

UNIVERSITY PARK NEWSLETTER

TOWN OF UNIVERSITY PARK, MARYLAND

DECEMBER 2020

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

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MAYOR'S COLUMN

Resident reminder: When you need a police response, please call the County public safety communications number to dispatch the University Park Police Department most quickly.

When seconds matter and you *urgently* need police, fire or emergency medical services, call 911 and describe the emergency situation. County emergency dispatchers are well trained and 911 will bring the fastest response. While help is en route, provide your location, name, phone number and a description of the incident. If you identify yourself as in University Park, a University Park police officer will be dispatched to respond first.

If your matter is *not* urgent but you wish to talk with a University Park police officer, call the County non-emergency line at 301-352-1200 and request a University Park police response. The County will dispatch a UPPD

officer. Do not call the "duty cell phone" as it is no longer in use.

To contact Police Chief Harvey Baker, email him at hbaker@upmd.org ~ that is the best way to reach him. You may also call Chief Baker at 301-277-0051 in his office or his mobile phone at 301-789-8475. Please leave a message.

We are proud that University Park's self-response rate for the 2020 Census is 91.2%, the highest rate of any Maryland municipality and 27th in the entire country. University Park surpassed its 2010 Census response rate of 86.1%. This is quite an accomplishment for our small town. Thank you to all who responded to the 2020 Census. Maryland Planning Secretary Rob McCord and Maryland Municipal League (MML) Executive Director Scott Hancock will present the Town with a Census Challenge

Town Meetings & Special Dates

Town Council December 7 & 21
Town Holidays December 25 & January 1

Town meetings are at 7:30 PM and temporarily conducted by conference call and videoconference. Council agendas are posted at www.upmd.org. Town Hall is currently closed. Please sign up for alerts & visit www.upmd.org for meeting and service information.

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FROM THE MAYOR CONT.

Award during the December 7 virtual Council meeting.

A high census response rate is very important because its data determines councilmanic, state and congressional districts and critical federal funding. Based on census data \$675 billion is allocated to states and communities funding our schools, hospitals, roads, public works and other programs. If our community is undercounted, friends and neighbors miss out on an estimated \$18,250 per person over a 10-year period.

University Park is one of 11 Maryland towns and cities receiving Sustainable Maryland Certified awards from the University of Maryland and Maryland Municipal League (MML) this year. The Town was honored at the virtual MML Fall Conference on October 9. To achieve certification, municipalities are required to form a Green Team comprised of local residents, community leaders, municipal staff and officials and complete a variety of sustainability-related actions. Municipalities must be recertified every three years. University Park first received the certification in 2014, and again in 2017. Thank you to University Park's Sustainability Committee, especially to Roy Alvarez, who led the 2020 recertification effort.

The Town Veterans Memorial is dedicated "to honor all who served" in the U.S. armed services and we have regularly celebrated Veterans Day by gathering there at 11 a.m. each November 11 to recognize our community's veterans. I look forward to it each year as a special small-town observance of Veterans Day. This year, however, that was not to be. Thank you to Ward 1 Town Councilmember Joel Biermann ~ an Iraq war Veteran and Active Reservist ~ for organizing and hosting the first virtual Town Veterans Day. The celebration featured video presentations by the military services' bands and choruses. Thank you to all who participated as well. The entire presentation was recorded on Zoom, and can be viewed from the Town's Veterans page on our website at www.upmd.org/veterans

December this year will be different. During this holiday season, we usually see each other at one or more of the events in Town. My favorites include the UPCA holiday potluck followed by lighting of the Town holiday tree and the annual holiday homes tour organized by the University Park Woman's Club. The potluck isn't possible this year, but the Town's holiday tree will be lit at 6 p.m. on Saturday, December 5 and streamed through

the Town's website. I hope to get out and about, with my mask on, to admire the decorations or consider the possibilities for snow. I hope to see you around the Town, mask on, as well. I wish you the continued comforts of home and community, civility, and peace.

— Len Carey



*Do you agree or disagree? Did I miss something?
Let me know: mayorcarey@upmd.org*

Notice of Introduction of Charter Resolution 20-CR-02

On October 19, 2020, Charter Resolution 20-CR-02 was introduced. This Resolution would amend Article V, "Registration, Nominations and Elections", Section 502, "Supervisors of Elections", Section 503, "Registration", Section 504 "Elections" and Section 506, "Candidates for Office" to change the requirements for public notice of elections, set the date for closure of voter registration at twenty-nine days prior to the election, make provision for when the twenty-nine day deadline for voter registration and filing of candidate petitions falls on a Saturday, Sunday or holiday, and make provision for appeal of the decisions of the Supervisors of Elections and the Mayor and Common Council and the timing therefore, delete outdated references, and make conforming and clerical changes.

The Mayor and Council will hold a public hearing to consider this Resolution for adoption on December 7, 2020, which is at least 21 days after publication of this notice. For more information or a copy of the proposed Charter Resolution, call Town Hall at 301-927-4262.

FROM THE CHIEF

Smartphones have given us new ways to communicate with each other and have made working far more efficient. It seems everyone is preoccupied with their phone these days. Our mobile phones are constantly beeping, buzzing or poking us with the latest news and updates or with messages from family and friends. You have probably seen folks on their mobile phones while driving, crossing busy streets or waiting in line at the grocery store. If people are not chatting on their mobile phones, they're checking text messages or email. In fact, most people over the age of 24 check their phones 47 times a day, while smartphone users between the ages of 18 and 24 check their phones 86 times a day. Most users reach for their mobile phone as soon as they wake up in the morning, during work breaks and before going to bed at night. They chat with family and friends while in rush hour traffic and surf the internet before dinner. The use of mobile phones keeps people preoccupied and distracted for hours. Unfortunately, thieves know this and play on our preoccupation with smartphones by sending suspicious and bogus text messages in the form of spam and/or SMS phishing.

Scammers often use variations of these following tricks to obtain a smartphone user's personal identification information:

- Promise of free prizes, gift cards or coupons.
- Offer of low or no interest credit card.
- Promise to help you pay off or reduce your student loan.
- Text messages saying they have noticed suspicious activity on your account.
- Notifies you that there is an issue with your payment information.
- Send a fake invoice and request that you contact them if you did not authorize the purchase.
- Request the last four digits of your social security number to assist the Social Security Administration in resolving an issue with your account.

The University Park Police encourages residents to follow these basic tips when replying to smartphone text messages:

- Do not take the bait if you receive a text message that

you do not recognize—delete it.

- If you receive a text message requesting information from a creditor or company that you have previously done business with, don't reply to the text message. Call the business and ask about the text message you received.
- Do not click open links in unsolicited text messages. Clicking the link may infect your mobile device with a virus or malware designed to steal personal or financial information stored on the device.
- Do not call a telephone number listed in an unsolicited text message. Scam artists often use email-to-text technology, short codes, or spoofed local numbers to hide their identity.
- Never provide your personal or financial information in response to text messages from unknown senders.
- Never purchase gift cards at the request of an unsolicited text message or for someone you do not know in a phone call.
- Remember if you feel rushed or a sense of urgency to respond to an unsolicited text message, be careful—it is probably a scam. If you suspect an unsolicited text message is a scam, report it to the Federal Communications Commission at 888-225-5322 and/or the Federal Trade Commission at 877-382-4357.

Theft On November 2 and 15 at approximately 1:15 AM, a male riding a bicycle stole a parcel from the front porch of a residence in the 4400 Block Tuckerman St. The video provided by the homeowner was viewed but the subject's face was obstructed. Currently there are no suspects.

Help the University Park Police prevent theft from your vehicle by removing all valuables and locking the doors. Remember—*Keep it safe, Keep it with you!*

Holiday Funds for Town Employees

Please consider contributing to the University Park Holiday Funds for Town employees. These funds offer a way for residents to express their appreciation for the



exemplary work done by the Town's dedicated employees throughout the year. We are very fortunate that much of our staff has been with the Town for more than five years, some for more than 20 years. The winter holi-

days afford a chance for residents to show their appreciation for the continued conscientious service to our community given by these very dedicated Town employees through pandemic and foul or fair weather.

To contribute, checks should be made payable to “Town of University Park” and marked on the memo line of your check for the “Holiday Funds.” You may also indicate whether your contribution is intended for Public Works, Police Department and/or for General Administrative Staff and the respective amount you wish to donate to each. Checks for the 2020 Holiday Funds should be mailed or delivered to Town Hall (place in the mail slot on the front door as Town Hall is closed) by Monday, December 28, 2020.

Sustainability Committee News

December is a time to look back over the year past. It’s tempting to make an exception of 2020. But there are things to note and celebrate in this corner of the town’s activities. Last February, the food waste composting program went from pilot to permanent, expanding in terms of the number of households participating and the kinds of food waste that can be composted. Christophe Beaumier, a graduate student in UMD’s School of Public Policy, persevered through the spring’s shutdown to produce a background report on the town park, step one toward a foundation for a much-needed long-range plan for the park. The Adelphi Road meadow restoration project flowered both figuratively and literally.



Last month you read here about UP’s recertification as a Sustainable Maryland community. It’s the third time the town has gained that certification, which speaks to residents’ and government’s durable commitment to making an environmentally, economically and socially sustainable community. That commitment manifests itself in ways large and small. Small: Up to six EV charging stations are now in the works for the parking area along Queen’s Chapel Road across from the school, with funding primarily coming from the Electric Vehicle Institute. Large: A draft climate action framework for town government to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase climate change resilience, which the sustainability committee sent to council for its consideration last month. We’ll put 2020 in the rearview mirror with few regrets. If we look to a new year with high hopes it will be in part because of what we’ve done to prepare for it. Here’s to 2021.



Helping Hands University Park

Helping Hands University Park

So much has transpired during the past month! We now find ourselves facing the upcoming holidays and a new year. We hope that 2021 will let us return to offering in-person gatherings as well as driving our members to appointments. For the time being, all of our offerings are online and via phone calls, or distant outdoor visits (weather permitting).

Do you miss playing games with friends? Are you a chess player? Check out chess.com to play online. Find a host of free card games at cardzmania.com. Do you wish you could play games with the grandkids, nieces and nephews you can’t visit? Join app.houseparty.com to be able to play games in a video chat space. And when you’re alone: thejigsawpuzzles.com and sudoku.com. Keep in mind: Don’t share passwords or personal information with anyone online. Create a username that is not your real name.



Will you be home alone on Christmas and New Year’s? Would you like to have a Zoom room available to be able to visit with our HHUP members and volunteers? Alternatively, would you like to learn how to set up a Zoom room with your friends and/or family? We’re glad to teach you how to do this! Call 301-892-6636 or send an email to HHUniversityPark@gmail.com As always, check our Facebook page (HelpingHandsUniversityPark) and website (helpinghandsup.org) regularly to see our updated calendar, which may include non-HHUP programs of interest. Last but definitely not least, HHUP has a new logo. We’re excited about it and feel it beautifully reflects who we are!

TOWN NEWS

Winter Holiday Virtual Lunch Club, Wednesday, December 16, 12-1 PM RSVP to 301-892-6636 or HHU-niversityPark@gmail.com.

The Aging Drama, Saturday, January 30, 2-3:30 PM
Elder law attorney and UP resident Julie Schejbal will provide a legal and practical guide to reduce the drama of aging. It can be difficult to have the conversation with family members regarding aging, illness and death. In what situations would an elder want to be given CPR? Who will speak for you if you cannot? Where is this documented? Where are other important papers kept? What about passwords? What kind of funeral do you want? Via Zoom. Those without computers will be able to call in to hear the presentation. The January Newsletter will have registration information.

Tree Committee News



The bare bones of trees are fascinating to behold and lend a deeper respect for their inherent structural engineering. The limbs are bare but the life within is evident by their still supple response to winter's harshest gales. These displays provide the same confidence experienced when sheltering from the wind in a snug building. Such demonstrations of suppleness give us hope and help us hold on until spring. It's akin to seeing the flush in your beloved's cheeks. With the end of December approaching, we will all have many opportunities to enjoy various festivals of light throughout the region. Take a moment to look beyond the lights and concentrate on the intricacies of the scaffolding that supports thousands of twinkling bulbs.

The Committee on Trees, Parks and Environment continued our monthly meetings via Zoom. Despite the global pandemic, volunteers participated in transforming the vacant lot between Sheridan St. and East West Highway by planting 30 native shrubs and 8 native trees, with the removal of ivy from town trees in six locations and by providing input to our draft proposed Legacy Tree Program. Approximately 112 person hours were spent on these activities. Thank you to all who contributed their time during the pandemic. May the winter be kind to all living beings.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

October 5 Council Meeting Highlights

Present (via video and audio conference) were: Mayor Carey; Councilmembers (CM) Biermann, Schultz, Morrissey, Verrill, Caskey, Wells, Stephen.

Consent Agenda

Motion: To approve the following consent agenda items. Motion approved 7 to 0.

To install a 90' section of 4' fence along the rear property line at 6804 Pineway.

To replace two sections of 4' fence including a gate, to remove existing shed and install a new 7'x 7' shed in the rear yard at 6704 40th Avenue.

To install a 4' fence at 4206 College Heights Drive.

Public Comment

- In reference to the introduction of the ordinance to change the permitted fence height from 4' to 6', this resident opposed the proposed amendment. The resident is concerned with what the town might look like in 20 years if $\frac{3}{4}$ of the yards have 6' fences. It would be less of a community and more of isolated individuals. The resident suggested that any fence higher than 4' would not allow visibility through the fence.
- A resident and member of the Greater Riverdale and Route 1 Community Cares Group hopes that Mayor Carey gives an update on the possibility of University Park making a donation to this very important project.
- A resident asked for an update on the \$400,000 received from Riverdale Park Station several years ago for upstream control projects. With the recent 1,000-year storm, this resident recommends looking into expanding the capacity of Nine Pond. There is a rumor that the Army Reserve Center on Route 1 may be redeveloped. This resident said that it would be appropriate to have a portion of that land set aside just for stormwater management beyond what is required.
- A resident who is in favor of allowing 6' fences suggested that the Council consider an addition to the ordinance by requesting that the fence be of uniform materials.
- A resident expressed their support in allowing 6' fences and she said that University Park should be consistent with Prince George's County's 6' requirement.

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Mayor's Report

- Mayor Carey answered the question from Public Comment regarding the money received from Riverdale Park Station in lieu of stormwater vaults. He understood the amount received was \$450,000 from the Cafritz Foundation to go towards the 9-Pond. Because the feasibility study was studied through the Prince George's Plaza Transit District Development Planning process, he expects the money is still available to help pay for construction.
- Town Clerk Andrea Marcavitch was thanked for designing a new page on the Town website—upmd.org/Veterans—recognizing University Park veterans.
- The Civic Association is currently working on the details for the upcoming Veterans Day event
- The Prince George's County Zoning Map Amendment is close to completion.
- Mayor Carey and twenty-two Prince George's County Mayors will drop their ballots together on October 10 in a ballot drop box at the Board of Elections in an effort to encourage everyone to vote. A reminder for those who plan to mail their ballots should do so early or bring their ballot to a designated drop-off location.

Committee Reports and Council Comments

Sustainability Committee The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 7.

Policy, Rules and Municipal Structure Committee The Committee met on Thursday, October 1 and the minutes will be available soon.

Development Overview Committee The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 8. Discussion will include zoning.

New Business

Motion: To introduce Legislative Resolution 20-O-9 to amend chapter 4 by repealing and reenacting §4-102 "Definitions" and § 4-110, "Limitations on Fences" of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of University Park, to allow fences six (6) feet in height in side and rear yards, with some exceptions, to clarify certain definitions, and to make clarifying and conforming changes. Motion approved 7 to 0. *The earliest date this motion may be considered for passage is November 2, 2020.*

Motion: To introduce Legislative Resolution 20-O-10 to amend Chapter 9 by repealing and reenacting §9-104 "Parking" of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of University Park, to establish additional no parking

zones on Tennyson Road, and limited duration no parking zones to coincide with leaf collection season on 40th and 41st Avenues and Tennyson Road. Motion approved 7 to 0. *The earliest date this motion may be considered for passage is November 2, 2020.*

Town Actions on Flooding Concerns

Town Administrator David Deutsch summarized Town actions on flooding and discussed with Council.

- A memo dated October 2 from Mr. Deutsch provided an overview of the September 10 rainstorm and was distributed in the Council meeting packet.
- The residents that experienced damage due to the storm should be following up with their insurance companies as well as filing reports with Prince George's County. The County is aggregating with the Maryland Emergency Management Agency to see if the region satisfies the requirements for a federal disaster declaration.
- A company was recently hired to see if there was any clogging in the pipes that may have contributed to the severity of the flooding and they found only one small clog, nothing significant.
- The Town is currently researching the possibility of the County taking responsibility of maintenance of three different stormwater management locations within University Park.
- A Councilmember said to prevent future flooding on Clagett-Pineway, it is in the Town's interest to investigate the possibility of tapping into the upcoming Calvert Hills Drainage Project involving Guilford Run, which is expected to begin in 2022. He urges support from his fellow Councilmembers to investigate this option. Mayor Carey believes that fixing Guilford Run through the Calvert Hills project will also improve what happens along Clagett-Pineway in University Park.

Queens Chapel Road Infrastructure Briefing

Public Works Director Mickey Beall gave an update.

- The final design for Queens Chapel Road is complete and the project is ready to proceed with contracts in place for inspection and project management.
- The project will begin in October.
- Mr. Beall responded to a question by saying that all of the asphalt aprons will be replaced with concrete and he believes that the concrete aprons will also be replaced.
- Mayor Carey responded to a question that the sidewalk in the 6500 block on the west side of Queens Chapel Road will remain in place.

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▪CM Schultz said that the plan is to install several electric vehicle chargers in the parallel parking across from the school. The cost of this will be paid by the Electrical Vehicle Institute.

Town Administrator's Report

The Town Treasurer remains in frequent contact with the County regarding the Cares Act Funding.

The meeting adjourned by consent at 9:02 PM.

October 19 Council Meeting Highlights

Present (via video and audio conference) were Mayor Carey; Councilmembers (CM) Biermann, Schultz, Morrissey, Verrill, Caskey, Wells, Stephen.

Consent Agenda

Motion: To approve the following consent agenda items. Motion approved 7 to 0.

To repair, replace and extend driveway to total 34'x 15.5' at 4200 Underwood Street.

To upgrade two basement windows from 32"x 28" to 32"x 46" in size at 3903 Underwood Street.

To install a bio retention rain garden system with the capacity to retain 100 gallons of water to address water issues around the garage foundation at 7001 Forest Hill Drive. The Town Engineer has reviewed, and application reflects recommendations.

To install a 20'x 15' deck with steps at 4103 Woodberry Street.

Public Comment

A resident expressed concern about the current condition of the Veterans Memorial site with overgrown plants and weeds.

Mayor's Report

▪Due to COVID-19, trick-or-treating in University Park is not recommended.

▪Mayor Carey supports the Town contributing to those in need due to COVID-19, but only if the funds are a pass-through of federal funds received through the CARES Act. He encourages residents to support the Route One Communities Care group, as it makes more fiscal sense that contributions to charitable causes be tax-deductible.

Committee Reports and Council Comments

Development Overview Committee The next meetings are scheduled for Thursday, October 29 (Ad Hoc) and Thursday, November 12 at 7:30 PM. The proposed County Zoning Ordinance (zoningpgc.pgplanning.com) was discussed at the October 8 meeting. A tool can be found on the County website that compares the current and proposed zoning ordinance. Discussion included proposed zoning for the Town park, height limit and transit-oriented high-density zoning at the PG Plaza area.

Public Facilities and Services Committee Discussion at the October 15 meeting included the change in requirements for Town Hall due to the public health crisis and the future for the Public Works garage and mechanic space.

Sustainability Committee

▪Discussion at the October 7 meeting included incorporating climate change consideration into Town decision making and two projects with the University of Maryland students—putting the municipal carbon footprint online and the tree canopy.

▪University Park recently received recertification from Sustainable Maryland. A special thanks was given to resident and former Councilmember Roy Alvarez for leading the recertification effort for the Town.

Trees, Parks and Environment Committee A community tree planting took place on Saturday, October 17 at Henson Green, where volunteers for the Committee planted 8 trees and 28 shrubs. Site preparation and hole digging was done in advance by Public Works crews.

Police, Traffic and Public Safety Committee The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 21.

CM Stephen—Ward 7 CM Stephen reported that the sink hole and bridge have been repaired after the recent flooding on the Eastern Branch of the Anacostia Trail. He also noted that there has been very extensive and impressive tree planting in that area.

New Business

Motion: To approve the introduction of Charter Resolution 20-CR-02 to repeal and re-enact Article V, "Registration, Nominations and Elections", Section 502, "Supervisors of Elections", Section 503, "Registration", Section 504 "Elections" and Sec

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tion 506, "Candidates for Office" to change the requirements for public notice of elections, set the date for closure of voter registration at twenty-nine days prior to the election, make provision for when the twenty-nine day deadline for voter registration and filing of candidate petitions falls on a Saturday, Sunday or holiday, make provision for appeal of the decisions of the Supervisors of Elections and the Mayor and Common Council and the timing therefore, delete outdated references, and make conforming and clerical changes. Motion approved 7 to 0. The earliest date this motion may be considered for passage is December 7, 2020.

Motion: To introduce Legislative Resolution 20-O-11 to recodify the Town of University Park Code of Ordinances with no substantive changes, and to include grammatical changes, correct code references and other minor non-substantive changes, and renumbering of chapters, articles and sections with internal references and cross-references. Motion approved 7 to 0. The earliest date this motion may be considered for passage is November 2, 2020.

Motion: To approve a \$10,000 donation to Route One Communities Care (ROCC) to address food insecurity among Route One communities using funds from the Federally funded CARES Act. Motion approved 7 to 0.

Administrator and Department Reports

Town Administrator David Deutsch

- The staff is currently working to update the Town Code and will present any suggested edits to the Town Attorney for review and consideration.
- On October 20, Mr. Deutsch, Mayor Carey and the Town Attorney are scheduled to speak with County Councilmember Dannielle Glaros and County staff to discuss the Gilbert Run/Calvert Hills Project and some other County pending matters.

Town Attorney Suellen Ferguson Currently engaging with Comcast to try and complete the franchise agreement by the end of the year.

Town Clerk Andrea Marcavitch

- In the month of October, 7 building permits were issued. There were no Vendor permits or Pod/Dumpster permits issued.
- The minutes from the September Transit Task Force meeting have been posted on the Town website. The

Transit Task Force meets on the second Tuesday of every month at 7:30 PM.

Chief of Police Harvey Baker

- Crime Report from September 29-October 19: Two incidents were reported in wards 2 and 3.
- Training: October 21-22—Strategic Communication for Effective Conflict Resolution. Online Portal with Police One Training Academy.
- Community Events: October 24—10 AM-2 PM, DEA National Prescription Drug Take Back Day at Town Hall. October 27—8:30-10 AM, Coffee with the Chiefs at Bear Square in Riverdale Park Station.
- Five candidates were interviewed for the police officer vacancy.

Town Treasurer Dan Baden The September 2020 Treasurer's Report was distributed.

The meeting adjourned by consent at 8:27 PM.

November 2 Council Meeting Highlights

Present (via video and audio conference) were Mayor Carey; Councilmembers (CM) Biermann (arrived at 7:34 PM), Schultz, Morrissey, Verrill, Caskey, Wells, Stephen.

Approval of The Agenda

As amended—one change was made to the agenda to move agenda item 9A before agenda item 4. Approved 6 to 0 (Stephen abstains). *Note:* In reference to the item related to the fence ordinance (20-O-09) that is not on this agenda, a Councilmember said that this agenda item has been considered for months by the Policy, Rules and Municipal Structure Committee and has been on the Council meeting agenda twice for the Town and the Councilmember is not satisfied by the intervention and keeping it off the agenda until December 7.

Consent Agenda

Motion: To approve the following consent agenda items. Motion approved 7 to 0.

To repair 15.6'x 8.5' front landing area and 2 steps at 6706 40th Avenue.

To install a 12' octagon gazebo at 4413 Van Buren Street.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

To enclose 17.6'x 9' porch; replace front walkway; repair and replace landing and steps; and to remove 913 square feet of driveway 4317 Woodberry Street.

Public Comment

- A resident expected the topic of the fence height to be on the agenda tonight. This resident submitted a statement to the Town Clerk and plans to read it at the December 7 meeting and does support the proposed change to allow 6' fences.
- A resident supports the proposal allowing 6' fences. The current review and approval process for a 6' fence variance is subjective and unfair.

Mayor's Report

Currently working on an Executive Order which will establish continued COVID precautions at Town Hall. COVID testing will be available for staff and masks will be required in the building. Halloween was quiet with very few trick-or-treaters.

Committee Reports and Council Comments

Policy, Rules and Municipal Structure Committee Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 5 at 7 PM.

CM Biermann—Ward 1 A Veteran's Day observance will take place on Wednesday, November 11 at 11 AM. This event will be publicized on the Town website. If any veterans in town want to participate in this event they should email CM Biermann at jbiermann@upmd.org.

Continuing Business

Motion: To adopt Legislative Resolution 20-O-10 to amend Chapter 9 by repealing and reenacting §9-104 "Parking" of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of University Park, to establish additional no parking zones on Tennyson Road, and limited duration no parking zones to coincide with leaf collection season on 40th and 41st Avenues and Tennyson Road. Motion approved 7 to 0. Note: On page 2, of the proposed Ordinance it reads, ...at 4011 Tennyson to a distance of 32' east toward 41st Avenue...amend to read 29' east.

Motion: To adopt Legislative Resolution 20-O-11 to recodify the Town of University Park Code of Ordinances with no substantive changes, and to include grammatical changes, correct code references and other minor non-substantive changes, and renumbering of chapters, articles and sections with internal references and cross-references. Motion approved 7 to 0.

New Business

Motion: To adopt Resolution 2020-R-07, proclaiming gratitude to resident Lidia Baker for service to our community helping serve those with food insecurity issues during the COVID-19 pandemic. Motion approved 7 to 0.

Motion: On recommendation of the Development Overview Committee, to authorize the Mayor and Town Attorney to send a letter to District Council requesting a change of the proposed zone designation of the Town Park from Ag-Res to Reserved Open Space and to authorize the Mayor and Town Attorney to provide testimony at the November 19 public hearing expressing the position of the Town. Motion approved 6 to 0 (Wells abstains).

Town Administrator's Report

- The report from the auditor will be presented at the November 16 Council meeting via Zoom.
- Voting information can be found on the Town website.
- Working with Prince George's County to develop a memorandum of understanding to be able to fuel up Town vehicles at County fueling stations. This could result in a 20-25% savings.
- Mr. Deutsch recently sent a memo to Council regarding a Maryland law that went into effect on October 1 that eliminates the fees a County would typically charge for changing property deeds to remove restrictive covenants. He said that several months ago a discussion came up regarding racial justice and there was mention of restrictive covenants and there may be someone who would want to pursue this and take action. If additional information is needed he suggested contacting the Town attorney. CM Verrill said there is a group in Town called the UP Racial Justice Group who could be contacted for information and advice.

The meeting adjourned by consent at 8:19 PM.



Is Your Pet in the Pet Database?

Visit uphelpingpaws.home.blog.
To update your pet family info,
ask questions or join our group,
email UPHelpingPaws@gmail.com.

Help Fight Food Insecurity

St. Mark's Food Pantry

The St. Mark's Food Pantry has been operating since 1991. Food is provided at no cost and without any obligation to the homeless, poor, unemployed, senior citi-



zens and children in need. Before the COVID-19 pandemic the pantry was serving about 80 families per week. They are now serving over 400 families per week and demand continues to grow. If you need help, the St. Mark's Food Pantry located at 7501 Adelphi Road is open every Tuesday at 10 AM until the food runs out. If you would like to help the pantry continue its fight against hunger in our community, please donate to: www.gofundme.com/stmarksfoodpantry.

Route One Communities Care

University Park residents along with Hyattsville, College Park and Riverdale neighbors and Central Kenilworth Avenue Revitalization CDC are supporting our local restaurants and feeding families in need. Some of these restaurants could be forced to close or layoff many of their employees and the large County immigrant community has become more food insecure as unemployment grows. Some facts about the problem and our relief effort:

- Pre-pandemic 104,000 County residents were food insecure, the highest number in the DC metro area.
- Since COVID-19 arrived, the number of County unemployed has risen from 16,000 to more than 40,000.
- Restaurants include Dumm's Pizza and Subs, Denizen's Brewing Co., Krazi Kebob, 2Fifty Texas BBQ and Shortcake Bakery.
- Distribution sites include Beacon Heights Apts., the United Methodist Church of College Park and Woodridge Elementary School.

Please donate. Go to our website feedrouteone.org for more info and donate at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/gofundmecomgreater-riverdale-cares/donate>. Contributing monthly would be particularly helpful. A tip is not required. For more information call David Brosch at 240-888-1225 or Deborah Rosenfelt at 301-801-8732.

University Park Woman's Club Scholarships—2021

The University Park Woman's Club will again be awarding scholarships in 2021. We are working on a way for applicants to apply online. Watch for the application on womensclubUP.com in January. We are working with local high school counselors on a process for students to obtain and complete the application. The two scholarships are:

Doris McPhee Memorial Scholarship

This one-time financial need-based award of \$1500 is available to a graduating senior of Northwestern High School. The student must have a cumulative grade point average of



3.0 and demonstrated leadership and service.

University Park Woman's Club Scholarship

This one-time merit-based need-blind \$1500 award is available to a graduating high school senior who is a resident of University Park, MD. Applications will also be accepted from children and grandchildren of current UP Woman's Club members. All student applicants must live in Maryland. The applicant must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 and demonstrated leadership and service.

Virtual for All Good Causes Holiday Sharing Fair

Saturday & Sunday, December 5 & 6

For almost 30 years, the Sharing Fair—an alternative gifts event—has been taking place at the University Park Church of the Brethren. The goal is shopping for gifts that benefit nonprofit justice, peace and service groups. Normally, enjoying the brats, nuts and baked goods, mingling with neighbors and the smell of cookies being baked by children is part of the fun. This year, we'll forgo

TOWN NEWS & EVENTS

much of that and offer more limited virtual choices for gift giving to carry the tradition forward.

SERRV International Handcrafts—marketing artisan jewelry, crafts and goods from around the world—is taking Sharing Fair orders through www.serrv.org/?a=SharingFair. (We've chosen to return the profit por-



tion of any orders to SERRV so that its mission will be supported this year. Please check the orange banner at the top of the home page before shopping, to make sure they receive that benefit. **If you order on December 5 or 6** you'll receive free ground shipping for orders totaling \$50 or more. Use promo code: SESNOWMAN20

New Community Project links economic justice and the environment, partnering with global groups that support women and girls, care for the earth and build justice. Learn more and consider a gift at newcommunityproject.org

Heifer International works alongside farmers and business owners in 21 countries to help people establish a life free from poverty and hunger. Giving a flock of chicks or a share of a heifer in someone's name is a gift that gives life to families in need of a living income. We hope your shopping may support some of these great causes—*happy holidays!*

Woman's Club Zoom Meeting

Monday, December 7, 11:45 AM

Financial Planning During and After the Pandemic

Have your finances been affected by the pandemic? What should we do now and after Covid-19 to keep our financial goals on track? Our guest speaker, Gabriella Barbuto, will try to answer at the UPWC zoom meeting. Ms. Barbuto will use an estate planning checklist to discuss the current financial environment, how to protect and increase our funds and how to plan for the future. Gabriella graduated from the Academy of the Holy Cross and George Washington University, earning a BBA in International Business Finance and Political Sci-

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

ence. She pursued her financial licensing and joined her father's team at Merrill Lynch Bank of America in 2018. Robert and Gabriella specialize in Estate Planning and take a holistic view of their client's goals and values. Gabriella will share her take on current market conditions and help us plan for our financial futures, evaluating our personal needs, and thinking about what the world will look like post Covid-19.



Holiday House Tour Cancelled Due to Covid-19, University Park Woman's Club will not have the Holiday House Tour this year. Discussion about a virtual Holiday House Tour brought up concerns about internet security and the safety of those volunteering for the virtual tour. We encourage our neighbors, friends and UPWC members to contribute to a favorite charity. Food pantries are especially in need at this time.

After Eight Book Group

Tuesday, December 15, 8-10 PM

The After Eight Book Group is now meeting virtually. December's title is *Sarah's Key* by Tatiana de Rosnay. The book for January is *The House I Loved*, also by Tatiana de Rosnay. Those interested in joining should contact Laura Donnelly at 301-927-6550.



Visit with Good Niklaas, Saturday, December 5, Families book a 10-minute visit from 10AM-3PM The Riversdale House Museum hosts Visit with Good Niklaas, a socially distanced in-person event. Bring some Belgian flair to your holidays and enjoy a picture-perfect photo opportunity on the portico. Children can enjoy a chat with Good Niklaas and receive a gift to continue the fun at home! For more information and to register, visit <https://tinyurl.com/GoodNiklaas2020> by November 30.

Greenbelt Festival of Lights Juried Art & Craft Fair, Friday, November 27—Sunday, December 20

The Greenbelt Recreation ARTS Program announces its annual Festival of Lights Juried Art and Craft Fair. Visit the online shops of over 50 regional artisans, fine artists and authors. Participating vendors offer a wide array of unique goods, including housewares, clothing, accessories, books, toys, seasonings, soaps and more. Visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation.



ART/CRAFT FAIR

Town of University Park

Fall and Winter Operations

CURBSIDE LEAF VACUUMING

November 2, 2020 through January 8, 2021



Crews will work counterclockwise through Town as follows: Ward 2, Ward 1, Ward 3, Ward 5, Ward 4, Ward 7 & Ward 6.

- Do not rake or blow leaves into the street.
- No rocks, sticks or metal in your leaf piles.
- Crews will not back track to collect leaves once they have passed your home.

Check the Town website at www.upmd.org under the Public Works tab for updates and deadlines.

LEAF COLLECTION

After January 8

All bagged leaves must be placed in paper bags.

The county does not accept leaves in plastic bags. Leaves will be picked up on Mondays with yard waste. If you miss curbside leaf vacuuming, leaves will need to be collected into paper bags or a durable container and put at the curb.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Wednesday, December 23—Recycling

Wednesday, December 30—Recycling

Christmas trees are collected every Monday with the yard waste. Please be sure trees are fully unadorned.

SNOW PLAN

- When there is a chance of snow, please use Driveways or garages to park your vehicles. With fewer vehicles parked on Town streets, our public works crew is able to clear them of ice and snow more effectively.
- For safety reasons, please limit activity in the streets when public works crews are plowing.
- Residents are requested to keep their sidewalks and front walks free of snow and ice. Please clear sidewalks within 24 hours after a snowfall.
- Check the Town's website at www.upmd.org for snow emergency declarations and details.

SNOW EVENT PARKING

If you are unable to utilize off-street parking, please follow the recommended guidelines below.

Both Sides No Parking:

The Mews

Queens Chapel Rd.—6400-6700 blocks

Creekside No Parking:

Wells Pkwy.

Odd # Side No Parking:

40th Ave.

41st Ave.

Beechwood Rd.--3900 thru 4300 blocks

Calverton Dr.

Oakridge Rd.

Pineway

Queens Chapel Rd—6300 block

Sheridan St.

Tuckerman St.

Tennyson Rd.

Underwood St.--3900 thru 4300 blocks

Even # Side No Parking

42nd Ave.

43rd Ave.

44th Ave.

Beechwood Rd.--4400 block

Chansory Ln.

Clagett Rd.

Clagett-Pineway

College Heights Dr.

Forest Hill Dr.

Holly Hill Rd.

Underwood St.--4400 block

Van Buren St.

Woodberry St.



QUESTIONS?

Town Hall at 301-927-4262 or email Mickey Beall at mbeall@upmd.org

Plan ahead to protect yourself, your family and your community from COVID-19 when you celebrate November and December holidays including, but not limited to: Día de Los Muertos; Diwali; Kwanzaa; Thanksgiving; Hanukkah; Christmas; and New Year's Eve.

***The Health Department strongly recommends NOT holding large family gatherings. Any type of celebration must include everyone wearing masks, distancing at least six feet from each other, regular hand sanitizing and disinfection of high-touch surfaces.**

Travel Considerations

Reconsider travel during the holiday season and consider holding special remote gatherings or small gatherings at home. If you choose to travel this holiday season, consider the mode of transportation (plane, car, bus, train), the dates you will be traveling, and your risk to COVID-19 exposure while traveling. Carry a small personal sanitizing kit that contains hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, and extra masks.

Driving your own vehicle will reduce your exposure to COVID-19. If you need to use commercial or public transportation, be aware of and try to avoid the busiest travel times.



Overnight Guests

If you plan to have or be an overnight guest, the host and guests should communicate about what is expected ahead of time.

Identify a room where an individual can isolate should they develop symptoms or test positive while visiting. Make sure everyone understands the importance of wearing a mask and social distancing. Ensure that soap & hand sanitizer are available, and clean frequently touched surfaces.



Holiday Shopping

Consider alternative ways to purchase gifts other than visiting stores in person, where possible.

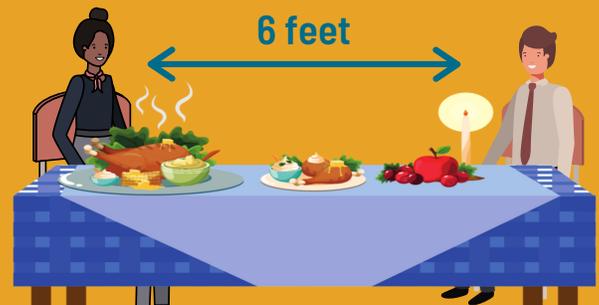
Stay home if you have tested positive or have symptoms of COVID-19, which can include fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms.



- **Lower Risk.** Consider shopping online.
- **Medium Risk.** If you choose to shop in person, wear your mask and maintain 6 feet of distance between you and others. Try to shop at off-peak times when there are fewer shoppers.
- **Higher Risk.** High-risk activities include in person sale promotions or holiday activities that encourage large crowds and lining up for limited supply deals, which make social distancing a challenge.

Holiday Meals

- Limit the number of people for which social distancing is possible before, during, and after the meal.
- Consider single-use disposable utensils and dishware for serving and eating meals.
- Wash and disinfect guest areas before and after holiday gatherings.



Additional Considerations

- Avoid the throng of people shopping for holiday meals by purchasing groceries online.
- Delivering holiday foods, dessert, or décor at the door of extended family, elders, friends, or neighbors is another warm and safer way to celebrate a season of giving.
- Consider virtual caroling or reciting as an option.



Historic Revitalization Tax Credit Program

Homeowner Tax Credit

Administered by Maryland Historical Trust

Homeowners can earn a state income tax credit for renovating historic homes. The tax credit offers homeowners of single-family, owner-occupied residences up to 20 percent of eligible rehabilitation costs. Tax credits may be used for repairs such as:

- ❖ Roof repair and replacement
- ❖ Chimney repair and lining
- ❖ Window restoration
- ❖ New storm doors/windows
- ❖ Masonry repointing
- ❖ Floor refinishing

Eligibility

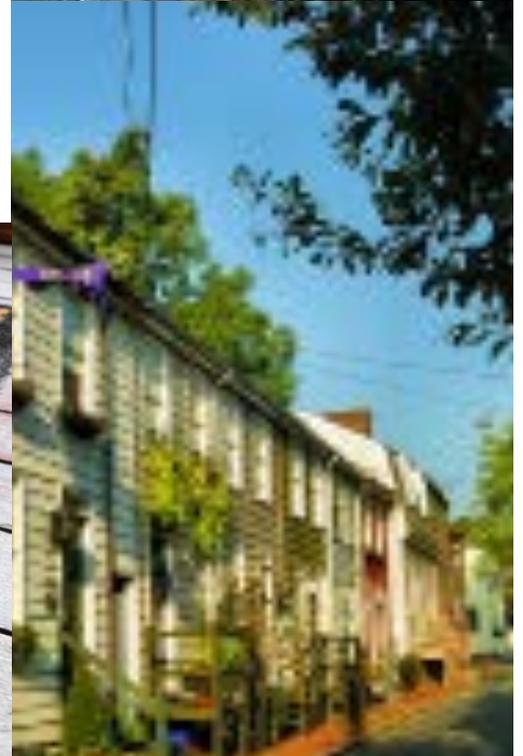
Buildings must be certified as historic, defined as having at least one of the following designations:

- ❖ Individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places
- ❖ A contributing resource within a National Register Historic District
- ❖ A locally designated structure or contributing resource to a local historic district that MHT determines to be eligible for the National Register

The credit is capped at \$50,000 in a 24-month period and projects must have a minimum of \$5,000 of eligible expenses to qualify. Applications are accepted year round; MHT review runs approximately 30-45 days.

Learn more:

Megan Klem, megan.klem@maryland.gov, 410-697-9560
mht.maryland.gov/taxcredits_homeowner.shtml



December 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>CURBSIDE LEAF VACUUMING through January 8, 2020</p>		<p>1 Trash, Bulk Trash</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 Recycling</p>	<p>5 Holiday Sharing Fair, Virtual Tree Lighting, 6 PM</p> 
<p>6 Holiday Sharing Fair Shop Virtually for COB's All Good Causes</p>	<p>7 UP Woman's Club Meeting, Yard Waste Town Council, 7:30 PM</p>	<p>8 Trash, Bulk Trash</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 Recycling</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13</p>	<p>14 Yard Waste</p>	<p>15 Trash, Bulk Trash After Eight Book Group, 8-10 PM</p> 	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 Recycling</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20</p>	<p>21 Yard Waste Town Council, 7:30 PM</p>	<p>22 Trash, Bulk Trash</p>	<p>23 Recycling</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 Town Holiday</p> 	<p>26</p>
<p>27</p>	<p>28 Yard Waste</p>	<p>29 Trash, Bulk Trash</p>	<p>30 Recycling</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>January 1 Town Holiday</p> 	



TOWN OF UNIVERSITY PARK
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 Cell Phone 301-343-6033
 Town Clerk Andrea Marcavitch amarcavitch@upmd.org
 Public Works Dir. Mickey Beall mbeall@upmd.org
 Chief Harvey Baker hbaker@upmd.org
 Cell Phone 301-789-8475

Police

Emergency 911
 Non-Emergency 301-352-1200
 Police Dept. Direct 301-277-0050
 Chief Harvey Baker 301-277-0051

Town Council

<i>Ward</i>	<i>Council Member</i>	<i>Phone</i>
1	Joel Biermann	202-431-2689
2	Joe Schultz	301-892-6314
3	Laurie Morrissey	301-906-0276
4	Linda Verrill	301-927-6743
5	David Caskey	301-699-8785
6	Martha Wells	301-864-1735
7	Roland Stephen	919-522-5589

NEWSLETTER

The January newsletter deadline is Saturday, December 5. The *University Park Newsletter* is published monthly, except for a combined July-August issue. Newsletter submissions, questions and comments may be emailed to univparknews@gmail.com or sent via ww.upmd.org > Communications > Contact. The *Newsletter* publishes the milestones of current and former UP families (births, weddings, obituaries, graduations, awards, etc.) plus events of interest to residents. Political or commercial advertising is not accepted. Please send letters of opinion or Town suggestions to Town Hall. The *Newsletter* is online at www.upmd.org > Documents.

Subscriptions Former residents may subscribe for \$15/year by contacting Town Hall. Subscribers must renew each year before the month that their subscription ends. No reminders are sent. The address label indicates your renewal date.

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