



The Caleb Pusey House

# The Uplander



MacQueen Hall

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



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## National Night Out Draws Crowd



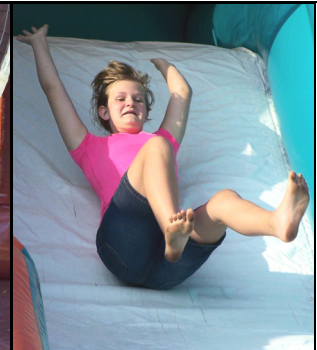
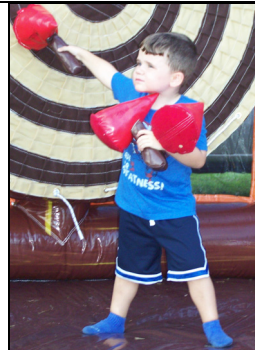
Uniforms of many styles, colors, and sizes were prevalent at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual National Night Out event, held at Bristol Lord Field on Aug. 6 and hosted by the Upland PD.



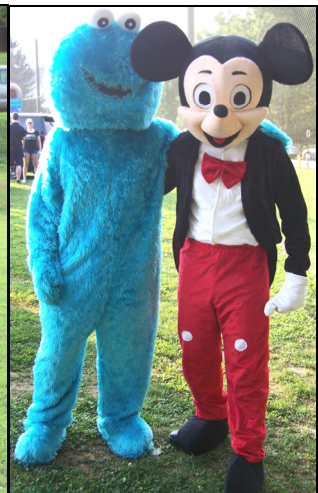
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In addition to free hot dogs, the attractions included a medical evac helicopter landing and carnival games...



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...But the biggest surprises of the day were some very special guests, who stopped by to greet their fans.

## **Boro Website Upgrade Pending**

Council Vice President Moira Crawford, who also serves as the webmaster for the borough's Internet website, is hoping that an overhaul of the website's design will be completed by year's end.

The borough's current website, which is visited by scores of Uplanders every month, was built with a framework provided by the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs. According to Crawford, "a better set-up" is offered by Civic CMS, so Upland Borough will be hiring the private web development firm to upgrade our website.

Crawford noted that the web designs offered by Civic CMS are less time-consuming to update and connect easily to other social media platforms. Civic CMS will also provide user training for borough personnel.

Civic CMS will charge the borough a one-time fee of \$7,500 for updating the website, then a \$2,000 annual maintenance fee for each year of the three-year contract. The fees will be paid in three annual installments of \$4,500.

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## **Sinkhole Threat Worries Council**

Borough Councilman Lee Hunter recently asked his fellow Council members a question to which there seems to be no answer: When is PennDOT going to address the threat of sinkholes along Upland Avenue, between West 24<sup>th</sup> Street and Kerlin Street?

A persistent sinkhole at the intersection of W. 24<sup>th</sup> Street and Upland Avenue has been repeatedly patched and filled in recent years, but the root cause of the problem has never been fully investigated. According to Hunter, subterranean streams have undermined several places along that section of Upland Avenue, making a street collapse or another sinkhole a distinct possibility.

Council President Christine Peterson agreed with Hunter's concerns, but noted that PennDOT has been repeatedly told about the sinkhole threat on state-owned Upland Avenue, even though no remedial action is ever taken.

A frustrated Hunter even asked if the borough could declare the roadway unsafe and block off all traffic, forcing PennDOT into a response. Peterson acknowledged that blocking traffic might work, but lamented that the borough's police can only block off a state road in the event of an actual emergency, not as a precaution.

*"You sure would make a lot of enemies,"* Councilman Dick McClintock said of the notion of Borough Council deciding to block off heavily-traveled Upland Avenue as a safety precaution.

*"So we just have to wait for the street to collapse?"* an exasperated Hunter asked.

Sadly, the answer to that question is: Yes.

## **Caramanico Expansion OK'd**

Borough Council recently followed the recommendation of the Planning Commission in approving a major renovation project for the Race Street location of C. Caramanico & Sons.

Italian immigrant Carmine Caramanico established his family landscaping business in 1946 in Philadelphia. Over three generations, the business has expanded their property maintenance services, and grown to include over 100 employees at four locations.

Caramanico's main office moved from Springfield to their current 3-acre site at #6 Race Street in Upland in 1999. The plan to expand the main office site is technically a reverse subdivision, which will see the incorporation of the lot at #4 Race Street.

Under the approved development plan, the vacant building at #4 Race Street will be renovated for use as office space, while other upgrades to the Caramanico complex will include additional parking and paving.

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## **Roof Leak Needs Attention**

The shingles on the roof of MacQueen Hall are only about a dozen years old, so it was not surprising that a recent inspection found that the deterioration of the chimney is the primary source of a roof leak that has led to water damage on the ground floor of borough hall.

According to Borough Engineer Dan Archdeacon, some repointing of the chimney bricks will be necessary, and the chimney flashing will need to be replaced.

Since MacQueen Hall is over 100 years old, a hazardous materials inspection should be conducted to check for the presence of asbestos and/or lead paint, prior to any repairs being made, Archdeacon advised.

The borough engineer will be seeking quotes from an array of contractors, as this renovation project will ultimately require the expertise of both roofers and masons.

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## **Boro Renews Winter PennDOT Pact**

Upland Borough has renewed a five-year Winter Traffic Service Agreement with PennDOT.

Under the agreement, the borough will continue to plow and salt the four state-owned roadways that run through Upland during snow/ice events through the winter of 2023/2024. PennDOT will reimburse the borough in the amount of \$5,700 per year, as payment for helping to keep state highways safe.

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**Please clean up all grass clippings  
from the street.**

**It is the law, whether you mow your own lawn  
or pay a contractor.**

**Noncompliance can lead to citations and fines.**



### **UPD Bike Patrols Delayed**

The bicycle patrols that the Upland Police Department has made in recent summers will not get started until early autumn this year, due to a temporary shortage of part-time police officers. According to Police Chief Mike Irey, UPD bike patrols will resume in September or October, after some additional personnel are hired.

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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 July 2019, Upland officers issued 90 citations. The year-to-date total for citations issued is 1,120.

A total of 118 parking tickets were also written in July, bringing the 2019 total up to 648.

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

A total of 87 vehicles have been towed in 2019.

The UPD answered a total of 445 calls in July, in addition to making 45 assists to other local agencies. As of the end of July, the total call volume for this year is 2,726 calls.

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### **Chief Goes To School**

Upland Police Chief Mike Irey will be joining other police chiefs when he attends the Northwestern Command School this fall. Upland Borough will pay \$4,100 for Irey to attend classes part-time at the Bucks County Training Center from October thru February, two weeks on, then two weeks off.

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### **Seniors Seeking Seniors**

The Upland Senior Citizens Club meets at MacQueen Hall every Monday, from 9am to 3pm. The group convenes weekly for cards, games and good conversation; for day trips and holiday events; and for special lunch and dinner events.

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

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).

### **VBS Nights**

6 to 7pm on Mondays, Sept. 9, 16, 23 and 30  
at Upland Baptist Church

Attendees enjoy dinner at 6:00pm, then a Bible lesson  
and creative activity from 6:30 to 7:00pm

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### **Borough Council Meetings**

6pm caucus; 7pm regular voting session  
Tuesdays, Sept. 10, Oct. 8, and Nov. 12  
on ground floor of MacQueen Hall

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### **Annual Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser**

4 to 7pm on Saturday, Sept. 14  
at MacQueen Hall

Take-out available

Tickets: Adult-\$12; Senior-\$10; Children under 10-\$8

Tickets available at boro office

All proceeds benefit Community Affairs Committee

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### **Blessing of the Animals**

2:00pm on Sunday, Sept. 29  
at Upland Baptist Church

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### **Designer Handbag BINGO**

6 to 11pm on Saturday, Oct. 19  
at MacQueen Hall

Bring your own food and beverages

Raffle baskets and 50/50 drawings

Tickets \$30 in advance or \$35 at the door

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### **Annual Youth Halloween Party**

4 to 6pm on Saturday, Oct. 26  
at MacQueen Hall

Food & beverages served; Prizes for best costumes

For borough residents up to 13 years old

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### **Halloween Trick-or-Treat Hours**

6 to 8pm on Thursday, Oct. 31

Children and handing-out homes should observe  
these hours for the welfare of all residents

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### **Thanksgiving Dinner For Seniors**

6 to 8pm on Saturday, Nov. 9  
at MacQueen Hall

Free turkey dinner for ALL Upland senior citizens

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### **Annual Tree Lighting & Youth Christmas Party**

Starts at 6:00pm on Friday, Nov. 29  
at MacQueen Hall

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### **Main Street Elementary School events:**

Back To School Night – Tuesday, Sept. 17

Hedgerow Theater Assembly – Friday, Sept. 20

School trip to Linvilla Orchards – Thursday &  
Friday, Oct. 10 & 11

## Youth Magic Show Is Just An Illusion



Michael the Magician kept the crowd entertained with his bag of tricks at the Youth Magic Show on Aug. 24...



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...But the main attractions were the Make-Your-Own ice cream sundaes (above) and slices of pizza (below), served up by Community Affairs Committee Leaders Council VP Moira Crawford (left) and Councilwoman Julie Kerns.



Engraved bricks (two sizes) can be ordered through the borough office until the end of the year, with construction of a Memorial Wall and Walkway slated for next spring.

## Order Your Memorial Bricks Now

The creation of a Memorial Wall and Walkway on the upper end of the recently renovated Hill Street playground is now officially underway. Councilwoman Julie Kerns noted that this public improvement project is not a fundraiser, but a cooperative community effort to create an attractive memorial garden.

The Memorial Wall will be made of red bricks donated 'In Memory Of' lost loved ones, including veterans, family members or friends, and will stand between two pillars. The adjacent walkway will be built with engraved bricks donated 'In Honor Of' a special person. The wall and walkway will be enhanced with benches and landscaping, including flowers and shrubs.

Engraved bricks for this project are now being sold to raise funds for construction. The labor to build the wall and walkway next year will be donated, so the only expense will be for construction materials.

The engraved pavers come in two sizes. A standard 4 x 8-inch brick costs \$60, and can accommodate up to four lines of print, with each line having up to 21 spaces (a space can be a letter, number or blank). Large 8 x 8-inch bricks cost \$90 each, offering up to six lines of print, with 21 spaces to each line.

The exact message that you want engraved on your brick(s) is part of the brick order form, so you will want to practice spelling out your message, to make sure that everything will fit in the available space when you stop by the borough office during regular business hours.

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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)



## Fourth of July Sizzles In Upland



The cool and refreshing Slip-n-Slide was by far the most popular attraction at this year's Annual Fourth of July Family Picnic in Upland Park, where the adults generally hung out under the shade trees near the pavilion to beat the heat. Community Affairs Committee Co-Chair Moira Crawford has already announced that next year's July 4<sup>th</sup> festivities will feature multiple water slides, in lieu of the inflatable moon bounce and obstacle course that are not as 'cool'.



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On a hot day, it's important to stay hydrated. Big Var's water ices were a popular solution, with some folks enjoying multiple flavors, while others preferred bottled water.



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Despite the warm weather, Upland families turned out in record numbers to enjoy the borough-sponsored event.



Above: The expression on this little girl's face as she navigates the obstacle course is the definition of having fun.  
Below: Upland's Annual Fourth of July Family Picnic has always been a multi-generational affair.



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### New Public Park Coming Soon

The creation of a new public park on Eighth Street (at the intersection of Hill Street and Upland Avenue) began with the demolition of three corner buildings last year, and is scheduled to be completed by year end.

Borough Council recently awarded a contract in the amount of \$288,282 to low-bidder Premiere Concrete for sidewalk and walkway construction, which is slated to get underway this summer.

## Splash Park Discussed

An idea that probably got a boost from the popularity of the water slide at the Fourth of July Family Picnic is the creation of a splash park in Upland Borough.

Borough Council had been considering converting a borough-owned property on Front Street or Second Street into a public water park, but the available lots were simply too small to accommodate such a project. Another notion that is now being discussed is for the borough to either purchase or lease the western third of the Upland Baptist Church parking lot to utilize for a splash park.

The proposed facility would not include a pool, but a series of sprinklers and fountains that would offer pedestrians a refreshingly wet dousing on a hot and humid day. Water depth would not exceed 1.5 inches, so accidental drowning wouldn't be possible. A tentative goal for discussions between the church and the borough would be to have a splash park ready for use next summer, if possible.

Several important details and some legal technicalities would have to be worked out first, including whether chaperones should be stationed at the water park for child safety, and whether fencing would be needed for nighttime security.

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## Council OKs Fixing Front-end Loader

The borough manager will be seeking three quotes for engine repairs to the Highway Department's front-end loader – a piece of equipment that is heavily used during every season of the year.

Preliminary research found that it would cost \$95,000 to replace the front-end loader with a new one, and at least \$25,000 for another used model.

In an attempt to minimize the unbudgeted expenditure, it is hoped that engine replacement can return the borough's current front-end loader to service at a cost of no more than \$18,000.

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## Make 11<sup>th</sup> St. Extension One Way?

No final decision has yet been made, but Borough Council is weighing a number of possible actions that would restrict large truck traffic on the 11th Street extension, which connects Mulberry Street to Hill Street.

One potential solution being discussed is making the one-block-long extension a one-way street, allowing access from Mulberry, but not Hill Street. This would stop the tractor trailers that service the Upland Shopping Center from using the 11<sup>th</sup> Street extension as an exit road.

Council has also discussed the possibility of installing roadway barriers and/or electronic gates to restrict traffic on the 11<sup>th</sup> Street extension.

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## More Part-timers Join UPD



The newest members of the Upland Police Department were sworn in on June 25, including (left to right) Officers Kyle Cassidy, Mark MacKrell, and Jonathan Keeney.

**Officer Kyle Cassidy**, age 20, grew up in Secane. He graduated from Ridley High School in 2017, and from the Delco Police Academy in June 2019. Cassidy's part-time posting in Upland is his first law enforcement position, but he has served three years in the US Army Reserves.

Kyle's father, Joe Czachorowski, proudly held the Bible while his son took the service oath.

**Officer Mark MacKrell**, 46, is originally from Brookhaven. He is actually being rehired by the UPD, having already served two years (2015-2016) of part-time duty.

MacKrell has also worked part-time at the Milbourn Police Barracks since 2015.

Mark's son, Logan, held the Bible while his dad was sworn.

**Officer Jonathan Keeney**, 20, is a Prospect Park native. He graduated from Interboro High School in 2017 and from the Delco Police Academy in June 2019. Keeney's Upland posting is his first law enforcement job.

Jonathan's girlfriend, Estelle Fields, held the Bible while he was sworn in by Mayor Dennon.

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Two more UPD part-time officers were sworn in on July 9, including Officers Kyle Youssi and Erin Scott.

**Officer Kyle Youssi**, age 23, grew up in Oxford, PA. He graduated from Oxford Area High School in 2014; from West Chester University (with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice) in 2018; and from the Delco Police Academy in June 2019.

**Officer Erin Scott**, 20, is also taking on her first paid position as an officer of the law. The Glenolden native graduated from Cardinal O'Hara High School in 2017, and she graduated from the Delco Police Academy in June 2018.

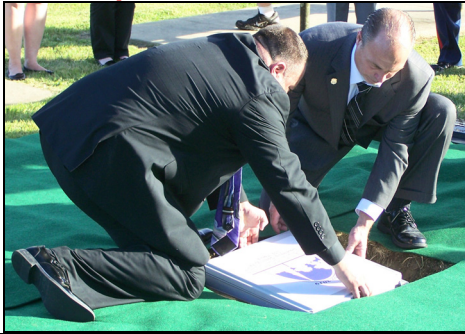
Scott also spent three months serving an internship at the West Chester Borough Police Department.



After the oath of public service was administered, the new hires were flanked by UPD Lieutenant Mick Curran (far left) and Chief Mike Irely.



## Upland Enjoys Sesquicentennial Events



The four-day celebration of Upland Borough's official 150<sup>th</sup> 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 Dennon lower the locked and sealed capsule into the ground.



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.



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.



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.



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The church-sponsored 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

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## Sesquicentennial Home Decorating Winners Named

The three winners of the Sesquicentennial Home Decorating Contest were announced at Council's June 25 meeting. The theme was patriotic, with the judging being done by Borough Council members.

**1<sup>st</sup> place – 25 Church Street (\$100)**

**2<sup>nd</sup> place – 208 Ninth Street (\$50)**

**3<sup>rd</sup> place – 23 Church Street (\$25)**

Congratulations to the winners, and thank you to all those residents who showed their American colors.

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## Kerlin St. Lighting Approved

Borough Council has authorized the purchase and installation of four solar-powered LED light bollards to illuminate the new bench area on the north side of Kerlin Street, at the Upland Avenue intersection. The expenditure of \$7,700 was approved for the 3-foot-high light fixtures, which will be installed and energized soon.

### **Contract Awarded For Road Program**

The 2019 Road Program contract has been awarded to hometown contractor A. F. Damon, Inc., the lone bidder for a joint contract between Upland and Parkside Boroughs.

The two neighboring boroughs pooled their repaving needs in an effort to get a better overall price. The joint contract's financial split breaks down to Upland paying \$149,417, while Parkside covers \$58,797 of the total amount of \$208,214.

The Upland roadways slated for fresh asphalt this year include: Race Street (2 blocks), Main Street (near Upland Baptist Church), Kent Lane (entire length), Sixth Street (Main St. to Church St.), Church Street (Sixth St. to Tenth St.), and Eleventh Street (Main St. to boro line).

As of the Aug. 27 Council meeting, this year's repaving work is projected to be done in October.

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### **Council Weighs Soccer Dome Proposal**

A private investor has floated a plan to purchase the 13-acre W. 24<sup>th</sup> Street estate of the late Sen. Clarence Bell from Widener University, with the intent of erecting a quasi-indoor soccer stadium on Reese Center grounds, adjacent to the existing outdoor soccer field.

The proposed inflatable soccer dome would cost an estimated \$6 million to construct, housing a 30,000 to 35,000-sq. ft. turf field underneath. Upland Borough would incur no expenses for the project.

The borough would, however, enjoy the benefits of several proposed upgrades to the 5-acre Reese Center property, including increased parking and improvements to the gymnasium on site. The borough would also be able to generate revenue by renting out the site for any number of sporting or public events.

The soccer season would run from November through March (Monday-Friday, 5pm to 10pm; Weekends, 8am to 8pm) but the dome would also be used for various purposes (such as practices and team gatherings) during the non-peak months.

Borough Council is now considering the project, following submission of a formal written proposal.

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### **2019 CDBG Earmarked For Restrooms**

Upland Borough has received a 2019 Community Development Block Grant from Delaware County Council in the amount of \$33,500, which will be applied to the construction of public restroom facilities at Upland Park.

Borough Council President Christine Peterson noted that, now that sufficient funding is in place, Borough Council will have to decide exactly where the permanent restroom facility will be located.

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### **Boro Receives Insurance Payout**

At the June 25 Borough Council session, the borough received a check from Zurich American Insurance Company in the amount of \$180,353.25 as compensation for losses. The insurance payout settles the lawsuit of Upland Borough v. Ed Mitchell.

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### **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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### **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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### **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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