



The Caleb Pusey House

The Uplander



MacQueen Hall

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



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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.



Above, Councilwoman Julie Kerns (right) serves up a heapin' helpin' of homemade chicken and dumplings (made by Councilwoman Judy Bush), while below, Councilman Dick McClintock and his wife, Betty, visit the salad bar.



On Feb. 23, Designer Handbag BINGO returned to MacQueen Hall for an evening of BYO fun, with Upland Police Officer Carl White calling out the numbers.



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...And the lucky winners were happy to show off their prizes.



Seniors Seeking Seniors

The Upland Senior Citizens Club will once again be meeting at MacQueen Hall on Mondays, from 9am to 3pm, starting on March 4. The group takes a hiatus during the winter months, but will soon reconvene for cards, games and good conversation; for day trips and special holiday events; and for special lunch and dinner events, as well.

Parkside Borough also has a senior citizens group, which meets every Thursday morning (year round) at 9:30am for card games and BINGO at the county's Redwood facility, located off Sixth Street, behind the athletic fields.

Coincidentally, both seniors groups are looking for new members to join their weekly gatherings. Both groups have an annual \$5 membership fee, which is a token fee, considering the many benefits that members enjoy.

Neither group has a residency requirement for members, nor are there any age requirements. So if you are retired, spending too much time alone, and looking for something new to help fill your time, joining one or both of these groups of active seniors may be the social jumpstart that you've needed.

To learn more about senior citizen opportunities, call Gwen Taylor at home **(610-874-9470)** or on her cell phone **(267-319-6948)**.

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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, after the exit of former Plumbing Inspector Tom Kennedy.

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.

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Get Ready To P-A-R-T-Y

Borough Council recently transferred \$20,000 to the general fund, an amount that was budgeted for this year to finance the borough's Sesquicentennial Celebration on Memorial Day weekend.

Upland residents should be checking *The Uplander*, the borough's website, and our Facebook page to keep tabs on the many festivities that are being planned for Upland's epic 150th birthday blowout.

So save the dates:

Friday, May 24 to Monday, May 27

Contracts Awarded To Move Projects Forward

Borough Council recently awarded contracts to the low bidders for three grant-funded public improvement projects.

The purchase and installation of an electronic message board/Welcome sign will be handled by K.C. Sign Company, of Aston. The lone bid received for this project was in the amount of \$37,991, well within the 2014 Community Development Block Grant award of \$40,000.

Erection of this digital sign on the southwest corner of the Sixth & Main Streets intersection has been plagued by a series of delays for years – all of which were beyond the borough's control. It is now hoped that this long-awaited sign can be installed prior to the borough's sesquicentennial celebration in May.

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Four bids were 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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More Shred-It Days Planned

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, but will be posted in *The Uplander* and on the borough website soon.

Shred-It Days allow for the easy, safe and secure disposal of unwanted and outdated papers and files.

**Council Amends
Comprehensive Fee Schedule**

Borough Council has updated the Comprehensive Fee Schedule in the borough code, effective immediately.

The most common permit fees are for building, mechanical, electrical, and plumbing permits, all of which still cost \$50 per \$1,000 worth of work performed.

Additional inspections or any required re-inspection by any one of the borough's professional inspectors will now cost the homeowner \$80. In cases where any work (for which a permit is required) is started prior to obtaining a permit, all fees shall be doubled. Rental fees for the use of MacQueen Hall remain at \$400 per event, with a \$200 security deposit, while Bristol Lord Field softball permits are still set at \$200 per team, per season.

The fees set for residential rental licenses (required for all landlords) and commercial rental licenses are now \$100 and \$300, respectively.

All contractors working within the borough are required to obtain a business license for a flat fee of \$100 per calendar year.

Similarly, use and occupancy (U & O) inspections for residential and commercial properties are set at \$100 each.

The requirements for obtaining certificates of occupancy have also been amended to reflect the following language:

"No person, firm, partnership or corporation shall occupy, rent, lease, let out, permit, sell, convey or otherwise transfer or permit to be occupied or rented any apartment or dwelling unit, premises or structure used for a residential, commercial or industrial purpose...without first securing a certificate of occupancy from the Borough of Upland.

Furthermore, ***"a certificate of occupancy shall be required upon the change of occupancy or change in use of any apartment, dwelling unit, commercial, business or industrial unit."***

A discount for military veterans on some borough fees was suggested by an Upland resident last year. Council has agreed to offering a veterans discount in principle, but the matter will be handled in a separate resolution at a future date. Since borough inspectors get paid through borough fees, the maximum discount possible would be 50%, which is the borough's portion of permit fees.

For specific information regarding any particular borough fee, please contact the borough office at **610-874-7317**.

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DID YOU KNOW?: March is named for Mars, the Roman god of war, because this was the month that military campaigns resumed, after a winter hiatus.

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**Upland Senior Citizens Club
Resumes Weekly Meetings**

9:00am to 3:00pm on Monday, March 4
at MacQueen Hall

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VBS Nights

6 to 7pm on Mondays, March 4, 11, 18 & 25
at Upland Baptist Church

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

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Ash Wednesday Service

7:30pm on Wednesday, March 6
at Upland Baptist Church

All are welcome to attend

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Borough Council Meetings

6pm caucus; 7pm regular voting session
Tuesdays March 12, April 9, and May 14
on ground floor of MacQueen Hall

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Annual St. Patty's Day Seniors'

 **Ham & Cabbage Luncheon** 

12 noon on Monday, March 11
at MacQueen 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

Friday: 6pm Time capsule burial/dedication at flagpole
(Residents who wish to actively participate in
the burial ceremony should contact boro office)
7pm Sesquicentennial dinner (tix limited - \$50 ea.)

Saturday: 10am-4pm Upland Passport event (\$4 ea.)
Prize drawing for 65-inch TV (provided by Upland AC)
for residents who get all stamps in Passport booklet
7pm Evening movie: *Ralph Breaks the Internet* (FREE)

Sunday: 10-11:30am Church services at Upland Park
11:30am-2pm Bag Lunch Picnic (advance sales-\$5 ea.)
1-6pm Carnival games, clowns, face painting, music...
8:30pm Fireworks display at dusk

Monday: 9am Annual Memorial Day parade
10am War Memorial service
11am-2pm Church-sponsored family picnic

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The all-u-can-eat Annual Soup-n-Salad Dinner Fundraiser is not only a great place to fill your belly, but also a great opportunity for extended families to get together.



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New Parking Lot Ready For Use

Built on the #227 lot where a vacant residence once sat, paving and painting the new eight-space public parking lot on 8th Street was completed in mid-December, and can now provide 8th Street neighbors with some off-street parking on a permitted basis. Parking permits are now available at the borough office.

At Borough Council's Feb. 12 meeting, the fees to be charged for parking permits were established as \$30 (monthly), \$50 (quarterly), and \$100 (annually). The same permit fees will apply to parking permits for the 6th Street municipal lot (located between #16 and #22), where about 20 spaces are available on a first come/first serve basis.

A hang tag parking permit will be issued and must be displayed through the vehicle's front windshield while it is parked in the lot. Parking in either the 6th Street or 8th Street lots is prohibited without a current tag. A fine of \$50 per day will be assessed to any vehicle parked in these lots without a permit tag.

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Claim Your Veteran Banners Now

The canvas banners that boasted Upland's military veterans last year were taken down to make room for holiday decorations. If the families who ordered vet banners to honor their favorite veterans want their flags to be displayed again this year, please advise the borough office immediately. Ordering families that would like to claim their banners for personal use can now pick up their vet flag(s) at the borough office during regular business hours.

Holiday Home Decorating Winners Named

The following residents were congratulated at Council's Feb. 12 meeting as the winners of the 2018 Holiday Home Decorating Contest:

1st place- Jess Damon of 21 Upland Avenue

2nd place- Joann & Vince Long of 301 Birch Lane

3rd place- Laurie & Ed Vandergrift of 411 Fourth Street

Cash prizes of \$100, \$50, and \$25 were given to the respective winners.

Thank you to all the residents who participated in this contest and made the holiday season a little brighter for everyone.

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Fines To Be Raised For Illegally Parked Vehicles

Borough Council plans to address 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 will be made 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 current fine for parking a commercial vehicle in the street overnight is a flat \$25.

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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 January 2018, Upland officers issued 160 citations, with all but 10 being traffic citations.

Police also wrote 158 parking tickets in January.

Eleven motor vehicle accidents were reported on borough roadways in January, and a total of 19 vehicles were towed.

The UPD answered a total of 382 calls in January, in addition to making 45 assists to other local agencies.

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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

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Sesquicentennial Merchandise On Sale Now

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

Now is the time to get your Upland gear on!



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Upland Borough's 2018 Cute Kid All-Stars



Council Makes Annual Appointments

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Fire Co. Sees Active 2018

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

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

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

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New Phone System Will Cut Costs

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

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Public Works Garage Looking Good

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

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

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

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Fees Amended For

Tax Certifications and Duplicates

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

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

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Council Submits CDBG Wishlist

In January, Upland Borough filed its application for a 2019 Community Development Block Grant from the county, listing two public improvement projects that could be funded through a grant.

The borough's primary choice for a CDBG-funded project is construction of permanent restroom facilities at Bristol Lord Field, while an alternative project would be the creation of a new public parking lot on Seventh Street.

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

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

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

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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.

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.



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**.

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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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 few private parties have expressed interest in the tract, but any plans to develop the site would have to be approved by Upland officials, after a series of public hearings were held.

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Newsletter Contract Extended

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

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

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.

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?

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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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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.

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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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.

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Requirements Outlined For Police Lieutenant

The requirements to be a full-time lieutenant in the Upland Police Department were adopted at Council's Jan. 8 session.

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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