



The Caleb Pusey House

The Uplander



MacQueen Hall

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



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Upland PD Adds Deputy Chief and Intern



Deputy Police Chief Nelson Ocasio was officially sworn in as Chief Easton's right-hand man on Jan. 8, 2013.



Ocasio Promoted To Deputy Chief

Deputy Police Chief Nelson Ocasio is now officially the Upland Police Department's second-in-command.

"This will be a great responsibility on me, but I'm ready to step up to the plate and learn," Ocasio said of his new post. "I'm hoping to soak up all of the knowledge that the Chief has acquired through his 40-year career.

"I also hope that I can pass along to my fellow Upland officers some of the experience I gained in the military. We have a great department, and I hope that I can make it better," Ocasio added.

Ocasio had been recommended by the Civil Service Commission, and unanimously approved by Borough Council for the promotion in rank.

Ocasio served a year in Iraq with the US Army, and is now in his fifth year in the Army Reserve. He has held the rank of sergeant for the last three years.

The reservist joined the Upland police force as a part-timer in August 2010. Ocasio's employment status moved to full-time in 2011.

The affable officer has since become a fixture in the community, participating in the first annual Kids-n-Cops Kickball game last May, while earning the respect of his peers through continuing education and exemplary police work.

Ocasio graduated from Lake Mary High School in Florida, and needs another year and a half of coursework to complete an online bachelor's degree in cyber security from the University of Maryland. He also recently attended several leadership seminars.

Ocasio is a certified Field Training Officer in the Upland PD, and has been a member of the Central Delaware County SWAT Team for two years.

Ocasio is also proud to acknowledge that he recently became a first-time father to a baby boy.

"This is an outstanding advance for our department," Upland Police Chief John Easton said of Ocasio's promotion. "He's going to be a great asset for us as second-in-command, and I'm glad to have him aboard in this capacity."

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Upland Slates Electronic Recycling Days

In keeping with recent changes to recycling laws, which ban electronic items from regular recycling collections, Upland Borough will hold three special **Electronic Recycling Days** on **Saturdays, April 27, July 27, and Oct. 26**. On these dates, a small collections trailer will be parked in the MacQueen Hall lot from **9am to 1pm**, when residents can drop off any electronic recyclables.

Electronic recyclables include electric toys and games, computers, laptops, monitors, keyboards, printers, copiers, fax machines, projectors, phonographs, TVs, radios, electric typewriters, VCR/DVD players, video cameras, answering machines, cassette players/recorders, CDs and DVDs, all types of telephones, and calculators.

Council Adopts Revised Stormwater Code & Comprehensive Fee Schedule

At Borough Council's Jan. 8 voting meeting, an expanded Stormwater Management Code ordinance and a Comprehensive Fee Schedule resolution were both unanimously adopted and incorporated into the Upland Borough Code.

The updated Stormwater Code contains revised definitions and land development regulations aimed at protecting water quality, minimizing erosion, and controlling stormwater runoff. The borough code now conforms with all federal and state stormwater regulations.

The Comprehensive Fee Schedule is only six pages in length, but it contains all the information that is pertinent to Upland's licensing and permit fees. The Comprehensive Fee Schedule outlines the borough's fees for such things as building, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, demolition, and street-opening permits; public use of MacQueen Hall or Bristol Lord Field; Upland Planning Commission or Zoning Board hearings; craftsmen, contractor, and solicitor licensing; food service or use & occupancy inspections; and incident reports or photographs produced by the police department, et al.

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Sewer Lateral Inspections Finding Few Problems

According to Borough Manager Shirley Purcival, nearly all of the sewer lateral inspections that have been performed have passed muster, since Borough Council adopted a mandate that requires video inspections for properties that are being sold or undergoing major renovations.

A few concerned residents protested the passage of the sewer inspection ordinance in January 2012, but as it turns out, the sewer line inspections are not uncovering the need for widespread lateral repairs. Although the borough's subterranean sewer system is over 70 years old, only one residential inspection (among about a dozen performed last year) found a "marginal" lateral that required attention, Purcival informed Council at its Jan. 8 meeting.

"That speaks volumes for a 70-year-old system, and it's certainly good news for Upland homeowners," noted Council President Edward Mitchell.

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Light Snowfalls Provide Practice For Borough Personnel

According to Council VP/Streets & Equipment Committee Chairwoman Christine Peterson, the two days in late-December when the borough received an inch or two of snow helped the borough refine its snow removal procedures for future winter weather events. The light snowfalls essentially served as practice sessions for new part-timers in the Police Department, who give notice of the need for plowing and road salting from the Public Works Department. By the second snowfall of the season, "all the glitches were resolved," Peterson reported at Borough Council's Jan. 8 meeting.

Please observe the following public safety measures during any snow emergency:

Do: Remove snow from sidewalks within 48 of the end of a snowfall. By clearing snow immediately, you will use less de-icing material.

*****Please make sure that the de-icing product you are using is environmentally safe.*****

Don't: Shovel snow back into a plowed street, as this creates a public safety hazard.

Don't: Attempt to save or block off a cleared parking space with any type of furniture, grills, or traffic cones. The borough will remove any space-saving objects, as this illegal practice amounts to obstructing a public thoroughfare.

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Borough Gets Keys To Reese Center

Upland Borough's 7-year quest to own the 5-acre US Army Reserve Armory complex on West 24th Street unofficially came to closure on Jan. 17, when borough officials were handed the keys and security codes to the buildings.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony will be slated when all government paperwork is completed in the coming weeks. The property deed was recently transferred from the Department of Defense to the National Parks Service, and will soon be transferred to Upland Borough.

In the interim, the borough can start the planning process for some of the specific uses that the three Armory buildings will see in the future. Many tables, chairs, and filing cabinets have been left behind for borough use, so the rearranging of furniture will be one item on the site renovation checklist.

Last fall, Borough Council approved the formation of a transition team to assume ownership of the vacated facility. The Reese Center Transition Team consists of Borough Manager Shirley Purcival, Council President Ed Mitchell, Council VP Christine Peterson, and Councilman Harold Peden.

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. 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.

Two municipalities in New Jersey were eyeing similar property takeovers, but in the wake of Hurricane Sandy, FEMA has stepped in to assume control of those two former DOD facilities, which have been re-designated as emergency shelters.

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

Potential future plans for the Armory include use of the weight room by the Upland Police Department; establishing a variety of after-school programs; and creating a base for Police Athletic League activities.

Many hours were invested in procuring the Armory to become Upland Borough's new Community Center, and the payoff is just around the corner.

"This is a big day, and something our administration has been planning for years," Council President Ed Mitchell said of obtaining the Reese Center keys. "We haven't placed any burden on the taxpayers, and the money has already been appropriated to secure the future of the children and provide athletic programs for the community."

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Fire & Police Departments Had Busy 2012

While protecting borough residents and businesses, both the Upland Fire Company and the Upland Police Department racked up busy years in 2012.

Last year, Upland Fire Co. #1 responded to 5 fire and 146 non-fire incidents; provided mutual aid to other fire companies or police departments 204 times; and held 42 drills, for a total of 397 responses. The calls included 217 daytime calls and 180 nighttime, for a total of 335.6 hours in service.

The 2012 activity total sets a new benchmark for Upland's volunteer firefighters, eclipsing the 2010 record of 395 responses.

The average response of 10 runners per call in 2012 also represents a new high for Upland, while the average turnout was only six in 2011.

The fire company added a new member in December and January, and two members were recently added to the list of certified Tactical Unit drivers, according to Fire Chief Dan Smith.

Meanwhile, 2012 saw almost a 25% increase in citations written by the Upland PD. According to year-end statistics provided by Mayor Michael Ciach, the borough's police officers issued a total of 2,082 citations (all types) last year, compared to a total of 1,666 in 2011.

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Send In Those Recipes

A new feature in 2013 newsletters is **Share A Recipe**, which allows the borough's best chefs to compare notes. We will print a resident's favorite quick & easy recipe each month, so that by year end, we'll have a gourmet cookbook!

All **Share A Recipe** submissions should be sent to the borough office at 224 Castle Avenue, Upland, PA 19015 or emailed to the borough manager at spurcival@uplandboro.org.

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Share A Recipe

This month's **Share A Recipe** was submitted by the Neighbors on Clearwater Lane, who offer a healthy and tasty dessert recipe.

Cottage Cheese Delight

Ingredients: 32 oz. large curd cottage cheese; 20 oz. medium-size pineapple chunks (drained); 11 oz. Mandarin oranges (drained); small container Cool Whip; and 3-oz. box orange Jello.

Directions: In large mixing bowl, combine cottage cheese, orange Jello, pineapple chunks and Mandarin oranges; Mix in about half of Cool Whip container (more or less); then chill before serving.

Upcoming Public Meetings and Events

Borough Council Meetings

6pm caucus; 7pm regular voting session
Tuesday, Feb. 12; March 12; April 9
on ground floor of MacQueen Hall

Upland Baptist Church

Grocery Bingo

1-4pm on Saturday Feb. 23; March 30; April 27

Bible School

For kids ages 4-12: every Monday at 6:30pm
thru May 20

Soup & Salad Fundraiser Dinner

4-7pm on Saturday, Feb. 23

Homemade soups, chili, chicken dumplings
All-you-can-eat at MacQueen Hall; Take-out available
Tickets: \$8 adults; \$6 seniors; \$4 kids under 12

Doo-Wop Dance Party



Fundraiser



7-11pm on Saturday, March 9
on second floor of MacQueen Hall

Dance contests; Live music and CDs
\$25/person admission includes unlimited
beer, wine, mixers, and party foods

To purchase tickets:

call Sandy Miazza at 610-876-4430
or the boro office at 610-874-7317

St. Patty's Ham & Cabbage Luncheon for Seniors

12 noon on Monday, March 18
on second floor of MacQueen Hall

Free to all Upland residents age 62 or older!

Annual Easter Egg Hunt & Breakfast with the Easter Bunny on Saturday, March 30

Egg Hunt starts at 9am in Bristol Lord Field;
Complete pancake breakfast served
in MaQueen Hall from 9:30-11am (Adults \$5 / kids eat free!)
Photos with Easter Bunny available

Carnival Fundraiser Returns!

Unavailable last year due to scheduling conflicts,
the popular Carnival will return to Bristol Lord Field
from May 21 - 25 (Tues. - Sat.)

Holiday Decorating Contest

The 2012 Holiday Home Decorating Contest winners will be announced at Borough Council's Feb. 12 meeting. The announcement was delayed last month due to the illness and absence of Councilwoman Sandra Miazza, chair of the Community Affairs Committee.



The Jan. 8 council meeting also featured the formal swearing-in of Upland PD intern Erin Welsh, whose mother held the Bible while Mayor Michael Ciach administered the oath. Welsh is a Bethel Township resident and is currently in her junior year at Penn State University, where she is pursuing a criminal justice degree.



Hunter Continues Service To Hometown

Among the annual public service appointments made by Borough Council in December was the renewal of Councilman Leland Hunter's appointment as the borough's Code Enforcement Officer. Hunter has served four consecutive years at this post.

In 2013, the lifetime Upland resident will also be serving his second year as the president of the Upland Senior Citizens.



While a formal deed transfer is still pending, the borough's Reese Center Transition Team gained "access and control" of the Armory on Jan. 17. Pictured (l to r) in front of the conference room fireplace: Facilities Operations Specialist Rick Etherington, BRAC Regional Coordinator Ray Palma, Borough Manager Shirley Purcival, Council Vice President Christine Peterson, Council President Ed Mitchell, Borough Engineer Charles Catania, and Councilman Ray Peden.



Dan Smith, of Patton Avenue, has been a councilman since 2011 and Upland's fire chief since 2005.

MEET YOUR LEADERS

Upcoming newsletters will feature a Q & A section with a different borough official each month. We asked Borough Councilman/Fire Chief Dan Smith:

1. What is unique about Upland Borough?

...The history that is being preserved within borough boundaries

2. What led you to public service?

...Being in the fire service and wanting to do the most for our community

3. What are your priorities for the borough's future?

...Securing the future for generations to come, while preserving the past

4. What personal achievement are you most proud of?

...Becoming fire chief in the Borough of Upland

5. What was the most significant event in your lifetime?

...The birth of my two boys, Danny, Jr. and Joshua

6. What is your pet peeve?

...People who say they can't do something, without even trying

7. What or who makes you laugh?

...The sound of my kids being silly

8. What is your all-time favorite movie?

...Disney's Swiss Family Robinson

9. What is must-see TV in your home?

...Any reality TV show

10. If you could have a long chat with anyone (past or present), who would you choose?

...My father, who passed too early – there was so much more I could have learned from him

***Personal favorite quote: "The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing" – Walt Disney

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.

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



Upland Police Chief John Easton and Fire Chief Dan Smith recently hosted a Delco Bomb Squad training session for first responders at MacQueen Hall.

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Upland Hosts Delco Bomb Training

A joint training session for fire and police personnel from southeastern Delaware County was held in MacQueen Hall on Jan. 14, with about 100 first responders in attendance.

Tapping into 20+ years of experience with Delco CID's Bomb Squad, the demo was led by Sgt. Scott Bireley, with assistance from Det. Dave McDonald.

In addition to showing samples of the many commercial and military-grade materials that can be employed in an Improvised Explosive Device (IED), the bomb expert presented video of actual bomb detonations that clearly demonstrated what not to do when a homemade bomb is encountered.

The attentive audience was made up of fire volunteers and police officers from several Delco communities, including Upland, Chester Township, Brookhaven, Parkside, and Boothwyn.

Bireley noted that Delco's bomb squad handles 40-60 calls per year in Delaware and Chester Counties. The types of bombs or explosives that are typically found include reconfigured hand grenades, bullets, mortar rounds, and dynamite. Occasionally, more powerful explosives such as TNT, plastic C-4, detonation cords, and shock tubes are used to make an IED.

A homemade "MacGuyver bomb" that is becoming more common is a water bottle filled with acid and aluminum foil, Bireley advised the first responders.

A wide variety of detonation devices can be employed to set off a bomb, including a cell phone. Many types of commercial detonators are stored in attics or garages and forgotten for decades, until they turn up at a yard sale or flea market.

"So what does a bomb look like?" Bireley asked. "It's all in the imagination of the bomb-maker."

With so many variables involved, the best advice that Bireley could offer the emergency personnel in the room was to treat every "suspicious" object with the greatest of caution, as if your decisions are of life and death magnitude.

Once a bomb or IED is located, first responders should cordon off the area and call for help, and should not try to inspect the object themselves.

"If you can see it and it goes off, it can bite you," warned Bireley.

Bireley reviewed some of the tools that have been developed to handle IEDs with relative safety, including the use of fiber optics and x-ray equipment. Radio-controlled robots that can be equipped with cameras, power tools, and high-pressure water cannons are among the latest countermeasures, at a cost of up to \$300,000 each.

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2013 Budget Maintains Tax Rate, Trash Fees

The borough's 2013 final budget for the general fund does not require a property tax or trash service fee increase to balance.

The final budget was unanimously adopted at Borough Council's Dec. 11 meeting, officially making this year the 26th consecutive year with no borough property tax increase, while maintaining a millage rate of 2.0 mills.

"It's been a quarter of a century that the borough has not raised (property) taxes," Council President Ed Mitchell noted with pride. "That is a wonderful tradition to maintain."

The borough's annual trash collection fee of \$135 per household will also hold steady in 2013 for the fifth straight year.

The 2013 general fund preliminary budget total is \$2,968,742, which represents a 10.7% increase in spending over this year, part of which is a 3% pay raise for all full-time borough employees. The additional \$287,194 in budget revenue will come primarily from increased permit activity and a \$43,000 increase in Earned Income Tax collections, according to Finance Committee Chairperson Moira Crawford.

The Auburn Village preliminary budget for 2013 totals \$763,500, which is \$8,100 or 1.1% more than this year.

After preliminary budgets were adopted at Council's Nov. 13 meeting, Mitchell noted that less than 10% of the general budget would be funded by the \$240,000 that the borough collects in property tax each year.

"We just passed a (preliminary) budget for \$2.9 million, and I think it speaks volumes for what we've been able to accomplish here over the last two or three years," Mitchell said.

"We're a little town success story, when most little towns are having financial hard times. We're happy that we're able to provide all these services," added Mitchell.

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Heavy Trash Not For Electronics

Collections of bulk trash items are made on the last Wednesday of the month, which is **Feb. 27**. Residents must notify the borough office in advance for all bulk pickups and items must be placed **curbside by 6 am** on collection day.

Bulk trash does not include electronic items like computers and televisions – such items will be collected for recycling at special events (from 9am-3pm) at the Delco Emergency Services Training Center on **April 6** (Sat.); at Rose Tree Park on **Sept. 12** (Thurs.); and at the Upper Chichester Municipal Building on **Oct. 19** (Sat.).

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Smith Joins Pusey House Board

Upland Councilman/Fire Chief Dan Smith was recently welcomed as the newest member of the Friends of the Caleb Pusey House Board of Directors – the non-profit organization that oversees the preservation of six historic buildings on the 13-acre Landingford Plantation on Race Street.

Smith and his fellow members of Upland Fire Co. No. 1 have long been loyal and dedicated friends to the Pusey House, especially in flood emergencies, when fire company volunteers have provided a storage trailer and the manpower to help save antique furnishings and historic artifacts from the rising floodwaters of Chester Creek.

Smith was formally and unanimously voted in for a three-year term as a FCPH board member at the group's Dec. 8 meeting.

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Per Capita Tax Repealed

At the Oct. 9 meeting, Upland's longstanding \$10 per capita tax was unanimously repealed by Borough Council, 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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Council Floats 2013 Grant Projects

Borough Council recently held a public hearing to determine which potential improvement projects should be submitted for consideration for funding through a 2013 Community Development Block Grant. Two projects were submitted to the county, in the hopes that at least one will be funded by the grants, which are awarded by Delaware County Council in April.

The first choice for grant funding is an emergency roadway that would extend 11th Street (at the top of Hill Street) to connect to 24th Street, representing Phase II of the 11th Street extension project.

The second choice is a 4-foot-high wrought iron safety fence that would run along Main Street atop the stone wall between 4th Street and 6th Street.

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Generator Installation & 11th St. Extension Pending

The installation of a recently purchased emergency generator for MacQueen Hall should get underway during January, and will hopefully be completed by mid-February. The installation will be done by Charles A. Higgins & Sons, Inc.

Adding an emergency generator to the 92-year-old MacQueen Hall will allow the building to be used as an emergency shelter.

The planned construction of the 250-foot-long 11th Street extension (which will connect 11th to Hill Street) has been reviewed and approved by the Delaware County Office of Housing & Community Development. Construction work could start as early as mid-February, if the weather cooperates, said Borough Engineer Charles Catania.

The road extension project was put out to bid in November, with four local companies responding, and a construction contract was awarded to the low-bidder (Premier Concrete, Inc.) at Borough Council's Dec. 11 meeting.

Catania noted that the low bid of \$69,050 was nearly double the \$35,000 that the borough had received in a 2012 Community Development Block Grant to finance the extension. To make fiscal ends meet, Catania advised council to eliminate the underground drainage facilities in the new section of road, while the county provides an additional \$3,850 in grant funding. The elimination of subterranean drainage facilities (including a stormwater inlet, a junction manhole, and piping) is possible if the sloping road bed is redesigned to promote efficient stormwater runoff on the surface.

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Residents Should Sign Up For Emergency Phone Service

To enjoy the full benefits of the borough's information phone service, residents with unlisted phone numbers should call the borough office at **610-874-7317** to register. The automated service was instituted in 2009 to keep borough residents informed of upcoming community events, but is also utilized in the event of a borough-wide emergency.

The value of being kept informed became apparent during Superstorm Sandy in late October. After the storm, over a dozen households called the borough office to get their names added to the calling list.

Don't be left out of the information loop. Register your home with the borough for safety sake.

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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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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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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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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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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

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Upland To Host Housing Parade

Upland Fire Company No. 1 will be the host station for the annual Delaware County Fireman's Association Convention housing parade on Saturday, Oct. 12. The procession will feature fire vehicles from across the county in celebration of the official housing of Upland's new Squad 57.

The new red fire truck is currently being built in Wisconsin and should be completed and delivered by June 2013. The vehicle is essentially a pumper truck with a rescue truck body, according to Upland Fire Chief Dan Smith.

The Squad 57 measures 30 feet long (bumper to bumper), just over 8 feet wide, and 11 feet high. The truck carries a 500-gallon water tank; features its own cascade system for refilling air tanks; and transports a driver and five firemen wearing air bottles, plus two passengers on drop seats.

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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. With a fixed rate of 2.292% on the 20-year loan, the interest rate is about half of the best offer from commercial banks. Debt service started in December, and amounts to about \$5,100 per month over the term of the loan.

The 2012 engine (being 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.

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Heater Donated To Crozer Schoolhouse

The historic Crozer Schoolhouse #1 (built next to the Caleb Pusey House on Race Street in 1849) and the Friends of the Caleb Pusey House that oversee the site were recently the grateful recipients of a modern space heater that will help reduce winter heating bills for the non-profit organization's Pusey House museum, which is set up in John P. Crozer's first schoolhouse. The money-saving heater was donated to the FCPH by two borough officials – Council President Ed Mitchell and his wife, Tax Collector Linda Mitchell.

The natural gas line that feeds the faux fireplace was installed free of charge by Upland Plumbing Inspector Tom Kennedy, adding yet another name to Santa's NICE list.

The FCPH board met in the schoolhouse on Dec. 8 and enjoyed the toasty warm comfort provided by the new space heater, and by all reports, all present were greatly obliged.

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Public Works Employees Earn Recognition

The borough recently sent two Public Works Department employees – Chuck Boyd and Patrick White – to an 8-week leadership training course offered through Dale Carnegie Training.

Both men completed the training course in November, and both were recognized for their skills. At the end of the course, Patrick was voted Most Improved by his classmate peers and received a very nice pen set as his award. Chuck's gregarious nature and natural leadership abilities were recognized with the award of a leadership book, the Crashing Through Award, and the Outstanding Performance Award.

Congratulations to both Chuck and Patrick!

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Council Makes Reappointments

At Borough Council's Dec. 11 meeting, the persons currently holding several public service posts were reappointed to continue their service in 2013.

The re-appointees include Borough Engineer Charles Catania, Borough Solicitor Robert O'Connor, Esq., Building Inspector Joseph Ferguson, Plumbing Inspector Thomas Kennedy, Electrical Inspector James Skulski, Board of Health Officer Dr. Robert Crowell MD, Board of Health Inspector Cathy Warfield, Fire Marshal David Favinger, Zoning Solicitor John Wills, Esq., and Zoning Code Officer Joseph Ferguson, with Michael Maddren, Esq. serving as both Civil Service Solicitor and Special Legal Counsel.

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Also returning for another year of service on the borough's three advisory boards are:

Zoning Hearing Board – Dorreda Shaw (chair), Joanne Peden (secretary), Edward Klepacki, William Dennon, and Ronald Reynolds

Planning Commission – Edward Mitchell (chair), Robert Dugan, Dana Dudek, George Oronzio, and Joseph Stephano

Civil Service Commission – Edward Mitchell, Denise Crawford, and Dorothy Patrick

Thank you all for your valuable service to Upland Borough!

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Upland PD Breaks Burglary Case

At the end of Borough Council's Dec. 11 meeting, Upland Police Chief John Easton was pleased to announce that his department had just obtained a confession from the prime suspect in a case involving a series of recent daylight burglaries in the Auburn Village apartment complex.

Since the arrest of the suspect had just taken place that afternoon, Easton was unable to provide any details in the public forum, but he wanted to immediately assure Auburn Village residents that the Upland PD was on top of the situation.

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Santa Claus toured Upland Borough on Dec. 15, riding on the back of a fire truck, while volunteers from Upland Fire Co. No. 1 handed out candy canes.

New Charter School Approved

The new Community Charter School proposed for the corner of 11th and Main Streets has been conditionally approved by Borough Council.

Several conditions were recommended by the borough's planning commission, including widening the 11th/Main intersection; installing an evergreen buffer to the north and west of the school; adding fire hydrants and a stormwater inlet, limiting the number of students; and repairing any damage caused to adjacent properties during construction.

School officials accepted the condition at council's Dec. 8 meeting, which in turn led council members to unanimously accept and ratify the final land development plan for the lot at 1100 Main Street.

Neighbors of the proposed school had filed an appeal of the Upland Zoning Hearing Board ruling to allow a school to be built in the residential zone, but ultimately the appeal was withdrawn.

Demolition work has not yet begun on the vacant residence that now occupies the corner lot, but such work will need to start soon, if the school is to meet its opening target of September 2013.

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