



The Uplander



The Caleb Pusey House

MacQueen Hall

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



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Meet the Halloween Costume Winners...



The annual Youth Halloween Party featured a cool collection of clever and creepy costumes, with the best in three age groups taking home gift certificates as prizes.

Above: the Pre-school winners included Charlee White's cute little mouse, Malory Carrion's sweet Hershey Kiss, and Aiden McCall's muscleman (not pictured).

Below: the 6 to 8-year-old winners included Steven Shaw's knight in shining armor, Ava Schmidt's gothic ragdoll, and George Michaelides' headless horseman.



...and the 9 to 12-year-old winners included Victoria Hansell's '80s girl, Madison Hahn's zombie, and Tianna Hamilton's bloodstained clown.

Congratulations to all the prize winners!

Seniors Enjoy Free Turkey Dinner



The annual serving of a family-style turkey dinner with all the trimmings is a gift to all Upland senior citizens from Borough Council's Community Affairs Committee. Scores of seniors turned out on Nov. 16 to enjoy a salad, turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, corn, cole slaw, apple sauce, cranberry sauce, dinner rolls, pie and cake, all washed down with a cup of coffee or tea. Each attendee received a small wrapped gift, while 75-year resident Phyllis Daley received a gift certificate as longest tenured Uplander. Below: The hard-working crew of volunteer cooks and servers that sent the seniors home with full bellies.



No-Tax-Increase “Legacy” Continues

There are streaks that are notable, but frivolous, and done only to gain the attention of the Guinness Book of World Records, and then there are notable streaks that make a real difference in the real world, such as Upland Borough’s 26-year run without a property tax increase.

As of the first reading of the 2014 preliminary budgets at Borough Council’s Nov. 12 meeting, Upland’s no-tax-increase streak and its paltry 2-mill real estate tax rate are poised to be extended to 27 consecutive years next year.

According to Finance Chair/Councilwoman Moira Crawford, the proposed 2014 general budget total would be balanced at \$3,060,161, breaking the \$3 million mark for the first time ever.

The borough’s operating budget slowly surpassed the \$1 million mark in 2007, but expenditures AND revenue have both tripled since then, making the no-tax-hike streak an even more impressive fiscal feat.

Furthermore, the annual trash collection fee, which was set at \$135 per household residence in 2008, will be maintained as next year’s trash fee, under the proposed budget.

The 2014 preliminary budget total represents a \$91,419 or 3.1% increase over this year’s budget. The additional spending is due to a 3% pay hike for all employees, contractual increases for the police department, rising newsletter costs, and expenses related to several special community improvement projects, most notably the ongoing renovation of the newly-acquired Reese Center complex on West 24th Street.

The additional revenue needed to balance the budget was found by “fine-tuning” revenue projections for Earned Income Tax collections.

Meanwhile, next year’s preliminary operating budget for the borough-owned Auburn Village apartment complex reflects a modest 1.9% increase to support costs associated with ongoing renovation projects.

The proposed 2014 Auburn Village budget total of \$778,000 represents an increase of \$14,500 over this year’s budget.

“We’re keeping the legacy of not raising taxes alive, and everyone’s done an excellent job” noted Council President Edward Mitchell.

“I’m very proud to be part of this council, and I’m proud that the young people up here have stepped up to take an active role in leading this community forward,” Mitchell said of fellow council members.

“There are a lot of positives in that budget that are going to happen next year, so it is really fun being here now. This is a good job, and I like this job!” Mitchell added with enthusiasm, alluding to his six-year posting as council president.

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No Bulk Trash Collections in December

Next heavy trash pick-ups: Wed., Jan. 29, 2014

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Voters Give Incumbents Four More Years

The final outcome of the Nov. 5 general election was easy to predict, as five incumbent Republican borough officials, who all sought four-year terms, all ran unopposed.

The poll results included Tax Collector Linda Mitchell leading all Upland candidates with 328 votes, while Mayor Michael Ciach garnered 317.

Of the three Borough Council members who were re-elected, Councilwoman Sandra Miazza won the bragging rights with 311 votes, narrowly beating out fellow Councilwoman Moira Crawford (304) and Councilman Daniel Smith (297).

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Holiday Home Decorating Contest Renewed

For this year’s holiday home decorating contest, first place will once again be worth \$100; second place will be good for \$50; and a third-place display will earn the homeowners \$25.

Judging will be done during the evenings of the week before Christmas. The winners will be announced at Borough Council’s Jan. 14 meeting.

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Auburn Village Concrete Work Completed

With the borough’s recent issuance of a check for \$10,200 to Ellis Construction, Inc., extensive concrete repairs and replacements (including sidewalks and patios) at Auburn Village have been completed and paid in full.

Ellis Construction has also been contracted to install 554 linear feet of 4-foot-high wrought iron fence (representing about a quarter of the total scope of the project) atop the stone wall along Main Street.

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Reese Center Renovations Approved

More improvements to the borough-owned Armory were authorized at Borough Council’s Nov. 12 meeting. The latest batch of upgrades will cost a total of \$29,730.

The expenditures break down to \$24,380 to Logan Technology Solutions for maintenance on all exterior doors and the installation of an ADA-compatible door in the gymnasium and an infrared security camera behind the garage; plus \$5,350 to Tri-County Comfort Systems to install drop ceilings and exhaust fans in the bathrooms and a hot water system and ventilation in the garage.

Since taking ownership earlier this year, the borough has spent about \$304,000 on a wide variety of upgrades to the Reese Center. Every expenditure to convert the Armory complex into a viable community center and modern work space has been drawn from the Parking Tax Fund, which was established in 2010.

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Council OKs Donation For Seniors

At its Nov. 12 public meeting, Borough Council unanimously approved a donation of \$400 to help support the weekly activities of the Upland Senior Citizens Club over the next calendar year.

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Work Begins On Firehouse Addition

Preparation work officially began in mid-November, as Upland expands its only fire station. March 8, 2014 is the target date for project completion.

This will be the first expansion of the firehouse since it was built in 1975. The \$315,000 construction project will add a new truck bay and some office space to the home of Upland Fire Co. #1 on McClintock Drive.

With Catania Engineering coordinating the project, the pending work breaks down into three contracts. Columbus Construction, LLC for general construction (\$219,709); Ellis Construction, Inc. for mechanical work (\$45,000); and Charles A. Higgins & Sons for electrical work (\$50,593).

The first steps in the four-month process will be relocating an outdoor electrical transformer and extending natural gas service to the stationhouse from Sixth Street.

During construction, workers' vehicles will be parked in an auxiliary firehouse lot and will not obstruct Auburn Village traffic in any way. Construction crews have been reminded that they will be working in a residential neighborhood, so all worksite safety precautions must be observed, while profane language is kept in check.

The borough has waived all associated permit fees, and originally committed to providing \$240,000 in funding for the project, while the fire company was to be responsible for the remaining \$75,000. But as the cost estimates were refined, Borough Council unanimously agreed that the borough could take on more of the construction cost.

At Council's Oct. 8 meeting, a reapportioning of the addition's cost was announced, with the borough now picking up the tab to relocate the electrical transformer, which currently sits where the new truck bay will be built. With the borough covering the cost of moving the transformer, the fire company's share of the total cost was reduced to \$55,802.

At a Nov. 11 meeting of fire company officers, it was agreed to pay the borough the full amount owed in one installment, draining the fire company's reserve fund in the process. The fire company's fiscal reserve had been built up through years of Tag Day donations and annual fund drives, both of which rely on the unwavering support of Upland residents.

Council Applies For Grant Funding

Borough Council has submitted a pair of projects to the county for consideration as a 2014 Community Development Block Grant.

One potential grant-funded project would be the erection of a waist-high modular wall and landscaping on the corner of Sixth & Main Streets to complement the fencing that is being installed to keep pedestrians off the Auburn Village grass and on the sidewalk.

An alternate CDBG project would be the demolition of the blighted building at 36 Upland Avenue.

Proposed projects that are selected for CDBG funding will be announced next April.

Aryn's Helping Hands Gives Thanks

A framed certificate of appreciation was presented to Upland Borough Council by a representative of Aryn's Helping Hands (AHH) on Nov. 12. The certificate expresses the non-profit group's gratitude for borough officials' "continued support of our mission and cause."

AHH was founded four years ago to help local families survive the fiscal hardships of having a child with cancer. The organization is named after 7-year-old Auburn Village resident Aryn Strigle, who was diagnosed with leukemia at age 2, but is now in remission.

If you would like to help AHH make a difference, call co-founder Butch Ferguson at **610-496-7304**.

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 lots of photo galleries of recent community events.

To share photos or information on the borough's website, send email to mrcrawford@uplandboro.org

Upcoming Public Meetings and Events

Borough Council Meetings

6pm caucus; 7pm regular voting session
Tuesday, Dec. 10, Jan. 14, and Feb. 11
on ground floor of MacQueen Hall

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Vacation Bible School (VBS) Night

(For children ages 5-12)

Starts at 6:30pm every Monday thru May 19
at Upland Baptist Church

Come for dinner, Bible story and activity

* No VBS on Dec. 23 & 30 *

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Santa Tours Upland

on Saturday, Dec. 14

Escorted by Upland Fire Co. #1, Santa Claus will tour the streets of Upland in a fire truck while handing out candy canes, starting at 11am, then return in the evening with lights flashing and sirens blaring, starting at 5pm.

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Christmas Carol Singing

6:30pm on Sunday, Dec. 15

at Upland Baptist Church

Dress casual and stay for refreshments

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Council Reorganization Meeting

6pm on Monday, Jan. 6

on ground floor of MacQueen Hall

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Grocery Bingo

1-4pm at Upland Baptist Church

on last Saturday of month, Jan. thru April

Fun for the entire family!



These gents were on hand at the historic Pusey House on Race St. to greet Welcome Day visitors on Oct. 26. Dressed in colonial garb are Friends of the Caleb Pusey House President Ray Peden (left center) and FCPH Vice President Dave Hay, while Upland Fire Co. #1 is represented by Firefighters Sonny Johnson (far left) and Kevin Kozlowski, who displayed the 1790 hand pumper known as 'the Dilly', so named because it was once clogged by a pickle.

Record-Setting Welcome Day

This year's annual Welcome Day celebration, held on Oct. 26 at the historic Caleb Pusey House on Race Street, was one for the record books, with the Friends of the Caleb Pusey House raising over \$300 toward the preservation of the three historic buildings on the 13-acre site. The seventh annual Welcome Day was the first to ever raise more money than was spent in preparation, thanks to a beautiful autumn day, a strong turnout of local residents, and the generous contributions of volunteer colonial crafters, tour guides and exhibitors, and FCPH bakers and food servers. Special thanks go out from the FCPH to Frank and Denise McCollum of Roasty Toasty Corn on the Cob and Michael Wilson of Wilson's Auctioneers & Appraisers of Chester Heights. Mr. Wilson spent the entire day doing antique appraisals for visitors, and accepted only a handshake in return, while the McCollums asked only to cover their expenses for providing dozens of ears of roasted corn. The FCPH hopes to bring more special events to its dedicated supporters in 2014, with plans for an herb and plant sale in May now being discussed.



Several colonial crafters, including this demonstration of chair-caning techniques by Lew Boughner, were among the Welcome Day offerings that were both entertaining and educational for visitors of all ages.



This architectural sketch shows what the front of Upland's lone firehouse will look like once another truck bay is added. *(See related story on page 3)*

Leaf Collections Underway

Leaves that have been raked curbside will be collected on **Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday** (weather permitting), as needed through December.

Do You Remember...?



...Before the '70s, when the price of gasoline remained relatively stable across America for two decades.



...Before the '80s: If you recognize this vital office tool as a typewriter eraser, then you know how typists used to fix their mistakes before the invention of White-Out and long before the age of Auto-Correct arrived.



...Before the '90s, when a hand-held cranking device was the way we opened and closed our car windows. Strangely, even though everyone now has power windows, we still refer to "rolling down" the windows and still simulate the cranking motion, if we want to talk to another motorist.

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.

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

Residents Must Help To Stop Trash Pickers

The practice of picking through curbside trash and recycling containers to remove items of value is illegal in Upland. Prohibited in 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 when pickers remove recyclables from the trash stream, they are stealing from borough taxpayers, who are credited for the tonnage of recycling collections. The more recycling collected, the lesser the borough's trash bill.

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.

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STOP! Still Means STOP!

In an effort to address the borough-wide problem of excessive speeding, the Public Works Department has recently been replacing damaged or faded roadside traffic signs and adding red reflective tape to STOP signs. The red tape will draw a driver's attention to the STOP sign, but the traffic control is only as good as a driver's intent to obey the law.

Please help keep our streets safe for our children and all pedestrians – **SLOW DOWN and STOP!**

RLC Thrift Shop Open

The Church Street Thrift Shop, located at Resurrection Life Church on the corner of 8th & Church, is open to the public from **10am-2pm** on the first and second Saturday of month thru June.



Deputy Police Chief Nelson Ocasio (white shirt) recently presented service commendations to three Upland officers, including (left to right) Officer William Meyer (for enforcement of traffic laws), Officer Nick Mariani (for confiscation of 154 bags of heroin), and Officer Jay Rattman (for multiple arrests that took guns off the street).

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 last October. After the storm, over a dozen households called the borough office to get their names added to the calling list.

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Upland Now Owns Reese Center

The vacated U.S. Army Reserve complex that sits on West 24th Street has 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 5-acre 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. Borough Council plans to convert the complex into a community center, utilizing revenue generated by the parking tax.

"This is...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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Public Works Department Moves To Reese Center

The three-man Public Works Department and the two-man Auburn Village maintenance crew, who take care of all of the borough's highway and general maintenance work, completed their move into the borough-owned Reese Center in October.

The amount of elbow room increased dramatically when equipment was moved out of the confines of the borough garage on Kent Lane and into the spacious two-bay maintenance garage and 2,700-sq. ft. storage barn at the Armory.

"The guys worked really hard and have the place looking really nice. They did an excellent job," said Streets & Equipment Chair Christine Peterson.

"What a difference from the old place!" Council President Ed Mitchell marveled.

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Church Food Bank Offers Help

The Upland Baptist Church Food Bank has been helping low-income borough families meet their grocery needs for the past 45 years.

Dry goods, canned foods, and bakery items come to the UBCFB through individual contributions, corporate donations (such as Giant in Brookhaven), and purchases from Philabundance. Basic staples such as cereal, tuna, pasta, soups, canned vegetables, peanut butter and jelly, and any type of quick-meals are always in need.

Any Upland residents can be UBCFB recipients, with proof of residency and an annual income that is less than \$17,235 for a single person. Add \$6,030 for each additional person in a household to determine the applicable yearly income limit.

Bags of groceries can be picked up by a registered recipient every Wednesday, from 9-10am, in the church basement, while bi-weekly deliveries are made to senior citizens and handicapped persons.

About 35 grocery bags are loaded with food stuffs every Tuesday morning by a group of volunteers, with the bag count jumping close to 60 when deliveries are made to seniors every other week.

If your family could benefit from the generosity of others, please contact Louise Sauk at **610-876-1857** or call the church office at **610-874-7474**.

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Council Adopts Satellite Dish Regs

At its Oct. 8 meeting, Borough Council adopted a new ordinance aimed at removing the rooftop satellite dishes that are often left behind after a subscriber moves or switches to cable.

The accumulation of abandoned satellite dishes "is a growing community eyesore and creates potential public safety and building maintenance issues," according to Ordinance No. 3 of 2013.

Under the ordinance, the proliferation of abandoned satellite dishes (measuring less than one meter in diameter) will be controlled through Use & Occupancy inspections, giving a property owner 30 days from the end of a service subscription to remove the inactive dish. Noncompliance can lead to escalating fines, in addition to the violator covering the borough's costs for dish removal.



Free antique appraisals by Mike Wilson of Wilson's Auctioneers & Appraisers (center) and a beautiful autumn afternoon helped draw attendees to this year's Welcome Day event at the historic Caleb Pusey House on Oct. 26.

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 Sandy Miazza. For information on rental rates and dates, call the borough office at **610-874-7317**.



Representing Delco Detachment 266 of the Marine Corps League, Mike Avellino (left) recently presented a certificate of appreciation to Upland Borough Council (represented by Council President Ed Mitchell and Mayor Ciach) for the financial assistance that helped repair the outdoor pavilion at the vet organization's Sixth Street headquarters.



The annual spaghetti dinner fundraiser on Sept. 28 drew a crowd of hungry residents, and all went home with a full belly and a smile on their face.



Drug Drop Boxes Set Up

In an effort to curb the misuse of unwanted or expired prescription drugs, Delaware County Council has set up a network of secure **Delco Medicine Drop** boxes to provide a safe and convenient method of disposal for unused drugs and medication.

Studies have shown that residential supplies of controlled substances, which are often found in the family medicine cabinet, are a prime source of drugs for adolescents and criminals alike. Commonly abused medications include pain relievers like Oxycontin and Percocet, as well as barbiturates, sleep aides, codeine, and morphine.

Improper disposal, such as flushing drugs down the toilet, can have a detrimental effect on the environment

The new drop-off boxes, however, will now allow responsible parents and guardians to safely dispose of unused drugs anonymously and at no cost.

A total of 10 large, metal **Delco Medicine Drop** boxes have been set up at police departments across the county. The closest drop boxes to Upland are found in Upper Chichester (Furey Rd.), Ridley Township (MacDade Blvd.), Tincum (Governor Printz Blvd.), Springfield (Powell Rd.), and at the Government Center in Media (Front St.).

"Each of us can now do our part to prevent drug abuse by cleaning out our medicine cabinets and disposing of dangerous medications," said County Councilman Dave White.

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Upland Ambulance Service Will Not Change

When an ambulance is dispatched to an emergency, it is either an Advanced Life Support (ALS) unit or a Basic Life Support (BLS) unit, depending on the skill level of the ambulance crew. Obviously, the more serious medical emergencies warrant the highly-trained paramedics of an ALS crew, while less critical situations can be handled by the EMTs of a BLS crew.

Staffing an ALS unit is naturally more expensive than a BLS ambulance, and it is this economic reality that recently led Crozer-Chester Medical Center to announce its intent to cut back on one ALS crew.

In the wake of the announcement, Councilman/Fire Chief Dan Smith and the borough office were deluged by questions from concerned Upland residents. But there was no need for alarm, Smith explained, as the borough gets its primary ALS ambulance service from Parkside, while CCMC only provides backup.

"There will be no interruption to Upland ambulance service, even if Crozer shuts down an ALS ambulance," Smith recently reassured residents.

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More Sewer Laterals Good Than Bad

The results of the sewer lateral inspection ordinance that Borough Council enacted in January 2012 have been mixed, but the overall condition of Upland's aging sewer lines is better than anyone had dared to predict. The ordinance was adopted to address a countywide problem with stormwater infiltration that costs DELCORA customers thousands of dollars every year in unnecessary sewage treatment.

Under the ordinance, all sewer laterals must be video-inspected by a certified inspector, whenever a property is being sold or under major renovation. The inspector gives a lateral one of four grades, including fail (immediate repair or replacement needed), 5-year certification (some deterioration of piping; re-inspection needed in 5 years), 10-year certification (slight deterioration of piping; re-inspection needed in 10 years), or 15-year certification (piping is either in good condition with no repairs needed, or lateral replacement was completed).

During the past year, the 24 lateral inspections that have been performed in Upland have resulted in a total of fourteen 15-year compliance certifications, two 10-year certifications, and five 5-year certifications, while two laterals failed the inspection and are awaiting further action by the homeowner.

"That's good news. It's not nearly as bad as everyone was afraid it might be," Council President Ed Mitchell said of the inspection results.

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Aryn's Helping Hands Raises Funds

On Aug. 24, a crowd of 125 gathered at the Upland headquarters of Marine Corps League Detachment 266, where the 4th Annual Aryn's Helping Hands fundraiser was held. The event is named after Aryn Strigle, a 7-year-old Auburn Village resident and leukemia survivor, now in remission.

According to AHH co-founders Robert "Butch" Ferguson and his wife Sherry, the event raised over \$5,000 to help defray the expenses of other local children with medical problems, thanks in large part to the generous participation of members of the Pennsylvania Coalition of Motorcyclists. The main recipient of this year's proceeds was a Brookhaven teenager, who has leukemia and recently went through a bone marrow transplant.

An 8-team AHH benefit softball tournament was held on Saturday, Oct. 5 at the Mickey Vernon Field Complex in Marcus Hook, with all proceeds going to AHH.

The Aryn's Helping Hands family wishes to express their gratitude to all those who support and encourage AHH's merciful mission.

If you would like to help AHH make a difference, call Butch at **610-496-7304**.

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Did You Know?: The sailing ship *Welcome*, which brought William Penn and Caleb Pusey to America (landing in Chester on Oct. 28, 1682), took 57 days to make the trans-Atlantic voyage, with a third of its 102 passengers dying of small pox during the crossing.

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(Above) Part of the official housing ceremony on Oct. 12 was Borough Council members 'pushing' the new fire truck into the firehouse; (Below) Then the members of the fire company took their turn doing the same thing.



New Fire Engine Officially Housed

The Upland Fire Co.'s new 30-foot-long Squad 57 went into service around Memorial Day, and was officially housed on Oct. 12, after the annual Delaware County Fireman's Association Convention parade.

The parade started at the Upland Shopping Center, then snaked through the borough and past the firehouse, where judges and an official reviewing stand were located. Hundreds of local citizens and fire company supporters lined the parade route to cheer on their favorite firefighters.

The spectacular procession was led by Upland's firefighters and their vehicles, and featured fire vehicles from across the county and beyond, all with lights flashing and horns and sirens blaring.

Scores of apparatus from a total of 37 local fire companies participated in the event, as the fire stations competed for prizes and trophies.

Car 99 Delco Fire Marshal Joe Locke, Sr. served as master of ceremonies during the parade, then Upland Fire Co. President Doug Scott made the introductions during the housing ceremony. A prayer was offered by Upland Fire Co. Chaplain Brenda Shaw to open the ceremony, and words of proud support for Upland's firefighters and thanks to all firefighters were added by Mayor Michael Ciach.

Scott thanked Upland Borough Council for their continuing support of the borough's only fire station, and recognized the contributions and cooperation of the Upland Police Department as well.

Upland Fire Chief Dan Smith accepted a clock plaque from Chester Township Fire Chief Jeff Comisiak and monetary gifts (for new tools) from Brookhaven Chief Rob Montella and Parkside Chief John Albany, all given as tokens of the high level of cooperation between the neighboring companies.

The highlight of the housing ceremony was the three times that the new truck was 'pushed' into the firehouse bay. (Okay, the engine was running and in reverse, but this vehicle does weigh over 20 tons!).

The first time the truck was backed into the bay, the 'pushers' were a group of nine local fire chiefs. According to Scott, "The first time is for God."

The second time, the pushing was done by the members of Upland Borough Council and Mayor Ciach. "The second time is for country," said Scott.

The third and final time that the truck was backed into the stationhouse, the volunteer firefighters who will be riding in the new Squad 57 did the pushing. "The third time is for fire service members," Scott noted.

After the ceremonial housing, borough residents and all the guests were invited to enjoy free hot dogs and refreshments at the firehouse.

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