manager Colleen Collins and/or her twin daughters Lindsay and Lauren Edwards (both of whom are Temple University students) are in the office from 9am-5pm Monday thru Friday, and often stay until 6pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Evening and Saturday appointments are available by request. All types of insurance are sold here, including life, commercial, and homeowners, with auto being the most popular.

Other services include Instant Auto Tags; money orders (\$1 ea.); Faxes (\$1/page); notary (\$5); and bill-paying services through 'money-gram.'

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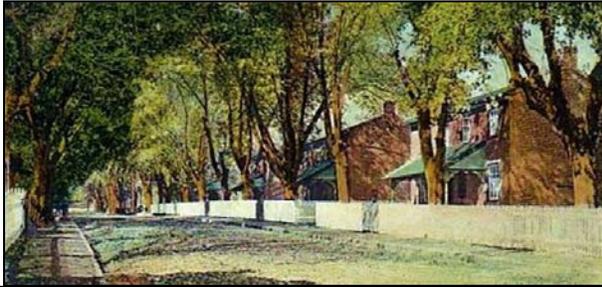
Colleen Collins wants her customers to know:

- Our insurance policy holders enjoy low down payments, and the option of using a monthly payment plan.
- We welcome walk-in customers from the neighborhood, and provide a friendly, relaxed atmosphere for our clients.
- All our services are competitively priced, and we offer a multi-services discount.

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 the issuance of citations.



This colorized 1909 photo of the first block of Sixth Street off Upland Avenue (looking to the northwest) is among the 200 historic photos that can be found at Harvey Martin's "Remembering Upland, PA" Facebook group page, along with all the stories contained in *The History of Upland 1683-1969* - a compilation of historic tales put together for Upland Borough's 100th anniversary.

Dead Trees Will Be Replanted

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, but the evergreen buffer will be replanted by a landscaper this fall.

During Council's Sept. 11 caucus session, Council VP Christine Peterson suggested the purchase of 300-gallon water barrels, which 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.

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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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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 Nov. 28.**

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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 that 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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Re-thinking the logs of the Pennock Loghouse (built 1790) was done 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 loghouse can once again be enjoyed by visitors to Landingford Plantation on Race St.

Security Improved At Historic Site

In an effort to help preserve Upland's prized historic resources, Borough Council recently donated three new security cameras for 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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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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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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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.

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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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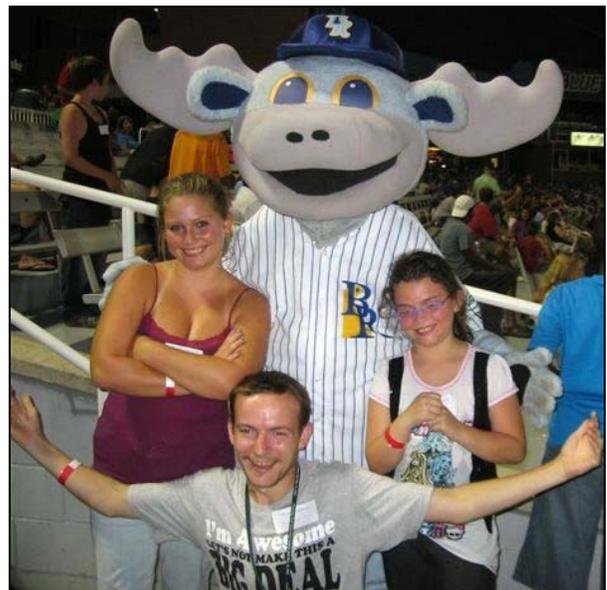
How To Disconnect & Redirect Sump Pumps and Downspouts

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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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.

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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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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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.

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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.



Skip Markacs (left) and Gerry Mack of D & M Fireworks Co. inspect the launching tubes loaded with a total of 1,020 2-inch, 3-inch, and 4-inch shells.

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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 watched from the bleachers (below).



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Fireworks Made 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.

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Though the camera fails to capture all the luster of the Labor Day fireworks display, this photo gives you some idea of what you may have missed.

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Council Restricts 'Unlawful Loitering'

At the Sept. 11 meeting, Borough Council adopted a 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.

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