



The Caleb Pusey House

# The Uplander



MacQueen Hall

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



Vol. 11-12; December 2019 edition



## Santa Visits Upland



Santa Claus stopped by MacQueen Hall on Nov. 29 to light the Christmas tree, and then sit for photos with his fans.



\*



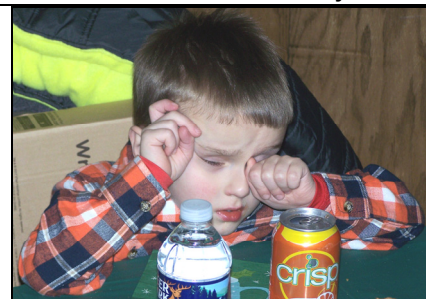
While families lined up to pose with Santa, his helpers handed out gifts to all the good girls and boys.



As always, Santa's age-appropriate gifts were a big hit...



...But as exciting as it can be to open a gift from Santa, it can also take a lot out of you.



\*\*\*\*\*

**Upland Fire Company No. 1 is selling Christmas trees (\$25 and up), wreaths, and grave blankets at the firehouse on McClintock Drive thru Dec. 31**  
Fridays(5-9pm); Saturdays and Sundays(9am-9pm)  
**Free Hot Chocolate/Santa photos on weekends**

## **Preliminary 2020 Budget Holds Tax Line...Again**

If the preliminary budget figures are maintained at final budget adoption on Dec. 10, Upland Borough taxpayers will enjoy a **33rd consecutive year of the property tax millage holding steady at 2.0 mills** in 2020.

Furthermore, the annual trash collection fee, which was set at \$135 per household in 2008, is projected to remain the same for the 12<sup>th</sup> straight year.

The preliminary 2020 general fund budget is balanced at \$5,287,086. The projected 2020 general budget adds \$1,670,705 to this year's budget. This increase includes several public improvement projects that will be completed next year, using funds from previous years that have been held in reserve.

The preliminary 2020 budget for the borough-owned Auburn Village housing complex totals \$1,027,500, which is an increase of \$175,500 from the 2019 budget. This increase also includes several necessary upgrade projects that will be completed next year, also utilizing funds held in reserve.

Rental rates for AV residents are projected to remain the same in 2020.

\*

## **M.E.S. Students of the Month**

The following Main Street Elementary School students were named Students of the Month in October:

Ny'Asia Scott, Ava Sherrod, Makhi Parker, Balqees Shah, Armanni Murray, Jordyn Jones, Erica Clay, Karron Thomas, Cameron Rivera, Bahiyah Carmichael, Charm Moore, Yunus Waters, Christian Clark-Lane, Sah'Neyah McIntyre-Merriitt, Ayden Tyree, Aiden Mills, Arisbeth Sanchez, Rowan Hewes, and Eliana Moran.

**Congratulations to all, and keep up the good work!**

\*

## **CDBG Public Hearing Slated**

Borough Council will hold a public hearing on **Dec. 10, prior to the regular Council session** (which starts at 7:00pm), to solicit input on next year's Community Development Block Grant application.

Applications for 2020 CDBG funding will be submitted to Delaware County Council in January, with grants being awarded in April.

Upland's 2019 CDBG award will fund construction of permanent public restrooms at Bristol Lord Field. That public improvement project will go out to bid in February, and hopefully be completed by summer.

\*

## **CAC Volunteers Appreciated**

*"We would like to thank all of our volunteers for our borough-sponsored events. Without them, we would not be able to hold these events."*

*-Community Affairs Co-Chair Moira Crawford*

## **General Election Results**

The General Election on Nov. 5 produced the following vote tallies for Upland Borough Council:

**Christine Peterson(R)** cross-filed and led all candidates with a total of **519** votes (254-R/265-D) to win her fourth four-year term.

**Abigail Gertner(D)** garnered **269** votes and will be sworn in for her first term on Council in January.

**Julie Kerns(R)** received **266** votes to win her first elected term, after serving the past 13 months as an interim appointment.

**Sandra Deldeo(R)** also won her first full four-year term on Council, receiving **250** votes, having already served 30 months as a councilwoman.

**Leland Hunter(R)** garnered **231** votes, and though he fell short on his bid to be re-elected to a fourth term on Council, his 12 years of dedicated service as a councilman is greatly appreciated.

\*

## **Fire Co. Holding Toy Drive**

The volunteer members of Upland Fire Company No. 1 are holding a toy drive that will exclusively benefit Upland children. A donation box for new toys will sit outside the firehouse on McClintock Drive through the holidays.

\*\*\*Riding on a firetruck, Santa will hand out candy canes on **Sat., Dec. 21 (rain date: Sun., Dec. 22)**

\*

## **Boro Needs Newsletter Editor**

In an effort to continue to produce a newsletter to keep the residents of Upland Borough informed, borough officials are seeking a qualified person or persons to take the helm of the newsletter next year. The successful candidate(s) for this position will need to have basic computer, photography, and writing skills, but does not need to be an expert in any of these fields to qualify.

Interested parties should send a resume and letter of introduction to the attention of Borough Manager Michael Ciach, 224 Castle Ave., Upland, PA 19015.

\*

## **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 2019, Upland officers issued 85 citations, with all but 15 being traffic citations. A total of 1,509 citations have been issued this year.

Police also wrote 136 parking tickets in October, bringing that year-to-date total up to 944.

Fourteen motor vehicle accidents were reported on borough roadways in October, and a total of 187 vehicles have been towed so far this year.

The UPD answered a total of 502 calls in October, in addition to making 42 assists to other local agencies. As of Oct. 31, the total police call volume for 2019 is 3,789.



## **Council Approves Animal Control Contract**

In an effort to address the growing problem of stray dogs and cats, Upland Borough Council will vote to ratify a contract with Brandywine Valley SPCA (based in West Chester) at the Dec. 10 meeting.

When the SPCA facility in Media became a no-kill shelter a few years ago, Delaware County lost its prime means of handling strays. Delco's lone animal control officer has tried to meet the demand through short-term municipal contracts with other shelters, but the overall quality of stray handling has never fully recovered.

Of late, Upland has had a particular problem with stray and feral cats, so after a lengthy discussion at its Nov. 12 session, Council decided unanimously to approve a long-term contract with Brandywine Valley. Although Brandywine Valley wants the borough to make a five-year commitment, Council is hoping to sign a three-year pact.

The cost to Upland Borough taxpayers will depend on the number of animals processed each month. Costs include an \$1,167 per year base fee; a \$265 monthly service fee; plus \$265 per dog and \$159 per cat handled. The total base cost for the first year will be about \$4,350, with a 3% fee increase each year thereafter.

The services provided by Brandywine Valley go well beyond simply housing strays. Animals in their care are well-fed and receive all necessary preventive shots and vaccinations.

Stray pets and neutered feral cats that are suitable for adoption have their photos posted on Brandywine Valley's website, in the hopes that an anxious owner or an adoption-minded person might find them. Brandywine Valley proudly boasts an overall 97% placement rate for their animals, and a 50% placement rate for feral cats.

Once the contract with Brandywine Valley is in place, all calls for stray animals will go through the Upland Police Department, in addition to all calls involving wildlife.

\*

## **Council OKs 2020 Schedule**

Next year, Borough Council will continue to hold a public meeting at MacQueen Hall on the **second Tuesday of every month**, with meetings on the fourth Tuesday added on an as-needed basis. Caucus sessions start at **6:00pm**, and the regular business meetings start at **7:00pm**.

The borough office will be closed on the following 2020 holidays: New Years Day (Jan. 1), Martin Luther King Day (Jan. 20), Presidents Day (Feb. 17), Good Friday (April 10), Primary Day (April 28), Memorial Day (May 25), July 4<sup>th</sup> observation (July 3), Labor Day (Sept. 7), Columbus Day (Oct. 12), Election Day (Nov. 3), Veterans Day (Nov. 11), Thanksgiving Day/Black Friday (Nov. 26/27), Christmas Eve/Day (Dec. 24/25)

## **Order Your Memorial Bricks Now**

Building a Memorial Wall and Walkway on the upper end of the recently renovated Hill Street playground is officially underway. Councilwoman Julie Kerns noted that this public improvement project is not a fundraiser, but a cooperative community effort to create a memorial garden.

The Memorial Wall will be made of red bricks donated 'In Memory Of' lost loved ones, including veterans, family members or friends, and will stand between two pillars. The adjacent walkway will be built with engraved bricks donated 'In Honor Of' a special person. The wall/walkway will be enhanced with benches and landscaping, flowers and shrubs. Engraved bricks for this project are now being sold to raise funds for construction. The labor to build the wall and walkway next year will be donated by Greg Zyla (owner of Zyla's Landscaping), so construction materials and upkeep will be the only expenses.

The engraved pavers come in two sizes. A standard 4 x 8-in. brick costs \$60, and can accommodate up to four lines of print, with each line having up to 21 spaces (a space can be a letter, number or blank). Large 8 x 8-in. bricks cost \$90 each, offering up to six lines of print, with 21 spaces per line.

Symbols, including pet paws, a peace dove, and military branch insignias, et al, can be added to any brick for an additional \$5 charge.

The exact message that you want engraved on your brick(s) is part of the order form. You may want to practice spelling out your message, to be sure that everything will fit in the available space when you stop by the borough office during business hours.

**Visit our Facebook page at: [Uplandbuyabrick](#)**

\*\*\*\*\*

## **VBS Nights**

**6 to 7pm on Mondays, Dec. 2, 9 and 16**

**at Upland Baptist Church**

**Attendees enjoy dinner at 6:00pm, then a Bible lesson and creative activity from 6:30 to 7:00pm**

\*

## **Annual Night of Music**

**6:30pm on Monday, Dec. 16**

**at Upland Baptist Church**

**Come dressed as you are!**

\*

## **Borough Council Meetings**

**6pm caucus; 7pm regular voting session**

**Tuesdays, Dec. 10, Jan. 14, and Feb. 11**

**on ground floor of MacQueen Hall**

\*

## **Christmas Eve Communion**

### **Candlelight Service**

**7:00pm on Tuesday, Dec. 24**

**at Upland Baptist Church**

**All are welcome!**

\*\*\*\*\*

## Seniors Enjoy Free Turkey Dinner



The Annual Thanksgiving Dinner for Senior Citizens was held at MacQueen Hall on Nov. 9, with scores of residents turning out to enjoy the free meal.



\*



Volunteers from the Community Affairs Committee, Upland Baptist Church, and the Upland Fire Company joined forces to prepare and serve the turkey dinner. Councilwomen Moira Crawford and Judy Bush (wearing turkey aprons above) spent two full days working in the MacQueen Hall kitchen, cooking & carving 18 turkey breasts (donated by Upland AC) and peeling & mashing 50 lbs. of potatoes, among all the other tasks needed to pull off the grand family-style feast.



...And like any good leader, Ms. Crawford personally made sure that all the volunteer helpers got a bite to eat.

\*\*\*

## Halloween Costume Winners



Rowan Hewes' furry Wolfman, sporting impressive make-up, was one of the winners at the Annual Youth Halloween Party.

### Ages 0 to 2:

- 1<sup>st</sup> place – Josiah Whitt
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place – Rocky Thompson
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place – Maci Lathem
- Honorable Mention – Aaliyah Kristman

### Ages 3 to 5:

- 1<sup>st</sup> place – Olivia Powers
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place – Rowan Hewes
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place – Thomas Cosgrove

### Ages 6 to 9:

- 1<sup>st</sup> place – Cameron Long
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place – Savannah Worrell
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place – Matthew Shaw

### Ages 10 to 13:

- 1<sup>st</sup> place – Harlem Magaw
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place – Melanie Krapf
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place – Gianna Williams

**Congratulations to the costume winners  
and all the runners-up for their ghoulish creativity!**

\*\*\*



Construction of a new public park on the corner of 8<sup>th</sup> & Hill Streets (featuring a fountain, clock, walkways and benches) began in early November and will be completed this spring.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Website Provides Valuable Info

Visit [www.uplandboro.org](http://www.uplandboro.org) to find an expanded version of the borough's monthly newsletter, a current events calendar, historical narratives, public health notices, borough ordinances, and photo galleries of recent community events.

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

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





The Resurrection Life Church Thrift Shop, located in the church at 8<sup>th</sup> & Church Streets, recently celebrated its 9<sup>th</sup> anniversary of offering affordable goods to the community. The RLC Thrift Shop is generally open from 10am to 2pm on the first and second Saturdays of each month. Most merchandise is offered at 50% off, while all proceeds go to the RLC Compassion Fund, helping people in need. As you do your Christmas shopping, please stop by the RLC Thrift Shop to see just how much you can save, while supporting the church's community outreach programs.

\*\*\*

### Splash Park Decision Coming Soon

Upland Baptist Church officials will likely be making a decision by the end of this year, regarding the possibility of building a public 'splash park' on the western end of the UBC parking lot, according to Councilwoman Judy Bush, who is taking the lead in talks between the church and Borough Council. The notion of creating a splash park in Upland was floated this past summer, but there are no borough-owned properties large enough to hold the fountains and sprayers (no pool) that comprise such a park. Constructing a splash park on a portion of the UBC parking lot, which could be either leased or sold to the borough, is one possibility, but all parties understand that a mutually beneficial arrangement must be reached for this project to move forward.

\*\*\*

### Halloween In Upland Is Spooktacular



The Community Affairs Committee hosted the Annual Youth Halloween Party at MacQueen Hall on Oct. 26, drawing a frightful variety of cute, clever, and creepy costumes.



\*



The winning costumes in each of four age groups were absolutely awesome. A complete list of all the winners will appear in the next edition of *The Uplander*.



\*



\*\*\*

### **Zoners Grant Variance For Medical Marijuana Dispensary**

By a unanimous (3-0) vote on Oct. 16, the Upland Zoning Hearing Board approved a conditional usage variance that will allow an application to operate a medical marijuana dispensary in the Upland Shopping Center to move forward.

Pennsylvania is one of 32 states that have now legalized medical marijuana use. Patients who suffer from any one of 14 approved conditions, including cancer, PTSD, arthritis, seizures, glaucoma, epilepsy, neuropathy, and/or chronic pain, et al. can get a medical marijuana certification card through a state-controlled application process.

PharmaCann LLC was established in 2014, and is now operating in six states. PharmaCann (DBA Myralife) recently opened its first dispensary in Pennsylvania, when a medical marijuana store opened in Philadelphia on Oct. 4, and the company is now looking to branch out into other PA locations. PharmaCann's Upland application was initially denied, as a "pharmacy" would be permitted in the General Commercial-zoned center, but a medical marijuana dispensary (felt to be a "medical clinic") would only be permitted in the Medical District.

PharmaCann reps came before the Upland Zoning Hearing Board on Sept. 17, seeking either a reversal of the usage denial or a usage variance.

The usage variance that was granted on Oct. 16 is subject to the following conditions:

1. The proposed renovation and operation of the dispensary shall be in strict compliance with the plans, testimony, and exhibits presented to the Zoning Hearing Board.
2. The operation of the facility shall be in strict compliance with the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, all Pennsylvania Department of Health regulations, and the ordinances of the Borough of Upland.
3. The applicant shall obtain all the building, plumbing, electrical, and any fire marshal permits that shall be required prior to the renovation and operation of the facility.

\*

### **Fire Co. Needs New Equipment**

Upland Borough Council is lending a fiscal helping hand to Upland Fire Company No. 1. While the borough owns the firehouse on McClintock Drive, the fire company is operated by a dedicated group of volunteers.

Fire company officials recently notified the borough that some of their firefighting gear is over 10 years old, and as such is out of compliance with state certification regulations.

To remedy this situation, the borough has donated \$17,777 to the fire company, to pay for five complete sets of protective gear (four other sets are already on order) and 10 pairs of firefighter boots.

### **BINGO Fundraiser Returns**



With Fire Chief Dan Smith calling out the letters & numbers, the Community Affairs Committee hosted another Designer Handbag BINGO fundraiser at MacQueen Hall on Oct. 19, with many winners walking away happy, while the CAC raised \$3,500 to help fund other borough events.



\*\*\*

### **Seniors Seeking Seniors**

The Upland Senior Citizens Club meets at MacQueen Hall every Monday, from 9am to 3pm. The group convenes weekly for cards, games and good conversation; for day trips and holiday events; and for special lunch and dinner events.

Parkside Borough also has a senior citizens group, which meets every Thursday morning at 9:30am for card games and BINGO at the county's Redwood facility, located off Sixth Street.

Both seniors groups are looking for new members to join their weekly gatherings. Both groups have an annual \$5 membership fee, which is a token fee, considering the many benefits that members enjoy. Neither group has a residency requirement for members, nor are there any age requirements. So if you are retired, spending too much time alone, and looking for something new to help fill your time, joining one or both of these groups of active seniors may be the social jumpstart that you've needed.

To learn more about senior citizen opportunities, call Gwen Taylor at home (610-874-9470) or on her cell phone (267-319-6948).

\*\*\*



## UFC Hosts Open House



Upland Fire Company No. 1 hosted a Fire Prevention Open House on Oct. 6, offering firefighting info and demos, free refreshments, and activities for their visitors. And while coloring with crayons is definitely fun, what could be cooler than handling a live fire hose? \*



\*\*\*

## Boro Renews Winter PennDOT Pact

Upland Borough has renewed a five-year Winter Traffic Service Agreement with PennDOT. Under the agreement, the borough will continue to plow and salt the four state-owned roadways that run through Upland during snow/ice events through the winter of 2023/2024. PennDOT will reimburse the borough in the amount of \$5,700 per year, as payment for helping to keep state highways safe.

\*

## No Parking Lot Permits Required

After further discussion and deliberation, Borough Council has shelved the notion of requiring parking permits for residents to use the off-street parking lots on Sixth and Eighth Streets.

Parking **for Upland residents only** is now allowed in the Sixth Street (20 spaces) and Eighth Street (8 spaces) lots on a first come, first serve basis.

\*

## Fireworks Pop in Upland



The Annual Labor Day Weekend Fireworks Display on Sept. 1 drew a large crowd to Bristol Lord Field.



Of course, the early birds got the best seats in the house.



Some attendees were more creative than others in finding an unobstructed perch from which to watch.

\*\*\*

## Boro Website Upgrade Pending

Council Vice President Moira Crawford, who also serves as the webmaster for the borough's Internet website, is hoping that an overhaul of the website's design will be completed by year's end.

The borough's current website, which is visited by scores of Uplanders every month, was built with a framework provided by the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs. According to Crawford, "a better set-up" is offered by Civic CMS, so Upland Borough will be hiring the private web development firm to upgrade our website.

Crawford noted that the web designs offered by Civic CMS are less time-consuming to update and connect easily to other social media platforms. Civic CMS will also provide user training for borough personnel.

\*

### Spaghetti Dinner Raises \$\$\$

The Annual Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser held at MacQueen Hall on Sept. 14 was a record-breaker, not only in the number of residents who turned out to support the event, but also in the total dollars raised, with the dinner generating a profit of \$800, which will help fund the borough's many upcoming free events.

Community Affairs Committee leadership was very pleased with the turnout and the amount raised, and thanked the many residents who made the fundraiser a resounding success.



The Annual Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser was prepared and served up on Sept. 14 by members of the Community Affairs Committee, including (above, l to r) Council VP Moira Crawford, Councilwoman Julie Kerns, and Councilwoman Judy Bush. (Below) The successful fundraiser also provided old friends and acquaintances with a chance to reconnect.



\*\*\*

### Special Building Permit Discounts Now Available

Upland Borough is now offering building permit discounts to seniors and veterans. A 50% discount (up to \$250) on up to \$10,000 worth of assessed value work is available to senior citizens (age 62 or older) and certified military veterans who have been honorably discharged. A DD214 or active military ID must be produced to qualify as a certified veteran. This discount can only be utilized once per calendar year, and only for residential building permits where the applicant occupies the residence.



Officer Timothy Ervin was assisted by his son Ryan, 9, and his daughter Allison, 4, who worked together to hold the Bible, while their father was sworn in as a Upland Police Department full-timer on Sept. 10.

\*\*\*

### Sinkhole Threat Worries Council

Borough Councilman Lee Hunter recently asked his fellow Council members a question to which there seems to be no answer: When is PennDOT going to address the threat of sinkholes along Upland Avenue, between West 24<sup>th</sup> Street and Kerlin Street?

A persistent sinkhole at the intersection of W. 24<sup>th</sup> Street and Upland Avenue has been repeatedly patched and filled in recent years, but the root cause of the problem has never been fully investigated. According to Hunter, subterranean streams have undermined several places along that section of Upland Avenue, making a street collapse or another sinkhole a distinct possibility.

Council President Christine Peterson agreed with Hunter's concerns, but noted that PennDOT has been repeatedly told about the sinkhole threat on state-owned Upland Avenue, even though no remedial action is ever taken.

A frustrated Hunter even asked if the borough could declare the roadway unsafe and block off all traffic, forcing PennDOT into a response. Peterson acknowledged that blocking traffic might work, but lamented that the borough's police can only block off a state road in the event of an actual emergency, not as a precaution.

*"So we just have to wait for the street to collapse?"* an exasperated Hunter asked.

Sadly, the answer to that question is: Yes.

\*\*\*

\*\*

\*