



The Caleb Pusey House

The Uplander



MacQueen Hall

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Vol. 11-1; January 2019 edition



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.



After lunch, attendees focused on a long table filled with homemade confections, some of which are pictured below.



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All the sweet treats were baked by 'Master Chef' Claire Nardi (above, left), while USCC President/Councilman Lee Hunter (below, left) received a token of appreciation from the group.



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 11th 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.

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Claim Your Veterans Banner Now

The canvas banners that boasted Upland's military veterans this year have 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 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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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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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.

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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Fees To Be Amended For Tax Certifications and Duplicates

At Borough Council's Jan. 8 meeting, Council will vote on a motion to authorize Elected Tax Collector Linda Kirby to be the municipal officer who provides tax certifications and tax duplications to the public, on request. The current fees for these services are \$15 for certifications and \$5 for duplicates. Once amended, a service fee of \$20 will be charged, collected, and retained by the tax collector as compensation for each requested tax certification, and a \$10 fee will be charged for each duplicate.

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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.

Council Flips CDBG Wishlist

In January, Upland Borough will 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. After discussion at Borough Council's official CDBG public hearing on Dec. 11, the priority order of the two proposals discussed at Council's Nov. 13 session was flipped.

The borough's primary choice for a CDBG-funded project is now 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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Requirements Outlined For Police Officers

The requirements to be a full-time officer in the Upland Police Department were recently amended, while the requirements to establish the rank of lieutenant are slated for adoption 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.

In December, Council authorized advertising the requirements for a police lieutenant, with the intent of adopting those requirements in January.

Those requirements 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.

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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New Parking Lot Completed

The new six-space public parking lot on 8th Street, built on a lot where a vacant residence once sat, was completed in mid-December, providing 8th Street neighbors with some off-street parking on a permitted basis.

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VBS Nights

**6 to 7pm on Mondays, Jan. 7, 14 & 28
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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Borough Council Meetings

6pm caucus; 7pm regular voting session

**Tuesdays Jan. 8, Feb. 12, and March 12
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**

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Designer Handbag BINGO Returns

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

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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

**(Check out Events Schedule on boro website
for specific events, times and locations)**

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Snow Dos & Don'ts

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

Do: Move all parked vehicles off the street and into driveways (where applicable) to allow the efficient plowing of roads.

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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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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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

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. 24th 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 handful of private parties have expressed interest in purchasing the tract, and 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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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 November 2018, Upland officers issued 101 citations, all but 14 of which were traffic citations. The year-to-date total for citations issued is 1,574.

Police also wrote 130 parking tickets in November, bringing the 2018 total up to 798.

Six motor vehicle accidents were reported on borough roadways in November.

A total of 149 vehicles had been towed in 2018, as of the end of November.

The UPD answered a total of 447 calls in November, in addition to making 45 assists to other local agencies. As of the end of November, the total call volume for 2018 was 5,272 calls.

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Mature Drivers Safety Tips

The following safe driving tips apply to all motorists, but especially to senior citizens, who can find that their driving skills have diminished with age.

-Have regular medical and eye examinations – both near AND distance vision are needed for safe driving

-Avoid driving at night and in stressful conditions, such as bad weather or rush hour

-Do not look directly into oncoming headlights, as aging eyes tend to be sensitive to bright lights

-Know which of your medications can make you drowsy and affect your alertness

-Plan your route ahead of time and stay on familiar roads, whenever possible

-Avoid distractions while driving, such as eating or talking on the cell phone

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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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.



Upland Police Chief Michael Irey 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 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.

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.

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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.

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.

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!

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.

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.

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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.

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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**.

'Nova Nation Cleans Chester Creek

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.



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.

Noise Ordinance Covers 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, as follows:

"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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