



The Caleb Pusey House

The Uplander



MacQueen Hall

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



Vol. 9-7; July 2017 edition



Carnival Comes To Town



The outdoor carnival made its annual visit to Upland from June 7-10, drawing a crowd each and every night. The fundraising event generated \$7,245 in borough revenue, which will be utilized to pay for upcoming free community events.



...While the food and beverage offerings were plentiful.



The carnival rides and games offered tons of family fun...





Don't Miss
Upland Borough's biggest event of the year!
The borough-sponsored Annual Fourth of July Family Picnic will be held at
Bristol Lord Field from 11am to 2pm on
Tuesday, July 4
Proof of residency is required

Deldeo Appointed To Fill Council Vacancy

Mulberry Street resident Sandra Deldeo was sworn in as the newest member of Borough Council on June 13, filling the seat vacated when Councilman Bill Dennon moved into the vacated position of Upland mayor last month. Deldeo's interim term on Council will expire on Dec. 31, 2017.

Deldeo, age 76, has lived in Upland Borough for nearly 50 years. The Republican councilwoman has served as a judge of elections for six years; on the Upland Historical Commission for three years; and as chairperson of the borough's Vacancy Committee for the past year.

"It's interesting!" Deldeo said, after her first Council session. *"I'm willing to do whatever I can to help."*

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Community Volunteers Appreciated

Community Affairs Committee Chairperson Moira Crawford recently thanked all the volunteers who have helped the CAC at 2017 borough events. She noted that the popular events that the borough sponsors throughout the year could not be held without the assistance of caring volunteers from the community, as well as the preparatory work put in behind the scenes by borough employees.

If you would be willing to offer a few hours of time as a volunteer at an upcoming community event, please call the borough office at **610-874-7317**.

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Non-Compliant Property Owners Put On Notice

According to Fire Marshal Dave Favinger's May report, he performed fire safety inspections at 34 residential rental properties and two business properties during the month.

Favinger noted that two non-compliant landlords, who have not yet paid fines that Favinger issued in 2016, will be taken to court to force payment.

Code Enforcement Officer Bill Kirby reported that he issued 75 notices for property maintenance deficiencies in May.

Kirby also filed three municipal liens on non-compliant property owners in May, representing the first liens that Upland Borough has filed in 2017.

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Shredding/Drug Collection Day Deemed Success

The Shred-It Day and Prescription Drug Collection Day that the borough held on June 3 was a resounding success by any measure. According to borough officials, the opportunity for free document shredding in the MacQueen Hall parking lot was utilized by many residents, filling eight large containers with shredded paper, while the collection of outdated prescription drugs at Upland Police headquarters safely disposed of 6 lbs. of unwanted drugs.

Council Plans To Amend Sewer Lateral Ordinance

Borough Council has announced its plans to amend the sewer lateral inspection ordinance, in response to persistent complaints from residents. The ordinance, which requires video inspection of sewer laterals prior to the sale of any Upland property, will be modified at the July 11 Council session.

Council President Christine Peterson outlined the pending changes at Council's June 13 meeting, noting that the ordinance amendments were spurred by residents' comments, although Council plans to *"leave (the core of) the ordinance as is."*

"We don't care if the buyer or the seller does it, but it has to be done," Peterson said of pre-sale lateral inspections.

The proposed ordinance changes include allowing any NASSCO-certified (National Association of Sewer Services Companies) plumber to perform the video inspection AND read the results. All certified plumbers must register with the borough office prior to starting work.

Borough Plumbing Inspector Tom Kennedy will no longer have the final say in judging whether a lateral needs to be replaced, as that decision will now generally rest with Catania Engineering. It is important to note that the video review/ruling process could now take up to one week, whereas Kennedy was able to do his inspection reviews within a day or two.

"What everyone needs to understand is that we're following through with what you wanted, however, there will now be a time lapse and the results will not be immediate, unless it is an emergency," Peterson clarified.

Please Scoop Dog Poop

Borough officials wish to remind residents who walk their dogs along public streets that Upland has a poop-scooper law that provides for a \$100 fine for pet owners who do not pick up their dogs' waste.

Helpful Hint: old bread bags are excellent pet waste collection tools – insert hand; grab poop; turn bag inside-out; tie knot at end; discard in trash can.

Historical Commission Terms Trimmed

At Borough Council's June 13 meeting, a unanimous vote adopted an amendment to the 2009 ordinance that created the Upland Historical Commission, establishing two-year terms for each of the advisory body's five members. Under the approved amendment, those terms were halved to one year, and the five current appointees will see their terms expire on Aug. 1, 2017.

The Upland Historical Commission meets on an as-needed basis to advise Council on matters that might impact the borough's historical resources.

Residents Request Main Street Repairs

Two Upland residents have recently come before Council asking the same question: When is the roughly patched stretch of Main Street near the charter school going to be fixed?

The narrow roadway was repaired with a collection of uneven asphalt patches this spring, after the Chester Water Authority had drilled several locator holes, as part of an ongoing water main upgrade.

The asphalt patchwork has resulted in a very bumpy ride for vehicles passing by the school. The combination of recessed stormwater inlets along the curbside and the uneven patches have reportedly led many motorists to veer out of their lane to avoid the dips and bumps – a dangerous practice on such a narrow street.

While Council has sympathized with residents' complaints, there is little that the borough can do to remedy the situation, since Main Street is a state-owned and state-maintained highway. Upland Borough has formally requested that the patched road be resurfaced, but that decision rests solely in PennDOT's hands.

Unfortunately, Council President Chris Peterson could not assure the concerned residents that the rough section of Main Street would be repaired soon, despite the volume of traffic that the road sees during the school year and year-round as a SEPTA bus route. Peterson noted that the borough is trying to gain PennDOT's cooperation through the borough engineer's contacts, but that process may take time.

"We can't spend taxpayers' money to fix that road, because it's a state road," Peterson explained. *"We've sent PennDOT a letter, so they've been apprised, and hopefully they'll do something."*

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 the month of May 2017, Upland officers issued 200 citations (all but 10 of which were traffic citations), bringing the year-to-date total up to 1,150. Thirty-nine parking tickets were also written in May, bumping that year-to-date total up to 421.

A total of 11 motor vehicle accidents were reported on borough roadways in May.

As of the end of May, Upland officers had towed a total of 65 vehicles in 2017.

The UPD answered a total of 331 calls in May, while also making 34 assists to other agencies. These calls brought the year-to-date count to 1,687 calls.

Free tours of the historic 1683 Caleb Pusey House are available from 1 to 4 pm every Saturday, from May thru October.

Council OKs DVR Upgrade

At its June 13 meeting, Borough Council approved the purchase of two surveillance DVRs from Global Security Systems, with one 16-channel/camera unit to be housed in the Upland Police Department and the other in the borough office. Each DVR will cost \$1,475, for a total expenditure of \$2,950.

Each location currently has its own DVR, but the older units can no longer handle the load. The new high-definition units are upgrades with greater property surveillance capabilities.

Annual Fourth of July Family Picnic

11am to 2pm on Tuesday, July 4

at Bristol Lord Field

Free food and fun for all boro residents, with clowns, face-painting, water slide and moon bounce
Must show proof of residency

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Borough Council Meetings

6pm caucus; 7pm regular voting session

Tuesday July 11, Aug. 29, and Sept. 12

on ground floor of MacQueen Hall

Please note: August meeting to be held on 5th Tuesday of month

*****The July 25 and Aug. 8 Council meetings have tentatively been cancelled unless issues/business matters arise in the interim*****

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Annual Youth Magic Show

3 to 5pm on Saturday, Aug. 19

at MacQueen Hall

Includes pizza party and make-your-own ice cream sundaes

Free to all children with boro ID

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Classic Car Show

10am to 2pm on Saturday, Sept. 2

in UBC parking lot at 4th & Main Sts.

Co-sponsored by Upland Fire Company and Upland Baptist Church

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Labor Day Fireworks Display

starts at dusk (8:30pm) on Sunday, Sept. 3

at Bristol Lord Field

Seniors Planning Wildwood Trip

Upland seniors will be joining other local senior citizens on an activity-packed five-day trip to Wildwood, NJ, **from September 17-21, 2017**. All interested parties are invited to join the fun-filled outing, which includes lodging at the Windward Motel, three meals each day, and activities, such as a sightseeing/whale-watching cruise and a sidetrip to an Atlantic City casino, et al.

The cost is \$399 per person for double occupancy. To learn more about this low-cost off-season vacation offer, call Gwen Taylor at **267-319-6948**.



Council Wants To Honor Hometown Heroes

Upland Borough Council hopes to launch a streetscape project to honor hometown military veterans, but the amount of time, energy and money that will be invested in this project will depend entirely on the response of Upland residents.

The above photo is a sample of the Hometown Heroes flags that the borough wants to hang on utility poles, to honor the service of Upland residents and their families. The flags are made of heavy vinylized-canvas, so they will be durable enough for outdoor display over an extended period.

The borough is planning to hang however many flags are ordered by Upland families, starting in May 2018 (in time for Memorial Day), then leaving them up until the holiday season (to cover Veterans Day).

Once the flags come down from public display, each ordering family will get the flag as a keepsake.

The exact cost for a family to order a Hometown Heroes flag will be determined by the total number of flags ordered. Simply put: the more flags ordered, the cheaper each one becomes. Council is considering splitting the cost of each flag, which would require a \$75 donation from each ordering family, but the actual cost cannot be determined until the order is placed in Spring 2018. **A minimum of 40 flags is required for an order to be placed.**

Each flag ordered will need a good quality photograph of the serviceman/woman (digital or print; color or b & w); branch of military service; and dates of service and/or theater of operation.

Call the borough office at **610-874-7317** to order a flag, and check future editions of *The Uplander* for updates on this pending project.



While her husband Louis held the Bible, Sandra Deldeo was sworn in by Mayor William Dennon on June 13 as an interim Borough Council appointee.
(See story on page 2)

Fly the Friendly Skies?

No one was laughing when a doctor was recently forcibly removed from a United Airlines flight, but within hours of the event, the Internet had found a way to mine humor out of the PR debacle.

Here are some the cleverest suggestions for adaptations to United's famous slogan:

- United: We put the hospital in hospitality.
- Come fly the friendly skies...if you dare.
- Not enough seating? – Time for a beating.
- You are now free to be thrown about the cabin.
- Board as a doctor; Leave as a patient.
- UAL: Try our new Club Class!
- Just imagine how we treat your luggage!
- Our in-flight meal options now include knuckle sandwiches.
- We came here to sell seats and kick ass, and we're fresh out of seats.
- Your ticket has been punched...You may be next.
- United: Sore to new heights!
- Our prices are unbeatable, but not our passengers.
- UAL: Now offering red-eye AND black-eye flights.
- Fly United: We have an offer you can't refuse...No, really.

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 photo galleries of recent community events.

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

mcrawford@uplandboro.org

Upland Celebrates Memorial Day



Residents lined the streets to watch Upland Borough's Annual Memorial Day Parade on May 29. The procession featured four marching string bands, two fife and drum corps, fire trucks from a dozen Delco companies, and hundreds of participants on foot.





Before and after the parade, wreath-laying services were held in the Upland Baptist Church cemetery and at the war memorial at the corner of Church & Sixth Streets.



Churches Host Holiday Picnic



Despite some light rain, the 14th Annual Memorial Day Picnic was once again a big hit with Upland residents. The free event is sponsored by the congregations of Upland Baptist Church and Resurrection Life Church.

Mayor and Police Chief Sworn In

Upland Borough Councilman Bill Dennon officially became Upland Borough Mayor Bill Dennon at Council's May 23 session. His life partner Linda DiGiandomenico held the Bible, while President Judge of the Delco Court of Common Pleas Chad Kenney administered the oath.

Dennon, age 50, is originally from Folsom, but has lived the last 13 years on Scott Avenue in Upland. He spent the past two years serving as an appointed borough councilman.

The St. James High School grad is currently employed as a facilities technician at Philadelphia Contributionship, the oldest insurance company in the U.S.

Bill and Linda have four children and a grandchild. A prepared statement was read into the record prior to Dennon's swearing in, as follows:

"Thank you for the opportunity to serve the public as councilman, and I look forward to serving the residents of Upland in my new role as mayor," Dennon stated.

The same packed-house Council meeting saw the swearing in of Police Chief Michael Irely.

Judge Kenney administered the oath, while Irely's wife Tara held the Bible, with the couple's son Michael and daughter MacKenzie by her side.

Irely, 45, has served the public as a police officer for the past 23 years, working for a number of communities prior to Upland, including Colwyn, Prospect Park, and Nether Providence. He has been a member of the Upland PD since 2014, and has served as Acting Chief since February 2016.

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.

Mayor Ciach 'Retires' To Fill Vacant Manager's Post

After serving the last 12+ years as Upland Borough's mayor, Michael J. Ciach has retired from his elected post and filled the borough manager vacancy created by the departure of Greg Grillone in late March.

Prior to serving as mayor, Ciach also spent a dozen years serving as a borough councilman, so he is familiar with borough business from multiple points of view. During the interview process, which saw four prospective candidates reviewed for the manager's position, Ciach stood out as the *"best qualified with municipal experience,"* according to Council VP Moira Crawford.

Throughout the one month that the borough was without a manager, Ciach helped the borough office staff keep up with routine business matters, donating the hours he worked as a temporary fill-in. Ciach's hiring as borough manager was approved by a unanimous Council vote. He will be paid an annual salary of \$75,000, while serving a two-year term, which will expire in May 2019.

Ciach's official job title is now Upland Borough Manager/Treasurer/Secretary.

As Ciach transitioned from mayor to manager at Council's May 2 meeting, he read a prepared statement directed to *"the good residents of the Borough of Upland."*

"After serving 12 years on Upland Borough Council (from 1993 to 2005) and subsequently serving 12 years as mayor (from 2005 to 2017), it is with mixed feelings that I now tender my retirement as mayor of the Borough of Upland in order to move forward and serve what I feel is a much greater calling," Ciach stated.

"I have enjoyed everything I have learned and have done in this borough thus far, and I look forward to continuing to allow my skills and professionalism to grow with the task I am about to undertake. I love the people of this borough as if they were family, and in fact, they kind of are. This borough has been my life for nearly 30 years, since I began coaching right down on the ballfield below this building (MacQueen Hall), and with God's help, I would hope that I would be allowed 30 more," he added.

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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.



In a moment that represented the changing of the guard, newly-minted Mayor Dennon swore in former-Mayor Michael Ciach to his new role as borough manager. The May 23 swearing was Dennon's first official act as Upland's mayor.

Council Calls For Resignation

Councilman Edward Mitchell has not attended a Borough Council meeting since he was arrested last December on charges of violating the public trust. Mitchell's trial for 41 felony counts and an alleged kickback scheme that reportedly netted him \$133,000 is pending, but in the meantime, he is still a duly-elected member of Upland Borough Council. At Council's March 28 meeting, however, a unanimous vote supported a motion requesting Mitchell's immediate resignation from Council. Councilman Dick McClintock made the motion, after he read a prepared statement from Council President Christine Peterson, as follows:

"We are appalled and strongly condemn the alleged activities and behavior of Councilman Ed Mitchell," Peterson stated. *"For the good of the borough and local residents, we call upon Mr. Mitchell to do the right thing and immediately resign his position on Borough Council."*

"Serving the community as an elected official is a privilege that I and the other board members take very seriously," Peterson continued. *"It is a responsibility that we are proud to do with honesty and integrity, and each of us are disgusted by the alleged malfeasance of Mr. Mitchell."*

"While we all understand that the law presumes that Mr. Mitchell is 'innocent until proven guilty,' in light of the severity of the pending charges, together with the duty to always uphold the public trust, we all call for the immediate and unconditional resignation of Mr. Mitchell from his position as councilman in the Borough of Upland. We believe that by retaining that office, Mr. Mitchell brings disrepute upon the borough," Peterson concluded.

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Egg Hunt Draws Crowd



Upland's Annual Easter Egg Hunt was held on the morning of April 15, with scores of children in three different age groups participating. The Egg Hunt and the breakfast at MacQueen Hall that followed, were co-sponsored by Borough Council, Upland Fire Company No. 1, the Upland Athletic Club, and the Marine Corps League Delco Detachment 288.

...As Does Easter Bunny



The Easter Bunny greeted children after the Egg Hunt, then posed for family photos at MacQueen Hall.

Residential Fire Pit Approved

At Council's May 2 session, formal approval was given for the use of a backyard fire pit at #1115 Church Street, registering the first officially-permitted fire pit in the borough.

The Church Street resident had previously asked Council about the matter, and then had followed every step in the approval process, including filling out an application; getting verbal approval from his next door neighbors; obtaining permission from Borough Council; and passing a safety inspection by the borough's fire marshal.

Those same procedural steps will be required for each residential fire pit applicant.

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Dog Licenses Readily Available

Having your dog(s) licensed gives them the best chance of returning home, should they ever be lost. In Pennsylvania, all dogs over three months of age must have licenses renewed every year by Jan. 1. Getting a 2017 dog license is very easy. Dog licenses can be purchased at the Upland Borough office in MacQueen Hall or at the Delco Courthouse in Media. The cost of annual license renewal is \$8.50 per non-neutered/non-spayed dog (lifetime: \$51.50) and \$6.50 for neutered/spayed dogs (lifetime: \$31.50). Senior citizens (65 and older) and persons with certified disabilities get a \$2 discount on all licenses.

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Borough Has Big Plans For Vacant Corner

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

Now that all three adjoining structures are under borough control, the corner of 8th and Hill Streets will be razed as a precursor to the creation of a new public park.

The park will extend west on 8th Street, utilizing land that was cleared a few years ago, when a small vacant house (aka "the chicken coop") was condemned by Council and then razed.

As outlined on the sketch plan above, the goal in creating Upland Park will be to improve three prominent corners (8th & Hill Sts.; Hill St. & Upland Ave.; and Upland Ave. & Kerlin St.) that together constitute one of the main entrances to the borough.

The sketch plan (which is available for public review at MacQueen Hall) was drafted by Catania Engineering, and delineates the proposed major features in the park's three sections, including walkways, benches, a fountain, and a clock tower.

The park project will not cost borough taxpayers a dime, since Council has used funds garnered from the commercial parking tax to purchase the properties, and will be pursuing grant funding through a variety of local sources, as well.

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Vols Clean Up Boro



In recognition of Earth Day, this group of volunteers bent their backs for several hours on April 23, picking up miscellaneous debris and sprucing up Upland Borough. The environmentally-friendly effort was led by Councilman Bill Dennon (kneeling, with sunglasses), collecting dozens of trash bags of litter, while Sam & Sam's Meats provided hoagies to the work crew for lunch.

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Parking In Yard Is Illegal

In response to a resident's question, Council recently confirmed that parking a vehicle in a yard on a continual basis is illegal in Upland, as is jumping the curb to get the vehicle into the yard. The only off-street parking that is permitted in Upland is on a paved/hardened driveway.

Council noted that the police department can be called for instances of illegal parking in front of a driveway entrance, but the issue of illegal yard-parking must be handled by the borough's code enforcement officer.

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Road Program Contract Awarded

The contract for Upland Borough's 2017 Road Paving Program has been awarded to A. F. Damon, Inc., of Upland.

The hometown contractor was once again the low-bidder, offering to do this year's repaving work for \$85,115. Two other local contractors also submitted bids, ranging as high as \$100,250.

The borough roadways projected for a fresh coat of asphalt this year are:

- The intersection of Sixth and Church Streets
- Woodside Avenue, from #1032 Woodside to 10th Street
- West 24th Street, from the park to Upland Avenue
- The entire length of Willow Way

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Fire Co. Fund Drives See Declining Support

Upland Fire Chief Dan Smith delivered a sad and shocking report to Borough Council on March 28, detailing the lack of financial support that the all-volunteer Upland Fire Company No. 1 receives from borough residents and businesses. The fire company depends heavily on its annual fund drive to generate operating funds for the entire year, but recent fund drives are showing a steady decline.

Smith noted that the 2016 Fund Drive produced \$7,800 in donations, most of which came from individual residents. In contrast, the 2015 Fund Drive generated \$9,415, while the 2014 Fund Drive brought in about \$11,000, according to Smith.

Of the donations that were received last year, 184 came from Upland's 1,150 residences; 10 came from the borough's 111 businesses; and only one of Upland's 61 apartment units (not including Auburn Village) contributed.

The contribution numbers add up to less than 15% of the community supporting Upland's lone fire company.

"We're going to have to figure out some way to convince the residents that this fund drive helps us with our finances," Smith lamented.

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Borough Bills Available For Public Inspection

A question that has repeatedly popped up at Borough Council meetings is: When are residents allowed to review the list of bills that the borough pays every month?

The simple answer is: Immediately after Council has approved the payment of said bills at a Council meeting, but not before payment of those bills is authorized.

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Council Approves MCL Donation

Borough Council has unanimously approved a \$2,000 donation to Delco Detachment 288 of the Marine Corps League, which is headquartered in Upland on the former Netherleigh mansion property on 6th Street. The veterans organization provides the borough with honor guards for special occasions and on Memorial Day.

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