



The Caleb Pusey House

The Uplander



MacQueen Hall

The official newsletter of historic Upland Borough

(Settled 1683; Incorporated 1869)



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PA Senator Dominic Pileggi (center) recently 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.

Doo Wop Dance Is Crowd-Pleaser



(Above) The harmonized voices of the Street Corner Five kept many of the attendees of the March 9 Doo Wop Dance in MacQueen Hall on their feet; (Below) Don and Linda Kirby enjoy a slow dance here, but later in the evening, the dancing duo won a Jitterbug contest and pocketed \$25 each.



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On March 12, Borough Engineer Charles J. Catania, Sr. (center) was feted by Borough Council in appreciation of his 50 years of dedicated service to Upland Borough.

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Patrolman Nicholas Mariani (second from right) was recently congratulated by Mayor Michael Ciach, Police Chief John Easton, and Deputy Chief Nelson Ocasio upon Mariani's completion of county training to become the Upland PD's newest Field Training Officer.

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On March 18, Councilwoman/Dance Party Hostess Sandy Miazza (far right) and her helpers were at it again, serving up a delicious all-you-can-eat St. Patty's Day Ham & Cabbage Luncheon for Upland senior citizens.

Successful Fundraisers Benefit Community

A pair of successful fundraisers held at MacQueen Hall in recent weeks helped generate funds to support free community events, such as the annual St. Patty's Day Ham & Cabbage Luncheon for Seniors.

Scores of Upland residents turned out to fill their plates at the free March 18 luncheon, which was graciously prepared and served up by the Community Affairs Committee. A special feature this year was participating in a Delco Daily Times People Poll, with 12 Upland residents getting their smiling faces in the newspaper on March 19 and 20, along with their answers to the questions: "What really gets your Irish up?" and "What is the best part of getting older?"

But all the fabulous food and fun at the luncheon was made possible by the money raised at other events, including a Soup-n-Salad Dinner on Feb. 23 and a Doo Wop Dance on March 9. Both events were well attended, but the dance packed the house and brought back memories of MacQueen Hall's storied past as the social hub of Upland.

Community Affairs Committee Chairwoman Sandy Miazza recently expressed her gratitude to all the fundraiser attendees and to her dedicated volunteer helpers as well. She was particularly pleased with the dance turnout and felt that it might be something worth repeating next year.

"Everybody enjoyed themselves and it was fun," Miazza said of the retro event.

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Catania Recognized For Half Century of Service

Charles J. Catania, Sr. was honored with a mayoral proclamation on March 12 in recognition of his 50 years of service to Upland Borough during a 57-year career as a civil engineer.

"Mr. Catania has been the main reason behind many of our borough's successful projects, including Auburn Village, the Upland Police Department building, and many more too numerous to name," the proclamation stated, as read by Mayor Michael Ciach.

Over six decades, Catania has also provided engineering services to many other Delaware County municipalities, and was recently given a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers.

Charles "Chuck" Catania founded the engineering firm that is located on MacDade Blvd. in Ridley Township, where he and his employees (including his daughter, Lisa Catania, P.E.) serve dozens of local municipalities as Delaware County's premier engineering advisors.

The proclamation concluded by noting that the Borough of Upland is proud to say that "Catania and his associates and family are not only our engineers, but our friends."

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Charter School Site Demolished

The demolition permits were issued and the heavy equipment rolled on March 15 – the Ides of March, delivering the blows that brought down the vacant two-story residence that once stood on the northwest corner of 11th and Main Streets.

If all goes according to plan, a new Community Charter School will be built on the site and will be ready to offer classes in September.

Tearing down the house on the corner lot was a significant event in Upland history, described as "the death of a house and the birth of a school" by Borough Council President Ed Mitchell.

"Today marks the beginning of the first new educational facility being built in Upland since 1953. Council should feel proud knowing that, for the first time in 60 years, the children of Upland will have a choice as to what public school they can attend. This is a great day," Mitchell said to his fellow Council members.

(Find demolition photo and computer image of school on page 7 of website version of newsletter)

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MacQueen Hall & Auburn Village Improvements Pending

According to Building & Grounds Committee Chairperson Sandy Miazza, new chairs for the second floor of MacQueen Hall were delivered in mid-March, while the installation of new carpet for frequently-used upper-level room was slated for the end of March.

Meanwhile, the next phase of Auburn Village upgrades is about to begin with the replacement of another 25 rear and screen doors, according to Auburn Village Chairperson Christine Peterson.

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Council To Amend Parking Restriction

At the April 9 meeting, Borough Council intends to adopt new language for parking regulations found in the Vehicles and Traffic section of the borough code.

The amended ordinance will prohibit parking of improperly documented vehicles at all times. The reworded ordinance will read:

"No person shall park a vehicle at any time upon any of the streets or parts thereof, where said vehicle is not displaying a current state inspection certificate, if required, and/or registration tag, or without a clearly discernible vehicle identification number (VIN)."

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Flood Safety Awareness Could Save Your Life and/or Property

Every year in the United States, flooding claims nearly 100 lives and causes an average of \$8 billion worth of property damage. To highlight these frightening facts, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) are offering valuable flood safety tips online at www.ready.gov/floods, while information on how to obtain a flood insurance policy can be found at www.floodsmart.gov.

Police Officers Rewarded With Promotions

At Borough Council's March 12 session, Upland Patrolman Nicholas Mariani was congratulated on recently completing training with the Delaware County Sheriff's Department to become a Field Training Officer - a leadership position. Mariani was "pinned" as an FTO by Police Chief John Easton. Easton also noted that full-time Officer Sean Dougherty has been promoted to the rank of Patrolman First Class. As a PFC, Dougherty will now wear a single stripe on his uniform sleeve. Council authorized the Civil Service Commission to convene and make recommendations for the hiring of a new full-time patrolman (from within the department) to replace Officer Nelson Ocasio, who was promoted to deputy chief in January.

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Council Approves Reese Center Expenditures

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. Another \$36,779 was approved on March 12 to cover the cost of a new rolling electronic gate and remote control system. 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. The borough received the keys to the Reese Center and took unofficial ownership of the Armory on Jan. 14, but an official deed transfer is still pending.

(See **related story on page 8** of website version of newsletter)

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Free Dog Microchips Available

Delaware County Council is again partnering with the Delco Kennel Club to offer free microchipping of any dog from 9am-noon on **Saturday, April 6** at the Maintenance Building adjacent to the Hunt Club at Rose Tree Park in Upper Providence. The offer is first come, first serve, while supplies last. Microchips are about the size of a grain of rice, and can be read by any veterinarian or animal control officer when a lost pet is found. The procedure to implant a microchip under a dog's skin does not require surgery and does not hurt the dog, and the identification device will never wear out. "Microchips are a pet's phone call home," says Delco Kennel Club President Terry Nuss.

All dogs must be on a leash for public safety.

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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 want to 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.

So let's get cookin' and send those recipes in!

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Upcoming Public Meetings and Events

Borough Council Meetings

6pm caucus; 7pm regular voting session
Tuesday, April 9, May 14, June 11
on ground floor of MacQueen Hall

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Upland Baptist Church

Grocery Bingo

1-4pm on Saturday April 27, May 25

Bible School

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

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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 St.

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.**

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Carnival Fundraiser

Bristol Lord Field from May 21 - 25 (Tues. - Sat.)

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Memorial Day Parade & Family Picnic

Monday, May 27

Annual parade starts at 9am at Upland Baptist Church and ends at war memorial at Bristol Lord Field; Memorial Day service held at 9:30am;

Family Picnic at Bristol Lord Field (co-sponsored by Upland Baptist and Life Resurrection Churches) from 11am-1pm



Councilwoman Sandra Miazza has been a council member since 2006. During her tenure, she has organized dozens of memorable family-oriented events while serving as the Community Affairs Committee Chairperson.

MEET YOUR LEADERS

We asked Councilwoman Sandy Miazza:

1. What is unique about Upland Borough?

...Who sticks together more than Upland people when there is a crisis? Maybe it's because everyone is related somehow or another!

2. What led you to public service?

...My parents were always involved with serving the public, so I guess it kind of rubbed off on me.

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

...Just that everything continues uphill, as it has been the last few years

4. What personal achievement are you most proud of?

...Doing what I do for the kids and the seniors to make their lives a little happier and to give them something to look forward to.

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

...Having my daughter Kelly, and all she has accomplished as a mother, daughter, and wife

6. What is your pet peeve?

...Someone lying to me, especially when they know they are and so do I

7. What or who makes you laugh?

...My husband Paul

8. What is your all-time favorite movie?

...Imitation of Life (the old version)

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

...All the NCIS shows

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

...My brother Jackie – He died at a young age and I miss him so much.

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.



Councilwoman Moira Crawford has been a council member since 2008. During her entire tenure, she has served as Finance Committee Chairperson and Website Webmaster.

MEET YOUR LEADERS

We asked Councilwoman Moira Crawford:

1. What is unique about Upland Borough?

...There are many things that make Upland unique, but the most impressive is how generations through the years have been born and bred here and continue to remain tied to Upland.

2. What led you to public service?

...I came to realize that we all have a responsibility to govern not only our own lives, but also our immediate environment.

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

...To continue to make progress in developing the borough in all areas, such as community services that support our overall quality of life, while continuing to maintain financial solvency

4. What personal achievement are you most proud of?

...Continuing to have a balanced borough budget, as well as implementing the borough website

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

...Unfortunately, that would be September 11, 2001 – I remember that day as if it were yesterday.

6. What is your pet peeve?

...Being interrupted before I've completed a task

7. What or who makes you laugh?

...Coming from a large family, take your pick!

8. What is your all-time favorite movie?

...There are several, including White Christmas, Sound of Music, Polar Express, and Forrest Gump

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

...I really enjoy "who-done-it" shows. My current favorites are NCIS, Criminal Minds, CSI, CSI NY, Person of Interest, and Blue Bloods.

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

...There are many, from world leaders to entertainment and sports, but since I have to choose just one, it would be Abraham Lincoln.

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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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.

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11th Street Extension Project Delayed

Construction of the 250-foot-long 11th Street Extension (which will connect Mulberry Street to Hill Street) began in February with landscaping removal, but progress on the new roadway came to an abrupt halt in early March, Borough Engineer Charles Catania recently reported.

The problem is a guide wire on a utility pole at the intersection of 11th and Hill Streets. The stabilizing wire must be removed from the roadbed and the pole must be relocated, but ownership of the pole is currently being debated by PECO and Verizon.

According to Catania, the impasse could delay the construction project 4-6 weeks, while the two utility companies wrangle over responsibility and then finally act to remove the impediment.

The primary reason that the 11th Street Extension was conceived was to provide an alternate route to Crozer-Chester Medical Center, especially when the lower end of Upland Avenue is flooded.

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Upland Submits Official Protest To State Legislators

Upland Borough Council recently sent a loud and clear message to Harrisburg regarding the need to amend the Prevailing Wage Law, in the hopes that additional support for reform will tip the balance.

Current state law requires the prevailing wage to be paid on all borough, municipal, or school capital projects over a total cost of \$25,000. But the threshold was established in 1961, and would be an estimated \$185,000 in today's dollars.

In the end, the discrepancy means that public entities cannot afford to launch as many public improvement projects as they could otherwise.

Last year, PA House Bill 1329 sought to raise the prevailing wage threshold and reached the third level of consideration, but ultimately died on the floor, falling short of a formal vote by a slim margin.

Upland Borough Council's unanimous support of legislation like Bill 1329 was made clear in a letter that was sent "to every mailbox in Harrisburg," as one Council member put it.

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The above photo of the demolition of the vacated residence at 1100 Main Street represents the end of a chapter...



...while this computer image of the charter school that will be built on this site represents the start of a new chapter in the life of the corner of 11th & Main.

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Board-Up Company Wants To Be Upland's Choice, But Owners Decide

It's the worst night of your life. Your family has just been displaced by a house fire. Firefighters are still on the scene, and you are standing nearby, wondering what will be left of your possessions, when you're approached by a person who hands you a contract to board up your home after the fire is out. Without thinking, you sign it, because you don't want your home burglarized while you're in temporary lodging.

But do you really know what you just signed? Few people do, and there are several companies that monitor police and fire scanners and will come to Upland from as far away as New Jersey and New York to take advantage of you in your weakest hour. To address this potential scenario in Upland, Councilman/Fire Chief Dan Smith invited CPR Restoration & Cleaning Services to come speak to Borough Council at its March 12 caucus session. The company has worked in Delco, providing commercial and residential services such as garment cleaning, water-damage repairs, and property clean-up, but they were primarily interested in being Upland's choice as a board-up company. Council listened to CPR's pitch and asked several direct questions, but did not commit to any immediate course of action.

As an outgrowth of the presentation, several Council members wanted to advise Upland residents that they always have the final say as to who can board up their homes in the wake of a fire. Extreme caution is also advised when making this decision.

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**Delinquent Taxpayers
To Pay Collection Costs**

Borough Council adopted a resolution on March 12 that will now allow e-Collect Plus LLC to also collect the costs of collection of the delinquent Earned Income Tax accounts that the firm is contracted to pursue for Upland Borough.

The resolution specifically lists two dozen collection costs, ranging from \$10 up to \$200, that can now be assessed against delinquent EIT accounts.

More and more, it just doesn't pay to not pay your taxes.

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The recent installation of this heavy-duty emergency generator outside MacQueen Hall will now allow borough residents to use the building as an emergency shelter in the event of a widespread disaster. The powerful 60KW/75K, 120/208 volt, three-phase generator has already been tested, restoring power within 6 seconds of a test outage.

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**Housing Facility Now In Compliance
With Alarm System**

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

Borough officials met with NHS representatives last November to address a number of ongoing issues, and 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 still be lacking.

As of early March, however, Smith was able to report that the alarm system mapping had been completed, bringing the housing facility into compliance with borough safety regulations.

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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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Borough Gets Keys To Reese Center

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

A ribbon-cutting ceremony will be slated when all 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 the 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 wanted to secure the James W. Reese Center since the site was placed on the DoD'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 consists of three structures - a two-story administration building, a two-bay vehicle maintenance shop, and a 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.



Deputy Police Chief Nelson Ocasio was officially sworn in as Chief John 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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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.

Heavy Trash Not For Electronics

Collections of bulk trash items are made on the last Wednesday of the month, which is **April 24**.

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.



The residents who attended the Soup-n-Salad dinner at MacQueen Hall on Feb. 23, including Mia Vay (above), helped raise funds for other community events, while enjoying delicious homemade chili and soup, a salad bar, bread and rolls, and desserts. In short, no one went home hungry!

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 sixth 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 12 years as a councilman and the last eight years as mayor, was recently seated to serve as the vice president of the Delaware County Association of Boroughs.

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, thus saving Upland taxpayers thousands of dollars.

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Fire Department Had Busy 2012

While protecting borough residents and businesses, Upland firefighters racked up a busy year 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.

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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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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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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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 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 extends its most heartfelt condolences to the Miller family.

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