



The Caleb Pusey House

The Uplander



MacQueen Hall

The official newsletter of historic Upland Borough

(Settled 1683; Incorporated 1869)



Vol. 9-2; February 2017 edition



**Don't Miss the 2017 Soup-N-Salad
Dinner Fundraiser – the most
delicious fundraiser of the year!**

**Build your own salads (all-u-can-eat);
Sample a variety of homemade soups
and chili; Enjoy a selection of desserts**



**4 to 6pm at MacQueen Hall
Saturday, Feb. 18**

Tickets (children under 12 - \$5;
seniors - \$7; adults - \$10) **available in
advance at boro office or at door**

***** Proceeds help fund other borough-
sponsored community events *****



At the Annual Upland Senior Citizens Club Christmas Party on Dec. 12, the members had a chance to say a temporary goodbye, as the social organization started its yearly winter hiatus. The USCC will resume its weekly Monday meetings on March 6, 2017.

All Seniors Welcome

If you are a senior citizen (you don't have to be an Upland resident), feel free to come out and join the Upland Senior Citizens Club for cards, games, and plenty of good conversation **every Monday from 9am to 3pm at MacQueen Hall**, March 6 thru December.

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



This long-vacant Orb Industries building, located on the south side of Race Street, has been targeted for rehabilitation and a new life as Race Street Range.

(See story on page 2)

Kids On Bikes Create Safety Issues

The careless manner in which bicycles are being ridden on today's bustling streets generated a public safety discussion at a recent Council meeting.

One resident came before Council to complain about the aggressive actions of some kids on bikes, not all of whom are Upland residents. When a motorist is blocked by a group of adolescent bikers, any sign of driver impatience will likely draw a rude verbal response, along with a popular hand gesture. Calling 9-1-1 is "a waste of time," the resident said, as the kids leave the scene before police can arrive. "It's a safety issue and a nuisance...Someone is going to get run over," the resident warned.

Acting Police Chief Michael Irely understood the frustration, but urged residents to keep calling 9-1-1, since repeated calls from the same area will ultimately lead to more police patrols.

Another resident complained about bike riders who enjoy cruising down the hill created by the new 11th Street Extension, without regard for Mulberry Street traffic or the stop sign at the bottom of the hill. This kind of biking is a surefire way for someone to eventually get hurt.

*

Home Decorating Winners Named

The 2016 Holiday Home Decorating Contest winners were announced at Borough Council's Jan. 10 meeting. This holiday season, the judging was done by first-year Councilwoman Judy Bush.

Howard Novak, of 1115 Church Street, moved up to first place this year, after finishing third last year and second in 2014; **Jason & Jennifer Tarbutton**, of 402 Juniper Lane, claimed second place; and **Elizabeth Collins**, of 17 Second Street, took third.

The first-place winner received a \$100 cash prize, while second place netted \$50, and third place brought home \$25.

*

Fire Inspections Completed

Fire Marshal Dave Favinger recently reported the completion of his annual round of fire safety inspections on the borough's commercial properties. During the month of December, Favinger visited 58 rental properties and 16 business properties to complete the 2016 safety inspections.

*

Oak Lane Streetlight Returns

In response to a recent request from a resident, Borough Council has approved the installation of a new streetlight for the Oak Lane alleyway.

The total cost for Lenni Electric Corp. to install the new light is \$719. The number is low, since the utility pole and the aluminum arm for the streetlight are already in place. The missing streetlamp had been 'borrowed' by the borough a few years ago, to be utilized in a new public parking lot on Sixth Street.

Firing Range Aims For 2017 Opening

The owners of Race Street Range have had their eye on the vacated Orb Industries building on Race Street for several months, and are now ready to start rehabbing the property for future use as a firing range.

This past fall, after flood plain concerns were addressed, the borough's Zoning Hearing Board approved the new use for the former Orb warehouse/office building, allowing the new owners to move forward with building permits. According to info@racestreetrange.com, construction will begin soon, with a target date of August/September 2017 for a grand opening.

Noise mitigation will be part of the rehab project, so that neighbors will not hear the sound of gunfire.

Race Street Range will offer membership packages for a fee (\$300-350 annually), while members will be expected to bring their own firearms, ammo, targets, and gear. Loaner eye and ear protection will be available.

The firing range will initially only be open in the evenings and on weekends, but will expand hours and ultimately host training classes and matches.

All shooters must pass a handgun competency test to use the facility.

*

Code Enforcement Summary

Upland Borough Code Enforcement Officer William Kirby had an active year in 2016, staying after property owners who needed to be reminded of their civic responsibilities.

Kirby's monthly reports from last year show that he issued a total of 458 notices for borough code violations, with most violations being for accumulated trash and debris, lack of grass cutting, or other property maintenance issues. Most of the notices (330 or 72%) were issued in a six-month period from April to September 2016.

Kirby also reported a year-end total of 21 follow-ups on complaints of no Use & Occupancy certificate and/or no work permit on a neighboring property.

A total of nine municipal liens were placed on Upland properties in 2016, as the borough doggedly pursues delinquent property owners who still owe the borough for unpaid code citations.

*

Borough Condemns/Buys Corner Lot

At its Feb. 14 meeting, Council intends to condemn the vacant building (formerly a laundromat) at #2 Hill Street. The adjoining residences at #4 and #6 Hill Street were recently purchased by the borough.

Once all three adjoining structures are under borough control, the corner of Eighth and Hill Streets will be razed as a precursor to the creation of a new public park.

Look for more on this pending improvement project in an upcoming edition of *The Uplander*.

Police Log Busy Year

According to the police activity summary read at Borough Council's Jan. 10 meeting, Upland police officers were diligently keeping the borough's roadways safe for residents throughout 2016.

During the month of December 2016, 151 citations were issued, most of which were traffic citations. Upland officers handed out a total of 1,751 citations last year.

There were five reported motor vehicle accidents on borough roads during December, while 168 parking tickets were issued that month. A total of 615 parking tickets were written by Upland officers during 2016.

The Upland PD also towed a total of 167 vehicles last year.

The police department answered 390 calls and made 43 assists in December, bringing the total call volume for 2016 up to 5,254 calls.

*

Council Weighs Need For Drone Ordinance

With the recent announcement that Amazon.com is proposing to start making home deliveries via remote-controlled drones, Council President Christine Peterson thought it was a good idea to be proactive and start discussing the potential need for a drone ordinance in Upland Borough.

No specific action regarding the regulation of drones was taken at the Dec. 27 Council meeting, but Peterson wanted to alert Council members that the need may soon arise. She noted that borough officials can utilize a state website that offers sample drone ordinances that are currently in place or are being considered for adoption in other Pennsylvania municipalities.

* * * * *

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**.

* * * * *

Another 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.

* * * * *

Borough Council Meetings
6pm caucus; 7pm regular voting session
Tuesday Feb. 14, March 14, and April 11
on ground floor of MacQueen Hall

*

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

*



Valentines Day



Tuesday, Feb. 14

*

Annual Soup-n-Salad Fundraiser
4 to 6pm on Saturday, Feb. 18
at MacQueen Hall

All-u-can-eat at MacQueen Hall; Takeout available
Tickets now available at boro office

*



Presidents' Day



Monday, Feb. 20

Borough office closed

*

Annual St. Patty's Day Ham & Cabbage Luncheon for Seniors
starts at noon on Monday, March 13
at MacQueen Hall

Free to all Upland senior citizens

*

Annual Easter Egg Hunt & Breakfast with the Easter Bunny

9am at Bristol Lord Field;
9:30 to 11:30am at MacQueen Hall
on Saturday, April 15

*

Memorial Day Festivities
Starting at 9am on Monday, May 29

* * * * *

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 (includes meal and transportation), payable in two payments of \$80 and \$40. All payments are non-refundable.

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

* * * * *

Snow Dos and 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. By clearing snow immediately, you will use less de-icing material.

Do: Consider using a de-icing product that is environmentally safe and pet-friendly.

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 spacesaving objects, as this illegal practice amounts to obstructing a public thoroughfare.

* * * * *

Upland's Children On Parade

2016 community events in Upland Borough provided many opportunities for the camera to capture the smiling faces of our children.

Featured here are the best of the best:



* * * * *

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

mc Crawford@uplandboro.org

* * * * *

Seniors Enjoy Annual Christmas Party



Twas the season to be a bit silly, at the Annual Upland Senior Citizens Club's Christmas Party on Dec. 12.



2017 Budget Keeps No-Tax-Hike Streak Intact

The preliminary budget figures were maintained at final budget adoption in December, hence Upland Borough taxpayers will enjoy a **30th consecutive year of the property tax millage holding steady at 2.0 mills** in 2017.

"This is a great achievement for the borough, and we will try to continue to do this each year," Council President Christine Peterson said of the three-decade-long run – currently, the longest no-tax-hike streak in Delaware County.

Furthermore, the annual trash collection fee, which was set at \$135 per household in 2008, will remain the same for the ninth straight year.

The final 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 2017 general budget total is a new all-time high for borough expenditures, while the \$175,186 rise in spending over this year is a 5.9% increase.

The final 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.

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 girls and boys of Upland.

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).

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.

* * * * *

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.

* * * * *

Thanksgiving Dinner 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.

* * *

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!



Officer Luke McCann (center) is the newest member of the Upland PD, flanked here by Acting Police Chief Michael Irely (left) and Mayor Michael Ciach (right).

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.

*

Council Makes Reappointments

A laundry list of annual appointments (actually all reappointments) were made at Borough Council's Dec. 13 session, as follows:

Catania Engineering, Inc. will continue to provide civil engineering services to the borough, and Borough Solicitor Robert E. O'Connor, Esq. continues to serve as Upland's legal eagle.

Health Inspector & Code Enforcement Officer William Kirby will remain at his posts, while other one-year re-appointments include Building Inspector & Zoning Code Officer Joseph Ferguson, Plumbing Inspector Thomas Kennedy (doing business as Tri-County Comfort Systems), Electrical Inspector James Skulski, Health Officer Dr. Robert Crowell, MD, Fire Marshall David Favinger, Zoning Solicitor John J. Wills, Esq., and Civil Service Solicitor & Special Legal Counsel Michael L. Maddren, Esq. The membership of the borough's three advisory boards includes:

Zoning Hearing Board: Dorreda Shaw, Joanne Peden, Edward Klepacki, Harris Bloom, and Ronald Reynolds

Planning Commission: Kenneth Miller, Dana Dudek, George Oronzio, and Joseph Stephano

Civil Service Commission: Richard McClintock, Denise Crawford, and Dorothy Patrick

*

Council Applies For CDBG \$

Upland Borough recently submitted an application to Delaware County Council to be considered for a 2017 Community Development Block Grant. Upland Borough Council's first choice for county funding is the Kerlin Street/Upland Avenue Streetscape Improvement Project, while a second choice would be an economic development study for the borough.

*



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.

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. 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.



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

Officer Police Pension Contributions Amended

At Council's second monthly meeting on Dec. 27, the 2017 final budget was officially adopted and an amendment to pension contributions for future police full-timers was formally added to the borough code.

At the Dec. 13 meeting, a unanimous Council vote exonerated all current full-time police officers of any contribution to their pension plans during 2017, carrying on what had become an annual Council resolution in recent years.

Starting in 2017, however, new full-time Upland PD officers will have to contribute 5% of the dollars needed to fund their own pension plans, once each new hire is earning his/her full base pay.

*

Corner Enhancement Project Ready For Restart

When Paul McCartney sang of the Long and Winding Road, he must have foreseen the path that would ultimately lead to the completion of the grant-funded wall extension and landscaping at the southwest corner of the Sixth & Main intersection. 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. In October, Council rejuvenated the stalled project by approving low re-bidder Moore Outdoor Rejuvenation, of Glen Mills, whose bid of \$28,240 beat out three other bidders.

At Council's Dec. 13 meeting, the borough engineer reported that formal contracts had been issued and were awaiting signatures as the final precursor to construction work getting started.

This long-planned public improvement will finally move forward over this coming winter, as weather conditions permit.

*

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.

*

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.

*

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

*

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.

*

Council Approves 2017 Holidays

Borough Council has approved the following 2017 dates as holidays for borough employees. Upland Borough's office will be closed on these dates:

Monday, Jan. 2 - New Year
Monday, Jan. 16 - MLK Day
Monday, Feb. 20 - Presidents Day
Friday, April 14 - Good Friday
Tuesday, May 16 - Primary Election Day
Monday, May 29 - Memorial Day
Tuesday, July 4 - Independence Day
Monday, Sept. 4 - Labor Day
Monday, Oct. 9 - Columbus Day
Tuesday, Nov. 7 - General Election Day
Friday, Nov. 10 - Veterans Day
Thursday/Friday, Nov. 23/24 - Thanksgiving
Monday/Tuesday, Dec. 25/26 - Christmas

*

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.

* * *

* *

*