



The Uplander



The Caleb Pusey House

MacQueen Hall

The official newsletter of historic Upland Borough

(Settled 1683; Incorporated 1869)



Vol. 5-5; May 2013 edition



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.

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**Please vote in the Primary Election
Tuesday, May 21
Polls will be open from 7am to 8pm**



The Easter Egg Hunt was followed by a kids-eat-free breakfast in MacQueen Hall and the chance to get your picture taken with the Easter Bunny.



3-year-old Terrance Bishop of Woodside Avenue was among the children who came away from this year's Community Easter Egg Hunt with a nice haul of cash and prizes. The annual event is co-sponsored by Upland Borough Council, Upland Fire Co., Upland Athletic Club, and Marine Corps League Detachment 288, with scores of kids in three age groups collecting thousands of plastic eggs, many of which held special prize redemption slips.





Members of Marine Corps League Detachment 288 gather around the Vietnam-era howitzer that was recently installed at their Sixth Street headquarters as a 'gateway piece.' (see story on page 2)

New Fire Engine Delivered

The bright red 30-foot-long Squad 57 that was built in Wisconsin exclusively for the Upland Fire Co. was delivered to its new home on April 4. The pumper truck with rescue body is completely assembled, but now needs to have all its tools mounted and ancillary equipment installed.

According to Fire Chief Dan Smith, the fully-outfitted vehicle should be in service before Memorial Day.

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.

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.

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Upland Fire Co. Holds Tag Days

The volunteer members of Company No. 1 – Upland Borough's only fire company – will be holding their annual tag days seeking donations at the bustling intersection of Upland Avenue and Kerlin Street on

Friday, May 10 (4-7pm)

AND

Saturday, May 11 (10am-3pm)

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Donations Help Marines Complete Quest For Cannon

The veteran members of Marine Corps League Delco Detachment 288 had waited seven years for a gateway piece for the front yard of their Sixth Street headquarters, and their patience was finally rewarded in late-March, when a 105-mm. howitzer cannon was delivered and installed, all with a little help from their friends.

The barrel of the cannon is now filled with cement, but the weapon dates back to the early 70's and may have been used in Vietnam.

The howitzer came to Upland from a US Army surplus center in Anniston, Alabama. The gun was hauled to Lester, PA, then delivered to Upland by Tom Quinn of Triangle Trucking for free. The trailered gun is parked on a concrete pad that was formed and finished by George Gray at no charge to the Marine vets, using donated materials from Advanced Concrete.

Even with all the donated services, it still cost the veterans organization \$2,100 to put the olive-green cannon in place.

"A lot of our guys were with the artillery, so we wanted an artillery piece here," noted Post Commander Mark Slaymaker. "And thanks to (Detachment 288 member) Mike Avellino, who tirelessly kept up the pressure on the people in charge of this, it finally happened, which was a great thing. This project had actually been passed down through three different commanders, starting with Dick Mansfield, then Joe Clark, then me."

Council Awards Paving Contract

At Borough Council's April 9 meeting, the paving contract for the 2013 road program was awarded to low-bidder A. F. Damon, Inc. of Upland, whose bid of \$60,860 beat out two other competitors.

The Upland streets that will receive a fresh coat of asphalt this summer include:

9th Street, from Church St. to Woodside Ave.

10th Street, from Main St. to Woodside Ave.

Deepwater Lane, 3613 Deepwater to Patton Ave.

3rd Street (Auburn Village), Main St. to Griffith St.

Church Street, from 1204 Church to Chelton Rd.

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Third Man Added To Public Works

At its April 9 session, Council authorized the hiring of a third full-time employee for the Public Works Department, as was planned in the 2013 budget. Upland resident Peter Hartshorn was unanimously approved, and will earn \$14 per hour to start, then be bumped up to \$15 per hour, once he passes his Commercial Drivers' License (CDL) test.

Council also voted to name Patrick White as the supervisor of the three-man Highway Department.

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Upland Weighs Proposal For Citizens Police Academy

Retired Brookhaven Police Chief John Eller came before Borough Council at its April 9 caucus session to suggest that Upland might want to start a Citizens Police Academy like Brookhaven has offered since 1997. Eller noted that the PA State Police are actively involved in setting up such programs, and there are even state grants available to provide seed money.

According to Eller, Brookhaven's Citizen Police Academy program has held a total of 18 classes and graduated a total of 445 residents, who have ranged in age from 13 (with parental guidance) to senior citizens. Graduates have often gone on to get involved in local Town Watch programs, he said.

While the Brookhaven program has offered instruction on such topics as CPR/first aid, K-9 police work, firearms safety, bomb disposal, arson and crime scene investigation, and crisis negotiation, Eller noted that a comparable program in Upland could be custom tailored.

"We are committed to doing educational programs, and this could be just one more offering to the community," said Council President Ed Mitchell.

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SMILE, You're On Wrong-Way Camera!

An Auburn Village resident recently came before Borough Council seeking to curb the dangerous practice of driving the wrong way on Willow Way.

Despite the one-way road being clearly marked by signage, and neighbors' ongoing efforts to police the situation, some drivers insist on ignoring the Do Not Enter sign at the street's eastern end.

Wisecracks like "I'm only going one way!" from offending drivers are common responses to residents who try to keep their street safe for neighborhood children, it was reported.

For Upland police officers to take action against such drivers, they need to either witness the offense themselves or be provided with photographic proof. Council President Ed Mitchell suggested that, in an age when cell phones are now capable of taking photos and videos, the simplest enforcement solution would be for concerned citizens to take a snapshot of an offending vehicle's license plate and send it to the Upland PD.

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**Reese Center Upgrades Approved;
Borough Gets Draft Deed Transfer**

The laundry list of improvements to the James W. Reese Center on W. 24th Street continued to grow at Borough Council's April 9 meeting, where the expenditure of \$53,540 was approved. The total spent represents three separate upgrades that relate to plumbing, electrical, and security issues. To pay for the 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.

"It is not costing the taxpayers of Upland a dime to make these renovations to the Reese Center," Council President Ed Mitchell reminded residents. "We're tickled to death that we're finally getting close to getting the deed."

The borough received the keys to the Reese Center and took unofficial ownership of the Armory on Jan. 17, but an official deed transfer is still pending. A preliminary draft of a Quitclaim Deed was recently received by the borough, meaning that an official transfer of ownership should be just weeks away.

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Send In Those Recipes

Share A Recipe 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.

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Share A Recipe

This month's tasty **Share A Recipe** submission comes from the Miles Family of Fifth Street:

Broccoli Casserole with Stuffing

Ingredients: 2 packages frozen broccoli, 2 eggs (beaten), 1 onion (finely chopped), 1 can of cream of chicken soup, ½ cup mayonnaise, ½ cup grated cheddar cheese, ¼ cup melted butter or margarine, and 1 package herbed stuffing mix.

Directions: Cook/steam broccoli; Combine eggs, onion, soup and mayo to make sauce; Place layer of broccoli in bottom of 2-quart casserole dish; Add layer of cheese; Pour small amount of sauce on top; Repeat layering until all ingredients used; Top with stuffing mix; Sprinkle butter or margarine on top; Bake at 350F for 30 minutes.

Upcoming Public Meetings and Events

Borough Council Meetings

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

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Upland Baptist Church

Grocery Bingo

1-4pm on Saturday, May 25

Bible School

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

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, and guided tours...

*** PLUS ***

A special attraction will be ANTIQUE APPRAISALS provided by Mike Wilson of Wilson's Auction
LIMIT OF TWO ITEMS;

First item appraised free; second item \$5

Need lunch?...then visit the baked goods table or enjoy a roasted corn-on-the-cob or a hot dog with chili and/or sauerkraut

***All comers are invited to participate in the site's Spring Clean-up on 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.)
Family fun and games - Back by popular demand!

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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

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**Upland Senior Citizens Club
Flea Market & Bake Sale**

11am-3pm Saturday, June 8
at MacQueen Hall

Food and drinks available; rent flea market tables for \$15
This fundraiser will allow Upland seniors to defray the cost of group activities and field trips.

For more information, call Lee Hunter at 610-874-7317



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.

Charter School Site Demolished

On March 15, demolition equipment 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,” said Mitchell.



Progress on the 11th Street Extension was delayed by a utility pole issue, but once completed, the new roadway will create an emergency route to the hospital by connecting Mulberry Street to Hill Street.

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.



Police Chief John Easton's law enforcement career spans 42 years. He has been Upland Borough's top cop since 2008. During his tenure, the Upland force has been transformed into one of Delco's most highly-respected police departments.

MEET YOUR LEADERS

We asked Police Chief John Easton:

1. *What is unique about Upland Borough?*

...The families that I have known for several decades are still in Upland, living in the same areas of the community, and they are as welcoming now as they were years ago.

2. *What led you to public service?*

...Growing up in Philadelphia, I experienced many things I did not like. After moving to Delaware County, I made up my mind that I would not allow the people in my community to endure those negative experiences.

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

...To insure that the people of Upland keep moving forward in a positive direction for the duration of my tenure.

4. *What personal achievement are you most proud of?*

...Hearing from members of the Upland community, young and old alike, that the borough has come a long way and that they are proud of their police.

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

...Surviving Vietnam, then later marrying and raising two professional children, are all events that I treasure.

6. *What is your pet peeve?*

...Watching people take the oath on the witness stand, then sit there before the judge and jury and tell bold-faced lies.

7. *What or who makes you laugh?*

...The late Jonathan Winters – he bestowed his gift of comedy on people of all walks of life without vulgarity or profanity.

8. *What is your all-time favorite movie?*

...The Ten Commandments

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

...Local, national, and world news

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

...Willie Horton – a Korean War vet who was recently featured in the Daily Times. We have a lot in common. He reminds me of myself at 17 years old.



Part-time Patrolman Joseph Augustine (left) returns the salute of fellow U.S. Army veteran Upland PD Deputy Chief Nelson Ocasio (right), as Mayor Michael Ciach and Police Chief John Easton look on.



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Upland PD Adds Army Vet

On April 9, Patrolman Joseph Augustine was sworn in by Mayor Michael Ciach as the newest part-time officer in the Upland Police Department. Augustine's girlfriend, Vanessa Habisch, held the Bible during the swearing ceremony.

Augustine, age 25, is a 2006 graduate of Chichester High School and graduated from the Delaware County Police Academy last year.

Officer Augustine has been employed part-time with the Trainer Police Department since 2012, after serving six years as an infantryman in the U.S. Army.

After completing tours of both Iraq and Afghanistan, Augustine was honorably discharged from the Army at the rank of sergeant. He joins Deputy Chief Nelson Ocasio as members of the Upland force with military leadership experience.

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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 two more special **Electronic Recycling Days** on **Saturdays, 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.

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 and the laying of a roadbed, but progress on the new roadway came to an abrupt halt in early March, Borough Engineer Charles Catania reported.

The problem was a guide wire on a utility pole at the intersection of 11th and Hill Streets. The stabilizing wire had to be removed from the roadbed and the pole relocated. The borough is now negotiating with utility companies to determine who will pay for the relocation.

According to Catania, the impasse could delay the construction project 4-6 weeks, but it is hoped that construction can resume in May.

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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Council Amends Parking Restriction

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

The amended ordinance prohibits parking of improperly documented vehicles at all times.

The re-worded ordinance reads: "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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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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Heavy Trash Not For Electronics

Collections of bulk trash items are made on the last Wednesday of the month, which is **May 29**. 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 Rose Tree Park on **Sept. 12** (Thurs.); and Upper Chichester Municipal Building on **Oct. 19** (Sat.).

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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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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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. Caution is advised when making this decision.

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

Delinquent Taxpayers Will 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.

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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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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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MacQueen Hall & Auburn Village Get Upgrades

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 the frequently-used upper-level room was completed in the end of April.

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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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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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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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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And 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.

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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.

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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, 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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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.

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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.

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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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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