

UNIVERSITY PARK NEWSLETTER

TOWN OF UNIVERSITY PARK, MARYLAND

NOVEMBER 2023

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

VOL. XLVIII, NO. 10

MAYOR'S COLUMN

THANK YOU, VETERANS! Each November we pause to honor our nation's veterans whose service and devotion to duty are the bedrock for our democracy's longevity. With recent headlines warning us of the stress tests our democracy is enduring, it seems especially appropriate to honor our local veterans who put their country first-before themselves, fame, or any monetary reward. Please join us at this year's Veterans Day observance on Saturday, November 11th at 11 am. The ceremony will be held at Veterans Memorial Park located at the corner of Wells Parkway and Eversfield Drive. We have arranged for a local JROTC unit to provide a Color Guard, and once again, the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Police will be in attendance with their equestrian unit. To help with preparations or setup activities, community members can contact me and Town Administrator Angela Lawrence at alawrence@upmd.org.

In other news, the pedestrian bridges for Wells Parkway at the intersections of Beechwood and Van Buren are actually moving forward. Over the past month, the Town and Franco's Liberty Bridge company finalized the contract, held a pre-construction meeting, ordered all necessary bridge parts and steel reinforcements. Ground-breaking is imminent—and may have taken place by the time you read this newsletter. These bridges are expected to last 50 years and will be more durable than the bridges they replaced.

The Council and Mayor's Office are working to develop an ADA-compliant meeting and workspace at Town Hall. Frederick Ward and Associates recently won the contract to develop several concepts for the Town to consider. These concepts are expected to include an expansion and refurbishment of the current Town Hall, but for substantially less money than the Town was pre-

Town Meetings & Special Dates

Town Council	November 6 & 20
Town Holidays	November 10, November 23 & 24

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

Contents

3	From the Chief
4	Town News
6	Highlights of September 18 & October 2 Town Council Meetings
9	Town News & Events
11	Community Calendar

FROM THE MAYOR CONT.

viously quoted. The Town finalized the contract with Frederick Ward and Associates, and they have begun working on the conceptual designs. When these concepts are complete, we will make Town residents aware and seek input.

Thank you to Joe Thompson of the Town's Sustainability Committee for serving as our point of contact with Sustainable Maryland to become recertified as a Sustainable Maryland community. Our Town recently received the Sustainable Maryland Silver Certification award—the highest level of certification—in recognition of our Town's commitment to protecting our environment through concrete actions including the adoption of environmentally-conscious ordinances, programs, and policies as well as the work of a dedicated Green Team, the University Park Sustainability Committee. This recertification reflects the hard work our Town's residents routinely engage in including planting trees, removing ivy, protecting our pollinators, taking care of our meadow, cleaning our streams, promoting composting, making recycling easy, and much more!

On behalf of myself and your Councilmembers, please remember that the ban on gas-powered leaf blowers is effective January 1, 2024. This ordinance was adopted two years ago. At the time, the Council included a provision to reimburse every household up to \$100 for the purchase of any electric- or battery-powered lawn equipment. This provision allowed a one-time reimbursement between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2025. This reimbursement includes batteries for your equipment. Town residents may provide electric- or battery-powered equipment to lawn care companies that service their property. Council may revise the rebate terms. If the Council approves this amendment in November, residents will be allowed to obtain a \$100 reimbursement for each of the three years in this program.

Finally, I hope all of you enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday. Hopefully each of you have family or friends to spend time with this year. Don't overlook the many friendly, furry companions at the Prince George's County Animal Shelter that would be overjoyed to be included in your holiday plans!

—*Joel Biermann*

*What do you think? Did I miss something? I am always interested in your perspectives and viewpoints.
Email me at mayorbiermann@upmd.org*

Notice of Introduction of Emergency Ordinance 23-O-9

On October 2, 2023, Ordinance 23-O-9 was introduced. This Ordinance amends the FY 2023 Budget Ordinance, Legislative Resolution 22-O-04, to allocate \$700,000 to Revenue Account 4170-00 Red Light / Speed Camera, to create a new expenditure account, Account 5304-03 – Speed Camera Funds Due to the State, and to allocate the \$700,000 to that account. The Emergency Ordinance would be effective upon adoption. The meeting set for November 6, 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 Ordinance 23-O-10

On October 2, 2023, Ordinance 23-O-10 was introduced. This Ordinance amends §7-104, "Noise" to include a rebate, not to exceed the total cost of the equipment, including tax, or \$100, whichever is less, toward the purchase price of any electric- or battery-powered lawn or yard maintenance device/equipment, including but not limited to leaf blowers, lawn mowers, edgers, batteries, and weed trimmers, with one purchase per year per household qualifying for reimbursement during the three-year timeframe beginning on July 1, 2022, and ending on June 30, 2025. The meeting set for November 6, 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 Public Hearing for Charter Resolution 23-CR-01

On October 2, 2023, Charter Resolution 23-CR-01 was introduced. This Charter Resolution amends Article V, "Registration, Nominations and Elections", Section 504, "Elections" of the Town Charter to provide for poll hours by default, authorize ballots to be provided for voting by mail to all registered voters, and to change the references to absentee ballots to conform to state election law. A public hearing on the Charter Amendment is set for the Common Council meeting on December 4, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. For more information or a copy of the proposed Charter Resolution, call Town Hall at 301-927-4262.

Notice of Public Hearing for Charter Resolution 23-CR-02

On October 16, 2023, Charter Resolution 23-O-02 was introduced. This Charter Resolution amends Article V, "Registration, Nomination and Elections", to add Section 508, "Referenda", to require approval by voter referendum prior to any sale, lease, or development, or changes to the use, of town parks and public open space. A public hearing on the Charter Amendment is set for the Common Council meeting on December 4, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. For more information or a copy of the proposed Charter Resolution, call Town Hall at 301-927-4262.

FROM THE CHIEF

E-scooters have become increasingly popular over the past three years. It seems no matter where you go, you see an e-scooter being driven, parked, or abandoned in public areas. This environmentally friendly mode of transportation makes commuting short distances to work or school fun and convenient. The popularity of e-scooters attracts riders of all ages and skill levels. This has created some safety issues for the operator and other drivers on the roadway. The popularity and availability of e-scooters has caused an increase in accidents. According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission from 2017-2021, e-scooters had the highest percentage increase in injuries and consumer owned e-scooters accounted for most emergency visits. One study suggests e-scooters cause more injuries than bicycles, cars and even motorcycles. Often, e-scooter riders are injured by their own inability to control the scooter. Many accidents involve vehicles in the same lane of traffic.



Even with the apparent risks associated with e-scooters, there are not many laws regulating their safe usage. In Maryland, e-scooters are usually permitted on roads as if they were bicycles and all the same rules and regulations that apply to bicycles also apply to electric low speed scooters. There is no minimum age, and you do not need a license or a helmet to operate it. However, e-scooter operators must ride with the normal flow of traffic and abide by the same traffic laws as vehicles. The University Park Police understands that public health and safety guidelines for the use of e-scooters is still evolving and offer these basic tips to keep you and your family safe:

Motor Vehicle Operators

- Be aware of your surroundings. Keep an eye out for e-scooters and anticipate their movement. E-scooters can appear out of nowhere.
- Know and follow local laws. Many jurisdictions do not

have laws specific to e-scooters. Drivers must be vigilant in obeying all traffic control signs and signals.

- Use your turn signals. Alert e-scooter riders early when turning or changing lanes. Remember some riders are inexperienced and may not have complete control of their e-scooter.
- Check your blind spots. Due to their size, e-scooters may be difficult to see and hard to avoid.
- Maintain a safe following distance. This is important for motor vehicle drivers and e-scooter riders. Distance creates time and space and leaves some room to maneuver to avoid a collision.
- Be patient and share the road. E-scooters cannot travel as fast as a vehicle and can be difficult to make sharp turns on a crowded roadway.
- Be careful when opening car doors. Always look before opening your door. E-scooters are quiet and can easily go unnoticed.

E-scooter Riders

- Wear a helmet. Protect your head in case you fall or collide with something.
- Ride solo. Never ride with a passenger. An e-scooter was designed for one person.
- Don't use your phone while driving. It's difficult to steer an e-scooter with one hand. Always use two hands.
- Slow down before looking back or turning. You don't have mirrors, so you must look over your shoulder to change lanes or turn. Slow down before doing so. Check twice before moving into the path of oncoming traffic.
- Keep your eyes on the road. Watch out for potholes and changes in the road surface. Any slight change in the road surface could make it difficult for a e-scooter rider.
- Avoid riding in bad weather conditions. Riding an e-scooter in inclement weather can be challenging. Slow down and be aware of slippery roadways.
- Avoid riding in pedestrian areas. E-scooter and pedestrian collisions are up. Make sure you have a bell to alert pedestrians that you are passing them. Don't weave in and out of pedestrian traffic. Don't leave a rental e-scooter in a public access area where pedestrians could trip over it.

Crime Report

On September 3 a resident in the 4100 block of Underwood St. reported that someone entered her unlocked parked vehicle and rummaged through his personal

items. Nothing was taken.

On September 9 a resident in the 4100 Block of Beechwood Rd. reported that someone entered her unlocked parked vehicle and stole various items. The resident also reported that someone stole his handgun that was left on his back porch on September 5. There are no suspects.

On September 20 a resident in the 6500 Block of Queens Chapel Road reported that someone entered her unlocked parked vehicle and stole a headset and personal checks. There are no suspects.

On September 20 a resident in the 6400 Block of Queens Chapel Road reported that someone entered his unlocked parked vehicle and stole a Mac laptop. There are no suspects.

On September 26 a resident in the 4000 Block of Queens Chapel Road reported that someone entered her unlocked parked vehicle and stole several personal items. The theft occurred approximately two weeks earlier. There are no suspects.

Helping Hands University Park



Helping Hands University Park

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

Members Monthly Lunch Club, Wednesday, November 15, 12-1 PM In person. Members and volunteers

social gathering. Location changes every month. Become a member and join us!

Executive Committee Meeting, Wednesday, November 22, 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. Skill level: intermediate and up.

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 Poetry Gathering, Sundays approximately every six weeks at 4pm. All UP residents are welcome, whether a poet, poetry lover, or just poetry curious. Contact Gerry Hendershot, ghendershot@earthlink.net; Loretta Saks, lorettahhup@gmail.com, or Deborah Rosenfelt, dsr@umd.edu. **Contact:** hhuniversitypark@gmail.com; 301-892-6636; helpinghandsup.org; [facebook.com/HelpingHandsUP](https://www.facebook.com/HelpingHandsUP).

Tree Committee News

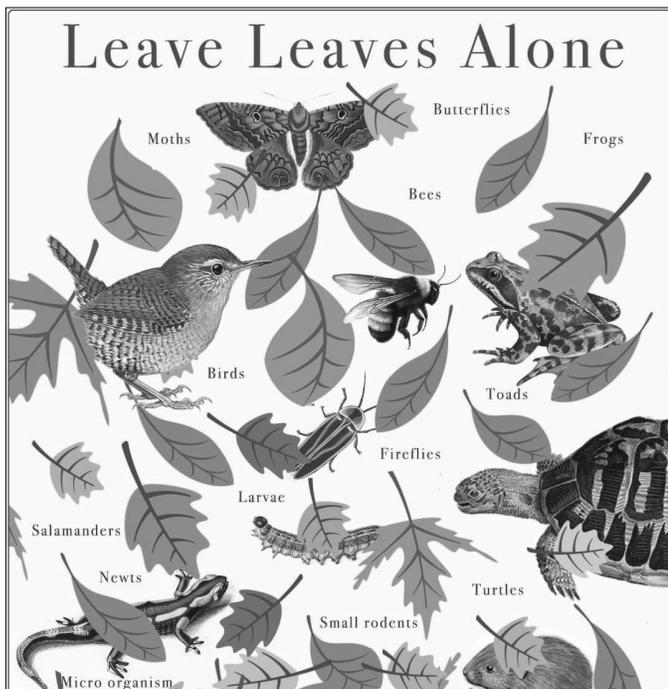


Economy of Scale: Tree Reimbursement

It's the single best time of the year to plant a tree in your yard. A little-discussed feature of UP's Tree Reimbursement program is that the more trees you buy, the less effort you'll potentially put forth. You may not even need touch the tree or shovel, thanks to UP's Tree Reimbursement program. The Town offers a \$300 reimbursement for a single shade tree or \$600 for two trees. If the two trees cost \$100 each, you can use the remaining \$400 for "other costs associated with purchase and planting"; i.e., delivery, labor, soil amendments, etc. Since each address is allowed \$900 reimbursement for shade trees every five years, the margin for "other costs" would be even greater. A similar dynamic is realized for understory trees, which provide \$100 per tree, not to exceed \$300 every five years. These trees could be purchased for as little as \$30 and planted for far cheaper than a shade tree. The fall planting season for woody plants in Maryland extends from Halloween until December 10. For details see: upmd.org/169/Shade-Trees-Compost-Programs

Final Ivy League, Sunday, November 12, 10 AM-12 PM

Join the Ivy League for our final session of 2023. We'll be meeting at the corner of College Heights and Wells Parkway. November delivers the ultimate no-sweat Ivy League experience, complete with fall foliage and minimal insect distractions, while delivering its standard vibe of camaraderie and tangible sense of accomplishment. No experience or tools required, we will provide coaching and cutting instruments.



Sustainability Committee News

Leave the Leaves this Fall

Whether in your entire yard or a small corner—try leaving the leaves this fall. Spotted in several UP yards last year, the woodland red-backed salamander (*Plethodon cinereus*) requires leaf cover throughout the year. Some pollinators over winter in the ground and leaves supply needed insulation. Providing a year-round natural habitat (including natural darkness) for these frontlines of defense against insect pests may indeed benefit your garden. The natural process of leaf decay also augments your soil so that you need less fertilizers. Native bees—the small ones, not honeybees—over winter in black-eyed Susan, bee balm, sunflowers, and asters hollow dried stems, so leave them if you can. If you have to trim, please keep the dried stems on your property until May 2024, then welcome the next generation of native bees, pollinators, salamanders and toads to your garden.

September 18 Council Meeting Highlights

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

Public Comment

A resident commented about non-conforming fences. The lack of fences, especially in front yards, is a defining feature of University Park. He asked the Council to give more serious consideration to variance requests related to fences.

Mayor, Council and Committee Comments and Reports

Development Oversight Committee The DOC met last Thursday; had a presentation from a developer from Greenhill Development at Hartwick and Baltimore Avenue, called Terrapin House. It will be 90 apartment units with 4,800 sq ft of retail with parking. There will be stormwater management to the 100-year standard. They asked for a letter of support; we want to wait to see what College Park says first. The DOC talked about Eric Olson’s Safer Streets Act, and they recommended the full Council support this.

Sustainability Committee They met last week. The composting plan was discussed and whether the Town should go forward with providing carts to every resident. The committee would like to wait until October to discuss after it is published in the newsletter. Joe Thompson has applied to the College of Information Studies in the I-Consultancy Program to get some students to perform studies as their capstone project.

Mayor Mayor Biermann noted the development on Adelphi at Tennyson Road of a rectangular rapid flashing beacon, which is a robust crosswalk. There will be another one on Adelphi Road by the high school. These two things were planned but he thinks Eric Olson’s support caused them to move forward more rapidly. Joe Thompson has been working with Sustainable Maryland to get certification for the Town. All the actions of our community, staff and council add to this, but Joe has done the heavy lifting of compiling it all into application form. The Mayor talked with County Councilmember Eric Olson today and is concerned with the progress on the MOU with the County for stormwater management. Mr. Olson will let County officials in the Stormwater Management Division know to be more facilitating to University Park. Ward 5 has an especially pressing need for upgrades to the stormwater system.

Continuing Business

Motion: To approve the special exception request to install a 6’ fence in the side yard of 4318 Clagett Pineway, with the condition that the side yard fence along Pineway be behind the 25-foot setback, and that it be confirmed with the Code Compliance Officer; it is contingent on receiving an updated plat indicating where the existing fence is and where the proposed fence will be. Motion approved 6 to 0.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Motion: *To approve a special exception to install a 4-foot fence in the front yard of 7010 Forest Hill Drive with the condition that a new plat be submitted that clearly shows where the fence will be before the permit is granted.* Motion approved 5 to 1 (McGaughey opposed).

Motion: *To approve the dumpster permit extension request at 4322 Claggett Road for 7 months.* Motion approved 6 to 0.

Motion to approve food truck sales on Queens Chapel Road near the Town Field in conjunction with Arts in the Park, September 30, 1-4 PM and to waive any applicable fees. Motion approved 6 to 0.

Motion: *To approve a permit to allow beer and hard seltzer sales during University Park Civic Association's Chili Cook Off on October 29, 3-7 PM, subject to receiving a hold harmless from Denizens and UPCA and proof of a one-day insurance policy including the Town as an additional insured.* Motion approved 6 to 0. Ms. Ferguson said Denizens will have to show proof of an off-site liquor permit and will have to name the Town as an additional insured. The request came through the Chief of Police, and he had no problems with it.

Motion: *To direct the town attorney to prepare an amendment to the Charter to establish 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 pm. as the default polling hours on Election Day and to authorize mailing of ballots to every voter prior to the election and to make conforming changes.* Motion approved 6 to 0. Ms. Ferguson will put the amendment together and bring it back to the Council for introduction and approval.

Motion: *To authorize the Mayor to write a letter on behalf of the Council addressed to the Prince George's County Council in support of CB 69, the Walkable Urban Streets Act and County Resolutions CR 67 and CR 68.* Motion approved 6 to 0. CM McGaughey introduced this concept to make certain areas of the County more walkable and more bikeable. Eric Olson is trying to get this to be something the County has to do. This is primarily related to transit zones. He said the presentation to the DOC was very good, and those present were quite impressed. Ms. Lawrence sent the letter to CM McGaughey for edits.

The Mayor said Senator Washington was talking about a bill at the state level to enforce noise on our perimeter roads, there are devices that do that too.

Motion: *To authorize the Mayor to sign a letter to participate in the Time to Care Act collaborative RFP process.* Motion approved 6 to 0. Ms. Lawrence summarized this program and Mr. Baden explained the cost process. This is a mandate from the State of Maryland. We can opt into the collaborative, we can do our own plan, or we can default to the State plan. We have to start funding in October 2024, but benefits would not start until January 2026. The MML has put out an RFP to participate in the collaborative effort. The cost is \$3,000 to join the collaborative. If we don't join the collaborative, we will not know what the rates are until after the RFP. The date of September 29 is set to sign the letter of intent to join the collaborative.

Department Reports

Interim Town Administrator Angela Lawrence Her report is in the packet.

Town Attorney Suellen Ferguson Did not have a full report. Informed the Council that she has been representing some municipalities in the Pepco street lighting tariff case and we are getting close to the end; and the ability to purchase your own streetlights will become more attractive once we do. She will be reporting on that fairly soon.

Town Clerk TC Hegeman The permits are in the packet.

Chief of Police Harvey Baker He departed the meeting early; his report is in the packet.

Town Treasurer Dan Baden There is \$5,479,000 cash on hand.

Director of Public Works Michael Beall His report is in the packet. He had two other minor things to add. He reached out to Prince George's County to do some channel cleanup between 44th Avenue bridge and Baltimore Avenue; they have done this in the past. They should be coming this week. The tree committee is planning on doing some planting at the micro bioretention area on College Heights Drive between Woodberry and Claggett Road; they asked if they could have some traffic cones set up during this work; Mr. Beall recommended closing the road.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

The Mayor asked Mr. Beall if the bridge company had responded to him. They want to get the project wrapped up this week so they can make material orders.

CM Dubayah asked if we have permanently abandoned the flashing stop signs? The cost to upgrade and power them at the right interval is \$500 each. Otherwise, they are done flashing until a decision is made. The Mayor commented that residents who live near those signs do not want to see the flashers and noted the flasher at Clagett Pineway and Clagett Road in particular. These can be modified with the reflector. The Mayor wants to get feedback from the immediately adjacent residents. CM McGaughey recalled that there was a request to purchase one of the signs as there are two deaf children on that stretch of road. Ms. Lawrence reported one has been ordered. Mr. Beall was unaware this had been done. Mr. Beall has requested several unique signs; they need to be up before the end of October due to the impending leaf season. He needs clear directions on precisely where the signs are to be. The Mayor said CM Gathercole's committee needs to provide the precise location. He wants to give the reflectors a chance, as the flashers can be frustrating.

Motion: To go into Closed Session and not return to Open Session to consider a matter that concerns a proposal from a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or retain in the state. Motion approved 6 to 0.

Adjournment of the Open Session at 9:44 PM.

October 2 Council Meeting Highlights

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

Public Comment

- A resident noted that she was part of the Trees, Parks, and Environment Committee, and wanted to inform Council and the public that the Committee will be planting the microbiome retention basin at the corner of Woodberry and College Heights on October 7 and 8, 2023. Members of the public were welcome to participate.
- A resident spoke about the composting program. He is not in favor of the proposed move to the compost cart

and likes the current program with the compost bags. He encouraged Council to reach out to the public regarding the program before moving forward.

Mayor, Council, and Committee Comments and Reports

Policy, Rules, and Municipal Structure Committee CM Morrissey reported that the Policy, Rules, and Municipal Structure Committee will meet on October 5, 2023, and the agenda will be distributed on October 3, 2023.

Trees, Parks, and Environment Committee CM Morrissey thanked the member of the public for promoting the upcoming planting event. Mayor Biermann noted that some trees across from the library were recently destroyed in a car accident and suggested that the Town could replace them.

Police, Traffic, and Public Safety Committee CM Gathercole reported that the Police, Traffic and Public Safety Committee would be meeting on October 11, 2023. Chief Baker will be speaking about security cameras. All members of the public and Council were encouraged to attend.

Sustainability Committee CM Dubayah reported that the Sustainability Committee will meet on October 3, 2023, at 7:30 PM.

Newsletter Ms. Lawrence reminded Council members that the newsletter deadline was October 6, 2023. It was noted the information regarding the composting program will be included in the upcoming newsletter.

Arts in the Park Mayor Biermann reported that Arts in the Park recently took place and there were approximately 300 attendees. Several Councilmembers attended.

New Business

Motion: To approve the Special Exception Request to build a six-foot fence on the northside yard of 3904 Beechwood Road, and to deny the Special Exception Request on the westside yard.

Motion approved 7 to 0.

Attorney Ferguson summarized the request and presented a diagram. She explained that the special exception would only apply to fencing on the side yard of the property. She noted that backyard fences can be six feet tall,

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

but side yards are limited to four feet. This lot had an irregular backyard and side yard configuration.

- The applicant, Brad Conrad, explained the rationale behind the request. When he moved into the property, there was no fencing, and the lot was overgrown. Due to the slope of the yard, the public can easily see inside his home, and a six-foot fence would provide adequate privacy. Additionally, he has dogs that can jump over a four-foot fence.
- CM Godfrey asked if 3902 Beechwood was occupied, and whether the occupant has been notified. The applicant responded that he spoke to the occupant, and the property owner.
- Mayor Biermann inquired if the applicant had considered changing the border of the fence on the west side to not affect the neighbor. The applicant explained that he can see into the neighbor's house in that area, and a six-foot fence would remedy that issue.
- CM Gathercole inquired why the applicant was concerned about dogs jumping over the fence in the back, but not at the front. He explained that a four-foot fence was sufficient in the front of the property because there was foliage preventing the dogs from jumping.
- CM Dubayah inquired about the requirement to inform the abutters and collect signatures. Attorney Ferguson noted that the applicant is not responsible for obtaining signatures, and only the property owner is required to be notified. CM Dubayah suggested the town send notices of public hearing to the abutters in advance of the hearing.
- CM McGaughey and CM Dubayah noted they did not have any issues with the fence on the north side of the property; however, the west side was more problematic, because it extends the front of the property and may not be necessary. The applicant responded that he could move the fence on the left side to make it flush with the back of the house, the existing chain link fencing would remain in place.

Town Leaf Collection Begins in November

Town Public Works crews collect leaves by vacuum from November through early January. Residents should rake their leaves up to the curb line for collection. Do not rake leaves into the gutters or street. Please keep leaf piles free of sticks, stones and other debris, as they can damage the vacuum equipment.



Motion: To introduce Charter Amendment 23-CR-01, to set default poll hours of 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on election day, to authorize mailing ballots to every registered voter, and to include state code changes. Motion approved 7 to 0. Attorney Ferguson provided a summary of the proposed charter amendment. CM Godfrey requested a written memo from elections supervisors regarding the procedures in place.

Motion: To approve the recommended fiscal year 2023 budget adjustments as outlined on the spreadsheet provided by the Town's Treasurer. Motion approved 7 to 0. Treasurer Baden outlined the proposed budget adjustments for 2023 that were included in the meeting package.

- CM Gathercole questioned the \$14,000 budgeted for electric vehicle charging stations. Treasurer Baden clarified that they were for the electric vehicle charging stations at Town Hall.
- CM McGaughey questioned the \$24,000 overage on vehicle maintenance. Director Beall responded that there were some unforeseen maintenance costs, and that the cost of parts for heavy-duty vehicles has risen significantly. He explained that one tire for a trash compacting truck costs over \$400, without installation. It was noted that \$50,000 was budgeted for 2024, and he hoped that would be sufficient.
- CM McGaughey inquired about the tree maintenance expenses. Director Beall responded that there was an unusual number of large trees that required removal this year, and the work on the pear trees must be done in the winter when the trees are dormant.
- Mayor Biermann noted that there was an unexpected \$7,000 maintenance expense to one of the trash trucks.
- It was noted that the fiscal year's books would be closed once the audit report is submitted.
- Mayor Biermann inquired whether Treasurer Baden would advise a special committee meeting for the budget transfers. Treasurer Baden advised that an ordinance would be sufficient.

Motion: To introduce 23-O-10 to amend the rebate program to reimburse residents for purchase of any battery- or electric-powered lawn equipment and the purchase of batteries for battery-operated lawn equipment, including tax, or \$100, whichever is less, allowing one qualifying purchase per household per year,

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

beginning July 1, 2022 and ending on June 30, 2025, instead of one qualifying purchase for the full three-year period. Motion approved 7 to 0. CM Morrissey provided a summary of the proposed ordinance that reimburses residents for purchasing battery powered outdoor lawn equipment. Mayor Biermann and CM Gathercole expressed support for the ordinance. It was noted that the purchase of batteries should be added to the ordinance.

Motion: To introduce Emergency Legislative Resolution 23-O-09 to Amend Fiscal Year 2023 Budget to Allocate Excess Speed Camera Revenue in Order to Pay the State. Motion approved 7 to 0. Treasurer Baden explained the process and that he expects the amount due to the state to be no more than \$550,000.

Motion: To approve the following general orders substantially in the form attached. Motion approved 7 to 0.

New General Order 324.0 First Amendment Rights
New General Order 326.1 Early Warning System
Amended General Order 400.0 Use of Force/Report
Amended General Order 400.4 Electronic Control Device
New General Order 407.1 Foot Pursuit
New General Order 422.1 Employee-Involved Domestic Violence
Amended General Order 424.1 Ride-Along Program

Chief Baker provided a summary of each of the general orders.

The meeting adjourned by consent at 9:03 PM.

UP Church of the Brethren Sharing Fair Saturday, November 4, 9 AM-3 PM

Merchants from Quixote Center, Ten Thousand Villages, Little Friends for Peace, Heifer Project, New Community Project, the Anacostia Watershed Society and other local artists will be selling unique items for their good causes. Additionally, homemade baked goods as well as plenty of grilled bratwurst and cider will be on hand. See upcob.org for more information. University Park Church of the Brethren, corner of Tuckerman Street and Route 1.



TOWN NEWS & EVENTS

UP Woman's Club Meeting Monday, November 6, 11:30 AM



Our guest speaker, Nicole Burton, will provide an overview of her work as an author and playwright, and background details on her currently running play, *Wednesdays in Mississippi*. Ms. Burton's other plays include *Fred & Frieda* and *Starman, Wish Me Luck*, which have been produced in theaters and venues as diverse as federal prisons, homeless shelters and the U.S. Capitol. Nicole is a member of Pipeline Playwrights, a DC area women's theater. More info at pipelineplaywrights.org and nicolejburton.com. University Christian Church, Adelphi and Belcrest Roads, Hyattsville. Sign-in begins at 11:30. You may bring your lunch; wrapped snacks and water will be available.

The UP Woman's Club Fall Penny Project Collection Friday, November 10, 10 AM-12 PM

Please drop by 6832 Pineway with your spare change. The charity receiving your donation of unwanted coins and extra dollars this season is The Shepherd's Cove in Prince George's County, which aids women and children in need. Thank you for your donation.



Second Saturday Lecture Series UP Mosquito Control Program Research Saturday, November 11, 4 PM



Aubrey Tingle will present her research about the town's mosquito control program. She conducted her master's thesis research on the efficacy and sustainability of University Park's mosquito control program and will share her results. Key findings include that the program still shows signs of reducing mosquito abundance even with fewer participants than in 2016 and that resident education about how and why the program works is key to robust participation. Join us at the lecture to learn more. The town's program is operated by the UP Community Mosquito Control—for information go to upmd.org/222/Community-Mosquito-

TOWN NEWS & EVENTS

Control. Aubrey Tingler is a policy and program analyst with Lynker supporting the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office of Coastal Management. At Church of the Brethren, 4413 Tuckerman Street.

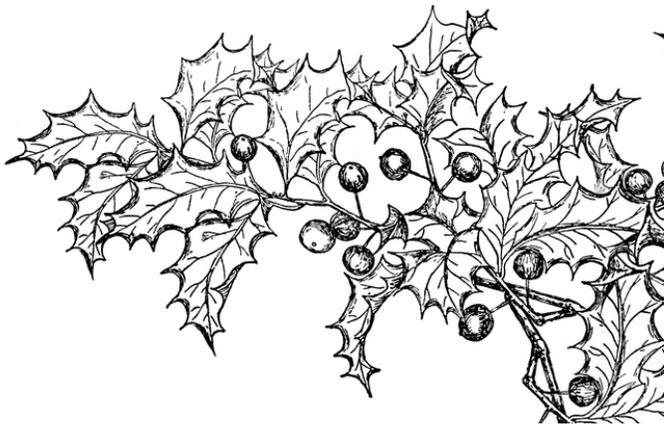
After Eight Book Group Tuesday, November 21, 8-10 PM

The After Eight Book group will be meeting in person. Attendees must be fully vaccinated. For November we are reading *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig. Our book for December is *Symphony of Secrets* by Brendan Slocumb. Those interested in attending should contact Laura Donnelly at 301-927-6550.



We're actively seeking new members. Open invitation to join the After Eight book group! Members have lively and wide-ranging discussions on the book and a variety of town

and local subjects. We read books in all categories, both current and prize-winning. All are welcome and we appreciate residents' suggestions for what we should read.



UPWC Annual Holiday House Tour Saturday, December 9, 3-7 PM

All proceeds and donations support the UP Woman's Club scholarship fund. Any homeowners in UP or College Heights willing to feature their home on the tour, please contact Jean Pirovic, 301-520-8420 or jean.pirovic@LNF.com. It is our largest fundraiser of the year and a cherished tradition.

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.



Centering Prayer

Interdenominational Small Faith Group Forming for Centering Prayer

Donna Chacko of St. Marks Catholic Church and Pastor Phil Curran of University Park Church of the Brethren are starting a weekly Centering Prayer group. You're invited to join them at one of these two identical Q&A meetings:

- November 13, 7-8 PM, St. Marks Catholic Church, 7501 Adelphi; or
- November 15, 7-8 PM, UP Church of the Brethren, 4413 Tuckerman Street. For info contact Donna, dc@serenityandhealth.com or 301-277-2970. More Centering Prayer info is at contemplativeoutreach.org/centering-prayer-method/.

St. Mark's Food Pantry

The St. Mark's Food Pantry has been operating since 1991 with an all-volunteer team. We provide food at no cost and without any obligation to the homeless, poor, unemployed, senior citizens, immigrants and children in need. Since the start of the pandemic, we have served nearly 50,000 families in need and the numbers continue to grow.

We've seen a steady increase in the number of families

TOWN NEWS & EVENTS



asking for help this year. At the same time, there's been a steady decrease in food and money donations compared to 2022. We continue to be well over 100 percent above our pre-pandemic levels. Between January and August 2023, we served 5,391 families in need with an overall average of 4.63 per household.

Our neighbors are hurting, and they need all the help we can give. Please consider making a donation to feed the poor and less fortunate. Donations are typically 100 percent tax deductible to the extent possible under the law. Please go to [gofundme.com](https://www.gofundme.com) and search [stmarkfoodpantry](https://www.gofundme.com) to make a donation. Checks are also welcome, made payable to the St. Mark's Food Pantry. Please mail to:

St. Mark's Food Pantry
7501 Adelphi Road
Hyattsville, MD 20783

If you need help, our food pantry is open every Tuesday 10 AM-12 PM at the above address. All are welcome.

PTA's 2023 Feather Our Nest Fall Fundraiser Now Through Nov. 30



The 2023 Feather Our Nest Fall Fundraiser is a new, annual fundraising drive that is easy and accessible way for parents, family, friends and neighbors to support the school community. Donate anytime between now and Thursday, November 30. Every dollar counts! Thanks

in advance for supporting UPES! tinyurl.com/UPESfeather23. The University Park Elementary School Parent Teacher Association (UPES PTA) provides financial and volunteer support for the education and development of our children. All proceeds of the Feather Our Nest Fall Fundraiser will offset the PTA's fundraising goals and advance larger projects. This school year, the UPES PTA's priority project is renovating the Media Center (school library) to create an environment that inspires the joy of reading in students. Your donation

will make it possible for the UPES PTA to fund programming and initiatives that help UPES thrive.

UP Community Mosquito Control Program

November's cooler weather brings mosquito season to an end. It's time to gather your mosquito traps from your yard and prepare them for storage. Clean them (all plastic parts can be put in the dishwasher—don't use heat to dry them) and store them away from winter weather. Traps left exposed to winter cold can become brittle and crack, making them unusable for next year. It's best to store them in a conditioned space, rather than in a shed or unheated garage.



Thanks to everyone who participated in the UP Community Mosquito Control Program this year. We hope you'll participate again next year. To be effective, our program requires a strong community effort. Every neighbor who participates makes a difference in helping to keep mosquitoes at bay. If you did not participate this year, we hope you will join us in 2024. We'll start gearing up for the 2024 mosquito season in early spring. Questions or comments? Email us at upcmosquitoc@gmail.com.

Hyattsville Mennonite Church Ten Thousand Villages Craft Market and Bake Sale, Saturday, November 18, 9 AM-5 PM Do your holiday shopping while supporting fair trade incomes for the diverse artisan cultures of Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East. Shop for items not available through the Ten Thousand Villages website, as well as annual sale favorites. Heirloom quality Bunyaad hand-knotted rugs and pillows crafted by fairly paid adults will be available on Saturday, as well as at a **special rug opening night Friday, November 17, 5-8 PM**. There will also be a bake sale where you can buy homemade baked goods, including bread, pies, cupcakes, cookies and whoopie pies, among other items. Admission is free. Hyattsville Mennonite Church, 4217 East-West Highway. More info: hyattsvillemennonite.org/ten-thousand-villages-craft-market-bake-sale/ Online shopping is always available at tenthousandvillages.com/alexandria



COMMUNITY CALENDAR



College Park Arts Exchange

College Park Arts Exchange is a grassroots arts organization bringing the Arts to our area. All events take place at Old Parish House, 4711 Knox Road, College Park unless otherwise noted. Let us know what arts events you would like to see!



College Park Chorale presents Rheinberger's Stabat Mater, Sunday, November 12, 4:30 PM At the University of Maryland Chapel. Free and open to the public—your donations greatly appreciated!

St. Martin's Day Lantern Festival, Saturday, November 13, 3:30 PM at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.
Holiday Concert, Friday, December 15, 7:30 PM Featuring Eric Maring, Allison Hughes, Gabriel Ruiz-Bernal, and Andrew Brown.



Caroling in College Park, Thursday, December 21, 7-8:30 PM Free! Meet at Drexel and Rhode Island Ave. Feel free to join us late or leave early.

Workshops and Classes

Brazilian Dance and Drumming, in person, see our full calendar for schedule, or visit educarteinc.org.

Soul Line Dancing with Karen Stewart, Fridays, 10 AM by zoom. Join in this fun and easy to follow dance class! No experience needed. Contact info@cpae.org for zoom link.

Introduction to Tap, Saturdays, 10 AM with Elizabeth Gardner, by Zoom.

CPAE Book Club: Non-Fiction by Women, Third Tuesdays 7 - 8:30 PM by zoom. Contact info@cpae.org for zoom link. Our book for November 21 is *All That She Carried: The Journey of Ashley's Sack, a Black Family Keepsake*, by Tiya Miles.

Learn more about CPAE programs by visiting www.cpae.org, like College Park Arts Exchange on Facebook, or email info@cpae.org.



Town Leaf Collection Begins in November

Town Public Works crews collect leaves by vacuum from November through early January. Residents should rake their leaves up to the curb line for collection. Do not rake leaves into the gutters or street. Please keep leaf piles free of sticks, stones and other debris, as they can damage the vacuum equipment.



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 or your own trash can. Please sign up your animal(s) in the UP Pet database at <https://tinyurl.com/UPPet>. This database is for University Park residents. Committee members can view the information to help reunite lost pets with their owners.



GAS-POWERED LEAF BLOWER BAN BEGINS JANUARY 1, 2024

Ordinance 2021-O-04

In support of University Park residents who want to enjoy small-town atmosphere without auditory intrusion of yard maintenance equipment and in support of the Town's focus on sustainability and public health, an ordinance was passed in late 2021 that will take effect on January 1, 2024, banning the use of gas-powered leaf blowers. Although the ban only applies to leaf blowers, to provide incentives and to reduce financial hardship related to the replacement of equipment, the Town is offering a rebate for the purchase of any battery- or electric-powered lawn equipment.

ORDINANCE

"Beginning January 1, 2024, it is unlawful for an owner or occupant of real property located within the Town, or any guest, employee or contractor of such person, to use gas-powered leaf blowers on that property." To read the ordinance in its entirety visit www.upmd.org/Legislation. Use of a gas-powered leaf blower on or after January 1, 2024, is a municipal infraction with a fine of \$200 per occurrence. Please use only battery- or electric-powered leaf blowers in your yard. This prohibition and fine apply to homeowners as well as landscaping companies, so please ensure your contractors are aware of the prohibition.

REBATE PROGRAM

The Town Council adopted a rebate program to assist residents in purchasing any battery- or electric-powered lawn equipment and defray the cost of complying with the gas-powered leaf blower ban. The rebate shall not exceed the total cost of the equipment, including tax, or \$100, whichever is less. Only one qualifying purchase per household is permitted. Any reimbursement is subject to approval and available funding. Please go to www.upmd.org/rebate to submit for reimbursement or call (301) 927-4262 ext. 102 if you have questions.

PUBLIC WORKS

Fall Seasonal information



CURBSIDE LEAF VACUUMING

November 1, 2023 - January 12, 2024

- Crews will work counterclockwise through Town as follows: **Ward 2, Ward 1, Ward 3, Ward 5, Ward 4, Ward 7 & Ward 6.**
- **Do not rake or blow leaves into the street.**
- No rocks, sticks or metal in your leaf piles.
- Crews will not back track to collect leaves once they have passed your home.
- Check the Town website at www.upmd.org under the Public Works tab for updates and deadlines.



Bag Your Leaves

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

TRASH/BULK TRASH/ BULK METAL RECYCLING COLLECTION

- Trash, bulk trash and bulk metal recycling is collected every **Tuesday.**
- Trash should be placed in Town-provided carts. Please secure lids to prevent littering and attracting wild animals and birds.
- Residents must bring all trash and recycling to the curb for pick up before 7:00 a.m. unless they have already arranged for side or back door service.
- **Mattresses & box springs must be bagged.**

Bulk Metal Recycling

A/C units, refrigerators, freezers, and dehumidifiers require a \$20 payment made payable to the Town of University Park. Payment must be received by the Town Clerk before pickup can be scheduled.

Bulk Trash

Trash too large to fit in a cart is bulk trash. Call Town Hall to schedule a pickup.

A full list of unacceptable items can be found on our website, www.upmd.org under the Public Works tab.



SHADE & UNDERSTORY TREE REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM

The Town offers a subsidy toward the purchase price of any approved shade & understory tree planted on private property. For more details and information, visit the Public Works tab at www.upmd.org

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

November 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	Town Leaf Collection Begins in November		1	2	3	4
5	6 Yard Waste, UP Woman's Club Meeting, 11:30 AM Town Council, 7:30 PM	7 Trash, Bulk Trash Sustainability Committee, 7:30 PM via Zoom	8 Recycling Police, Traffic & Public Safety Committee, 7:30 PM via Zoom Trees Committee, 6:30 PM, in person at 4124 Woodberry Street	9 Development Overview Committee, 7:30 PM via Zoom	10 Town Holiday Woman's Club Fall Penny Collection, 10 AM-12 PM	11 Veterans Day, 11 AM, Second Saturday Lecture Series: Mosquito Control Program Research, 4 PM
12 Ivy League, 10 AM	13 Yard Waste Centering Prayer, 7 PM	14 Trash, Bulk Trash	15 Yard Waste Centering Prayer, 7 PM	16 Public Facilities & Services, 7:30 PM via Zoom, Movie Night in the Park, 6:30 PM	17 Recycling	18 Tai Chi Chuan Class, 8-9 AM
19	20 Yard Waste, Town Council, 7:30 PM	21 Trash, Bulk Trash After Eight Book Group, 8-10 PM	22 Recycling Helping Hands University Park, 5:30 via Zoom	23 Town Holiday	24 Town Holiday	25
26	27 Yard Waste	28 Trash, Bulk Trash	29	30		



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

**Presorted Standard
 US Postage
 PAID
 Hyattsville MD
 Permit No. 2776**

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
 Mayor Joel Biermann mayorbiermann@upmd.org
 Cell Phone 301-351-0553
 Interim Town Manager Angela Lawrence
 alawrence@upmd.org
 Town Clerk TC Hegeman thegeman@upmd.org
 Public Works Dir. Mickey Beall mbeall@upmd.org
 Chief Harvey Baker hbaker@upmd.org

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 December newsletter deadline is Monday, November 6. The *University Park Newsletter* is published monthly, except for a combined November 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 univparknews@gmail.com 301-209-7341

Sign Up for Notifications Stay up to date on the latest news by signing up for Notify Me, our notification service, at www.upmd.org/notifyme. Type your email address in the box and select Sign In. If you want to receive text messages, enter your phone number and select Save. To subscribe or unsubscribe, click and/or next to the lists to which you wish to subscribe/unsubscribe.

Email
 rdubayah@upmd.org
 mgathercole@upmd.org
 lmorrissey@upmd.org
 nmorgan@upmd.org
 dmcgaughey@upmd.org
 ggodfrey@upmd.org
 wsweet@upmd.org

