



The Uplander



The Caleb Pusey House

MacQueen Hall

The official newsletter of historic Upland Borough

(Settled 1683; Incorporated 1869)



Vol. 7-8; August 2015 edition



Upland Walloped By June 23 Storm



The new shake-shingle roof of the historic Caleb Pusey House (1683) on Race Street suffered a glancing blow from the top half of a sheared-off pine tree, while the roof of the historic Crozer Schoolhouse (1849) next door took the full impact of a toppled tree, which badly damaged that roof.



The Friends of the Caleb Pusey House (the non-profit organization that oversees maintenance of these two historic structures) is seeking financial help to cover the cost of tree removal and repairing the damaged roofs. If you can donate to help preserve a vital piece of Upland history, please send your tax-deductible contribution to FCPH at P.O. Box 1183, Upland PA 19015-1183.

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Main Street was impassable, until this shattered pine tree was cleared from the roadway and power lines.

Rain Can't Dampen Fun At Fourth of July Family Picnic



The raindrops that fell on July 4 could not diminish the community spirit that drew scores of residents to Bristol Lord Field for the borough-sponsored Family Picnic.



Some kids might find it hard to choose a favorite between free popsicles and unlimited access to a waterslide, so it's fortunate that Upland's children could have both!



...While free pony rides are always an undisputed favorite.

Storm Response Earns Kudos

"For a tiny town, we sure took a big hit," Council Vice President Christine Peterson said of the June 23 storm that ravaged our area. "I can't ever remember seeing so many trees down, and I've lived here forever!"

"Our police department, our fire department, our Public Works Department, and Council and the residents – Everyone did a great job in coming together to help each other out. It was a good thing to see," Peterson stated at the July 7 Council session.

Mayor Michael Ciach noted that he had placed Upland Borough under an official state of emergency for three days, starting about a half hour after the windy storm front had passed through town, following the lead of Delaware County Council.

"Unfortunately, we lost power for a few days, but over in Brookhaven, they lost power for four or five days," Peterson said, suggesting that it could have been even worse for Upland.

"We're still working on removing a lot of the fallen trees that we have around town, but there are a lot of trees in this town, so it may take a while to get all the debris taken away," Peterson noted.

More Part-time Officers Hired

The Upland Police Department added four more part-time officers to its ranks on July 7, with Mayor Michael Ciach swearing in the new group of officers in front of a crowd of their families and friends.

Officer William Gifford, 33, grew up in Lansdowne and Crum Lynne. He graduated from Monsignor Bonner in 2000 and from West Chester University in 2005. His Upland posting is his first law enforcement position.

Gifford's 3-year-old son, Jackson, held the Bible, while his dad was sworn in.

Officer Joshua Van Horn, 23, is a Brookhaven native, and a graduate of Gwynedd Mercy University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. He is a veteran Brookhaven firefighter, but this is his first police position.

Van Horn's fiancé, Heather Santucci, held the Bible, while her future husband took the oath.

Officer Matthew Hittinger, 30, grew up in Springfield; graduated from Salisbury University; and has spent the last four years working for the Delaware County Sheriff's Office.

Hittinger's wife, Bree, held the Bible, while her husband was sworn.

Officer David Segich, 27, is an Aston native. He graduated from Sun Valley High School and attended Delaware County Community College. He currently works for the Delco Sheriff's Office.

Segich's mother, Deborah Dougherty, held the Bible, while her son recited the service oath.

Congratulations and Godspeed to all of Upland Borough's new police officers!

Park Pavilion Gets Walkway

Did you notice anything different about the pavilion in Upland Memorial Park at the Fourth of July Family Picnic? You might have noticed when you were getting your wrist stamped for unlimited access to all the amusements and free food.

Even though the project is far from completed, one side of the pavilion now has a cement walkway adjacent to a small wall with a hand railing. The walkway will ultimately be extended to all four sides of the pavilion, so that visitors to the pavilion will no longer be standing in the mud or wet grass.

The concrete walkway and wall should also keep stormwater runoff from Bristol Lord Field away from the pavilion and the equipment stored inside.

The walkway project is being done exclusively in-house by members of the Upland Public Works Department, under the guidance of 'Concrete King' Peter Hartshorn. The remaining work will be completed as time allows this summer and fall.

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FREE TOURS of the historic Caleb Pusey House, on Race Street in Upland, are available every Saturday, from Noon to 4pm, May thru October

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Parade Committee Adds Residents

To handle the complex task of organizing the annual Memorial Day parade, Borough Council has created a Memorial Day Parade Committee, comprised of a mixed panel of community servants.

Councilman Bill Dennon will serve as the committee's chairman, joined by Councilwomen Sandy Miazza and Moira Crawford, along with Borough Manager Greg Grillone as the Memorial Day Parade Committee's charter members.

Police Chief Nelson Ocasio will help identify two Upland police officers who would like to serve on the committee, while Fire Chief Dan Smith has also been asked to serve.

Two committee seats were originally reserved for residents who wanted to give back to their hometown, but when three residents applied, it was decided to appoint all three. Those community-minded volunteers were announced at the July 7 Council meeting, including Denise Crawford of Willow Way, Kris Anthony of Arbor Lane, and Vincent Long, Jr. of Fern Lane.

No date has been set for the Parade Committee's first group meeting.

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Commercial Fire Inspections Underway

According to Fire Marshal David Favinger, the cycle of annual fire inspections for all of Upland's commercial properties began anew in July.

It is hoped that all borough businesses and rental property owners will cooperate with this year's fire safety inspections, which are mandated by the state. According to the borough solicitor, five commercial properties still remain non-compliant with their 2014 fire inspections and are currently facing court action.

**Council Amends
Floodplain Regulations**

At Borough Council's July 7 business meeting, an advertised ordinance amendment was adopted to keep Upland Borough current with all state and federal regulations regarding flood insurance and floodplain management.

The updated ordinance replaces Chapter 90 in the Upland Borough codebook, as mandated by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA), and the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

The revised ordinance now "requires all persons, partnerships, businesses, and corporations to obtain a permit for any construction or development (in a floodplain); Provides for the issuance of such permits; Sets forth certain minimum requirements for new construction and development within areas of the Borough of Upland which are subject to flooding; And establishes penalties for any persons who fail or refuse to comply with the requirements or provisions of this ordinance."

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**Toy Duck Race
Provides Fun & Funds**

The weather on July 11 was picture perfect and Chester Creek was flowing nice and normally. The conditions were just right for the Great American Duck Race.

To kick off their most recent fundraiser, Upland Fire Co. volunteers dumped 195 registered toy ducks into Chester Creek (above Toby Farms) at noon, then net-wielding duck wranglers escorted the floating entries to the finish line, adjacent to historic Landingford Plantation on Race Street.

A few dozen spectators watched and cheered the race's home stretch from the banks of the creek, while enjoying the sodas, soft pretzels, and lollipops that were for sale nearby. A water-rescue team stood at the ready, but was not called into action during this wet & wonderful event.

The official order of finish was Duck #80 (belonging to Matt Brownhill) claiming first place; Duck #119 (the Johnson Family) taking second; and Duck #162 (Danny Miller) winging its way into third; while Duck #81 (George Michalkiewicz) apparently had personal propulsion problems, finishing last.

Prizes included \$200 for first place; \$100 for second; \$50 for third; and a special prize for finishing dead last.

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Cow Pie Bingo On Deck

If you thought that the Upland Fire Company's duck race fundraiser was unique, get ready for your introduction to Cow Pie Bingo, **prior to the Annual Labor Day Fireworks display at Bristol Lord Field, from 3 to 7pm, on Sunday, Sept. 6.**

Here's how Cow Pie Bingo works. First, fire company volunteers grid off a grassy section of the field, then assign a corresponding ticket number to

each square in the grid. Bingo tickets are \$10 for each square, with the winning ticket taking home a grand prize of \$1,000. The winner is determined by whichever grid square a well-fed cow decides to drop her "pie" on. If the cow fails to produce a "Bingo" by 7pm, a random winner will be selected. Ticket holders do not need to be present to win.

While the grazing cow thinks about exactly where she wants to go, the fire company will provide other family-fun activities, including face-painting, a prize duck pond, 50/50 raffle, and refreshments at the pavilion, all while a disc jockey provides the music.

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**Resurrection Life Church
3rd Annual Block Party
3 to 6pm on Saturday, Aug. 8
on Church St., between 8th St. & Castle Ave.
ALL ARE WELCOME!!!**

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**Summer Fun & Free Lunch
Activity time: 11:00 to 11:45am
Lunch served: 11:45am to 12:15pm
Monday thru Thursday, until Aug. 21
at Upland Baptist Church, 325 Main Street
Open to all children 18 and under
Children do not need to attend activity time
in order to be served lunch**

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**Children's Magic Show
3 to 5pm on Saturday, Aug. 22
at MacQueen Hall**



**Refreshments: pizza & ice cream sundaes
Admission is free to children with photo IDs**

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**Borough Council Meetings
6pm caucus; 7pm regular voting session
Tuesday, Aug. 25, Sept. 8, and Oct. 13
on ground floor of MacQueen Hall
(NOTE: Special date for August meeting)**

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**Cow Pie Bingo Fundraiser
3 to 7pm on Sunday, Sept. 6
at Bristol Lord Field
You could be a winner at the drop of a flop!**

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**Annual Labor Day Fireworks
Starts at dusk (8:30pm) on Sunday, Sept. 6
at Bristol Lord Field**



**NOTICE: The Annual Spaghetti Dinner
Fundraiser, originally scheduled for Sept. 26,
has been cancelled.**

**Annual Youth Halloween Party
4 to 7pm on Saturday, Oct. 24
at MacQueen Hall
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**DON'T MISS UPLAND BOROUGH'S
ANNUAL LABOR DAY
FIREWORKS DISPLAY
ON SUNDAY, SEPT. 6**



**Volunteers from Upland Fire Company No. 1 will be selling refreshments at the park pavilion.
PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR HOMETOWN
VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS!!!**



All 195 entries in Upland Fire Company's Duck Race on July 11 started the trip down Chester Creek with a splash, with the four prize-winning ducks above finishing (l to r) first, second, third, and dead last.

I've decided to stop calling the bathroom the John, and renamed it the Jim.

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It sounds so much better, when I tell my friends that I went to the Jim this morning!

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 digital photos or information on the borough's website, send email to mcrawford@uplandboro.org



Mayor Michael Ciach swore in four new part-time police officers on July 7, administering the oath to two at a time.



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After the official swearing-in ceremony, the new Upland officers could relax and share a smile with the mayor and Police Chief Ocasio. The newest members of the Upland PD are: (l to r) Officer William Gifford, Officer Matthew Hittinger, Officer Joshua Van Horn, and Officer David Segich.

Welcome aboard, gentlemen!

(See story on page 2)

Through this program, we as a community will be able to remove unwanted drugs from the medicine cabinet, where they could get into the wrong hands, and cut down on the contamination of our drinking water from pills being flushed down the toilet."

- Upland Police Chief Nelson Ocasio



Chief Ocasio stands next to the drug drop-off box that was recently installed in the vestibule of the Upland police station. Residents can now dispose of unwanted prescription drugs safely and anonymously. The drop box can be accessed from 8am-4pm, Monday thru Friday.

Flood Safety Awareness Could Save Your Life and/or Property

Every year in the US, 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 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.

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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.

- 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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Flooding Questions Answered

The Upland Borough website recently added a new feature that is essentially a PDF file of a 65-page FEMA booklet that answers the most commonly asked questions about flooding, flood plain management, and flood insurance.

To access this information at uplandboro.org, first select the 'Departments' link, then 'Floodplain Management,' then 'Answers to Questions about the NFIP' (National Flood Insurance Program).



The bright lights of the outdoor carnival made a triumphant return to Upland in late May, offering fanfare, food, and family fun for one and all.

Ho-Hum...Website Sets New High

The public response and rapid growth of Upland Borough's website over its eight-year history has been remarkable, making the popular Internet site what has to be the most visited borough website in Delaware County, if not the state.

Webmaster/Councilwoman Moira Crawford reported the May totals at the June 9 Council meeting, noting that the website had **an average of 93 visitors a day for the month of May - a new high for the daily visitor count.**

As they used to say on the radio: The hits keep coming 24 hours a day!

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UPLAND SHOWS ITS COLORS ON MEMORIAL DAY



The annual Memorial Day parade kicked off the Upland Borough festivities on May 25.



Part of the service at the war memorial in Upland Memorial Park was a gun salute, to honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

Reese Center Upgrades Approved

At its May 12 meeting, Borough Council approved spending another \$11,078 for more improvements to the James W. Reese Center (aka the Armory) on West 24th Street.

The expenditure breaks down to \$7,558 to Tri-County Comfort Systems for a stainless steel exhaust hood and a fire protection system, and \$3,520 to Logan Technology Solutions for key scan replacement and a central processing control board. Council President Ed Mitchell noted that all the money spent on upgrades and renovations to the Reese Center since the borough took ownership of the aging 5-acre complex in January 2013 (roughly \$500,000, so far) has come exclusively from revenue generated by the commercial parking tax that was enacted in 2010. In effect, Crozer-Chester Medical Center visitors who pay to park there are financing the Reese Center improvements, not Upland taxpayers.

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*** Fire Co. Email Correction ***

To make transactions and fundraising information flow more easily, Upland Fire Company #1 has set up an email account (ufcfund57@yahoo.com) for the use and convenience of their supporters. For general information or to express any concerns to the fire company, please call the firehouse at **610-874-4885** to speak directly to either Fire Co. President Doug Scott or Fire Chief Dan Smith.



Volunteers from Upland Fire Company No. 1 hosted a series of fundraisers over the month of May, starting with a three-day sale of Mother's Day flowers...



...then an encore offering of delicious Nelson's Barbequed Ribs & Chicken dinners on May 17...



...and selling t-shirts at the outdoor carnival, all of which provided funds for firehouse improvements. "I'd like to thank the residents of Upland for helping us with our numerous fundraisers," stated Fire Company Fundraising Committee Chairman Paul Michalkiewicz at the end of a successful month.



The Upland Police Department brought home the first place trophy in the Police Motorcycle category at the 1st Annual Police, Fire & EMS Appreciation Car & Bike Show, held in Rose Tree Park on May 9. Below, Upland Officer William Meyer rides the award-winning 2014 Harley Davidson 1600cc police motorcycle in the borough's Memorial Day parade.



Resident Grateful For Municipal Services

A Woodside Avenue homeowner came before Borough Council at its June 9 meeting simply to say thank you for a variety of services recently provided by the borough.

The grateful resident started out by praising the Upland Police Department for their prompt response to a call regarding an abandoned car. Within 24 hours of the call, the vehicle had been ticketed, and the next day, it was towed away to resolve the problem.

The happy homeowner was also pleased with the Upland Public Works Department for recently cleaning out and re-cementing a nearby stormwater inlet, in addition to the re-painting of several roadside signs.

The resident also thanked the borough's two Code Enforcement officials for their diligence in keeping an overhanging tree problem in check.

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A letter to the Upland PD from a Ridley Park resident recounted a May 18 incident, noting that she had locked her keys in her car while volunteering at Crozer-Chester Medical Center. She praised the prompt response and professionalism of full-time Upland Police Officer Anthony DeLuise.

"It took a while and a lot of determination, but he finally got me back into my car," the grateful volunteer said of DeLuise's tenacious effort to avoid the last resort of breaking a window.

UPLAND PD HONORS THE BEST OF THE BEST



Several members of the Upland Police Department received awards and commendations at the 1st Annual Police Awards Dinner at MacQueen Hall on May 29. Seen here posing with Mayor Michael Ciach and Police Chief Nelson Ocasio, the award winners are: (from left to right) Officer Andrew Nicholl, Officer William Meyer, Officer of the Year Sean Dougherty, Officer John Bogan, and Officer Christopher Naegele, as well as Officer John McIntosh (not pictured).

Police Officers Garner Awards

The borough hosted an awards banquet for members of the Upland Police Department on May 29, where six full-time and part-time officers were feted for their recent actions.

The award winners were:

Officer Sean Dougherty – Officer of the Year, Life-Saving Citation, and Narcotics Award

Officer William Meyer – Exceptional Service Award and Life-Saving Citation

Officer Christopher Naegele – Gallantry Star for Excellent Arrest and Life-Saving Citation

Officer Andrew Nicholl – Life-Saving Citation

Officer John McIntosh – Unit Citation

Officer John Bogan – Gallantry Star for Excellent Arrest

Congratulations to all of this year's award winners!

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Police Chief Doubles As Mr. Goodwrench

Not many suburban police chiefs would stop what they were doing to assist a young bicyclist whose chain kept slipping off the sprocket, but yours did.

Upland Police Chief Nelson Ocasio was recently driving past the Upland Shopping Center, when he saw a teenager struggling to make forward progress on his bike, due to a very loose drive chain.

Only a decade removed from his own teenage bicycling days, Ocasio knew how to fix the problem, so he radioed the police station to have a tool kit brought to the shopping center, where the chief performed his mechanical magic to get the grateful youth back up on his two-wheeled ride.

"It had been a while since I had worked on a bicycle chain, but now you know who to go to if you need something like that fixed," Ocasio told Council.

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Police Officer Michael Irely (above, center) was sworn in as a full-time member of the Upland PD at a special Borough Council meeting on May 26. At the same meeting, the hiring of part-time Officer Mark MacKrell (below) was approved by Council, and MacKrell was formally sworn at Council's June 9 meeting. MacKrell's 8½-year-old son Logan held the Bible, while his father was sworn in by Mayor Ciach.



Two Officers Join Upland PD

Over the past month, two police officers with significant law enforcement experience were sworn in by Mayor Michael Ciach as the newest members of the Upland Police Department.

On May 26, full-time Officer Michael Irely, age 43, was sworn in.

Irely grew up in Prospect Park and graduated from Interboro High School in 1989. He has also attended West Chester University and Delaware County Community College. Irely graduated from the Delaware County Municipal Police Academy in 1992, and he is also a graduate of the FBI Inter-County Detective School.

Irely brings over 1,800 hours of law enforcement training to the Upland PD. He started out as a part-time patrolman in Colwyn Borough in 1993, then spent 20 years with the Nether Providence Township PD, rising to the rank of detective sergeant.

Irely has worked as the Upland PD's narcotics investigator since 2014, and is recognized as an expert in narcotics investigations, and he is also a certified field training officer.

On June 9, part-time Officer Mark MacKrell, age 42, officially joined the Upland police force.

MacKrell grew up in Brookhaven, and is a 1991 graduate of Sun Valley High School. He also attended classes at Delaware County Community College for two years, before graduating from the Delco Police Academy in 2013.

MacKrell served a total of seven months with the West Brandywine Police Department in Chester County, prior to joining the Upland PD.

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The Upland Police Department now has its own Facebook page! The social media page was open as of Monday, June 8, and by the next day, the Upland PD already had well over 200 'Likes' from Facebook users.

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Report Blocked Stormwater Inlets

One of the inevitable consequences of summer rainstorms is the accumulation of leaves and assorted debris at curbside stormwater inlets. But that pile of small sticks, soggy leaves, and litter actually means that the inlet's first line of defense against getting clogged is working properly.

To keep stormwater runoff flowing swiftly from the street and down into underground channels that ultimately take runoff to Chester Creek, stormwater inlet grates need to be cleared of debris on a regular basis.

Our Public Works Department is always on the lookout for partially blocked stormwater inlets, and stays on top of this threat year round, but every resident should be vigilant, and should report a blocked inlet to the borough office immediately.

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Important Notice

For Auburn Villagers

In the event that an Auburn Village resident is locked out of their home after normal business hours, the quickest way to get back into your home is to **CALL 9-1-1** and wait for the police to arrive. The Upland Police Department now has master keys for every Auburn Village unit.

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