



The Uplander



The Caleb Pusey House

MacQueen Hall

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



Vol. 8-12; December 2016 edition 

Thanksgiving Dinners Gobbled Up



About 80 residents enjoyed the Annual Senior Citizens Thanksgiving Dinner at MacQueen Hall on Nov. 12, with the free family-style meal being prepared and presented by the Community Affairs Committee.



Led by Council VP Moira Crawford and Councilwoman Judy Bush (back row, center), this group of volunteers from the community worked hard in 'Sandy's Kitchen' (some for two days) to cook 20 turkey breasts (donated by Upland AC) and create a delicious holiday dinner with all the trimmings.



...And on Nov. 19, the congregation of Resurrection Life Church held its 13th Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner, serving up 385 free meals to local residents. The dedicated volunteers in the kitchen graciously stopped the bustling assembly line just long enough for this photo.

Santa Visits Upland



Santa Claus made his annual stop in Upland for the tree-lighting ceremony on Nov. 25, then posed for photos with children at MacQueen Hall.



With assistance from the Community Affairs Committee and Elf Helpers Meghan Bush (left) and La-Brea Young, Santa handed out gifts to all the good little girls and boys of Upland. And judging from the many wide-eyed smiles, Santa knew just what to bring for each child.



Preliminary 2017 Budget Continues No-Tax-Hike Streak

If the preliminary budget figures are maintained at final budget adoption on Dec. 13, Upland Borough taxpayers will enjoy a **30th consecutive year of the property tax millage holding steady at 2.0 mills** in 2017. Furthermore, the annual trash collection fee, which was set at \$135 per household in 2008, is projected to remain the same for the ninth straight year.

The preliminary 2017 general budget total is balanced at \$3,142,995. After barely cresting the \$3 million mark for the first time in 2014, the budget held steady just below the high-water mark for the last two fiscal years. The projected 2017 general budget total would be a new all-time high for borough expenditures, while the \$175,186 rise in spending over this year would be a 5.9% increase.

The preliminary 2017 budget for the borough-owned Auburn Village housing complex totals \$811,560, which is an exact match of the 2016 budget total for Auburn Village.

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Sergeant Albany Remembered

On Saturday, Dec. 3, 2016, a special wreath-laying service will be held at Sergeant Morris J. Albany Jr.'s grave in the **Immaculate Heart of Mary Cemetery** (1701 Market St., Chichester), where Albany's sacrifice will be honored by the Philadelphia Fallen Heroes Wreath Program every year henceforth. Albany is the only Upland police officer ever killed in the line of duty.

At Borough Council's Oct. 11 meeting, Councilman Dick McClintock dedicated a moment of silence to the memory of Sgt. Albany, recognizing the week as the 40th anniversary of his death. Albany grew up in Upland and graduated from Eddystone High School in 1958. He then served four years in the US Navy, before starting his law enforcement career in 1965 as a part-time Upland police officer.

Around 9:50pm on Oct. 13, 1976, Sgt. 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. The sergeant managed to get off a gunshot of his own, hitting the perp in the spine and paralyzing him from the waist down. Both robbery suspects were arrested and ultimately sentenced to life in prison.

Albany was married and the father of twin daughters at the time of his death.

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

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Public Works Supervisor Named

Borough Council recently voted unanimously to upgrade the job title of Chuck Boyd to Facilities & Grounds Supervisor, effective immediately. Boyd has worked in the borough's Highway Department for the last 20+ years. Congratulations, Chuck!

CWA Starting Two-Year Project

Representatives of Chester Water Authority spoke with Borough Council on Nov. 15, giving Upland advance notice of the two-year Water Main Rehab Project, which will commence this fall and run through 2018. The goal of the project is to upgrade three water mains located on Upland's northeast side. A 30-inch-diameter main laid in 1910 will be "sliplined", while a 20-inch main and a 24-inch main, both laid in 1888, will be replaced.

Much of this work will be done along the Edgmont Avenue and Upland Avenue corridors, with the first preparatory work being the drilling of a series of small locator holes in streets, before construction starts in the spring.

Upland residents may see the locator work being done through the winter months on residential streets, including Upland Avenue, W. 24th Street and from Edgmont Avenue down to 11th Street. Most of the work will be done between the hours of 9am and 3pm, and roads will remain open to traffic. Work at major intersections, like Edgmont & Upland Avenues, will be done at night to reduce the impact.

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Food Bank Needs Strong Arms

The Upland Baptist Church Food Bank desperately needs dependable male volunteers who can lift up to 30 lbs. The Community Food Bank operates on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, starting at 8am.

If you can help fill this critical need with a couple of hours of donated time per week, please call the church office at 610-874-7474.

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Police Working For You

According to the police activity summary read at Borough Council's Nov. 15 meeting, Upland police officers have been busy keeping the borough's roadways safe for residents.

During the month of October, 145 citations were issued, most of which were traffic citations. As of the end of October, Upland officers had written a total of 1,447 citations in 2016.

There were seven reported motor vehicle accidents on borough roads during October, while 107 parking tickets were issued that month. A total of 359 parking tickets have been written this year.

The Upland PD has towed a total of 135 vehicles so far this year.

The police department answered 382 calls and made 48 assists in October, bringing the total call volume for this year up to 4,442 calls.

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Leaf Collections Continue

Upland Borough's Highway Department will be continuing to make curbside leaf collections **throughout December, as weather conditions allow**. Please rake leaves to the curblin, but not into the street.

Council OKs 2017 Meeting Dates

Borough Council has approved a list of 2017 public meeting dates (subject to change), with all meetings continuing to be held on Tuesday evenings. Each meeting starts with an informal caucus session at 6pm (which the public can attend), while the formal voting session starts at 7pm. Two Council meetings are slated for each month, although the second meeting is only held if deemed necessary.

Council's 2017 meeting schedule is as follows:

Jan. 10 & 24	Feb. 14 & 28	March 14 & 28
April 11 & 25	May 9 & 23	June 13 & 27
July 11 & 25	Aug. 8 & 22	Sept. 12 & 26
Oct. 10 & 24	Nov. 14 & 28	Dec. 12 & 19

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Alleyway Ownership Key To Dead Tree Problem

A resident recently came before Borough Council to inquire as to the ownership of the Oak Lane alleyway, where three dead trees routinely drop debris on nearby properties and represent a safety hazard. While Council sympathized with the homeowner's plight, the rotting trees are located on the boundary between Upland and Brookhaven Boroughs, leaving ownership in question.

Even though past attempts to address this ownership issue have reportedly failed, Council President Christine Peterson insisted that Upland reach out amicably to its neighbor, to see if Brookhaven's cooperation might be enlisted to reach a resolution to the benefit of all parties.

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Upland Hires Part-Time Officer

Officer Luke McCann joined the Upland Police Department as a part-time officer on Nov. 15, being sworn in by Mayor Michael Ciach, while his father (Chris McCann) held the Bible.

McCann, age 20, grew up in Darby; graduated from Pennwood High School in 2015; and graduated from the Delaware County Police Academy this past June. His Upland posting is McCann's first law enforcement position.

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Fire Company Selling Christmas Trees

For the first time, members of Upland Fire Company No. 1 are selling Christmas trees as a fundraiser throughout December.

Upland firefighters are teaming up with the members of the Ogden Fire Co. to split the proceeds from tree sales, but the trees will only be displayed at the Ogden firehouse, located on the south side of Naaman's Creek Road (#4300) in Upper Chichester Township (Boothwyn).

Any pre-paid tree can be delivered to Upland residents for free, if requested.

For more information or to place an order, send email to ufcfund57@yahoo.com or contact Monica at 610-364-6701 or 432009@hotmail.com.

Police To Auction Old Equipment

The Upland Police Department is planning to auction off several pieces of outdated equipment that is taking up space in the tool shed next to police headquarters. The UPD will utilize Municibid to auction the items online, as this has proven to be an expedient method of selling off used police vehicles.

Borough Council Meetings 6pm caucus; 7pm regular voting session Tuesday Dec. 13, Jan. 10 and Feb. 14 on ground floor of MacQueen Hall

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Monday Night VBS 6 to 7pm every Monday evening at Upland Baptist Church Open to children pre-K to 5th grade Includes activity/craft, Bible lesson, and dinner

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Santa Tours Upland starts at 10am on Saturday, Dec. 10 Santa hands out candy canes, riding in a fire truck

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Upland Senior Citizens Club Holiday Party 12 noon to 3pm on Monday, Dec. 12 Open to all members of Upland Senior Citizens Club

NYC Mothers' Day Cruise

Episcopal Place at Park Row is inviting all interested parties to join staff and residents on a day cruise on the *Spirit of New York* on Mothers' Day, Sunday, May 14, 2017. The cruise ship is handicap-accessible and features indoor & outdoor observation decks, a lounge and bar, lighted dance floors, and full-service bars on every deck.

The cost of this day trip is \$120 per person, payable in three \$40 installments (due by Jan. 1, Feb. 1, and March 1). All payments are non-refundable.

For more information, call Theresa Bey or Jean Sales at **610-872-0100**.

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Shred-It Day Slated For Spring

Based on the first event's overwhelming response, another Community Shred-It Day has been scheduled for May 2017 (Saturday date TBD). Utilizing a mobile shredding truck, Shred-It Day offers residents a safe and secure (and **FREE!**) opportunity to dispose of old, outdated papers/files. Stay tuned for more information on this event.

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

Halloween Party Scares Up Fun



On Oct. 29, a crowd of about 30 dressed-up Uplanders attended the Annual Youth Halloween Party at MacQueen Hall, where the wide variety of costumes was matched only by the buckets of candy and goodies that were handed out.

Prize-Winning Halloweeners

This year's Annual Youth Halloween Party produced an impressive collection of costumed children, but a few stood out above the rest, earning a gift certificate for the three best costumes in each of three age groups:

Ages up to 4:

1st place – Jordana Long (Wonder Woman)

2nd place – Erik Lathem (Superman)

3rd place – Molly Rey (Strawberry)

Ages 5 to 9:

1st place – Aunjae Freeman (Princess)

2nd place – Jayland Zinszer (Zombie Bride)

3rd place – Kyle Hansell (Drago Malfoy)

Ages 10 to 13:

1st place – Chanel Magaw (Angel)

2nd place – Sara Mason (Wednesday Addams)

3rd place – ZeriaH Hinson (Cleopatra)



Unlike girls, guys don't care if they find that someone else has worn the same outfit to the party.

Welcome Day Celebrates Pusey & Penn's Arrival



The Friends of the Caleb Pusey House hosted Welcome Day at Landingford Plantation on Oct. 29. Visitors enjoyed free tours of the three historic buildings on site and learned about colonial life by conversing with re-enactors like Bob Bardsley, portraying a fur trapper, and Noah Lewis, who portrayed real-life Continental soldier Ned Hector and demonstrated the firing of a musket.





Korean War veteran Corporal William Hilton was recently recognized by Upland Borough Council as the first vet to park in the dedicated parking spaces in front of Sam & Sam's Meats in the Upland Shopping Center. The two adjoining purple parking spaces were created in early October through the cooperation of Sam & Sam's and Council, represented here by (l to r) Vice President Moira Crawford, Mayor Michael Ciach, President Christine Peterson, and Councilman Bill Dennon (far right), who was the driving force behind the honorary parking space project.

IN MEMORIAM – REST IN PEACE



Councilwoman Sandra (nee Kirby) Miazza passed away on July 4, after a yearlong battle with pancreatic cancer.

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Mrs. Judith (nee Kirby) Bush, of Sixth Street, was sworn in on July 12 to complete the remaining 17 months of the unexpired Council term of her older sister, Sandy Miazza. While Mayor Michael Ciach swore in the new Council member, her daughter, Meghan, held the Bible. Bush, age 56, is a lifetime Uplander, who has previously served the borough as a member of the Vacancy Board and a Community Affairs Committee volunteer, while also serving the past 10 years as a Republican committeewoman.

Recycling Changes Put On Hold

In an effort to combat the rising cost of providing Upland residents with the convenience of curbside recycling collections, borough officials had hoped to start separate collections for newspapers and cans in July. Single stream recycling (the current system), where all recyclables are collected together, is now more expensive than regular trash collections, prompting Borough Council to consider changes.

Hoping to institute changes by July 1, Council had discussed this situation on multiple occasions in May and June, only to ultimately realize that the proposed collection changes would be more difficult than expected at this time.

Since the borough engineer recently prepared the specifications for Upland's next five-year trash contract (covering 2017 to 2022), borough officials are now thinking that January (at the start of the new contract) would be the best time to make changes to recycling collections.

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Trash Contract Awarded

After receiving three bids for the next trash and recycling collections contract, which will cover the years 2017 through 2022, Borough Council has awarded the contract to B & L Disposal Services – the low bidder and the borough's current collector.

Under the approved contract, the borough will pay \$97,035 for the first year of the contract, then a sliding scale will incrementally bring the annual charge up to \$109,165 for the fifth year.

The new contract includes the collection of regular trash (every Monday and Thursday, excepting holidays), recycling (on the first and third Friday of each month), and bulk trash pick-ups (on the last Wednesday of each month).

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Upland Historical Commission Reinstated

All five of the charter members of the Upland Historical Commission were reinstated with new two-year terms at Council's Aug. 23 session. The reappointed members include Chairman Lou Brown and Upland residents Tom Bryant, Brian Davis, Sandra Deldeo, and Brock Peterson.

Charged with the mission of preserving Upland Borough's historic resources, the UHC recently recommended Borough Council's denial of a demolition permit for Sunnyside House (built in 1863) on Upland Avenue.

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Officer Goes 'Extra Yard' During Traffic Stop

The recent actions of part-time Upland Police Officer Daniel Lemmon gave law enforcement agents everywhere a welcomed shot in the arm.

Officer Lemmon recently pulled over a young motorist for a routine traffic stop and found that the driver did not have all the proper paperwork in hand. Although citations could have been issued right there and then, the officer used good judgment in making a couple of phone calls to eventually get the situation satisfactorily resolved, all without punitive measures taken.

When commending Lemmon's actions, Mayor Michael Ciach and Acting-Police Chief Michael Irey did not give all the details of the traffic stop, but Irey said that Lemmon had gone "the extra yard." It was noted that the driver's grateful parent had written a letter to the Upland PD, stating that "it just goes to show that all police officers aren't out to get you."

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Fire Chief Earns Certifications

Upland Fire Chief Dan Smith recently completed the course work required to earn two federal fire safety certifications, including Technical Search Specialist (utilizing sonar devices to locate persons trapped inside a collapsed building) and Structural Collapse Technician.

Smith received the special training and FEMA certifications as a member of the Delaware County Tactical Rescue Team.

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.



While hundreds of residents staked out their Labor Day fireworks viewing spots on Bristol Lord Field (ABOVE), the volunteer members of Upland Fire Company No. 1 (BELOW) had a successful fundraiser, offering refreshments and glow sticks, and selling out virtually all items.



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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Newsletter Renewed For 2017

Council recently voted unanimously to extend the contract to continue to produce a monthly newsletter through December 2017. *The Uplander* was initially launched as a quarterly in August 2009, then became a monthly publication in January 2012.

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Council OKs New FOP Contract

At its Aug. 23 meeting, Borough Council unanimously approved a new five-year collective bargaining agreement with the Fraternal Order of Police. The pact is retroactive to Jan. 1, 2016 and will be in effect until Dec. 31, 2020.

Upland Finds Stray Solution

The problem of how to process stray dogs and cats has plagued every Delco municipality since the Delaware County SPCA stopped being the repository for such animals a few years ago. A stop-gap measure has been employing the Chester County SPCA for handling strays, but a recently proposed contract renewal with the same shelter (now called Brandywine SPCA) was labelled as "outrageous" by Upland officials, leaving the borough no immediate options for stray services.

At Council's May 23 session, a short-term solution to the stray problem was unanimously approved. Animal Control Officer Allen Strickler has agreed to take stray dogs and cats to the Conchester Animal Hospital on Rte. 322. Whenever possible, the CAH will record the drivers' license and phone number of the animal's owner, so the borough can bill for reimbursement. Any stray dog or cat that is not picked up by its owners within three (3) days will then be sent to a rescue.

The stray handling agreement applies only to dogs and cats. If a resident has an issue with a wild animal on their property, the Upland Police Department should be called first (at **610-872-3040**), then the property owner would need to call Mr. Strickler directly (at **610-485-2770**) to find a solution to the problem.

Spaghetti Dinner Raises Funds



The Annual Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser (which was canceled last year, due to the failing health of Master Chef/Councilwoman Sandy Miazza) was held in MacQueen Hall on Sept. 24, with Sandy's sister, Councilwoman Judy Bush (right), and Council VP Moira Crawford stepping up to handle the kitchen duties.



And even though the Spaghetti Dinner was held to raise money, it also provided another chance for families to spend quality time together.



Prior to the Labor Day fireworks display, the pavilion at Bristol Lord Field became a biker hangout.

Veterans Honored With Special Parking Spot

With the cooperation of the owners of Sam & Sam's Meats in the Upland Shopping Center, two veterans-only parking spaces have been created near the front entrance to the grocery store.

The restricted parking spaces are painted purple, similar to the way that parking spaces reserved for the handicapped are painted blue. Two signs have been posted on a light pole to identify the special parking spaces, in the hopes that non-veterans will park elsewhere and respect the honor that is intended as a thank you to our dedicated servicemen and women.

A public dedication ceremony was held on Saturday, Oct. 8 at Sam & Sam's Meats, with a small crowd of locals in attendance. The event was part of the celebration of the 8-year anniversary of Sam & Sam's being at this location. Elsewhere in the parking lot a giant walking Krimpet handed out Tastykake Krimpets, while the Upland Fire Co. gave firetruck tours, and free grilled hotdogs and chips were handed out.

Those who gathered for the dedication included five Upland Borough Council members, five veterans, two Upland police officers, and Sam & Sam's General Manager Bob Garrity.

Upland Mayor Michael Ciach gave a short speech, thanking all veterans for their service. Councilman Bill Dennon, who picked up the donated paint at a Sherwin Williams store and helped paint the spaces, expressed his hope that this method of honoring veterans (the first in Pennsylvania) will be replicated in other communities.



Flanked by Mayor Michael Ciach (far right), Councilman Bill Dennon comments on the new veterans-only parking space.



The turnout for the dedication included several veterans – the people the reserved parking space is meant to honor.

Council Discussing Fire Pits

One of the topics discussed at Borough Council's Oct. 11 caucus session was whether or not to allow fire pits on residential properties. Under the existing borough ordinance, fire pits are distinguished from barbeque grills and are not permitted.

Council President Christine Peterson raised the subject, noting that backyard fire pits are often enjoyed in autumn. Although a fire pit can be utilized for grilling purposes, they are more commonly used like a campfire, where people gather around to chat and relax, and often roast marshmallows or hotdogs.

Peterson said that allowing fire pits would require a property inspection by a fire chief or fire marshal, then a borough permit (\$ amount TBD) would need to be obtained. A minimum setback of 25 feet from all structures would be necessary for safety, so not all properties in Upland would qualify, including the Delaware County housing complex and Auburn Village rental units, where open space is limited.

To make future use of fire pits legal, Council would need to amend the public safety ordinance in the borough code.

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Auburn Village Vacancies Down

Borough officials are pleased to announce that the spate of vacancies that hit the borough-owned Auburn Village complex over the summer months has been significantly reduced. This summer saw a high of 15 vacancies in the 156-unit complex, but as of early October, all but four rental units had been occupied again.

Wall Extension Bid Approved

On Oct. 11, four submitted bids were opened and the low-bidder was approved, as Council tries to get the wall extension project for the southwest corner of Sixth & Main back on track. Extending the Main Street wall and landscaping the corner was supposed to be a 2014 Community Development Block Grant improvement, but a combination of unexpected delays and technical hurdles have kept the project in Limbo for two years.

To reactivate the stalled project, Council modified the specs (changing from a stone wall to concrete) and rebid the work twice. The second bidding round generated bids as high as \$84,825, but the low bid of \$28,240 from Moore Outdoor Rejuvenation, of Glen Mills, was what Council was looking for all along.

Now that a bid has been received within the amount of the 2014 CDBG funding, this public improvement project can once again move forward, as weather permits.



Upland Fire Company No. 1 drew a crowd to its Oct. 10 Open House event, where household fire safety was the theme for the day.
(Photos courtesy of George Patterson)



Code Enforcement Officer Busy

According to the monthly report of Code Enforcement Officer Bill Kirby, a total of 50 citations were issued to Upland property owners during the month of September 2016. The citations were warranted to address a variety of property maintenance issues and borough code violations. Kirby also reported that nine municipal liens have been placed on Upland properties so far in 2016, as the borough tries to collect unpaid citation fines from chronic violators.



The Upland Police Department is currently in the midst of changing its colors, moving to a traditional black and white combo for its vehicles. The 2011 Dodge Charger in the Upland PD fleet (left) was recently repainted and decaled to match two 2017 Ford Interceptors purchased this year.

Sewer Lateral Jetting Made Optional

After delaying action on a proposed amendment to the sewer lateral inspection ordinance that was adopted in 2012, Borough Council voted on Sept. 13 to approve a modified version of the amended language. The issue was thoroughly discussed during Council's pre-meeting caucus session, where elected officials agreed to make pre-inspection jetting of sewer laterals an option, and not a mandate.

At its Aug. 23 meeting, Council was prepared to vote on an amendment that would have required jetting as a precursor to all lateral camera inspections. The thinking was that jetting would remove the fine debris that could cause a lateral to unnecessarily fail a video inspection. But after a resident made an impassioned plea for Council to rethink the jetting requirement, a three-week reprieve was granted.

The subsequent caucus discussion ultimately found borough officials agreeing to make jetting an option for homeowners, which would offer a potential cost savings to residents who are preparing to sell their home, but would not force anyone to spend the extra money, prior to an inspection.

The inspection ordinance language changes that were approved are as follows:

1. **Closed Circuit Video recordings shall be used as the primary testing/inspection method for all laterals that have been in service for 10 years or more.**
 - A. **Proper cleaning of lateral by jetting may be voluntarily completed prior to video recording.**
 - B. **Evaluation of the said lateral will be performed by the borough engineer or his/her designee.**

The heart of the ordinance, which requires all residents to get a sewer lateral inspection prior to selling their home, remains unchanged and intact. Council members did note, however, that the borough's list of "approved" inspection companies is only a suggestion list. Residents can hire any qualified agent to do the lateral inspection, provided that the proper equipment is used.

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