



The Caleb Pusey House

The Uplander



MacQueen Hall

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



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Upland Enjoys Sesquicentennial Events



The four-day celebration of Upland Borough's official 150th birthday started with the burial of a time capsule next to the flag pole across Castle Avenue from MacQueen Hall. Above, Borough Manager Mike Ciach (left) and Mayor Bill Denon lower the locked and sealed capsule into the ground.



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At the May 24 Sesquicentennial Dinner at MacQueen Hall, longtime Borough Building Inspector Joseph 'Parker' Ferguson received a plaque in recognition of his role as an honorary shovel-tender in the time capsule dedication. The plaque was presented by Borough Council Vice President Moira Crawford (left) and Borough Council President Christine Peterson.



The next day, residents collected Passport stamps from nine different sites around the borough, including the 1683 Caleb Pusey House on Race Street, where the first chapter of Upland and Pennsylvania history was written.



On Saturday night, residents enjoyed a free Movie in the Park at Bristol Lord Field, where the first family to arrive got the best seats in the house. Below, UPD Detective Corporal Andy Nicholl kept the movie munchies coming from the pavilion, where he grilled hot dogs and bagged popcorn.



Upland Parties To Celebrate 150th Anniversary

A year and a half of planning and preparation went into Upland Borough's sesquicentennial celebration, which ran from Friday, May 24 thru Monday, May 27. Borough Council Vice President Moira Crawford chaired the Sesquicentennial Committee, while the contributions of dozens of volunteers helped make the four-day Memorial Day weekend a success.

All of the Sesquicentennial events were well-attended, starting with the time capsule burial on Friday evening.

The time capsule contains items from several borough organizations, including Upland Borough Council (group photo of current Council members, 1869 meeting minutes, 1969 Centennial items, and 2019 Sesquicentennial items), Upland Police Department (UPD patch & badge, photo of Sgt. Albany), Upland Fire Company No. 1 (t-shirts, badges), Upland Athletic Club (charter members, photos), Upland Baptist Church (original piece of stained glass, 150th anniversary brochure), Resurrection Life Church (historic building and congregation photos), Main Street Elementary School (miscellaneous items), Chester Community Charter School (student 'thumbprint' tree art), Friends of the Caleb Pusey House (replica of Pusey spoon), Cheshire House (original nail, brochure), Marine Corps League (Detachment 288 charter, photos), and a congratulatory letter from President Donald Trump and his wife, Melania.

A copy of two local newspapers and the May 2019 edition of *The Uplander* were also put into the capsule for future readers to enjoy, 50 years from now.

'Parker' Ferguson was recognized for his lifetime of service to Upland Borough, and shared the honor of shoveling the first soil onto the buried capsule with two students from the Community Charter School: Savannah Worrell and Manny Lopez.

The Sesquicentennial Dinner that followed the time capsule dedication packed MacQueen Hall to capacity. A delicious buffet dinner was served up by Lia's Catering, while guest speaker Neumann University History Professor Andrew Miller drew analogies between today's Uplanders and those who lived through the hardships of the American Revolution. In the end, Professor Miller decided that Mayor Dennon should not be tarred and feathered, despite his refusal to let the Continental Army take half of his family's food as provisions.

Throughout the day on Saturday, May 25, the Upland Passport Program united nine important locations within Upland Borough, including Upland Baptist Church (Main St.), Resurrection Life Church (8th & Church Sts.), Cheshire House (Main St., built in 1716), Caleb Pusey House (Race St., built in 1683), Marine Corps League, Delco Detachment 288 headquarters (Sixth St.), Upland Athletic Club (Main

St.), Upland Firehouse (McClintock Dr.), MacQueen Hall and the Upland Police station (Castle Ave.).

Passport participants were encouraged to explore and build on connections between each location, while getting a stamp in their passport from each stop. Participants who visited all nine sites were eligible for a drawing for a 65-inch flat screen TV (donated by Upland AC) or a family-friendly gift basket (donated by the Upland Baptist Church).

The prize drawing was held prior to the Movie in the Park, with the TV going to Joan Vandergrift and the gift basket going to Patty McKeone.

The free Movie in the Park feature was *Ralph Breaks the Internet*, which drew a good-sized family crowd. The Chick-fil-A Cow was popular with the kids, while members of the Upland Police Department served food and beverages from the pavilion.

Sunday, May 26, began with a joint church service at Bristol Lord Field, attended by the congregations of Upland Baptist Church and Resurrection Life Church. Sunday afternoon was filled with a combination of free carnival games, where every participant was a prize-winner, and a Corn Hole Tournament, where the \$10 entry fees paid by contestants made up the prize money total of \$340.

Tossing bean bags a distance of 27 feet on a hot, sun-drenched day, eight women competed in two-person teams, while the men's division saw 26 combatants go head to head as pairings. When the dust settled and a few gallons of sweat were shed, the winning ladies team was Hope Crowley and Stephanie Pysher, while the hard fought men's championship was won by the tandem of Joseph and Anthony Yannuzzi.

In addition to several carnival games, families were entertained by a stiltwalker, face-painters, and DJ Dave, while volunteers from the Community Affairs Committee and the Upland Fire Company kept the food and cold beverages flowing from the pavilion.

Sunday night was capped off with an outstanding fireworks display at Bristol Lord Field, where another fireworks show is slated for Sunday, Sept. 1.

The community events on Memorial Day, May 27 were similar to years past, including the laying of wreaths and Marine Corps League gun salutes at the Upland Baptist Church cemetery.

The Annual Memorial Day Parade featured three string bands, a fife & drum corps, antique cars, dozens of emergency vehicles, and scores of walking participants representing Upland organizations and families.

The laying of wreaths at the Upland Borough War Memorial was followed by an inspirational speech by guest speaker US Army Chaplain Rev. Wylie W. Johnson - a veteran of five American military conflicts. This year's winners of the American Legion essay contest were congratulated, and each read their Memorial Day essay aloud.

The memorial services concluded with Bugler Rick Swallow somberly blowing Taps and a moving bagpipe rendition of Amazing Grace.

The 16th Annual Memorial Day Family Picnic, co-sponsored by the congregations of Upland Baptist and Resurrection Life Churches, enjoyed near-record attendance and perfect weather conditions. The community was treated to a free lunch of burgers and hot dogs with homemade sides and desserts, while the children enjoyed the face painting and played with hula hoops and sidewalk chalk.

The long weekend was not rain-free, but the rain that did fall did not impact any of the planned events, sparing the Upland Borough Sesquicentennial Celebration from any rainouts or cancellations.

A sincere thank you goes out to all the organizers and volunteer helpers whose efforts combined to create wonderful lifelong memories for every attendee.

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Council Doubles Down On Hiring Grass-Cutting Help

When Borough Council recently voted to add another part-time Highway Department employee to help with summer grass cutting, as has been done in the recent past, Councilman Lee Hunter cast the lone vote in dissent.

Hunter then made his own motion to add a second part-timer, which was unanimously supported by his fellow Council members.

Each new part-time hire will work no more than 20 hours per week over the summer months. An especially wet spring has led to excessive grass growth this year, prompting the borough to concede that the extra manpower is needed.

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No Parking Lot Permits Required

After further discussion and deliberation, Borough Council has shelved the notion of requiring parking permits for residents to use the off-street parking lots on Sixth and Eighth Streets.

Parking for Upland residents only is now allowed in the Sixth Street (20 spaces) and Eighth Street (8 spaces) lots on a first come, first serve basis.

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PECO Retrofit Underway

PECO has started an electrical retrofit for MacQueen Hall and the Upland police station, with other borough-owned buildings slated to be done after completion of the first phase. The total cost to upgrade all lighting fixtures and outlets in the first two buildings will be about \$9,000, but a \$5,000 credit from PECO will leave the borough with just \$4,000 to cover Phase One improvements.

According to Ciach, the greater efficiency of the new LED lighting will save the borough money through lower electric bills, so the retrofit will actually pay for itself in short order.

Boro Manager's Contract Extended

Borough Council has extended the contract of Borough Manager Michael Ciach to the end of 2019, with all terms and conditions remaining the same. Ciach, who has served a dozen years as both mayor and borough councilman, became Upland's borough manager in April 2017. Extending his contract to year end will move Ciach's renewal date to the same schedule as the rest of the borough's employees.

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Service Cost Recovery Approved For Fire Company

At its May 14 meeting, Borough Council unanimously adopted an ordinance that gives Upland Fire Company No. 1 the ability to recover some of its fire protection costs. The intent of the ordinance is "to compensate and/or reimburse the Upland Fire Co. from insurance proceeds for costs and/or expenses incurred while providing emergency services pursuant to their duties."

It is important to note that "under no circumstances shall any owner-occupied residential property owner receive a bill from the Upland Fire Co., or an attorney, or a third-party billing service for fire protection...except in cases of false alarms and/or fires which are intentionally set by the property owner."

This ordinance will allow the fire company's "officers or authorized representatives to ascertain what insurance coverage may be applicable and available under any given circumstances, and to take all necessary steps to apply for and receive reimbursement from any insurance carrier for a property owner, business owner, or vehicle owner."

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Borough Council Meetings

6pm caucus; 7pm regular voting session

Tuesdays, **June 25**, July 9, and **Aug 27**

on ground floor of MacQueen Hall

Please note: June and August Council meetings will be held on fourth Tuesday of month

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Annual Fourth of July Festivities

11:00am to 2:00pm on Thursday, July 4

at Bristol Lord Field

Free food and family fun for all Upland residents

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Annual Youth Magic Show

3 to 5pm on Saturday, Aug. 24

at MacQueen Hall

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Annual Labor Day Weekend

Fireworks Display

Starts at dusk (8:30pm) on Sunday, Sept. 1

The Celebration Continued...



Sunday, May 25 started off with a joint worship service for Upland Baptist and Resurrection Life Churches, followed by an afternoon of free carnival games (for kids of all ages) and a Corn Hole Tournament at Bristol Lord Field.



Sunday ended with a fireworks display that was judged by some to be even better than the annual Labor Day show.



Memorial Day began with the annual wreath-laying ceremonies at the Upland Baptist Church graves of Rev. David & Dorothy MacQueen and Captain Blakeley, followed by the Annual Memorial Day Parade.



Upland Borough's war memorial at the corner of Sixth & Church Streets was left well-decorated, after the Annual Memorial Day services and tributes concluded.

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The church-sponsored 16th Annual Memorial Day Family Picnic drew a large crowd by offering free burgers and hot dogs off the grill, as well as tons of fun for the children – none of which required the use of an electronic device.



Electronic Sign Finally Installed

The digital sign at the corner of Sixth & Main Streets was installed in mid-May, and should be displaying messages of community interest by early June. Paid for by a 2014 Community Development Block Grant, the public improvement project had been delayed numerous times, through no fault of the borough.





Flanked by Police Chief Mike Irey (far left) and District Judge Charles Nistico (far right), four UPD officers were recently sworn in to promoted positions, including (left to right) Full-time Officers Larry Porter and Luke McCann, Detective Corporal Andy Nicholl, and Lieutenant Mick Curran.

UPD Officers Promoted

Four Upland Police Department officers were promoted and sworn in to their new positions at Borough Council's April 9 meeting. Since Upland Mayor Bill Dennon was absent, District Judge Charles Nistico, of Brookhaven, administered the oath, while a host of family members looked on.

First up was Officer Luke McCann, a Darby native, who joined the force as a part-timer in November 2016. During his tenure, McCann, has earned a litany of certifications and specific training to further his ability to serve Upland residents.

Chris McCann, Luke's father, held the Bible while his son was sworn in as a full-timer.

Veteran Officer Lawrence Porter, came to Upland in May 2018 as a part-timer, following a distinguished 24-year career as a police officer in Southfield, Michigan, during which he rose to the rank of sergeant and twice received the Officer of the Year Award. He is also a decorated U.S. Army veteran.

Porter's UPD partner, Officer Joshua Van Horn, held the Bible, while his mentor was sworn in as a full-timer.

Detective Corporal Andrew Nicholl, moved up from the rank of Detective. He originally joined the UPD as a patrolman in May 2015, then was promoted to Detective in June 2018.

Prior to joining the Upland force, Nicholl was employed as the director of security at the King of Prussia Mall, and then as a security manager at Crozer-Chester Medical Center.

While Nicholl was sworn in, the Bible was held by his fiancé, Trisha Frassetto.

Corporal Michael Curran was promoted to the rank of lieutenant, becoming the first UPD officer to ever hold that rank. He first joined the force in 2005 as a part-time patrolman, then became a full-timer in 2007, and then moved up to the rank of corporal in January 2018.

Lieutenant Curran is currently the longest tenured member of the UPD, and as such, he has become a valuable asset to Police Chief Mike Irey. He is certified as a Drug Recognition Expert, and has received numerous awards for exemplary service. Curran's wife, Kimberly, held the Bible, while her husband was sworn in.

Congratulations to all of the promoted officers!



While all the promotions were applauded by the roomful of family and friends, the loudest cheers came when Corporal Nicholl surprised his girlfriend, Trisha Frassetto, with a marriage proposal...And just for the record, she said 'Yes'!



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**.

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On April 13, for the third consecutive year, Mayor Bill Dennon led a volunteer effort to clean up trash and debris from Upland Borough, in conjunction with CRC Watersheds. Due to overnight rain creating high water, this year's efforts were mainly land-based, focusing on the length of Upland Avenue, Incinerator Road, and the area around the Caleb Pusey House, with a wide variety of discarded items being collected. Two dozen environmental-minded volunteers turned out, including students from Widener University and Neumann University, the Delco Citizens Corps, and Delco Detachment 288 of the Marine Corps League, et al. Planet Earth says thanks to all!

Residential Safety Inspections Underway

According to Upland Fire Marshal Dan Smith, the mandatory annual fire safety inspections for residential rental properties began in March and will continue through the spring, until completed.

Easter Hops In Upland



The Easter Bunny made his annual visit to Upland on April 20, much to the delight of his fan club. Special thanks to Upland firefighter Jason Tarbutton for escorting the Easter Bunny safely to and from MacQueen Hall.



Morning rain delayed the Annual Easter Egg Hunt by a few hours, but once it started, it was over in the blink of an eye, with three age groups of children collecting colorful loot.

Special Building Permit Discounts Now Available

Upland Borough is now offering building permit discounts to seniors and veterans. A 50% discount (up to \$250) on up to \$10,000 worth of assessed value work is available to senior citizens (age 62 or older) and certified military veterans who have been honorably discharged. A DD214 or active military ID must be produced to qualify as a certified veteran. This discount can only be utilized once per calendar year, and only for residential building permits where the applicant occupies the residence.

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Fines Raised For Illegally Parked Vehicles

Borough Council has addressed the illegal parking of commercial vehicles on public streets by increasing the fines that can be issued to violators. At Council's March 12 session, a motion was unanimously approved to raise the maximum fine for illegal street parking up to as high as \$600, plus court costs. In default of payment of said fine, a violator will be subject to no more than 30 days in jail. Each day of failure to comply with the borough's parking laws will constitute a separate violation. The previous fine for parking a commercial vehicle in the street overnight was a flat \$25. The new fine limits were effective immediately upon adoption.

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.

Upland Turns Down PHL Search & Rescue Offer

A proposal from a N. Philadelphia-based search and rescue company was unanimously rejected by Borough Council at their March 11 caucus session. The search and rescue firm uses trained dogs and agents to track down missing persons on land, and employs boats to conduct water search/rescues. Looking to expand their operations into Delaware County, the company had hoped to secure storage areas for boats and equipment in Upland, either at the Reese Center or the borough's Lane K property. According to Mayor Bill Dennon, the inquiring firm was offering little or no compensation for Upland Borough, other than being the home base of a search and rescue operation. Fire Chief Dan Smith noted that Delco has its own search and rescue team, which could create a conflict for Upland, so the proposal was dismissed.

Upland Seniors Enjoy Ham & Cabbage Luncheon



On March 11, senior citizens were treated to a traditional meal of ham & cabbage to celebrate St. Patty's Day, courtesy of the Community Affairs Committee.



Councilman Lee Hunter, who also serves as president of the Upland Senior Citizens Club, was dressed for the occasion.

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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.

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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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Contracts Awarded To Move Projects Forward

Four bids were recently received for the installation of new playground equipment at the Bristol Lord Field tot lot, with Lechmanik, Inc., of West Chester, being the low bidder in the amount of \$103,807.

The borough recently purchased several pieces of new tot lot playground equipment for Upland Park.

The new tot lot equipment was 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 of wood chips is also planned for the tot lot. The additional expense of the safety surface pushed the total project cost slightly above the 2018 Community Development Block Grant award, which will lead the borough to request an additional \$10,784 in funding from the county to complete this project.

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

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Five bids were received for improvements to Hill Street Park. The low bidder was once again Lechmanik Inc., submitting a bid of \$35,115. This project was estimated to cost \$40,000, and will be funded through a Department of Conservation and Natural Resources grant from the state.

These park upgrades will include new playground equipment and other miscellaneous improvements.

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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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Council Approves New Processing System For UPD

Borough Council has authorized the expenditure of \$47,750 to purchase a Live Scan System to expedite the processing of prisoners for the Upland Police Department. The cost of the state-of-the-art computer system breaks down to \$37,750 for the system, \$3,500 to install a new phone line, and \$6,500 for the first year of maintenance.

The purchase was spurred by Upland officers often spending hours in Chester, waiting in line for prisoners to be processed.

Council President Christine Peterson noted that Upland will be able to charge other local police departments that wish to take advantage of this new system's streamlined prisoner processing.

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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.

According to Smith, one prevalent issue is property owners' lack of a rental license, which is a requirement for being a landlord. 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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Tax Collector Exonerated For Delinquent Taxes

At Borough Council's March 12 meeting, Borough Tax Collector Linda Kirby was formally exonerated from the collection of delinquent 2018 real estate taxes and trash collection fees.

A total of \$24,588.10 in unpaid real estate taxes will now be forwarded to the Delaware County Tax Bureau for collection, while a total of \$14,701.50 in outstanding trash fees will now be turned over to Credit-Tec for collection.

The stated totals for unpaid taxes include the penalties that are assessed to tax scofflaws.

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Sewer Lateral Inspections 'In-House' Once Again

On Feb. 12, Borough Council approved an amendment to the borough code, which returns the responsibility for conducting sewer lateral inspections to the borough-appointed plumbing inspector. Catania Engineering had been handling these inspections for most of 2018.

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

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

Fundraisers Are Souper



A pair of successful Community Affairs Committee fundraisers were held at MacQueen Hall in February, starting with the Annual Soup-n-Salad Dinner on Feb. 16.

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Fundraisers Generate Revenue

Community Affairs Committee Co-Chair Moira Crawford recently announced that the two borough fundraisers held in February were both successful ventures.

The annual Soup-n-Salad Dinner, held on Feb. 16, raised about \$400, while the Designer Handbag BINGO event on Feb. 23 pulled in about \$5,000. These monies will be utilized by the CAC to help fund several free borough-sponsored events later this year.

A sincere thank you goes out to all of the attending Upland residents and their families, who collectively helped make these fundraisers a resounding success.

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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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