

UNIVERSITY PARK NEWSLETTER

TOWN OF UNIVERSITY PARK, MARYLAND

JULY-AUGUST 2023

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

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MAYOR'S COLUMN

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY! The Town will host its annual July 4th parade beginning at the top of Queens Chapel Road near Town Hall and ending at the Town soccer field. Young children are encouraged to decorate their bicycles or tricycles and join us at the parade staging area no later than 10:30 AM. We will kick off at 11AM. The Police Department will have frozen treats available for children who participate!

PLEASE WELCOME our newest councilmember for Ward 6, Grant Godfrey. As he settles into this new role, I trust his constituents and fellow councilmembers will welcome him.

Since this month culminates one year for me as your mayor, I summarized many of our Town's recent accomplishments. To the residents, Town Staff, and Councilmembers who played a role in these accomplishments, thank you!

Public Safety Over the past year, we lowered the town-wide speed limit to 20 MPH, installed a speed hump on Van Buren Street, installed a permanent speed hump on Clagett Road, and installed two speed humps on Pineway. We overcame the legal hurdles necessary for 24/7 speed camera enforcement on Baltimore Avenue / Route 1. In response to home break-ins and catalytic converter thefts, we started a Neighborhood Watch Program led by Corporal Georgia Miltenberger. Interested residents should email gmiltenberger@upmd.org or hbaker@upmd.org to learn more. Neighborhood Watch signs will be posted to indicate our heightened alert and discourage criminality. In the past six months, two pedestrians have been hit on Adelphi Road. I asked County Councilmember Eric Olson to request that the County install a HAWK pedestrian crossing signal on Adelphi near Northwestern High School. We are also close to having 24/7 automated speed enforcement on that road,

Town Meetings & Special Dates

Town Council, Special Session	July 17, August 21
Town Holiday	July 4

Town Hall is open Mon.- Fri., 9 AM to 5 PM. Residents must ring the call button for service. Council meetings are at 7:30 PM and currently conducted by video. Agendas are posted at www.upmd.org/agenda center. Please sign up for alerts at www.upmd.org/notifyme

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FROM THE MAYOR CONT.

and to our credit, we began the process for continuous speed enforcement even before this most recent pedestrian incident. The speed limit on Adelphi is currently enforced by automated camera on Monday-Friday from 6AM-8PM.

Pedestrian Bridges After many years of discussion and planning, the Council approved the bid that I submitted at a May 31st Special Council Session. This means construction will begin imminently on the two pedestrian bridges crossing Wells Run at the intersections of Wells Parkway/Van Buren Street and Wells Parkway/Beechwood Road.

Stormwater Management Last month, the Town submitted a draft MOU to the County to obligate the County to spend approximately \$500,000 on stormwater infrastructure improvements in Ward 5 near Pineway and Clagett-Pineway. This is the Town's first effort to improve our stormwater infrastructure and transfer responsibility for its maintenance to the County. Seven additional stormwater systems are in Town, and we will initiate separate MOUs to begin upgrading them.

Tot Lot Playground This spring, we completed the new Tot Lot for children 5 years old and under. Some pieces were damaged during delivery and were subsequently installed after the grand opening, and first-time users identified some equipment that needed adjustments. These issues have been rectified, and we look forward to many years of fun and excitement for young children in this new play space.

Town Administrator A three-member committee led by Councilmember Morrissey helped identify an interim Town Administrator who is expected to begin this month. The search for a permanent administrator continues due to a small applicant pool.

Environmental Protection In addition to renewing our membership with *Tree City USA*, University Park recently became part of *Bee City USA*. This membership is particularly special as it recognizes the efforts of residents to protect and maintain our Pollinator Meadow and educate property owners on best practices to promote the pollinator population. We installed electric vehicle charging stations at Town Hall for government vehicles. In the coming year, I will initiate a local ordinance to enhance protection of our park space, and we will remain vigilant on any proposed developments affecting Guilford Woods.

Promoting Inclusivity We demonstrated our commitment to being a *Welcoming Town* through resolutions designating June as Pride Month and June 19th as Juneteenth. These actions intentionally depart from our Town's misguided founding values. In 1936 when the Town was founded property sales were limited to white Christians and deliberately excluded Black Americans, the Jewish community, and other minority groups. These two inclusive resolutions are part of the Town's effort to chart a history vastly different from our past.

In closing, our most recent budget provides funds for local Trap, Neuter, and Release (TNR) programs. If you or someone you know is actively engaged in TNR activities to humanely control the local cat population, the Town will now support your efforts. More details will be announced soon, but in the meantime, you may email me directly if you have any questions. As always, please consider adopting your next pet from the Prince George's County Animal Shelter where many friendly animals await their forever homes!

—Joel Biermann

Notice of Introduction of Ordinance 23-O-04

On May 31, 2023, Ordinance 23-O-04 was introduced. This ordinance authorizes the transfer of \$20,000 from the General Fund - Unreserved/Undesignated Fund to the A/C 7050-00 - Reserves - Bridges - Revenue line item and the increase of the A/C 7133-00 - Park Bridge Replace - Beechwood & Van Buren - Expenditure line item by \$20,000.00, in order to fully fund the contract for installation of the Beechwood and Van Buren pedestrian bridges. The meeting set for July 17, 2023, 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.

Notice of Introduction of Emergency Ordinance 23-O-05

On June 20, 2023, Ordinance 23-O-05 was introduced. This ordinance authorizes the transfer of \$270,000 from the General Fund/Unreserved Funds line item to the A/C 7049-00 Reserves - Street Work Project line item in the Capital Improvement Project Fund and the allocation of \$270,000 to the A/C 7111-00 Construction - NZI expense line item in the Capital Improvement Project Fund. The meeting set for July 17, 2023, is the first meeting at which the ordinance could be adopted. If adopted, the emergency ordinance will become effective immediately. For more information or a copy of the proposed ordinance, call Town Hall at 301-927-4262.

FROM THE CHIEF

Running or rolling through a stop sign is a common practice that many if not most of us have done at some point while driving. We rationalize our behavior by saying to ourselves that no one was in the intersection, it was all clear, or there are too many stop signs in this neighborhood. Or maybe it's the age-old reason why many run stop signs—I'm headed to work and running late.

Whatever your reason for running a stop sign, please don't. Running a stop sign is a violation of Maryland traffic laws and punishable by a fine of \$110. The Town of University Park has 163 stop signs within its corporate limits and a stop sign is one of the most valuable and effective traffic control devices. It is intended to help drivers and pedestrians at an intersection decide who has the right of way and to make sure that traffic flows smoothly and predictably.



The University Park Police have compiled five reasons why you should always stop at a stop sign:

- It's the law and you may receive a traffic citation. Stopping at stop signs in your neighborhood is a civic duty that promotes community safety and wellness.
- You could cause a collision or hit a pedestrian causing serious injuries. Community members actively walk, bike and jog in University Park and depend on you to stop at all stop signs.
- Your behavior sets an example for our young drivers. Children and young drivers who witness a parent run a stop sign often think it's okay to do the same.
- Failure to stop creates a sense of uncertainty. When other drivers or walkers are unsure that you will stop at a stop sign it may affect their decision-making and result in a decision that could put them in harm's way.
- When motorists stop at every stop sign, collisions are 100% preventable. In 2019, 143,000 people were injured due to the driver's failure to obey a traffic control device.

Stopping at a stop sign is not only a neighborly gesture, keeping the town's roadways safe for all users, but it's also the law. The University Park Police would like to remind all drivers to come to a complete stop at all stop signs.

Home Security Survey is an inspection of your home, performed by a University Park Police Officer, to identify areas where you can improve the physical security of your residence. Please email Elizabeth Gilead (egilead@upmd.org) if you would like to schedule a *Home Security Survey*.

Theft On July 21 a resident in the 4300 block of Tucker St. reported the catalytic converter was stolen from his Toyota Prius parked outside of his residence. According to the owner the theft occurred sometime on July 19. There are no suspects.

Theft On July 19 a resident in the 4300 block of Woodberry St. reported that someone stole a personal check from the U.S. mailbox at 44th Ave. and Van Buren St. and used his identity to attempt to steal \$6,900 from his bank account. The attempt was unsuccessful. The suspect then tried on two occasions to open bank accounts using the resident's identity. The accounts were closed and a fraud alert was placed on the resident's credit reports. There are no suspects.

Identity Theft On July 11 a resident in the 4100 block of Woodberry St. was notified by the Maryland Department of Labor that her unemployment benefits were denied. The resident had not applied for unemployment. Apparently, a suspect used her identity and attempted to fraudulently obtain unemployment benefits. No unemployment benefits were awarded and there are no suspects.

National Night Out, Tuesday, August 1, 6-8 PM, is an annual nationwide event that brings together citizens, law enforcement agencies, local officials, and community stakeholders to increase anti-crime awareness and strengthen community partnerships. On Tuesday, August 1, residents are encouraged to turn on their front porch lights and gather with the University Park Police and community partners at the Town Field to demonstrate our unity toward community wellbeing and crime prevention.

The new school year begins on August 28. A few years ago, the University Park Police along with elected officials and concerned community members developed the University Park Safe Route to School Plan. The plan was developed to ensure an organized and efficient process for parents to drop their child off at school so that all children arrive safely. We recognize how difficult it can

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be to get your child to school on time while not being late for work. This past year aspects of the plan were observed and followed, while far too many drivers ignored posted drop off signs and certain traffic control devices while transporting their students to University Park Elementary School. With your support, patience and compliance, the Police Safe Route to School Plan can work. To that end, please review and apply these 11 dos and don'ts of the Safe Route to School Plan.

Community Notification

The Town of University Park automated residential speed camera in the 7000 Block of Adelphi Road (northbound) will become active July 1 and warnings will be issued until August 1. The camera will be operational 24/7.

University Park Police Department SAFE ROUTE TO SCHOOL 11 Do's and Don'ts

For The Community of University Park Elementary School

- 1** *DO HAVE YOUR CHILD EXIT YOUR VEHICLE ON THE CURBSIDE AT DROP OFF ZONES ON UNDERWOOD STREET OR QUEENS CHAPEL ROAD.*
- 2** *DO USE THE CROSSING GUARD TO CROSS QUEENS CHAPEL ROAD AND UNDERWOOD ST.*
- 3** *DO USE THE LOWER CROSS WALK WHEN PARKING AT THE WORD OF GOD BAPTIST CHURCH.*
- 4** *DO PUSH THE BUTTON TO ACTIVATE THE BLINKING LIGHTS SO VEHICLES DRIVING ON QUEENS CHAPEL ROAD CAN SEE YOU.*
- 5** *DO FOLLOW THE DIRECTION OF THE CROSSING GUARD AND ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD TO DO THE SAME.*
- 6** *DO SET THE PROPER EXAMPLE & DON'T JAYWALK WITH YOUR CHILD OR CROSS IN THE MIDDLE OF QUEENS CHAPEL ROAD.* 
- 7** *DON'T MAKE A U-TURN ON QUEENS CHAPEL ROAD.*
- 8** *DON'T PARK IN THE DROP OFF ZONES ON UNDERWOOD STREET OR QUEENS CHAPEL ROAD OR LEAVE YOUR VEHICLE UNATTENDED.*
- 9** *DON'T WALK YOUR CHILD ACROSS THE UNIVERSITY PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STAFF PARKING LOT.*
- 10** *DO OBEY THE POSTED SPEED LIMIT.*
- 11** *DO COME TO A COMPLETE STOP AT ALL STOP SIGNS IN UNIVERSITY PARK*

Let's all do our part and work together to make sure that our kids arrive safely for school.

Helping Hands University Park



Helping Hands University Park

Helping Hands University Park now has its own operational and active listserv to be used for HHUP announcements, group info sharing and social conversation. Any members or vol-

unteers who have not received email notification and would like to join, please contact the listserv administrator Peg Smith at peggyatwork@hotmail.com.

HHUP Calendar—All events are via Zoom unless otherwise noted.

HHUP Poetry Gathering, Sunday, July 9, 4-5:30 PM via Zoom. All UP residents are welcome, whether a poet, poetry lover, or just poetry curious. Contact Gerry Hendershot, ghendershot@earthlink.net; Loretta Saks, loretahhup@gmail.com, or Deborah Rosenfelt, dsr@umd.edu.

Members Monthly Lunch Club, Wednesday, July 19 and August 23, 12:00 PM In person. Members and volunteers social gathering. Become a member and join us!

Executive Committee Meeting, Wednesday, July 26 and August 23, 5:30-6:30 PM HHUP is a committee of the Town Council, and all UP residents are welcome to attend. Contact us by phone or email for the Zoom link.

Conversational Spanish, Wednesdays, 3-4 PM Members meet weekly to practice with instructor Edda Osborne.

Route 1 Corridor Conversations An online informative series co-sponsored by HHUP to entertain, engage, and educate. Info online at: hyattsvilleaginginplace.org/programs-and-activities/corridor-conversations/

HHUP Contact Info: hhuniversitypark@gmail.com; 301-892-6636; helpinghandsup.org; [facebook.com/HelpingHandsUP](https://www.facebook.com/HelpingHandsUP).

Tree Committee News

How to Water your Yard University Park’s greatest asset is our large trees, an investment initiated decades ago. Due to the global climate crisis, we now need to add these large specimens to our watering list—cycles of drought and flood have impacted even the oldest specimens, making them more susceptible to insects and bacterial blight. Please water when needed. The University of Maryland provides excellent guidance: extension.umd.edu/resource/watering-trees-and-shrubs

Removal of one healthy shade tree can disrupt the health



of dozens of neighboring shade trees, potentially creating a domino effect of ecosystem collapse which spawns a heat island radiating further outward. Please remain cognizant of UP’s Tree Ordinance, as described at upmd.org/DocumentCenter/View/2262

Ivy League, Saturdays, July 8 and August 12, 9 AM The Ivy League meets to remove ivy from the town’s trees. This might serve as a good tutorial on how to remove ivy from trees on your property while you simultaneously help safeguard the town’s trees. No tools required. Bring a friend or relative and celebrate Earth Day once or twice again. Details on location will be posted on the town listserv. Alternatively, please contact TPE at TreeComm@UPMD.org

May 8 Work Session Highlights

Present (via video and audio conference) were Mayor Biermann; Councilmembers Dubayah, Gathercole, Morrissey, Morgan, McGaughey, Wells, Sweet.

Public Comment

- A resident spoke on behalf of Route 1 Communities Care. Their purpose is to raise money to provide well balanced meals for the food insecure populations of Riverdale Park, Hyattsville, College Park and the vast surrounding areas. Together they have raised over \$500,000 for their restaurant meals program. Donations have come from foundations, municipalities, the County and lots of organizations and caring individuals. They would like to ask for a donation from the Council once again from the remaining ARPA funds.
- A resident stated that she has been volunteering with Route 1 Communities Care since it started in April

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2020. They started with a Go Fund Me page, along with four art auctions and yard sales. They have also received grants and donations. She asked that University Park make a donation.

▪ Mayor Biermann stated that it does sound like there is support for Route 1 Community Cares.

Motion: To discuss Legislative Resolution 23-O-03: Fiscal Year 2024 Budget. Motion approved 7 to 0.

Mayor Biermann showed the “UP Tax Brackets vs.US Population as a Percentage of Households” chart. Mr. Baden showed the most recent draft of the budget which was sent out last Tuesday after the Council meeting. He noted there were 4 adjustments that the Council made at Monday’s meeting. They were: an increase in legal fees of \$5,000; a gas blower rebate increase of \$5,000; under the ARPA funds—the reduction of path lighting by \$200,000 and a reduction of the transit plan by \$220,000. CM Morrissey wanted to start with lines G-1 and G-2 and wants to raise the amount to fund the Town Administrator at 40 hours per week. The salary range would be between \$130,000 and \$150,000. *Approved 7 to 0.*

CM Morrissey wanted to focus on G-44 which relates to animal shelter donations. She and Mayor Biermann discussed creating some kind of program in town which would partner with local veterinary services to provide reimbursement services and neutering for strays. She suggests taking the \$5,000 for this line item and devoting it to the reimbursement program. She stated that she is willing to donate some of the money to the SPCA as well and suggested splitting it 50/50. CM McGaughey moved to amend CM Morrissey’s proposal and said we should give \$3,000 to the animal shelter donations and the remaining to the SPCA at the end of the year. *Approved 7 to 0.*

CM Morrissey and Mayor Biermann spoke on April 30 about possibly raising the training budget for the Department of Public Works. She provided a document for her fellow Council members and Mayor Biermann to look at for some ideas from the Trade Committee to look at regarding granting some training ideas (horticulture, etc.) from the University of Maryland for the Department of Public Works. Her proposal is to increase line item W8 by \$5,000. *Approved 7 to 0.*

CM Gathercole suggested that B-8 (Park Usage Concept Plan) and G-34 (Park Upgrades) should be combined and should be called Park Planning and Upgrades. She expressed concern about \$20,000 for new composting bins and her concern is that waste and compost waste will be combined in the same bin. Michael Beall, Director of Public Works, detailed the benefits of the proposed bins as well as the cost savings. CM McGaughey said he would be happy to make an amendment to change that line item to \$28,000. CM Gathercole made the motion to change the line item to \$28,000. *Approved 7 to 0.*

CM Gathercole stated that since we already discussed trapping, neutering and the Humane Society, she would like to change the amount donated to Route 1 Community Cares from \$13,000 to \$15,000 and also change the donation amount for the Anacostia Watershed Society from \$2,500 to \$5,000. *Approved 7 to 0.*

CM Wells wanted to put the position for a part-time administrative assistant back in the budget at the cost that was allocated in the previous year’s budget. She thinks it is going to be very busy with grant applications and all kinds of contracting. We can even use a temp agency to fill the position until it is filled. *Approved 7 to 0.*

She would also like us to consider an addition of \$5,000 for the Town Attorney because she believes they are going to be very busy negotiating contracts, etc. She feels this is a vital position. CM Wells made a motion to add \$10,000 for legal support for ARPA projects in the ARPA funding category. This will update line item G-16 beyond the \$45,000 that is currently there. *Approved 7 to 0.*

CM Wells stated that with regard to line item G-35, she would like us to consider adding \$30,000 for additional electrical vehicle charging stations.

She also wanted us to add \$200,000 to line item G-37, the Town Hall project. The reason is that the total cost of the Town Hall Project may be in excess of \$2,000,000.

She would also like to add another \$200,000 to the Stormwater Management Project management funds; put \$219,047 into Town Hall and remove the \$30,000 for the charging stations for electrical vehicles.

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Motion: To allocate an additional \$300,000 to stormwater and to put \$200,000 to Town Hall and remove \$30,000 out of charging stations and leave park upgrades at \$50,000. Motion approved 7 to 0.

CM Sweet spoke against allocating additional funds for the electrical car charging stations and the Town Hall project.

Motion: To adopt the constant yield tax rate of \$4,959 for fiscal year 2024. (Ed. note: this should read 49 and 59/100th cents (\$0.4959) per \$100 of full value assessment on all taxable real property.) Mayor Biermann suggested postponing the vote until the final budget is presented.

CM Sweet suggested we do something for Veterans Park such as adding a flagpole, trees or a placard.

The meeting adjourned by consent at 10 PM.

May 15 Council Meeting Highlights

Present (via video and audio conference) were Mayor Biermann; Councilmembers Dubayah, Gathercole, Morrissey, Morgan, McGaughey, Wells, Sweet.

Public Comment

- A resident stated that he wanted to make a comment about some of the discussions that have taken place recently regarding the budget and Mayor Biermann's suggestion that there be a tax cut to help the lower income households in town. He thinks this is an admirable idea, but he suggested that a tax cut is not the best way to go about this. He thinks there are some other things that the town could look at to help people who are in need rather than an across-the-board tax cut of that sort which is going to benefit everyone instead of just the households who could use some extra help.
- A resident stated that she is interested in a discussion based on Ms. Morrissey's email about the \$100 tax rebate vs. fixing numerous problems that we have in town. She feels we need to fix the problems in town, such as the stormwater problems that affect several of our neighbors.
- A resident stated that he thinks the tax cut idea is inappropriate at this time because there are many areas, including the bridge, that need to be addressed to keep the town doing what is needed.
- A resident stated that he wants to state his opposition to reducing the tax rate at this time. More importantly, he said we should not leave money on the table as we have a lot of assistance from the federal government.
- A resident stated that under G-33, we have \$15,000 of ARPA funds committed to nonprofits. He thinks the need is a lot more than that as they committed \$113,000 to nonprofits in December 2021.
- A resident stated that she is not for the tax cut. She thinks it is not prudent right now. When we are looking at nonprofits, we should include the Anacostia Watershed Society because they have been supporting us for years.
- A resident stated that is in favor exclusive of a tax cut. She would rather spend money supporting our neighbors, our aging town infrastructure or establishing a more modern, accessible Town Hall.
- Mayor Biermann stated that using the term "tax cut" is the wrong way to look at it. You are adopting a tax rate. Whether that tax rate is the same or it's higher or it's lower, the tax rate that we adopt should be the tax rate that pays for the cost of operating the town. He feels that everyone should agree with that. He is also concerned that after all of this, we are only at \$100,000 to give back because this coming FY24, we are literally going to have about \$900,000 extra than we did two years ago. Over \$600,000 of that is coming from speed camera revenue. He stated that we are making significant progress on the pedestrian bridges. We recently paid to have our permit extensions put out for another six months and by May 26 we are going to have two companies submitting proposals for putting those bridges in. You will note in the budget, there is funding for that. We are not cutting any services; and we are not proposing to leave any money on the table.
- Mayor Biermann gave a brief presentation on University Park home values and affordability.
- Ms. Wells stated that if we think of our budget as a one-year adventure, maybe we are taking in a little more money than we are going to spend this year, maybe that's been true for a couple years. We have waited six years to accumulate enough money to replace the pedestrian bridges that were discussed years ago. We are looking at some major expenses in the future such as Town Hall and stormwater management.
- Ms. Morrissey said that Mayor Biermann threatened to veto the budget if we did not pass this tax rate decrease. What this means is that we would have to revert back to this year's budget which would have no decrease and there would be a lasting ripple effect of doing that. Her understanding is that the County will increase our assessments for three years in a row. In her opinion, what would be a smarter thing to do would be to take the

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\$100,000 and put it into a designated reserve for storm-water management, Town Hall, the bridges, etc.

▪ Mayor Biermann said that \$100 or \$200 may not seem like a lot of money but if we had an extra \$50 per household, which is about as low as it can get, because a one cent change in our tax rate is effectively \$50 per household. He is advocating for people of a lower socioeconomic status.

Motion: To adopt Legislative Resolution 23-O-03, Fiscal Year 2024 Budget.

CM Sweet asked Attorney Ferguson and Mr. Baden budget questions regarding the tax rate, tax cuts, possible public hearings. Attorney Ferguson explained the process for changing the budget with a budget amendment if necessary. Mr. Baden explained the tax rate and the constant yield rate. The Council is proposing to keep the rate at the Constant Yield which means we'll get the same amount of property tax in fiscal year 24 as fiscal year 23. The Mayor is proposing a four-cent tax decrease below constant yield rate and it's now down to two cents which equates to \$100,000.

Motion: To create a new line item, P-26 for the Emergency Alert System and fund it with \$2,200. Motion approved 6 to 1.

Motion: To add \$1,000 to line item G-21, Publications. Moved by: CM McGaughey. No Second.

Motion: To adopt a motion to give \$15,000 to the Capital Area Food Bank. Motion approved 7 to 0.

Motion: To increase the amount for line item G-7 from \$5,000 to \$7,500 to cover committee activities that we know of as well as to encourage more activities. Motion approved 7 to 0.

Motion: To add \$4,000 to a new line item for increasing tree cover through the planting of trees on private property or through the resident tree reimbursement program, Legacy Tree Program. Motion approved 7 to 0.

Motion: To adopt a motion that we set the tax rate at the constant yield tax rate. Motion approved 5 to 2.

Motion: To adopt the budget as amended tonight, including the constant yield tax rate. Motion approved 7 to 0.

Department Reports

Town Clerk TC Hegeman All permits approved administratively are in the packet.

Chief of Police Harvey Baker

- Crime report: A total of two incidents.
- Movie Night in the Park this Friday from 6-9 PM.
- Several trainings this month, including In Service training, Tasers, Community Engagement, Crisis Intervention, Mental Health Assessment, and Virtual and Inclusive Leadership.

Town Treasurer Dan Baden The April 2023 Treasurer's Report was distributed and discussed.

Director of Public Works Michael Beall

- The roads contractor is expected back on Thursday or Friday to begin construction of the Micro Bio Retention and to finish up any miscellaneous things that still need to be done.
- The VEO Ride Bike Share East Scooter Station is live at the corner of Woodberry and College Heights Drive.
- The two previous low bidders for the pedestrian bridge project will again submit their proposals. We anticipate those proposals to come in in the vicinity of the \$300,000 that is budgeted. They originally bid within \$75 of each other in November 2019.

The meeting adjourned by consent at 10 PM.

May 31 Special Meeting Highlights

Present (via video and audio conference) were Mayor Biermann; Councilmembers Dubayah, Gathercole, Morrissey, Morgan, McGaughey, Wells and Sweet.

Public Comment

CM Sweet apologized to Mayor and Council and specifically Councilmember Morrissey and the residents from the last meeting for his outburst. He also thanked members of the Council and residents who reached out to check on him.

CM Gathercole and CM Morrissey thanked Councilmember Sweet for his apology.

Motion: To approve the contract, in substantially the form attached, in the amount of up to \$320,000, to Franco's Liberty Bridge, to demolish and dispose of one pedestrian bridge over Wells Parkway near Beechwood Road, to construct two pedestrian bridges over

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Wells Parkway near Beechwood Road and Van Buren Street, and to provide for soil, sediment, and erosion control at the construction site, subject to review by the Town Attorney. Motion approved 7 to 0.

- Public Works Director, Mickey Beall elaborated on the project and explained why he recommended Franco's Liberty Bridge as the contractor.
- CM Wells pointed out that the completion and start date on the contract was incorrect.
- CM McGaughey stated that the copy of the contract the Council received refers to Mayor Len Carey.
- The Town Attorney apologized for sending an old contract and will resend the correct version.
- CM McGaughey inquired about the railing fabrication, installation and the bridge material.
- Mr. Beall described the installation process and the building materials.

Motion: To introduce Ordinance 23-O-04, an amendment of the FY24 Budget to allow for transfer of \$20,000 from the General Fund - Unreserved/Undesignated Fund to the following accounts in the Capital Improvement Projects Fund:

A/C 7050-00 - Reserves - Bridges - Revenue

A/C 7133-00 - Park Bridge Replace - Beechwood & Van Buren - Expenditure

to fully fund a contract for the installation of the two pedestrian bridges. Motion approved 7 to 0.

The Town Attorney explained that this ordinance cannot be adopted until July as it must be advertised in the newsletter first. The \$20,000 is going to be contingent for the contractor and you can switch to ARPA funds at that time.

Motion: To proclaim June as Pride Month in recognition of the many LGBTQ citizens who have worked tirelessly for the cause of equality for all people. Motion approved 7 to 0.

Motion: To recognize Juneteenth in honor of the African American community and to formally acknowledge and celebrate the African American community and their many ancestors who endured centuries of strife in the pursuit of freedom. Motion approved 7 to 0.

Motion: To adjourn to Closed Session for the purpose of discussing the appointment, employment, assign-

ment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction, any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals. They will not return to Open Session after the Closed Session ends. Motion approved 7 to 0.

June 5 Council Meeting Highlights

A closed session was called prior to the Council meeting at 7:15 PM to discuss a personnel matter that affected one or more specific individuals.

Present (via video and audio conference) were Mayor Biermann; Councilmembers Dubayah, Gathercole, Morrissey, Morgan, McGaughey, Wells, Sweet.

Motion: To adopt a resolution and proclamation by the Mayor and Common Council of University Park honoring University Park Elementary School's retiring employee Devilan Cowherd, the school registrar, who supported the UPES children and families for 15 years. Motion approved 7 to 0.

CM Wells thanked Lilly Baker and Krista Atteberry who brought this wonderful occurrence to our attention, and I'm sure the principal and all the students will miss you very much, but I'm glad we have the type of community that recognizes what you have done for us.

Ms. Cowherd stated that she was overwhelmed and grateful to have served University Park Elementary School for 15 years. I wasn't expecting anything like this, and it has truly been an honor to serve the UPES community.

Public Comment

▪A resident stated he had three children in UPES before Ms. Cowherd was there and extended his thanks to her. He announced that on June 22 at UMD Mr. Brosch and Mr. Tabori are hosting an architectural stormwater management forum at the architectural auditorium. He encouraged community participation. This resident suggested that in the future the Town Council resume live meetings. He suggested having a column in the Town Newsletter such as "Council Column" where authoring notes would rotate among Council Members.

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- A resident expressed her thanks to Ms. Cowherd for her service. She asked about the status of the RFP for the park plan that is under consideration. The Mayor stated that he would be responding to this question later in the meeting.
- A resident noted that nothing was in the Town Newsletter following the Town election in May about those who won or the swearing in. Mayor Biermann responded it would be in two weeks at 6:30 PM, before the next Council meeting.
- This resident noted he was pleased to see the Council pass the proclamations for Pride Month and Juneteenth and said that the flags and banners should be put out at the Town Hall. The Mayor responded that there is a need for additional flag poles and has asked the Director of Public Works to secure and install them as soon as possible.

Mayor, Council, and Committee Comments and Reports

Mayor Biermann

- The swearing-in ceremony will be in two weeks an hour before the next Council meeting.
- At the Special Council Session on Wednesday, May 31 we approved the pedestrian walkways; construction will begin after July 1. (*Ed. note: this should read pedestrian bridges.*) We will need to move some money, as the price did go up in keeping with inflation.

Police, Traffic and Public Safety Committee There will not be a meeting this month; the next meeting is July 12.

CM Gathercole read a prepared comment. I would like to comment on some items of omission in the last newsletter. Under your column Mayor, it was mentioned that a portion of ARPA funds would have restarted the town transit program through purchase of a zero emissions bus and that the town's transit study showed most residents favored restoring the service. This is all true; however, this was not the whole story of why the Council voted down the shuttle program and as a result I think this threw the Council in a bad light in the newsletter.

I'd like to go on record saying that while the survey demonstrated many people wanted the shuttle program, the important fact left out of the article was the survey showed that very few people, in fact fewer than pre-pandemic level ridership would actually use the shuttle. As a result, this enormously expensive program couldn't be justified for just a few when our funds needed to go

to more immediate problems, for example, stormwater management and upgrades to Town Hall. We also did not see any mention of our recent elections which should have been posted in the newsletter. Also, no mention of when the swearing-in ceremony will be. My point in all this is we must be careful not to omit important details that happen in our town. People rely on the newsletter for important information, and we do a disservice if we don't paint the whole picture. Thank you for letting me speak.

Sustainability Committee We will have an in-person meeting to do a walking tour of the stormwater projects for the Sustainability Committee. We are meeting at 6:30 PM tomorrow at 44th and Sheridan. We will host it via Zoom as well for anyone interested in participating remotely in the tour.

CM Sweet

- The Councilmembers and the Mayor received a positive email regarding the service of our Town Clerk, TC Hegeman, who received the Maryland Municipal League's Honor Roll recognition for municipal Town Clerks. That is an understatement for the amazing job she does.
- Will be out of town next week and will not make it to the swearing in or CM Wells' final Council meeting and thanked CM Wells for serving six years on the Town Council. He wished her the best and hopes that she will continue to report on Wells Run for the community as it's a very important factor.

Public Facilities and Services Committee

Met May 25 and spoke with Barry Miller, the principal architect at Frederick Ward and Associates. We discussed the brick-and-mortar additions versus prefab. We were informed that we would pay more for prefab because of site preparation issues. The consultant suggested doing another study, but the \$40,000 cost did not warrant it.

A meeting is scheduled for this Wednesday to view the drawings.

Development Overview Committee Will meet Thursday night at the usual time, 7:30 PM and the agenda is posted.

Mayor Biermann spoke about meeting a resident with disabilities. The resident stated how they relied on the

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

town shuttle for services such as getting groceries. Many of the people who use the town shuttle cannot drive or are under the age of 16 and are disappointed that it will be discontinued.

Continuing Business

Motion: To adopt Ordinance 23-O-04, an amendment of the FY24 Budget to allow the transfer of \$20,000 from the General Fund - Unreserved/Undesignated Fund for the following accounts in the Capital Improvement Projects Fund:

A/C 7050-00 - Reserves - Bridges - Revenue

A/C 7133-00 - Park Bridges Replace - Beechwood & Van Buren - Expenditure

to fully fund a contract for installation of the two pedestrian bridges. Motion approved 7 to 0. Town Attorney Ferguson noted this topic has not appeared in the Town Newsletter and cannot be adopted. The earliest date this ordinance can be adopted is July 3.

New Business

Motion: To introduce budget transfers within the Police Department for expenditures.

Transfer from line item:

P27 \$81,120.00 - Axon In-Car Video to:

P8 \$21,199.95 - to pay off Axon Tasers and Body Worn Cameras

P26 \$12,500.00 - to pay for upfitting of new cruiser

The earliest date this will be considered for passage is July 3.

Motion approved 7 to 0.

Motion: To approve the revised 2023 schedule to reflect only one meeting in the months of July and December. Motion approved 7 to 0.

CM Dubayah inquired about the Park Plan and the Mayor noted that the Park Plan will be part of the 30-day priority for the new Town Administrator.

The meeting adjourned by consent at 8:10 PM.



TOWN NEWS & EVENTS

Tai Chi Chuan Class

Saturdays, 8-9 AM

Dancing In Silence, Inc. has been offering free Tai Chi Chuan classes to the general public since 2008. Sponsored by University Park Church of the Brethren, these free classes are an opportunity to learn more about this ancient art form of self-defense & experience the physical, mental and spiritual benefits of Tai Chi Chuan. Students learn the five Organ and Spirit Enlivening Qi Gong exercises as well as Lao (Old) Yang Family Tai Chi Chuan. Beginners are welcome.



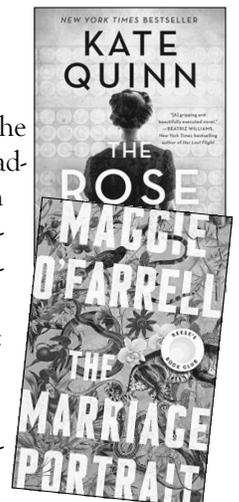
The colorful, new painting installed in the front yard of the University Park Church of the Brethren on Tuckerman Street was created by local artist Evan Lefevre. Evan is a student at Roosevelt High School and lives in Hyattsville. The work, commissioned by the church in the spirit of the Hyattsville Arts District, incorporates images and symbols reflective of the identity of the congregation.

After Eight Book Group

The After Eight Book group takes the summer off to get caught up on reading. If interested in joining us again in September, get a head start by reading these three books, which are already on our list:

Maggie O'Farrell; *The Marriage Portrait*
Kate Quinn; *The Rose Code*

Brendan Slocumb; *Symphony of Secrets*
If interested in attending, please contact Laura Donnelly at 301-927-6550.



Arts in the Park Celebration
Saturday, September 30, 1-4 PM

Call for Town Artists. Whether you draw, paint, photograph, carve, stitch, sculpt, quilt or engage in any other of the visual arts, please set aside this day to share your art with our town community. Artists' works will be displayed along the town park path from Tennyson to the bottom of 41st Street. Any town resident 10 years of age or older is invited to display their art. The day is about sharing and celebrating our community through its visual arts. No judging, no competitions, no prizes! Just a fun day in the park. We will also offer free artist demonstrations during the show again this year. More details will be in the September Town Newsletter.



Registration must be completed by September 22 so a program can be printed before the event. To register simply go to tinyurl.com/2023-UP-Arts complete the brief questionnaire and click submit. You are automatically registered and follow-up information will be e-mailed to you. If you are having difficulties registering, or if you have any other questions or concerns, please email UPartsinthepark@gmail.com or call Dick Groppe on 301-864-2096.

UP Community Mosquito Control Program

What do you know about Asian tiger mosquitoes (*Aedes albopictus*)? They are the most common mosquito in University Park. Studies show they can carry West Nile virus. They can transmit dog heartworm disease and eastern equine encephalitis in the Eastern US. Many communities are now infested by daytime-biting Asian tiger mosquitoes. They like shade and still air where water-holding containers are common.



What's your first line of defense? Yard cleanup! Inspect your yard weekly, and after it rains, to remove potential breeding sites. Simply tip or remove water-holding containers like wading pools and toys, tarps and folds that collect water, and plant pots and saucers. If your traps

are deployed, be sure to change the water, grass, dunks and sticky cards about every 4 weeks, or as needed. The traps work best if there are no other sources of standing water (potential breeding sites) in your yard. If you're using canola oil, consider switching to sticky cards and the slotted funnel trap design.

It's never too late to get started! If you haven't set out your traps or haven't purchased traps go to the UP Community Mosquito Control Program website for details on how to order, set up and maintain your traps: upmd.org/222/Community-Mosquito-Control. You can always send us an email at upcmosquitoc@gmail.com and we'll reply as soon as possible.

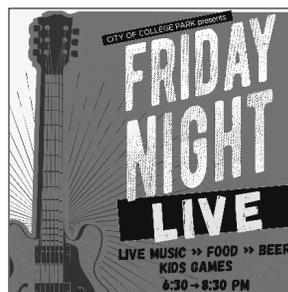


Meadow Day

Saturday, July 8, 10 AM-Noon

Join us for the third annual Meadow Day on Adelphi Road for presentations and displays on biodiversity, butterflies, native bees and honeybees, environmental issues, trees and pollinators. Bring a native plant/take a plant swap, scavenger hunt, meadow seed prizes and more. Please leave the dogs at home. Presented in partnership with Anacostia Watershed Society, Sierra Club, City of Hyattsville, Bowie-Upper Marlboro Beekeepers Association, University of Maryland-Extension, Charles County Master Gardeners and Nurture Natives, and more. Rain date July 9.

Friday Night Live!, Friday, July 14, 6:30 PM The City of College Park hosts a series of concerts over the summer and you are invited! Join us on the plaza at the City Hall building on select Fridays for these events featuring a variety of musical genres and performers, including something for everyone, music, food, beer and entertainment. There will be



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

children's performers, a bounce house, kids' activities and arts and crafts. Parking is free at the Downtown College Park parking garage at the corner of Yale and Knox. Local food and beer will be available for purchase during the event.

2023 Summer Concert Line-Up:

- **July 14** The Real Genius's, 80s Rock
- **August 11** Groovalicious, Funk and Disco
- **September 8** Oktoberfest with Edelweiss Band



Riversdale

Riversdale House Museum, 4811 Riverdale Road, 301-446-3238, riversdale@pgparks.com



Shakespeare in the Parks Tour: The Tempest, Wednesday, July 5, 7:30-9 PM The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission's Arts and Cultural Heritage Division is proud to announce our ten-year anniversary celebration tour with the show that started it all, *The Tempest*, directed by founding Artistic Director Christopher Dwyer. This 1980s-infused tale follows Prospero, stranded on a deserted island in the Mediterranean with his daughter Miranda, who narrowly escapes his evil brother. He now comes to grips with a life he left behind and whether to enact revenge on his brother who has just washed up on shore. Complete with magic, faeries, and physical storytelling, this fast-paced 90-minute outdoor adventure is perfect for the entire family. Bring your lawn chair and a picnic, and enjoy the Bard under the stars. Free.

Jazz on the Lawn, Wednesdays, 7-8 PM Pack a picnic, grab a blanket or lawn chair and enjoy some of the finest local jazz musicians while relaxing on Riversdale's grounds. Free.

- **July 12** Redwine Jazz (Clarinet Academy)
- **July 26** Downtown Tumbao
- **August 23** Brulee



Shopping Locally for Fresh Food: 2023 Farmers Markets

You can eat locally grown produce year-round by shopping at these markets within a 5-mile radius.

Riverdale Park Farmers Market
4650 Queensbury Road
Riverdale Park, Maryland 20737
Thursday 3-7 PM

College Park Farmers Market
5211 Paint Branch Pkwy.
College Park, Maryland 20740
Saturday 8 AM-Noon

Hollywood Farmers Market
9801 Rhode Island Ave.
College Park, Maryland 20740
Saturday 9 AM-1 PM

USDA Beltsville Farmers Market
5601 Sunnyside Ave., Parking Lot B
Beltsville, Maryland 20705
Thursday 10 AM-2 PM

Greenbelt Farmers Market
25 Crescent Road
Greenbelt, Maryland 20770
Sunday, beginning May 14, 10 AM-2 PM

Takoma Park Farmers Market
6931 Laurel Ave.
Takoma Park, Maryland 2091



UP Helping Paws

Please make sure dogs use the right of way, avoiding private front lawn property. Please remember to pick up after your dog and dispose of waste in public trash cans. Sign up your animal(s) in the UP Pet database at <https://tinyurl.com/UPPet>.

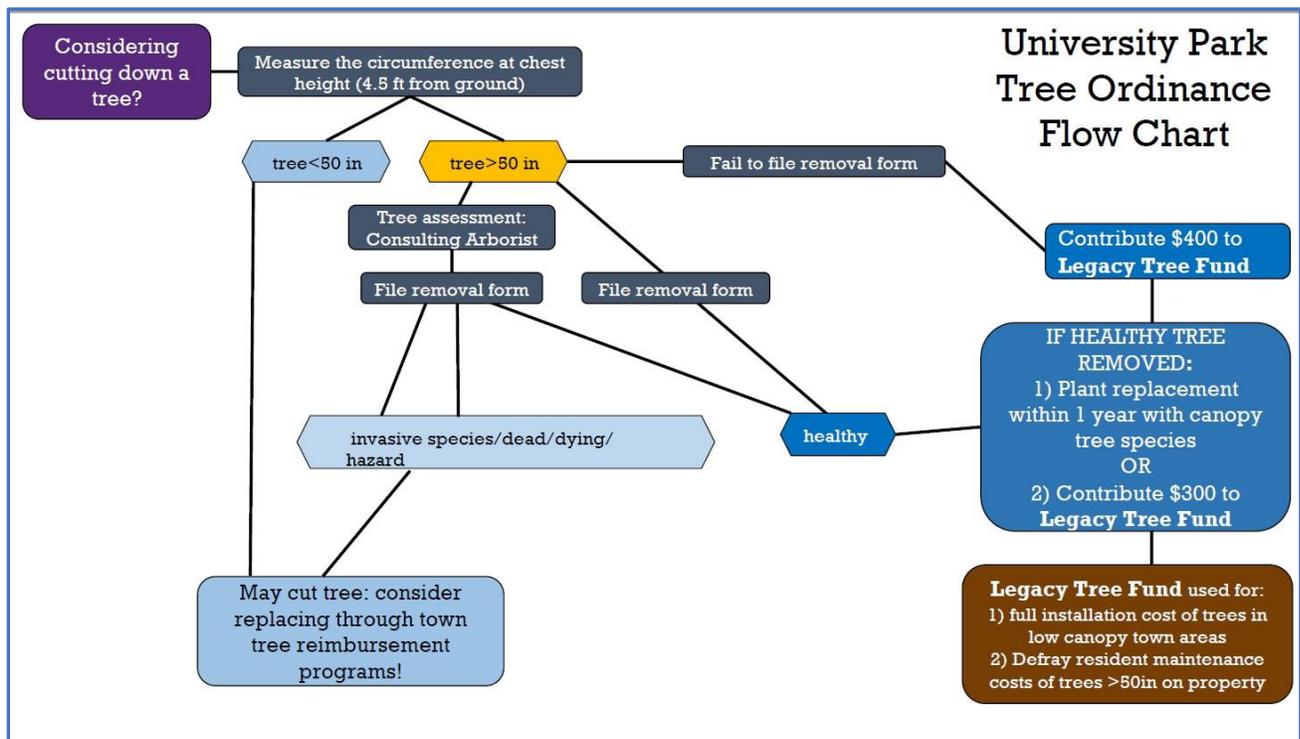
Tree Ordinance: Removal Requirements for Large Trees on Private Property

Are you considering cutting down a tree on your property? Have you heard that University Park has enacted a town-wide Tree Ordinance that applies to both public rights of way and private property? Legislation passed in June of 2022 authorizing revisions of University Park's Town Code, **Chapter 16** (sections 16-101, 16-202, 16-106, and 16-108), to protect, preserve, and promote the Town's urban forest.

Accordingly, residents are advised to consult the guidance below should they elect to remove a large tree from their property.

1. Flow chart to determine property owner's responsibilities

All property owners should consult this graphic before removing any large tree on their property. A definition of "large tree" is incorporated in the flow chart.



2. Form to complete if required

All property owners considering removing a large tree should read the form found at upmd.org/FormCenter/Committees-9/Tree-Removal-Form-71 carefully. It includes guidance and instructions for the process, including the critical aspect of how the healthiness of a tree shall be determined.

3. **Questions?** Please contact your council member and/or the director of public works.

July 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Tai Chi Chuan Class, Saturdays, 8-9 AM Church of the Brethren
2	3 Yard Waste	4 Town Holiday Town Parade, 11 AM	5 Trash, Bulk Trash	6 Policy, Rules and Municipal Structure Committee, 7 PM via Zoom	7 Recycling	8 Ivy League, 9 AM Meadow Day Saturday, July 8, 10 AM-Noon
9	10 Yard Waste	11 Trash, Bulk Trash Sustainability Committee, 7:30 PM via Zoom	12 Trees Committee, 6:30 PM, Hyattsville Library & online, Police, Traffic & Public	13 Development Overview Committee, 7:30 PM via Zoom	14 Recycling	15
16	17 Yard Waste Town Council, 7:30 PM	18 Trash, Bulk Trash	19	20 Public Facilities & Services, 7:30 PM via Zoom	21 Recycling	22
23	24 Yard Waste	25 Trash, Bulk Trash	26 Helping Hands University Park, 5:30 via Zoom	27	28 Recycling	29
30	31 Yard Waste		AUGUST EVENTS 	National Night Out, Tuesday, August 1, 6- 8 PM, Town Field	Ivy League, August 12, 9 AM	Next Town Council Meeting, August 21, 7:30 PM



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TOWN DIRECTORY

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Town Clerk TC Hegeman	thegeman@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

Ward	Council Member	Phone
1	Ralph Dubayah	301-458-0128
2	Mary Gathercole	301-325-9415
3	Laurie Morrissey	301-906-0276
4	Nathaniel Morgan	301-850-4249
5	David McGaughey	301-664-4030
6	Grant Godfrey	202-486-2436
7	William Sweet	301-541-7642

NEWSLETTER

The September newsletter deadline is Sunday, August 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. 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/newsletter.
 Editors Todd Stewart & Bridget Warren
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