



The Caleb Pusey House

The Uplander



MacQueen Hall

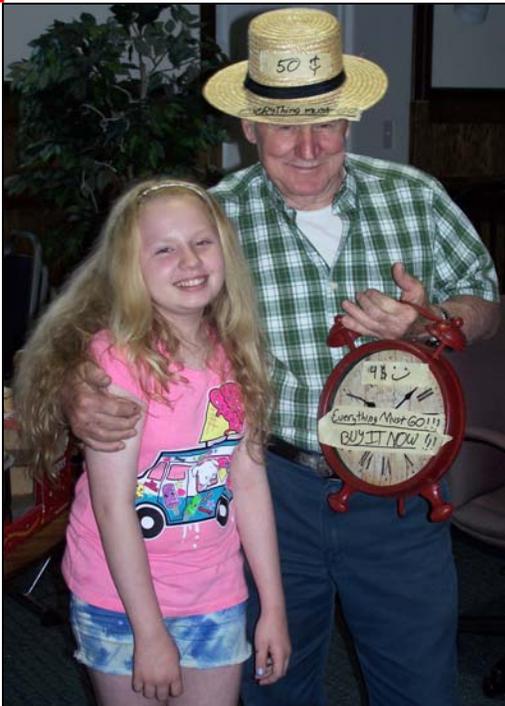
The official newsletter of historic Upland Borough
(Settled 1683; Incorporated 1869)



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Upland Seniors Sell Their Wares



The 2nd annual Upland Senior Citizens Club Flea Market was held on June 14, drawing shoppers looking for a bargain. Judging by Parker Ferguson (above), the vendors were also eager to make a deal.



Some of the vendors were also shoppers, and some were lucky enough to find an item they really loved.



Kameron Staples and his sister, Kamri Staples, of Main Street, share a smile with Mayor Michael Ciach, after the two outstanding Chester-Upland graduates were feted by Upland Borough Council on June 10.
(Read about these scholastic All-Stars on page 2)

Punch List All That Remains To Complete Firehouse Addition

The first major upgrade of Upland's lone fire station began in mid-November, with a target date for completion of March 8, but construction was stalled by inclement weather in January and February. The arrival of Spring temperatures in early March allowed construction crews to pick up where they left off. Construction was essentially completed in early June, with only a punch list of contracted items left outstanding by June 10. The punch list is expected to be completed by the end of June. The \$315,000 construction project saw the addition of another truck bay to house the new Squad 57 fire truck and some new office space for the volunteers of Upland Fire Co. #1.



The new and improved home of Upland Fire Company No. 1

Upland Siblings Praised For Academic Achievement

Kameron Staples, age 19, and his sister, Kamri, 17, grew up on Main Street in Upland, with both attending Main Street Elementary School. But graduating from Main Street Elementary was just the first step on the long and impressive academic ladder that the two students are currently climbing.

Kameron and Kamri both graduated from the Chester-Upland School District's S.T.E.M. Academy, with Kameron doing so in 2013 and his sister following in his footsteps in 2014.

Both students graduated with a 4.0+ grade point average; Both were actively involved in high school sports and extra-curricular activities; Both took advanced placement courses; Both served as board members of the C-U Youth Court; Both were elected to serve as Student Government President; and Both represented their graduating classes as Class Valedictorian.

In 2013, Kameron was in competition with over 50,000 other candidates when he was selected as a Bill & Melinda Gates Millennium Scholar and received a full scholarship to the college of his choice, choosing Brown University.

This year, not to be outdone by her brother, Kamri applied for the same award (competing against another 50,000+ candidates), and was ultimately selected as a 2014 Bill & Melinda Gates Millennium Scholar, getting a full scholarship to Cornell University.

To shine the spotlight on the inspirational achievements of the Staples, Upland Mayor Michael Ciach presented the two students with borough proclamations on June 10, while Councilman Harold R. Peden read a congratulatory resolution into the official meeting record. The two exemplary teens then received a standing ovation from Borough Council and every person in the room.

"And I think the parents deserve a big hand too," offered Councilwoman Sandy Miazza, extending the praise and applause to Karl and Bettyjo Staples.

Karl Staples expressed his gratitude to the borough for recognizing the achievements of his children, noting that the City of Chester has done nothing of the kind. Karl's college-bound kids were both grateful for the official recognition, as well, both saying that they were "honored" to be feted by their hometown.

It is no surprise that Kamri is planning to challenge herself in her freshman year at Cornell, where she will major in biological science with a concentration in neurobiology, while on a pre-med track.

Kameron will soon be entering his sophomore year at Brown, where he is carrying a double major in political science and mechanical engineering.

Congratulations to both Kameron and Kamri on their many personal successes (past, present & future), as they light the path brightly for other Chester-Upland grads to follow.

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Do NOT Give Out SS #

In response to an allegation that an Upland police officer recently requested the Social Security number of a resident who was calling for police service, Borough Council members made it clear that no one should ever give out their Social Security number, due to the risk of identity theft.

"You should not give out your Social Security number to anybody," advised Council President Ed Mitchell.

Council Vice President Christine Peterson, who is the Upland PD secretary, agreed with Mitchell and said the matter would be investigated to determine if an officer mistakenly requested the personal ID information. Peterson noted, however, that any and all resident information gathered by police officers is kept securely and exclusively on data files that only police departments can access.

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Borough Buys Building To Create Parking & Police Exit

A vacated Eighth Street home was recently purchased at auction by Upland Borough, with the intent of razing the building to create a small public parking lot and a secondary exit for Upland police vehicles.

The borough paid just under \$15,000 for the deed to the vacant building, getting the property for less than half of what they were prepared to pay.

The house at 227 Eighth Street sits directly behind the Kenneth N. Miller Law Center, which opened in February 2010 to serve as the Upland Police Department's first free-standing headquarters.

The primary purpose behind the land acquisition is to create a second exit driveway for police vehicles.

"The main thing was to enable us to get out of the police station during school hours," noted Council President Ed Mitchell.

Establishing a public parking lot with eight spaces (available on a first come, first serve basis) is a bonus for Eighth Street residents. No parking permits will be required by the borough to use this lighted lot. The additional off-street parking will be free, Mitchell stressed.

"It's not going to be a private parking lot. It's to be shared by the community," said Mitchell.

No timetable has been established for the property conversion. According to the borough office, the demolition and paving work will be done as funds become available.

A handful of Eighth Street residents came to Council's June 10 meeting to get more information. The speed of traffic on the residential street was a mutual concern.

"Creating a cut-through is going to change the traffic pattern. Eighth Street is a speedway right now. It is not safe," one resident suggested. "People are doing 50 and 60 (MPH) down this road," he added.

After each neighbor had received answers to their questions, all agreed that the additional off-street parking and a greater police presence will both help promote Eighth Street safety.

Curb Repairs Save Taxpayer \$

The stormwater inlet and curblin repairs that were recently completed in front of an Eighth Street business were praised by several Council members at their June 10 meeting. Not only was a first-rate job done by the borough's Public Works Department, but being able to have the concrete work done by the highway crew, and not an outside contractor, saved the borough hundreds of taxpayer dollars.

"They saved the borough a lot of money by doing that in-house," stated Council Vice President Christine Peterson, who chairs the Streets & Equipment Committee.

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Carnival Nets Revenue For Borough Events

According to Community Affairs Committee Chairwoman Sandy Miazza, the outdoor carnival that set up in Bristol Lord Field from May 20-24 generated \$4,726 in borough revenue, despite the off and on rainy weather during that week.

All of the carnival revenue will be put towards other events for Upland residents. Upcoming community events include a free breakfast for seniors (**July 28**), a special Magic Show for kids (**Aug. 23**), the annual Labor Day Fireworks display (**Aug. 31**), a Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser (**Sept. 27**), and a senior citizen road trip to Shady Maple restaurant (**Oct. 13**).

Come one, come all, and enjoy the bounty!

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Website Sets New Benchmark

Borough residents told borough officials that they liked what they saw on the borough website by setting a new record for Upland Borough website visits on May 28.

While the borough's website contains a wealth of information and draws many visitors for different reasons, the main attraction on May 28 was viewing photographs taken at Upland's extensive Memorial Day festivities on May 26. The posted photo galleries contain a total of 222 pictures of the holiday parade, memorial services, and the church-sponsored family picnic in the park. The digital snapshots were taken by longtime Upland residents Dick McClintock and George Patterson, and borough newsletter editor Ken Stark.

According to Webmaster/Councilwoman Moira Crawford, who created the borough's website when she joined Borough Council in 2008, the 1,934 visitors to the website and 5,020 page views during the month of May is about 30% above the monthly average, while the total of 140 website visitors on May 28 alone represents a new single-day high.

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Firefighters Slate Tag Days

The volunteers who serve their community under the banner of Upland Fire Company No. 1 will be collecting donations at the intersection of Upland Ave. and Kerlin St. during their Annual Tag Days on **Fridays, Sept. 5 & 12**, from **3:30 to 7pm** each day. (Rain dates will be on the next Friday.)

Facility Repairs Made

Thanks to Borough Plumbing Inspector Tom Kennedy, a leaky ice machine in the park pavilion was recently fixed in time for the borough's July 4 festivities. Kennedy also gets credit for repairing a section of flooring in the MacQueen Hall utility room, according to Buildings & Grounds Committee Chairwoman Sandy Miazza.

Meanwhile, the main room on the second floor of MacQueen Hall recently had new lighting installed, as the upgrades for the borough's 101-year-old centerpiece continue.

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Borough Council Meetings

6pm caucus; 7pm regular voting session
Tuesday, July 8, Aug. 26, and Sept. 9
on ground floor of MacQueen Hall
(note that August meeting is on 4th Tuesday)

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Annual Fourth of July Family Picnic

11am to 2pm on Friday, July 4
at Bristol Lord Field

Upland residents must wear wristbands for unlimited free access to all food and amusements

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Summer Lunch Program

(Free to children 18 and under)

11:30am to 12:15pm, Monday thru Friday
July 7 thru Aug. 21
at Upland Baptist Church

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Vacation Bible School

(Free to children ages 5-12)

10:30am to 12:15pm, Monday thru Friday,
July 21 - 25 and Aug. 11 - 15
at Upland Baptist Church

Bible stories, songs, crafts and lunch

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Free Breakfast For Seniors

10am to Noon, on Monday, July 28
on second floor of MacQueen Hall

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Children's Magic Show

starts at 3pm, on Saturday, Aug. 23

A free summertime activity for borough youth!

Pizza and ice cream sundaes will be among the refreshments served

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Annual Labor Day Fireworks Display

starts at dusk, on Sunday Aug. 31
at Bristol Lord Field

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Annual Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

4 to 7pm on Saturday, Sept. 27

at MacQueen Hall... **TAKE-OUT AVAILABLE**
Spaghetti & meatballs dinner includes salad bar,
garlic bread, desserts, and beverages

Tickets will be sold at borough office and at the door
(Adult-\$8, Senior-\$6, Children under 10-\$4)

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Food Bank Pick-ups

Starting July 1, the Upland Baptist Church Food Bank will be open

every other Tuesday night, from 6-7pm for pick-ups.

Grocery pick-ups can still be made **every Wednesday morning from 9-10am.**



Mayor Michael Ciach and Borough Council President Ed Mitchell pose with Patrolman Michael Curran, who was welcomed back to the Upland PD with open arms.

Curran Vows To Reward Borough For Support

Full-time Patrolman Michael Curran has had a roller coaster ride as a member of the Upland PD, but his job title changes have never deterred the dedicated police officer from his mission of public service.

In June 2008, Curran was initially hired as an Upland patrolman, then promoted to the post of investigative officer later that same summer.

In June 2011, Detective Curran was discharged from the force, following a lapse in his MPOETC certification. After his certification had been reinstated, Curran was re-hired in December 2013 as a part-time patrolman, and returned to full-time status in May 2014.

When Curran was re-sworn as a full-time officer in May, he promised Borough Council that he would strive to maintain the Upland PD's high standards, while faithfully serving borough residents.

Free Smoke Alarms Available

Upland Fire Co. #1 is giving away free smoke/fire alarms to any borough resident who wants one. Request forms are available at the borough office.

If a resident needs help installing their free battery-operated smoke detector, fire company volunteers will be providing 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.

"If any of our resident homeowners need smoke detectors, both Borough Council and the fire company are more than willing to make that happen," stated Upland Fire Chief Dan Smith.

Upland P.A.L.

Needs Your Support

Now is the time for the community to embrace the Upland Police Athletic League youth program with financial support.

Aiming to create a foundation of financial supporters, the organizers of the Upland program are asking the community to step forward now with individual donations and corporate sponsorships.

Sponsors for various after-school activities are needed immediately.

Truax Construction, Inc. recently made the generous donation of four computers and a flat-screen television for the PAL program.

To be among the first citizens to stand up and support the non-profit Upland PAL, send email to uplandpaldonations@yahoo.com or call Upland PD headquarters at **610-872-3040 ext. 208** to speak to Officer Michael Curran.

Deep Thoughts To Ponder:

- ❖ Life is a sexually transmitted condition.
- ❖ Good health is merely the slowest possible rate at which a person can die.
- ❖ All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.
- ❖ Give a person a fish and you feed them for a day. Teach a person to use the Internet and they won't bother you for weeks, months, maybe years.

The next **Heavy Trash Pick-ups** will be made on **Wed., July 30.**

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.

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.

The borough's website recently added a new Items From Public tab to the History section. If you have photographs of Upland of yesteryear that your neighbors might also enjoy, contact the borough office or Webmaster Moira Crawford to get photo prints scanned to a digital format.

To share digital photos or information on the borough's website, send email to

mcrawford@uplandboro.org



Upland Mayor Michael Ciach (far right), who recently announced his candidacy for the 159th District's seat in the PA House of Representatives, is congratulated by Lt.-Governor Jim Cawley (center) and members of the Upland Police Department, including (l to r) Patrolman Michael Curran, Patrolman Craig Scully, and Police Chief Nelson Ocasio.

Upland Mayor Makes Run For PA House

A host of local Republican Party officials gathered at the Marcus Hook Community Center on March 1 to formally announce the candidacy of Upland Borough Mayor Michael Ciach for the 159th Legislative District's seat in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

That seat has been held by Democrat Thaddeus Kirkland of Chester since 1993. Ciach is the latest in a string of GOP challengers to take on the entrenched Kirkland, who is currently serving his eleventh consecutive term as a state representative. "I'm going to make this a street fight, and go after him down and hard," Ciach promised his supporters. "I'm going to go into his backyard, right down into the City of Chester and go to the (council) meetings."

"District 159 used to be one of the strongest political organizations in the county, and we're going to get it back to being that way," Ciach added to applause.

The 159th District encompasses the City of Chester, Chester Township, Lower Chichester Township, parts of Ridley Township and Upper Chichester Township, and the boroughs of Upland, Parkside, Trainer, Eddystone, and Marcus Hook.

In his attempt to unseat Kirkland, Ciach brings an extensive resume of public service, including 12 years on borough council, prior to serving the last nine years as mayor. Ciach has also served as vice president of the Delaware County Association of Boroughs for the past three years.

Ciach's duties as mayor have broadened the scope of his experience, as he oversees the operations of the Upland Police Department, while serving as the borough's liaison to all public and charter schools and to Crozer-Chester Medical Center.

Ciach, 47, has lived in either Upland or Chester his entire life. He is currently employed as a copier salesman, and considers rearing his two adult children as a single parent to be among his greatest personal achievements.

Ciach feels that his experience as a decision-maker, both public and private, will help him make sound choices on behalf of the residents of the 159th District.

"I'm ready to go. I've got 20 years of municipal experience and the drive to see this area succeed again," Ciach says of his skill set.

The most urgent issues facing the 159th District are education, job creation and retention, and overall economic recovery, in that order, according to Ciach.

Among the Republican dignitaries who came to Marcus Hook to endorse Ciach's candidacy were Pennsylvania Lieutenant-Governor Jim Cawley, representatives from each of the district's municipalities, and about 60 of the party faithful.

"Mike Ciach is exactly the kind of candidate and public servant that we need in the 159th District," Cawley stated. "He's going to go door-to-door in his campaign and talk about a better way to get things done. I think he represents the true feelings of the people of Delaware County, and particularly this district."

All Mattresses and Box Springs Must Be Wrapped For Disposal

Responding to a plea from our trash haulers, the Borough now requires 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.

To dispose of a mattress or box spring on the borough's heavy trash day (the last Wednesday of every month), residents must call the borough office (610-874-7317) to be put on the heavy trash pick-up list.

***** No Call or No Wrapping = No Pick-up *****

Council Amends Parking Regs

Under an amended parking ordinance, overnight parking (on streets or private property) in any residentially-zoned area is now prohibited for all commercial vehicles, trucks, tractors, trailers, or vans with a DOT Class 3 or higher rating and/or a GVWR above 9,000 lbs. Street parking of these vehicles is restricted to no more than two hours between 6am and 10pm.

The amended ordinance also bans the parking or storage (for a period exceeding two hours) of all recreational vehicles and utility trailers on borough streets, while storage of no more than one RV (under 30 feet in length) or one trailer (under 20 feet in length) is permitted on private property (in a garage, rear yard, or driveway) with a minimum setback of 10 feet from the paved street.

Violators will receive fines of \$25 plus costs, and non-compliant vehicles can be towed at the owner's expense, after a warning is issued.

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

Home Improvement Tips For Homeowners

The following tips may save you money and a lot of grief, if you are having any type of repairs or home improvements done around your home.

- Get at least three estimates, so that you can compare the prices of reputable companies. And don't hesitate to tell each contractor that you are shopping for the best price, as competition tends to keep prices down.

- Don't be pushed or rushed into signing any contract, even if you have to finance the project. Take your time and get the most for your money.

- Every contractor must show you proof of their insurance and a Home Improvement State License. They must also have an Upland Borough permit, and in some cases, an Upland Borough Contractor's License. A copy of the borough permit must be displayed in a front window of your home.

- Call the borough office at **610-874-7317** during regular business hours to get answers to any questions or concerns.

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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 2013, 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 and a base for an Upland Police Athletic League program, utilizing revenue generated by the commercial 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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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.

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.

Easter In Upland Is SWEET!



These young ladies show off the bounty they collected on April 19 at the annual Easter Egg Hunt at Bristol Lord Field, which is co-sponsored by Upland Fire Company # 1 and the Upland Athletic Club.



The annual Easter Breakfast in MacQueen Hall followed the Egg Hunt. The selection of delicious breakfast foods was obviously something to smile about, while the special holiday cupcakes were good enough to...wear.



Fire Co. Improves Insurance Rating

Upland property owners should check with their insurance carriers to see how much the fire company's improved insurance rating will save them on property insurance.

Insurance Services Office (ISO) out of Marlton, NJ recently completed a Public Protection Classification (PPC) survey of the borough's fire suppression delivery systems. In the ISO's survey summary, significant advances in Upland Fire Company's capabilities, equipment, training, and document-keeping were noted since the last PPC survey.

Due to those advances, Upland Borough's PPC rating has now dropped from 5 down to 4.

According to Fire Chief Dan Smith, that one-point drop is very significant to borough residents, since it moves Upland Borough into the best of three insurance categories.

In terms of fire safety, a community's PPC is rated from 1-4, 5-6, or 7-9, with escalating insurance premiums applied to the higher numbers.

To take full advantage of this new 10-year PPC rating, which is effective as of May 1, 2014, Smith advises all borough property owners to contact their insurance agents soon.

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P.A.L. Program Gearing Up

Acting Police Chief Nelson Ocasio and Officer Michael Curran came before Borough Council on April 22 to report the substantial progress recently made in preparation for the launch of a Police Athletic League (PAL) program in Upland.

When the borough took ownership of the James W. Reese Center on West 24th Street last year, the first hurdle to starting a PAL program was cleared. More recently, Ocasio and Curran have been working with other PAL coordinators and visiting sites in Philadelphia, where the PAL program now has eight locations spread across the city.

Ocasio and Curran shared their vision of what an Upland PAL program might offer to the community. They suggested that neighboring towns might want to "build off of our model," noting that Upper Darby Township and Chester City have the only other PAL locations in Delaware County.

A PAL program is not a community daycare service, Ocasio noted, but it is "a safe haven, where kids can be kids."

And while the name suggests that a PAL program is all about sports, the chance to participate in team sports is just one avenue used to draw local youth into the free program.

Sports offered by PAL programs include baseball, flag football, basketball, ping-pong, soccer, and martial arts, but these offerings are often the springboard to group activities like school/homework tutoring, computer labs, spelling bees, nature walks, reading & math challenges, and trips to the zoo.

All PAL activities strive to teach values, said Ocasio, which in turn serves as a crime preventative.

PAL members range from 6 to 18 years of age. With roughly 1,000 youth in Upland alone, the new PAL

program will be primarily open to Upland residents, but non-resident children with ties to Upland (through schools or churches) will also be welcome. PAL programs typically operate Monday through Friday, from 4-9pm, with longer hours (9am-5pm) offered in the summer months, according to Curran. While some paid staff will ultimately be needed, most of the staff would be volunteers, including college and high school students, corporate sponsors, and community and church leaders. Funding for a PAL program in Upland will primarily come from the borough at first, but must ultimately include private donors, event sponsors, and local organizations that are eager to give back to the communities they serve.

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Park Row Offers Affordable Meals

The best-kept secret in Upland Borough may be that delicious dinners are available to senior citizens and their family members at Episcopal Place at Park Row (421 West 24th Street, across from the James W. Reese Center), every Tuesday and Thursday from 5-6pm. Seniors pay just \$2 for their meal, while visitors (under age 62) pay \$4 for dinner.

Diners can call the Park Row office at **610-872-0100** to get menu information or to make reservations.



Borough Council Vice-President Christine Peterson, who chairs the Streets & Equipment Committee, poses with the three-man Public Works Department crew that continues to garner unsolicited praise from residents and businesses. From left to right, your favorite Highway Department is: Supervisor Patrick White, Peter Hartshorn, and Chuck Boyd.

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Public Works Crew Commended (Again)

Three of the last four Borough Council meetings have included comments of praise for the extra effort that Upland's three-man Public Works Department routinely puts out on behalf of residents. Whether it's getting out of the plow truck to help a senior citizen shovel out her car or making a curb repair so as to not interfere with a valued borough business, the compliments for a job well-done by Chuck Boyd, Peter Hartshorn, and Patrick White keep coming month after month.

"I'm really proud of you guys. You're doing a tremendous job," Council Vice-President Christine Peterson said, as she handed each man a gift envelope sent from a grateful business owner.

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The food and fun were both offered up in abundance when the Carnival returned to Bristol Lord Field from May 20-24.



Council Approves 2014 Road Program

This year's road-paving program will be completed during June. A. F. Damon, of Upland, was once again the low bidder, beating out three other local contractors to win the paving contract in the amount of \$64,342. Other bids ranged as high as \$106,356. The Upland streets that are slated for a fresh layer of asphalt this year include: Fourth Street, Front Street (Auburn Village), Upland Avenue (from 4th to 6th St.), and Church Street (from 4th to 6th St.)

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Bridge Clean-out Proves Worth

The near-flooding of Chester Creek on May 1 was another reminder of the difference being made in flood control for the lower end of Upland, since tons of silt and mud were removed from under the Kerlin Street Bridge in December 2012, re-opening both of the archways under the concrete highway bridge.

The multi-municipal/PennDOT effort to increase the volume of water that could pass under the bridge during floods has yielded positive results on several occasions already, sparing the lower end from yet another widespread flood, though a couple of close calls have been seen since the bridge clean-out.

"The creek was looking real bad at one point, with debris piled up against the bridge, just like in the old days," Council President Ed Mitchell recounted at the May 13 caucus meeting. "But once they got the debris cleared, the creek went down quickly. That extra span being open is a special, special thing."

Historical Commission Forming

The creation of an advisory body that would focus on protecting the borough's historical assets has been planned for the last two years, but the process took a significant step forward on May 7, when Councilman Harold R. Peden made a public presentation at MacQueen Hall that culminated in the enlistment of five volunteers.

A primary task of the Upland Historical Commission will be to review new development applications to assess the potential impact on the borough's historic sites.

The Upland residents who have stepped forward to help protect their hometown's heritage include Sandy Deldeo, Brian Davis, Brock Peterson, and Tom Bryant, along with Engineer Lou Brown, who brings technical expertise to the panel.

According to Peden, the listed volunteers will be formally appointed to serve as the charter members of the Upland Historical Commission at Borough Council's Sept. 9 voting meeting. Alternate commission members are still being sought.

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Council Clarifies Handicapped Parking Rights

When a resident recently came before Borough Council to complain about a neighbor's handicapped parking space, Council members took the opportunity to clarify what having a handicapped parking permit really means.

Having a handicapped parking permit does NOT mean that a specific person or driver has exclusive ownership of a specific parking space.

"No handicapped spot in Upland belongs to any one person, explained Council Vice-President Christine Peterson. "Handicapped spots belong to anyone with a handicapped parking permit."



The Spring Plant & Herb Sale fundraiser hosted by the Friends of the Caleb Pusey House on May 10 was a huge success, garnering over \$400 in plant sale revenue and donations, while providing high-quality gardening and landscaping items.



Borough Makes It Official For Chief Ocasio

Effective as of May 13, Nelson Ocasio's job title is Chief of Police for Upland Borough, dropping the "Acting" prefix that he had used since Chief John Easton retired in January and the "Deputy" prefix he had used for the year prior to that.

Ocasio, 25, served a year in Iraq as a specialist with the U.S. Army, before joining the Upland police force in 2010. He has since become a fixture in the community, while earning the respect of his peers through continuing education and exemplary law enforcement work.

"It's a great honor, and I appreciate the confidence that Council has in me to offer me this position...I won't let you guys down and I will get the job done," Ocasio told Council and the general public, after he was sworn in by Mayor Michael Ciach.

"And I'm grateful for the officers and staff that I have, because without them, I wouldn't be here today," the newly-minted police chief added.



Dorothy MacQueen posed for a 2012 Town Talk Newspaper Profile photo holding a painting of her beloved Pusey House.

An Era Ends; Dorothy MacQueen Passes

Dorothy MacQueen, the devoted and loving wife of the late Reverend David MacQueen, died on March 28 at the age of 92, closing a memorable chapter of Upland history.

It has been 17 years since Dorothy MacQueen lived in Upland Borough, but every day her name is still spoken by those who work at and visit storied MacQueen Hall.

Located at the center of the borough on the corner of Castle Avenue and Main Street, stately MacQueen Hall was built over a two-year span by financier John P. Crozer. The multi-level brick and marble edifice was dedicated in 1913, and was originally known as the Civic Association building. With the Upland Athletic Club calling the Civic Association building home, the thriving community center came to be known to many locals as the Upland Athletic Association building, or more simply, the Clubhouse.

The grand structure was given new life in 1958, when major renovations allowed the ground floor to be used for municipal and police department offices.

Dorothy Henderson grew up in western Pennsylvania in Rochester. In 1939, she was majoring in journalism at WVU when she met her future husband, who was on his way to earning several college degrees, including BAs in German and English and a masters in American Civilization from the University of Pennsylvania.

The couple married on Dec. 27, 1943, shortly before David abandoned his conscientious objector status and joined the US Navy during World War II.

In 1946, the MacQueens returned to the Upland area, so that David could complete his studies at Penn, while working at Crozer Seminary's library. At the time, Mr. MacQueen was still leaning towards a career as a college professor.



The grave of Reverend David and Dorothy MacQueen at Upland Baptist Church was decorated and saluted by an honor guard to kick off Upland Borough's Annual Memorial Day celebration on May 26.



Upland Patrolman William Meyer led the Memorial Day parade riding on the Upland Police Department's newest vehicle, a 1600 c.c. motorcycle.



The Annual Memorial Day Picnic has been co-sponsored by Upland Baptist and Resurrection Life Churches for the past decade, with the face-painting table being almost as popular as the free food.

The church that the MacQueens attended while David was at the seminary was Upland Baptist Church, on Main Street in Upland.

When the church was in need of a new pastor, Rev. MacQueen could not resist the offer and officially took over the ministry duties at Upland Baptist on May 1, 1947.

Although Rev. MacQueen had several offers to take his ministry skills elsewhere over the next four decades, he never could bring himself to abandon his flock in Upland.

The MacQueens reared their own family in Upland, as well, bringing up two sons and a daughter - David Jr., Mark, and Nancy.

Ministry was so much more to Rev. MacQueen than just preaching from the pulpit on Sunday morning. He became involved headlong in all the community's affairs, and quickly became the borough's most recognizable face.

MacQueen made daily rounds at Crozer Hospital, and served on the hospital's board of directors for many years. He also founded a youth basketball league in the old gym on Main Street, along with other members of Crozer Seminary.

Rev. MacQueen kept the Well Baby Clinic going, and started an evening study hall in the church to help students who needed a quiet place to do homework.

While her husband was serving the Upland community in every way he could imagine, Dorothy modestly characterized her own wide variety of contributions as "the usual things every minister's wife would do," including public speaking on behalf of the Women's Union and teaching Sunday School.

The MacQueens both became heavily involved in the preservation effort surrounding Upland's historic Caleb Pusey House in the 1960s, when an archeological dig at the English cottage on Race Street greatly enhanced the story of the colonial settlers who lived there.

Dorothy MacQueen was always quick to give credit to other local preservationists, including Mary Patterson, Sarah Brock, John Mayer, and Jo Albrecht, all of whom helped launch and sustain the restoration effort that saved the deteriorating 1683 structure and founded the Friends of the Caleb Pusey House (FCPH) as the non-profit overseer of the National Historic Register site.

"We were kind of hangers-on at first, then once we got our feet wet, we starting really working in earnest," MacQueen said of her household's involvement with the historic site.

With David MacQueen serving as FCPH President for a number of years, and Dorothy being FCPH Secretary and among the first members to give free guided tours of the Pusey House to the general public, there can be no denying the impact that the MacQueens made on the historic Race Street locale.

The love affair between the people of Upland and the MacQueens eventually grew to such a point

that the Civic Association building - the very beating heart of the borough - was officially renamed MacQueen Hall on May 26, 1979.

On this grand occasion and many others, then-State Senator Clarence Bell, himself an Upland resident, referred to Rev. MacQueen as "Mr. Upland," giving a special title to a special man.

When Dorothy reflected on the honor bestowed on her husband, she was grateful, but concerned that a native Uplander might have been more deserving.

"I thought it was very nice, but always thought that it could have been a lot of people who lived their whole life here. I was happy for Dave, but didn't want to hurt anyone's feelings," MacQueen admitted.

Rev. MacQueen officially retired from his ministry duties in 1984, and died of a chronic heart condition on Jan. 27, 1989.

Dorothy continued to live in the Sears & Roebuck-built parsonage at 10th and Main Streets for another eight years after her husband's passing. The MacQueens had bought the property from the church years earlier.

By the 1980s, the FCPH had evolved to the point where free guided tours of the Pusey House were being offered on a semi-regular basis, and Dorothy MacQueen was at the forefront of that public outreach effort.

"I started out by just doing a few tours there, but as time went on, I just got more and more involved," Dorothy said of the gradual evolution. "The first tour was nothing scheduled, but probably just someone who showed up and wanted to know something about the house."

Even after Mrs. MacQueen moved to Riddle Village in Middletown, she continued to pour her heart and soul into Upland and the Pusey House.

Over the course of the last three decades, a rough estimate of the number of tourists who heard Dorothy present the history of the Pusey settlement would be in the neighborhood of 2,500. During this period, if Dorothy wasn't actually giving the guided tour (often wearing a custom-made colonial-style dress), she was scheduling the other FCPH volunteers who helped do the same job.

In recent years, tours have been given every weekend from May through October, and that tradition continues today, with free tours offered every Saturday from 1-4pm or by appointment.

The best of touring times involved children. In fact, many Pusey House tourists were entire classes of grade-school students, some of whom grew up to be teachers, who now regularly bring their own students to visit the historic site.

There is no corner of Upland Borough that has not been touched by the MacQueens. The borough's two most famous buildings - the Caleb Pusey House and MacQueen Hall - continue to stand as a testament to the humble couple who gave back so much to Upland.

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