



The Caleb Pusey House

The Uplander



MacQueen Hall

The official newsletter of historic Upland Borough

(Settled 1683; Incorporated 1869)



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Upland Celebrates Kerlin St. Bridge Clean-out



State Senator Dominic Pileggi (second from left) visited MacQueen Hall on Jan. 24 to join borough leaders in a celebration of the joint municipal effort that successfully lobbied for cleaning out underneath the Kerlin Street bridge. Standing with the senator are (from left to right) Mayor Michael Ciach, Borough Council Vice President Christine Peterson, and Council President Ed Mitchell. *(Read more on this important project in the special insert found inside this edition of the Uplander)*

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City of Chester Mayor John Linder (left) was among the local dignitaries who attended the Jan. 24 luncheon.



Senator Pileggi also posed with the Republican borough leaders who are running for re-election this year, including (left to right) Councilman Dan Smith, Tax Collector Linda Mitchell, Councilwoman Sandy Miazza, Councilwoman Moira Crawford, and Mayor Mike Ciach.



Those residents who attended the Soup-n-Salad dinner at MacQueen Hall on Feb. 23 to help raise funds for other community events enjoyed delicious homemade chili, chicken dumplings, vegetable soup, an unlimited salad bar, bread and rolls, and desserts. In short, no one went home hungry!



Delinquent Tax Folios Sent To Collection Agencies

At Borough Council's Feb. 12 meeting, a unanimous vote exonerated Borough Tax Collector Linda Mitchell from the continued pursuit of delinquent 2012 taxes, and turned over delinquent accounts to collection agencies.

A total of \$10,948 in unpaid real estate taxes will now be collected by the county; \$11,583 in overdue trash service fees will be collected by Credit-tec; and a total of \$5,225 in unpaid single per capita tax and \$561 in 2012 per capita taxes (the last year for this tax) will be collected by Berkheimer Associates. Upland property owners who have not paid their 2012 taxes in full can expect to receive a phone call and/or a visit from a collections agent soon.

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Council Considers Safety Issues With Abandoned Satellite Dishes

No specific action has been proposed at this time, but Borough Council is looking into what can be done to promote greater public safety in cases where rooftop satellite dish antennae have been abandoned by a homeowner.

According to Council's Ordinances & Resolutions Committee Chairman Harold R. Peden, the Federal Communications Commission adopted legislation in 1996 that removes virtually all regulatory controls on the installation of satellite dishes, leaving the disposition of abandoned dishes in a legal limbo.

The borough code requires basic safety measures for all rooftop objects, but such items as missing or damaged shingles, weakened roof boards, and exposed dish wiring are all potential hazards that could lead to serious problems for a resident, who may not have had anything to do with installing the satellite dish.

Peden said he will investigate possible ordinance amendments that might better protect Upland residents from dish-related hazards.

"I'm not sure how far we can take it, but I'll continue to research it," Peden informed Council on Feb. 12.

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Council OKs Expenditures For Reese Center Security

The first of many upgrades to the James W. Reese Center on W. 24th Street was authorized by Borough Council at its Feb. 12 meeting, when the expenditure of \$29,435 was approved for building security improvements.

To pay for the security upgrades, Council authorized a transfer of funds from the Parking Revenue Account into the general fund account. Revenue generated by the commercial parking tax that the borough enacted in 2010 has been earmarked to finance improvements to the Armory complex.

Upland Borough received the keys to the Reese Center and took unofficial ownership of the Armory buildings on Jan. 14, but an official deed transfer is still pending.

*(See [related story on page 8](#)
of website version of March newsletter)*

11th St. Extension Gets Underway; Emergency Generator Installed

The construction of the 250-foot-long 11th Street Extension (which will connect Mulberry Street to Hill Street) got underway with landscaping removal in February, Borough Engineer Charles Catania recently reported. If mild weather continues, the roadway extension could be completed in March.

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

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 project. To make fiscal ends meet, the underground drainage facilities in the new section of road were eliminated, while the county provided an additional \$3,850 in grant funding. The elimination of subterranean drainage facilities was possible because the sloping road bed has been designed to promote efficient stormwater runoff on the surface.

A Mulberry Street resident came before Council at its Feb. 12 meeting to belatedly protest the construction project. The concerned citizen was reminded of the need for an alternate route to Crozer-Chester Medical Center, especially when the lower end of Upland Avenue is flooded – the primary reason that the 11th Street Extension was conceived, planned, and pursued.

And while the weather improved enough to begin roadway construction, the pouring of a concrete foundation to support an emergency generator at Macqueen Hall was also recently possible. The generator installation had been pending since January, and was finally completed by Charles A. Higgins & Sons, Inc. on Feb. 20-21. The generator was load-tested days later and is now ready to go.

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

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Shirley Miller Passes; Upland Mourns

On Feb. 17, longtime Upland resident and public servant Shirley A. (nee D'Amato) Miller passed away, surrounded by her family, following an extended illness. A funeral mass was held at Our Lady of Charity in Brookhaven on Feb. 21.

The former Oak Lane resident is survived by Senior Magisterial Judge Kenneth Miller, their 5 sons, 14 grandchildren, and 3 great grandchildren.

Mrs. Miller left her mark on local politics, serving as a local Republican committeewoman, a state committeewoman, a borough councilwoman, and the first and only female mayor of Upland Borough. Well-known and respected as an effective bridge-builder in political circles, she was personally invited to attend the inauguration of two U.S. presidents and several Pennsylvania governors.

Upland Borough Council wishes to extend its most heartfelt condolences to the Miller family at this time of mourning.

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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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.

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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 an anonymous Upland resident (a shy chef?), who offers a tasty dinner for four.

Quick Pigs in a Blanket

Ingredients: 1 small head cabbage, 1 lb. ground beef, ½ cup chopped onion, ½ cup rice, ½ teaspoon salt, ¼ teaspoon ground black pepper, 10-oz. can tomato soup, 1½ cups water, ¼ cup grated cheese

Directions: Chop cabbage into medium pieces and spread in bottom of greased baking dish; Brown meat and onion in skillet, then stir in rice, salt and pepper, and spoon mixture over cabbage; Heat tomato soup and water in saucepan, then pour over other ingredients and sprinkle with cheese; Cover casserole tightly with foil and bake in preheated oven for 90 min. at 350 F., Fluff lightly with fork before serving.

Upcoming Public Meetings and Events

Borough Council Meetings

6pm caucus; 7pm regular voting session
Tuesday, March 12; April 9, May 14
on ground floor of MacQueen Hall

Upland Baptist Church

Grocery Bingo

1-4pm on Saturday March 30; April 27, May 25

Bible School

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

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 w/ the Easter Bunny



on Saturday, March 30

Egg Hunt starts at 9am in Bristol Lord Field;

Complete pancake breakfast served

in MacQueen Hall from 9:30-11am (Adults \$5 / kids eat free!)

Photos with Easter Bunny available

Welcome Day

at Landingford Plantation

from noon to 4pm on Saturday, May 11

This free annual event offers a glimpse into yesteryear and a chance to learn more about the historic Caleb Pusey House, Crozer Schoolhouse #1, and the Pennock Log House, all located on Race Street.

The day will include re-enactors in colonial dress, colonial craft demonstrations, guided tours, and plenty of food and beverages.

*****All Upland residents are invited to participate in the site clean-up slated for Saturday, May 4, starting at 8:30am – Bring work gloves; tools will be provided.**

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 Winners Named

The 2012 Holiday Home Decorating Contest winners were announced by Councilwoman Sandy Miazza, chair of the Community Affairs Committee, at Borough Council's Feb. 12 meeting. The announcement was delayed by Miazza's illness and absence from the January meeting.

Belated congratulations go out to **Lorie Wood** of 8th Street, who took first place and won \$100 for her eye-popping display; **Georgianna Ladd** of 7th Street, who earned \$50 for second place; and **Joe Crowley** of Willow Way, who took home \$25 for third place.

Borough Council extends a sincere thank you to every resident who puts forth extra decorating effort each year to brighten the holidays of the entire community.

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The Salt Man Cometh

After finishing off last year's supply of rock salt by treating roads during this winter's few minor snow events, Upland's Public Works Department took delivery of another 50 tons of road salt on Feb. 14. If relatively mild weather continues in March and April, this salt supply could last into next winter.

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Citations Pending If County Facility Does Not Comply With Fire Alarm Regs

The county-funded housing facility for mental health patients that is operated by Northwest Human Services (NHS) at 900 Main Street needs to follow through with promises to upgrade the facility's fire alarm system or face the possibility of borough citations for safety code violations.

Borough officials met with NHS representatives last November to address a number of ongoing issues, including an inordinate number of calls for police service and dozens of "malicious pull" false fire alarms over the past two years. At a follow-up meeting on Jan. 29, progress on several fronts was noted by borough officials, but Councilman/Fire Chief Dan Smith found compliance with borough demands to map out the facility's fire alarm system to be still lacking.

Smith was told by a NHS manager at the Jan. 29 meeting that the alarm mapping (which tells firefighters which apartment in the facility is on fire) would be completed immediately. As of a false alarm response on or about Feb. 11, however, Smith found that the required mapping still had not 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.



Mike Ciach has been Upland's mayor since 2005, after serving 12 years as a borough councilman.

MEET YOUR LEADERS

Upcoming newsletters will feature a Q & A section with a different borough official each month. We asked Mayor Michael Ciach:

1. What is unique about Upland Borough?

...Upland has an incredible history, and the people I have gotten to know and care for over the 40+ years that I have been here are second to none.

2. What led you to public service?

...As a coach and officer of the Upland Athletic Club, I started attending Council meetings seeking funds for the organization, which peaked a curiosity in further serving the borough. I took my first Council seat at age 27.

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

...To ensure that this borough continues on the right track – I've seen a lot of changes in the last 20 years, some good, some bad, but all things I can use to grow and improve. There is so much more we want to do, and I'm proud to be a part of this political family of progressive thinkers.

4. What personal achievement are you most proud of?

...Raising my two children, both of whom I'm extremely proud of, as a single custodial father for the last 20 years

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

...Other than watching my children grow in ways I could never imagine, the recent birth of my grandson has amazed me to watch the beginning of another generation of my family take root.

6. What is your pet peeve?

...Dishonesty, plain and clear

7. What or who makes you laugh?

...Just watching life pass by, but not all the time

8. What is your all-time favorite movie?

..."Diner"

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

...Comedy - Big Bang Theory, Drama - I'm torn between Law & Order and NCIS

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

... My grandfather Franny McKay – Unfortunately, we lost him a few years back, but other than my parents, Pop was always the rock of our family. I miss him and he taught me a lot.

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

Bridge Project Represents Multi-Municipal Milestone

It took over two years to make recent improvements to the Kerlin Street bridge a reality, but through the persistent hard work of several Upland Borough officials and their counterparts in Chester City and Chester Township, the successful project has given homeowners and businesses located on the banks of Chester Creek some degree of flood relief.

To help lessen creek flooding upstream from the bridge, PennDOT crews spent several weeks in November and December 2012 removing silt and debris from under one of the 90-year-old bridge's two arches. A piece of embankment upstream of the bridge was also trimmed back to allow high water to flow evenly under the bridge's two arches.

"To me, the real story is about a little borough, a little township, and a big city all working together to achieve the ultimate goal of getting something done for the good of all the people," said Upland Borough Council President Edward Mitchell.



Street flooding like this familiar scene has plagued Upland Avenue residents and businesses for years.

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In the past (and even during the clean-up process), high-water events caused tons of floating debris to pile up against the concrete bridge.

"Every time there is flooding in the Kerlin Street bridge area, you run the risk of Crozer Hospital not being easily accessible, which can cost an ambulance crucial minutes when a patient really needs attention," Mitchell noted.

"About two years ago we called everyone together and said 'We have to do something about the flooding. What can we do?'" And from that point on we started brainstorming on how to get things done. "There were flooding issues in the lower end of Toby Farms and the lower end of Upland Borough,

and the 14th Street section of Chester was also a serious issue. The big discovery was that we all shared the same engineer (Charles Catania), so we decided to let him run with the ball, and that's how it really got started."



The first step in the clean-up was the removal of large objects that had been brought to the bridge during floods.

"We eventually got connected with Mike Murphy through the Senator's office. Then a storm came along and further complicated matters, and an all-out effort was ultimately needed to get this done.

"On the first day, Mike Murphy and Ed Mitchell were not getting along too well. Mike said I couldn't put the debris on his bridge, and I said: 'It's not your bridge, it's my dam!' We started out fighting over ownership, but before the day was over, we had found common goals. From that point on, Mike went to work with his people and it turned out to be a great day, and we finally got the creek re-opened.

"We now have a 70-foot span that can have up to 15 feet of water flowing under it, and that's a lot of moving water."



Work under the bridge also included the removal of 500 cubic yards of silt, using a small bulldozer.

At a Jan. 24 luncheon in MacQueen Hall, Upland Borough leaders hosted a number of officials from neighboring Chester and Chester Township to celebrate the mutual benefits of the completed bridge project.

"I want to thank everyone for their efforts over the last two years. It was a struggle at times, but our mutual goals were met with an all-out team effort. We know that this is not a permanent solution to all of our flooding problems, but it's certainly a big help. We're looking forward to Mike (Murphy) and his guys keeping (under) the bridge open for us in the future," stated Mitchell.



In this photo, taken after the bridge project was completed, the waters of Chester Creek easily flow under both arches of the bridge without obstruction.

At the luncheon, a borough proclamation was read aloud by Mayor Michael Ciach and given to several of the gathered municipal officials, stating:

“Many borough residents live within the flood plain of Chester Creek, and year after year, our residents and emergency services personnel hold their breath in anguish when there is news of an imminent Nor’easter or major storm scheduled to hit the Delaware Valley.

“Many Uplanders have had to endure property loss due to flooding caused by the backup of debris and sludge under the Kerlin Street bridge. The removal of this debris has proven to alleviate much of the damage and heartache. Our residents can now sleep a little easier, knowing of the efforts that their public officials have taken to move flood prevention one giant step forward.”

The borough proclamation was given to PA Senator Dominic Pileggi, County Maintenance Manager (District 6.0) Michael Murphy of PennDOT, John Bush of PennDOT, John Pickett of the Delaware County Planning Department, Bob Hutchinson of FEMA, Charles Catania and Alex Rodriguez of Catania Engineering Associates, PADEP representatives, and Upland’s own Council VP Christine Peterson and Councilman/Flood Plain Coordinator Harold R. Peden.

Among those recognized from Chester Township were Commissioners Chairman Stan Kester, Commissioner Bob May, Solicitor Steve Polaha, and former Township Manager Bill Pisarek, while those applauded from the City of Chester included Fire Commissioner Jim Johnson, Police Commissioner Joe Bail, and Mayor John Linder.

Pileggi also complimented Mike Murphy for his pivotal role in the project, saying:

“Your strong commitment to maintaining our roads, highways and bridges has been evident in your work during the last 34 years. You should be proud of your talents and the leadership qualities you demonstrate to all other employees. Thank you for all you do for Delaware County.

“It’s not too often that you hear government workers being praised, so this is an extraordinary event. I see the great work that the vast majority of state workers do on a day-to-day basis, and many times it’s under-appreciated. It’s really nice to see a community appreciate the fine work of a fine state employee, and I’m very happy to be here to share in that recognition,” added Pileggi.



Mike Murphy (center), a PennDOT supervisor, was among the individuals who were singled out for recognition at the Jan. 24 luncheon. For his efforts in leading the PennDOT clean-up crew, Murphy received an Upland Borough proclamation and a certificate of appreciation from the Pennsylvania State Senate.

But Murphy shared the spotlight with others.

“The efforts were not mine alone,” said Murphy. “It all started when Mr. Mitchell and I met on the bridge in 2010, and we both wanted to get this project moving. Credit also goes to my assistant, John Bush, our bridge engineer in Delaware County, who spearheaded the job of getting everything cleared out.”

Mayor John Linder of Chester City also expressed his gratitude on behalf of Chester residents.

“As the mayor of Chester, I want to thank you guys for the work that you have done. It’s been a tremendous help, so we also give accolades to everyone who received certificates here today for the cooperative spirit that you showed in working with Chester,” said Linder.

“We moved past being just a borough, a city, or a township, and put forth a regional effort that makes this so great,” the mayor added.



Mayor John Linder of Chester is just as pleased as his Upland Borough counterpart, Mayor Mike Ciach, with the completion of the Kerlin Street bridge project.

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



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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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The Jan. 8 Borough 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.



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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 **March 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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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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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.

The Armory complex consists of two permanent structures - a two-story, 25,687-sq. ft. administration building and a 5,376-sq. ft., two-bay vehicle maintenance shop, and a 2,700-sq. ft. storage building.

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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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.

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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.

Mitchell noted that less than 10% of the general budget is funded by the \$240,000 that the borough collects in property tax each year.

"We just passed a budget for \$2.9 million, and 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."

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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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!

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

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. An inspection of the fully-assembled vehicle is slated for March 21/22, and the fully-equipped truck should be completed and delivered by June 2013, according to Upland Fire Chief Dan Smith.

The vehicle is essentially a pumper truck with a rescue truck body. 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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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 all 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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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 Code Enforcement Officer Leland Hunter, 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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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.

Using the vacant building as a practice site for the Upland Fire Co. was recently ruled out for public safety reasons.

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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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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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Upland Police Chief John Easton and Fire Chief Dan Smith recently hosted a Delco Bomb Squad training session for first responders at Macqueen Hall, with about 100 firefighters and police personnel from five different southeastern Delco communities attending.

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