



The Caleb Pusey House

The Uplander



MacQueen Hall

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



Vol. 7-12; December 2015 edition



Santa Claus Comes To Town



Santa made his annual visit to Upland on Nov. 27, and was warmly greeted by kids of all ages.



The 13th Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner was held at Resurrection Life Church on Nov. 21...



...With 338 appreciative local residents stopping by to enjoy the free turkey dinner.





On behalf of Upland Borough, Borough Manager Greg Grillone (far left) and Council VP Christine Peterson (right center) recently accepted a certificate of appreciation from B & L Disposal Services Owner Lou Bizzari (far right) and his wife, Vanessa.

(See story on page 2)

Prelim Budget Extends No-Tax-Hike Streak

If the preliminary budget figures are maintained at final budget adoption on Dec. 8, Upland Borough taxpayers will enjoy a 29th consecutive year of the property tax millage holding steady at 2.0 mills in 2016. Furthermore, the annual trash collection fee, which was set at \$135 per household in 2008, is projected to remain the same for the eighth straight year.

The preliminary 2016 general budget total is balanced at \$2,967,809. After cresting the \$3 million mark for the first time in 2014, the budget total has held steady just below the high-water mark for the last two fiscal years.

The preliminary 2016 budget for the borough-owned Auburn Village apartment complex totals \$811,560, which represents an increase of \$33,560 or 4% over Auburn Village expenditures for the past two years.

Predictable Sweep At Polls

The results of the Nov. 3 General Election were no surprise to anyone in Upland, as all five incumbent Council members ran unopposed. Among the Republican winners, Council VP Christine Peterson claimed bragging rights by getting the most votes.

Four-year terms:

Christine Peterson – 318 Edward Mitchell – 279
Harold R. Peden – 272 Leland Hunter – 259

Two-year term: William Dennon – 308

Council Awards Wall Contract

Ellis Construction, Inc. was the low bidder for the construction of a modular wall on the corner of Sixth and Main Streets, offering to build the stone wall extension for \$38,500. The new wall section will curve behind the SEPTA bus stop shelter, and the entire corner will be landscaped.

Borough Council awarded the contract at its Nov. 10 meeting. A 2014 Community Development Block Grant from the county will be used to pay for the project, after a borough request to increase the grant amount to cover nearly the entire expense was fulfilled.

More Liens Placed On Delinquents

According to Code Enforcement Officer William Kirby's monthly report, two more liens were filed on the properties of delinquent owners in October, bringing this year's total number of municipal liens on Upland properties up to 15.

Placing a lien on a property, which will be satisfied at the time of the property's sale, is the borough's last resort to get paid for overdue taxes and/or code violation citations.

* * * * *

Curbside Leaf Pickups End

Thursday, Dec. 3 will be the last day that the Public Works Department will be collecting raked leaves curbside. Please bag any remaining leaves and discard with regular trash.

Borough and Trash Hauler Partner To Help Vets

Upland residents and their trash hauler, B & L Disposal Services, have been working together to assist veterans from Philadelphia and Delaware Counties for the past six months, even though the residents have been unaware of their contributions.

For the last two years, Upland Borough has been the beneficiary of two Electronic Recycling Days, when B & L parked a trailer in the MacQueen Hall lot and residents were able to drop off unwanted and outdated electronic devices at no charge. B & L then stripped down those electronic items into whatever recyclable materials they would yield, then sold those materials to manufacturers to cover their costs and turn a small profit.

Since this summer, however, B & L Owner Lou Bizzari has been donating the cash yielded from Upland's recyclables to a program called Second Brigade Welcome Home, which is being organized by the Second Brigade Motorcycle Club, whose members include several veterans. Bizzari says that the program also honors his father, who was a U.S. Army vet and a biker, as well.

By donating the proceeds from Upland's recycling, Bizzari and his club mates have been able to feed about 125 veterans on a daily basis, while also providing health care, clothing, job training, and short-term housing for homeless vets.

Bizzari and his wife, Vanessa, presented Upland Borough Council with a framed certificate of appreciation at the Nov. 10 Council meeting, to acknowledge a successful partnership that has turned recyclables into loving care for veterans in need.

"We just wanted to say thank you to the residents, for allowing us to use that money to help Second Brigade with their work," Vanessa Bizzari said.

"It's great that we've been able to do that, especially considering that tomorrow is Veterans Day," noted Council Vice President Christine Peterson.

*

Halloween Costume Winners

The wide variety of spooky and clever costumes that were worn to the borough's annual Youth Halloween Party on Oct. 24 was impressive, creating some tough choices for the judges when it came time to choose the three best costumes in each of three age groups. After much deliberation, those winners were:

Ages 0 to 5: 1st place – Malany Carrion (snowman)
2nd place – Matthew Shaw (penguin)
3rd place – Olivia Jones (Elvira)

Ages 6 to 8: 1st place – Chasity Satchel (mummy)
2nd place – C.J. Mohler-Grodzki (Mario)
3rd place – Kyle Hansell (zombie scout)

Ages 9 to 13: 1st place – Iyannah Dickerson (nerd)
2nd place – Aryn Strigle (tin girl)
3rd place – Cole Hansell (zombie)

Congratulations to the winners and to all the children and parents who spent time together and had fun getting dressed up for Halloween.

Residents Respond To Blue Ribbon Proposal

Over the past month, Councilman Bill Dennon received the input he was seeking from his fellow residents regarding a blue ribbon campaign in support of the Upland Police Department, with over a half dozen Upland families expressing interest.

Dennon hopes residents will display blue ribbons outside their homes, the same way that yellow ribbons are used to welcome home returning veterans. Dennon describes the blue ribbons as a way for residents to assure their hometown police force: "We have your back!"

The positive response to this proposal has led Council to plan a crafts day for borough youth to create the ribbons at MacQueen Hall, with the borough providing all materials. The specific date is yet to be determined, but will most likely be in January, after the hectic holidays are behind us.

If you would like your children to participate in an arts & crafts day to produce the ribbons, or if you have questions regarding this campaign, please call the borough office at **610-874-7317** or email Bill directly at bdennon@Contributionship.com.

Police Eye Youth Aid Panel

According to Police Chief Nelson Ocasio, the Upland PD is looking into re-establishing a Youth Aid Panel in Upland Borough.

There are currently 25 Youth Aid Panels operating across Delaware County. The judicial panels are comprised of citizens who are willing to hear the criminal cases of first-time juvenile offenders (in lieu of a judge), usually handing out sentences of community service, while sparing the teen from having a criminal record.

"It's a great way for us to give back to the kids in the borough, and something that will hopefully help keep them on the right track," Ocasio told Upland Borough Council on Nov. 10.

Any borough residents who are interested in serving on a Youth Aid Panel in Upland should contact the borough office (**610-874-7317**) or Upland police headquarters (**610-872-3040**) to sign up for a training session scheduled for March 2016.

Injured Upland Officer Recovering

Officer William Meyer, the only member of the Upland Police Department who is certified for motorcycle patrols, was recently involved in an on-duty collision at the bustling intersection of Upland Avenue and Kerlin Street. Meyer suffered a broken ankle and other minor injuries when he went down with his bike, while the other motorist was uninjured. Police Chief Nelson Ocasio updated Meyer's condition at the Nov. 10 Council meeting, noting that his ankle is healing nicely and he is expected to return to his full-time work status in the near future.

Get well soon, Officer Meyer!

Council Supports Seniors

Borough Council recently unanimously approved a \$200 donation to the Upland Senior Citizens Club to help support the group's activities and weekly meetings in 2016. Seniors meet on the second floor of MacQueen Hall to socialize and play cards and games, every Monday from 10am to 3pm, March through December.

Councilman Lee Hunter, who has served as USCC president for the last five years, has extended a general invitation to local seniors to join the fun and games when the group reconvenes in early March.

Free Shredding Events Planned

The specific dates are yet to be determined, but Borough Council has decided to hold a pair of paper-shredding events that will give Upland residents a chance to discard tons of old documents easily and securely, and best of all, at no cost. Research is currently being done to determine the best on-site shredding vendor. Once a vendor is chosen, dates in the **Spring and Fall of 2016** will be announced in *The Uplander*...Stay tuned.

* * * * *

Monday Night VBS

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

Borough Council Meetings

6pm caucus; 7pm regular voting session
Tuesday, Dec. 8, Jan. 12, and Feb. 9
on ground floor of MacQueen Hall

Night of Christmas Music

Starts 6:30pm on Wednesday, Dec. 9
at Upland Baptist Church

Carols, Bells & Special Music followed by light refreshments

Church Street Thrift Shop Open House

10am to 2pm on Saturday, Dec. 12
at Resurrection Life Church
(corner of 8th & Church Sts.)

Sale items; Homemade soups & cornbread served
Crafts and gifts for children & gifts for adults

Santa Tours

Upland Fire Co. gives Santa Claus a tour of Upland
TWICE on Saturday, Dec. 12:
11am (handing out candy canes) & 5pm

Upland Seniors' Holiday Party

12 noon to 2pm on Monday, Dec. 14
at MacQueen Hall

All Upland seniors are welcome to attend

Christmas Eve Communion Candlelight Service

7pm on Thursday, Dec. 24
at Upland Baptist Church

Seniors Enjoy Free Thanksgiving Dinner



The borough-sponsored Seniors Thanksgiving Dinner was held at MacQueen Hall on Nov. 14, with virtually every seat in the house being filled. The free family-style meal was cooked by members of the Community Affairs Committee, and served by volunteers, including the Upland Baptist Church congregation, all of whom gathered for this post-meal photo.



The head tables included (clockwise from left rear) Mayor Michael Ciach, Borough Council President Edward Mitchell, Resurrection Life Church Pastor Bryan McGrouty, and Upland Baptist's Rev. Brenda Shaw and her husband John.



And it was apparent that no one left the room hungry!



Episcopal Place at Park Row invited the community to join its 8th Annual Thanksgiving Feast on Nov. 12, with about 80 local residents attending.



The Episcopal Place staff who organized the holiday meal included (left to right) Operations Manager Ann Shafer, Social Services Coordinator Jean Sales, Site Manager Theresa Bey, and Director of Church Housing Corporation Kathryn Evans.



Vanguard Group volunteers served up the feast, which included turkey and all the trimmings...



...while the singing group "The Revelation" provided the entertainment.

* * * * *

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

mcrowford@uplandboro.org

* * * * *

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.

* * * * *

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**

* * * * *

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 said 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 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.

*

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.

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).

*

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 the year.

*

Home Improvement Tips

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.

* * *



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.

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.

*

Report Blocked Stormwater Inlets

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.

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 lienied several times in the past, with some properties now carrying up to six liens.

"Even though we've lienied 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.

*

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.



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.

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, 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.

*

Upland Gives Up The Love



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.

*



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.

*



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.

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 a traffic signal, 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 legal four-way stop, where all stop-sign rules apply.

*

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 and its license plate, and the GPS of the location.

*

Website Sets New Benchmark

Not only was Upland Borough's annual Labor Day fireworks display a treat to see live, as witnessed by the hundreds of residents who attended the Sept. 6 event, but checking out the pyrotechnics was also a popular pursuit on the borough's website.

Two days after the event, those who may have missed the display and/or those who wanted to relive it were able to view Cow Bingo and fireworks photos and an incredible six-minute fireworks video (thanks to Matt Steigerwalt), which includes the spectacular finale. In fact, so many people visited the borough website on Sept. 8 that the website set a new single-day high with 190 visitors.

*

Cool & Creative Halloween Costumes



Balloons twisted into shapes and a variety of animals were popular at the annual Youth Halloween Party on Oct. 24.



About 30 costumed kids attended the free event, which was sponsored by the Community Affairs Committee.

Floodplain Ordinance Amended

Council unanimously adopted curative revisions to the Floodplain Management section of the borough code at its Oct. 13 session.

The amended Chapter 90, Article V (under Technical Provisions, Section 5.02, "Elevation and Flood-proofing Requirements") now reads: "Within any Special Flood Hazard Area, any permitted new construction or substantial improvements shall be accomplished in such a way that the following provisions apply:"

The re-worded ordinance is effective immediately.*

*

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.

*

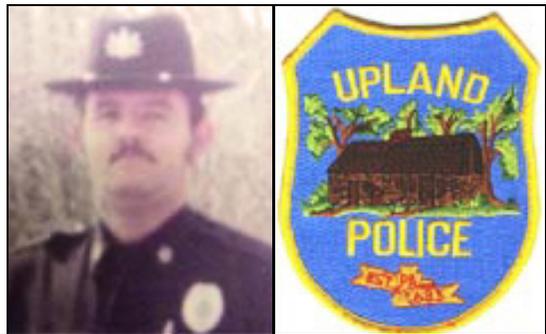
Police Chief Earns Degree

Upland Police Chief Nelson Ocasio recently completed two and a half years of study at Neumann University in Aston, earning the 120 credits needed for a Bachelor of Science Degree in Liberal Arts.

Ocasio, who just celebrated his 27th birthday, is now gearing up for the additional 18 months of study that will be needed to attain a Master's Degree in Organizational and Strategic Leadership.



Mayor Michael Ciach presented Police Chief Nelson Ocasio with an education certificate on Oct. 13, acknowledging Ocasio's recent completion of his Bachelor's Degree.



This photo and a brief bio of fallen Upland Police Sergeant Morris "Chubby" Albany, Jr. can be found on the Officer Down Memorial Page website.

Fallen Officer Remembered

At Borough Council's Oct. 13 meeting, Mayor Michael Ciach dedicated the moment of silence to the memory of Upland Police Sergeant Morris J. Albany, Jr., recognizing the date as the 39th anniversary of Albany's death. Albany is the only Upland police officer ever killed in the line of duty.

Albany grew up in Upland and graduated from Eddystone High School in 1958. He then served four years (Nov. 1959 to Nov. 1963) in the U.S. Navy, before starting his law enforcement career in 1965 as a part-time Upland police officer.

Around 9:50pm on Oct. 13, 1976, Albany was off-duty, when he tried to thwart a robbery at John's Bar in Chester. The policeman wrestled with one of the two armed suspects, until Albany was shot in the chest and died shortly thereafter at the scene.

Both robbery suspects were arrested and ultimately sentenced to life in prison.

An estimated 1,400 uniformed and non-uniformed police officers from seven different states attended the heroic sergeant's funeral.

**