



The Caleb Pusey House

The Uplander



MacQueen Hall

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



Vol. 9-6; June 2017 edition



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.



Free Paper Shredding Reset

The borough's planned Shred-It Day has been rescheduled from May 13 to **Saturday, June 3, from 9am to 12 noon** in the MacQueen Hall parking lot. This free event offers Upland residents the chance to safely dispose of old documents and files (up to 6 boxes per household) at no cost. The rescheduled Shred-It Day will be held rain or shine.



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 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. It was Ciach's impressive resume that led the borough's Personnel Committee to recommend the mayor to fill the vacancy, Crawford said.

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. *"Mike has been here every day, essentially out of the kindness of his heart,"* noted Council President Christine Peterson.

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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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.

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 Irey.

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

Irey, 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.

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Council OKs Power Washer Buy

Borough Council has approved the purchase of a new Honda EX-200 power washer for use by the borough's Highway Department. The heavy-duty mobile pressure washer will cost \$599, and was chosen over a cheaper lightweight model.

The old power washer currently being used by borough maintenance workers was recently repaired and reported to be *"on its last legs."*

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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.

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 April 2017, Upland officers issued 176 citations (all but 12 of which were traffic citations), bringing the year-to-date total up to 950. Sixty-seven parking tickets were also written in April, bumping that year-to-date total up to 382. A total of seven motor vehicle accidents were reported on borough roadways in April. As of the end of April, Upland officers had towed a total of 51 vehicles in 2017. The UPD answered a total of 323 calls in April, while also making 34 assists to other agencies. These calls brought the year-to-date count up to 1,356 calls.

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Historical Commission Terms To Be Trimmed

At Borough Council's June 13 meeting, a vote will be taken on a proposed 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 pending amendment, those terms would be halved to one year, and the five current appointees would see their terms expire at the end of 2017. The Upland Historical Commission meets on an as-needed basis to advise Council on matters that might impact the borough's historical resources.

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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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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

Pavilion Upgrades Approved

In preparation for summer activities at Bristol Lord Field, Council has authorized an upgrade to the park pavilion's electrical system (for \$475) and the purchase and installation of a new fryer (for \$597). The total cost of pavilion improvements is \$1,072.

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

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Shred-It Day

**9am to 12 noon on Saturday, June 3
in MacQueen Hall parking lot**

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Borough Council Meetings

**6pm caucus; 7pm regular voting session
Tuesday June 13, July 11, and Aug. 29
on ground floor of MacQueen Hall
(please note: August meeting to be held
on 5th Tuesday of month)**

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Outdoor Carnival Fundraiser

**Wednesday thru Saturday evenings, June 7-10
at Bristol Lord Field**

**Rides open at 6pm each night
Proceeds benefit Community Affairs Committee**

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Main Street Elementary Inaugural Art Show/Sale

**11:45am to 1:30pm on Tuesday, June 13
at Main Street Elementary School**

Admission is free; All donations go towards student art supplies; All donors get piece of original MSE art

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Main Street Elementary Graduation

**10am on Thursday, June 15
at MacQueen Hall**

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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)

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Annual Youth Magic Show

**3 to 5pm on Saturday, Aug, 19
at MacQueen Hall**

(Free to all children with boro ID)

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Labor Day Fireworks Display

**starts at dusk (8:30pm) on Sunday, Sept. 3
at Bristol Lord Field**

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The Honorable Judge Chad F. Kenney presided over the swearing in ceremonies for Upland Mayor William Dennon and Police Chief Michael Irely on May 23.

(See story on page 2)



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**.

(*****Oops! – the above phone number was previously printed incorrectly*****)

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Main Street Elementary Names Students of the Month

The following students were named Students of the Month in May 2017 for their outstanding performance:

Alejandro Turner-room 22 Amanda Zavala-Lopez-room 14
Bahiyah Carmichael-room 16 Brianna Sloan-room 15
Caitlynn Driggins-room 7 Chazmirah Taylor-room 18
Chloe Knox-room 20 Damonni Middleton-room 20
Deshawn Williams-room 5 Earl Brooks-room 15
Ezequiel Molina-Marquez-room 4 Tyree Grant-room 22
Hamza Clay-Goudelock-room 17 Kay'shon Le'Blue-room 3
Nicholas Bennish-room 9 Raihanna Pettiford-room 9
Sabrina Miller-room 19 Terrance Thomas-room 17
Sah'neyah McIntyre-Merritt-room 2



At Borough Council's May 2 meeting, Council President Christine Peterson was recognized as Upland's first female Council president, having held the post for the past 17 months. Delivering the mayoral proclamation was Michael Ciach's last official act as mayor of Upland.



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.



(Above) A handful of dedicated volunteers associated with the Friends of the Caleb Pusey House spent the morning of May 6 clearing debris and sprucing up Landingford Plantation to kick off the 2017 tour season for the site. (Below) The FCPH held its 3rd Annual Spring Plant & Herb Sale inside the Crozer Schoolhouse on a rain-soaked May 13, and thanks to the support of loyal Uplanders, the FCPH managed to raise funds for historic preservation.



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.



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.

...As Does Easter Bunny



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





The Easter Bunny also paid a visit to Scott Avenue, where neighbors have held their own egg hunt for the past 11 years. This event is organized by Steve and Jen Cunrod and Linda DiGiandomenico, the wife of Councilman Bill Dennon.

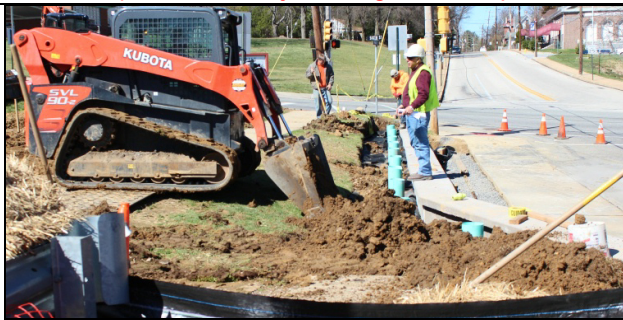
Council Awards Demolition Contract

The pending demolition of the vacant home at 227 8th Street will pave the way for the creation of a small public parking lot and a second access drive to Upland police headquarters. Council has awarded the demolition contract to A.J. Jurich, of Aston (the lone bidder) in the base amount of \$49,000, which includes asbestos removal, with a \$8,800 unit price for additional work, if more asbestos than anticipated is found. No specific timetable has been set for the demolition work to begin.



Construction of a wall extension on the southwest corner of the Sixth & Main Streets intersection was finally completed in early April, closing out a three-year odyssey that featured more unexpected ups and downs than a rollercoaster ride.

(Photos courtesy of George Patterson)



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(Below) The beautiful finished product.



Council Resumes Fire Co. Donation

One month after Upland Fire Chief Dan Smith reported the disappointing results of the 2016 Fund Drive for Upland Fire Company No. 1, Borough Council rode to the rescue like the cavalry coming over the hill, resuming a monthly donation to help defray operating costs and cover utility bills for the all-volunteer fire company.

At its April 11 meeting, Council unanimously approved a total donation of \$17,100 for this year, to be apportioned in payments of \$1,900 each month, from April through December 2017.

In the past, the borough had given the fire company an annual donation of \$7,500, split up into monthly payments, but that fiscal support had been withdrawn in recent years.

Park Neighbor's Privacy Concerns Will Be Addressed

A Hill Street homeowner recently came before Council to get assurances that her backyard privacy will be maintained, despite being adjacent to the planned new public park at the corner of 8th & Hill Sts. The resident expressed concern that the 4-foot-high fence that encloses her backyard will not be sufficient to block the view from the park.

The homeowner's concerns were understood and appreciated by Council, and assurances were given that privacy will be protected. According to Borough Engineer Dan Archdeacon, the current sketch plan for the pending park will be revised to include a vegetation buffer along the shared property line. Creation of the new park will be done in three phases, Archdeacon said, with Phase 1 including the purchase and installation of playground equipment and construction of two parking spaces. Phase 2 will include the installation of benches, tree planting, and the creation of a memorial garden.

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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.

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.

Council Weighs Flood Plain Post Replacement

Former Borough Councilman Harold 'Ray' Peden recently resigned from the position of Flood Plain Administrator – a post he had held for several years, at no charge to the borough. Peden's exit creates a vacancy that will likely need a professional to fill.

This post, which requires ongoing education and state certification, is important in a town that has frequently seen the flooding of Chester Creek, since the Flood Plain Administrator serves as Upland's point person, for both federal (FEMA) and state (PEMA) relief efforts in the event of a flood.

Upland Borough has two qualified replacement options in Plumbing Inspector Tom Kennedy and Catania Engineering, but exactly how much each professional option would charge for as-needed services was unknown at Council's March 28 meeting. After a brief discussion, the topic was tabled to allow time to determine the relative costs.

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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.

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.



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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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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Veteran Firefighter Steps Up To Fill Needs

When Upland Borough and its lone fire company have been in need, the White Knight recently riding to the rescue has been Paul Michalkiewicz (above, center).

Upland Borough did not have a fire police officer, until Council's Feb. 14 meeting, when Michalkiewicz was sworn in to perform the duties of the volunteer post. A fire police officer's main job is to assist firefighters and police officers by controlling the traffic at accident and fire scenes. A less dangerous part of the fire police job is being available for parade duties.

Michalkiewicz has been an active firefighter for the past 33 years, running the last 13 years with Upland Fire Company. The Ivy Lane resident is currently a member of the UFC Board of Directors and has served as the company's safety officer. He has also been an integral part of recent efforts to organize a series of successful fire company fundraisers.

Michalkiewicz also provided a unique service to the borough at large, when he, um, shall we say, made sure that Santa Claus arrived safely for his annual visit to MacQueen Hall in November.

Thank you, Paul. Upland Borough is blessed to have civic-minded residents like you.

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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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Kids In the Street Challenge Drivers, Anger Residents

The parade of residents complaining about the aggressive behavior of children on public streets recently continued at Council meetings, with three residents expressing their concerns on April 11. The gathering of a crowd of 15-20 kids on Church Street, described as *"a mob"* and *"a posse"* by residents, spurred the latest Council discussion.

The reported incidents include teenagers riding on bikes, scooters, and skateboards while *"playing chicken"* with motorists. One resident claimed that his car has been damaged by kids intentionally scraping the handle bars of their bicycles along car doors as they ride by. Council was asked if these bikes can be confiscated by the police.

"It is completely out of control...Something has to be done," one of the complainants stated.

Another resident reported that some teens were even willing to lay down in the street, after dark no less, just *"daring cars to run over them."*

"This is disrupting our neighborhood," a frustrated homeowner told Council. *"You guys have got to do something about it. Somebody is going to get hurt!"*

Council President Christine Peterson urged residents to keep calling police when confronted by these trouble-seeking teenagers. Even though the kids often disperse before the cops can arrive, it is still the best protection for residents, who should not try to take matters into their own hands.

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