

UNIVERSITY PARK NEWSLETTER

TOWN OF UNIVERSITY PARK, MARYLAND
MARCH 2024 OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER VOL. XLIX, NO. 3

MAYOR'S COLUMN

The **FIRST DAY of SPRING** is almost here! The seasonal change brings warmer weather, more sunlight, and an annual tradition sponsored by the dedicated volunteers of the University Park Civic Association (UPCA). On Sunday, March 24, at 3 PM the UPCA will host its annual Spring Egg Hunt in the park near the Town soccer field. Parents and children (infants through elementary school) are invited to the egg hunt, crafts, and other exciting activities. We plan to have a food truck at the event, but the UPCA asks that you bring your own drinks and baskets. Joining this amazing organization is simple. Go to www.UPCAMD.com for more information.

Spring means the Town Meadow will soon be in bloom. Our town's dedicated volunteers regularly meet in

March to pull weeds and plant seeds so that our meadow and pollinators can thrive. This is an opportunity to learn about native plants and invasive species. To participate, come to the Town Meadow on Adelphi Road across from Hyattsville Library on Saturday, March 16 from 10am-12pm.

Budget season has begun. No later than April 1, I will submit the proposed budget to Council where it will be officially reviewed, amended, and adopted for the 2025 fiscal year (July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025). Last month, interim Town Administrator Angela Lawrence and I worked with Town staff to finalize their operating budget requests. This month, I will meet with each of your councilmembers to discuss which budget items are important to them and to each of you. If something is on

Town Meetings & Special Dates

Town Council March 4 & 18

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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your mind, please reach out to your councilmember and me to voice your concerns. Public input during this time is highly encouraged!

The Maryland General Assembly's 2024 session began on January 10th and continues through April 8. We worked with our state delegation to request a \$500,000 grant for our Town Hall renovations and expansion. With or without this grant, we are optimistic that the Town Hall project can be completed for a reasonable cost, but additional funds would be welcome.

The pedestrian bridges are installed; however, they must pass inspection prior to being opened to the public. We will host an official ribbon cutting ceremony soon, but we will not wait for the ceremony date to open the bridges for public use.

In closing, it's always a good time to adopt a pet, and our own Prince George's County Animal Shelter should be on your list if you're looking for a new animal companion. The shelter is also partnering with Pets for Patriots to provide free adoptions to servicemembers with at least 190 days in the military, more information is available at www.petsforpatriots.org.

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

Town Administrator News

University Park is Now a Bee City Affiliate

University Park recently became a Bee City USA® affiliate, joining many other cities and campuses across the country united in improving their landscapes for pollinators. Bee City USA is an initiative of the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, a nonprofit organization. Bee City USA's mission is to galvanize communities to sustain pollinators by providing them with healthy habitat, rich in a variety of native plants and free of insecticides. Pollinators like bumble bees, sweat bees, mason bees, honeybees, butterflies, moths, beetles, flies, hummingbirds, and many others are responsible for the reproduction of almost ninety percent of the world's flowering plant species and one in every three bites of food we consume. You will soon see signs up throughout Town to indicate that we are a Bee City. We appreciate residents' efforts to sustain pollinators!



Wells Run Update

As many residents have noticed, Wells Run looks murky and more turbid since late summer/early fall. The Mayor, Council, and staff have been working diligently to rectify the situation and are looking into opportunities to revitalize the stream in the future. Meetings and communications have taken place with county officials including Councilmember Eric Olsen and staff at the Department of Permitting, Inspections & Enforcement (DPIE) and the Soil Conservation District, as well as state agencies including the Department of the Environment and the Department of Natural Resources. We are observing and recording turbidity and monitoring state reporting and permitting requirements. We have reason to be hopeful that we will see improvements soon.

Council and Committee Information Session

Wednesday, March 20, 7 PM

Are you a resident and registered voter in the Town of University Park? Are you passionate about local issues and helping your community? If so, a seat on the Town Council or a Town Committee may be right for you! Join us on Zoom as Town Administrator Angela Lawrence highlights what it takes to serve on Council or a Committee. She will cover time commitment, town governance, the relationship of committees to Council and more. People not interested in serving the Town at this time, but curious about Town government, are also welcome to join the presentation. For details, please check the website's meeting calendar.

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



FROM THE CHIEF

University Park crossing guards are a vital part of the community. They report to work with an upbeat and customer-friendly attitude and greet students and parents with a smile or friendly wave. Without fail, they welcome just about everyone in this manner, whether it rains, snows, or it's a bright sunny day. The crossing guards report to duty at the intersection of Queens Chapel Road and Underwood Street, ready to work from seven to eight in the morning and from two to three in the afternoon.



The University Park crossing guards are community members hired almost five years ago. They stepped forward to fill a void when we could not get crossing guards assigned to University Park Elementary School. During that time, we developed a Safe Route to School Plan to assist the crossing guards and to help improve traffic safety around UPES. The plan included painted parking spaces and additional drop off zones on Underwood Street and Queens Chapel Road. A marked crosswalk was later added to improve pedestrian safety in the 6500 block of Queens Chapel Road.

The crossing guards are dedicated employees entrusted with the safe arrival and departure of University Park school students. Without them, crossing the busy intersection near the school would place students at risk. The crossing guard's infectious smile, friendly morning greetings, and acts of kindness encourage the students to head to school. Their positive attitude creates a positive atmosphere for students as they arrive at school. They work hard to keep our young students and their parents safe. The UP crossing guards do not complain; they humbly serve.

Lately, however, distracted and aggressive drivers risk the crossing guard's safety. In speaking with them, they stated that 99% of the folks they encounter are excellent; it is just the 1% that creates challenges. Over the last decade, the accident rate for crossing guards has increased by 65%. This can be attributed to traffic congestion on

roadways that were not designed to handle the volume of vehicles. Last year 89,000 vehicles traveled eastbound on the 6500 block of Queens Chapel Road. The volume of traffic is a good reason to slow down and be prepared to stop and wait until the crossing guard gives you directions to turn or otherwise enter a crosswalk. The University Park Police understand how hectic it can be for parents to get their children and themselves ready for their day, then drop their children off and pick them up after school. The streets and drop-off zones surrounding the school can become crowded and gridlocked. Cautious, caring and patient driving can keep everyone safe and free from harm.

Tips to Keep Our Crossing Guards Safe

- Between the buses, drop-off users and commuter drivers, traffic volume peaks quickly in a small area. Please don't be distracted.
- Be alert, cautious and aware of the crossing guard and pedestrians.
- Pedestrians in the crosswalk have the right of way.

Drivers

- Be on high alert and exercise patience.
- In a school zone, help contribute to safety by focusing on driving and refrain from distracted and aggressive driving.
- Underwood Street is not a two-lane one-way road as you approach Queens Chapel Road. Please do not create your own travel lane.
- Use extra caution near crosswalks. Let all pedestrians and bikers clear the intersection, then wait for the crossing guard to signal you to proceed into the intersection.

Pedestrians

- Please follow the safety laws by using designated walking areas.
- Parents, do not cross in the middle of the street, allow students to run across the staff parking lot, or cross between parked cars.
- The risk of an accident is minimized by following the directions of the crossing guard and by using the crosswalks.

Community members, please report any aggressive or unsafe driving in the school zone to University Park Police. The University Park crossing guards play a critically important public safety role at the school. Let's work together to protect our crossing guards as they protect our children.



National Prescription Drug Take Back Day
Saturday, April 27, 10 AM-2 PM

This is an opportunity to protect families from potential misuse and abuse of prescription and over-the-counter drugs, as well as protect the environment. UP residents are encouraged to drop off prescription and over-the-counter drugs during the event. The University Park Police will take the drugs to DEA for proper disposal.

If you are unable stop by Town Hall during the National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, please follow these simple steps for easy, responsible disposal (also applicable for liquid medication) of drugs:

- Take unused, unneeded or expired prescription drugs out of their original prescription bottles.
- Crush medication and put it in a container such as an empty can or sealable bag.
- Mix with coffee grounds, dirt or kitty litter.
- Discard with regular trash.

For more information about the DEA's National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, please go to takebackday.dea.gov

Crime Report

Theft On January 4 a resident in the 4000 block of Beechwood Road reported that overnight someone took several items from his unlocked vehicle. The items were recovered near University Park Elementary School and returned to the resident.

Attempted Theft On January 4 a resident in the 6800 block of 40th Avenue reported that overnight someone went through their parked vehicle. The suspect went through the interior, but nothing was stolen from the vehicle.

Auto Break-in On January 4 a resident in the 4000 block of Underwood Street reported that overnight someone broke the rear window and entered their vehicle. The suspect went through the vehicle, but nothing was stolen.

Stolen Auto Attempt On January 4 a resident in the 6700 block of 40th Avenue reported that overnight someone entered his vehicle through a locked door and attempted to steal the vehicle by popping the ignition. Nothing was taken from the vehicle.

Attempted Theft On January 4 a resident in the 6700 block of 40th Avenue reported that overnight someone entered his unlocked vehicle and left his personal papers on the roadway. The items were recovered and returned to the resident. Nothing was stolen from the vehicle.

Carjacking On January 29 an Uber driver reported that his vehicle, a blue Nissan Rogue, was carjacked by an armed passenger near the intersection of East-West Hwy and Adelphi Rd. The next day, the stolen vehicle was recovered by New Carrollton Police.

Theft On February 2 a resident in the 6500 block of 44th Ave. reported that someone broke into his parked vehicle and stole loose change from his center console. There are no suspects.

Stolen Auto On February 2 a resident in the 6700 41st. Ave. reported that someone stole her vehicle, a gray Subaru. Video footage showed the suspect enter the unlocked vehicle and drive off. The ignition key was left inside of the vehicle.



Sustainability Committee News

Time to start planning the garden! Try planting native pollinator favorites like Narrowleaf Mountain Mint (*Pycnanthemum tenuifolium*) to help pollinate your tomatoes this summer. And deer apparently do not like mint! Please keep an eye out for early sprouting of two highly invasive plants from Eurasia—Hairy Bittercress (*Cardamine hirsuta*) and Lesser Celandine (*Ficaria verna*). Remove now while plants are small and tender as they are both already growing in February in University Park. Hairy Bittercress seed capsules explode to aggressively spread seeds. It's best to remove as soon as you read this, before the plants mature. If you catch Lesser

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Celandine young, there is more chance the native spring ephemerals can emerge safely.

Pollinator Meadow Seeding and Restoration, *Saturday, March 16, 10 AM-12 PM* Speaking of invasives, join us for spring seeding and meadow restoration, removing non-native weeds, at the Native Wildflower Pollinator Meadow on Adelphi Road across from Hyattsville Library. Wear outdoor clothes, garden gloves and bring a pail and trowel. Toddlers and kids with their parents do a great job seeding our native wildflower meadow! Families welcome!

Helping Hands University Park

Route 1 Corridor Conversations, *Saturday, March 23, 2-3:30 PM* Helping Hands co-sponsors these conversations,



**Helping Hands
University Park**

an online informative series to entertain, engage, and educate. Join Nobel Prize-winner Dr. John C. Mather to learn about the discoveries being made with the James Webb Space

Telescope. Mather is a senior astrophysicist in the Observational Cosmology Laboratory at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt and the senior project scientist on the James Webb Space Telescope. To receive the zoom link for the next program, register online at hyattsvilleaginginplace.org/programs-and-activities/corridor-conversations/

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

Members Monthly Lunch Club, *Wednesday, March 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, March 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. 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, dsrc@umd.edu.

HHUP Contact Info: hhuniversitypark@gmail.com; 301-892-6636; helpinghandsup.org; facebook.com/HelpingHandsUP.



Tree Committee News

It's March at last! These are the early days of gardening—picking up sticks, getting the peas planted, deciding how many and what varieties of trees and shrubs to plant. Previously, the Committee for Trees, Parks, and Environment (TPE) advised UP residents to forego the planting of woody plants until late March, with the ensuing two months the second-best time of the year to plant (Fall is best). Given the impact of climate change, it's okay to plant trees and shrubs beginning March 10, if the ground is not frozen below four inches. Please select natives from our curated lists, large shade trees at upmd.org/DocumentCenter/View/543/UP-Approved-Shade-Trees-PDF and understory trees at upmd.org/DocumentCenter/View/1141/UP-Approved-Understory-Trees-PDF.

These selections will have a far greater chance to thrive than other varieties, while qualifying for a rebate from the town—\$300 per shade tree and \$100 per understory specimen.

Ivy League, *Saturday, March 9, 10AM-12 PM* The Ivy League opens its 2024 season at the intersection of College Heights Drive and Wells Parkway. Join us for the full two hours or any portion thereof, enjoy the open air, camaraderie with neighbors, and the satisfaction of nurturing University Park's tree canopy, arguably the town's most valuable resource. Bring a set of garden pruning clippers and a large screwdriver, small pry bar, or dandelion weeder. Attendance at five sessions will earn volunteers a custom, limited edition, University Park Ivy League bandana. Community service vouchers will be signed on site.

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January 16 Council Meeting Highlights

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

Public Comment

- A resident raised concerns that University Park has become an island surrounded by development, commercial and residential development, which is increasing dramatically. The traffic is using University Park to avoid the failed intersection, according to the Maryland Department of Transportation. The intersection of Route One and 410 is failing. The roads are becoming more crowded, and more people are using the town as a shortcut to get across to the other side. The resident urged Council Members to pay attention to the issue before an accident happens. He requested that more speed bumps be installed to slow traffic down. In addition, he noted that the Council was asked to have all vehicles registered in town display a sticker.
- A resident provided a letter regarding the leaf blowers and the \$100-a-year rebate with the cost of battery-operated leaf blowers. She asked whether homeowners could get together and pool their \$100 rebates to help purchase the leaf blowers and or their batteries, which cost \$900 each, for the individuals who blow their leaves.

Mayor, Council, and Committee Comments and Reports

Development Committee CM McGaughey noted that the Development Committee has been trying to write a one-page white paper of standard questions for developers. The Committee also discussed that the company working on nine ponds has an improved permit, and essentially the state of Maryland guidance allows for turbidity on the water being sent into town.

Public Services and Facilities Committee CM Morgan shared that the Public Services and Facilities Committee and the Police, Traffic, and Public Safety Committee will meet on January 18, 2024, to discuss raised crosswalks and sites for stormwater upgrades using ARPA funds.

Sustainability Committee CM Dubayah noted that the Sustainable Committee and the Tree Committee had a tremendous appreciation day that several Council Members attended. The Committee met with the PG County Soil Conservation District on the stream since the last meet

ing, explaining and showing everything to them, for which they seemed very supportive.

New Business

Introduction of Ordinance LR 24-O-02 FY 24 Budget Amendment Mr. Baden provided an overview of the recommendations of the LR 24-O-02 FY24 budget, which was part of the meeting package. He added that, in general, each department head has looked at their budget, and they said they have the money within the accounts they were moving it from to cover the anticipated shortfalls from which they were moving it. CM Godfrey asked whether additional legal encumbrance allowed the Council to decide to use them for some other purpose down the road as a result of ARPA. It was noted that the funds were no longer ARPA funds but reserve-designated general funds.

Motion: To approve the budget LR 24-O-02 FY 24 amendments as proposed by the Town Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of PEPCO Pruning and Removal Permits

Mr. Beall briefly provided an overview of the PEPCO pruning and removal permits. PEPCO conducts vegetation management related to their infrastructure within the Town on a four-year cycle. The scope of work is submitted to the Public Works Director, and a site visit is scheduled to review the plan. The site visit includes the Director of Public Works, the Town's arborist, the PEPCO arborist, and planners. Once the site visit is completed, the removal list is finalized, and permit applications are submitted to the Council. This year, the focus will be Wards 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7, but they will be working in every ward because they will also be pruning along Baltimore Avenue and Adelphi Road. The tentative plan is for work to begin in late January/early February. The work was expected to take three to five weeks to complete. However, this timeline is weather-dependent. The cost to have an arborist supervise the Asplundh crews is expected to range between \$8,000 and \$12,000, depending on how long it takes for the work to be completed. The reason for two separate permits is if there is an issue with one, it does not stop the work of the other. The hickory tree next to the utility pole is a concern for PEPCO as it is hazardous. The Town will grind the stump. However, it is not good practice to plant a tree back in the same hole because the grindings are very detrimental to the development of a new tree. It overheats the soil and absorbs all the water.

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Mr. Beall explained that their arborist consults on the scope of work for both and advises on removals, etc. However, they only oversee the pruning because the result of the removal is the same. The practice has been to place color tape on each tree around the trunk so that the immediate neighbors can be aware that this is a tree that is coming down. However, they do provide a door hanger to the immediate address adjacent to the tree. PEPCO negotiates independently with each private property owner over any pruning of their trees, including removal. Mickey Beall noted that the trees on Adelphi Road were not on their list, and they do not have jurisdiction.

Motion: To approve the PEPCO pruning and removal permits SP-202402. Motion carried unanimously.

Department Reports

Interim Town Administrator Ms. Lawrence referenced her report provided in the meeting package. She noted that a scope of the study was needed as there has been some discussion from Councilmembers and committee members regarding the use of speed humps versus doing a broader look at other traffic calming possibilities. Mr. Beall requested not to be the traffic engineer providing a report on what is appropriate there, as other professionals should be consulted. CM Godfrey encouraged the members to make sure that they are also looking into whether these discharges are contributing to violations of state water quality standards, which include the 50 NTU weekly standard and not just the 150 NTU standard. CM McGaughey requested a discussion about requesting that the town get a traffic engineering study to look more comprehensively at more effective solutions to be added to the February 2024 meeting.

CM Gathercole suggested moving ahead with the temporary speed hump as the hardware was already there and then discussing whether the Council wants to take this further on a traffic study. Obtaining Google traffic data was suggested. Ms. Lawrence shared the proposal to allow shared use reimbursement not to exceed \$100/household/fiscal year with a cap of \$300 per piece of new equipment purchased for shared commercial or residential use. CM Morrissey shared that the Mayor did reflect that the contractor brought up the issue that some of the big contractors, like the ones that they met with, are licensed, insured, and bonded and that some others in town might not be. Therefore, the Mayor felt less

comfortable giving a rebate to a commercial entity that was not licensed, bonded and insured. Mr. Beall pointed out that the price was in line with what they paid for the first commercial leaf blowers. They purchased the batteries for commercial blowers, which are in the \$1,400 range. Ms. Ferguson noted that the construction permit does not mention the 50 NTUs; it just mentions the 150 NTUs. CM Dubayah raised concerns about \$1,000 pieces of equipment and subsidizing it was costly. It was agreed that the Committee would discuss the concerns of Councilmembers and provide feedback at the next meeting.

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

Chief of Police Baker noted that his report was included in the meeting package.

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

Director of Public Works Beall referenced his report provided in the package. He added that the crew videotaped the vacuum system and located the yard inlet in the backyard; however, the report is still in progress. The contractors will move forward until they can determine exactly what size pipes are in the ground to obtain the proper solution and the proper cost for the solution.

The meeting adjourned by consent at 9:08 PM.

February 3 Mayor and Common Council Retreat Meeting Minutes

Present were Mayor Biermann; Councilmembers Dubayah, Gathercole, Morrissey, Morgan, McGaughey, Godfrey. Excused: CM Sweet. Staff Present: Angela Lawrence, Interim Town Administrator.

The meeting was called to order at 9:09 AM.

Review of October Retreat Notes

Notes from the October 2023 retreat were reviewed and discussed.

Committee Roles, Structure, and Processes

Information regarding standing and special committees was distributed and discussed. No changes were recommended to the number or types of committees. Discus-

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sion included committee purposes, roles, relationships to other committees, and processes for setting committee agendas.

Council Meeting Structure and Efficiencies

Discussion included how Council meetings are structured, information needed by Council to make informed decisions, time limits, and ways to make meetings more efficient.

Communication Protocol

Discussion included internal and external communication.

Town Manager Recruitment Discussion

The recruitment processes were briefly discussed.

The meeting adjourned by consent at 12:05 PM.

February 5 Council Meeting Highlights

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

Public Comment

The Town Clerk read an email from a resident requesting a return to in-person meetings. Another resident expressed support for Zoom meetings.

Mayor, Council, and Committee Comments and Reports

Mayor Biermann Town Hall is not ADA accessible, and they are looking for a shorter-term solution for meeting space. Ms. Lawrence, the town administrator, is actively scouting other options. Mayor Biermann also noted that residents have been requesting the possibility of hybrid meetings (in-person and Zoom). The Council has been discussing this and plans to implement it once they go back to in-person meetings.

Police, Traffic, and Public Safety Committee CM Gathercole reported that they will meet on February 14, 2024, to discuss stats on parking enforcement and speed cameras for Queen's Chapel Road and College Heights Drive, and also a possible discussion about no parking signs. CM Gathercole mentioned that the Maryland umbrella group was awarded a grant to increase awareness of villages like Helping Hands in PG County. They request

information from Helping Hands to promote their efforts. The town should provide background information about their village operations.

Development Committee CM McGaughey reported that the Development Overview Committee will meet on February 8, 2024, and is continuing work on the white paper.

Continuing Business

Motion: To approve Ordinance LR 24O-01 No Parking Zone for a small section of 44th Avenue next to Underwood Street. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion: To approve Ordinance LR 24O-02 FY 24 Budget Amendments as proposed by the Town Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Motion: To approve the reappointment of Stephanie Herold and Michelle Wedge as Supervisors of Elections for a two-year term beginning March 1, 2024, and appoint Ms. Herold as Chair per Section 502 of the Town Charter. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Arbor Day Proclamation Ms. Lawrence stated that the proclamation is required by Tree City and we do this every year. Arbor Day is on April 26, 2024 and we will include information in the April newsletter. Mayor Biermann invited Council members and staff to the Arbor Day celebration.

Motion: To adopt the resolution proclaiming April 26, 2024, as Arbor Day in University Park. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned by consent at 7:57 PM.

Church of the Brethren Community Lunch Saturday, March 2, 12:30-2:30 PM

Please join us for this free community lunch. Free all beef hotdogs, chili (meat and vegetarian) and cornbread for all. University Park Church of the Brethren, 4413 Tuckerman St.

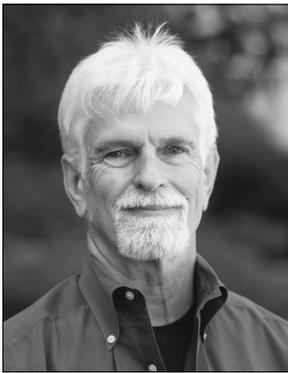
UP Woman's Club Meeting Monday, March 4, 12 PM

Our guest speaker will be Jennifer Kubit, director of the Adult Education ESL program at Prince George's Coun-

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ty Community College on the topic “What if you had to learn English as an Adult?” Jennifer was a teacher in New Mexico before moving to Maryland. She has worked with the ESL program at Prince George’s Community College for 16 years, conducting intake and assessment for incoming students, as well as teaching a high school preparation program for adult ESL learners. In 2022 she became the ESL Director for the Adult Education Program. 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.

2nd Saturday Lecture Series March 9, 4-6 PM



Town resident and UMD professor Russell Dickerson will present the research he and members of his department are doing on methane, a potent greenhouse gas. His department, the Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Science, measures methane in the atmosphere across the state of Maryland via an auto mobile lab, from towers, and a research

airplane. Learn how they quantify methane emissions from leaky infrastructure including gas pipes, wastewater treatment facilities and landfills. Russ will explain what engaged citizens can do to encourage county, state and federal officials to support more research, enact and enforce stricter controls, and increase recycling and composting. Church of the Brethren, 4413 Tuckerman St.

UP Woman’s Club Penny Project

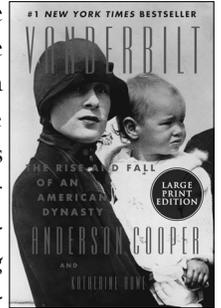
Saturday, March 16, 10 AM-12 PM

The UPWC appreciates any unneeded coins and dollars for this charitable effort in its 8th year. All proceeds from the spring collection will go to aid cancer patients. Thank you for your generosity. Drop by 6832 Pineway to make your Penny Project community donation.



After Eight Book Group Tuesday, March 19, 8-10 PM

The After Eight Book group will be meeting in person. Attendees must be fully vaccinated. Our book for March is *Vanderbilt* by Anderson Cooper. We will not be meeting in April; May’s title is *The Shape of Water: An Inspector Montalbano Mystery* by Andrea Camilleri. 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.

UPCA Spring Egg Hunt Sunday, March 24, 3 PM



Join us for the annual UP Civic Association egg hunt in the woods next to the soccer field! Children as young as infants through elementary school-age are welcome to participate in the egg hunt, crafts,

photos with the bunny, and more! Wear shoes appropriate for walking in the park, and please bring your own basket and drinks. We ask that you have paid dues within the last year; if you need to renew, please do so here: upcamd.com/join-renew. Volunteers will be needed for various roles, so keep an eye out for a signup link soon. Hope to see you there!



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



Save the date. The UPCA town wide yard sale will be on Saturday, April 20 from 9 AM-2 PM. More details to follow. To be listed on the yard sale map please fill out this form and be sure to join the UPCA for 2024: <https://bit.ly/UPYardSale24>



Church of the Brethren Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt

Sunday, March 31, 9:30 AM

Breakfast starts at 9:30 AM, egg hunting starts at 10:15 AM. Bring your own basket! University Park Church of the Brethren, 4413 Tuckerman St.



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 well over 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. In 2023, we served over 8,000 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) 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.



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.

**University Park Civic Association
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 danepts@gmail.com.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Hyattsville Library Independent Film Series, *Fashion Reimagined*, Monday, March 11, 7-9:00 PM.



Join us for a screening and discussion of this film about trailblazing fashion designer Amy Powney. She is on a mission to create a sustainable collection from field to finished garment and transform the way we engage with fashion. "A must watch, not just for the fashion industry, but for everyone who wears clothes," Jess Cartner-Morley, *The Guardian*.

Hyattsville Library Coffee and a Classic, *12 Angry Men*, March 13, 1-3 PM

Join us for coffee and a screening of the 1957 classic film *12 Angry Men*, a courtroom drama where twelve men must decide the fate of one man.



Save the date! Maryland Day, Saturday, April 27, 10 AM-4 PM The University of Maryland campus-wide celebration includes over 300 activities in five "learning neighborhoods" that encourage attendees to tap into our fearless world of discovery and new ideas.

Riversdale House Museum

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

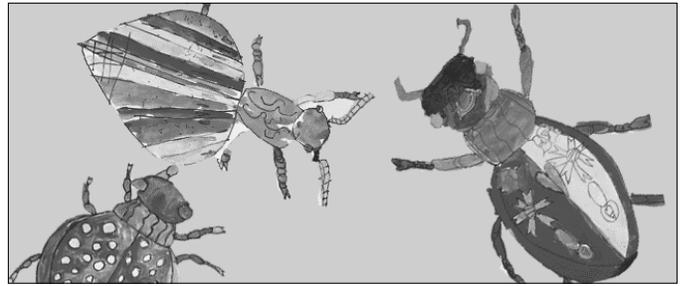
Historic House Tours, Fridays and Sundays Tours depart from the Visitor Center at noon and 2 PM.

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.



College Park Arts Exchange

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



Kids Arts Workshop, Saturday, March 9, 10-11:30 AM with artist teacher Karen Brown. Learn how to make insects from recycled materials. Keep an eye out for items to bring, like brightly colored cereal boxes, cracker and cookie boxes, and foil wrappers from candy - all make great insect parts. Free, donations welcome.

St. Patrick's Day Celebration, Saturday, March 16, 7:30-9 PM Celebrate St. Paddy's Day at the Old Parish House. Music, Singing & Merriment! Hosted by Eric Maring, Allison Hughes, Arun Ivatury, Greg Heelan & Patrick Lynch, with fabulous community musicians of all ages. Families welcome! Donations to College Park Arts Exchange appreciated at the door.

CPAE Arts Drop In, Saturday, March 23 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.

Free Tax Advice

AARP Tax Assistance Though designed for low and moderate income seniors, anyone who needs to file a federal and Maryland tax return can make use of the Tax Aide service. Certain tax situations are not eligible (like rental income or extensive self-employment). By appointment only. To find a convenient location, use https://www.aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp_taxaide/locations/

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) is designed for people who make less than \$64,000. Volunteers are certified by IRS and the state. To locate a site: irs.treasury.gov/freetaxprep/ Locations are by appointment.

To learn more about these programs from the IRS, go to irs.gov/individuals/free-tax-return-preparation-for-qualifying-taxpayers.

ELECTRONICS, TIRE, PAINT & EPS (STYROFOAM) RECYCLING AND PAPER SHREDDING

Saturday, April 20, 9 AM-Noon

**for University Park Residents
UP Elementary School Bus Circle**

Bring your electronics to be recycled. Please see the list below for acceptable and prohibited items. Also offered is onsite paper shredding, tire recycling (no rims) and \$5 paint recycling.

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

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

Acceptable Electronics Items

- Desktops
- Laptops
- Cell phones
- Tablets
- MP3 players
- DVD players
- Hard Drives
- Servers & Server racks
- Flat screen monitors
- CRTs
- LCD and plasma televisions
- Keyboards and mice
- Speakers
- Cables (including power supplies)
- Networking supplies
- Circuit boards
- Printers, copiers and fax equipment
- Video cameras and security equipment
- AV equipment
- UPS / Battery Backup
- Plotters
- Batteries
- Toner Cartridges



What items are not acceptable?

- Trash
- Furniture
- Ammunition
- Liquids
- Combustible Materials
- Medical Waste
- Hazardous Materials
- Items Containing Radiological Material
- Christmas Lights
- Fluorescent Light Bulbs



NOTICE OF ELECTION

The Town of University Park
will hold an election for

The Offices of

MAYOR

Councilmember Ward 1

Councilmember Ward 3

Councilmember Ward 7

on

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

Poll hours will be conducted from 1-8 p.m. at Town Hall (6724 Baltimore Avenue).
You are encouraged to vote by mail or drop box but may vote in person on Election Day.

Ballot packets will be mailed to every registered Town voter with instructions. Ballots can be returned during poll hours, by mail, or by drop box – an exterior, locked drop box located at Town Hall. If you do not receive a ballot, lose your ballot, or need help, visit Town Hall during poll hours on Election Day, or contact the Town Clerk before Election Day for assistance. **A ballot must be received by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day to be counted.**

REGISTER TO VOTE:

Residents may register to vote the following ways:

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

OR

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

Residents wishing to vote in the upcoming election must be:

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

CANDIDATES:

Candidate packets (Candidate Petition and Financial Disclosure Statement) must be completed and returned to the Town Clerk by April 8, 2024 by 5:00 p.m. Packets are available on the Town's website at www.upmd.org/2024CandidateInfo.

DEADLINES:

Monday, April 8, 2024 is the last day to register to vote.

Monday, April 8, 2024 by 5:00 p.m. is the last day to file as a candidate.

Thursday, May 2, 2024 by 5:00 p.m. is the last day to file as a qualified write-in candidate.

If residents have any questions, contact Town Clerk TC Hegeman.

Town Clerk
301-927-4262 ext. 101
townhall@upmd.org

Stephanie Herold and Michelle Wedge
Supervisor of Elections
elections@upmd.org



CHECKLIST OF ACTIONS

To Promote Pollinators In Yards, Gardens & Parks

KEY:



Promotes foraging resources



Helps protect pollinators from pesticide exposure



Promotes nesting and overwintering habitat



Contributes to pollinator conservation in your community

LANDSCAPING

- Plant a **native** wildflower garden that includes species that bloom in succession all season long and are high-value to pollinators (species with ★ on Table 1, page 12).
- Plant **native** bunchgrasses; these plants are food for rare butterflies and also help provide nesting sites for bees.
- Reduce lawn footprint by converting as much as possible to *flowering* habitat.
- Plant **spring**-blooming **native** wildflowers, such as woodland ephemerals in shady areas.
- Plant **spring**-blooming **native** shrubs and trees, such as willows (*Salix*), maples (*Acer*), and native fruit trees and shrubs.
- Plant **summer**-blooming **native** wildflowers, such as blazing star (*Liatris*), bee balm (*Monarda*), and numerous others.
- Plant **summer- or fall**-blooming **native** shrubs, such as wild roses (*Rosa*) or meadowsweet (*Spirea*).
- Plant **fall**-blooming **native** wildflowers, such as asters (*Symphotrichum*), native sunflowers (*Helianthus*), and goldenrods (*Solidago*).
- Plant **native** trees that serve as important host plants for a wide variety of butterflies and moths (species with 🦋 on Table 1, page 12).
- Plant **native** milkweed (*Asclepias*), violets (*Viola*), pawpaws (*Asimina*), or other regionally appropriate plants that provide critical food for specialist butterflies and moths.
- Plant species known to provide food for specialist bees in your region (species with 🐝 on Table 1, page 12).
- Gradually replace perennial and annual landscaping that provides little value to wildlife (e.g., daylilies, hostas, pansies) with more diverse **native** wildflower plantings.
- If non-native plants are included in landscaping, choose varieties that are known to have value to pollinators (e.g., flowers with ample pollen or nectar) **AND** that are not invasive or aggressive.
- Remove invasive species from your landscape, as well as any non-native species that appear to be spreading into wild areas (e.g., butterfly-bush).
- Ensure that new landscaping plants were not treated with neonicotinoids or other related insecticides.

Why Plant Native?

Native plants have a very long history of naturally occurring in the wild ecosystems of a given area (pre-European settlement of the Americas). Non-native plants naturally occur in other parts of the world or the country, but may be grow well in your area as ornamental or garden plants. Some non-native plants have the tendency to escape into the wild and become invasive, replacing natives plants and causing serious ecological and economic problems. Although pollinators may find some nutritional value from non-native plants, native plants do the best job of supporting the widest array of native pollinators, given their long co-evolutionary history. In fact, roughly 1/3 of bee species will only collect pollen from particular native plants, and most butterfly and moth caterpillars can only feed on particular native plant leaves.

LAWN & YARD CARE

- Avoid pesticides (including herbicides, insecticides, and fungicides) on lawns and other landscaping; choose less harmful alternatives such as non-chemical controls.
- For mowed areas, reduce mowing frequency and increase mowing height, allowing flowering weeds to flourish.
- Leave dead wood on site, including dead logs, snags, and brush; consider planting flowers around these features, to add intention and aesthetic value.
- Leave leaf litter on-site—keep a thin layer of leaves on lawn; use the rest to mulch trees/ shrubs/ garden and/or rake to woodland edges if available.
- Leave bare spots or areas with patchy vegetation in lawn; avoid thick turf and sod.
- Avoid plastic mulch/ weed barrier, heavy wood chips, and treated wood chips.
- Leave dead wildflower stems standing over the **winter**; prune them back in **early spring** to 8–12" to create nesting sites for stem-nesting bees.
- Prune shrubs with pithy stems, to create nesting sites for stem-nesting bees.
- Leave some areas of lawn unmown to create tall grass habitat.
- Install a water feature (e.g., bird bath with stones to prevent insects from drowning) for pollinators that need water for nest building or other uses.
- Seed a "bee lawn" (incorporate clovers & other flowers into new or existing lawn).

FRUIT & VEGETABLE GARDENS

- Plant fruit trees and fruit-bearing shrubs, including **native** species when possible (e.g., blueberries [*Vaccinium*], currants and gooseberries [*Ribes*], elderberries [*Sambucus*], chokeberries [*Aronia*])—species with 🐝 on Table 2, page 12).
- Plant **native** raspberries/ blackberries (*Rubus*); prune in **early spring** to create nest sites for stem-nesting bees.
- For more continuous fruit and flowers, plant ever-bearing varieties of strawberries (*Fragaria*), raspberries, and other fruits.
- Plant a tea or herb garden and allow plants like basil (*Ocimum*), mint (*Mentha*), and lavender (*Lavendula*) to flower; most herbs do very well in containers if space is limited (see Table 2, page 12).
- Plant bee-pollinated vegetables like squash (*Cucurbita*) and tomatoes (*Solanum*) **and** allow pollinator-attractive culinary garden plants—such as lettuce (*Lactuca*) and mustard (*Brassica*)—to bolt in order to provide additional floral resources (see Table 2, page 12).
- Avoid pesticide use on fruit and vegetable crops; manage pests by using prevention strategies (e.g., crop rotation or selection of resistant varieties) and non-chemical pest control methods (e.g., hand-picking or insectary plantings to promote beneficial insects for natural pest control).

COMMUNITY ACTION

- Organize a neighborhood **native** plant or seed exchange (**never** share non-native plants that are aggressive / potentially invasive).
- Create habitat in community hubs (e.g., libraries, post-offices, schools, or senior centers) or in unused spaces like sidewalk medians.
- Volunteer with a local park to improve habitat (e.g., removing invasive species or collecting wildflower seeds).
- Provide signage to explain your pollinator conservation actions to your neighbors.
- Host a tour of your pollinator friendly yard or garden.
- Talk about pollinators and their habitat needs to your neighbors, friends, family, local businesses, schools, library, church, etc.
- Talk to your city officials or local colleges about signing a bee friendly resolution and/or getting certified as a Bee City USA or Bee Campus USA.
- Participate in a community science project, such as bumble bee or monarch monitoring (see Resources, page 11).

March 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Recycling	2 Church of the Brethren Community Lunch, 12:30-2:30 PM
3	4 Yard Waste & Compost UPWC Meeting, 12 PM	5 Trash, Bulk Trash Sustainability Committee Meeting, 7:30 PM Via Zoom	6	7 Policy, Rules and Municipal Structure Committee Meeting, 7:00 PM Via Zoom	8 Recycling	9 Ivy League, 10AM-12 PM 2nd Saturday Lecture Series, 4-6 PM
10	11 Yard Waste & Compost	12 Trash, Bulk Trash	13 Trees, Parks & Environment Committee Meeting Via Zoom Police, Traffic & Public Safety Committee Via Zoom	14	15 Recycling	16 UPWC Penny Project, 10 AM-12 PM Pollinator Meadow Seeding & Restoration, 10 AM-12 PM
17	18 Yard Waste & Compost	19 Trash, Bulk Trash After Eight Book Group, 8-10 PM	20 Council & Committee Information Session, 7 PM	21	22 Recycling	23 Route 1 Corridor Conversations, 2-3:30 PM
24 UPCA Spring Egg Hunt, 3 PM	25 Yard Waste & Compost	26 Trash, Bulk Trash	27	28	29 Recycling	30
31 Church of the Brethren Easter Breakfast & Egg Hunt, 9:30 AM	Yard Waste & Compost		UPCA Town Wide Yard, Saturday, April 20, 9 AM-2 PM.	Town Electronics, Tire, Paint & EPS Recycling Event, Saturday, April 20, 9 AM-1 PM	National Prescription Drug Take Back Day Saturday, April 27, 10 AM-2 PM	



TOWN OF UNIVERSITY PARK
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TOWN DIRECTORY

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 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 April newsletter deadline is Wednesday, March 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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