



The Uplander



The Caleb Pusey House

MacQueen Hall

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



Vol. 5-7; July 2013 edition



Successful Fundraisers Benefit Everyone



(Above) The carnival that visited Bristol Lord Field from May 21-25 raised \$4,000 that will be used by the Community Affairs Committee to fund other free family-oriented events. (Below) The June 8 Flea Market & Bake Sale in MacQueen Hall provided bargain hunters with some excellent deals and raised over \$300 that will help defray costs for Upland Senior Citizen Club activities and field trips.



*



*



On June 11, Mayor Michael Ciach swore in Officer William Meyer as a full-time member of the Upland PD, while his friend Theresa held the Bible. Meyer joined the force in 2012 and during his first year earned his certification to do roadside truck inspections and to operate a police motorcycle. Meyer was recommended by Upland's Civil Service Commission to bring the department's full-time roster back up to six officers, including Chief John Easton.

Council Meeting Dates Moved

Upland Borough Council will temporarily forego the second Tuesday of the month schedule for the summer, holding their monthly caucus and regular voting meetings on Tuesdays, **July 2** and **Aug. 27** instead.

The meeting dates were changed to give greater summer vacation flexibility to council members, borough professionals, and those residents who regularly attend council meetings.



On June 17, this group of volunteers from Upland Fire Co. #1 brought back, unloaded, and reset the antique furnishings of the historic Pusey House on Race Street, after the fire company had taken the heavy furniture to higher ground to protect it from floodwaters earlier in the month.

Upland Now Owns James W. Reese Center

The vacated U.S. Army Reserve complex that sits on West 24th Street has now officially been deeded over from the federal government to the Borough of Upland. A quitclaim deed was finalized in early June, transferring ownership of the 5-acre facility to the borough at no cost.

With an estimated value of roughly \$5 million, the Reese Center is comprised of three large buildings, all enclosed in a fenced compound.

The former Army depot was named after James William Reese of Chester, who was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions during the Sicily campaign of World War II.

The borough is planning an official Reese Center dedication ceremony for later this year. Borough Council plans to convert the complex into a community center, utilizing revenue generated by the parking tax.

*

Reese Center Upgrades Approved

At its June 11 meeting, Borough Council approved the expenditure of a total of \$61,285 to fund more improvements to the recently-acquired Reese Center complex.

Of the total appropriated, \$53,325 was designated to pay for the installation of three fire alarm systems – one for each building. Another \$4,930 was earmarked for the removal of overgrown trees, the creation of two flower beds, and the restoration of lawn areas; while \$3,030 will pay for electronic enhancements to two security gates.

In other Reese Center news, Councilwoman Sandy Miazza was pleased to announce that the Upland Athletic Club has donated a pool table for use in the Reese Center, once renovations are completed.

*

Welcome Day Rescheduled; Pusey House Tours Available

The elaborate Welcome Day celebration that was planned for Landingford Plantation on Race Street on May 11 was not actually rained out, but the ominous stormy forecast convinced the organizers to postpone the event and regroup for another day.

That day will be **Saturday, Oct. 26, 2013.**

The Friends of the Caleb Pusey House are looking forward to offering their visitors and supporters the same collection of colonial crafters and re-enactors, free antique appraisals, guided tours, and delicious food fare that was originally planned for May 11.

Meanwhile, free guided tours are always available at the historic Pusey House (built in 1683 – the oldest English cottage still standing in America). Tour guides are generally on site every weekend afternoon from May thru October, but it is a good idea to call **610-874-5665** prior to your visit.

*

MacQueen Hall Gets Showers

As part of the ongoing effort to turn MacQueen Hall into a viable community emergency shelter, the installation of shower stalls in the men's and ladies' restrooms was recently completed.

Borough Needs Residents Help To Stop Trash Pickers

The practice of sorting through curbside trash and recycling containers to remove items of value (commonly known as 'picking') is illegal in Upland. Prohibited under Chapter 155 of the borough code, curbside picking can lead to citations of up to \$600 for regular trash items and a minimum of \$200 and a maximum of \$1,000 for recyclable items.

Pickers often leave a mess after rooting through piles of trash, and that mess then has to be cleaned up by trash collectors – a process that costs time and money.

Furthermore, when pickers remove recyclables from the trash stream, they are in effect stealing from borough taxpayers, who are credited for the tonnage of recyclables collected. The more recycling collected, the lesser the trash collection bill paid by the borough.

In an effort to bring this messy and fiscally-draining practice of trash picking to an end, Borough Council is asking residents to be vigilant on trash days (every Monday and Thursday) and recycling days (first and third Fridays of each month). Since pickers generally work in the early morning hours and move through the town fairly quickly, catching them in the act is often difficult for the police officers on duty. But that is where residents can help.

Any resident who observes a trash-picker in action is urged to call 911 immediately to give a description of the offenders and their vehicle. A call to the borough office (**610-874-7317**) is also requested, as even small tidbits of information will eventually add up and give police enough data to identify the culprits. Taking a cellphone photo of illegal pickers would also be useful for police analysis.

"Our ordinance is only as good as our enforcement, and it is difficult to enforce without the help of the public," noted Councilman Harold R. Peden.

Please help Upland Borough retain all the benefits it should receive from clean and efficient trash and recycling collections.

*

New Twist On Proverbs

A first-grade teacher asked her students to complete some familiar proverbs and got some interesting new endings to old saws:

A penny saved is...not much.

The pen is mightier than the...pigs.

You can't teach an old dog new...math.

If at first you don't succeed...get new batteries.

***Look for more modern-day proverbs in upcoming editions of *the Uplander*.

* * *

Residents are reminded: Whether you do your own grass cutting or hire a professional, clippings must be swept up from the street and sidewalk areas and discarded with the trash.

Grass clippings left along the curb line often end up clogging storm drainage inlets, which is a major cause of roadway flooding.

Borough Taking Bids On Improvements

Upland Borough is currently taking bids on three unrelated public improvement projects.

*A bid opening will be held on July 9 to determine the low-bidder for renovations to the borough's lone firehouse, which was built in 1975. One new truck bay is planned, as well as additional office space and a new building facade.

*Bids are being taken to install a wrought iron fence on top of the Auburn Village wall that runs down Main Street. The intent is to keep pedestrian traffic off the grass and on the sidewalks.

Borough Council had sought county funding for this project in recent years, but never received a grant, so the decision was recently made to wait no longer.

*Another project going out to bid was chosen for county funding through a 2013 Community Development Block Grant as Phase II of the 11th Street Extension, which will link Hill Street to West 24th Street.

Once completed, the 11th Street Extension will run from Mulberry Street to West 24th and will serve as an alternate emergency route to Crozer-Chester Medical Center.

*

Flooding Near-Misses Show Readiness

After about 7 inches of rain had fallen on our region during the first week of June, the potential for the flooding of Chester Creek was very high, as the swollen stream crested to its banks twice, but eventually receded each time.

Last year's dredging underneath the Kerlin Street bridge was tested for the first time, but even large tree branches passed under the bridge and did not create the bottleneck that so often has exacerbated flooding conditions in the lower end of Upland.

Beyond the apparent success of the bridge project, the state of readiness displayed by borough and emergency personnel was also impressive.

At the June 11 Council meeting, special recognition was given to the preparedness of the Upland Police Department, the Public Works Department, Upland Fire Co. # 1, and the borough office.

Kudos were extended to the Upland firefighters who carried the antique furnishings of the historic Pusey House to safety, then later returned to put them back in place, earning the eternal gratitude of the Friends of the Caleb Pusey House.

"With all the rain we've had and the potential for flooding, I think everyone has done a great job," said Council President Ed Mitchell. "That creek was up there, and we just missed being flooded."

*

Church Food Bank Needs Helpers

The Upland Baptist Church Food Bank is in need of volunteers **from 8-10am on Tuesday mornings** to unpack deliveries and pack food bags. If you can help the food bank continue to help others, call the church office or just stop in.

*

Upland Chows Down At Picnic

The annual Memorial Day picnic at Bristol Lord Field has been a community staple for the past 10 years. Co-sponsored by the Upland Baptist and Resurrection Life Churches, the picnic was blessed by beautiful weather on May 27, which helped lead to a record 438 plates of food served this year.

In addition to the wide variety of homemade salads and cupcakes that were consumed during the three-hour event, guests also ate 356 hot dogs, 368 hamburgers, 86 lbs. of baked beans, and 430 bags of potato chips.

And while the free all-you-can-eat lunch was being served up, three face-painters were kept busy all day transforming the faces of Upland's youth.

A community-wide thank you goes out to the dedicated volunteers from both churches, with a special shout-out reserved for tireless grillmeisters Tony Butler, Chuck Siple, and Anthony Dorsey.

Upcoming Public Meetings and Events

Borough Council Meetings

6pm caucus; 7pm regular voting session
Tuesday, July 2, Aug. 27, Sept. 10
on ground floor of MacQueen Hall
(note special summer schedule dates)

*

Fourth of July Family Picnic

11am - 2pm on Thursday, July 4
at Bristol Lord Field

This annual event is free to all Upland residents, who must wear wristbands for unlimited access. Come out and enjoy the plentiful food and fun, children's games/amusements, music, & pony rides.

*****Wristbands for residents attending the July 4th Family Picnic will be distributed at the event. Proof of residency is required.*****

*

Wilmington Blue Rocks Game for Upland Youth

Friday, Aug. 9

Transportation provided – Bus leaves at 5pm; Must register in advance

*

Annual Labor Day Fireworks

Sunday, Sept. 1

Show starts at dusk at Bristol Lord Field; Refreshments available at pavilion

*

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

Saturday, Sept. 28

*

Landingford Plantation Clean-up Day

Saturday, Oct. 5

All volunteers are welcome to join this semi-annual effort to spruce up the grounds of the historic Caleb Pusey House on Race Street. Bring work gloves; Tools will be provided



The decommissioned 105mm. howitzer that now serves as a gateway piece at the Upland headquarters of Marine Corps League Delco Detachment 288 was dedicated on Memorial Day to the memory of Detachment 288 member Richard Del Grego, who served in the U.S. Army artillery.



Lead by Pastor Bryan and Patty McGrouty, Resurrection Life Church celebrated its 25th anniversary and 10 years at its Church Street location with a joyous worship service on June 23. (Find story in August edition)

Upland Baptist Offers Free Lunch For Kids

Contrary to popular opinion, there is indeed such a thing as a free lunch, and all youth (18 and under) can take advantage of this limited-time offer. The Upland Baptist Church (325 Main Street) is offering a free lunch to all children from **11:30am to 12:15pm, Monday through Thursday, July 8 through Aug. 22.**

If your family is planning to stop by, please call the church office at **610-874-7474**, so that the organizers can have enough food prepared.

*

Citizens Police Academy Coming Soon

Acting on advice and information from retired Brookhaven Police Chief John Eller, Borough Council voted unanimously on June 11 to approve the start-up of a Citizens Police Academy (CPA), which will allow Upland residents to attend a series of educational classes and presentations to learn more about police work. (Find related story on website) Upland Borough will be exploring ways to procure state funding as seed money for a CPA. No timetable has yet been established, but borough officials would like to get a CPA program underway before year end.



Borough Plumbing and Mechanical Inspector Tom Kennedy has been working in the plumbing, heating and air conditioning field since 1979. He owns and operates his own HVAC business and has been an Upland inspector since 2008. He recently earned his sewer lateral inspection and commercial/residential energy certifications from the state.

MEET YOUR LEADERS

We asked Plumbing/Mechanical Inspector Tom Kennedy:

1. What is unique about Upland Borough?

...The history – all you need to do is look at the homes in the borough and you can see there is a lot of history here. Every home here has a story.

2. What led you to public service?

...Honestly, I heard there was a position available.

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

...I'm a stickler for safety, so I worry about the residents. My goal is to ensure that only qualified people work on Upland homes.

4. What personal achievement are you most proud of?

...I have two wonderful children, both of whom have strong moral and work ethics. I like to think I was a good example for them.

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

...Feb. 4, 1983, when I stepped off a bus and stood on the yellow footprints at the receiving platoon at Parris Island. That day changed me forever.

6. What is your pet peeve?

...Upland being compared to other boroughs – We set the bar high.

7. What or who makes you laugh?

...The funny little faces my granddaughter makes

8. What is your all-time favorite movie?

...Heartbreak Ridge

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

...the original Two and a Half Men

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

...My grandparents

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.

*

To share photos or information, send to mcrawford@uplandboro.org

Lack of Grass Cutting Can Lead To Citations & Liens

According to Code Enforcement Officer Leland Hunter, 25 citations had been issued this year for lack of grass cutting as of May 14, and another 10 were immediately pending. **All property owners are responsible for keeping the grass under a maximum height of 6 inches.**

In one extreme case in the 1200 block of Mulberry Street, an absentee landlord has neglected the property and the grass has grown unchecked all year long. As the borough had done last year at the request of neighbors, the neglected property will be mowed by a Public Works Department crew, and the owner will have another lien placed on the property in the amount of the services provided, plus associated administrative costs.

*

Access To 11th St. Extension Cannot Be Restricted

A Mulberry Street resident, who had previously come before Borough Council to protest construction of the 11th Street Extension, came back to the May 14 meeting with the offer of a fair compromise. If you must build the extension (to link Mulberry Street to Hill Street) to create another emergency access to Crozer-Chester Medical Center, then restrict the new roadway to emergency use only, the concerned citizen suggested.

Unfortunately for like-minded neighbors, who may not like the new road now, the \$38,000 public improvement project was funded by a county grant, which means that the borough cannot place restrictions on the public thoroughfare.

Council President Ed Mitchell appreciated the resident's effort to limit traffic in his neighborhood, but noted that the 250-foot-long extension now under construction is just Phase 1 of the 11th Extension Project. Phase 2 will be construction of another section of roadway that will connect Hill Street to West 24th Street.

"You'll be surprised how many of your neighbors will use the extension as a convenient shortcut to the shopping center," one Council member predicted.

*

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.

*

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 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.

*

Heavy Trash Not For Electronics

Collections of bulk trash items are made on the last Wednesday of the month, which is **July 31**. 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.).

*

Upland Weighs Proposal For Citizens Police Academy

Retired Brookhaven Police Chief John Eller came before Borough Council in April 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 state grants available for seed money.

According to Eller, Brookhaven's Citizens 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.

*



This photo of the demolition of the vacated residence at 1100 Main Street was taken on March 15, 2013.



...As of late-May, construction of the new Community Charter School was in full swing.



...By mid-June, the three-story school was under roof.



...While this computer image of the charter school shows what the corner of 11th & Main will ultimately look like.

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.

"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."



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.

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 Bike Patrols Resume

The Upland Police Department re-started its summer bicycle-mounted patrol program after Memorial Day, and will continue to send out bike patrols on a regular schedule while the weather is warm.



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.'

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, some drivers insist on ignoring the Do Not Enter sign at the street's eastern end. 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.

*

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 around 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.

New Grocery Store Coming To Chester

This summer will see the opening of a new grocery store in Chester. The Fare & Square market will be located at 9th and Trainer Streets. The new store will accept SNAP, and will be open 12 hours a day; 7 days a week. The market hopes to create 40-50 new jobs, and will hire from the community, whenever possible. For more information, visit the store's website at www.fareandsquare.org.

*

Upland Observes Memorial Day



Upland Borough's annual Memorial Day celebration kicked off on May 27 with a parade that featured three Mummers-style bands from Philadelphia, including these colorful marching musicians from the Greater Overbrook Stringband.



This crew of volunteers served up plenty of free food during the annual Family Picnic in Bristol Lord Field. The popular event has been co-sponsored by Upland Baptist and Resurrection Life Churches for the past 10 years.

Part-Time Officers Sworn In

Two part-time police officers – Officers John Bogan and Diana Pullman – were sworn in by Mayor Michael Ciach as the newest members of the Upland PD on May 14. Bogan, 24, is from Malvern. His mother, Margaret, held the Bible while her son took the service oath. Bogan graduated from Bishop Shanahan High School in 2007 and from the Montgomery County Police Academy in August 2012. His Upland posting is Bogan's first law enforcement position. Pullman, 21, is a Drexel Hill resident. Her father, Steve, held the Bible while she was sworn in. Pullman graduated from Unionville High School in 2010 and from the Delaware County Police Academy in June 2012, and is currently pursuing a criminal justice degree at Delaware County Community College. Pullman is also employed as a warrant officer with the Delaware County Sheriff's Department.

*



The ladies of Upland Fire Company No. 1 were brave enough to take a ride on the Hurricane at this year's carnival, held at Bristol Lord Field from May 21-25.

CUSD Pays Visit To Upland Council

Borough Council's May 14 caucus session featured a special meeting with Chester-Upland School District reps, as the two entities sought common ground to advance the agenda of change that the CUSD is now undergoing.

The dialogue began with comments from Joe Watson, who was formerly the district's chief recovery officer, until he was appointed by the state to serve as a receiver to pull the financially-strapped district out of a crisis that has led to \$90 million in accumulated debt. Watson described himself as "an enabler," who has been given until December 2015 to turn the district around or face "the end of the public district as we know it."

Watson listed a number of areas where the district has moved forward, including the creation of a CFO, a new special education coordinator, new curriculums, and the 5-year contract recently given to District Superintendent Gregory Shannon.

To lend support to Watson's claims of significant progress, Special-Ed Coordinator Andria Saia, Acting Deputy Superintendent Tony Watson, and Main Street Elementary School Principal Nancy Perez were also on hand.

While all the district personnel were upbeat, their audience was decidedly less enthusiastic about recent changes.

Council President Ed Mitchell fired the first volley, noting that Upland Borough currently has no representative on the school board, and that CUSD has had 16 different superintendents since 1994.

Mitchell asked how plans to add another \$15 million in bond debt will alleviate the fiscal crisis created by nearly two decades of state control of the CUSD.

"It may actually be too late," Mitchell said of saving the troubled CUSD. "In 1994, we had 12,500 kids to educate and a budget of \$47 million, and today you have a \$100 million budget for 2,500 kids, so the math is just not there. I just don't have a warm, fuzzy feeling as to where we're going."

Council VP Christine Peterson chastised the district for its planned policy to integrate all pre-school classes into the high school, which was scrapped under public pressure, and the current arrangement that has Upland students walking west on Sixth Street to attend Toby Farms Elementary, while Toby

Farms children are walking east along the same busy highway to attend classes at Main Street.

"It's an accident waiting to happen," said Peterson.



On May 14, acting on behalf of Upland Borough, Councilman Harold R. Peden (far left) accepted the donation of two Upland grammar school Eighth Grade Diplomas from the 1920s. The donors include (right to left) Karen Dauber, Emily Hall, and her son, John Hall, all of whom have roots in Upland. The diplomas belonged to John's great grandfather, John C. Hall, and great granduncle, William J. Hall.

MacQueen Hall Makeover Completed

With the delivery of new chairs and the installation of new carpeting on the second floor and new lighting in the hallway of MacQueen Hall this spring, a three-year makeover of the stately building is now complete.

Built by John P. Crozer to be the social hub of the borough, the former Civic Association Building has been completely overhauled to celebrate its 100th anniversary this year.

Beyond the outdoor addition of a separate police headquarters in 2010 and an emergency generator earlier this year, the interior renovations include colorful wall murals, a gas fireplace, new council chairs and desk, and an audio system in the downstairs public meeting room, while the spacious second floor has benefited from new paneling and the installation of a wet bar.

The combination of improvements have generated "a lot, and I mean a lot" of requests to rent out MacQueen Hall for private functions, according to Building & Grounds Committee Chairwoman Sandra Miazza. For information on rental rates and available dates, call the borough office at **610-874-7317**.

*

Auburn Village Phase III Upgrades Near Completion

Coinciding with the effort to renovate MacQueen Hall has been a three-year program to overhaul the borough-owned Auburn Village apartment complex. Phase III of those improvements will be completed this summer, with the installation of another 25 rear and screen doors, the cleaning of rain gutters, and the replacement of damaged sidewalk sections and patios, according to Auburn Village Committee Chairwoman Christine Peterson.

The contract for Auburn Village concrete work was recently awarded to low-bidder Ellis Construction of Glen Mills, whose bid of \$35,000 was within the amount budgeted for concrete repairs.
