



The Caleb Pusey House

# The Uplander



MacQueen Hall

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



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## 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.



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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.



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## 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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Upland Borough Council has 30 days from the date of Mitchell's formal resignation to fill the vacant Council seat with an interim appointment. Resumes from interested Upland residents can be sent to the borough office to the **attention of Borough Manager Michael Ciach at 224 Castle Avenue, Upland PA 19015.**

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## Sesquicentennial Merchandise On Sale Now

Baseball caps (two styles), 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!

## Compliance Time To Be Shortened For Unkept Properties

Borough Council is planning to amend the Nuisance chapter of the borough code, as it pertains to grass cutting and property maintenance. The revised ordinance will specifically target 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 will be changed in the Enforcement/Compliance section, where the time allowed to start remedial action in response to a code citation will be trimmed down from seven days to 48 hours, while the time period allowed to complete any required property maintenance work will drop from 60 days down to four days.

Both time periods will 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 current time limits are too lax and allow irresponsible landlords to avoid prompt action when cited for code violations.

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## UBC Food Bank Gets Fresh

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

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.**

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## Attention All Property Owners:

### Code Enforcement Crack Down Is Underway

Borough Council is giving all property owners fair notice that stricter enforcement of property maintenance laws is coming to Upland Borough.

The new policy will be the issuance of more citations and fewer warnings from the code enforcement officer, with unpaid citations leading to the filing of municipal liens against noncompliant property owners.

Furthermore, cases where property owners will not cooperate and/or respond to notices from the code officer will be handed over to Police Chief Michael Irey for enforcement.

### Electronic Waste Collections

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. Two special collection dates for electronics are slated for **Saturdays, Oct. 6 and Nov. 3, from 9am to 1pm each day**, and are 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**.

### Second St. Wall Needs Attention

The borough is planning to remove a section of the stuccoed 7-foot-high wall along Second Street that is in disrepair and at risk of falling down, but before any demolition begins, the other property owners who own sections of the wall will be consulted to see if joint action is desirable and economical.

The borough owns a 50-foot-long section (roughly half) of the wall, while other Second Street properties own the rest of the concrete structure, which runs parallel to the street on the south side.

Borough Council was poised to put removal of the borough's piece of the leaning wall out to bid in early September, but decided to hold off until neighboring property owners can be reached to discuss the possibility of removing the entire wall. The cost of tearing down the entire length of the wall would have to be shared by the multiple owners, so some time would be needed to organize and coordinate such a project.

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**Free tours of the historic  
1683 Caleb Pusey House on Race Street  
are available every Saturday,  
from 1 to 4pm, through October 27.**

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### VBS Nights

**6 to 7pm on Mondays, Oct. 1, 15, 22 & 29  
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**

### Cyber Crunch Electronics Collections

**9am to 1pm on Saturdays, Oct. 6 & Nov. 3  
at Elwyn building, 1 Judy Way, Aston**

### Blessing of the Animals

**2:00pm on Sunday, Oct. 7  
at Upland Baptist Church**

**Dogs must be leashed; Cats in carriers**

### Annual Shady Maple Trip For Seniors

**Monday, Oct. 8 – transportation provided  
Attendees must sign up with boro office in advance  
Limited space available**

### Borough Council Meetings

**6pm caucus; 7pm regular voting session  
Tuesday Oct. 9, Nov. 13, and Dec. 11  
on ground floor of MacQueen Hall**

### Designer Handbag BINGO Fundraiser

**7 to 11pm on Saturday, Oct. 13  
at MacQueen Hall**

**Tickets: \$30 in advance (at boro office) or \$35 at door  
Baskets & 50/50 raffles; BYO beverages/food  
Proceeds benefit Community Affairs Committee**

### Annual Youth Halloween Party

**4 to 6pm on Saturday, Oct. 27  
at MacQueen Hall**

**Attendees must show proof of residency**



### Halloween Night



**6:00 to 8:00pm on Wednesday, Oct. 31**

**All Trick-or-treaters and handing-out homes are asked  
to respect these time restrictions for the safety of all**

### UBC Trunk-or-Treat

**6:00 to 7:00pm on Wednesday, Oct. 31  
in Upland Baptist Church parking lot**

### Annual Senior Citizens Thanksgiving Dinner

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

**All Upland senior citizens are welcome**

### Annual Tree Lighting



### & Santa Visit



**Tree lighting at 6:00pm, followed by  
Youth Christmas Party with Santa**

**Friday, Nov. 23  
at MacQueen Hall**

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## 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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## 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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## 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)**



## 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 (and even an undisguised Sal) to pet him.

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



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## Paving Contract Awarded

The 2018 road paving contract has been awarded to the lone bidder, A. F. Damon, Inc. of Upland. The hometown contractor offered to repave 700 linear feet of Woodside Avenue (from Tenth Street to its terminus) for \$43,760.

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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."**

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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.

## 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.



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

### 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.

### AV Gutter Cleaning Approved

Council has approved the expenditure of \$3,300 for The Gutter People to clean all Auburn Village rain gutters. The overdue maintenance project has not been done in three years, according to Borough Manager Mike Ciach. The lack of cleaning has allowed tree saplings to take root in the gutter muck.

## 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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## July 4<sup>th</sup> Sizzles In Upland



The kids knew how to beat the heat at this year's Annual July Fourth Family Picnic, where the free food and fun were provided by the Community Affairs Committee.



Among our youth, swimwear was preferred to make temperatures in the low 90s more bearable.

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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.

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## Recycling Costs Skyrocket

Upland Borough's trash hauler, B & L Disposal, recently notified all of its customers that "the recycling market has crashed," ever since China stopped accepting shiploads of recyclables from the US. After losing the top buyer for their recycling collections, American trash haulers are saying that their recycling processing costs will now soar.

As of May 1, the cost to process recyclables had increased from \$1.72 per ton to \$65 per ton – that's a stunning 3,779% hike!

Exactly how each municipality handles the cost increase remains to be seen. While large townships are required under state law to have recycling programs, small boroughs like Upland are not.

Other options for Upland Borough Council include negotiating a new contract with B & L or another trash hauler, and/or raising the \$135 per household trash collection fee, which has not been changed since it was first levied in 2008.

## 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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## Vet Flag Project Earns Kudos

The recent hanging of red, white & blue memorial flags to honor Upland's Hometown Hero military veterans has drawn praise and recognition for Upland Borough.

A recent Daily Times Sound Off column expressed the feelings of many who have seen the flags on display, stating: ***"I'd like to compliment Upland Borough on the use of veterans' pictures on flags on the utility poles. That's an outstanding gesture, and as a veteran, I appreciate it very much."***

If you see that a Hometown Heroes flag is damaged in any way, or needs to be rehung from a utility pole, please call the borough office at **610-874-7317**.

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On June 24, Resurrection Life Church celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Pictured here are the original RLC members in 1988, with Pastor Bryan McGrouty and his wife Patty sitting front center. The last 15 years have seen the RLC congregation grow to become an integral part of Upland.

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### New Officers Sworn In

Upland Police Department vacancies were filled when three part-time officers were sworn in by Mayor Bill Dennon on July 10.

**Officer Stephen Mengini**, age 28, grew up in Woodlyn and graduated from Ridley High School in 2008, then from the Delco Police Academy in 2010. Mengini has since worked a year as a Lincoln University campus police officer and six years with the Philadelphia sheriff's office, as well as a previous two-year stint as a part-time Upland cop.

**Officer Lawrence Porter**, 50, is originally from Detroit, MI. He attended Schoolcraft College, where he earned an associate's degree in criminal justice. Porter served the community of Southfield, MI for 24 years, with the last 10 being as a police sergeant.

**Officer Bryan Reeser**, 40, hales from Brooklyn, NY. He attended Kingsboro College for two years, and graduated from the Temple University Police Academy in 2018.

Prior to becoming a police officer, Reeser worked as a U.S. park ranger for three years and as a federal officer with the Department of Defense for four years. His most recent position was serving as a police officer for the Chester Housing Authority.

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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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### Oronzio Scholarship Awarded

To honor the March 2017 passing of Upland native David Oronzio, his father George has established a scholarship fund for students pursuing careers in fire, police, or EMS work. The Dave Oronzio First Responders Foundation is aiming to hand out a \$500 scholarship to a deserving student each year.

The first scholarship award was presented in early August, with George Oronzio handing over a check facsimile to Middletown Fire Company President John Toal. The scholarship will ultimately go to a volunteer member of Middletown Station 50, with whom Dave Oronzio ran for 15 years.

To learn more, or to make a donation in support of next year's scholarship award, go to [www.daveoronzio.com](http://www.daveoronzio.com).

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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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### 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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### Sewer Lateral Blockage Becomes Cautionary Tale

Borough Engineer Dan Archdeacon's report on recent Catania Engineering activities at the July 10 Borough Council meeting included a plumbing incident that could happen in any family home.

When a sewer lateral blockage was reported at a Ninth Street address, Catania Engineering oversaw the inspection and removal of the blockage, which turned out to be an entire container of sanitary wipes that had been flushed down the toilet, presumably by a child.

Archdeacon suggested that the emergency removal of the accidental blockage was a costly reminder of the value of keeping easily-flushable items away from children in the bathroom.

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