

UNIVERSITY PARK NEWSLETTER

TOWN OF UNIVERSITY PARK, MARYLAND

APRIL 2021

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

VOL. XLVI, NO. 4

MAYOR'S COLUMN

Budget season is here, and the Town is planning and preparing for what is to be done in fiscal year 2022. Town residents give our programs and services high marks, but the Town pays for them largely through taxes. In the current fiscal year 2021, 70% of Town revenues were from real property tax and 19% from state income tax. The Council establishes Town property tax rates through the annual budget process, which begins on April 1 when the Mayor proposes a budget for the next fiscal year.

The current FY 2021 University Park property tax rate is \$.5598 per \$100 of assessed value. Add to that Prince George's County property tax levy of \$.820 per \$100 of assessed value for University Park properties, which is a discounted rate (called a "differential") from the full County property tax rate of \$1.00 per \$100 of assessed value. This differential discount recognizes the Town

provides services and programs which would be otherwise provided and paid for by county property tax revenues. University Park property owners receive reduced County tax rates due to the Town providing streetlights, engineering, public works vehicles, aging services (HHUP), support for volunteer fire departments, many police services and more.

Recently Town Administrator David Deutsch reviewed the fiscal year 2021 property tax rates for Prince George's County and its incorporated municipalities. He found that, of the 27 incorporated cities and towns in Prince George's County, 10 of them have a higher municipal tax rate in fiscal year 2021 than University Park's \$.5598 rate. Also, 16 have a higher combined municipal and county rate than University Park. Berwyn Heights, Bladensburg, Cheverly, College Park, Hyattsville, and Riverdale Park—all geographically close to University

Town Meetings & Special Dates

Town Council	April 5 & 19
Electronics/Paint Recycling	April 24
DEA Drug Take Back Day	April 24

Town meetings are at 7:30 PM and temporarily conducted by conference call and videoconference. See Council agendas at www.upmd.org/agendacenter. Town Hall is currently closed. Sign up for meeting and service information alerts at www.upmd.org/notifyme.

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Park—had an average combined County/municipal rate of \$1.4413, compared to the combined County/Town rate in University Park of \$1.3798.

In addition to Town and County property taxes, property owners pay taxes and fees for M-NCPPC, State, storm-water and flood control, supplemental education, and the Washington Suburban Transit Commission. University Park property owners pay through the County a combined bill of \$1.9058 per \$100 of assessed value in property tax. The \$.5598 Town property tax comprises 29.3% of the total property tax bill paid by University Park homeowners.



The Clean Water Act fees and solid waste service charges are not part of your property tax but are collected by the County. The Maryland Homestead Tax Credit is available to qualified homeowners. Property owners in unincorporated areas pay the full undifferentiated County tax rate of \$1.00 per \$100 of assessed value plus the assorted taxes and fees, no municipal property taxes obviously. In unincorporated College Heights Estates, property owners pay a combined tax bill of \$1.5260 per \$100 of assessed value.

Unfortunately, the 2018 tax overhaul capped the state and local tax deduction at \$10,000 and put enormous pressure on municipalities to cut services or neglect aged infrastructure to avoid tax increases. The effects of the pandemic have further stressed municipal budgets. Maryland cities and towns have been eyeing their relative dependence on property and income taxes for needed revenue and looking for additional sources. A FY 2018 summary of municipal revenue sources by the Maryland Department of Legislative Services showed Prince George's County cities and Towns received 54.3% of their revenues from property tax and 11.6%

from income tax. Statewide, Maryland towns and cities received on average 35.6% of their revenue from property tax and 7.8% from income taxes, showing much wider variation. Service charges were a frequently used supplement, with 31% of revenue on average coming from an array of service charges.

While residents give University Park programs and services high marks, Mayor and Council have to find a way to pay for whatever the Town does. That requires attention to revenue sources and continually seeking efficiencies and while weighing the value of services against the cost of providing them. This is what budget season looks like in University Park.

—Len Carey

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

Notice of Introduction of Charter Resolution 21-CR-01

On February 1, 2021, Charter Resolution 21-CR-01 was introduced. This Resolution would amend Article VI, "Finance", by repealing and re-enacting Section 602, "Budget", and Section 606, "Appropriations Lapse After One Year" and enacting new section 620 "Submission and Adoption of Capital Improvement Program" to make provision for a Capital Improvement Program as part of the Town budget that may continue from fiscal year to fiscal year. The Mayor and Council will hold a public hearing to consider this Resolution for adoption on April 5, 2021, 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.

Notice of Introduction of Ordinance 21-O-01

On March 1, 2021, Ordinance 21-O-01 was introduced. This ordinance would correct certain non-substantive errors in Legislative Resolution 20-O-11, which was adopted 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. The meeting set for April 5, 2021 is the first meeting at which the ordinance could be adopted. For more information or a copy of the proposed ordinance, call Town Hall at 301-927-4262.

FROM THE CHIEF

The University Park Police utilizes the six pillars of the Presidential Report on 21st Century Policing to improve our service to the community: Building Trust and Legitimacy, Policy and Oversight, Technology and Social Media, Community Policing and Crime Reduction, Officer Training and Education, and Officer Safety and Wellness. We actively seek training and learning opportunities that build community trust and legitimacy, challenge our thinking and help us grow as an agency. To that end all police personnel recently completed a nationally accredited course, Insight Policing Conflict Resolution Training for law enforcement and Duty to Intervene, a training course that will assist us in complying with our general order of the same name (G.O. Duty to Intervene 300.2).

Recently we learned of the Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement project (ABLE), Georgetown Innovative Policing Program, Georgetown Law. ABLE provides an excellent opportunity to build and cultivate healthy law enforcement culture. The goal of ABLE is to prepare officers to successfully intervene to prevent harm and to create a law enforcement culture that supports peer intervention. There are several other benefits of the ABLE training program that include: reduced unnecessary harm to community members; reduced unnecessary harm to officers; reduced risk of officers losing their jobs; reduced risk of lawsuits against the department, the town and individual officers; improved police/community relations; improved officer health and wellness; improved officer job satisfaction; improved community stakeholder satisfaction with their law enforcement agency.

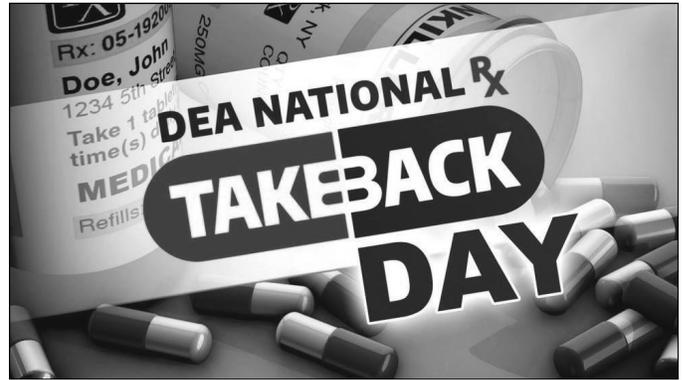


ABLE

Active Bystandership
for Law Enforcement

The University Park Police recently applied to become an affiliated agency with the ABLE project, which required letters of support from the Mayor, Chief of Police and two community stakeholders, and an agency commitment to ABLE standards (Community Support; Meaningful Training; Dedicated Coordination; Program Awareness; Accountability; Officer Wellness; Reporting; Measuring Officer Perceptions; Follow-Through; and Paying it Forward) and completion of an 8-hour ABLE training class. The University Park Police has already met some of the ABLE standards and if approved look forward to meeting them all and receiving the ABLE training in May 2021.

Stolen Car Between February 23-25 a locked vehicle (2006 silver Lincoln Continental) was stolen while parked in front of a residence in the 4300 blk of Claggett Road. There are no known suspects currently.



DEA Drug Take Back Day

Saturday, April 24, 10-2 PM

Residents are encouraged to drop off unused prescription drugs in the parking lot of Town Hall. This is a touch free event. We will be social distancing and wearing masks.

Community Mosquito Control Program

Fight the Bite!



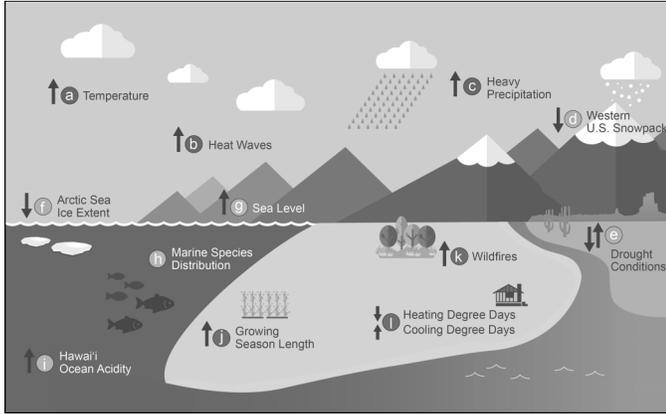
April is the time to prepare for the summer mosquito season. If you already own mosquito traps, clean and assemble them. The parts can be washed in the dishwasher; just don't use heat to dry. If you need new parts or want to order new traps go to the Biogents website: us-shop.biogents.com/collections/frontage. Take a look around your yard for places water can accumulate and empty or dunk or screen. Remember our program is the first line of defense against the nuisance of biting mosquitoes and mosquito-borne diseases that place residents and our pets at risk. Using this non-chemical approach keeps our local environment safe for bees and other pollinators that support the town's pollinator meadow off Adelphi Road. Visit our page on the town website for more information: www.upmd.org/222/Community-Mosquito-Control. Questions? Contact us at upcmosquitoc@gmail.com—
Julie Ainsworth, Ed Wells, Lynne Davidson

Sustainability Committee News

Did you know that University Park has a Climate Action Framework? On November 16, 2020, the Town Council and Mayor unanimously passed a resolution adopting a

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climate action framework to systematically and deliberately integrate the goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing resilience to climate change into every substantial decision within control of the Town.



Why should you care? Climate change is already here. The September 10, 2020 flash flood brought that reality home with a vengeance. We need to do our part to reduce emissions, but also to prepare for what's coming. Among many changes, according to the Fourth National Climate Assessment, further increases in rainfall intensity are expected. University Park can make a difference on this and many other issues.

What can you do? You can help the Sustainability Committee encourage the Town to consider the following questions when it makes decisions: Does the proposed policy or action reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation? Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the built environment? Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from waste programs? Increase the resilience of built infrastructure to unavoidable changes in the climate? Increase resilience through habitat diversity and a healthy tree canopy? Increase community involvement in University Park emissions reductions and resilience efforts?

While the Climate Action Framework does not elevate climate change over all other policy goals, we can, through community discussion, make it a factor when evaluating tradeoffs in town actions. But a policy is only as good as its implementation, and we need your help as residents to make climate action a reality in University Park.

Tree Committee News

Our trees are precious beyond calculation. They are a shared resource; we would be wise to support one another in safeguarding them. If I cut down a healthy tree in



my yard my neighbor will suffer from the loss of shade and filtration of pollutants, with the added injury of increased air conditioning expense and reduction in his property value. Science shows that the trees of my neighbors two or three houses removed would also be impacted if I cut down a large, healthy tree. The community dynamic of trees is most significantly manifest underground, where the exchange of nutrients and information is achieved via interconnectivity of roots by a vast web of mycelium. Each tree within UP's urban forest is analogous to an individual tile in the mosaic of our environment. As we remove individual tiles, the initial impact is not significantly evident. But over time, if enough tiles are removed or should the interconnecting grout degrade, the once beautiful mosaic will cease to exist.

Ivy League, Saturday, April 10, 10 AM-12 PM The Ivy League remains one of UP's premier volunteer opportunities. We remove ivy from the town's trees to safeguard their health and improve our collective physical, emotional and financial well-being. Volunteers can participate for the entire two hours or any portion thereof. Dress appropriately for protection from the sun and common garden pests. Please bring a pair of hand clippers and a prying tool—a dandelion weeder or large screwdriver work well. We will meet at the 9/11 Memorial. If you arrive after 10 AM, you'll find us working on the trail leading from the pedestrian bridge to the Pollinator Meadow.

Helping Hands University Park

Spring is here and we can now spend more time outside with friends and family. Please continue to be



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safe—wear masks and social distance—unless all participants have been vaccinated. If you know of an elderly neighbor who is not computer literate, has no access to the internet, or for some other reason has not yet been able to get an appointment for their vaccination, please have them call HHUP at 301-892-6636 and we will arrange for one of our volunteers to assist them. They do not need to be an HHUP member.

Our members continue to meet and socialize. March activities:

- *HHUP Virtual Lunch Club, Wednesday, March 17, 12-1 PM* Receive the Zoom link by calling 301-892-6636 or emailing HHUniversityPark@gmail.com
- *The Bard in April, Saturday, April 24, 2-3:30 PM* Celebrate Shakespeare's birthday with a look at what goes into producing a theatre classic. Join Hyattsvillian Janet Griffin, newly retired director of public programs and artistic producer for the Folger Theatre, to learn about the theater's 2008 production of Macbeth. We'll also view a video from the 2008 performance and hear from the directors. Part of the monthly Corridor Conversations series.

We are always happy to welcome new volunteers and members. Becoming a member involves nothing more than putting your name on our list and requires no commitment. Should an unforeseen need arise, help would be just a phone call away. Learn more on our website and FB page. HHUP Phone 301-892-6636; website, helpinghandsup.org; Facebook page, [facebook.com/HelpingHandsUP](https://www.facebook.com/HelpingHandsUP)

February 16 Council Meeting Highlights

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

Presentation University of Maryland (UMD) Campus Community Connection Update

Mr. Andrew Fellows gave a presentation on UMD projects.

- Mr. Fellows gave a brief update on the following projects: Wells Run Park; Guilford Run collaboration; flooding on 44th Avenue; sustainability resilient practices; mosquito control; Green Team; Step-Up; Bikeshare; Town bus services; Wells Run trail; and Prince George's Plaza area development.
- Any resident who is interested in exploring a topic and

wants to find out who is working on a particular project at UMD should email Mr. Fellows at afellows@umd.edu.

Consent Agenda

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

To install a 15'x 30' brick patio at 6924 Pineway.

Mayor's Report

As someone on the community listserv mentioned that there had several years ago been a proposed tree ordinance, Mayor Carey clarified that it was a prior Mayor who proposed an ordinance, not himself.

Committee Reports and Council Comments

Policy, Rules and Municipal Structure Committee

- The Committee resubmitted to the Council a memo on the proposed ban on gas-powered leaf blowers. A discussion on this topic is scheduled for the March 1 Council meeting.
- The Committee discussed updating the animal chapter in the Town Code and to think of ways to address problems with feral cats in Town.

Public Facilities and Services Committee The Committee will not meet this month.

CM Biermann, Ward 1

- Constituents expressed concerns about the poor condition of the tennis court nets. Mayor Carey suggested sending a picture of the nets to alert Public Works Director Mr. Beall, who is responsive.
- A constituent asked if the Town is still within budget for the sidewalk installation on Queens Chapel Road. Town Administrator Mr. Deutsch responded to the question and confirmed that the project is within budget.

Police, Traffic and Public Safety Committee The next meeting is scheduled for February 17.

Town Administrator Mr. Deutsch reported that there is a request for a speed hump/bump in the 4000 block of Van Buren Street. A traffic counter will be placed in that area to help determine what is going on in terms of the speed and volume of existing traffic before a decision is made on a solution.

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Helping Hands University Park (HHUP) All members of HHUP received a Valentine's Day gift that included a note and a hand-painted rock. This event was organized by Town resident Adena Fritz in coordination with the UPRocks activity which she also coordinates.

New Business

Proposed Tree Ordinance

Council discussed a proposal for a tree ordinance from the Trees, Parks, and Environment (TPE) Committee.

CM Morrissey gave a brief overview of the proposal that was distributed in the Council meeting agenda packet regarding the tree ordinance.

- The Committee is requesting that the Mayor and Council establish a town wide tree ordinance by amending Chapter 16 of the Town Code in order to preserve tree canopy.
- This proposal is not following the Takoma Park model. There is no request for a Tree Board, and the Committee is not forbidding or restricting an action.
- The plan is to require residents who want to cut down a tree that is 50 inches in circumference or greater will need to file for a permit.
- The resident will need to replace the tree with a comparable shade tree after being approved by the consulting arborist. Those who do not want to plant a tree will pay a fee to the Tree Program for a tree to be planted elsewhere in Town.

TPE Committee Chair Mr. Aubry pointed out the following aspects:

- Residents who remove large trees will need to replace that tree, either voluntarily or provide a fee to the Town.
- This also includes trees that Pepco removes from private property. Pepco will have to follow the same steps of submitting an application.
- The Legacy Program is where the Town assesses the neighborhood to determine which area is in need of canopy. This is an opportunity for residents to apply for a tree and call it a Legacy Tree with the idea that it is planted for the future and to maintain the canopy.
- The plan is to hire an objective registered certified arborist.

TPE Committee member Mr. Thompson explained the proposed process:

- The Council is not approving any change to the ordinance tonight.
- The Committee is asking the Council to consider directing the Town Attorney to draft the ordinance language. This will begin a long series of discussion, public meetings, work sessions about the draft ordinance.

Discussion: (*Responses from the TPE Committee are italicized*)

- A Councilmember said he would like to see this move by the beginning of the summer. They don't think the permits should be part of a consent agenda but rather have a public hearing. It suggested that there should be an exception for a homeowner to remove a tree if there is reason to believe it is causing damage to their home. *Regarding a permit, the homeowner has the right to cut down any tree they want to under this system, they only have to apply for a permit to describe which of the two actions they plan to take in response to cutting down the tree—either plant a tree or pay a fee to have the town plant a tree elsewhere.*
- A Councilmember said the wording "bear the cost of planting one comparable shade tree" is vague and would like a clearer explanation in the ordinance.
- One Councilmember was very leery of anything with a penalty and not sure how this can be enforced. He is not comfortable doing something that may encourage people to want to sue the Town.
- Another Councilmember liked the design of the approach, it is simple and leaves the ultimate decision in the hands of the homeowner. Having the Town pay for an arborist is a good thing and making allowance for this should be in the budget.
- Mayor Carey asked if the Committee has looked into the possibility of rather than a permit system, of awarding homeowners with a certificate who have legacy trees (trees larger than 50 inches in circumference) and the Town will pay for a Licensed Tree Expert—a tree doctor—to advise the landowner regarding the health of that tree.
- A resident strenuously objected to the proposed ordinance. This resident commented that it is naïve to think that residents will welcome an intrusion into their own decision making concerning their property. She asked that this not be moved forward to be drafted by the Town Attorney to save on legal fees. This resident does not want to pay for another homeowner's consultation regarding the health of their tree.
- A resident said that it is important to save the trees, but does not think everyone needs to be paying for other

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people's trees through taxes.

- A resident said they support this proposal. In 20 to 30 years, the climate here is predicted to be similar to the climate in South Carolina, so this should be taken into consideration when choosing what trees to plant.
- A resident said that the efforts of the Town should be in the public areas and not in backyards.
- A resident asked who will approve the permit? *The resident will fill out a form stating they will do one of two things when removing a healthy tree over a certain size. They will commit to either planting another tree to replace it or pay into the Legacy Tree Program to plant a tree elsewhere in town.*
- A resident suggested getting an estimate of the number of trees cut down each year and then the Town can plant that many trees.

Motion: *To direct the Town Attorney to draft a tree ordinance.* Motion approved 7 to 0.

Committee Appointments

Motion: *Per Section 16-103 of the Code of Ordinances, consent to the appointment of Mr. Matthew Jasinski to the Committee on Trees, Parks, and Environment.* Motion approved 7 to 0.

Administrator and Department Reports

Town Administrator David Deutsch

- The budget line items that were affected by the adjustments recently made by Council have been implemented and are reflected in the January Treasurer's report.
- During the month of January, the Town received \$749,000.00 in property tax revenue which puts the Town at 96.59% of the budget for that line item.

Town Clerk Andrea Marcavitch

- The Maryland Municipal League (MML) summer conference is scheduled in-person for June 27-29. Registration begins on March 5; initially only two people from every municipality are allowed to register. After March 26, registration will open until it reaches a capacity of 400 attendees. A virtual summer conference is also scheduled for July 19-20.
- Summary of permits issued in the month of January: 3 building; 2 dumpster/POD; and 0 vendor.
- The Transit Task Force held its public forum on February 9. The next meeting is scheduled for March 9 at 7:30 PM. A report will be presented to Council at the March 15 Council meeting.
- The next Town election will be held on May 4 for the

Office of Councilmember for wards 2, 4, 5 and 6. Information will be in the March Town newsletter and can be found on our website at www.upmd.org/2021TownElection. The candidate deadline where the name will appear on the ballot, or to register to vote in the Town election is April 5. For those interested in running as a candidate, information can be found on the website at www.upmd.org/candidateinfo.

Chief of Police Harvey Baker

The following trainings are scheduled for Officers:

- February 3—Insight Policing Conflict Resolution for Law Enforcement
- February 9—Records Management System
- February 19-20—Duty to Intervene
- Registered the Department for the Georgetown University Law Center Innovative Policing Program's Active Bystander for Law Enforcement (ABLE)

Director of Public Works Michael Beall

- The Adelphi Meadow path has been completed. The installation of the benches remains to be completed on the grant project.
- Measurements will be done on Queens Chapel Road to generate an invoice for completed operations.
- Mr. Beall asked that residents reach out to him directly about the tennis court nets. The matter can be taken care of very quickly.

The meeting adjourned by consent at 9:55 PM.

March 1 Council Meeting Highlights

A closed session was called to begin at 6:30 PM.

Motion: *To close the public meeting and move to a closed session to discuss the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related to the acquisition and to consult with the Town Attorney on a legal matter.* Motion approved 7 to 0.

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 two 4' high gates at 4205 Tuckerman Street.

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To build a 12'x 12' screened porch at 4010 Beechwood Road.

Mayor's Report

- Mayor Carey reported that Councilmember Dannielle Glaros' office said that a permit has been approved by the Army Corps of Engineers for the Nine Ponds Project (Regional Stormwater Solution). Construction is expected to begin mid to late summer.
- According to the County Executive, the supply of COVID-19 vaccines has been a challenge with 130,000 registered people on the wait list and until recently 974 doses per week. More recently the County has been receiving 4400 doses per week and anticipates that the supply will continue to improve.

Committee Reports and Council Comments

Development Overview Committee The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 11. Discussion will include five projects in the area and the Adelphi Road/University Boulevard Sector Plan.

Policy, Rules and Municipal Structure Committee The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 4 at 7 PM.

Sustainability Committee The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 3.

Continuing Business

Zoning Tutorial

Councilmember Martha Wells and Town Attorney Suelen Ferguson gave an overview of the zoning process in University Park and Prince George's County.

- Zoning is intended to provide for human activity in an orderly manner so that residents and businesses can operate in a mutually beneficial manner.
- The land uses in University Park are largely governed by the Prince George's County Zoning Ordinance and subdivision codes.
- If a proposed development is within one mile of the Town borders, the Town can comment on it to the Planning Board and County Council.
- Slides of the zoning maps can be found on the Town website.
- The Town Attorney said that the County has approved and accepted the Town's new fence ordinance (20-O-09) and it will go into effect on March 15, 2021.
- CM Wells said that anyone is welcome to email her

with questions about zoning, and the Development Overview Committee meetings are open to the public.

- CM Wells responded to a question by saying that a church within University Park would have to get a special exception permit to operate within a residential zone. A request for a change from a church would be handled differently than a residential. The church would have to comply with the requirements of that special exception and either ask for a variance or relief for the requested change.

Discussion: Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers

- Discussion on the recommendation of the Policy, Rules and Municipal Structure Committee that the Town adopt a ban on gas-powered leaf blowers beginning January 1, 2023.
- A revised report on a ban on gas-powered leaf blowers was distributed to the Councilmembers in Council's packet materials.
- The proposal is that there be a ban on gas-powered leaf blowers that would start January 1, 2023; however, if the ban passes, it would begin immediately for any town purchases.
- Mayor Carey expressed his concern about landscaping companies that use gas-powered leaf blowers. He is concerned about enforcing this ban, especially when the surrounding municipalities do not have the same restriction.
- The Committee needs to pay close attention to enforcement. When a regulation is impeding on one's freedom of action and you make laws that cannot be enforced, after a while those laws are not respected and are disregarded.
- University Park will be a leader in the local region taking a stand on this piece of equipment that puts out terrible pollution.
- The Town Attorney asked who the ordinance would be enforceable against, the resident or the landscaping company? What type of fine do you have in mind? Would you make a provision for a warning first before citing people for using gas-blowers? Is there an incentive for people who have to change over? A Committee member responded by saying the fines would be enforceable against operators as well as residents and the fines would be approximately \$200.00; and yes, warnings would be expected.

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Public Comment

- A resident asked if the time of day and the day of the week is something that is going to be addressed even if it is an electrical leaf blower because it is noisy. Are the electrical devices sufficiently durable for commercial use?
- A resident said if the idea of placing a ban on gas-powered leaf blowers is to preserve the peace and quiet of University Park, then regulate noise, not leaf blowers. If the idea is to reduce pollution from 2-stroke gasoline engines, then regulate 2-stroke gasoline engines and their use, not leaf blowers. The resident asked that the legislation be targeted to solving the problem, not one particular example of the problem.
- A resident agreed with the ban and said the Town should get ahead of this.
- A Committee member responded to the public comments by saying that 2-stroke gas-powered leaf blowers are egregiously bad even in the family of 2-stroke lawn equipment. The ban on gas-powered leaf blowers is likely to cost the resident some money because the person/company caring for their lawn will have to replace their equipment and raise their prices.

Motion: The Council requests the Town Attorney to develop an ordinance reflecting the ban that is in the proposal that was submitted to the Council. Motion approved 7 to 0.

New Business

Motion: To approve the appointment of Ms. Heidi Marie Bulich as Supervisor of Elections per Section 502 of the Town Charter. Motion approved 7 to 0.

Motion: On recommendation of the Committee on Police, Traffic, and Public Safety, to request Town staff and Town Attorney to research options available to institute a Town-wide 20 mph speed limit, and report to Council so that it may consider those options in concrete, practical and actionable terms. Motion approved 7 to 0.

Public Comment

- A resident supported this motion and anything that can be done to support a town-wide reduction in the speed limit.
- A resident asked the Committee to consider how much safety do you gain by reducing the speed limit to 20 mph?
- A Councilmember said they welcome any additional data on this matter. More information is always better.

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Motion: To introduce Legislative Resolution 21-O-01, a curative ordinance to correct non-substantive errors in Legislative Resolution 20-O-11, that recodified the Town's Code. Motion approved 7 to 0. *The earliest date this motion may be considered for passage is April 5, 2021.*

Town Administrator's Report

- In reference to COVID-19 vaccines, the County is working on a mobile unit to come either into town or close by to University Park to provide first a pre-registration site and then a vaccination site. Mr. Deutsch will follow up with the County Executive's office to make this a reality so that the seniors in town can get vaccinated.
- Maryland Municipal League hosted an informative webinar on Friday, February 26 which included Maryland Senate President William Ferguson and House of Delegates Speaker Adrienne Jones who provided an update on the 2021 legislative session.
- A Councilmember asked Mr. Deutsch to speak on the American Recovery Plan Allocations to Maryland Municipalities. Mr. Deutsch said that the Bill has already passed the House and he hasn't seen what this contains but he will keep Council posted.
- A councilmember asked about the status of public works employees and COVID-19 vaccinations. Mr. Deutsch said that the Police were the first to be vaccinated and the names of the Public Works employees were submitted to the County and he will check to see if they have been contacted.

The meeting adjourned by consent at 9:35 PM.

Obituary



Marilynne Lazdusky, a resident of University Park for over 60 years, died peacefully at home on February 25, 2021 at the age of 98. She was predeceased by her husband, Philip Lazdusky Sr. and son, Philip Lazdusky Jr. She is survived by her beloved cat, Noelle, niece Rosemary O'Neill, great-niece Alexandra Rush (Laura), great-nephew William Rush (Taylor) and grand-nephew Ollivander Lee. Marilynne was a member of the University Park Woman's Club from 1970 until the time of her death. She served as club president from 1984-86 and from 1992-94. She served on the Club Board of Directors in many positions including Bylaws Chair and Par-

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liamentarian. She was a tour guide at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception for over twenty years. She worked for UP Mayors Ruth Lutwick and Harold Freeman. Marilynne became involved with Helping Hands University Park as soon as it was established in 2017, attending events and serving as its most avid cheerleader. She will be sorely missed.

Woman's Club Zoom Meeting

Monday, April 5, Noon

What can we do to support diminishing populations of bees, birds, and butterflies? Please join us to hear Dr. Liz Marshall, a Prince George's County Master Gardener, AWS Watershed Steward and organizer of the Capital Area Native Plants Group (capareanativeplants.org), speak on the topic "Gardening with Native Plants for Bees, Birds and Butterflies." Learn how we can become pollinator protectors by growing plants and shrubs in our gardens that welcome bees, birds, and butterflies.



Research reports have indicated an alarming decline in native bee, butterfly and bird populations in the United States and worldwide. Both native bees and non-native honeybees contribute to crop pollination, and their decline threatens both the diversity and stability of our food supply and the successful regeneration of wild plant species. Loss of wild plant species means loss of the insects and animals that depend on those plants, as well as loss of the genetic diversity that humans have relied upon for pharmaceutical development and agricultural advancements in productivity and disease-resistance.

While not as efficient as bees, butterflies are also pollinators and are an integral part of the complex food chains upon which natural ecosystems are built. Bird populations are particularly reliant on butterfly and moth larvae to rear their young. A report from September 2019

states that in the past half century, North America has lost one quarter of its bird population, or nearly 3 billion birds. Multiple factors have contributed to this decline, including loss and fragmentation of habitat, declining health of natural ecosystems, pesticide use, and even outdoor cats and window strikes.

If you would like the link to this presentation, please email Jeanne Washburn at UPWCpresident@gmail.com. Also, to see recordings of past presentations, go to womensclubUP.com

UP Woman's Club Scholarships Deadline

Remember, the deadline to apply for a University Park Woman's Club scholarship is April 5th. Applicants can mail (UPWC, P.O. Box 222, Riverdale, MD 20738) or email the completed application form. Applications are available with the counselors at local high schools and online at the club's website: womensclubUP.com/scholarships



After Eight Book Group

Tuesday, April 20, 8-10 PM

The After Eight Book Group is now meeting virtually. The book for April is *Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate. The May title is *My Dear Hamilton* by Stephanie Dray. Those interested in joining should contact Laura Donnelly at 301-927-6550.



19th Annual Azalea Classic

Friday, April 24-Sunday, May 9



This year's Azalea Classic is virtual! Join the University Park community to show how strong we are together, even when we are apart. Register online at azaleaclassic.com and run any race of your choice on any route—choose the 5K, our 1 Mile Challenge, or our 1K Family Fun Run. Run any time between April 24 and May 9 and submit your times (and a photo!) via the link on our Runner Info page: azaleaclassic.com/contact. All registrants get an official race t-shirt with a student de-

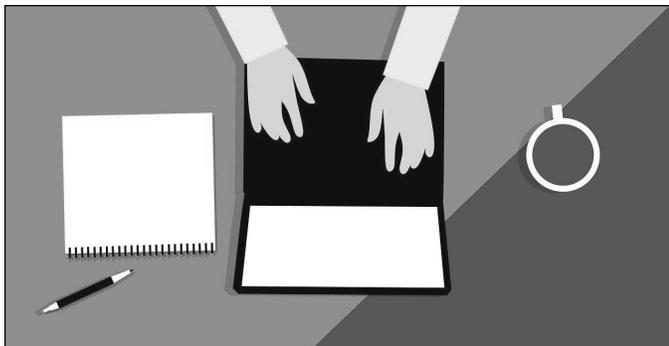
TOWN NEWS & EVENTS

sign done by a 2020 University Park Elementary School graduate. Huge thanks to all our local sponsors (azaleaclassic.com/sponsors) for supporting this community tradition. The annual Azalea Classic is organized by the University Park Elementary School PTA and all proceeds benefit programs at our neighborhood school.

University Park Listserv

Need to hire a contractor for a home maintenance or construction project? Want to know which doctors or medical specialists your neighbors like? The listserv archives contain a wealth of information about contractors, doctors and specialists who have been recommended by your neighbors. Go to the UP Listserv website at groups.google.com/g/univpark to search past conversations for the professional you seek. Select "Conversations" on the left-side and enter your search term in the blue "Conversations" field at the top of the page. You can then scroll through all the past conversations that contain your search term.

If the information is outdated or doesn't exist, then you can request a recommendation from the listserv. Please search in the archives before asking for a new recommendation to keep the same information from being posted over and over again, clogging the list.



To find out how to join the listserv, edit your subscription and view all the posting guidelines, go to the UP Listserv information site at: tinyurl.com/univparklist. If you have questions or need help, the moderator email address is listed at the bottom of the site. Please put the reason for your query in the subject line of your email. Write Problem Post for an issue with a particular post, Guidelines for guidelines clarification, or Tech Support if experiencing technical difficulties.



Attention: Teen Workers

A Town Teen Worker List is published twice a year in the Newsletter. University Park teens aged 13-19 with services to offer Town residents (raking, shoveling, car washing, pet care, etc.) should email their name, age, phone number, email address, street name and type of service(s) to univparknews@gmail.com before April 6 for publication in the May Newsletter.

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 citizens 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 at www.gofundme.com/stmarksfoodpantry.

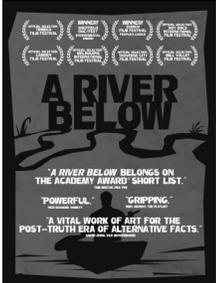
Route One Communities Care

University Park residents, Route 1 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. Well over 120,000 County residents were food insecure pre-pandemic, the highest number in the DC metro area and the number of County unemployed has risen dramatically. Restaurants include Dumm's Pizza and Subs, Denizen's Brewing Co., Krazi Kebob, 2Fifty Texas BBQ and Shortcake Bakery. 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.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Hyattsville Library Virtual Film Discussion, *A River Below* and *Cacu: A Change for Life*, Monday, April 12, 7 PM

Explore the ways in which two environmental films tell stories of conservation. *A River Below* documents the ethics of activism in the modern media age, examining the efforts of two conservationists in the Amazon with different methods of saving the pink river dolphin from extinction. *Cacu* follows five fishermen from Manresa, a poor neighborhood to the West of Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic, as they learn from a marine biologist a unique plan to protect nesting sea turtles. Visit pgcmls.info and register for film discussion under "Events." View the films on Kanopy, the Library's online streaming service. Registrants will receive a Zoom link before the program.



Riversdale

Bookworm Garden (Ages 2-6), April 17, 11-12 PM Come see what is blooming in Riversdale's beautiful gardens while enjoying a nature-inspired theme, story, and craft. Register April 1-April 14; \$5 for residents.



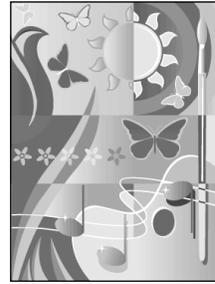
Investigating Riversdale (Ages 7-11), April 22 & 29, 1-2 PM Investigating Riversdale transforms homeschoolers in grades 2-5 into virtual history detectives. Register through April 15; \$6 for residents.

Visit www.pgparksdirect.com for more information about these and other virtual and in-person programs. Contact nichole.tramel@pgparks.com with questions.

Please use University Park as your address on your Maryland tax forms.



College Park Arts Exchange



Explore a variety of online arts experiences during the pandemic. **Draw Like**, taught by Racquel Keller, encourages participants to copy works by great artists using the materials they have on hand. **Explore Creative Writing** with Melissa Sites encourages writing as self-expression during this strange long season of quarantine.

Dance classes including **Soul Line Dancing** with Karen Stewart, **Introduction to Tap** with Elizabeth Gardner, and **Goddess Dancing** with Samantha Fitschen, allow dancers of all ages and ability levels to move their bodies and have fun from the comfort of home. **Book Club** features different nonfiction books by woman writers every month. For more new events and details, see our online calendar at www.cpae.org, email us at info@cpae.org, or like us on Facebook.

Meals on Wheels of College Park

Meals on Wheels Volunteers Needed

Meals on Wheels of College Park (which also serves Hyattsville) is in need of volunteers to help deliver and prepare meals to seniors and people with disabilities in nearby areas. Drivers typically deliver one day a week and two to four times a month between 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM on weekdays. Kitchen volunteers, who help prepare and assemble meals, are needed for one or more days a week, between 7 AM and noon on weekdays. If you are interested in volunteering, visit mealsonwheelsofcollegepark.org/ and complete the volunteer form.

UP Pet Database



UP Helping Paws

The UP Pet Database is maintained by Helping Paws, a group to better support issues around lost and found pets, wildlife encounters, and pet resources in general. Visit our website for resources at uphelpingpaws.home.blog or email UPHelpingPaws@gmail.com.



NOTICE OF ELECTION

The Town of University Park
will hold an election for

The Offices of
Councilmember Ward 2
Councilmember Ward 4
Councilmember Ward 5
Councilmember Ward 6

on

TUESDAY, MAY 4, 2021

**Poll hours will be conducted from 1-8 p.m. at Town Hall (6724 Baltimore Avenue).
Voters will be required to wear a face mask and stay at least 6 feet away from others.
For safety reasons, we urge voters to vote by drop box or mail.**

Due to the ongoing pandemic, ballot packets will be mailed to every registered Town voter in wards 2, 4, 5 and 6 with instructions. Ballots can be returned during poll hours, or by mail, or by drop box – an exterior, locked drop box will be located at Town Hall. If you do not receive a ballot, lose your ballot, or need help, visit Town Hall during poll hours on Election Day, or contact the Town Clerk before Election Day for assistance. **Votes must be received by 8 p.m. on Election Day to be counted.**

REGISTER TO VOTE:

Residents may register to vote the following ways:

Register to vote online at: https://elections.maryland.gov/voter_registration/application.html

OR

Call the Prince George's County Board of Elections at 301-341-7300; Location: 1100 Mercantile Lane Suite 115A, Largo, MD 20774; Business hours: Monday – Friday, 8 a.m.4:30 p.m.

Residents wishing to vote in the upcoming election must be:

1. A citizen of the United States,
2. 18 years of age or older on the date of election day,
3. A resident of University Park, and
4. Registered to vote at least 29 days prior to election day.

CANDIDATES:

Candidate packets (Candidate Petition and Financial Disclosure Statement) must be completed and returned to the Town Clerk by April 5, 2021 by 5 p.m. Packets are available on the Town's website at www.upmd.org/candidateinfo.

DEADLINES:

Monday, April 5, 2021: last day to register to vote.

Monday, April 5, 2021 by 5 p.m.: last day to file as a candidate.

Thursday, April 29, 2021 by 5 p.m.: last day to file as a qualified write-in candidate.

If residents have any questions, contact Town Clerk Andrea Marcavitch.

Town Clerk
301-927-4262 ext. 101
townhall@upmd.org
www.upmd.org/2021townelection

Stephanie Herold
Supervisor of Elections
elections@upmd.org

FREE ELECTRONICS RECYCLING, \$5 PAINT DISPOSAL

Saturday, April 24, 9 AM-1 PM

for University Park Residents
UP Elementary School Bus Circle

Bring your cans of old, leftover, wet paint. Paint will be processed for reuse. Only latex, acrylic, alkyd, water or oil-based paints in original containers. \$5 per quart, gallon or bucket—cash, check, charge accepted.

Recycle it! Bring your Driver's License as proof of residency. All electronic items collected will be reused, refurbished or recycled through Turtle Wings Inc., in accordance with local, state and federal regulations. Please check the Public Works page at upmd.org for a list of other reuse and salvage organizations.

Residents must arrange to bring acceptable items to the scheduled recycling events or dispose of them personally at the Prince George's County Landfill.

Acceptable Items

Answering Machines
Ballasts-non PCB
Batteries (see list below)
Cables
Camcorders
CDs/ DVDs
Cell Phones
Circuit Boards
Compact Disc Players
Computer Equipment
Computers
Copiers
Cords
Duplicators
DVD Players
Electric Typewriters
Electronic Games
Fax Machines
Hard Drives
Keyboards / Mice
Household Electronics
Ink / Toner
Lab Equipment
Laptops
Laptop batteries
LCD Monitors
Mainframe Equipment
Media
Metal Scrap
Microwave Ovens
Modems
Monitors
Networking Equipment
Pagers
PDA's
Printers
Printed Circuit Board
Radios
Rechargeable Batteries
Remote Controls

Scanners
Stereo Components
Stereos
Tapes
Tape Players
Telephones
Telecom Equipment
Televisions
Testing Equipment
Toasters
Transparency Makers
Two-Way Radios
UPS - Power Supplies
VCRs
Word Processors
Other Electronics



What items are not acceptable?

Air Conditioners
Broken CRT monitors
Console Televisions
Dishwashers
Dryers
Light bulbs
Medical Waste
Nuclear Waste
Paint
PCB Ballasts
Radioactive Waste
Refrigerators
Thermostats
Washers

What types of batteries are not acceptable?

Lead Calcium Batteries
Lithium Batteries
Magnesium Batteries
Manganese Batteries Mercury Batteries
NiCd Wet Cell Batteries
Nickel Iron Batteries
Nickel Zinc Batteries



TOWN OF UNIVERSITY PARK
6724 Baltimore Ave.
University Park MD 20782

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TOWN DIRECTORY

Town Hall

Office Hours M-F 9 AM-5 PM 301-927-4262
 Fax 301-277-4548
 TDD 800-735-2258
 Website www.upmd.org
 Town Field Status 240-297-8277
 Town Bus Status Recording 240-297-8287
 Mayor Lenford C. Carey mayorcarey@upmd.org
 Cell Phone 240-338-2826
 Town Admin. David Deutsch ddeutsch@upmd.org
 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 April newsletter deadline is Tuesday, April 6. 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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