

UNIVERSITY PARK NEWSLETTER

TOWN OF UNIVERSITY PARK, MARYLAND
FEBRUARY 2024 OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER VOL. XLIX, NO. 2

MAYOR'S COLUMN

GROUNDHOG DAY is Friday, February 2! I never miss rewatching the movie by the same name this time of year. Will we have a long winter or will spring come early? Only the world-famous Punxsutawney Phil, "Seer of Seers, Sage of Sages, Prognosticator of Prognosticators and Weather-Prophet Extraordinaire" can tell us.

While Phil has been analyzing his data in anticipation of his upcoming announcement, the Town has been in regular communication with County agencies and our County Councilmember Eric Olson to address our residents' concerns about the water quality of Wells Run. We believe much of the problem stems from the construction of the Nine Pond bio-retention site (bounded by Belcrest, Toledo, and Adelphi Roads) and other development in that area. While Nine Pond has been con-

structed to improve the water quality of runoff, it has negatively impacted Wells Run in University Park. Councilmember Ralph Dubayah has been especially helpful in our efforts to hold County officials accountable. For several months, he has taken water quality readings thus providing us with quantitative evidence to compel enhanced County oversight. I along with the Town Council, Town Staff, Town Administrator Angela Lawrence, and Town Attorney Suellen Ferguson will continue working with our Prince George's County and state agencies to identify measures that can revitalize the stream's health now and into the future. Please check the Town's Sustainability website for updates and additional information at <https://upmd.org/Sustainability-Committee>.

Town Meetings & Special Dates

Town Council February 5 & 20
Town Holidays February 19
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.



We continue to await the completion of the new pedestrian bridges where Wells Run intersects with Beechwood Road and Van Buren Street. Production setbacks delayed the steel railings for these bridges, but the manufacturer and installer assured us the railings will be complete by early February. We will definitely open these bridges soon! In the meantime, please observe the caution tape and barriers and do not cross the bridges until construction is complete.

Recently Councilmember Morrissey and I met with a longtime local landscaper who services a large group of homes in town. To comply with the gas-powered leaf blower ban, he purchased, and demonstrated for us, battery-powered equipment and a battery-powered electric generator to recharge the batteries. We observed the pros and cons of gas vs. battery-operated leaf blowers from this landscaper's perspective, and discussed the potential for the Council to consider further updates to the rebate policy. He shared his deep concern about competing with landscaping companies that are not licensed, bonded, and insured or potentially compliant with other laws. When looking for a landscaper or handyman to work on your home, consider the risk that comes from an unlicensed contractor and ask if they are licensed, bonded, and insured. Believe it or not, licensed and insured contractors are not inherently more expensive, and you will be protected from accidents that happen on your property and from untrustworthy, litigious contractors that prey on unsuspecting homeowners.

Please remember the animals at the Prince George's County Animal Shelter awaiting their forever homes. Recently canine flu forced the shelter to close to the public, but it reopened on January 20. If you cannot adopt, consider donating needed supplies listed on the shelter's website; they also have an Amazon wish list to make donating easy. You can also contact the shelter directly at 301-780-7200 for more information.

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 Ordinance 24-O-01

On January 2, 2023, Ordinance 24-O-01 was introduced. This Ordinance amends Chapter 9 "Traffic and Vehicles", Article 1, "Traffic", § 9-104, "Parking" to prohibit parking on the east side of 44th Avenue for a distance of 30 feet north of its intersection with Underwood Street. The meeting set for February 5, 2024, 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 24-O-2

On January 16, 2024, Ordinance 24-O-02 was introduced. This Ordinance would amend the FY 2024 Budget Ordinance, Legislative Resolution 23-O-03, to make adjustments based on the mid-year financial analysis, to reflect Council's determination to use ARPA funds to pay certain Town general fund expenses during FY 2024 in order to insure that the said funds are encumbered and paid by December 31, 2024, and to retain the Town's continued commitment to fund the SWM Design & Engineering, Town Hall, and Park Upgrades projects by moving the projects into the Reserved/Designated section of the Budget. The meeting set for February 5, 2024, 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.

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



FROM THE CHIEF

2024 New Year Community Safety Resolutions

As we usher in a new year, let's reflect upon the successes and challenges of the past year. University Park remains a safe place to live, visit and enjoy. Last year the town did not record a single robbery, carjacking, rape, aggravated assault, or homicide. However, the town experienced an increase in property crime. Among those incidents, theft of items from motor vehicles is the most common crime. These incidents are considered crimes of opportunity, where valuables have been left inside an unlocked vehicle.

The good news is the police and members of the community continue to work together to identify potential threats as well as educate the public on ways to prevent and reduce crime. The University Park Police Department remains committed and focused on addressing all crime and quality of life issues within the town. To help, we have developed these useful tips to reduce the opportunity for crime and keep you and your family safe. While reviewing these safety tips we encourage you to utilize them as New Year Community Safety Resolutions and share them with your family and friends:

Out and About

- Be alert to potential danger. Trust your instincts. Be aware of your surroundings. Avoid any person or thing that does not feel safe.
- Do not let your cellphone be a distraction. Keep focused on the people around you. When you are not looking at your surroundings, you are at greater risk.
- Your phone allows you to post your comings and goings on social media in real time—do not do it. Update your social media *after* the fact. Letting people know you're out alone or taking a night walk could make you vulnerable.
- Whenever possible go out with friends and leave the venue with them. There is strength in numbers. Lock in emergency contact numbers in your phone.
- Travel as if you know where you are going. Take the most direct route and try to stay within areas where other people are around. Have your keys available when you reach your car.
- Always park in well-lit areas.
- When driving ensure you lock your car doors. When possible, avoid driving alone late at night. Nationwide,

most carjackings take place between 10 PM and 2 AM.

- At red lights, position your vehicle in the lane near the center line to discourage someone from approaching the driver side of your vehicle. Be aware of your surroundings and watch for anyone approaching your vehicle on foot.
- Stay alert for individuals deliberately bumping into your vehicle to attempt to carjack you. If you are in an accident and feel uneasy drive to a safe place and call the police.
- Avoid stopping to help stranded strangers. Drive to a safe location and call law enforcement to help them.



At Home

- Install a security camera and/or alarm system and you may be eligible for a \$100 home security rebate from the town.
- Ensure your house numbers are clearly visible to first responders. In the event of an emergency your house number will be critical to your receiving assistance.
- Going away on vacation or leaving your home for an extended period? Submit a house check request and the University Park Police will check on your home. Last year we conducted 7,542 house checks as part of this program.
- Throughout the town there are several dark spots. Please ensure your outdoor lights are working and turned on at night. This will help to deter crime.
- Do not leave guns in open and accessible places such as tables or nightstands. Always ensure guns are secure with gunlocks and stored in a child-resistant locked case and kept out of reach of children. Never leave a weapon unattended.
- When storms approach, check on vulnerable family, friends, and neighbors. Bring your pets inside. Cover and insulate pipes when temperatures are expected to be freezing or below. Bring plants inside if you can or cover them to help them stay warm.

FROM THE CHIEF



Vehicle

- If possible, park your vehicle in a secure garage or parking area.
- Always lock all car doors and windows after exiting. Never leave the doors and windows open or the engine running, even if stepping out for a moment. When out shopping enter/exit your vehicle quickly.
- Do not leave your spare house or car keys inside the vehicle. Similarly, avoid leaving your valuables and identification documents inside your car. A basic rule to follow is, keep it safe, keep it with you.
- Ensure your vehicle's anti-theft device is working properly. Stop by Town Hall and pick up a free steering wheel lock.
- Prevent catalytic converter theft by installing a cage or steel plate. Increase the sensitivity of your car alarm so if anyone tampers with your vehicle the alarm will sound.
- Set your home and vehicle alarm before going to bed.

When away from home, remain vigilant and alert to your surroundings. When at home, take the necessary steps to keep your family safe by reducing the opportunity for crime. In 2024, please join Neighborhood Watch and assist the University Park Police with keeping the town safe. Stay informed on the latest public safety information by signing up for the Chief's Blog. Remember an informed resident is a safe resident. Here's to a safe new year.

Crime Report

Theft On December 29 a resident in the 4100 block of Woodberry St. reported that someone broke into his unlocked vehicle and stole several items valued at \$380. There are no suspects.

Stolen Car On December 24 a resident in the 4400 block of Sheridan St. reported that while on vacation someone stole her 2013 Hyundai Elantra. Riverdale Park

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Police have recovered the vehicle.

Theft On December 7 a resident in the 4400 block of East West Hwy reported someone stole his bicycle from his driveway. The bike was not secure and had a value of \$80. There are no suspects.

Theft On December 3 a resident in the 4200 block of Tuckerman St. reported that someone broke into her locked vehicle and stole her portable battery charger valued at \$20. The suspect smashed the front passenger window to commit the theft. There are no suspects.

Attempted Theft On December 3, a resident in the 6400 block of Queens Chapel Road reported that two males tried to steal his locked vehicle parked in front of his home. The resident woke to his vehicle alarm sounding and came outside to check, and the two suspects fled.

Theft On December 1 a resident in the 4200 block of Sheridan St. reported someone stole medication from his unlocked vehicle parked near his home. There are no suspects.



Tree Committee News Caring For Trees in Winter

There's little to do for most trees in winter and in early February, we're almost halfway to spring. The Committee for Trees, Parks, and Environment encourages you assess your property's arboreal health. Most importantly, keep trees mulched at three inches depth or less and rake it back from the trunks so that the flare is exposed at the base. This is a critical vector for transpiration—trees are unable to fully breathe correctly if you have a mulch volcano. Mulch should never touch the trunk. Do not water dormant deciduous trees until spring.

It may be necessary to water your evergreens, but only if the evergreen was not well watered in the fall, temperatures have been warm and no rain or snow has fallen for 2-3 weeks, and water only when temperatures are above 40 degrees and only slow, deep soaking. Dead wood in any tree should always be removed promptly. Structural and/or thinning should be done only during certain,

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distinct seasonal windows correlating to the specific genus/species of the tree. Structural pruning is best achieved when the tree is young. More info at extension.umd.edu/resource/pruning-trees-home-landscape/ Vines should be controlled. Remove all vines from the valuable trees you care for. Winter provides the ideal opportunity to prune vines—they are readily visible and easier to cut.

Ivy League

The Ivy League looks forward to growing our ranks in 2024—low impact exercise meets camaraderie meets environmental action—perfect for most age groups. We will gladly sign your Community Service voucher for each occasion and will bestow a unique Ivy League bandana to each volunteer who joins us for five opportunities. We usually meet the second Saturday every month from March-November. Help University Park's ecological health this year!

Expanded Polystyrene (Styrofoam) Added to Recycling Event

The Town will be introducing EPS Industry Alliance as a new vendor at our next recycling event on April 20. EPS will be collecting expanded polystyrene (Styrofoam). Town residents will be able to drop off expanded polystyrene this year for free. Details on the types of expanded polystyrene that may be dropped off will follow as the information becomes available.



Helping Hands University Park

Helping Hands University Park

Winter has arrived and weather forecasts say we will have more snow this year than last. HH volunteers and members: stay safe and

warm while clearing those sidewalks. *Important Reminder:* If any UP resident knows of a senior neighbor having difficulty with heating bills, our Temporary Assistance Fund is for exactly this type of need. Please let us know so we can help! (Contact info below.)

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

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Members Monthly Lunch Club, Wednesday, February 21, 12-1 PM In person. Members and volunteers social gathering. Location changes every month. Become a member and join us!

Executive Committee Meeting, Wednesday, February 28, 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.

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.

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

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

December 6 Council Meeting Highlights

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

Motion: *To approve moving into a closed session to discuss a personnel matter.* Motion carried unanimously. Closed session began at 7:09 PM and Council returned from closed session at 7:28 PM.

Public Comment

- A resident discussed climate change and methane and indicated composting will help with that. He encouraged the Town to continue to purchase and distribute compostable bags to all who participate in the program. He stated that he had 14 volunteer families to cover all wards to distribute bags.
- A resident commented that he appreciated the other comments and the amount of research done and supported the previous suggestion for the town to continue to purchase bags and have volunteers distribute.
- A resident commented that residents should have a choice to use a cart or the bucket/bin.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor, Council, and Committee Comments and Reports

Development Committee CM McGaughey discussed whether to include a summary of the recent meeting in the Town Newsletter. He noted that it may be helpful to have a meeting with County Councilmember Olson and Councilmember Dubayah to express displeasure about their decisions. The Development Overview Committee will meet on December 14, 2023 to discuss two items, the library apartment project, and a standard set of questions to ask developers.

Police, Traffic, and Public Safety Committee CM Gathercole stated that they will meet next Wednesday, the 13th, along with Public Facilities to discuss pedestrian safety. The Chief would like to share his ideas on increasing public safety in light of what happened to the two schoolchildren who perished last month in Riverdale Park.

Sustainability Committee CM Dubayah reported that the committee met last night. There was much discussion about the Wells Run community meeting hosted by Eric Olson and county staff. There was frustration. He also discussed the permits from the Nine Pond area and made suggestions for enforcement. Some on the committee supported encouraging the county to file a suit against the state regarding the standards for enforcement. CM Gathercole recalled that the turbidity of the water should be 150 according to state law even though 150 is not an acceptable level; so what can be done if the state sets the standard at this level. CM Sweet recognized and thanked David Brosch for all his efforts in helping with the compost bags, such as inviting council members to his home to review various bags that the local grocery stores are using that look compostable but are not.

Public Facilities and Services Committee CM Morgan reported that Public Facilities Committee set for December 21 will be moved to December 14 due to holidays and may be combined with Sustainability and perhaps Tree Committee.

Policy, Rules and Municipal Structure CM Morrissey reported that Policy, Rules and Municipal Structure Committee will meet on January 4, 2024.

Mayor Biermann The Mayor noted that a meeting was held to discuss the water pollution in Wells Run that

was the result of much construction upstream. The meeting turnout was large and widespread. He noted that the water turbidity standard of 150 is a frame of reference. Once the particulate matter gets to the 150 level, enforcement mechanisms kick in. However, when the level is significantly lower than 150, the streams can still look like they have problems. He added that he shared CM Gathercole's concerns at the meeting. In response to CM Dubayah's comments, Mayor Biermann suggested not to proceed in suing the state because he believes that the state may help resolve the water pollution matter. Attorney Ferguson noted that Soil Conservation was not present at the recent meeting and suggested that it would be a good idea to contact them for assistance on the water pollution matter.

Mayor Biermann reported that the holiday tree-lighting ceremony was held on Saturday, December 2, 2023. Santa Claus did arrive after some delay. The ceremony was a success.

Mayor Biermann was excited to report that the bridges are coming to fruition. When the infrastructure is all put together, a notice for a ribbon-cutting ceremony will be sent.

Interim Town Administrator Ms. Lawrence reported that Pepco tree trimming is scheduled for mid-to-late January 2024 and will be advertised in the newsletter. Permits will be included on the January 2, 2024 meeting agenda.

Continuing Business

Motion: To adopt charter amendment resolution 23-CR-01, to amend the charter to establish 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. as the default polling hours on election day, to authorize mailing of ballots to every registered voter prior to the election, and to make conforming changes. Motion carried unanimously. The Council had no questions for Stephanie Herold, and Stephanie Herold had no questions for the Council. CM Godfrey thanked Stephanie Herold for her service to the town and being responsive to his questions.

Motion: To adopt charter resolution 23-CR-02, an amendment to the charter of the Town of University Park by repealing and reenacting 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

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carried unanimously. Mayor Biermann noted that the Town's tree canopy and public open space are deeply valued and should not be taken for granted; the Guilford Woods debacle should serve as a reminder to be grateful for the tree canopy and public open space.

Motion: To continue bag delivery through the end of the fiscal year utilizing volunteers for distribution. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Lawrence presented the following four options:

- Discontinue bags after the December distribution is complete.
- Continue bags and delivery indefinitely.
- Continue bag delivery through the end of the fiscal year.
- Continue bag deliveries where the town will purchase the bags and volunteers will deliver them.

Attorney Ferguson confirmed that the insurance covers volunteers. However, there are liability and accountability concerns which may require release forms. These concerns come from volunteers having to enter properties and owners having to accept the volunteers to enter their properties. She also noted the need to have a fallback position in case volunteers fail to complete the work to which they committed.

New Business

Fiscal Year 23 Financial Review

Treasurer Dan Baden provided the following highlights from the financial position of the Town for the year and at year-end (June 30, 2023):

- Total excess of revenues over expenditures: \$2,697,830 which includes ARPA funds that will be spent in future years.
- Total fund balance, end of year: \$5,570,313.
- 25% of expenditures equals \$1,156,747 surplus.

Motion: To approve designating the expenditures of the budgeted line items shown in the ARPA column of the Allocation of ARPA Funds Usage Report prepared by the Town Treasurer for the authorized use of ARPA funds in an amount of up to \$1,873,225.10. Motion carried unanimously. The Town was awarded \$2,593,187.75 in funding from the American Rescue Plan Act. The Town is required to obligate or expend these funds by December 31, 2024, or else the funds must be returned to the U.S. Treasury. To date, the Town has spent \$719,962.65.

Motion: To appoint L.K. Klein to the Sustainability Committee effective immediately. Motion carried unanimously. CM Dubayah proposed appointing L.K. Klein to the Sustainability Committee. He noted that she has attended several meetings, is enthusiastic, and is well-liked by the Council. CM Gathercole welcomed Ms. Klein to the Sustainability Committee. Ms. Klein thanked the Council for the opportunity and expressed excitement about volunteering on the Sustainability Committee. CM Gathercole questioned why a member had to come before Council. Ms. Lawrence cited the Code regarding committees. Assignments are usually made in July.

Motion: To approve a sole source contract on an emergency basis to Prospect Solar in the amount of \$23,554 for the replacement of two inverters for the solar panels on UPES roof in the amount of \$19,954 for the \$3600 for the touch safe fuses installation, upon approval by the attorney (good cause having been shown for the sole source contract). Motion carried unanimously.

Motion: To approve the transfer of \$25,000 from Capital Projects - ARPA SWM Design & Engineering line item (6085-09) to General Government - Solar Array Maintenance line item (6101-01) for the solar inverter replacements. Motion carried unanimously. Mickey Beall noted that two inverters are not functioning and need to be repaired or replaced. It costs approximately \$10,000 to repair them and \$20,000 to replace them. The vendor stated that it would take eight to ten weeks to repair, and the repair would have a one-year warranty. Mickey Beall recommended replacing the inverters. The broken inverters are costing the Town thousands of dollars monthly.

Discussion of EV Charging Stations (EVCS) Councilmembers shared their concerns for providing free charging in town. In response to concerns, CM Sweet suggested permitting the area during a test run so that only University Park residents could use the stations. CM Sweet suggested not implementing pay-for-permits. CM Godfrey noted that it is important to determine what the purpose of better EVCS would be (is it a statement of the Town's sustainability values, an amenity for Town residents, or an accessibility feature for guests?). He suggested that a demand study be conducted about EVCS. CM Gathercole noted that many residents do not want to have EVCS provided for free, especially

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those who do not own electric vehicles. CM Morgan reported that Ward 4 largely voted “no” to EVCS being provided for free. The Council agreed to have staff obtain data about EVCS and prepare a study for the Council. The study is to find out who is using the existing EV chargers and how much it will cost to remove them and replace them with smart chargers. Mayor Biermann noted that there will be more informed conversations on this topic in the future.

The meeting adjourned by consent at 9:30 PM.

December 6 Public Record of Closed Session

Persons present via Zoom: Mayor Biermann, Councilmembers Morrissey, Gathercole, Sweet, Dubayah, Godfrey, McGaughey, Morgan and Town Attorney Ferguson.

List Of Topics Discussed: Amendment of terms to Interim Town Administrator’s contract was discussed with Town Attorney.

Actions Taken: The Town Attorney was directed to negotiate an amended contract with the Interim Town Administrator

The meeting adjourned at 7:28 PM.

January 2 Council Meeting Highlights

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

Mayor, Council, and Committee Comments and Reports

Police, Traffic, and Public Safety Committee CM Gathercole noted that at the joint Police, Traffic, and Public Safety Committee and Public Services and Facilities Committee meeting, they discussed placing a raised crosswalk on Queen's Chapel Road. This was due to safety concerns for pedestrians. The chief reported there were over 245 cars that traversed Queen's Chapel Road. She also mentioned stormwater drainage and handicap accessibility considerations. In addition, CM Gathercole addressed safety concerns for pedestrians walking along the 7000 block of Wells Parkway, including the potential for adding bollards or a bike lane.

Policy, Rules, and Municipal Structure Committee CM Morrissey said the Policy, Rules and Municipal Structure will meet on January 10, 2024 and will include discussion on Trap Neuter Release policy.

Development Overview Committee CM McGaughey said the DOC will meet a week from Thursday to discuss how to provide more consistent questions to the developers.

Mayor Biermann added that Ward 5 requested another speed hump as they had four speed humps in the original plan. He also emphasized that wider speed humps were less effective. Suggestions for other traffic calming interventions and obtaining a traffic engineer were noted.

Interim Town Administrator Lawrence shared that the mid-year budget adjustment amendment needed to be discussed at the next meeting, especially the infrastructure decisions. CM Sweet suggested using the stormwater issue as an opportunity for a test run of a pave drain system on Wells Parkway.

Sustainability Committee CM Dubayah said the Sustainability Committee will meet on January 9, 2024.

Mayor Biermann The Mayor emphasized the importance of staying within the budget and proposed one-on-one meetings to discuss individual priorities for the upcoming budget cycle.

Continuing Business

Motion: To approve transferring \$25,000 from Capital Projects – ARPA SWM Design and Engineering line item (6085-09) to General Government – Solar Array Maintenance line item (6101-01). Motion carried unanimously. Replacing solar inverters in the elementary school due to failures, along with potential grants and maintenance contracts, was discussed. Mayor Biermann pointed out that people can view the amount of energy generated from solar power over the life of the project on the town’s website, under the Sustainability Committee’s webpage.

New Business

Motion: To approve the Interim Town Administrator Contract through June 30, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Motion: To set the date for general elections for Town offices as May 7, 2024, with poll hours of 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion: To introduce 24-O-01, a Legislative Resolution and Ordinance amending Chapter 9 "Traffic and Vehicles," Article 1 "Traffic," §9-104 "Parking" to establish a "No Parking Zone" on the east side of 44th Avenue for a distance of 30 feet north of its intersection with Underwood Street. Motion carried unanimously. The no parking zone in the 6600 block of 44th Avenue was discussed, with concerns raised about site distance and safety at the intersection. There was a suggestion to repaint yellow lines or use signs to enforce no parking regulations near stop signs town-wide. Questions were raised about enforcement, mixed experiences with ticketing, and whether there should be consistent enforcement of existing codes. Some members requested clarification on the distance requirements for no parking zones near stop signs, particularly the distinction between 15 feet and 30 feet. The asymmetrical nature of the intersection on 44th Avenue was described as a potential problem for sightlines. Investigating the possibility of repainting curbs and implementing other measures to designate parking restrictions town-wide was noted.

The meeting adjourned by consent at 8:23 PM.

UP Woman's Club Meeting Monday, February 5, 11:30 AM

This month's program is titled, "Changing the World? What's Next for the Performing Arts at The Clarice, UMD and Throughout Our Communities." The guest speaker will be Terry Dwyer, Executive Director of the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center. He will discuss exciting ways that artists, companies and the Clarice are responding to changes in the post-pandemic cultural landscape. In addition, he will comment on how these significant trends in the performing arts are highly valued, and essential to our collective well-being. The meeting will be in-person at the University Christian Church at the corner of Adelphi and Belcrest Roads in Hyattsville. Sign-in begins at 11:30 AM. Please RSVP to cmd9514@gmail.com.



TOWN NEWS & EVENTS



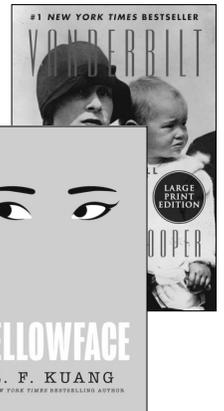
Second Saturday Lecture Series Saturday, February 10, 4-6 PM

Occasionally the lecture series moves from the realm of words and discussion to the sound of music. Join us this month when four town residents will play classical music for all. They are the Ad hoc UP String Quartet, comprised of May Ing and Karen Hogan, violins, Doug Julin, viola, and Bob Park, violoncello. Their program may include music composed by Josef Haydn, Wolfgang Mozart, Antonin Dvorak, Josef Strauss, and Scott Joplin. The price is right too—it's free. Join at the University Park Church of the Brethren at 4413 Tuckerman Street. Let your friends and neighbors know about this event. For more info contact Dave Brosch at davidcbrosch@comcast.net.

After Eight Book Group

Tuesday, February 20, 8-10 PM

The After Eight Book group will be meeting in person. Attendees must be fully vaccinated. February's title is *Yellowface* by R.F. Kuang. Our book for March is *Vanderbilt* by Anderson Cooper. 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.

TOWN NEWS & EVENTS

Azalea Classic



Classic

UNIVERSITY PARK, MD

Oh, the weather outside is frightful, but what better time to register for the 2024 Azalea Classic? Registration is now open for our annual neighborhood 5K, 1-mile, and 1K run/walk, which will be held on May 4, 2024.

Find more information and sign up at www.AzaleaClassic.com or email upesazaleaclassic5k@gmail.com for questions.



Porchfest 2024

UPCA is looking for participants. PorchFest is a family-friendly community music event taking place on Saturday, May 11, appropriate for all ages. The focal points will be a variety of musical acts ranging from acoustic to electric, and solo to ensemble. All are welcome and invited to participate by either playing music or hosting with your porch or yard. If you want to perform or host live music on your porch, please fill out this form:

<https://forms.gle/PorQ3zH5oWsaPLc18>

Questions? Email Dan Epstein at daneps@gmail.com.

Sailing Into Peace Camp

UP Church of the Brethren is hosting a summer day camp the week of July 15. Little Friends for Peace will help youths (ages 5-14) connect with themselves, others and the world around them. Youth will be taught strategies to deal with their emotions and conflict management. The cost is \$285 for the week. Email peacecamp@lffp.org or call MJ Park at 240-838-5459.

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

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nearly 50,000 families in need and the numbers continue to grow. 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 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 9:30 AM-12 PM at the above address. All are welcome.

Hyattsville Library Independent Film Series, *The Space Race*, Monday, February 12, 7-9:00 PM Join us for a screening and discussion of this month's documentary film. *The Space Race* tells the little-known story of the first Black pilots, scientists and engineers to become astronauts. Guest Brent Barbee is an Aerospace Engineer at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center where his current work includes leading interagency spacecraft mission design research for planetary defense against hazardous asteroids and comets.*



*Fun fact: Main-belt asteroid 120208 was renamed "Brentbarbee" in honor of his contributions to asteroid missions and planetary defense.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Riversdale House Museum

Historic House Tours, *Fridays and Sundays* Tours depart from the Visitor Center at noon and 2 PM.

An introduction begins 5 minutes prior to departure. Please arrive early to purchase your tickets at the Visitor Center. Pre-registration not required. Adults: \$5; seniors, \$4; ages -18 and students with ID, \$2; 4 & under free.



Parkdale Concert Choir, *Friday, February 16, 6-8 PM* We celebrate Black History Month in collaboration with the Parkdale High School Choir to celebrate the theme

African Americans and the Arts. The Parkdale High School Choir will perform a selection of Negro Spirituals to highlight the history and traditions of African American singing. \$5/person.

Plummers Kitchen, *February 25, 12-4 PM* Join the Riversdale Kitchen Guild & interpreter Marvin-Alonzo Greer as they prepare foods popular among enslaved communities in Maryland. Discover the stories of Adam Francis Plummer, his family, and other enslaved individuals during self-guided tours of the historic house. Registration not required, but indoor capacity limits are in place. Free.

Riversdale Chamber Music Society Concert, *February 2, 2 PM* A Chamber Concert featuring the Riversdale Chamber Music Society Salon Trio as they highlight arrangements by African American classical chamber music composers. Free.

4811 Riverdale Road; 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544;
riversdale@pgparks.com



UP Helping Paws

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.

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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.

College Park Arts Exchange

All events take place at the Old Parish House, 4711 Knox Road, College Park, unless otherwise noted.



CPAE Arts Drop In, *Saturday, February 17* At College Park Community Center, 5101 Pierce Avenue in Lakeland, 9:30-11:30 AM, and at Old Parish

House, 12:30-2 PM. Arts Drop In is a fun, materials-based activities for children ages 3-8 with their caregivers, led by Ian Rogers, a local artist and Early Childhood Educator with 30 years experience.

CPAE Book Club, reading *Nonfiction by Women, Tuesday, February 20, 7-8:30 PM* on Zoom. Email Info@cpae.org for more information. We'll be discussing *Unfollow: A Memoir of Loving and Leaving the Westboro Baptist Church*, by Megan Phelps-Roper.

CPAE is hiring Artists and Arts Teachers! Email info@cpae.org if you are interested in leading arts events in College Park!

mypgc.us/bagitright

BAG it RIGHT
Prince George's County

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT

Starting January 1, 2024, Prince George's County law prohibits retail establishments from providing plastic carryout bags to customers to help reduce litter.

Don't Wait. Start shopping with your reusable bags now!



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.

! AFTER THIS FORM IS FILLED OUT, YOU MUST SIGN AND MAIL IT TO YOUR COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS. IT CANNOT BE PROCESSED IF IT IS FAXED OR E-MAILED, BECAUSE IT REQUIRES AN ORIGINAL SIGNATURE.

MARYLAND VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION

TO REGISTER, YOU MUST

- Be a U.S. citizen;
- Be a Maryland resident;
- Be at least 16 years old*;
- Not be under guardianship for mental disability or if you are, you have not been found by a court to be unable to communicate a desire to vote;
- Not have been convicted of buying or selling votes;
- Not be currently serving a sentence of imprisonment for a felony conviction.

*You may register to vote if you are at least 16 years old but cannot vote unless you will be at least 18 years old by the next general election.

DEADLINE INFORMATION

- This application must be postmarked no later than 21 days before an election.
- If your application is complete and you are found to be qualified, a Voter Notification Card will be mailed to you.
- The submission of this form to an individual other than an official, employee, or agent of a County Board of Elections does not assure that the form will be submitted or filed in a timely manner.

YOU CAN USE THIS FORM TO

- Register to vote in federal, state, county, and municipal elections in Maryland.
- Change your name, address, or party affiliation.

INSTRUCTIONS

- If you do not have a current, valid Maryland driver's license or MVA ID card, you must enter the last 4 digits of your social security number. The statutory authority allowing officials to request the last 4 digits of your social security number is Election Law Article, § 3-202. The number will only be used for registration and other administrative purposes. It will be kept confidential.
- Complete Items 1–11 in Voter Registration Application. Sign and date Item 12. If you are registered to vote in another Maryland county or another state, you must complete Items A–B in Last Voter Registration.
- You must register with a party if you want to take part in that party's primary election, caucus or convention. Check one box only.
- Detach this panel at the perforation.
- Address and mail the application to your County Board of Elections, **Prince George's County**
1100 Mercantile Lane, Suite 115A
Largo, MD 20774

WARNING

Giving false information on an application for voter registration is perjury, punishable by imprisonment for up to 10 years, and a violation of the election laws, punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000, or by imprisonment for up to 5 years, or both.

PERSONAL RECORDS NOTICE/CONFIDENTIALITY

This form collects personal information for voter registration purposes. If you are not registered to vote and you refuse to provide this information, you will not be allowed to vote in Maryland. You may update your voter registration at any time at your County Board of Elections. Except for items specified as confidential, voter registration records are generally available for public inspection; they may also be shared with jury commissioners/clerks or other government agencies as provided by law. The law prohibits use of voter registration records for commercial solicitation purposes. If you decline to register to vote, that fact will remain confidential and will be used only for voter registration purposes.

If you register to vote, the identity of the office at which the application is submitted will remain confidential and will be used only for voter registration purposes.

The Maryland Safe at Home Address Confidentiality Program (ACP) is administered by the Office of the Secretary of State and provides an important service to victims of domestic violence and human trafficking. For more information about this Program please call 1-800-633-9657, ext. 3875.

QUESTIONS

Visit the State Board of Elections website at www.elections.maryland.gov to verify your registration, find your polling place, and find out other important information. If you have any questions, call your County Board of Elections or the State Board of Elections at the numbers listed on the back of the application.

! Large type Voter Registration Applications available upon request to your County Board of Elections or the State Board of Elections.

Detach this panel before mailing.

VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION

PLEASE COMPLETE IN BLACK INK – DETACH FORM AND FOLD WHERE INDICATED TO MAIL

1	Are you at least 16 years old? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No ARE YOU A U.S. CITIZEN? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If you answer NO to either question, do not complete this form.						
2	Check boxes that apply and complete Items 3–12. <input type="checkbox"/> New Registration <input type="checkbox"/> Name Change <input type="checkbox"/> Party Affiliation Change <input type="checkbox"/> Address Change						
3	Last Name	First Name	Middle	Suffix			
4	Gender: <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Unspecified or Other	5	Birth Date:	Month	Date	Year	
6a	MARYLAND Driver's License or MVA ID Number MANDATORY (If you have neither see instructions)						
6b	Social Security Number (last 4 digits)		6c	<input type="checkbox"/> Check here if you do not have either a current, valid Maryland driver's license / MVA ID card or a Social Security Number			
7	Maryland Residence Address:	Street Number	Street Name	Apt. No.	City or Town	Zip Code County	
<input type="checkbox"/> Check here if you reside in Baltimore City.							
8	Mailing Address (if different from Item 7)						
9	You must register with a political party if you want to take part in the political party's primary election, caucus, or convention. Check one box only. Party (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Democratic Party <input type="checkbox"/> Republican Party <input type="checkbox"/> Unaffiliated (independent of any party) <input type="checkbox"/> Libertarian Party <input type="checkbox"/> Other – Specify _____						
10	CONTACT INFORMATION						
Daytime Phone:			Email (optional):				
11	<input type="checkbox"/> Check here if you need help voting. <input type="checkbox"/> Check here if you would like to be an election judge.						
12	Under penalty of perjury, I hereby swear or affirm: I am a U.S. citizen. ■ I am a Maryland resident. ■ I am at least 16 years old. ■ I have not been convicted of buying or selling votes. ■ I am not currently serving a sentence of imprisonment for a felony conviction. The information in this application is true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.						
Signature (required)			Date				
X							

LAST VOTER REGISTRATION INFORMATION (if applicable)

A	Name on Last Registration:	Last Name	Title (Jr., Sr., etc.)	First Name	Middle Name	Date of Birth
B	Address on Last Registration:	Street Number	Street Name	Apt. No.	City or Town	Zip Code State

February 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Decluttering? Recycle & shred on Sat., April 20 9-Noon				1 Policy, Rules and Municipal Structure Committee, 7 PM via Zoom	2 Recycling	3
4	5 Yard Waste & Compost, UP Woman's Club Meeting, 11:30 AM Town Council, 7:30 PM	6 Trash, Bulk Trash Sustainability Committee, 7:30 PM via Zoom	7	8 Development Overview Committee, 7:30 PM via Zoom	9 Recycling	10 Second Saturday Lecture Series, 4 PM
11	12 Yard Waste & Compost	13 Trash, Bulk Trash	14 Police, Traffic & Public Safety Committee, 7:30 PM via Zoom	15 Trees Committee, 7 pm via Zoom Public Facilities & Services, 7 PM via Zoom	16 Recycling	17
18	19 Town Holiday	20 Trash, Bulk Trash Town Council, 7:30 PM After Eight Book Group, 8-10 PM	21 Yard Waste & Compost	22	23 Recycling	24
25	26 Yard Waste & Compost	27 Trash, Bulk Trash	28 Helping Hands University Park, 5:30 via Zoom	29		



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

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TOWN DIRECTORY

Town Hall

Office Hours M-F 9 AM-5 PM 301-927-4262
 Fax 301-277-4548
 TDD 800-735-2258
 Website www.upmd.org
 Town Field Status 240-297-8277
 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 March newsletter deadline is Tuesday, February 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
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 nmorgan@upmd.org
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 ggodfrey@upmd.org
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