



The Caleb Pusey House

# *The Uplander*



MacQueen Hall

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



Vol. 11-2; February 2019 edition



## **Upland Borough's 2018 Cute Kid All-Stars**



## Council Makes Annual Appointments

A laundry list of annual appointments (most being reappointments) were made at Borough Council's Jan. 8 meeting, as follows:

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

Health Inspector & Code Enforcement Officer William Kirby will remain at his two posts.

Other one-year appointments include Building Inspector & Zoning Code Officer Joseph Ferguson, Plumbing Inspector Harry Kent, Electrical Inspector James Skulski, Health Officer Dr. Robert Crowell, MD, and Zoning Solicitor & Civil Service Solicitor John J. Wills, Esq.

Upland Fire Chief Dan Smith will serve his second year as the borough's fire marshal in 2019.

The membership of the borough's three advisory boards now includes:

**Zoning Hearing Board:** Dorreda Shaw, Jennifer Hostetler, Edward Klepacki, Harris Bloom, and Richard Berridge

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

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

***Thank you to all of the appointees above for their valuable guidance and public service!***

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## Public Works Garage Looking Good

The borough's Highway Department has recently put considerable effort into cleaning up the area outside the Kent Lane public works garage, while organizing the equipment and tools kept inside as well.

Piles of concrete and debris had been piling up outside the garage for years, but the clean-up has taken care of that.

*"Now we're working on a solution to keep it clean,"* Council President Christine Peterson noted in January.

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## Fees Amended For Tax Certifications and Duplicates

At Borough Council's Jan. 8 meeting, Council authorized Elected Tax Collector Linda Kirby to be the municipal officer who provides tax certifications and tax duplications to the public, on request.

The fees charged for these services were also amended. Now, a service fee of \$20 will be charged, collected, and retained by the tax collector as compensation for each requested tax certification, and a \$15 fee will be charged for each duplicate.

## New Tot Lot Equipment On Deck

The borough recently purchased several pieces of new tot lot playground equipment for Upland Park, utilizing a 2018 Community Development Block Grant in the amount of \$100,000. Delaware County Council awards CDBG money every year to fund public improvement projects across the county.

The new tot lot equipment has been ordered through the state's CoStars program, which offers exceptionally low prices to PA municipalities. New items include three spring-riders, a climber, and a swing set, with a swing for handicapped children.

A refurbished child-safety surface is also planned for the tot lot, though the material to be used is yet to be determined.

Installation of the new tot lot will be bid out this winter, then completed this spring, according to the borough engineer.

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## Sewer Lateral Inspections To Be 'In-House' Once Again

On Feb. 12, Borough Council will be voting on an amendment to the borough code, which will return the responsibility for conducting sewer lateral inspections to the borough-appointed plumbing inspector. Catania Engineering had been handling these inspections for most of 2018, after the exit of former Plumbing Inspector Tom Kennedy.

Newly appointed Borough Plumbing Inspector Harry Kent is a fully-certified master plumber and will soon oversee all sewer lateral inspections in Upland, in accordance with the pending amendments to the borough code.

The amended sanitary sewer ordinance will *"bring these inspections back in-house,"* noted Council President Christine Peterson. *"This will be cheaper for our residents in the long run,"* she added.

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## Upland Applies For Road Program Aid

Upland Borough has submitted an application to Delaware County for an allocation from the County Liquid Fuels Tax Fund in the amount of \$40,050, to cover the cost of the borough's 2019 road program. The estimated cost to repave Upland's roughest roadways this year is \$40,000.

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## Claim Your Veteran Banners Now

The canvas banners that boasted Upland's military veterans last year were 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 this year, please advise the borough office 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.



## **Fire Co. Sees Active 2018**

The volunteer members of Upland Fire Company No. 1 were kept busy last year, responding to four fire incidents (one vehicle, one dumpster, and two grass/vegetation fires), 146 non-fire incidents, and 34 drills, while giving mutual aid to other fire companies on 48 occasions in 2018.

Last year, Upland firefighters responded to the scene of 26 motor vehicle accidents, provided 11 ambulance assists and six police assists, and made seven elevator rescues. They also covered four instances of liquid fuel spill/leaks, six gas/vapor leaks, and seven electrical lines down in 2018.

Fortunately, there were no property losses suffered for the entire year, and no firefighters or residents were injured in 2018.

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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 December 2018, Upland officers issued 165 citations, with all but 22 being traffic citations. The year-end total for citations issued in 2018 is 1,739.

Police also wrote 82 parking tickets in December, bringing the 2018 total up to 880.

Nine motor vehicle accidents were reported on borough roadways in December.

A total of 167 vehicles were towed in 2018.

The UPD answered a total of 392 calls in December, in addition to making 36 assists to other local agencies. The total call volume for 2018 was 5,664 calls.

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## **Requirements Outlined For Police Officers**

The requirements to be a full-time officer in the Upland Police Department were recently amended, and the requirements to qualify for the rank of lieutenant were adopted at Council's Jan. 8 session. In November, Borough Council adopted an amendment to the requirements for full-time officers. 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.

The newly established requirements for a police lieutenant include being a US citizen and at least 25 years of age, as well as being a high school graduate (or equivalent) AND a certified police academy grad.

A lieutenant in the UPD will not have any misdemeanor or felony convictions on his record, and he/she will have a valid PA driver's license.

In addition to being physically, medically, and psychologically fit for duty, a UPD lieutenant will have logged at least seven years of full-time service on the Upland force, with a minimum of one full year of service as a sergeant or corporal.

All candidates for the rank of lieutenant will take a written test administered by the Civil Service Commission.

An Upland police lieutenant will assist the chief of police in a number of fields, including policy-making, personnel administration, budget preparation, and purchasing UPD equipment and supplies.

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## **VBS Nights**

**6 to 7pm on Mondays, Feb. 4, 11 & 25  
at Upland Baptist Church**

**Dinner at 6:00pm, followed by Bible lesson  
and creative activity from 6:30-7pm**

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## **Borough Council Meetings**

**6pm caucus; 7pm regular voting session  
Tuesdays Feb. 12, March 12, and April 9  
on ground floor of MacQueen Hall**

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## **Annual Soup-N-Salad Fundraiser**

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

**Salad bar, plus homemade chili & soups  
All-u-can-eat at MacQueen Hall**

**\$10 Adults; \$8 Seniors; \$5 for Children under 12**

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## **Designer Handbag BINGO Returns**

**6 to 11pm on Saturday, Feb. 23  
at MacQueen Hall**

**Winners choose from collection of handbags/purses**

**Admission: \$30 in advance or \$35 at door**

**Bring your own food & beverages**

**All proceeds benefit Community Affairs Committee**

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## **Annual St. Patty's Day Ham & Cabbage Luncheon For Seniors**

**12 noon on Monday, March 11  
at Mac Queen Hall**

**All Upland senior citizens are invited**

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## **Annual Easter Egg Hunt**

**9:00am on Saturday, April 20  
at Bristol Lord Field**

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## **Annual Breakfast w / Easter Bunny**

**9:30 to 11:30am on Saturday, April 20  
at MacQueen Hall**

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## **Upland Sesquicentennial Celebration**

**Friday, May 24 thru Monday, May 27**

## Snow Dos & Don'ts

***Please observe the following public safety measures after any significant snowfall:***

**Do:** During a declared snow emergency, move all parked vehicles off the street and into driveways (where applicable) to allow for efficient plowing.

**Do:** Remove snow from sidewalks within 48 hours of the end of any 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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### Council Plans To Amend Comprehensive Fee Schedule

Borough Council has announced its intent to amend the Comprehensive Fee Schedule in the borough code. Adoption of fee schedule changes is expected at Council's Feb. 12 session.

Among the pending changes is a discount for military veterans on some borough fees, as was suggested by an Upland resident last year.

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Once a formal permitting system is established in February (dollar amount TBD), 8<sup>th</sup> Street residents will be able to obtain a permit for off-street parking in this new lot.

### New Parking Lot Ready For Use

Built on a lot where a vacant residence once sat, paving and painting the new eight-space public parking lot on 8<sup>th</sup> Street was completed in mid-December, and will soon provide 8<sup>th</sup> Street neighbors with some off-street parking on a permitted basis. Parking permits will be available at the borough office in February, after borough officials determine what each permit will cost.

## Sesquicentennial Merchandise On Sale Now

Baseball caps (screen print-\$10; embroidered-\$20), car magnets(\$5), t-shirts(\$10; 3XL-\$15), and acrylic Christmas tree ornaments(\$10), all bearing the special logo for Upland Borough's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration are now available at the borough office during regular business hours. These special sesquicentennial logo items will also be sold at upcoming public events and during the many planned festivities on Memorial Day weekend.

**Now is the time to get your Upland gear on!**



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### 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)**



## Seniors Party Hardy To Celebrate Holidays



Members of the Upland Senior Citizens Club gathered on Dec. 10 to celebrate the approaching holidays and to say a temporary farewell to their fellow USCC members. After their annual winter hiatus, the USCC will once again meet weekly at MacQueen Hall, starting on Monday, March 4.



There were plenty of smiles to be seen at the Annual USCC Holiday Luncheon/Christmas Party, where a delicious hot lunch was served and raffle prizes were handed out.



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## Council Adopts 'Agenda Action' Forms

Borough Council has adopted a new system of tracking whatever requests for action a committee chair might ask of the borough office or another committee. The "agenda action" forms, as Council President Christine Peterson calls them, will make all action requests formal written proposals, which Peterson and the submitting chairperson will both initial and date, creating a paper trail and an undisputable timeline for requested actions. Requiring written action requests, as opposed to verbal communications alone, will put an end to speculation as to how long it takes for a requested task to be completed.

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## Council Hopes Bell Property Will Not Be Developed

A resident recently came before Borough Council to ask if the borough could control the future development of the 13-acre W. 24<sup>th</sup> Street estate of the late Senator Clarence Bell, which is reportedly up for sale with an asking price of \$1.6 million.

Bell passed away in 2002, and a few years later, Widener University bought his estate for a reported \$2 million. Widener's tentative plans to develop the site as youth soccer fields were presented to Upland Council in 2011, but never materialized.

Unfortunately, Upland Borough cannot afford to purchase the Bell estate outright, but Council President Christine Peterson made it clear that the borough would like to see it remain as open space, if possible. A few private parties have expressed interest in the tract, but any plans to develop the site would have to be approved by Upland officials, after a series of public hearings were held.

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## Newsletter Contract Extended

At their Dec. 11 meeting, Borough Council voted unanimously to add one more year to the contract for former newspaper reporter Ken Stark, who will continue to serve as editor of *The Uplander*, and will continue taking photographs at all borough-sponsored events through 2019.

All of the Upland photos that Stark has taken over the past decade, as well as 100+ editions of the newsletter, can be found on the borough website.

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## Record-High 2019 Budget Holds Tax Line

The preliminary budget figures were maintained at final budget adoption on Dec. 11, which means that 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, will remain the same for the 11<sup>th</sup> straight year, at least in the short run. The trash fee may need to be increased during 2019, however, once Borough Council determines the best way to handle anticipated increases in the cost of recycling collections.

The final 2019 general fund budget balances at \$3,616,381. The 2019 general budget total is a new all-time high for borough expenditures, while the \$108,328 rise in spending over 2018 amounts to a 3.1% increase.

The final 2019 Auburn Village budget (which was identical to the preliminary budget for the borough-owned 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 will remain the same in 2019.



Resurrection Life Church held its Annual Thrift Store Christmas Open House on Dec. 8, serving up tasty treats and homemade soups to all visitors, in addition to offering holiday music, fun crafts for kids, special sales on gently-used clothing, and gifts for everyone.

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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.

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### New Phone System Will Cut Costs

Borough Council has approved a new phone system from KDI (including both Internet and phone service) for borough offices and the police station. The new phone system will cost the borough \$1,266 per month, which will be a savings of \$1,157 per month over the old system, or approximately half the cost.

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### 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**.

### 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.

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### 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.



## 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.

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## 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.

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## Council Submits CDBG Wishlist

In January, Upland Borough filed 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 primary choice for a CDBG-funded project is construction of permanent restroom facilities at Bristol Lord Field, while an alternative project would be the creation of a new public parking lot on Seventh Street.

Concerns about vandalism in a public restroom were raised by one council member, who recalled the chronic problems that ultimately led to the removal of restroom facilities on Race Street, once intended to be a convenience to visitors of the historic Caleb Pusey House.

To avoid vandalism and repeated repairs to the plumbing fixtures, restrooms in Upland Park could be kept locked, except during special public events, but their proximity to the police station should also lend some degree of protection, Council President Christine Peterson suggested.

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

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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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## 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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.

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## 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.

### 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. Smith estimates that as many as 180 rental properties in Upland do not have rental licenses, which represents an annual loss of an estimated \$15,000 in potential borough income, Smith noted.

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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#### 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.

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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 paid 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' 243<sup>rd</sup> 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 were handed out to children during Santa Claus' annual tour of Upland Borough on Dec. 15.

### 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 Dennon.

**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.

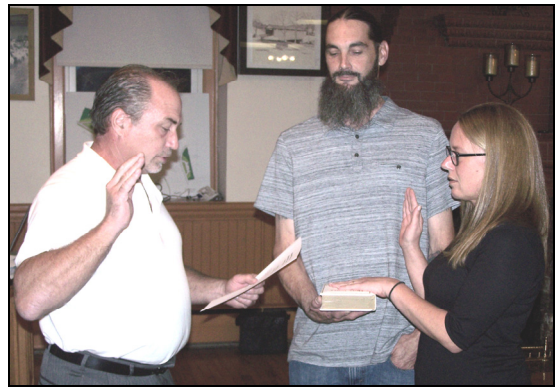
**Officer Timothy Ervin**, 31, is originally from Clifton Heights. He is a 2005 Upper Darby High School grad, and a 2011 Delco Police Academy graduate. Ervin was employed by the Darby Borough Police Department for five years, and has worked the last year and a half with the Darby Township PD.

**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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### 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.

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