



The Caleb Pusey House

# The Uplander



MacQueen Hall

**The official newsletter of historic Upland Borough**  
(Settled 1683; Incorporated 1869)  
Vol. 10-11; November 2018 edition

## Upland Plays BINGO



Designer Handbag BINGO made a return to MacQueen Hall on Oct. 13, this time as a fundraiser for the Community Affairs Committee. The sold-out event (150 tickets sold) raised thousands of dollars to help fund the many borough-sponsored free events throughout the year.



Council VP Moira Crawford recruited Upland Police Officers Andy Nichols (left) and Mick Curran (right) as volunteer raffle ticket sellers, before Corporal Curran took the mic as the official letter/number caller.

Below are a few of the lucky winners who walked away with their choice of over a dozen designer handbags and purses.



## Frightful Fun At Halloween Party



Pictured are some of the prize-winning costumes that Upland children wore to this year's Youth Halloween Party on Oct. 27, where families were fed and entertained, before the kids went home with a bag filled with goodies.



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Parents must sign up in advance for their children (age 13 and under) to receive a gift from Santa at the Youth Christmas Party on Nov. 23. The deadline to register with the boro office is Friday, Nov. 2.

### **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 11<sup>th</sup> Street (eastbound) onto Main Street will now be prohibited on weekdays from 7:30am to 8:30am and from 2:30pm to 3:30pm. Left turns are also prohibited from the bottom of Hill Street (eastbound) onto Upland Avenue. This dangerous left turn is now prohibited all hours of every day.

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### **Pot Hole Relief Funds Received**

A second round of funding from the county will allow municipalities to address pot hole repairs before the years' end. Upland Borough recently received a total of \$1,522 from Delaware County Council to put towards pot hole remediation.

Borough Council has identified four persistent pot holes that will soon be repaired by hometown contractor A. F. Damon, at a cost of \$1,600. Doing the math, the borough's net outlay for these pending pot hole repairs will be a mere \$78.

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### **Boro Purchases Property**

Borough Council has unanimously approved the purchase of the vacant property at #2 Seventh Street through a repository sale, at the bargain basement price of just \$142.25. The borough had several liens on the property, totaling thousands of dollars in unpaid taxes, fees, and citations, which allowed Zoning Solicitor John Wills to negotiate the sale in lieu of lien reimbursement.

As Council was preparing to vote on the matter on Oct. 9, a man in attendance claimed to be interested in purchasing the property himself, even offering to pay the liens owed to the borough. After some deliberation, however, Council decided to go forward with the purchase, with the intent of turning the property into an off-street parking lot for neighboring residents.

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### **Council Recycling Discussion On Tap**

Borough Council members VP Moira Crawford, Dick McClintock, and Judy Bush held a committee meeting on Oct. 24 to discuss options to address the skyrocketing costs of recycling collections in 2019 and beyond. The committee's findings and recommendations will be shared with the rest of Council and the public at Council's Nov. 13 session.

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**Did You Know?: There was once a \$10 per head bounty on wolves in what would one day be known as Upland Borough.**

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### **Photo Session Slated For Resident Youth IDs**

Council President Christine Peterson and Upland Police Officer Carl White will be hosting a photo session to create ID cards for resident children (age 18 and under) from **6-8pm on Thursday, Nov. 8 at the Upland police station on Castle Avenue.**

These photo IDs are your child's passport to all the free events that the borough sponsors every year exclusively for Upland residents, so it is important to take advantage of this opportunity.

### **Upland Borough youth photo IDs are free.**

There is no need for a child to get a new ID, if they had one made several years ago, when Borough Council first made photo IDs a requirement for admission to free youth-oriented events, such as the upcoming Annual Christmas Party/visit from Santa.

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### **Police Chief Secures Grants**

Upland Police Chief Mike Irey was a fountain of good news, when he announced recently securing a series of grants that will help fund his department.

The UPD was the only Delco police force to receive a Schools Resource Officers grant this year in the amount of \$60,000 for the first year, and \$30,000 next year. This grant will pay officers for covering extra-duty events involving local schools.

A \$100,000 JAG grant was also recently received, which will pay officers for specialized training to deal with gang-related issues. This grant will be shared with officers from the neighboring Chester Township and Chester City police departments.

A \$2,100 grant to purchase protective police vests was also secured from the federal Ballistic Vest Grant (BVG) Program. After noting that this grant would fund the purchase of "almost three vests," the Chief was pleased to later add that Upland resident George Oronzio had offered to cover the remaining \$300 needed for the third vest, through the Dave Oronzio First Responders Foundation.

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### **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 September 2018, Upland officers issued 140 citations, all but 14 of which were traffic citations. The year-to-date total for citations issued is 1,376.

Seventy parking tickets were also written in September, bringing the 2018 total up to 262.

Twelve motor vehicle accidents were reported on borough roadways in September.

A total of 108 vehicles have been towed in 2018.

The UPD answered a total of 455 calls in September, in addition to making 40 assists to other local agencies. As of the end of September, the total call volume for this year is 4,300 calls.



## **Sesquicentennial Merchandise On Sale Now**

Baseball caps (two styles), car magnets, t-shirts, and acrylic Christmas tree ornaments, all bearing the special logo for Upland Borough's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration are now available at the borough office during regular business hours. These sesquicentennial logo items will also be sold (for \$10 to \$20 each) at upcoming public events and during the many planned festivities on Memorial Day weekend 2019.

Get your Upland gear on NOW!

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## **Compliance Time Shortened For Unkept Properties**

Borough Council has amended the Nuisance chapter of the borough code, as it pertains to grass cutting and property maintenance. The revised ordinance specifically targets the failure to cut back "weeds, grass or other uncultured vegetation, not edible or planted for some useful or ornamental purpose, **more than 10 inches in height.**"

The wording of the ordinance was changed in the Enforcement/Compliance section, where the time allowed to start remedial action in response to a code citation was trimmed down from seven days to 48 hours, while the time period allowed to complete any required property maintenance work dropped from 60 days down to four days.

Both time periods start on the date that a code violation notice is issued. When applicable, the code enforcement officer will take weather conditions into consideration.

Borough officials noted that the previous time limits were too lax and allowed irresponsible landlords to avoid prompt action when cited for code violations.

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## **UBC Food Bank Accepting Donations**

Local residents can go to Upland Baptist Church any Wednesday morning, from 9 to 10am, to pick up groceries to help feed their families. The UBC Community Food Bank recently added locally-grown fresh fruits and vegetables to its list of available food items – all free for the asking.

The UBC Food Bank is continually in need of canned and dry goods to keep a well-rounded selection of nutritional foods on hand. Please donate to support this community outreach mission.

**\*\*\*The Food Bank recently launched a special program called "Abundance of Blessings," wherein donors can help finance the creation of Thanksgiving baskets for local families by sponsoring a turkey for \$10 or a whole meal for \$30.**

To make a donation to the UBC Food Bank, or for more information, call Louise at **610-876-1857**.

## **Electronic Waste Collection**

Cyber Crunch (located in the Elwyn Industries building at **1 Judy Way, off Bridgewater Rd., in Aston**) is offering free disposal of some electronic items, while a processing fee is charged for other recyclables. A special collection date for electronics is slated for **Saturday, Nov. 3, from 9am to 1pm**, and is open to all Pennsylvania residents.

Electronics accepted for free include desktop, laptop & tablet devices, all computer peripherals (mice, keyboards, hard drives, routers, cables, modems, etc.), cell phones, Ipods, and MP3 players, et al. Items that carry a processing charge include CRT and flat TVs and monitors (\$30 per unit), console and projection TVs (\$75 per unit), and small home appliances, such as window air conditioners, microwave ovens, and dehumidifiers (\$20 per unit). Items that will not be accepted include universal waste, alkaline batteries, light bulbs, wooden speakers, and large appliances containing freon. For more information on Cyber Crunch recycling, call **866-925-2354** or go to **ccrcyber.com**.

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## **Cyber Crunch Electronics Collection**

**9am to 1pm on Saturday, Nov. 3**  
at Elwyn building, 1 Judy Way, Aston

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## **VBS Nights**

**6 to 7pm on Mondays, Nov. 5, 12, 19 & 26**  
at Upland Baptist Church

**Dinner at 6:00pm, followed by Bible lesson**  
**and creative activity from 6:30-7pm**  
**Free & Open to all in our community**

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## **Annual Senior Citizens Thanksgiving Dinner**

**6 to 8pm on Saturday, Nov. 10**  
at MacQueen Hall

**All Upland senior citizens are welcome**  
**Attendees must sign up in advance at boro office**

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## **Borough Council Meetings**

**6pm caucus; 7pm regular voting session**  
**Tuesdays Nov. 13, Dec. 11, and Jan. 8**  
on ground floor of MacQueen Hall

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## **Annual Tree Lighting**



## **& Santa Visit**



**Tree lighting at 6:00pm, followed by**  
**Youth Christmas Party with Santa**  
**Friday, Nov. 23**  
at MacQueen Hall

**Parents must register to receive a gift from Santa**

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## New Council Member Seated



Councilwoman Julie Kerns was sworn in by Mayor Bill Dennon on Oct. 9, while her husband Chris held the Bible. Kerns, 42, is a Chester native, but lived on Front Street in Upland for seven years and on Willow Way for the last nine years. She graduated from Interboro High School in 1995 and from Chubb Institute in 1996, and is currently employed as an administrative assistant at Clayton Auto. The Kerns have a teenage daughter and son. Mrs. Kerns will serve the remainder of former Council President Ed Mitchell's elected term. Kerns' interim term on Borough Council will expire on Dec. 31, 2019.

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## Permits Required For Burning

### A REMINDER FROM THE FIRE MARSHAL:

The use of an outdoor burn pit or Chiminettes in Upland requires a borough permit, which can only be obtained after a site inspection by the fire marshal. As of Oct. 9, only one burn pit permit had been issued, under an ordinance passed last year that allows limited burning, but only on properties that meet minimum setback safety requirements.

Please contact the borough office at **610-874-7317** for more information on burning permits.

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## Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser Is Record-Setting Success

The Spaghetti Dinner hosted by the Community Affairs Committee on Sept. 15 was not just successful, it produced the best-ever results for the annual fundraising event.

According to Community Affairs Co-Chair Moira Crawford, the spaghetti dinner took in \$959, leading to a profit margin of \$550. Both figures are new highs for a fundraiser that has been held for the past 10 years.

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## Website Provides Valuable Info

Visit [www.uplandboro.org](http://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](mailto:mcrawford@uplandboro.org)

## Upland PD Hires Part-timer



Part-time Officer John Walker was sworn in on Oct. 9, while his mother, Marcella Parker, held the Bible, and Police Chief Michael Irely waits to pin on Walker's badge. (Below) Chief Irely, Mayor Dennon, and Officer Walker are joined by Walker's pumped up nephew, Curtis Parker.



Officer Walker, age 23, grew up in Philadelphia, and graduated from The High School of the Future in 2013. He earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Lockhaven University in 2016, and graduated from the Delco Police Academy in 2017. His Upland posting is Walker's first law enforcement position.

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Volunteers from the Community Affairs Committee kept the masses fed at the Youth Halloween Party, while balloon art clowns Bubble Gum and Rainbow kept the kids entertained.





## Fireworks Show Grows Into Community Event



On Sept. 2, the Annual Labor Day Weekend Fireworks display drew hundreds of locals to Bristol Lord Field, but hours before the first boomers went off, Upland Fire Company volunteers held a successful fundraiser.



Some families arrived early to stake out a good fireworks viewing spot.



Early arrivals could play children's games or take a guess at the number of balloons stuffed into a police cruiser. ...And while some kids enjoyed the walking tacos served up at the pavilion, others joined the festivities just to be cute.



## Convicted Councilman Resigns; Then Sent To Jail

Earlier this year, former Upland Council President Edward Mitchell was found guilty on 42 of 44 felony counts stemming from an illegal payback scheme. The guilty verdicts included multiple counts of theft by deception, bribery, and criminal conspiracy.

Councilman Mitchell did not attend a Borough Council meeting after he was arrested and charged in December 2016. As an elected official, however, Mitchell was able to collect a monthly paycheck from the borough until the week before he was sentenced, although he was ordered to repay the September 2018 check.

After Council had requested his resignation twice over the last 18 months, Mitchell finally relented and officially submitted his resignation through a letter from his attorney on Sept. 10, effective immediately. Council unanimously accepted the resignation at its Sept. 11 session.

Mitchell was sentenced by Common Pleas Court Judge John Capuzzi in Media on Sept. 14. The 75-year-old Mitchell received a prison sentence of not less than 65 months and not more than 348 months. The court also awarded Upland Borough \$45,762 in restitution, to cover monetary losses.

Council President Christine Peterson released a statement to bring closure to the incident, saying:

*"This has been a long and difficult road for Council, borough staff, and residents. We understand that the whole story will never be heard or understood by some. However, we thank you for your patience when we couldn't answer questions in the way that some residents would have liked. We're excited to put this behind us and move forward in a progressive manner. Justice has been served for our town,"* Peterson asserted.

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## Fire Chief Saves Life

Upland Borough Fire Chief/Fire Marshal Dan Smith drew a standing ovation in Council chambers, after a letter from a grateful parent was read aloud, detailing Smith's recent life-saving intervention.

Smith was among the first responders on the scene on May 26, when an emergency call went out for a man slumped over the wheel in his car. Smith tried to wake up the unconscious victim, then pulled him from the car and laid him on the ground.

The man was not breathing, as Smith tried to resuscitate him for 10 minutes, while family members anxiously looked on. Paramedics soon arrived and took over the emergency care of the patient, who was suffering from a heart condition. The fortunate man was hospitalized, but lived to tell the story, leading his letter-writing mother to proclaim in no uncertain terms:

**"Because of Dan's quick actions, my son is here with his family. Mr. Smith, you saved my son's life, and for that, I am eternally grateful."**



## Spaghetti Dinner Raises Funds



The Annual Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser was held on Sept. 15, drawing the event's largest-ever crowd, to help fund the many freebies that the Community Affairs Committee provides Uplanders throughout the year. As these photos show, the delicious meal satisfied dozens of smiling diners.



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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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## UPD Eyes K-9 Addition In 2019

Borough Council recently agreed to revisit the possibility of purchasing a police dog for the Upland Police Department during upcoming budget preparations for the 2019 fiscal year.

## Sun Finally Shines On Car Show



It did not rain on Sept. 22, making the third time a charm for the Upland Fire Co. to host a classic car show fundraiser, in cooperation with the Upland Baptist Church.

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## 'Nova Nation Cleans Chester Creek

In cooperation with CRC Watersheds Association, a crew of Villanova University Engineering faculty and students recently tackled a massive clean-up of Chester Creek, from behind Upland Park down to the historic Caleb Pusey House on Race Street. The hard-working team of environmentalists spent an entire day collecting trash and debris from the creek bed and surrounding areas, and ultimately removed about 3,000 lbs. of trash, along with 1,000 lbs. of scrap metal and six discarded tires. Upland Mayor Bill Dennon met with the Villanova volunteers at the end of the day and thanked them for their earnest efforts to improve the health of Chester Creek.



These volunteers showed their Wildcat spirit by spending Sept. 15 clearing tons of debris out of Chester Creek.



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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.



## UPD's National Night Out Draws A Crowd



The warm and humid evening of Aug. 7 saw a throng of Uplanders enjoying the free food and festivities at Bristol Lord Field during the Second Annual National Night Out, which focuses on building good relations between police officers and the residents they protect.



Special thanks go out to Officer Andy Nichols, who manned the grill and cooked up 500 hot dogs to feed the crowd.



Former Marine Volunteer Sal DeViato (dressed as an escaped prisoner) didn't even break a sweat during Chester PD Officer Joe Dougherty's K-9 demonstration. After the demo, K-9 Officer Mickey showed his gentle side, allowing children to pet him.

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The volunteer members of Upland Fire Company No. 1 were on hand to give out fire helmets.

## Noise Ordinance Covers Fireworks

Recent changes to the state law regarding the purchase and use of fireworks has led to an uptick in sales, and as a result, an increase in the number of occasions when fireworks are a public nuisance. Upland Borough Council members described the proliferation of fireworks around the July Fourth holiday as turning Upland into "a war zone," where late night explosions sent frightened pets running for cover and kept entire neighborhoods awake past midnight.

*"This has to be done safely and at a reasonable time,"* Council President Christine Peterson said of setting off hand-held fireworks.

In an effort to thwart future instances of late night fireworks abuse, Council has amended the noise ordinance in the borough code to include fireworks-related disturbances.

At Council's Aug. 28 meeting, the borough's noise ordinance was amended to read:

**"It is strictly forbidden to discharge or set off noise-making fireworks, unless a permit for the purpose of entertainment to do so has been granted by Borough Council."**

The noise ordinance that now applies to fireworks is in effect from **10:00pm to 7:00am** every weekday and **until 8:00am** every weekend (Saturdays and Sundays), with no exceptions made for holidays.

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## Please Rinse Out Recyclables

Major changes may be on the horizon for Upland Borough's recycling program, as Borough Council decides how to handle skyrocketing costs and an array of potential new restrictions on recyclables.

While Uplanders wait to see what will and what will not be collected for recycling in the future, one thing we can all do now is to clean up the items we put out for collection.

Currently, the average American household contaminates about 30% of its recyclables, generally by leaving a trace of liquid in bottles or food residue encrusted on cans and boxes. With the acceptable industry standard being a mere 0.01% for contamination, the result is that tons of recycling are rejected by processors on a daily basis, due to the exorbitant cost of separating and cleaning bacteria-ridden items.

The cost of handling contaminated recyclables has gotten so high that B & L Disposal (Upland's trash hauler) recently adopted a policy of adding up to a \$100 per ton surcharge to any recycling collections that contain contaminated items and require additional processing.

Rinsing out your recyclables may be a small step in the effort to sustain our planet's resources, but it is a step in the right direction.

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## Youth Magic Show Is...Magical!



Michael the Magician amazed and entertained Upland children on Aug. 18, but a chance to pet and hold Bandit the rabbit was the highlight of the show.



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After the magic show, the excitement continued with pizza and make-your-own ice cream sundaes for all.

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### Tree Trimming/Removal Pending

After reviewing three bids, Council has awarded a \$8,775 contract to Cels Tree Care, LLC for the trimming and/or removal of several dead trees that are located on borough property, and in some cases, could threaten vehicles, buildings, or electrical wires if the trees were brought down by the wind.

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### Winter Roads Agreement OK'd

Council has renewed the Winter Roads Agreement with PennDOT, wherein the borough gets \$4,376 in state funds to purchase rock salt to spread on state-owned highways in Upland this coming winter.

## Little Free Library Opens

An idea that was hatched by Upland Police Corporal Michael Curran recently came to fruition with the installation of a Little Free Library book exchange box on Castle Avenue. The box itself was made by master carpenter Parker Ferguson, who also serves as the borough's building inspector.

Officer Curran is promoting the benefits of summer reading and the expansion of young minds. The Little Free Library is an extension of a reading program launched by Upland Police Chief Mike Irely, wherein Upland officers visit Main Street Elementary and the Chester Charter School to read to students every week during the school year.

*"With the Little Library, residents will be able to share books and avoid the cost of purchasing one," said Curran. "I sincerely hope the community will utilize this Little Library, not only for the sharing of books, but also to meet new people with similar interests and to form friendships," he added.*



It didn't take long for a collection of paperback and hardback books to become available in the Little Free Library box, located at the entrance to the MacQueen Hall parking lot.

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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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