



The Caleb Pusey House

# The Uplander



MacQueen Hall

## The official newsletter of historic Upland Borough

(Settled 1683; Incorporated 1869)



Vol. 7-9; September 2015 edition



**DON'T MISS UPLAND BOROUGH'S  
ANNUAL LABOR DAY  
FIREWORKS DISPLAY  
ON SUNDAY, SEPT. 6**



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Upland Police Chief Nelson Ocasio was surrounded by attendees of the Tiny Hands & Feet daycare during a July visit to the E. 24<sup>th</sup> Street, Chester site.

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Upland Council President Ed Mitchell was recently presented with a property deed replica from Delaware County Council to symbolize Upland Borough's purchase of the vacant lot at #15 8<sup>th</sup> Street for \$1, as part of the borough's Flood Revitalization Program.

## Lee Hunter Retires



**ABOVE:** Councilman Leland Hunter gets an assist from his daughter, Kimberly Hunter, at a retirement luncheon on July 31. Difficulty with walking led Hunter, age 76, to turn over all Code Enforcement Officer duties to his former assistant, Bill Kirby (standing directly behind Lee).

**BELOW:** Hunter received tokens of appreciation from Borough Council, represented by Mayor Michael Ciach (holding granddaughter Danica) and Council VP Christine Peterson, and from the Upland Police Department, represented by Police Chief Ocasio.



Hunter's distinguished Upland career includes 5 years working in the borough's highway department; 7 years as the Code Enforcement Officer; 8 years on Borough Council; 10 years as a member of Main Street Elementary School PTO; 18 years as borough constable (under Judge Kenneth Miller); 21 years as a member of Upland Senior Citizens, serving as president the past 5 years; and 52 years as an Upland Fire Company member.

*"I was born and raised in the Borough of Upland, and I've always had the total respect of the residents and our political team," Hunter stated.*

*"The only reason I'm giving up the code job is because I can't walk, otherwise, I would have stuck it out," he added.*

## Storm Can Teach Valuable Lessons

If there is one thing that we all learned firsthand on June 23, it is that Mother Nature can turn real ugly real fast. And how well your household survives the initial crisis and then manages the hardships that may befall a community in a state of emergency can largely depend on how well prepared you and your household had been, long before the storm clouds began to gather.

While the hardships of being without electricity for several days are still fresh in our minds, Police Chief Nelson Ocasio thought it was a good time to share a few basic tips and suggestions that just might make a difference for your household the next time Mother Nature gets ugly.

### CREATE AN EMERGENCY PLAN

- \* Schedule a family meeting to discuss the potential dangers you might face in possible emergencies, including power outages, personal injuries, house fires, severe weather, toxic spills, and terrorist attack. Discuss the best way for your family to respond to each type of emergency.
- \* Draw a floor plan of your home and identify two avenues of escape from each room.
- \* Choose an out-of-state relative or friend that all your family members can call, in the event your family is separated during an emergency.
- \* Pick two family meeting places – one near your home and one outside your neighborhood, in case you cannot return home during an emergency.
- \* Keep family records in a waterproof and fireproof safe.

### IDENTIFY SAFEST PLACE AT HOME & WORK

Wind storms and tornadoes are best survived in a closet or an interior room without windows. The safest place in your home is generally on the lowest floor of the building.

The safest shelter at work may be the restrooms, as many public buildings and workplaces feature lots of glass windows and walls.

### PREPARE A DISASTER SUPPLY KIT

Having a pre-packed emergency supply kit may save you precious time if you need to evacuate your home during an emergency. A packed “Go-bag” should be kept in the family car or garage, where it is easily accessible.

The items that you want to have on hand include:

- \* At least a 3-day supply of drinking water, allowing one gallon per person per day. Store water in re-sealable, unbreakable containers, and replace supply every 6 months
- \* A 3- to 5-day supply of non-perishable packaged or canned foods and a hand-crank can opener
- \* A complete change of clothing for each person, including rain gear and sturdy shoes
- \* Blankets, bedding and/or sleeping bags

- \* A first aid kit, including prescription drugs – Be sure to check expiration dates on all medications.
- \* A battery-powered radio and a flashlight, and extra batteries for both
- \* An extra pair of eyeglasses or contact lenses and solution
- \* Special items for infants, the elderly, or family members with disabilities

### BE WEATHER-WARY

It’s always a good idea to keep an eye to the sky when outdoors.

- \* Being weather-wise includes knowing that a Severe Weather or Tornado Watch means that conditions are favorable for extreme weather, while a Severe Weather or Tornado Warning means that a funnel cloud has been sighted in your area and/or extreme conditions are imminent.

- \* If a TORNADO WARNING is issued for your area, take shelter immediately, preferably in a basement, away from windows.

### USE CAUTION AFTER THE STORM

Flash flooding in low-lying areas and roads blocked by fallen trees or tree limbs are often part of the aftermath of severe weather.

**NEVER** approach downed power lines in your car or on foot, and **NEVER** drive into high water.

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### Schools’ Re-opening Demands Drivers’ Patience

Students returning to school in September means that drivers must once again respect school zone speed limits and should always yield to all school busses and vans.

The speed limit in all Pennsylvania school zones is 15 MPH. If you are caught speeding in a school zone, you will receive a citation and fine, and if found guilty, you could also receive three points on your driving record.

Passing a school bus is one of the most severe traffic citations a driver can receive in Pennsylvania. Police in PA have zero tolerance for motorists illegally passing a stopped school bus, as violations of this law place our children at direct risk of serious injury. The penalties a driver is subject to for a school bus violation can be devastating, as PennDOT can tack on additional penalties, such as license suspensions and points on your driver’s license.

**Please be patient and drive cautiously when near a school or school bus – Upland has many children, but none to spare!**

\* \* \* \* \*

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

\* \* \* \* \*

### Tribute To Master Chef Miazza

At the suggestion of fellow Borough Council member Lee Hunter, Councilwoman Sandy Miazza's dedicated leadership of the Community Affairs Committee over the past eight years will be honored with a plaque in the upstairs kitchen of MacQueen Hall, reading simply: "Sandy's Kitchen." With Miazza at the helm, the CAC has provided dozens of home-cooked meals for Uplanders of all ages at MacQueen Hall events, so the planned tribute will be more than fitting.

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### Tree On Wires Is Hot Potato

A large fallen tree that has been lying across utility wires behind the Upland police station for several weeks is a situation that no one wants to handle. Council VP Christine Peterson has made multiple calls to PECO, only to be told that the wires are not power lines, hence not PECO's responsibility. Calls to a tree removal company also met with no success, as the tree-trimmers wanted nothing to do with branches that were lying on wires of any kind. Assuming that the wires involved are cable or phone lines, more calls will be made in hopes of finding a utility company that is willing to do the necessary work to remove the hazard.

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### Council Awards Demolition Contract

The contract to demolish the vacant house at #36 Upland Avenue was awarded to BRB Contractors, of King of Prussia, at Council's Aug. 25 meeting. Of the three bids received, the \$10,500 that BRB will be charging the borough to raze the condemned building was nearly half of the next lowest bid, and almost a third of the highest bid. The demolition project will be paid for with funds from a 2014 Community Development Block Grant, and should be completed by year end.

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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 and balloon-animal artists, a prize duck pond, 50/50 raffle, and refreshments at the pavilion, all while a disc jockey provides the music. A visit by Spiderman and Elsa (from the movie *Frozen*) is also expected.



### Annual Labor Day Fireworks

Starts at dusk (8:30pm) on Sunday, Sept. 6  
at Bristol Lord Field



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### Borough Council Meetings

6pm caucus; 7pm regular voting session  
Tuesday, Sept. 8, Oct. 13, and Nov. 10  
on ground floor of MacQueen Hall

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### Monday Night VBS

6 to 7pm, every Monday night, starting Sept. 14  
at Upland Baptist Church  
(Dinner, activity and Bible story)

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

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### Blessing of the Animals



3:00pm on Sunday, Oct. 4  
at Upland Baptist Church

ALL ARE WELCOME,

But please bring your pet on a leash or in a carrier

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### Annual Youth Halloween Party



4 to 7pm on Saturday, Oct. 24  
at MacQueen Hall

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### Halloween Trunk-or-Treat



6 to 7pm on Saturday, Oct. 31  
in the Upland Baptist Church Main Street parking lot  
Friends and neighbors are invited to join us in the parking lot as we give out treats to the neighborhood children.

Bring a chair and join the fun!

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### Free Thanksgiving Dinner for Seniors

6 to 8pm on Saturday, Nov. 14  
at MacQueen Hall

(Attendees must register at boro office)

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### Resurrection Life Church



Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner  
4 to 6pm on Saturday, Nov. 21  
On ground floor of church, corner of 8<sup>th</sup> & Church Sts.

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### Annual Holiday Tree Lighting



### & Visit From Santa



Tree lighting at 6pm, immediately followed  
by refreshments and photos with Santa  
Friday, Nov. 27  
at MacQueen Hall

(Please Note: Parents must register children under 10 years of age for them to receive a gift from Santa)

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

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The roof of historic Crozer Schoolhouse No. 1 (built in 1849 by John P. Crozer to educate the children of his millworkers) was damaged by a fallen tree during the June 23 windstorm. The roof is now covered by a tarp, while the Friends of the Caleb Pusey House try to raise funds for a new roof. The upper floor of the schoolhouse is used as a repository for the artifacts recovered in an archeological dig of the historic Pusey House (next door, on Race St.) in the 1960s.

**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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## 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, 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.



As is usually the case, the face-painters were popular with the kids at Resurrection Life Church's Annual Community Block Party, held on Aug. 8.

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The Upland children who attended the borough-sponsored Youth Magic Show at MacQueen Hall on Aug. 22 were amazed and delighted by Constantine the Magician...



...Then fed all-you-can-eat pizza and make-your-own sundaes by their Community Affairs Committee hostesses!



## 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.



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

\* \* \*

### 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](https://www.facebook.com/groups/334480793300363)" group page at [www.facebook.com/groups/334480793300363](https://www.facebook.com/groups/334480793300363)

## Storm Response Earns Kudos

"For a tiny town, we sure took a big hit," Council Vice President Christine Peterson said of the June 23 windstorm 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.

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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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### 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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### 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.

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## 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.

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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.

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

\*

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.

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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).

### 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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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.

### 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 spent the last four years working at the Delco 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.

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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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### 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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**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.**

**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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**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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**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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