



# The Uplander



The Caleb Pusey House

MacQueen Hall

## The official newsletter of historic Upland Borough

(Settled 1683; Incorporated 1869)



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### UPLAND PD HONORS THE BEST OF THE BEST



Several members of the Upland Police Department received awards and commendations at the 1<sup>st</sup> 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).

*(Find details on page 2)*

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On Memorial Day, Upland Borough honored the memory of the soldiers who gave their lives for their country. On July 4th, the Borough will celebrate the freedoms and independence that those soldiers died to protect for future generations of Uplanders.



Don't miss Upland Borough's premiere event of the year – the **Annual Fourth of July Family Picnic** – **FREE to all residents!**



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.

*(See story on page 2)*



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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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## 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 Naegle** – 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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## 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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## Upland Involved In Security For Pope's Visit

Upland Police Chief Nelson Ocasio recently reported that one officer from his department has been requested to participate in the Philadelphia highway security detail for the Pope's upcoming visit in late September. Ocasio said he considers it an honor that one of Upland's Finest will be involved in the widely-publicized event.

## String Band Denied Reese Center Use

When Upland Borough took ownership of the James W. Reese Center on W. 24<sup>th</sup> Street in January 2013, Borough Council could afford to be generous with the ample space available at the 5-acre facility. One of the local groups that benefitted from the available space was the Greater Overbrook String Band, which was allowed to rehearse its Mummer's Parade routine and store props and equipment in the Armory's gym on a temporary basis.

But Council now has other plans for the Reese Center and its gym, foremost among them being the establishment of a new Police Athletic League (PAL) branch later this year.

At Council's June 9 meeting, a formal denial of the string band's most recent request for continued access to the Armory was unanimously approved by Council. The marching musicians will be informed that they no longer have permission to use the buildings and grounds and that they now need to remove any remaining band items immediately.

It should be stated that there is no ill will between Council and the Greater Overbrook String Band, as the band members were good tenants and Upland residents have always enjoyed their energetic performances in the annual Memorial Day parade. The Reese Center situation is simply evolving.

*"It's time for our people to use our stuff, and not outsiders,"* Council President Ed Mitchell noted.

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## Report Blocked Stormwater Inlets

One of the inevitable consequences of early 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.

*"Please make us aware so we can get right on it. This is important,"* said Council President Ed Mitchell.

A timely phone call could spare you and/or your neighbors from a costly flash flood, so please help us keep our runoff running off.

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## Upland Borough's

# Annual Labor Day

## Fireworks Display

**Will start at dusk (approx. 8:30pm) on**  
**Sunday, Sept. 6 at Bristol Lord Field**



### **Council To Amend Floodplain Regulations**

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

The updated ordinance will replace 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 will: "Require all persons, partnerships, businesses, and corporations to obtain a permit for any construction or development (in a floodplain); Provide for the issuance of such permits; Set forth certain minimum requirements for new construction and development within areas of the Borough of Upland which are subject to flooding; And establish penalties for any persons who fail or refuse to comply with the requirements or provisions of this ordinance."

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### **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.

And last, but not least, the resident thanked the borough's two Code Enforcement officials for their diligence in keeping an overhanging tree problem in check.

The comments generated a well-deserved round of applause for the borough employee Trifecta.

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A letter to the Upland PD from a Ridley Park resident was read aloud at the last Council session. The letter writer 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.

### **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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### **Rubber Duck Race: Saturday, July 11**

Upland Fire Co. volunteers will launch all registered toy ducks on Chester Creek (above Toby Farms) at 12:00 noon, then escort the floating entries to the finish line adjacent to historic Landingford Plantation on Race Street.

The entrance fee is \$5 per duck. Prizes include \$200 for first place; \$100 for second place; \$50 for third; and a special prize for finishing dead last.

To get more information or to register in the race, stop by the firehouse, call Paul at **484-682-5000**, or send email to [ufcfund57@yahoo.com](mailto:ufcfund57@yahoo.com).

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### **Borough Council Meetings**

6pm caucus; 7pm regular voting session

**Tuesday, July 7, Aug. 25, and Sept. 8**

on ground floor of MacQueen Hall

**(NOTE: Special dates for July & August meetings)**

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### **Annual Fourth of July Family Picnic**

11am to 2pm on Saturday, July 4

at Bristol Lord Field

**Upland residents must have ID/proof of residency  
for access to refreshments and amusements**

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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, July 6 – 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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**Memorial Day festivities in Upland Memorial Park offered a chance for patriots to show their colors.**

*Robin Ewing was the winner of the "Picnic in a Basket" giveaway at the church-sponsored 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Memorial Day Community Picnic. Ewing made the closest guess of the number of mints in a jar. Her prizes included a \$25 Pathmark gift certificate, patriotic paper goods, chips and salsa, pretzels, a bag of M & M's, and a pitcher with lemonade mix.*

**Congratulations, Robin!**

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### **Now That I'm (Much) Older...**

- I talk to myself, because sometimes I need expert advice.
- I don't have gray hair. I have 'wisdom highlights,' and yes, I'm very wise.
- I don't trip over things, but on occasion, I do random gravity checks.
- When I was a child, nap time was punishment. Now it's like a mini-vacation.
- 'Getting lucky' now means walking into a room and remembering what I went in there for.
- I wish I could put myself in the dryer for 10 minutes and come out wrinkle-free and three sizes smaller!

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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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### **Parade Committee Forming**

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

Discussion of the topic at Council's May 12 meeting led to the appointment of Councilman Bill Dennon as committee 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 two committee seats have been reserved for residents who might want to serve their community as a parade organizer.

Call the borough office at **610-874-7317** to learn more about serving on the parade committee.

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### **Seniors Seek More Seniors**

All senior citizens (over age 55) who reside in Delco towns like Parkside, Brookhaven, Upland, Bethel, and Aston are cordially invited to join their peers every Monday at MacQueen Hall and every Thursday at the Redwood facility at the county-owned Camp Upland, from 10am to 3pm both days. These gatherings are purely social and casual in nature, but the true purpose is hidden behind the guise of playing cards (pinochle, anyone?) and group games like Bingo or Dominoes.

Light refreshments are often served, but attendees are encouraged to bring their own lunch, unless the date is a special occasion that is being catered.

Annual membership dues are \$5 per person at MacQueen Hall (on Main Street) or \$12 per person at Redwood (off Sixth Street in Toby Farms).

For more information, contact Ron Hoffman at **610-945-8737** or [mrlhoffman@aol.com](mailto:mrlhoffman@aol.com)

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### **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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### **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 digital photos or information on the borough's website, send email to [mc Crawford@uplandboro.org](mailto:mc Crawford@uplandboro.org)**

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*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.

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### 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](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).

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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)

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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.

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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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### Council Applies For CDBG Funds

Upland Borough has submitted an application to Delaware County Council, seeking consideration for a 2015 Community Development Block Grant.

Upland has chosen construction of a cut-through driveway, which would link the police headquarters parking lot to 8<sup>th</sup> Street, as its first priority for CDBG funding. This project would see the demolition of the vacant house at 227 8<sup>th</sup> Street and the creation of a small public parking lot on the residential street.

A second choice for CDBG funding is Phase III of the 11<sup>th</sup> Street Extension. The first two phases of construction of the new roadway have recently been completed, leaving but one more section of roadway to be built to complete the link between Mulberry Street and W. 24<sup>th</sup> Street.

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### Poop-Scoop Law Now In Effect

To address the persistent problem of people allowing their pets to poop on public and private property, then leaving the pile behind for someone else to clean up (or step in), Borough Council adopted a curative amendment to the borough code on Nov. 10, redefining the term "Nuisance" to include uncollected pet waste.

If you choose to leave your own property and walk your dog through the neighborhood, be aware that the amended ordinance now makes it officially illegal to leave your pet's waste lying "in any gutter, on any street, driveway, alley, curb, sidewalk, recreational trail, or public parkland in the borough, or upon the floors or stairways of any building or place frequented by the public."

Failure to comply with the new poop-scooping requirement could lead to citations and fines from the code enforcement officer, but there *should* be no need for such measures.

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### New Public Works Employee Hired

To fill the vacant position of Auburn Village Maintenance Mechanic, hiring Dariusz Grodzki was approved by Council on April 14, to be effective as of April 20. The Aston resident will be paid a starting wage of \$20 per hour, as he brings 25 years of residential and commercial construction experience to the Upland Public Works Department. Welcome aboard, Dariusz!

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### Historic Pusey House Gets New Roof

The stone, brick and mortar walls of the Caleb Pusey House have stood for 332 years, but the roof of the historic English cottage has come and gone countless times over the centuries. This past fall, the Friends of the Caleb Pusey House were forced to concede that, after 20 years, the time for roof replacement had come again.

The FCPH engaged an Amish carpenter who specialized in cedar shake roofs, spending \$11,000 to have a new roof installed. The new hand-split wooden shingles are twice as thick as the old ones, so this new roof should have a longer lifespan.

While the FCPH had the funds available to pay for the new roof, the expenditure put a considerable dent in the Capital Improvements Fund of the non-profit care-taker organization. If you would like to donate to help the FCPH restore its reserve funds, please send your tax-deductible contribution to the FCPH at P.O. Box 1183, Upland PA 19015-1183.

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**FREE Pusey House tours are available every Saturday, from Noon to 4pm, May thru October**

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### Council Awards 2015 Road Contract

This year's road resurfacing contract has been awarded to low-bidder A. F. Damon, Inc., of Upland. The hometown contractor beat out two other local bidders, offering to complete the 2015 road-paving program for \$67,287.50 – about two-thirds the amount of the highest bid.

Upland Borough will be among the first Delco municipalities to have their road resurfacing program completed this year, probably before summer officially begins. The streets destined for a fresh layer of asphalt this year include:

**Seventh Street, from Church St. to Upland Ave.**

**JFK Drive, from Main St. to the end**

**Hill Street, from Upland Ave. to the end**

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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](http://uplandboro.org), first select the 'Departments' link, then 'Floodplain Management,' then 'Answers to Questions about the NFIP' (National Flood Insurance Program).

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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.



...And the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Memorial Day Family Picnic, provided free to the community by the combined congregations of Upland Baptist and Resurrection Life Churches, was another resounding success.

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## THE CARNIVAL RETURNS!



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.



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### Upland PD Hires Intern

The Upland Police Department has hired an Upland teenager to work with the borough as a non-uniformed summer intern. Only one student, Meghan Bush of Sixth Street, applied for the position, which was announced at the May 12 Council meeting and advertised on the borough website, making the selection process easy.

The internship will pay \$8.50 per hour for 15 hours of work per week, from June (after school is over) through Labor Day. Some of Miss Bush's duties will include working in the borough office.

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### 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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.

### Officer Runs For Memorial

Upland Police Officer Samantha Wilding was among the many law enforcement agents to participate in the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Law Enforcement Memorial Run from May 12-14. The event included scores of police officers and police academy cadets from this region either biking or running from Philadelphia to Washington, D.C. to raise funds to maintain the Law Enforcement Memorial in our nation's capital.

Wilding ran about 30 miles during the three-day event, despite taking a tumble and injuring her elbow on the first day. She felt the candlelight vigil, which saw the names of recently fallen police officers added to the memorial, was an especially moving tribute.

"It was an awesome experience," Wilding reported. "This was my first time, but I hope to participate again next year."

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### We'll Try One AV Man For Now

In the wake of the recent resignation of one of two Auburn Village maintenance men, Borough Council is not sure if an immediate replacement is needed, or if all services can be delivered to the borough-owned complex with just one full-time employee and the occasional use of outside contractors.

The manpower situation will be closely monitored over the summer to determine if hiring a second Auburn Village maintenance person is necessary.

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The Community Affairs Committee hosted the Annual Seniors Breakfast on May 4, with dozens of Upland's senior citizens taking advantage of the free meal.

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### Council Amends U & O Inspection Fees

Borough Council has approved changes to the borough's Comprehensive Fee Schedule, specifically the Use & Occupancy Inspection Fee schedule, effective immediately.

While all residential U & O inspections will still cost the property owner \$100, it is the fee for property re-inspections that has been amended to more accurately reflect the associated costs.

Re-inspections used to generate a flat fee of \$75, but U & O re-inspection fees will now be calculated as \$25 for each inspector required to participate in the re-inspection, plus \$25 for administrative costs.

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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.

### Fire Company Lands Grant

Fire Chief Dan Smith reports that Upland Fire Company No. 1 recently received an \$11,791 state grant from the Pennsylvania Fire Company & Volunteer Ambulance Company Grant Program. The all-volunteer fire company had sent in an application requesting \$15,000, so the lion's share of the request was fulfilled.

According to Smith, the grant will be used to fund the installation of Internet, phone, and cable lines to the firehouse, and cover the cost of scanner keys for the doors to the new firehouse addition.

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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](mailto: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.

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The Upland Police Department brought home the first place trophy in the Police Motorcycle category at the 1<sup>st</sup> 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.



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