



The Caleb Pusey House

The Uplander



MacQueen Hall

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



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Seniors Enjoy Turkey Dinner



A free Thanksgiving turkey dinner with all the trimmings drew nearly 100 grateful senior citizens to MacQueen Hall on Nov. 10. The meal was served up by a host of Community Affairs Committee volunteers (below), after CAC Co-Chairs/Councilwomen Moira Crawford and Judy Bush (in turkey aprons) spent two days preparing the feast, cooking 15 turkey breasts donated by the Upland Athletic Club.



Everyone enjoyed the delicious meal, but some Uplanders arrived hungrier than others, and just couldn't wait to dig in.

Santa Visits Upland



The Annual Tree Lighting/Christmas Party was held on Nov. 23, with scores of Uplanders turning out to greet Santa.



Every child in attendance received an age-appropriate gift from Santa Claus, courtesy of the Community Affairs Committee...And does anything compare to the priceless look on a child's face, when a Christmas gift is opened?



But the best gift of all is a chance to spend quality time with friends and family. Special thanks to Ron Billick, Jr., for all his efforts to ensure that Santa made it safely to Upland, and then home again, on a very cold night.

Preliminary 2019 Budget Holds Tax Line

If the preliminary budget figures are maintained at final budget adoption on Dec. 11, Upland Borough taxpayers will enjoy a **32nd consecutive year of the property tax millage holding steady at 2.0 mills** in 2019.

Furthermore, the annual trash collection fee, which was set at \$135 per household in 2008, is projected to remain the same for the 11th straight year. This preliminary projection may change, however, after Borough Council decides how to handle anticipated increases in the cost of recycling collections.

The preliminary 2019 general fund budget is balanced at \$3,616,381. The projected 2019 general budget total would be a new all-time high for borough expenditures, while the \$108,328 rise in spending over this year would amount to a 3.1% increase.

The preliminary 2019 budget for the borough-owned Auburn Village housing complex totals \$852,000, which is an increase of 5% from the 2016 and 2017 budget totals for Auburn Village. Despite the slight increase in expenditures, rental rates for AV residents are projected to remain the same in 2019.

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Rental Licenses & Safety Inspections Required

Upland Fire Marshal/Fire Chief Dan Smith recently had a wide-ranging discussion with Council regarding several issues surrounding annual safety inspections of rental properties in Upland. Smith has been serving as the borough's fire marshal since January 2018, and during his first year at the post, he has found a number of procedural problems that are interfering with his inspection duties.

According to Smith, one prevalent issue is property owners' lack of a rental license, which is a requirement for being a landlord, as outlined in Chapter 69 of the borough code.

Not only must all landlords have a rental license, but their rental properties must pass a fire safety inspection every year by May 31 to be considered safe for renting. Since one (or both) of these requirements have been overlooked in the past, some rental properties in Upland Borough have not been inspected in over a decade, Smith noted.

Landlords and/or renters are encouraged to call the borough office at **610-874-7317** with any questions regarding these safety regulations, which were adopted to protect the lives of Upland renters.

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Trunk-or-Treat Winner Named

The winner of the Upland Baptist Church Trunk-or-Treat Raffle is Upland resident Summer Shaw. Thank you to all who participated, and congratulations to Summer!

Veteran Banners Now Available For Families To Claim

The heavy canvas banners that proudly boasted Upland's military veterans this year have now been taken down to make room for holiday decorations. If the families who ordered vet banners to honor their favorite veterans want their flags to be displayed again next year, please advise the borough office **(610-874-7317)** immediately. Ordering families that would like to claim their banners for personal use can now pick up their vet flag(s) at the borough office during regular business hours.

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Boro Submits CDBG Wishlist

Upland Borough will soon be submitting its application for a 2019 Community Development Block Grant from the county, listing two public improvement projects that could be funded through a grant.

The borough's first choice for a CDBG-funded project is the creation of a new public parking lot on Seventh Street, while an alternative project would be construction of permanent restroom facilities at Bristol Lord Field.

Delaware County Council's 2019 CDBG awards will be announced in April.

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Full-Time Requirements Revised For Police Officers

Borough Council has adopted an amendment to the requirements for full-time officers in the Upland PD. Applicants for full-time positions must now have a minimum of six months of part-time service with the Upland Police Department to qualify for a promotion to full-time status.

Previously, applicants needed one full year of UPD service to be considered for a full-time posting, but that time frame was adversely impacting the number of qualified candidates.

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Upland Police On Duty

The Upland Police Department continues to maintain its vigilance to keep the borough's streets safe for all residents, pedestrians, and motorists.

During October 2018, Upland officers issued 97 citations, all but 11 of which were traffic citations. The year-to-date total for citations issued is 1,473.

Police also wrote 248 parking tickets in October, bringing the 2018 total up to 668.

Eight motor vehicle accidents were reported on borough roadways in October.

A total of 130 vehicles have been towed in 2018.

The UPD answered a total of 525 calls in October, in addition to making 44 assists to other local agencies. As of the end of October, the total call volume for this year is 4,825 calls.

BINGO Event Raises Funds

The Designer Handbag BINGO event that was held at MacQueen Hall on Oct. 13 generated over \$5,000 in revenue for the Community Affairs Committee, which will be used to fund free borough-sponsored family events in 2019.

CAC Co-Chairwoman/Council VP Moira Crawford was so pleased with the BINGO fundraiser that she is planning to schedule two similar events next year, the first slated for **Saturday, Feb. 23**, from 6-11pm.

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Snow Dos & Don'ts

Please observe the following public safety measures during any snow emergency:

Do: Remove snow from sidewalks within 48 hours of the end of a snowfall, clearing a pathway of no less than 24 inches in width. By clearing snow immediately, you will ultimately use less de-icing material.

Do: Make sure that the de-icing product you are using is environmentally safe and pet-friendly. While rock salt can burn the tender pads of pets' feet, sawdust or sand will not.

Don't: Shovel snow back into a plowed street, as this creates a public safety hazard.

Don't: Attempt to save or block off a cleared parking space with any type of furniture, grills, or traffic cones. The borough will remove any space-saving objects, as this illegal practice amounts to obstructing a public thoroughfare.

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More Shred-It Days Planned

As Upland residents continue to take advantage of borough-sponsored opportunities to safely dispose of unwanted and outdated papers and files, Borough Council has announced its intent to hold two more Community Shred-It Days in 2019, with one slated for early May and another for November. The exact dates for these popular free events are yet to be determined.

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Borough Makes Donations

At its Nov. 13 session, Borough Council approved donations to help support three local organizations. The Upland Senior Citizens Club received its annual borough contribution of \$300, which will pay for the group's Dec. 10 Christmas Party.

A donation request from Delco Detachment 288 of the Marine Corps League garnered a \$200 contribution to the Marine Corps' 243rd Birthday Booklet, with \$100 each coming from Upland Borough and the Upland Police Department.

Council also approved a donation of \$147.20 to Upland Fire Company No. 1 for the purchase of candy canes, which will be handed out to children during Santa Claus' annual tour of Upland Borough on Dec. 15.

New Plumbing Inspector Approved

Council recently announced the approval of Master Plumber Harry Kent to serve as the borough's new plumbing inspector. Over the past year, Catania Engineering had been handling all of the plumbing inspector's duties, in the wake of the resignation of Tom Kennedy.

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Zoning Board Member Resigns

Borough Council has accepted with regret the resignation of Ronald Reynolds from the borough's Zoning Hearing Board. The naming of a new member to fill the vacancy on the five-person advisory board was temporarily tabled at Council's Nov. 13 meeting.

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Upland Senior Citizens Club Annual Christmas Party

**Starts at 12 noon on Monday, Dec. 10
at MacQueen Hall**

Attendees must be USCC members

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Borough Council Meetings

**6pm caucus; 7pm regular voting session
Tuesdays Dec. 11, Jan. 8, and Feb. 12
on ground floor of MacQueen Hall**

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VBS Nights

**6 to 7pm on Mondays, Dec. 3, 10 & 17
at Upland Baptist Church**

**Dinner at 6:00pm, followed by Bible lesson
and creative activity from 6:30-7pm
Free & Open to all in our community**

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Santa Tours Upland on Firetruck

11:00am on Saturday, Dec. 15

(Handing out candy canes to kids)

**And again in early evening,
with sirens blaring and lights flashing**

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UBC Night of Music

**Starts at 6:30pm on Monday, Dec. 17
at Upland Baptist Church**

**Christmas music & a story for the children
Followed by reception with Santa
ALL ARE WELCOME!**

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UBC Communion

Candlelight Service

**Starts at 7:00pm on Monday, Dec. 24
at Upland Baptist Church**

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Annual Soup-N-Salad Fundraiser

**4 to 6pm on Saturday, Feb. 16
at MacQueen Hall**



Upland Police Chief Michael Irely was among the first to congratulate newly-sworn Officers (left to right) Kevin Molineux, Timothy Ervin, and Justin Hazleton, after the new part-time police officers were sworn in by Borough Recording Secretary Shannon Strigle on Nov. 13.

Part-Time Officers Hired

Three part-time police officers were sworn in on Nov. 13, with Borough Secretary Shannon Strigle administering the oath in the absence of Mayor Denon.

Officer Kevin Molineux, age 24, grew up in Essington, and graduated from Interboro High School in 2012. He also graduated from the Delaware County Police Academy in December 2016, and has worked for the East Lansdowne PD for the last two months.

Molineux's fiancé, Alexis Clark, held the Bible while her beau was sworn in, while his mother, Mary Beth Molineux, held the couple's infant son, Miles.

Officer Timothy Ervin, 31, is originally from Clifton Heights. He is a 2005 Upper Darby High School grad, and a 2011 Delco Police Academy graduate.

Ervin was employed by the Darby Borough Police Department for five years, and has worked the last year and a half with the Darby Township PD.

Officer Justin Hazelton, 20, is a Havertown native. He graduated from Haverford High School in 2016 and from the Delco Police Academy in 2018.

Justin's parents, Jim and Michele Hazelton, held the Bible while their son was sworn in. Hazelton's Upland posting is his first law enforcement position.

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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, and photo galleries of recent community events.

To share digital photos or information on the borough's website, send email to

mcrawford@uplandboro.org

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Halloween Costume Winners

The Annual Youth Halloween Party on Oct. 26 produced many clever, scary, and impressive costumes, but those listed below were judged to be the best of the best in each of four age groups. All winners received cash prizes.

Ages up to 3:

- 1st place – Aaliyah Kristman (Bumble Bee)
- 2nd place – Molly Thompson (Ballerina)
- 3rd place – Nathaniel Witt (Mickey Mouse)

Ages 4 to 6:

- 1st place – Rowan Hewes (Count Dracula)
- 2nd place – Jordana Long (Witch)
- 3rd place – Quinn Irvin (Spider)

Ages 7 to 9:

- 1st place – Malani Currian (Dorothy)
(and unofficial winner of Best Smiling Eyes)
- 2nd place – Matthew Shaw (Campfire)
- 3rd place – Damien Kline (Clown)
(and unofficial winner of Scariest Mask)

Ages 10 to 13:

- 1st place – Audrianna Cassidy (Zombie)
- 2nd place – Aryn Strigle (Scout from Up)
(and unofficial winner of Most Generous Winner for donating her prize money to the Upland Baptist Church Community Food Bank)
- 3rd place – Melanie Krapf (Chainsaw Bride)



The costume winners pictured above were not only judged to be among the best in their age groups, but were also among the photographer's "unofficial" favorites.

Congratulations to all the best costume winners!

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Big Changes Coming to Recycling

China is poised to stop accepting recycled items soon. This will leave few options for our haulers, and unfortunately, it also means that the cost to dispose of recycling will skyrocket. Currently, the cost to dispose of recycling is just short of \$4 per ton, but the projected cost in 2019 could be as much as \$150 (or higher) per ton (a 3750% increase). There are rumored changes in the recycling industry that could possibly minimize this increase, however, these changes are out of our control. This notice is simply bringing this imminent change to light, and the borough will be getting back to residents after the beginning of the year to let you know of further changes that we may need to address in this area.

New Council Member Seated



Councilwoman Julie Kerns was sworn in by Mayor Bill Dennon on Oct. 9, while her husband Chris held the Bible. Kerns, 42, is a Chester native, but lived on Front Street in Upland for seven years and on Willow Way for the last nine years. She graduated from Interboro High School in 1995 and from Chubb Institute in 1996, and is currently employed as an administrative assistant at Clayton Auto. The Kerns have a teenage daughter and son. Mrs. Kerns will serve the remainder of former Council President Ed Mitchell's elected term. Kerns' interim term on Borough Council will expire on Dec. 31, 2019.

Permits Required For Burning

A REMINDER FROM THE FIRE MARSHAL:

The use of an outdoor burn pit or Chiminettes in Upland requires a borough permit, which can only be obtained after a site inspection by the fire marshal. As of Oct. 9, only one burn pit permit had been issued, under an ordinance passed last year that allows limited burning, but only on properties that meet minimum setback safety requirements.

Please contact the borough office at **610-874-7317** for more information on burning permits.

Left Turns Restricted

In an effort to improve safety at two busy intersections, Borough Council recently restricted two left turns, effective immediately.

To relieve congestion around the Chester Charter School, left turns from 11th Street (eastbound) onto Main Street will now be prohibited on weekdays from 7:30am to 8:30am and from 2:30pm to 3:30pm. Left turns are also prohibited from the bottom of Hill Street (eastbound) onto Upland Avenue. This dangerous left turn is now prohibited all hours of every day.

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.

Pot Hole Relief Funds Received

A second round of funding from the county will allow municipalities to address pot hole repairs before the years' end. Upland Borough recently received a total of \$1,522 from Delaware County Council to put towards pot hole remediation.

Borough Council has identified four persistent pot holes that will soon be repaired by hometown contractor A. F. Damon, at a cost of \$1,600. Doing the math, the borough's net outlay for these pending pot hole repairs will be a mere \$78.

Upland Plays BINGO



Designer Handbag BINGO made a return to MacQueen Hall on Oct. 13, this time as a fundraiser for the Community Affairs Committee. The sold-out event (150 tickets sold) raised thousands of dollars to help fund the many borough-sponsored free events throughout the year.



Council VP Moira Crawford recruited Upland Police Officers Andy Nichols (left) and Mick Curran (right) as volunteer raffle ticket sellers, before Corporal Curran took the mic as the official letter/number caller.

Sesquicentennial Merchandise On Sale Now

Baseball caps (two styles), car magnets, t-shirts, and acrylic Christmas tree ornaments, all bearing the special logo for Upland Borough's 150th birthday celebration are now available at the borough office during regular business hours. These sesquicentennial logo items will also be sold (for \$10 to \$20 each) at upcoming public events and during the many planned festivities on Memorial Day weekend 2019.

Get your Upland gear on NOW!

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Frightful Fun At Halloween Party



Pictured are some of the prize-winning costumes that Upland children wore to this year's Youth Halloween Party on Oct. 27, where families were fed and entertained, before the kids went home with a bag filled with goodies.



Boro Purchases Property

Borough Council has unanimously approved the purchase of the vacant property at #2 Seventh Street through a repository sale, at the bargain basement price of just \$142.25. The borough had several liens on the property, totaling thousands of dollars in unpaid taxes, fees, and citations, which allowed Zoning Solicitor John Wills to negotiate the sale in lieu of lien reimbursement.

As Council was preparing to vote on the matter on Oct. 9, a man in attendance claimed to be interested in purchasing the property himself, even offering to pay the liens owed to the borough. After some deliberation, however, Council decided to go forward with the purchase, with the intent of turning the property into an off-street parking lot for neighboring residents.

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Police Chief Secures Grants

Upland Police Chief Mike Irey was a fountain of good news, when he announced recently securing a series of grants that will help fund his department.

The UPD was the only Delco police force to receive a Schools Resource Officers grant this year in the amount of \$60,000 for the first year, and \$30,000 next year. This grant will pay officers for covering extra-duty events involving local schools.

A \$100,000 JAG grant was also recently received, which will pay officers for specialized training to deal with gang-related issues. This grant will be shared with officers from the neighboring Chester Township and Chester City police departments.

A \$2,100 grant to purchase protective police vests was also secured from the federal Ballistic Vest Grant (BVG) Program. After noting that this grant would fund the purchase of "almost three vests," the Chief was pleased to later add that Upland resident George Oronzio had offered to cover the remaining \$300 needed for the third vest, through the Dave Oronzio First Responders Foundation.

'Nova Nation Cleans Chester Creek

In cooperation with CRC Watersheds Association, a crew of Villanova University Engineering faculty and students recently tackled a massive clean-up of Chester Creek, from behind Upland Park down to the historic Caleb Pusey House on Race Street.

The hard-working team of environmentalists spent an entire day collecting trash and debris from the creek bed and surrounding areas, and ultimately removed about 3,000 lbs. of trash, along with 1,000 lbs. of scrap metal and six discarded tires.

Upland Mayor Bill Dennon met with the Villanova volunteers at the end of the day and thanked them for their earnest efforts to improve the health of Chester Creek.



These volunteers showed their Wildcat spirit by spending Sept. 15 clearing tons of debris out of Chester Creek.

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.

Auburn Village Maintenance Emergency?

Auburn Village residents faced with a maintenance emergency should call the borough office at **610-874-7317** during regular business hours, but if the emergency occurs during off-hours (after 4:15pm & before 8:00am), residents should call the answering service at **610-359-8334** to report their situation. Maintenance emergencies include no heat, broken water pipes, no electric, hot water tank leaks, broken windows or doors, stove or oven problems, and issues related to the aftermath of a fire.

Fireworks Show Grows Into Community Event



On Sept. 2, the Annual Labor Day Weekend Fireworks display drew hundreds of locals to Bristol Lord Field, but hours before the first boomers went off, Upland Fire Company volunteers held a successful fundraiser.



Early arrivals could play children's games or take a guess at the number of balloons stuffed into a police cruiser. ...And while some kids enjoyed the walking tacos served up at the pavilion, others joined the festivities just to be cute.



Upland PD Hires Part-timer



Part-time Officer John Walker was sworn in on Oct. 9, while his mother, Marcella Parker, held the Bible, and Police Chief Michael Irey waits to pin on Walker's badge. (Below) Chief Irey, Mayor Dennon, and Officer Walker are joined by Walker's pumped up nephew, Curtis Parker. Officer Walker, age 23, grew up in Philadelphia, and graduated from The High School of the Future in 2013. He earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Lockhaven University in 2016, and graduated from the Delco Police Academy in 2017. His Upland posting is Walker's first law enforcement position.

UBC Food Bank Accepting Donations

Local residents can go to Upland Baptist Church any Wednesday morning, from 9 to 10am, to pick up groceries to help feed their families. The UBC Community Food Bank recently added locally-grown fresh fruits and vegetables to its list of available food items – all free for the asking.

The UBC Food Bank is continually in need of canned and dry goods to keep a well-rounded selection of nutritional foods on hand. Please donate to support this community outreach mission. To make a donation to the UBC Food Bank, or for more information, call Louise at **610-876-1857**.

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Compliance Time Shortened For Unkept Properties

Borough Council has amended the Nuisance chapter of the borough code, as it pertains to grass cutting and property maintenance. The revised ordinance specifically targets the failure to cut back "weeds, grass or other uncultured vegetation, not edible or planted for some useful or ornamental purpose, **more than 10 inches in height.**"

The wording of the ordinance was changed in the Enforcement/Compliance section, where the time allowed to start remedial action in response to a code citation was trimmed down from seven days to 48 hours, while the time period allowed to complete any required property maintenance work dropped from 60 days down to four days.

Both time periods start on the date that a code violation notice is issued. When applicable, the code enforcement officer will take weather conditions into consideration.

Borough officials noted that the previous time limits were too lax and allowed irresponsible landlords to avoid prompt action when cited for code violations.

Spaghetti Dinner Raises Funds



The Annual Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser was held on Sept. 15, drawing the event's largest-ever crowd, to help fund the many freebies that the Community Affairs Committee provides Uplanders throughout the year.

The Spaghetti Dinner hosted by the Community Affairs Committee on Sept. 15 was not just successful, it produced the best-ever results for the annual fundraising event.

According to Community Affairs Co-Chair Moira Crawford, the spaghetti dinner took in \$959, leading to a profit margin of \$550. Both figures are new highs for a fundraiser that has been held for the past 10 years.

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Noise Ordinance Covers Fireworks

Recent changes to the state law regarding the purchase and use of fireworks has led to an uptick in sales, and as a result, an increase in the number of occasions when fireworks are a public nuisance. Upland Borough Council members described the proliferation of fireworks around the July Fourth holiday as turning Upland into "a war zone," where late night explosions sent frightened pets running for cover and kept entire neighborhoods awake past midnight.

"This has to be done safely and at a reasonable time," Council President Christine Peterson said of setting off hand-held fireworks.

In an effort to thwart future instances of late night fireworks abuse, Council has amended the noise ordinance in the borough code to include fireworks-related disturbances.

At Council's Aug. 28 meeting, the borough's noise ordinance was amended to read:

"It is strictly forbidden to discharge or set off noise-making fireworks, unless a permit for the purpose of entertainment to do so has been granted by Borough Council."

The noise ordinance that now applies to fireworks is in effect from **10:00pm to 7:00am** every weekday and **until 8:00am** every weekend (Saturdays and Sundays), with no exceptions made for holidays.

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Convicted Councilman Resigns; Then Sent To Jail

Earlier this year, former Upland Council President Edward Mitchell was found guilty on 42 of 44 felony counts stemming from an illegal payback scheme. The guilty verdicts included multiple counts of theft by deception, bribery, and criminal conspiracy.

Councilman Mitchell did not attend a Borough Council meeting after he was arrested and charged in December 2016. As an elected official, however, Mitchell was able to collect a monthly paycheck from the borough until the week before he was sentenced, although he was ordered to repay the September 2018 check.

After Council had requested his resignation twice over the last 18 months, Mitchell finally relented and officially submitted his resignation through a letter from his attorney on Sept. 10, effective immediately. Council unanimously accepted the resignation at its Sept. 11 session.

Mitchell was sentenced by Common Pleas Court Judge John Capuzzi in Media on Sept. 14. The 75-year-old Mitchell received a prison sentence of not less than 65 months and not more than 348 months. The court also awarded Upland Borough \$45,762 in restitution, to cover monetary losses.

Council President Christine Peterson released a statement to bring closure to the incident, saying:

"This has been a long and difficult road for Council, borough staff, and residents. We understand that the whole story will never be heard or understood by some. However, we thank you for your patience when we couldn't answer questions in the way that some residents would have liked. We're excited to put this behind us and move forward in a progressive manner. Justice has been served for our town," Peterson asserted.

UPD's National Night Out Draws A Crowd



The warm and humid evening of Aug. 7 saw a throng of Uplanders enjoying the free food and festivities at Bristol Lord Field during the Second Annual National Night Out, which focuses on building good relations between police officers and the residents they protect.

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