

UNIVERSITY PARK NEWSLETTER

TOWN OF UNIVERSITY PARK, MARYLAND
DECEMBER 2023 OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER VOL. XLVIII, NO. 11

MAYOR'S COLUMN

HAPPY HOLIDAYS! I hope each of you and your families will celebrate the holidays with family and friends. In University Park, the annual Holiday Tree Lighting will take place on Saturday, December 2nd at 6:00 p.m. at Henson Green (intersection of Sheridan Street and Queens Chapel Road). We are coordinating with Santa Claus for a special visit, and the University Park Civic Association will offer refreshments. Please attend this annual tradition to kick off our holiday fun.

Each year, we celebrate our town's employees and their hard work on behalf of our residents. In the past many of you have made generous contributions to the University Park Holiday Fund for these employees. Look below for information on how you contribute to the fund. This year, you are welcome to send thank you notes to be shared with town employees at their Holiday Party on Thursday, December 14.

I am very excited-and hope you are-about the two pedestrian bridges on Wells Parkway at the intersections of Beechwood and Van Buren. We expect these bridges to be fully installed this month! I extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped bring these bridges to completion. To Len Carey, who pushed for these bridges many years ago, and the councilmembers who purchased the bridge parts, you started us on this journey. To the councilmembers who approved a way forward in May 2023 and appropriated needed additional funds over the summer months, you gave us the funds to make this a reality. To the residents who pushed for the completion of the bridges, you kept your elected officials accountable. To the staff who completed everything asked of them from obtaining permits to finalizing contracts, you made it possible for the builders to do their job. And, to Franco's Liberty Bridge Company, your workers made it happen! We will schedule a ribbon cutting ceremony to

Town Meetings & Special Dates

Town Council December 6 at 7 PM and
December 18 at 7:30 PM

Town Holidays December 25
January 1

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.

celebrate this achievement as soon as the project wraps up.

In closing, relax and enjoy the Holiday Season! As you decorate your homes and make them cozy for friends and family, don't overlook the many little animals at the Prince George's County Animal Shelter awaiting their forever homes!

—Joel Biermann



University Park Holiday Fund Please consider contributing to the University Park Holiday Funds for Town employees. These funds offer a way for residents to express their appreciation for our town employees' exemplary work throughout the year. We are very fortunate that much of our staff has been with the Town for more than five years, some for more than 15 years. The winter holidays afford a chance for residents to show their appreciation for the continued conscientious service to our community given by these very dedicated Town employees, no matter the circumstances.

To contribute, checks should be made payable to "Town of University Park" and marked on the memo line of your check for the "Holiday Funds". You may also indicate whether your contribution is intended for Public Works, Police Department and/or for General Administrative Staff and the respective amount you wish to donate to each. We also welcome any personal notes of thanks that we will read at the town employee holiday lunch. Thank you notes should be dropped off at Town Hall no later than Wednesday, December 13, and monetary donations should be mailed or dropped off in the mail slot at Town Hall by Monday, December 18.



**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 6, 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 6, 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

Pet ownership in the U.S. increased to 66% of households in 2023, according to American Pet Product Association's new pet owner survey. It seems everywhere you look, someone is either walking, jogging or playing with their pets. Quite often, that pet is a dog. Pet ownership provides a sense of connection with others in your community. As a dog owner, I can attest to how rewarding it is to walk in the park with my 125-pound Cane Corso. During our daily walks we encounter other dog owners. Most of them are polite and friendly.

We reassure each other how friendly our dogs are and allow them to interact if they wag their tails and appear open to play. We also ensure that each dog respects each other's safety space to avoid any conflict. Even still, these well-meaning dog interactions can end up an unpleasant experience for owners and dogs. This can happen with a leashed or an unleashed dog.



Lately, in University Park, we are noticing several dogs off leash playing on the Town field. While this may seem harmless to some, it is a violation of the town code and can be a disturbance to others trying to enjoy the park and town field. The town field and park are used by everyone, and an unleashed dog playfully approaching could be alarming to someone relaxing in the park. The University Park Police understand this is an issue best handled by outreach and education; therefore, we offer these basic dog etiquette tips to help everyone be a responsible pet owner:

- Use a leash. It's the law. Your dog may be adorable and well behaved; however, everyone is not dog friendly. A leashed dog helps to keep the peace with your neighbors and keeps your dog from getting into harm's way.
- Be respectful. Don't let your dog run up and jump on people or invade another unfamiliar dog's safety space. Keep your dog close so others can pass without fear.
- Pick up your dog's poop-it is damaging to the environment. No one wants to step in it—pick up after your pet.

- Be cognizant. You are responsible for your dogs' actions. Please consider others may not want to interact with your dog so keep a safe distance. When you encounter another dog and its owner, keep "meet and sniffs" brief. Don't let your dog approach another dog while they are eliminating. Make sure you have the appropriate leash for the size of your dog.

Crime Report

Theft On November 2 a resident in the 6700 Block of Queens Chapel Road reported that someone smashed her car window and stole the steering wheel airbag from her locked vehicle. There are no suspects currently.

Assault On November 5 the victim reported that he got out of his vehicle and tapped on the window of a vehicle when the driver did not proceed through the green light at Queens Chapel Road and Baltimore Avenue. The victim and the vehicle driver exchanged words and the incident escalated into a road rage incident with the victim being punched in the face, causing him to fall and hit his head. Witnesses heard the yelling and came over to assist the victim. He was later transported to the hospital where he remained overnight. Prince George's County Police Department is handling the follow up investigation.

Town Christmas Tree Lighting

Saturday, December 2, 6-8 PM

The Town of University Park invites you to come greet your neighbors and meet Santa. The lighting takes place at Henson Green, 6401 Queens Chapel Road.



Helping Hands University Park

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



**Helping Hands
University Park**

Members Monthly Lunch Club, Wednesday, December 20, 12-1 PM In person. Members and volunteers social gathering. Location changes every month. Become a member and join us!

Executive Committee Meeting, Wednesday, December 27, 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.

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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, lorettrahhup@gmail.com, or Deborah Rosenfelt, dsr@umd.edu.

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

October 16 Council Meeting Highlights

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

Public Comment

- The Town Clerk read two public comments received by email. One comment was pertaining to UPES drop off process and the other comment was about the development on Hartwick Road in College Park.
- A resident asked why the left turn lane on Adelphi into University Park was removed. Mayor Biermann replied that this change was part of a safe streets initiative that has been in the works for several years. The left turn lane was removed and replaced with a pedestrian island to make it safer for pedestrians.
- A resident expressed concern about proposed changes to the compost program buckets, moving from the five-gallon buckets to the thirty-five-gallon carts and the elimination of the bag distribution will make the program much less convenient and will result in a reduction in participation rather than the desired expansion. He asked if there was any data or information to support the cost and expressed concern about the lack of communication about the changes to this program. He recommended that the council either reject the proposal outright or forward the plan to the Committee on Public Facilities and Services, which handles public services to have them work out a plan in detail.
- Another resident also commented on the compost program. His main concern was the bio bags and the intention to have residents supply their own bio bags. He noted that many residents will likely start to use grocery store supermarket produce bags that they believe are

biodegradable; however, these bags are not biodegradable and simply made from recycled plastic. He recommended making the composting program more efficient by delivering bio bags, two 48-bag boxes every six months rather than the current practice of delivering one 24-bag box every six weeks.

Mayor, Council, and Committee Comments and Reports

Sustainability Committee

CM Dubayah reported that the Sustainability Committee met on October 2, 2023. The Committee heard about the native fern restoration. The Sustainable Maryland recertification has been approved and the town was given a silver award. Some University of Maryland students will be working on a land cover sustainability rating system for homes. We still need to put up Bee City USA signs.

Police, Traffic, and Public Safety Committee

- CM Gathercole reported that the Committee met on October 11, 2023. A resident from Ward 7 spoke in support of Senate Bill 229 which would authorize local governments to use noise abatement monitoring systems in response to people who modify their vehicle exhaust systems to be loud and annoying to the public. She would like to see University Park support this bill. The Committee discussed having CM Gathercole write a letter to Senator Washington in support of moving this bill forward. Mayor Biermann supported sending a letter from the Mayor and full Council.
- The committee also discussed the integrity of data governance with regard to security cameras. Chief Baker shared that the data is encrypted and stored in cloud-based storage. No one will be looking at footage unless there are analytics that point to an event. Every 30 days or whatever timeline the town adjusts to, the footage will be disposed of unless there is a need. If there is an event, the police will be notified with real-time information. Chief Baker assured the Committee that there will be policies in place that will be vetted by the town attorney and the Mayor, which will be in place to ensure that the cameras are secure. CM Gathercole will attempt to have a security camera vendor at the next Committee meeting on November 8, 2023, to elaborate on the measures that they take to ensure that data is secure.
- Mayor Biermann added that he recently had a meeting with Senator Washington where he mentioned the

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noise legislation and that Mayor Biermann is in support of this legislation. *Editor's note: refers to Maryland Senate Bill 229, vehicle noise abatement monitoring systems.*

Policy, Rules, and Municipal Structure Committee

CM Morrissey reported that the Committee met on October 5, 2023, and discussed the ordinance designed to protect the park and public land in town. The Committee will review the proposed legislation and will submit questions to the town attorney and administrator.

Public Services and Facilities Committee

CM Morgan reported that the Committee meeting originally scheduled for October 18, 2023, was postponed until October 25, 2023. There will be a discussion about a stormwater system called Pave Drain. This will hopefully be a system that will augment the town's stormwater efforts. In the following meeting, the expectation is that an inter-committee meeting will be held between the Public Services Committee and the Sustainability Committee to discuss the next steps.

Town Attorney Suellen Ferguson noted that committees are not authorized to take a position on a matter until the council approves it.

Development Committee

CM McGaughey reported that the Committee met on October 12, 2023. For the next meeting in November 2023, there will be a presentation about the library apartments project which involves turning half of the parking garage next to the new library into apartments. The Mayor of Riverdale Park will also attend and present on the army reserve project.

Mayor Biermann

Reported that he attended the Helping Hands University Park event along with several other Councilmembers. He commented that the Helping Hands Committee was thriving and emphasized the importance of supporting these volunteer efforts.

Continuing Business

Motion: To approve the adoption of the recommended FY 2023 budget adjustments as outlined on the spreadsheet provided by the Town Treasurer. Motion approved 7 to 0.

Treasurer Baden reported that the audit is ahead of schedule and will be submitted by the week ending October 20, 2023. The auditors will make a presentation at

the November 2023 meeting.

New Business

Motion: To approve the purchase of compost carts with informational stickers attached for all residents currently participating in the University Park composting program. Public Works will canvas residents who are currently in the program to see who is interested in a compost cart and carts will be provided to these residents. Over the next four months during the educational campaign that will be undertaken, other residents who express interest will also be provided with a cart. Council agreed to continue a discussion about compostable bags. Motion approved 7 to 0.

- CM Gathercole noted that \$28,000 was budgeted for carts, which was to cover the current participants in the program and asked what the cost would be to purchase carts for every household in University Park and Ms. Lawrence confirmed that the additional cost would be approximately \$37,000. She canvassed her constituents and the overwhelming majority said not to spend money on carts for everyone. She recommended other Councilmembers canvas their constituents.
- CM Sweet commented that delivering the bags is very time-consuming for the Public Works staff. They asked if Council could come up with a solution, so the staff did not have to use their time to deliver them every six weeks. The five-gallon buckets are breaking due to exposure to UV light. He suggested continuing to purchase the bags but leaving them at Town Hall and letting residents pick them up. He also suggested a hybrid approach in which residents can use bags, buckets, or carts.
- CM McGaughey commented that the composting program overall is functioning well, but the main issues seem to be the delivery of the bags and the longevity of the buckets. He agreed with the suggestion of leaving bags at Town Hall for residents to pick up. He agreed that the proposal to purchase more than 500 additional buckets needs more thought and discussion.
- CM Godfrey feels there is some advantage to the carts and if the goal is to improve sustainability in the town, the carts are something that should be considered. He does not feel the Town should be providing bags to everyone who is using the program and likes the idea that people collect their bags from the Town Hall. He feels that public education is a critical component to ensuring the composting program is a success.

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- CM Dubayah noted that residents are free to continue using their white buckets until the bucket breaks or is damaged, at which point they would have to transition to a cart. He noted that many other municipalities are already doing what they are proposing to do and the concept of combining yard waste with household waste is not new. PG County has 52,000 residences who are using the 35-gallon cart and by January 2024, every residence who is contracted to have their trash or compost picked up will be receiving a 35-gallon cart. PG County has an excellent communications campaign on everything from how to handle their compost to how to clean the carts. He feels this is the next step for the town to take composting to the next level based on what other municipalities are doing.
- CM Dubayah asked if it would be possible to canvas all residences and Director of Public Works Michael Beall said doing so would require that a mailer be sent out.
- Interim Town Administrator Angela Lawrence suggested canvassing the people who are already in the program to see if they are interested in using a cart, and Council agreed with this suggestion.

Motion to introduce a Charter Resolution of the Mayor and Common Council of University Park, pursuant to the authority of article xi-e of the constitution of Maryland and §4-301 et seq. of local government article, annotated code of Maryland, to amend the charter of the Town of University Park by repealing and re-enacting article v, "registration, nomination and elections", to add section 508, "Referenda", to require approval by referendum for any sale, lease, or development, or changes to the use, of Town Parks and public open space. Motion approved 7 to 0.

- Mayor Biermann commented that the main purpose of the proposal is to protect the green spaces in the community. He also stated that undeveloped space continues to be more valuable as land around us is developed, and had been contacted about developing our park space, and like the Guilford Woods debacle, this charter amendment is designed to get ahead of any development initiative by giving the voters greater input into any plans to alter our green space.
- Ms. Ferguson noted that, because it is a Charter amendment, there is a requirement that there be 21 days of public notice beforehand. This proposal will be in the next Town newsletter and will not be taken up again until the first meeting in December 2023 because of that requirement.

Motion: To authorize the Mayor to write a letter of support to the Planning Board on behalf of the town of University Park for the proposed Terrapin House Development located at the Northeast corner of Baltimore Avenue and Hartwick Road, subject to College Park's conditions and terms. Motion approved 7 to 0.

Ms. Ferguson noted that College Park has very little control over what gets built there. They can control some of the behaviors such as parking, and in this case the owner of Terrapin Development will be telling potential tenants that the city will not allow them to have a parking permit in what is already a resident parking zone.

Department Reports

Interim Town Administrator Ms. Lawrence noted that her report was included in the meeting package and asked if there were any questions.

Town Clerk Hegeman reported that the permits approved administratively were included in the meeting package.

Chief of Police Baker noted that his report was included in the meeting package and asked if there were any questions.

Town Treasurer Baden reviewed the highlights of the financial report provided through the end of September 2023.

Director of Public Works Beall noted that his report was included in the meeting package and asked if there were any questions.

- CM McGaughey inquired about the MOU with Prince George's County for stormwater management. Mr. Beall replied that a draft schematic was provided for review and they expect to be done with the review in approximately a week, at which point it will be submitted to the County. The County made a request that Public Works provide a drawing of what is proposed along with a drainage area analysis so they can determine their prioritization of the request.
- CM McGaughey inquired about the progress of the pedestrian bridge. Director Beall replied that they have started taking away the vegetation and putting up the erosion sediment controls which need to be inspected by the County before excavation can begin. Director Beall also noted that the little library would have to be

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relocated and two trash cans would need to be removed as they are in the way of construction equipment.

- CM McGaughey inquired about why the micro bio-retention area was dug so deeply. Mr. Beall replied that it was designed to County standards.
- Mr. Beall noted that three companies have been approved for the RFP for the Tennyson Road/alley storm-water management project. He reported that he took engineers from CPJ to the site, and they asked if a topographical survey had been done, which it had not. Mr. Beall requested a survey proposal from CPJ and stated that the survey would then be provided to all three firms. He noted that having CPJ provide the survey does not obligate the Council to choose them for the project. CM Morgan inquired if the project could be completed within a year, and Director Beall replied that was quite possible.

The meeting adjourned by consent at 9:44 PM.

October 21 Mayor and Common Council Retreat Highlights

Present were Mayor Biermann; Councilmembers Dubayah, Gathercole, Morrissey, Morgan, McGaughey, Godfrey, Sweet; Interim Town Administrator Lawrence; Retreat Facilitator Terrie Glass, Leadership Solutions.

Welcome and Introductions

Terri Glass, Retreat Facilitator, introduced herself and led a team building exercise. Mayor and Councilmembers each shared what they most like about serving on Council.

Creating Operating Commitments

Mayor and Councilmembers created a list of operating commitments to provide guidance for how Council members will treat each other to make it easier to address and adjust behaviors that might be unhelpful.

Roles and Responsibilities

Mayor and Councilmembers shared what is going better with a Town Administrator. The group then divided into two groups to review roles and responsibilities of the Mayor and Council included in the Town Charter to determine which might be better served by the Town Administrator. The groups came back together to further discuss.

Council Meetings

Mayor and Councilmembers discussed council meetings including returning to in-person/hybrid format, meeting preparations, helpful tools, consent agenda, public comment period, and time commitments.

Next Steps

Having not completed the full agenda, the next steps were discussed, including the need for additional discussion regarding council meeting structure and processes and committee structure and purposes. The facilitator will send retreat notes to the Town Administrator for distribution to Council.

November 6 Council Meeting Highlights

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

Public Comment

- A resident spoke about the multi-use compost and yard waste bins. Her request was to make a minor amendment to the motion voted on at the meeting on October 16, 2023. She asked that the Council prioritize the initial delivery of the 35-gallon bins to town residents who are not part of the composting program at this time. Many residents have already purchased bags and other yard waste receptacles in order to participate in the municipal disposal program. However, this creates a challenge for Town staff as these other bins and containers are not standardized. She highlighted three concerns for Council:
- Delivery of the first set of bins to residents who do not currently have them so the bins are standardized for yard and organic waste collection and alleviate challenges for staff;
- The provision of new bins to residents who already participate in the pilot program creates an equity issue and it is important to remove barriers; and
- The issue of plastic in organic waste, which was raised at the last Council meeting. However, many households already dispose of plastic-free yard waste.
- She asked Council to amend the motion from October 16, 2023, taking the above concerns into account. She was thanked for her time. There were no other resident concerns raised.

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Mayor, Council, and Committee Comments and Reports

Police, Traffic, and Public Safety Committee CM Gathercole reported that the Committee will meet on November 8, 2023. There will be a presentation on data governance by the President of J&M Security Systems. Also, the Police Chief will be discussing policies and procedures for security cameras.

Public Services and Facilities Committee CM Morgan reported that the Committee met on October 25, 2023. Aaron Fisher spoke to the Committee about a stormwater management solution called Pave Drain. CM Morgan will prepare notes on this presentation. Former Mayor John Tabori met with the Committee to speak about rain gardens, the history of stormwater issues in the Town, and the raincheck rebate program. The Committee will next meet on November 16, 2023.

Councilmember Report CM Godfrey attended a meeting at Northwest High School that was mainly about the school recently not having a PTA. There is a new principal who is trying to organize a new PTA with the parents. One of the issues raised at this meeting was the intersection at Adelphi and Van Buren, on which CM Godfrey was able to provide some clarification. Some of the parents expressed interest in installing a traffic light there. It would be useful to develop a relationship with the PTA if it comes to fruition.

Development Committee CM McGaughey reported that the Committee will be meeting on November 9, 2023. There will be a presentation about the library apartments project that involves converting half of the parking garage next to the new library into apartments. The Mayor of Riverdale Park will also attend and present the army reserve proposal.

Mayor Biermann reported that the pedestrian bridges are forthcoming and thanked everyone in attendance for

Town Leaf Collection Continues in December

Town Public Works crews continue to collect leaves by vacuum until January 12. 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.



helping move that forward, including former CM Wells. The Town has finalized a contract agreement with Frederick Ward & Associates. Mayor Biermann expressed thanks to Ms. Ferguson for her assistance with that.

Ms. Lawrence clarified that while bins will be delivered to existing participants in the compost program, there will be extra bins available for anyone who would like to join even if they are not currently participating. There is a lead time of up to four months for the Town to order the bins, but they will be made available.

FY25 Community Project Funding Presentation by Ethan Sweep from Congressman Glenn Ivey's Office

Mr. Sweep presented to Council on Congressional earmarks, also known as community funding projects. This is a grant program through the House Appropriations process. The Senate has a similar program as well called Congressionally-Directed Spending. This year, 15 projects were submitted to the House Appropriations Committee. The Senate does not have a limit on project submissions.

The guidance from the House Appropriations Committee is forthcoming, so Mr. Sweep could not confirm at this time what the funding would be for this coming year. There is a one-hour webinar on December 4, 2023, at 3:00 p.m., about Congressional earmarks. The process will be reviewed along with lessons from the past year, and questions will be answered. In the meantime, Mr. Sweep recommended visiting the House Appropriations website at appropriations.house.gov for the past fiscal year guidance. This will assist in preparing applications. Also, Congressman Ivey's website ivey.house.gov has the community projects submitted for funding this past fiscal year.

The floor was opened to questions from Councilmembers. CM Morrissey asked Mr. Sweep to repeat the website URL, which he confirmed as appropriations.house.gov. As well, CM Morrissey inquired as to whether the impending deadline was affecting the current appropriations bill. Mr. Sweep responded that this was not necessarily the case and the guidance can change from year-to-year. As a result, funding cannot be guaranteed. CM Morrissey expressed thanks to Congressman Ivey for keeping the district informed about a possible government shutdown. There is a town hall on November 13, 2023, about a subject of a possible shutdown.

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CM Gathercole expressed thanks to Congressman Ivey for opposing the EATS Act, which was her position as well.

CM McGaughey noted that he was browsing the House Appropriations website and asked for clarification in navigating the site to find projects that may overlap with Council's concerns. Mr. Sweep responded and directed CM McGaughey to the Fiscal Year 2024 Member Request Guidance tab under the Member Requests page. This has the community project funding request guidance for 2024 and shows what types of programs have been funded. For example, under Transportation, Housing, Urban Development, there are economic development initiative projects that are very specific and detailed.

CM McGaughey asked if University Park had ever received a Congressional earmark. Ms. Ferguson responded that to the best of her knowledge, the Town had not received one. Mr. Sweep explained that this grant program does not have an arduous application process and does not require a separate staff person to prepare applications.

The floor was opened to the public and Town staff for questions. There were none. Mayor Biermann thanked Mr. Sweep for attending the Council meeting.

Continuing Business

Motion: To approve the adoption of resolution and ordinance of the town of University Park LR 23-O-10 to amend the battery- or electric-powered lawn equipment rebate program to allow one qualifying purchase per household per year beginning July 1, 2022, and ending on June 30, 2025, instead of one qualifying purchase for the full three-year period and to add batteries as eligible for the rebate. Motion approved 7 to 0.

Motion: To approve the amendment of the speed camera fund due to the State from \$700,000 to \$512,240. Motion approved 7 to 0.

Motion: To approve the adoption of the Emergency Resolution and ordinance as amended of the Town of University Park LR 23-O-09, in the amount of \$512,240. Motion approved 7 to 0.

Treasurer Baden explained that speed camera revenue is

collected frequently. The Town can only retain net speed camera revenue up to 10% of the town's total fiscal year revenue. Treasurer Baden amended the initial estimate due to the State from \$700,000 to \$512,240. This is the first year that the payback to the State was implemented and it required some negotiation.

New Business

Small Wireless Facilities

Discussion of license agreement and application to locate small wireless facilities in the Town's rights-of-way and consultant agreement with Columbia Telecommunications Corporation to assist with evaluating and approving applications.

Ms. Ferguson provided some background on this topic, on which there will be a motion at the next Council meeting. There will be a forthcoming application from Make Ready Work and/or for installation of a small cell antenna in the Town's right-of-way. The Town has already adopted an ordinance regulating this, but it has not adopted the license agreement from the applicant. There are requirements for insurance and also for the Town's protection. A standard application form is also necessary. The federal government has mandated this, so the Town must be ready for implementation.

The Columbia Telecommunications Corporation (CTC) has been doing this work on behalf of other Counties and municipalities as there are no dedicated staff people to handle these applications. It would be necessary to approve a consultant agreement with the CTC in the amount of \$10,000. The contract prices are bid competitively.

Thus, the forthcoming resolution on small cell antennae has three components:

- The license agreement;
- Formal application to the Town for the ability to be in the right of way; and
- An agreement with the CTC so that a qualified body can review the applications and advise as to whether that applicant should be approved.

This would have zero cost to the Town. The floor was opened to questions. CM McGaughey asked whether this pertains to a device for installation on an existing pole. Ms. Ferguson responded that it could be. These devices are put on wooden Pepco poles and these are not

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as tall as the zoning law allows. Pepco also wants applicants to provide a replacement pole in the same location and this is a metal one. If Pepco does not have a pole installed in the space the applicant requires, they could install their own pole. However, this would incur a higher expense for the applicant.

Ms. Ferguson also confirmed that these are not cell towers and they are designed to provide more bandwidth for handling traffic increase for self-driving cars, in addition to the various devices people use simultaneously. The federal government has mandated allowing them into the right-of-way, but they are small devices.

CM McGaughey asked what recourse residents would have if they complain about not wanting more radio waves to go into their homes. Ms. Ferguson answered that the FCC has referred to a study of the big towers deemed to have sufficient information to reassure the public that these antennae are not a danger to them. Therefore, the Town cannot deny the pole placement based on resident concerns about radio waves. There are approved standards to be followed. It was clarified that Town has no authority with regard to this.

CM Godfrey also asked for further clarification. Ms. Ferguson confirmed that these poles could be up to 50 feet in height. As well, the park is not a right-of-way and thus is not included. These are much smaller antennae that are not cell towers. Ms. Ferguson offered to send photos of these poles once they are installed, to help clarify the issue.

CM Godfrey had further questions. On the application, it would be worthwhile asking applicants to include a detailed maintenance plan as this is something that is often overlooked. For locations that require landscaping maintenance, it would be necessary to explain that University Park is a bee-friendly place that is trying to reduce the use of pesticides. Ms. Ferguson responded that the applicants are not allowed to install in the right-of-way in a place the Town would not approve of.

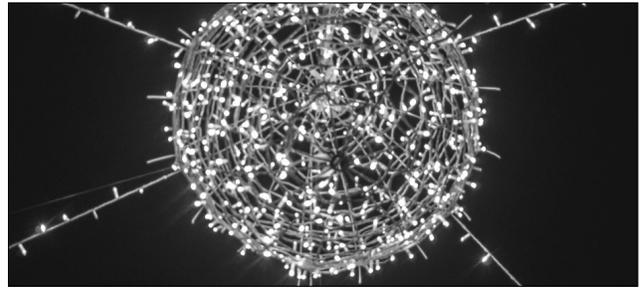
CM Morgan asked for confirmation that the small antennae would not interfere with any other signal. Ms. Ferguson responded that this is correct. The engineer from CTC will review the application and all plans, in addition to the manual adopted by Prince George's County. CTC will review what effect the small cell antennae will have on signals produced by other utilities, if any.

TOWN NEWS & EVENTS

CM Dubayah asked whether the utility box could be on the ground and if there is a limit on its size. CM Godfrey confirmed that the restriction on size is 28 cubic feet. Ms. Ferguson explained that the regulations were written several years ago. As well, the County has zoning control. CM Dubayah also asked whether these small cell antennae would have a network through the Town. Ms. Ferguson responded that it would depend. In areas where additional bandwidth is necessary, the applicant would have architecture that would be shared with the Town. At this time, this is a make-work project.

The motion on license agreements for small cell antennae will be brought to the next Council meeting.

The meeting adjourned by consent at 8:35 PM.



Light Up UP

Saturday, December 9 (rain date Dec. 10), 1-3 PM

Want to make a giant lighted holiday ball to hang in your tree for the holidays? Several families in UP are gathering at the cut-through between 4315 and 4317 Clagett Rd. to construct the balls. Children are welcome! We started this UP tradition two years ago, and the more lights we have, the more magical our neighborhood will look. If you'd like to get in on this, it's not too late. You just need 300-bulb mini-LED lights and chicken wire. We have some lights, white or multi-colored, that we can sell you for \$20, or you can bring your own. The UPCA is supplying the chicken wire. (Once constructed, you'll need string and a light-weight extension cord to hang them.) We want to ensure we have enough chicken wire and lights for everyone, so if you'd like to join us, contact Norma Babington at Babington.norma@gmail.com or 410-627-9856, or Ellen Whitaker at ewhittor@aol.com or 202-288-9008.



Please have dogs use the right of way, not private front lawn property. Please pick up after your dog and dispose of waste in public trash cans. Register for the UP Pet database at <https://tinyurl.com/UPPet>.

TOWN NEWS & EVENTS



UPWC Annual Holiday House Tour

Saturday, December 9, 3-7 PM

All proceeds and donations support the UP Woman's Club scholarship fund. Five homeowners in University Park will feature their magnificent homes on the tour. Please contact Jean Pirovic, 301-520-8420 or jean.pirovic@LNF.com for tickets Admission: \$20 in advance/\$22 at the door. No admittance without a ticket. This is our main fundraiser of the year and a cherished tradition. This year's featured homes:

The Heitkemper Residence, 4308 Woodberry St.

The Hoefler-Reinhard Residence, 6719 44th Ave.

The Horvath-Tartaro Residence, 4323 Tuckerman St.

The Howland-Brosch Residence, 3918 Calverton Dr.

The Tronetti Residence, 7006 Southwark Terrace.

Second Saturday Lecture Series

Rain Check Rebate & Energy Audit Session

Saturday, December 9, 4 PM

Representatives of two organizations have agreed to speak to town residents. The Chesapeake Bay Trust works with Prince George's County and runs the Rain Check Rebate Program. Their staff will explain the program, designed to help county property owners control, and use stormwater in their yards, reducing stormwater runoff into county streams and waterways. Grants are available to help pay for water retention measures such as rain gardens, rain barrels, cisterns and more. Locally these measures can be used in times of flooding or droughts, improving the water quality of Wells Run and Guilford Run.



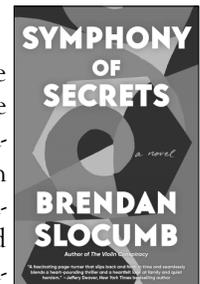
American Home Services, Inc. of Bowie, a certified contractor for PEPCO's Home Performance with Energy Star Program, will describe the PEPCO program. Town residents can receive both technical and financial assistance to improve the energy efficiency of their homes

through energy audits and measures like insulation, air sealing and other installations that can reduce energy use, cut energy bills and improve the comfort of the home. Energy audit costs are reduced by 75% and there are also several energy-saving measures that are eligible for financial assistance up to \$7,500. These are two programs can make your property both inside and out better for you and University Park. For more information contact Dave Brosch at davidcbrosch@comcast.net.

After Eight Book Group

Tuesday, December 12, 8-10 PM

The After Eight Book group will be meeting in person. Attendees must be fully vaccinated. Our book for December is *Symphony of Secrets* by Brendan Slocumb and January's is *State of Wonder* by Ann Patchett. 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.

Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, December 24, 7:30 PM

Join us to celebrate God's Incarnation as we recall the birth of Jesus. The Christmas Eve service will be one of readings and carols and lighting the Christ candle. All are welcome! University Park Church of the Brethren, located at 4413 Tuckerman (corner of Tuckerman and Route 1).

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.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR



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 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 October 2023, we served 6,850 families in need with an overall average of 4.6 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/search?query=stmarkfoodpantry) to make a donation. Checks are welcome, made payable to the St. Mark's Food Pantry. Please mail to:

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

UMD Festival of Lessons & Carols, Friday, December 8, 8-9:30 PM UMD Choral Activities continues the holiday tradition of bringing Festival of Lessons & Carols to campus for its 22nd year. Choirs, brass quintet and organ combine to bring the joy of the season to life with carols, hymns and spoken word that epitomize hope and goodwill. This event takes place at the UMD Memorial Chapel. For tickets call 301-405-ARTS or visit theclarice.umd.edu/events/2023/festival-of-lessons-carols-umd-choral-activities.



College Park Aviation Museum

1985 Corporal Frank Scott Drive, College Park
Santa Fly-In, Saturday, December 2, 10 AM-4 PM
Watch Santa fly into the College Park Airport and Aviation Museum! Santa flies in between 10-10:15 AM, activities & photos begin afterwards. Enjoy crafts, activities, and photos with Santa. Photos scheduled by reserved time slot. To reserve, please email collegeparkaviation@pgparks.com. Field of First Foundation members are free and do not need to reserve a ticket but do need to reserve a photo slot. \$5 per person—guests over the age of 2 must have a ticket—register at www.tinyurl.com/CPAMSanta2023



Trains and Planes Weekend, Friday, December 15, 10 AM-7 PM; Saturday & Sunday, December 16 & 17, 10 AM-4 PM The National Capital Trackers bring their fleet of model trains to the museum for the holiday season! Explore the magical displays and chat with train enthusiasts as you learn about the connection between trains and the College Park Airport. On Friday, enjoy extended evening hours and activities as we kick off this annual tradition. For more information or to register, contact samantha.ferris@pgparks.com or call 301.864.6029.

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 noted. Visit us at www.cpae.org, on Facebook, or email info@cpae.org.

The Tiny Band, Saturday, December 2, 7-9 PM The Tiny Band is a trio of local musicians—Alan



Krupnick, Ryan Synk and John Synk— now starting to appear in the area and are looking forward to making their debut at the College Park Exchange. This band was formed as an outlet for performing original songs from John Synk, and also singing and playing classic popular songs that feature three-part harmony.

Holiday Concert, Friday, December 15, 7:30 PM An intimate evening of holiday music featuring Eric Maring, Allison Hughes, Gabriel Ruiz-Bernal, and Andrew Brown.

Town of University Park

FALL AND WINTER OPERATIONS INFORMATION



Curbside Leaf Vacuuming Continues Through January 12, 2024

- Department of Public Works crews will work counter-clockwise 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.

After January 12 If you miss curbside leaf vacuuming, leaves will need to be collected into paper bags or a durable container and put at the curb. The county does not accept leaves in plastic bags. Leaves will be picked up on Mondays with yard waste.

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

Snow Plan

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

Snow Event Parking

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

Both Sides No Parking:

The Mews
Queens Chapel Rd—6400-6700 blocks

Creekside No Parking:

Wells Pkwy

Odd # Side No Parking:

40th Ave
41st Ave
Beechwood Rd--3900 thru 4300 blocks
Calverton Dr
Oakridge Rd
Pineway

Queens Chapel Rd—6300 block

Sheridan St

Tuckerman St

Tennyson Rd

Underwood St--4000 thru 4300 blocks

Even # Side No Parking:

42nd Ave
43rd Ave
44th Ave
Beechwood Rd--4400 block
Chansory Ln
Clagett Rd
Clagett-Pineway
College Heights Dr
Forest Hill Dr
Holly Hill Rd
Underwood St—3900 & 4400 blocks
Van Buren St
Woodberry St

Check the Town's website for snow emergency declarations and details at www.upmd.org



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 batteries to 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. One qualifying purchase per year per household is permitted from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2025. 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.

December 2023

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		Town Leaf Collection Continues				1 Recycling	2 Town Christmas Tree Lighting, 6-8 PM
3	4 Yard Waste, Town Council, 7:30 PM	5 Trash, Bulk Trash Sustainability Committee, 7:30 PM via Zoom	6	7 Policy, Rules and Municipal Structure Committee, 7 PM via Zoom	8 Recycling	9 Light Up UP, 1-3 PM UPWC Annual Holiday House Tour, 3-7 PM Second Saturday Lecture Series, 4 PM	
10	11 Yard Waste	12 Trash, Bulk Trash After Eight Book Group, 8-10 PM	13 Police, Traffic & Public Safety Committee, 7:30 PM via Zoom Trees Committee, 6:30 PM, In-person: Hyattsville Library	14 Development Overview Committee, 7:30 PM via Zoom	15 Recycling	16 Tai Chi Chuan Class, 8-9 AM	
17	18 Yard Waste, Town Council, 7:30 PM	19 Trash, Bulk Trash	20	21 Public Facilities & Services, 7:30 PM via Zoom	22 Recycling	23	
24 Christmas Eve Service, 7:30 PM	25 Town Holiday	26 Trash, Bulk Trash	27 Yard Waste, Helping Hands University Park, 5:30 via Zoom	28	29 Recycling	30	
31	January 1 Town Holiday	2 Trash, Bulk Trash	3 Yard Waste	4	5 Recycling		



TOWN OF UNIVERSITY PARK
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 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 January newsletter deadline is Wednesday, December 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

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