



The Caleb Pusey House

# The Uplander



MacQueen Hall

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



Vol. 6-2; February 2014 edition



## Mummers Strut Their Stuff In Upland



The Greater Overbrook String Band held a dress rehearsal of their 2014 Mummers Parade routine at the Reese Center in Upland on the eve of performing in front of the judges on Broad Street on New Years Day.

*(See related story on page 3)*

\*



\*



At Upland Borough Council's Jan. 6 reorganization meeting, Mayor Michael Ciach (far right) swore in (l-r) Councilwoman Sandy Miazza, Councilman Dan Smith, and Councilwoman Moira Crawford. All four Upland officials were re-elected in November.

\*\*\*

## Fire Prevention Alert:

**Two discarded 9-volt batteries in the same trash container can create a spark and start a fire.**

The best preventives are to secure a piece of electrical tape over the battery connectors or to never throw away two 9-volt batteries in the same trash bag.

\*\*\*



Flanked by Mayor Ciach and Borough Manager Shirley Purcival are the seven members of Borough Council, including (l-r): Harold R. Peden, Dan Smith, Sandy Miazza, Moira Crawford, President Ed Mitchell, Vice President Christine Peterson, and Lee Hunter.

## Police Chief Easton Retires

At its Jan. 14 meeting, Borough Council accepted with regret the resignation of Police Chief John Easton, whose retirement was effective Jan. 21. During his 5½-year tenure, Easton transformed the Upland PD into one of the finest law enforcement agencies in the county by sharing his vast personal arsenal of knowledge and experience with the young officers under his tutelage.

Easton started his law enforcement career at the Delaware County Prison in 1970. He later transferred to the Delaware County Courthouse and Parks Police Department, then took a position as an undercover operative with the U.S. Department of Defense, working at the Navy base in Philadelphia. Easton then accepted a position with the Chester Township PD, and worked there for several years, rising in rank from patrolman to patrol corporal, patrol sergeant, detective sergeant, and eventually Officer In Charge.

In 1987, Easton moved to the Criminal Investigation Division of the Delaware County District Attorney's Office, where his investigative specialties were physical and sexual abuse of children and homicide cases. After retiring from a 21-year career at CID, Easton agreed to take the helm of the Upland Police Department in 2008.

In a statement to the people of Upland, Easton said: ***"I sincerely hope that I am leaving the residents of Upland Borough in a more secure and safer peace of mind than before I arrived. I hope that I have bestowed upon our younger officers knowledge and experiences that will, in turn, enable them to perform in a positive manner, always keeping the Law and our citizens at heart.***

***"I will certainly miss Upland, and I wish that I could squeeze out 20 more years of service to the Borough. I have found a home here, and I will greatly miss Tiny Town. THANKS TO ALL."***

According to Council Vice President Christine Peterson, Deputy Police Chief Nelson Ocasio will handle the chief's duties for the immediate future.

\*

## Holiday Decorating Winners Named

Lead Judge/Councilman Dan Smith apologized for leaving the list of holiday home decorating contest winners at home on the night of the Jan. 14 meeting, but promised those in attendance that the results would be printed in *the Uplander*.

Here are the 2013 winners who brightened all of our lives with their impressive holiday displays. Prizes of \$100, \$50, and \$25 were awarded to:

**1<sup>st</sup> place – Raymond Bajerski of 18 Hill St.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> place – Howard Novak of 1115 Church St.**

**3<sup>rd</sup> place – Harry Vernon of 219 Ninth St.**

...and an Honorable Mention winner was Harry & Adelaide Richardson's decorated tree at 7 Third St.

**Borough Council congratulates the winners and extends a sincere thank you to all the residents whose cheerful and colorful displays help to make the holiday season the Season of Light.**

## Upland Firefighters Keep Raising Bar

Year-end totals for Upland Fire Co. #1 activities show that the volunteer emergency responders set a new benchmark in 2013, with a total incident count of 407. The Upland record of 397 incidents was set in 2012, edging the 2010 record of 395.

Last year's record-setting performance by Upland firefighters included 12 fire incidents, 154 non-fire incidents, 199 mutual aid assists, and 42 drills. The activity log breaks down to 215 daytime calls and 192 at night, with a total of 334.2 hours spent in service by an average of seven runners per call.

\*

## Borough Council Reorganizes

At Borough Council's Jan. 6 reorganization meeting, Edward Mitchell was unanimously elected by his fellow Council members to serve his seventh consecutive year as council president. Council Vice President Christine Peterson was also unanimously elected to her seventh consecutive year as VP.

The reorganization meeting also featured the swearing in of Council Members Sandy Miazza, Moira Crawford, and Dan Smith by Mayor Michael Ciach, all of whom were re-elected to four-year terms at the polls in November.

\*



## Rabid Skunk Attacks Dog



An Upland dog recently had a close encounter with a skunk and the dog has now been quarantined.

The dog came across the skunk in the backyard of a residence, and the nocturnal visitor quickly turned aggressive and attacked the dog, spraying and scratching the surprised canine.

Fortunately, the skunk was put down on site by animal control authorities, but unfortunately, the varmint tested positive for rabies – the first recorded case of rabies in Upland Borough.

While one Upland family is now hoping and praying that their dog has not contracted rabies, other pet-owning families are being cautioned to check their yards carefully and to keep their dogs on a leash when taking them outside to do their business. Several species of wild animals roam the borough, especially at night, so this public safety notice applies to more than just skunks.

If you see any wild animal acting strange or unusually aggressive, **do not take any action yourself, but immediately call 911** and have police notify the borough's Animal Control Officer.

Residents should not feed any wildlife from their homes, and should keep trash can lids secured tightly to discourage late-night visitors.

\*

## Borough Hires Resident

At Borough Council's Jan. 14 meeting, Juniper Lane Resident Tim Peticca was hired, effective immediately, to fill a vacant full-time position in the borough's maintenance department.

Welcome aboard, Tim!

### **Greater Overbrook Strutters Enlist Upland Supporters**

The evening of Dec. 30 was very cold, but not too cold for the Greater Overbrook String Band to hold a full dress rehearsal outside the Reese Center, where the marching band has recently secured much-needed storage space in exchange for services to Upland Borough.

If you watch the annual Mummers Parade on New Years Day, you have seen the Greater Overbrook String Band strutting down Broad Street for many years. Competing in the String Band Division, the brightly-clad musicians play a total of 15 songs during the parade, but must put their best feet forward in front of the judges during an elaborately choreographed 4-minute and 30-second routine.

This year's theme was Showboatin on Broad Street. The song and dance routine involved five rolling scenery panels and 40 costumed musicians, led by Captain Bill Razzano.

Razzano was the only band member who was not in costume at the Dec. 30 rehearsal, as tradition demands that the captain's eye-catching outfit remains a secret until New Years Day.

Uplanders have been fortunate to see string bands marching in the borough's annual Memorial Day parade, and will now get to enjoy the Greater Overbrook String Band on a regular basis. Razzano has led his band down the streets of Upland the past couple of years, and could easily be described as the hardest-working man in the parade, never passing up an opportunity to entertain and generate a wave or a smile.

Razzano came before Borough Council on Jan. 14 to publicly express his appreciation.

"I'd like to thank the Borough of Upland for their hospitality this year and for granting us some space. It was a real shot in the arm for us. I can see a future of us working together," Razzano said.

"Thank you, and it's been a pleasure having you here," responded Council President Ed Mitchell.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Send Us Your Snow Photos!**

Did someone in your family take a good photo during or after the Jan. 21 snowstorm?

If so, please send a jpeg (digital only) of your favorite shot and we will put the best ones on the front page of the March edition of *the Uplander*.

We especially like close-ups of kids or pets at play in the snow, but any interesting subject will qualify!

Send photos (in focus, please) via email to

[spurcival@uplandboro.org](mailto:spurcival@uplandboro.org) OR [kennstark@comcast.net](mailto:kennstark@comcast.net).

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Auburn Village Fence Still Pending**

Ellis Construction Inc. has 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.

The first section of fence was supposed to be installed in early-January, with the work taking no more than one week to complete, but inclement weather has held up the project.

### **Upland Offers Free Smoke Alarms**

Since January, Upland Fire Co. #1 has been giving out free smoke/fire alarms to any borough resident who wants one. Request forms are now available at the borough office.

If a resident needs help installing their free battery-operated smoke detector, fire company volunteers will provide that service for free as well.

A total of 50 9-volt First Alert alarms (each with a 10-year guarantee) were donated to the borough by BRK Electronics, while an additional 100 units were purchased at the discounted price of \$600.

This offer of free alarms and free installation will continue as long as supplies last, so don't delay in taking advantage of this home-safety program.

"We want to take the safety of our residents one step higher," stated Upland Fire Chief Dan Smith.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Upcoming Public Meetings and Events**

#### **Borough Council Meetings**

6pm caucus; 7pm regular voting session  
Tuesday, Feb. 11, March 11, and April 8  
on ground floor of MacQueen Hall

\*

#### **Grocery Bingo**

1-4pm at Upland Baptist Church  
on last Saturday of month thru April  
**Fun for the entire family!**

\*

#### **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**

\*

#### **Soup & Salad Dinner Fundraiser**

4-7pm on Saturday, Feb. 22

**Homemade soups, chili, chicken dumplings**

**All-you-can-eat at MacQueen Hall; Take-out available**

**Tickets available at borough office in January:**

**\$8 adults; \$6 seniors; \$4 kids under 12**

**All proceeds benefit Community Affairs Committee**

\*

#### **Seniors' St. Patty's Day**

#### **Ham & Cabbage Luncheon**

Starts at noon on Monday, March 17  
at MacQueen Hall

**Free to all Upland senior citizens**

\*

#### **Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt & Breakfast with the Easter Bunny**

Saturday, April 19

**Egg Hunt starts at 9am at Bristol Lord Field,  
followed by Breakfast and Photos with Easter Bunny  
at MacQueen Hall**

\*

#### **Carnival Returns!**

Tuesday thru Saturday, May 20 – 24  
at Bristol Lord Field



As a token of appreciation for the recent purchase and housing of a \$750,000 fire truck, the members of Upland Fire Co. #1 recently gave a framed print of the new Squad 57 to Upland Borough Council. At the Jan. 14 presentation, Council was represented by Vice President Christine Peterson and President Ed Mitchell, while the fire company reps included Housing Committee Member Kim Kalichak, Fire Chief Dan Smith, and 50-year member Lee Hunter.

\* \* \*



Work continues to progress on the new addition to the firehouse on McClintock Drive. The \$315,000 expansion project is slated for completion by March 8.

\* \* \*

### Please Bag Those Bed Bugs!

Responding to a plea from our trash haulers, **as of Jan. 29**, the Borough is requiring the disposal of any mattress or box spring to be done using a sealed plastic bag. Mattress disposal bags are sold in various sizes at Home Depot stores, but an improvised wrapping, using a plastic sheet sealed with duct tape, is acceptable.

**Our trash collectors and your neighbors thank you for your cooperation.**

\* \* \*

### Website Provides Valuable Info

Visit [www.uplandboro.org](http://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*

[mcrawford@uplandboro.org](mailto:mcrawford@uplandboro.org)

\* \* \*

## Do You Remember...?



...Long before cell phones, when this now-extinct device was used to make calls at a cost of 10 cents each, giving rise to the phrase "dropping a dime," which still means to report someone's bad behavior, by phone or otherwise.

\*



...the '50s, when the symbol above became synonymous with the Cold War, which led to public safety measures like the air raid drills that students had to practice in school. While "duck and cover" drills were well-intended, they probably did more psychological harm than good.



\* \* \*

### Fire Co. Owed Service Fees

Under an ordinance that Council adopted in 2011, the borough's only fire company can charge fees for certain services provided to non-resident landlords who own investment properties in Upland. While some of these charges have been collected, a current total of \$6,900 remains unpaid, leaving the fire company in a collections quandary.

At Council's Dec. 10 public meeting, possible solutions to this problem were discussed, including re-writing the ordinance to allow delinquent collections through property liens and/or taking uncooperative landowners to district court.

"They're going to scoff at it, if they can, but if we take them to court and there's a judgment against them, they usually come around," noted Councilman Harold R. Peden.

\*

### Council Renews Appointments To Borough Service Posts

At Borough Council's Dec. 10 meeting, the persons currently holding several public service posts were reappointed to continue their service in 2014.

The re-appointees include Borough Engineer Charles Catania (entering his 51<sup>st</sup> year of service to Upland Borough), Borough Solicitor Robert O'Connor, Esq., Building Inspector and Zoning Code Officer Joseph Ferguson, Plumbing Inspector Thomas Kennedy, Electrical Inspector James Skulski, Board of Health Officer Dr. Robert Crowell MD, Board of Health Inspector Cathy Warfield, Fire Marshal David Favinger, Zoning Solicitor John J. Wills, Esq., with Michael L. Maddren, Esq. serving as both Civil Service Solicitor and Special Legal Counsel.

\*

Also returning for another year of service on the borough's three advisory boards are:

**Zoning Hearing Board** – Dorreda Shaw (chair), Joanne Peden (secretary), Edward Klepacki, William Dennon, and Ronald Reynolds

**Planning Commission** – Edward Mitchell (chair), Robert Dugan, Dana Dudek, George Oronzio, and Joseph Stephano

**Civil Service Commission** – Edward Mitchell, Denise Crawford, and Dorothy Patrick

**Thank you all for your valuable service to Upland Borough!**

\* \* \*

**The next Heavy Trash Pick-ups will be made on Wed., Feb. 26.**

Curbside collections of bulk trash items are made on the last Wednesday of the month. Residents must notify the borough office in advance for all bulk pick-ups and items must be **curbside by 6am** on collection day.

**Bulk trash does not include electronic items** like computers and televisions. These items will be collected at special recycling events.

\* \* \*

### Work Begins On Firehouse Addition

Construction work began in mid-November, as Upland expands its lone fire station. This will be the first major upgrade of the firehouse since 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 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).

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.

\*



This architectural sketch shows what the front of Upland's firehouse will look like once another truck bay is added.

\* \* \*

### 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](http://www.ready.gov/floods), while information on how to obtain a flood insurance policy can be found at [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov).

\* \* \*



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.

### 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 October 2012. After the storm, over a dozen households called the borough office to get their names added to the calling list.

\*

### Council Adopts Satellite Dish Regs

Borough Council has 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.

\*



The volunteer cooks and servers of Resurrection Life Church kept the turkey and fixin's coming on Nov. 23, during the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Holiday Dinner.

\*\* \*

### 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**.

\*

### Upland Now Owns Reese Center

The vacated U.S. Army Reserve complex that sits on West 24<sup>th</sup> 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."

\*

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](http://www.facebook.com/groups/334480793300363)

\*

### 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.), Tinicum (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.

\*

## Santa Claus Visits Upland



Santa stopped by MacQueen Hall for the annual tree lighting ceremony on Nov. 29, then handed out gifts to all the good girls and boys of Upland Borough – 125 in all!



...and there was plenty of tasty finger food on hand to keep everyone smiling!

\* \* \*

### Newsletter Photos Will Omit Names

In response to some residents' concerns, Upland Borough's monthly newsletter will no longer include the names of the smiling children that so often grace the pages of *the Uplander*.

This new policy is adopted to protect our children, even while we celebrate them in print.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

\* \* \*

### 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 6<sup>th</sup> & Main 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.

\*

## 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.

\*

### War Memorial Slated For Makeover

The assortment of perennial shrubs that surrounds the war memorial at the corner of Church and Sixth Streets is in need of an upgrade.

At the request of Buildings & Grounds Committee Chairperson Sandy Miazza, Borough Council has approved a makeover for the fenced site, where Memorial Day services are held every year.

Utilizing one of the borough's own businesses, Caramanico & Sons will be contracted to remove the dead shrubs as soon as possible, then replace them in the spring, when general landscaping will be done around the memorial as well.

\*

### Mulberry St. Asks Council To Impede "Racetrack"

Speaking on behalf of several of her neighbors, a Mulberry Street resident came before Council on Dec. 10 to ask for help in curbing a speeding epidemic.

The concerned citizen said that the stop sign at Gray & Mulberry Streets is "worthless," and that the length of Mulberry "has gotten to be a racetrack." She asked if the borough would consider installing a speed bump on Mulberry to slow down the traffic.

Council President Ed Mitchell noted that speed bumps cannot be used during the winter months, as they interfere with snowplowing, but such a traffic-calming measure might be considered in the spring, he said.

Mayor Michael Ciach also suggested that adding a series of new stop signs along Mulberry Street might help reduce the chronic speeding.

\*



Painter Tom Bryant spent several days applying a special protective paint to the exterior walls of the Pennock Loghouse, which was built in Springfield in 1790, then moved to Race Street in 1965. The white-washed look of the historic two-story loghouse recalls its likely original appearance.

\* \* \*

### Illegal Trash Dumping Mystery Solved

The mysterious appearance of trash in the Ninth Street alley on two recent occasions, including one time when literally a ton of trash had to be removed by the borough, was eventually tracked down to a prior tenant of a landlord who owns properties in both Aston Township and Upland Borough.

Detective work included sorting through bags of trash to find an envelope with an address. Once the source of the trash was known, it was just one more step to find that the illegal dumping was being done by the landlord, who claimed that he mistakenly dumped the trash a block away from his rental unit.

According to Borough Manager Shirley Purcival, the landlord has been ordered to stop importing commercial trash to Upland, and if he does it again, he will be issued a citation for \$1,000.

Council President Ed Mitchell congratulated Code Officer Leland Hunter for the aggressive law enforcement that solved the trash dumping mystery.

"Lee, I thank you for catching this guy. You did good!" Mitchell told Hunter.

\*

### Security Cameras Approved For Reese Center, Carriage House

A total expenditure of \$30,200 was approved by Council at its Dec. 10 meeting, to cover the purchase and installation costs of three high-resolution, tilt-and-zoom dome security cameras. Two cameras will police the new driveway area of the Reese Center on West 24<sup>th</sup> Street, while the other pole-mounted surveillance device will stand guard over the historic Carriage House, located on the grounds of Camp Upland, off Sixth Street.

\*

### RLC Thrift Shop Open

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

\*

### No-Tax-Increase Budget Extends Streak To 27 Years

Upland's no-tax-increase streak and its paltry 2-mill real estate tax rate has been stretched to 27 consecutive years in 2014.

According to Finance Chair/Councilwoman Moira Crawford, the final 2014 general budget, which was unanimously approved at Borough Council's Dec. 10 meeting, will balance 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 even more impressive.

The annual trash collection fee, which was set at \$135 per household residence in 2008, will also be maintained, under the adopted budget.

The 2014 final 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, higher health care premiums, the rising cost of doing borough business, contractual increases for the police department, and expenses related to several special community improvement projects.

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

Meanwhile, the 2014 operating budget for the borough-owned Auburn Village apartment complex totals \$778,000 and reflects a modest 1.9% increase to support costs associated with ongoing renovation projects.

"This is the 27<sup>th</sup> straight year that we have not raised taxes in this town, and that's saying a lot about what we do and all the services we provide," noted Council President Edward Mitchell.

"Everyone here should be proud to be a part of this," Mitchell said to his fellow Council members. "It couldn't be done without everyone's efforts to keep our costs down, while we increase services."

\* \* \*

\*\*

\*