



The Caleb Pusey House

The Uplander



MacQueen Hall

The official newsletter of historic Upland Borough

(Settled 1683; Incorporated 1869)



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Cow Pie Bingo Draws Crowd



This is Sugar, whose only job on Sept. 6 was to pick a spot on which to poop, but she took nearly two hours to decide where to go on the warm afternoon...

Labor Day Fireworks Wow



Hundreds of Upland residents turned out on a Sunday evening to see the borough's annual Labor Day fireworks display at Bristol Lord Field, and no one left disappointed.



...So a visit from Superman and Spiderman, along with Elsa and Anna (from the Disney movie *Frozen*), was a welcomed distraction for the children...



This amazing photograph is now being studied by scientists worldwide, as it represents the first time that a camera has caught the precise instant of a mind being blown.



...While fire company volunteers kept the crowd fed with Big Var's water ice and hotdogs, meatball sandwiches, and soft pretzels from the pavilion.



Aiming to help Councilwoman Sandy (nee Kirby) Miazza defray recent medical expenses, a Sept. 19 fundraiser was held at MacQueen Hall, where Sandy was surrounded by an estimated crowd of 375 loving friends and supporters.

Council Mulls New Approach To Tax/Code Delinquents

Borough Council has had just about enough from property owners who routinely refuse to pay their borough taxes and/or code citations generated by a lack of property maintenance.

"We have people in the borough, it's sad to say, that will not obey the rules, and they make quality of life issues for everyone around them," Councilman Harold Peden noted.

The borough's only recourse in such situations has been to place a lien on the delinquent property, so that all monies owed will eventually be paid at the time the property is sold. But some property owners, including several absentee landlords, don't care about liens that will be paid off in the future, so long as they are able to collect full rents in the meantime. A total of nine liens were placed on Upland properties so far in 2015. According to Borough Solicitor Robert O'Connor, about half of the municipal liens being filed are being put on the same properties that have been lien-ed several times in the past, with some properties now carrying up to six liens.

"It is a really small group that is committing these violations over and over again," stated O'Connor.

"Even though we've lien-ed these properties, they just continue to thumb their nose at us, year after year," Peden observed.

"Some liens do encourage the property owner to pay us," said Peden. "So I think we should advertise the fact that if you're one of the people who doesn't comply with us; if you're not going to cooperate with your neighbors; if you're not going to keep our borough clean; if we have to keep coming after you, then we're going to lien your property. If people know that up front, I think it might save (Code Enforcement Officer) Mr. Kirby from having to write a few citations."

The Council discussion regarding multiple liens led to agreement that a new approach is needed to force repeat offenders into payment of delinquent taxes and code violations.

One potential solution would be establishing tiers for penalties generated by non-payment of taxes and code citations. Under a tiered schedule of fines, chronic delinquents would be subject to greater penalties than first-time offenders.

"Maybe we should be raising the stakes to the next level for the (property owners) who keep doing this over and over again," Peden suggested, garnering Council's general consent.

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Council OKs Traffic Study

Upland Borough Council has given its approval to filing a request for a PennDOT traffic study of the Upland Avenue corridor between Kerlin Street and Edgmont Avenue. Upland Traffic Officer Sean Dougherty feels that the speed limit along Upland Avenue (currently posted as 35 MPH) needs to be re-evaluated with pedestrian safety in mind in this heavily-traveled stretch of state-owned highway.

Police Website Up & Running

If you need more information regarding a police matter or if you have a specific question that needs an answer from a police officer, you are in luck. The Upland Police Department recently launched its own website at www.uplandpolice.org.

The Upland PD website can be used in English or Spanish, and provides a wealth of information, including individual officer's email addresses, department history and general information, anonymous tip forms, and a list of frequently asked questions and answers, et al.

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Borough Accepts MMO For Pensions

At Council's Sept. 8 meeting, Upland Borough recognized its responsibility to provide the Minimum Municipal Obligation to fund pension plans for all full-time borough employees.

Upland Borough's 2016 budget will hence include the amount of \$72,653 for the police pension fund and \$43,280 to fund the non-uniformed employees' pension plan.

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Council Designates Disaster Agent

In accordance with Pennsylvania's Disaster Emergency Assistance Act, Upland Borough has designated Borough Manager Greg Grillone to serve as the borough's "agent" in the event of a public disaster. Grillone will be the official who will oversee the borough's own emergency resources, while dealing with all outside emergency relief agencies and being responsible for securing whatever assistance the borough needs in the aftermath of a disaster.

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Council Approves Donation

Borough Council unanimously approved a \$2,500 donation to Detachment 288 of the Marine Corps League at Council's Sept. 8 public meeting.

Members of Detachment 288, which operates out of its Sixth Street headquarters in Upland, have graciously provided military honor guards for several borough events, including the annual Memorial Day services at the war memorial in Upland Memorial Park.

According to Commandant Mark Slaymaker, the requested borough donation will be utilized to pay for several maintenance projects at the Sixth Street site, including pavilion roof repairs; the purchase of three heavy-duty outdoor picnic tables (to be bought by the borough from Delco prisons at the special rate of three tables for \$500); and upgrades to the heating and cooling systems.

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New AV Storm Doors Coming

Another batch of 20 new storm doors for Auburn Village units were recently ordered by the borough. The new doors will be installed as needed in the coming months, as the borough's ongoing program of Auburn Village upgrades continues.

Flip-Up Stop Signs Ordered

Motorists have seen new hinged stop signs, or more accurately half-signs, mounted on poles in other towns, and will soon see them in Upland, too. The temporary flip-up stop signs have a very specific purpose in the wake of a power outage, such as the prolonged outage we experienced in the aftermath of the June 23 windstorm.

According to PA state law, when a power outage knocks out traffic signals, the affected intersection automatically operates as a four-way stop. Most drivers got the hang of this simple rule fairly quickly this summer, when traffic signals were not operating for several days, but of course, there are always a few motorists who feel that the rules are meant for everyone else to follow, but not themselves.

The new flip-up stop signs will serve as a reminder for those drivers who have trouble awaiting their turn at a signal-less intersection. When power goes out, the borough's highway department can quickly flip up all the folded stop signs to create a visual reminder that the crossroad is now temporarily a four-way stop.

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Surge In Parking Tix Written

Upland residents may want to think twice before they illegally park in a fire lane or a spot reserved for handicapped drivers.

Traffic Officer Sean Dougherty, of the Upland PD, recently reported his ticket-writing activities for the month of August, noting that he had issued a total of 200 parking tickets in that month alone. That brings the total number of parking tickets handed out this year up to 467, so enforcement has clearly been ramped up.

Dougherty explained that most of the tickets were issued to vehicles illegally parked in fire lanes or handicapped spots. He added that the tickets written electronically through the new computerized E-Citation system are virtually "indisputable," since each ticket includes a photograph of the illegally-parked vehicle.

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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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Cow Bingo Is Quite The Flop

Prior to the annual Labor Day fireworks display at Bristol Lord Field, volunteers from Upland Fire Company No. 1 held another successful fundraiser that included Cow Pie Bingo and an assortment of other youth-oriented activities.

While Sugar the cow thought about where she wanted to drop her flop, attendees could buy lunch at the pavilion, with a Big Var's water ice or popsicle for dessert, or pull a prize from the duck pond. But the biggest hit of the day was the arrival of Superman, Spiderman, and Elsa and Anna, all of whom were swarmed by wide-eyed kids of all ages.

The superheroes happily posed for photos with anyone who asked, and even joined in the line dances that were prompted by the DJ's popular music.

A total of 326 Cow Bingo tickets were sold. The winning Bingo ticket was held by Marge Smoluk, of Swarthmore, who took home the grand prize of \$1,000. The winner was determined by which grid square the cow eventually dropped her "pie" on.

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Blessing of the Animals



3pm 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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Monday Night VBS

6 to 7pm, every Monday night
at Upland Baptist Church

(Dinner, activity and Bible story)

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Borough Council Meetings

6pm caucus; 7pm regular voting session

Tuesday, Oct. 13, Nov. 10, and Dec. 8
on ground floor of MacQueen Hall

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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 8th & 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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The damaging winds that ripped through Upland on June 23 were most definitely NOT respecting the speed limit.

Kirby Takes On Code Enforcement

Following Councilman Leland Hunter's retirement from serving the past seven years as the borough's code enforcement officer, Hunter's former code enforcement assistant, William Kirby, has taken over the job, effective Sept. 1.

Kirby will be paid \$12.50 per hour as the borough's code enforcement officer, working five hours each day, from Tuesday to Friday each week.

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



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.

Upland Gives Up The Love



Under the banner of "No One Fights Alone," generations of Kirby Klan members tirelessly sold t-shirts, cancer-awareness bracelets (in plastic jar), and raffle tickets for 60 different prize baskets or gift packages that were donated by individuals and local merchants.

Donors of time, energy, products, or money included Brookhaven Deli, Sam & Sam's, Frankies on Fairview, Monaghan's Pub, Pretzel Boys, Big Var's Water Ice, Renzi's, Upland Diner, Upland Athletic Club, Upland Fire Company No. 1, Detachment 288 of the Delaware County Marine Corps League, Upland Senior Citizens Club, and Upland Borough Council, while the Sept. 19 fundraising event was staffed by the borough's Community Affairs Committee, Borough Council members, and many friends and members of the Kirby and Miazza families.

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Following up on a recent suggestion from fellow Councilman Leland Hunter, Sandy's "outstanding contributions to the Community Affairs Committee" were honored by Upland Borough Council with the mounting of a wall plaque, located just outside the kitchen in MacQueen Hall.

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These are just four of the dozens of winners who walked away from the fundraiser with some nifty raffle prizes.

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.

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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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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.

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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, while information on how to obtain a flood insurance policy can be found at 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

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**, 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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All 195 entries in Upland Fire Company's Duck Race on July 11 started the trip down Chester Creek with a splash.

Toy Duck Race Provides Fun & Funds

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

To kick off their 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.

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.



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

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 the end of October.

**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.



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 8th Street for \$1, as part of the borough's Flood Revitalization Program.



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.



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!



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!

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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 has been 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 tribute (which was unveiled at the Sept. 19 fundraising event) is 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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Report Blocked Stormwater Inlets

One of the inevitable consequences of 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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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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