

UNIVERSITY PARK NEWSLETTER

TOWN OF UNIVERSITY PARK, MARYLAND
SEPTEMBER 2024 OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER VOL. XLIX, NO. 8

MAYOR'S COLUMN

Greetings, friends and neighbors,

What a summer it has been! I hope you all are well despite this summer's record heat and drought. I want to update you on your Town government's work over the past two months.

Town Administrator: We recently bade farewell to our interim Town Administrator Angela Lawrence who served our Town from late 2023 until mid-August of this year. Soon Angela will be the town manager for Buchanan, Virginia. Her leadership, professionalism, and dispassionate counsel have been extremely valuable to me, the Council, and Town staff. She immersed herself into the community and participated in a great many Town-sponsored activities. As one Councilmember recently observed, "she's been the glue that binds" much of the

Council Committee work over the past year. Many of the Town's recent completed projects are in large part due to her expert consultation and guidance.

On August 19, we welcomed our Town's first permanent Town Administrator, Debi Sandlin. Debi has had management roles in Maryland and Virginia municipalities, including Bladensburg, Glen Arden, Manassas, and Dumfries. Her most recent role was as the Interim Director of Community, Business & Economic Development for the City of Hyattsville. We are lucky to have her on our team.

Traffic and Public Safety: Many thanks are due to Director of Public Works Beall and Administrator Lawrence for facilitating the completion of the repairs to the Tenyson Road alley and the installation of new speed

Town Meetings & Special Dates

Town Council September 3 & 16

Town Holiday September 2

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. Sign up for alerts at www.upmd.org/notifyme

Contents

3	From the Interim Chief
4	Town News
6	Highlights of June 17, June 27, July 1 & July 15 Town Council Meetings
10	Town News & Events
111	Community Calendar

FROM THE MAYOR CONT.

humps on Pineway and a raised crosswalk on Queens Chapel Road in front of the elementary school. As always, the Council voted to authorize the funds to pay for these projects, and their role is also much appreciated.

Many residents have asked me what can be done to address our Town's multiple traffic related problems. The Council Committee on Police, Traffic, and Public Safety (PTPS) and the Police Department are considering several approaches to reduce speeding, stop sign running, and excessive cut-through traffic in Town. Stop sign cameras are among the traffic safety solutions under consideration. Warnings and tickets from these cameras can be powerful deterrents to traffic violations. Residents may report specific incidents and locations of unsafe driving at www.upmd.org/Traffic

Pineway and Claggett Pineway is a hot spot and we hope the new speed humps help slow down traffic there. We are committed to finding solutions to the Town's traffic problems. Residents may request traffic calming solutions by submitting a petition at www.upmd.org/TrafficCalmingPetition The Town ordinance detailing the procedure is at www.upmd.org/TrafficCalmingOrdinance

Under Interim Police Chief Graddy, the Police Department is returning to "the duty cell phone." Details are described elsewhere in this newsletter. Interim Chief Graddy has worked diligently to recruit qualified candidates to fill the two officer vacancies. Her most recent hires have been excellent choices and I'm grateful for her wise approach to recruitment.

The Town has also begun its search for a new permanent police chief. The recruitment team will include law enforcement experts and professionals, and Town residents. We will keep you informed in the coming months about the status of that search.

EV Charging Stations: Another commonly asked question has been: are we going to continue to provide free electric charging at the EV charging stations? On July 15, the Council unanimously passed a motion to adopt a policy and procedure for a permit system for the EV chargers with different fees for residents, nonresidents, and temporary users. The introduction of the necessary legislative resolution will be on the August 19 Council meeting agenda. Specifics and details can be found in

the adopted minutes for both of those meetings.

In-Person Council Meetings: In mid-June, the Council began meeting in person again at Town Hall. Town staff may join remotely or in person. We use the new audio/visual system to broadcast and record these meetings, and residents may participate via Zoom. Meeting in person again has been a positive change. Council committees are also meeting at Town Hall and members have the option to participate virtually, along with the public.

Town Hall Project: The Public Facilities and Services (PFS) Committee and the full Council will soon review design proposals for a new Town Hall. The building will have an ADA-compliant space to allow all residents to attend meetings. Soon Town residents can provide input on a choice of designs. Residents are encouraged to participate in PFS and other Committee meetings to hear what issues the Council is working on. Please check the website for meeting details. www.upmd.org/185/Committees-Commissions.

Stormwater Management: Town staff and I continue to work with our contracted engineer and Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement staff to finalize documents necessary to the Memorandum of Understanding for upgrading the Pineway/Claggett Pineway stormwater system. Progress is slow, but steady.

Town Events and Activities: I've had the pleasure of participating in three successful Town events this summer: the annual 4th of July Parade, Meadow Day, and National Night Out. Despite the heat, all events were well attended and each exemplified how fortunate we are to live in University Park.

I encourage everyone to come to Arts in the Park on Sat., Sept. 28 (1:00-4:00 p.m.), where you'll be able to meet local artists and enjoy their work and demonstrations. This will be a great opportunity to reconnect with your friends and neighbors of the UP Community and celebrate the visual arts created by Town artists.

I've so enjoyed my first two months as your mayor and continue to feel honored by this responsibility. I welcome your feedback and questions and would be happy to meet with you. Feel free to email me at mayormorrissey@upmd.org or call or text me at 240-688-9534.

Warmly,

Laurie K. Morrissey

MAYOR CONT.

Notice of Public Hearing for Charter Resolution 24-CR-01

On July 15, 2024, Charter Resolution 24-CR-01 was introduced. This Charter Resolution amends Article IV, "Powers of Mayor and Common Council", Section 401, "Powers and Duties of Mayor", and Article VI, "Finance", Section 607, "Checks", and by enacting Article VII, "Administration", Section 710, to authorize the exercise of day-to-day administration for the Town by a Town Administrator, to make resulting changes, and to clarify that all office, department and agency heads serve at the pleasure of the Mayor and Common Council. A public hearing on the Charter Amendment is set for the Common Council meeting on September 16, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. For more information or a copy of the proposed Charter Resolution, call Town Hall at 301-927-4262.

Notice of Introduction of Ordinance 24-O-06

On August 19, 2024, Ordinance 24-O-06 was introduced. This ordinance would amend Chapter 9 "Traffic and Vehicles", Article I, "Traffic", § 9-104, "Parking" to prohibit parking at an electric vehicle charging space without a Town permit and to authorize a subsidy for Town residents and staff. The meeting set for September 16, 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.

University Park's Interim Police Chief

Interim Chief Shameka Graddy was appointed as the Interim Chief of Police in July 2024 after serving two years as Police Captain under Chief Baker. With over 17 years in law enforcement, including 12 years in University Park, Chief Graddy has a deep commitment to public service that began in her childhood. Her dedication to the community is evident in her passion for law enforcement and public safety. As one of Maryland's youngest female public safety executives, her appointment marks a historic moment for the town, reflecting its progressive vision.



In her previous role as the department's community

FROM THE INTERIM CHIEF

policing officer, Chief Graddy was instrumental in organizing the town's first National Night Out, developing the "Movie Night in the Park," and launching "Come Out and Play." These initiatives highlight her commitment to fostering community engagement and collaboration.

Chief Graddy is a graduate of the Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command and completed the Penn State University Police Executive Management Course. She holds an associate degree in criminal justice and is pursuing a bachelor's in public administration. She is actively involved in several professional organizations, including the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Maryland Chiefs of Police Association, and the Prince Georges County Chiefs of Police Association.

Believing in community-first policing, Chief Graddy emphasizes collaboration among community stakeholders to enhance public safety. Under her leadership, the University Park Police Department aims to build trust and inspire residents, fostering a safer town for all.

—Laurie K. Morrissey, Mayor

When to Call 911 vs. When to Call the Duty Officer

As part of our ongoing efforts to ensure the safety and well-being of our town, we want to provide important guidelines on when to call 911 versus when to contact the duty officer for non-emergency situations.



Call 911:

For any situation that requires immediate assistance from the police, fire, or emergency medical services, dial 911. Examples include:

- Crimes in progress (e.g., robbery, burglary, assault)
- Fires or hazardous situations
- Severe injuries or medical emergencies
- Immediate threats to personal safety
- Life-threatening situations (e.g. fights, weapons, serious vehicle collisions, domestic disputes)
- Overdose situations

When to Call the Duty Officer:

For non-emergency situations that do not require immediate attention, call the Duty Officer at 301-277-0050.

Examples include:

- Reporting a crime that occurred in the past
- Suspicious activity that isn't an immediate threat
- Non-urgent inquiries or concerns
- Noise complaints

Please make note of these phone numbers:

- Emergency: 9-1-1
- Non-Emergency: 301-352-1200
- Duty Officer: 301-277-0050

Important Back-to-School Safety Reminders: Help Keep Our Students Safe

The safety of our students and community members is our top priority. As the new school year begins, we kindly remind all drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists to exercise increased caution on the roads. In 2023 there were over 2,500 reported accidents involving distracted driving in Prince George's County, according to the Maryland Department of Transportation. These incidents highlight the critical need for increased awareness and caution, especially as our students return to school. Please review the following safety tips:

For Drivers

- Obey the posted speed limit and be aware of the school zone.
- Don't park or stand in drop-off zones.
- Do not block any driveways.
- Ensure your child exits your vehicle on the curbside.
- Watch for pedestrians, children and cyclists.
- Plan and allow enough time so you don't rush through the school zone.
- Stop for school buses.
- Stay alert—don't drive distracted.



For Pedestrians:

- Use sidewalks when available.
- Whenever possible, use marked crosswalks to cross the street.
- Follow the directions of crossing guards when using crosswalks.
- Always look left-right-left for vehicles or bikes before crossing.
- Don't cross in the middle of Queens Chapel Road—please use the crosswalk.
- Never play, push, or shove others when walking near traffic.

- All students should stay in clear view of the bus driver and never walk behind the bus.



For Bicyclists:

- Always wear a properly fitted helmet and securely fasten the chin strap.
- Wear closed-toe shoes.
- Bright clothing or reflectors make you more visible to other riders and vehicles on the road.
- Avoid loose or baggy clothing that may get caught in the chain.
- Ride in the same direction as traffic and follow traffic signs and signals.
- Never use electronics while riding—they are distracting.

Please review these tips with your family and friends. Remember, keeping our students safe is everyone's responsibility. Thank you for your cooperation and commitment to safety.

Welcome Debi Sandlin, Town Administrator

The Mayor and Council are pleased to announce the appointment of Debi Sandlin as its new Town Administrator. Ms. Sandlin will be the first permanent full-time Town Administrator, replacing Angela Lawrence, who served as the Interim Town Administrator. Ms. Sandlin has considerable experience in public administration including service as Bladensburg Town Administrator, Glenarden Interim City Manager, Garrett Park Interim Town Manager, and Greenbelt Interim Assistant City Manager. Most recently she served as Interim Director of Community, Business and Economic Development in Hyattsville. The Council chose Ms. Sandlin after an extensive search. Ms. Sandlin holds a Bachelor of Science degree in communications and is a graduate of University of Baltimore's Public Administration's Certified Public Manager Program.

Gas Powered Leaf Blowers Banned

Gas-powered leaf blowers are not allowed in University Park. Use only battery or electric-powered leaf blowers in your yard. This prohibition and applicable fine apply to homeowners as well as landscaping companies, so please ensure your contractors are aware of the prohibition. If you see someone using a gas powered



TOWN NEWS

leaf blower, please take a photo or video, including the name of the business, and complete the Gas-Powered Leaf Blower Complaint Form found at upmd.org/gaspoweredcomplaintform to report a violation. The complaint form must be submitted within seven days of the alleged violation.

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. Submit for reimbursement or call 301-927-4262 ext. 102 if you have questions.

Reminders from the Dept. of Public Works

Save the Date! Please see the flyer at the back of this newsletter for complete details on our fall Electronics and Paper Shredding Recycling Event, October 19, 9 AM-12 PM. It will be at the UPES bus turnaround and you may recycle electronics, tires, paint, EPS (Styrofoam) and have paper shredded.

Fall pumpkins may be composted or included with yard waste for collection on Mondays beginning in October. And looking ahead to the holidays, Christmas trees will be collected every Monday from December 26 through March 31. Please be sure trees are fully unadorned.

Tree Committee News

Aftermath of the Drought

The impact to the town's trees from this summer's drought is somewhat mitigated by their watering schedule. For residents, the health of the trees on our properties is up to us. Mulching and watering in accord with best practices as defined by the University of Maryland Extension can help: extension.umd.edu/resources/yard-garden/trees/planting-and-care-trees/

Trees that have not been watered through the drought will have suffered stress and their health has been compromised—to what extent won't be known until next spring when they leaf out. There are a wide range of potential out



TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

comes depending on the soil dynamics, slope, number of other plants on your property, depth of mulching, etc. In the meantime, if the drought continues through September, please provide sufficient water in the amount and method of application as provided by UME. Do not try to make up for lost time by over watering. You can also request a yard assessment from the Committee for Trees, Parks, and Environment by writing us at TreeComm@UPMD.org.

Ivy League, Saturday, September 14, 9-11 AM The drought has had limited impact on the English ivy widespread through town. The Ivy League was formed in 2011 to remove this ivy from the town's trees. Please consider volunteering with us for two hours for light impact exercise that is physically, socially and environmentally satisfying. Bring a pair of hand pruners and a prying tool (mini breaker bar, dandelion weeder, large screwdriver etc.) both of which we'll provide if you don't have one. Receive a custom Ivy League bandana after only five sessions. Community Service vouchers will be signed on site. We'll meet at the Hopscotch Bridge, 44th Avenue.

Helping Hands

University Park

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

Members Monthly Lunch

Club, Wednesday, September 18, 12-1 PM In person. Members and volunteers social gathering. Location changes every month. Become a member and join us!

Executive Committee Meeting, Wednesday, September 25, 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. Contact us by phone or email for information.

HHUP Poetry Gathering, Sundays approximately every six weeks at 4 PM. 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/



TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

programs-and-activities/corridor-conversations/
HHUP Contact Info: hhuniversitypark@gmail.com; 301-892-6636; helpinghandsup.org; facebook.com/HelpingHandsUP.

June 17 Council Meeting Highlights

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

Public Comment

- A resident of Pineway complained about problems involving people on mopeds disobeying speed limits and stop signs in the area, creating bad traffic. He suggested that the Town deploy trucks to the area three times a week to pick up trash while blocking traffic to slow it down. He also suggested that Pineway be one-way going toward Route 1 for three hours in the morning and three hours in the afternoon; this would cut traffic in half for six hours of the day.
- A resident thanked Chief Baker immensely for his excellent service.
- The Town Clerk read a letter from a resident expressing concern about a town-wide camera system and an automated license plate reader. The resident suggested having clearer communications on this matter before proceeding.

Mayor, Council and Committee Comments and Reports

Police, Traffic, and Public Safety Committee and Public Facilities Services Committee CM Gathercole reported that the Police, Traffic, and Public Safety Committee will meet jointly with the Public Facilities and Services Committee on June 20, 2024, to discuss stop sign cameras, the noise reduction program, contacting an on-duty officer by phone, and EV charger pricing for nonresidents and residents, and traffic calming.

Mayor Biermann Mayor Biermann mentioned that the next mayor was sworn in before the meeting. He noted that the event was very good and had a strong turnout. He added that Casey Kelby will take over for CM Morrissey, effective after this meeting. He noted that Pride Month and Juneteenth were being represented at the Town of University Park with flags.

New Business

Motion: To approve the resolution recognizing Police

Chief Harvey Baker's service. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion: To approve the resolution recognizing Mayor Joel Biermann's service. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion: To introduce LR 24-O-05, an Ordinance to Delete an Outdated State Law Reference and Replace it with a Reference to the "Police Accountability and Discipline Act." Motion carried unanimously.

Department Reports

Interim Town Administrator Angela Lawrence noted that her report was included in the meeting package and responded to general questions from the Council. Regarding approving a contract for a Town Administrator and determining an interim strategy, she proposed that the Council meet on June 27, 2024, for this. CM Godfrey expressed support for the approval and noted that the Council should move with alacrity on this matter.

CM Godfrey asked Angela Lawrence to provide more information regarding the Fourth of July parade. She responded that the Civic Association cannot find volunteers for the parade, so the Town will be organizing the parade, and any help from Councilmembers would be appreciated. She added that the parade would start at 11 AM and asked Councilmembers to arrive by 10:45 AM.

Town Clerk TC Hegeman noted that all the permits approved administratively were included in her report.

Chief of Police Chief Baker noted that he had nothing to report. He mentioned that he greatly enjoyed his time serving as the Chief of Police and it was the highlight of his career.

Town Treasurer Dan Baden noted that the Town Treasurer report for May 2024 was included in the meeting package. He reported that revenues were in good shape. Regarding expenses, he noted that there was nothing significant to report. The cash balance was at \$5,927,000 as of the end of May 2024, so the Town was in a good cash position.

Director of Public Works Michael Beall noted that his report was included in the meeting package.

The meeting adjourned by consent at 8:26 PM.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

June 27 Council Meeting Highlights

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

Consideration of Pineway Speed Humps

Motion: To proceed with the proposed Resident Desired Configuration for speed humps on North Pineway (three permanent 12-foot speed humps), placing both humps outside the bends, 12 depth, adding a permanent where the temporary is now. Motion carried unanimously.

CM McGaughey presented several options for proposed North Pineway speed hump alterations.

- Justification for speed hump spending on North Pineway.
- CM McGaughey reviewed the prior engineering study.
- Resident Desired Configuration: Three permanent “less deep” speed humps with shifted locations for two of them (moved out of the bending/curving area and placed on either side of the bending/curving area).

Reasons for Resident Desired Configuration

- The curve itself usually slows people down before the existing humps, so a hump within the curve does not have much effect as most drivers have slowed down.
- A noticeable fraction of drivers are going too fast into the curve, so placing humps before each turn should correct this behavior.
- An older engineering plan supports the Resident Desired Configuration.

Cost: \$4,068 to install a new 12-foot speed hump, but Mr. Beall estimates the cost to be closer to \$6,500 to account for milling down the existing hump. Removing the temporary speed hump would require re-milling the road underneath. \$23,000 to \$25,000 for Resident Desired Configuration.

CM McGaughey recommended proceeding with Resident Desired Configuration. CM Sweet asked if speed bumps were also considered since they would slow down traffic more than speed humps could. CM McGaughey responded that speed bumps would make it difficult for bicycles to go over them since they are unequipped with a suspension system like cars; also, speed bumps were used in the past and they caused a backlash from drivers because they forced drivers to go no faster than five mph.

CM Godfrey asked how the proposed configuration would be paid for; Mr. Beall responded that FY24 funding could be leveraged (and split with FY25 funding if there is not enough FY24 money for this project).

Approval of Contract Extension for Interim Town Administrator

The Council agreed to discuss this item during the closed session.

Motion: To move into a closed session to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluations of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction, or any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals. Motion carried unanimously. The Council went into the closed session at approximately 8:15 PM. Council did not return to Open Session.

July 1 Council Meeting Highlights

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

Discussion Related to Future Charter, Code, and Policy Amendments With Regard To Town Administrator Position

The Council, Interim Town Administrator and Town Attorney discussed proposed changes to the Town Charter and Code.

Closed Session

Motion: To move into a closed session to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluations of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction, or any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals. Motion carried unanimously. The Council went into the closed session at 8:39 PM and returned at 9:15 PM.

Approval of Town Administrator Contract

The Council agreed to table this item.

Contract Extension for Interim Town Administrator

Motion: To authorize the Mayor and Town Attorney to proceed with an employment agreement with Angela Lawrence, Interim Town Administrator to include:

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

- *\$75/hour for work conducted after August 10, not to exceed five business days.*
- *Travel to be reimbursed at IRS rate not to exceed one round-trip.*
- *Lodging to be reimbursed not to exceed \$200/night for no more than three nights.*

Motion carried unanimously.

Appointment of Interim Police Chief

Motion: To appoint Shameka Graddy as Interim Police Chief effective immediately. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned by consent at 9:19 PM.

July 15 Council Meeting Highlights

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

Public Comment

- A resident wanted to make the Council aware of an increase in commercial truck traffic on the north wing of Pineway.
- A resident suggested there was a lack of communication and awareness about the free electricity provided on Queen's Chapel Road to certain residents and nonresidents. She also suggested that it was unfair to provide free electricity only to some people and not others, noting that she would also like to have her electricity bill subsidized by the Town Council.
- A resident inquired about a house on Sheridan Street and referenced a letter that was sent to the Mayor. He requested that the Mayor inform them in writing of the Council's next steps in regard to the letter.

Mayor, Council, and Committee Comments and Reports

Police, Traffic, and Public Safety Committee CM Gathercole reported that the Police, Traffic, and Public Safety Committee met jointly with the Public Facilities and Services Committee on June 20, 2024, and they received a presentation on the stop sign monitoring system. The pilot program related to the noise monitoring legislation (which the Council supported) was also discussed at the meeting in terms of which places to implement the limited program. New speed humps coming on North Pineway was another topic discussed at the meeting. The

Police, Traffic, and Public Safety Committee will meet on Monday, August 12.

Public Facilities Services Committee CM Morgan noted that the Public Facilities and Services Committee will meet this Thursday and try to cover the MOU and stormwater. He referenced a conversation between the Mayor, himself and County Councilmember Eric Olson regarding the County's response, which was unsatisfactory. Will also discuss the charging station which CM Sweet will speak about.

Sustainability Committee CM Dubayah noted that the Sustainability Committee met on July 2, 2024. He reported that Meadow Day was a great success; he thanked all the residents who attended the event, which was held on July 13. He also discussed the Home Sustainability website and the possibility of moving that forward, recognition of the Styrofoam recyclers in town, and potential candidates for new members of the Sustainability Committee.

Continuing Business

Motion: To approve LR 24-O-05 Police Discipline as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Motion: To deny the special exception permit request from Andrew Widman on the basis that the required findings cannot be met. Motion carried 4-3. Yea: Dubayah, McGaughey, Godfrey, Sweet. Nay: Kelby, Gathercole Morgan.

Motion: To appoint Debra B. Sandlin as Town Administrator, beginning August 19, 2024, to serve at the will of the Mayor and Council under an Employment Agreement containing the following terms and conditions:

▪ *Salary: \$154,000*

▪ *Severance Pay: Six months*



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>.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

- *Automobile: \$300/month*
- *Performance evaluations: On February 1, 2025, at least annually thereafter on or before July 1 of each year, beginning on July 1, 2025.*
- *Exclusive Employment: With one exception, to end no later than December 31, 2024.*
- *Benefits: Department head benefits except:*
- *Annual leave begins with 15 days of accrued leave + 4.62 hours/pay period.*
- *Sick leave accrues at 4 hours/pay period.*
- *No health insurance.*
- *Professional Development: Town to budget for and pay expenses for professional meetings and travel.*
- *Dues and subscriptions: MML, ICMA, MCCMA.*

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion: *To approve the committee appointments as presented.* Motion carried unanimously. The committee appointments were indicated in the meeting packet circulated among the Council before the meeting.

Motion: *To appoint Councilmember Godfrey to serve as Mayor Pro Tempore to perform the duties and exercise the authority of the Mayor during the Mayor's absence.* Motion carried (CM Godfrey abstained; 6 in favor).

Motion: *To adopt a policy and procedure for a permit system for the EV charging stations to include: All users will be required to obtain an annual permit/decal at the Town office. The following fees will apply:*

- *Resident/UPES staff: \$100/year*
- *Non-resident: \$500/year*
- *Temporary option of \$10/day*

Restrict all commercial vehicle use - including identifiable cost-share service vehicles.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion: *to introduce CR 24-CR-01.* Consideration of Charter Amendment and Code Changes in regard to the Town Administrator Position. Motion carried unanimously.

Department Reports

Interim Town Administrator Angela Lawrence noted that her report was included in the meeting packet and wel-

OBITUARY

comed general questions from the Council. There were no questions.

Town Attorney Suellen Ferguson noted that the County Council will be voting on CD15 (zoning changes bill) on July 16, 2024; much discussion about the bill is expected before the vote. It does not appear that there has been any issue with the amendment that the Town requested about University of Maryland properties.

Town Clerk TC Hegeman noted that all the building permits that were approved administratively were included in the meeting packet.

Interim Chief of Police Captain Shameka Graddy noted that her report was included in the meeting packet.

Director of Public Works Michael Beall noted that his report was included in the meeting packet.

Town Treasurer Dan Baden was not present at the meeting, but his report was included in the meeting packet, and the Council was told they could email any questions they may have about the report.

The meeting adjourned by consent at 9 PM.

Obituary



Long time UP resident Lynne Marie Gekas passed away on July 16 after a battle with ALS. Born on March 19, 1952 at Garfield Hospital in Washington DC, Lynne grew up in Rockville, attended Richard Montgomery High School, and graduated from the University of Maryland in business. She worked for the Federal Government before having her three children John, Kelly, and James (Jamey). Lynne will be remembered as a wonderful first grade teacher at Saint Anthony Catholic School in Washington DC and later at Saint Hugh in Greenbelt. Lynne was an avid reader and enjoyed cooking, crossword puzzles, the outdoors and spending time with her family. She is survived by her husband, James, of 46 years. They anchored their life in University Park, where they raised their children.

2nd Saturday Lecture Series

The Ecological Benefits of Leaving Fallen Leaves

Saturday, September 14, 4 PM



Have you ever wondered what to do when leaves pile up in your yard? Is there an ecological benefit to leaving the leaves where they fall? If you do decide to manage your leaves, what is the best method—raking, shredding? Max Ferlauto will cover the results of a multi-year experiment in the Col-

lege Park area as well as University Park exploring the effects of autumn leaf removal on soil carbon and beneficial insects. Max is a 5th year PhD candidate in Karin Burghardt's Lab in the University of Maryland Entomology Department studying insect conservation in cities and suburbs. He is also the state entomologist for the Maryland Natural Heritage Service. For more information contact Dave Brosch at 240-888-1225 or davidcbrosch@comcast.net. Church of the Brethren, 4413 Tuckerman Street.

After Eight Book Group

Tuesday, September 17, 8-10 PM

Our reading for September is *The Love of My Life*, by Rosie Walsh. October's book is *The Wishing Game* by Meg Shaffer. 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.



how they create their works of art. We'll have demonstrations by several of our local artists with specific demonstrations for young people. Let Scott Sullivan show your children how to sculpture or let your children and young adults join Michelle Wedge's Tiny Art class and create their own acrylic masterpiece. More details will be available at the Information Desk on the day of the event. The University Park Civic Association is planning on having food carts available along Queen's Chapel Rd. by the soccer field. Rain date October 5.

Artist Registration Is Still Open

Whether you draw, paint, photograph, carve, stitch, sculpt, quilt or engage in any other of the visual arts, you can set up your display along the footpath that runs behind the soccer field. If interested in registering, go to <https://tinyurl.com/2024UPartsinthepark> and complete the brief questionnaire. **Deadline September 20.** Follow-up information will be emailed to you. Any questions or concerns, email us at UPartsinthepark@gmail.com or call Dick Groppe at 301-864-2096.

Fall Nature Festival

Saturday, September 28, 10 AM-1 PM

Hosted by University Christian Church. All events are free and include:

- Kids' games and activities, petting zoo & pony rides
- Nature scavenger hunt and crafts
- Free herbs & pollinator-friendly native plants
- Rain garden tours
- Fall colors show
- Invasive plants removal info and more!
- Free refreshments, Spanish interpretation



University Christian Church, 6800 Adelphi Road, 301-864-1520, cucoffice@verizon.net

Arts In the Park Celebration

Saturday, September 28, 1-4 PM

Join us at the fourth annual Arts In the Park, a day about sharing and celebrating our community through its visual arts. No judging, no competitions, no prizes! Just a fun day in the park. Meet the artists and learn

Univ. Park Woman's Club News

Attention women of University Park! The University Park Woman's Club is inviting new members to join. The club is an excellent way for women to find camaraderie, education and philanthropy at a local level. Members enjoy an informative monthly program, along with the opportunity to support local scholarships and other

**ARTS
IN THE
PARK**

1-4 p.m. SEPTEMBER 28

TOWN NEWS & EVENTS

nonprofit causes. For more information and a membership application, visit our website at upwomensclub.org/

Community Mosquito Control Program

UP's mosquito season extends through the end of October, so regular trap maintenance is vital for eliminating future generations of the Asian tiger mosquito. Even if you haven't had a chance to set up your mosquito traps, you can put them out now and effectively reduce the mosquitoes in your yard.



Our first line of defense is to eliminate standing water where Asian tiger mosquitoes breed. Even one ounce of water in a bottle cap can attract a female as a good spot to deposit her eggs. Tip or remove water that has collected at least every few days or put mosquito dunks or sprinkle mosquito bits in the water. They kill larvae and do no harm to other species. Corrugated drainpipe can hold enough water in the grooves to attract females. And who doesn't use it to help keep water away from the house? The open end of the pipe can be closed to mosquitoes and still let water through by placing a knee high stocking, screen, or mesh cloth around the opening. Wrap a plastic bag around the aboveground joints to cover that opening.

Let us know if you're reading this and tell us what you think: upcmosquitoc@gmail.com. You can learn more about the UP Community Mosquito Control Program, including trap ordering information and how to guides, at: upmd.org/222/Community-Mosquito-Control.

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 or without any obligation to the homeless, poor, unemployed, senior citizens, immigrants and children in need. In 2023, our food pantry served 8,205 families in need with an overall average of 4.6 per household.

Total Adults (18-64): 19,507

Total Seniors (65+): 2,152

Total Children (0-17): 16,100

Total People: 37,759

Since late 2016, we have been a proud partner of the Capital Area Food Bank (CAFB) which does amazing work for hundreds of food pantries including us.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR



So far in 2024, we have seen a slight increase in the number of families asking for help to around 760 families per month. The fight against hunger and food insecurity continues. Please consider donating. Donations are typically 100 percent tax deductible to the extent possible under the law. Please go to gofundme.com and search "St. Mark's Food Pantry" to donate. Checks are also welcome and may be payable to the St. Mark's Food Pantry. Please mail to: St. Mark's Food Pantry, 7501 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD 20783

Friday Night Live! Friday, September 6, 6:30-8:30 PM



Join us on the plaza at the College Park City Hall building for music, food, beer and entertainment. There will be children's performers, a bounce house, kids activities and arts and crafts. City Hall Plaza, 7401 Baltimore Avenue. Parking is free at the Downtown College Park parking garage

at the corner of Yale and Knox. Local food and beer will be available for purchase during the event.

Hyattsville Library Independent Film Series, *Salt of the Earth*, Monday, September 16, 7-9 PM



Hyattsville Library begins its 2024-2025 season with a screening and discussion of *Salt of the Earth*—the 1954 classic film inspired by a 1951 strike against the Empire Zinc Company in New Mexico. During filing in New Mexico, the trade press denounced *Salt of the Earth* as a sub-

versive plot, anti-Communist vigilantes fired rifle shots at the set, and the film's leading lady was deported to Mexico.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR



Downtown Hyattsville Arts Festival, Saturday, September 21, 12-6 PM Everyone is invited to this free, family event in Downtown Hyattsville! The Festival features over 100 jury-selected artist and artisans as well as craft breweries, food vendors, live music performances and children's activities. There's something for everyone at this event—with shopping, locally brewed beer, great food and fun activities, we have you covered.

College Park Arts Exchange

All events take place at the Old Parish House, 4711 Knox Road, College Park, unless otherwise noted. Learn more about CPAE programs by visiting cpae.org. Subscribe to our weekly email newsletter for program updates and check out our full calendar at cpae.org/arts/full-calendar/.

Sacred Circle Dance with Lisa Bardack, Saturday, September 21, 2-4 PM Sacred circle dance is a collective dance experience that draws from ancient and traditional folk dances, many from Eastern Europe and the Balkans. We will dance to cultivate the mindfulness needed to move through the autumn with peace, clarity and joy. No dance experience needed (just basic mobility and coordination), as the dances are simple to moderately easy, and the dance steps repetitive. This allows the dance to dance us! Donations gratefully accepted!



Blue Sky Puppets, Saturday, September 28, 3 PM In *Pig Tales*, the pigs learn sharing and taking turns at school while they act out the stories of "The Three Billy Goats Gruff" and "Jack and the Beanstalk."

College Park Youth Choir and Vocetti starts up Thursday, September 5. \$85 fee per semester; payment due within 4 weeks. Contact info@cpae.org with any ques-

tions or to request a needs scholarship. Register at cpae.org/arts/course/college-park-youth-choir/.

The College Park Youth Orchestra meets on scheduled Sundays. Primary Ensemble: 4:15-5:30 PM; Intermediate 5:45-7 PM; Chamber Ensemble 7:15-8:45 PM. Auditions for Intermediate and Chamber Ensemble will be held Sunday, September 8. Fall rehearsals begin September 15. More at cpyo.net/. College Park Youth Band meets at Greenbelt Middle School; contact info@cpae.org for more info.

College Park Chorale offers fun and diverse music for a large ensemble of adult singers. Weekly rehearsals on Sundays from 7-8:30 PM in the Parish Hall at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 4512 College Ave, starting September 8. \$85 registration fee per session. Payment due at the first rehearsal. Sliding scale for anyone who requests it. Feel free to reach out with any questions: chorale@cpae.org, collegeparkchorale.org.

Beginner Tai Chi with Maureen Stone and Mark Grisar, Wednesdays, 10 AM
Offered in conjunction with Age-Friendly College Park. See cpae.org/arts/event/tai-chi-class-9/ for more info; class is ongoing.



Shop Locally at Farmers Markets

You can eat locally grown produce year-round by shopping at these markets within a 5-mile radius. These are just a few of the area markets. Please check farmers market websites and social media pages for updates.



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

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

Farmers Market at Maryland University of Maryland Tawes Plaza Garden
3900 Campus Drive, College Park, MD 20742
www.farmersmarket.umd.edu

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

Saturday, October 19, 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

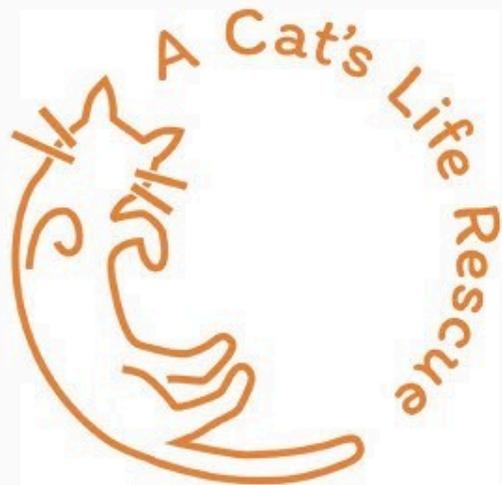


What items are not acceptable?

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



**UNIVERSITY
PARK** *MARYLAND*



Are you caring for outdoor cats in University Park?



A Cats Life Rescue has partnered with the
Town of University Park to offer a
FREE spay and neuter program.

Please email them for more information:
trapping@acatsliferescue.org



acatsliferescue.org

September 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Town Holiday	3 Town Council, 7:30 Trash, Bulk Trash	4 Yard Waste & Compost	5	6 Recycling	7
8	9 Yard Waste & Compost	10 Trash, Bulk Trash	11	12	13 Recycling	14 Ivy League, 9-11 AM Second Saturday Lecture, 4 PM
15	16 Town Council, 7:30 Yard Waste & Compost	17 Trash, Bulk Trash lk Trash After Eight Book Group, 8-10 PM	18	19	20 Recycling	21
22	23 Yard Waste & Compost	24 Trash, Bulk Trash	25	26	27 Recycling	28 Arts in the Park, 1-4 PM Fall Nature Festival, 10 Am -1 PM
29	30 Yard Waste & Compost			Saturday, October 19, 9 AM-Noon Electronics, Tire, Paint & EPS Recycling and Paper Shredding		Town committees meet regularly, please check the town website for current details.



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

Presorted Standard
US Postage
PAID
Hyattsville MD
Permit No. 2776

TOWN DIRECTORY

Town Hall

Office Hours M-F 9 AM-5 PM 301-927-4262
 Fax 301-277-4548
 TDD 800-735-2258
 Website www.upmd.org
 Town Field Status 240-297-8277
 Mayor Laurie K. Morrissey mayormorrissey@upmd.org
 Cell Phone 240-688-9534
 Town Administrator Debi Sandlin dsandlin@upmd.org
 Cell Phone 240-400-0250
 Town Clerk TC Hegeman thegeman@upmd.org
 Public Works Dir. Mickey Beall mbeall@upmd.org
 Town Treasurer Dan Baden treasurer@upmd.org
 Interim Chief Shameka Graddy sgraddy@upmd.org

Police

Emergency 911
 Non-Emergency 301-352-1200
 Duty Officer Cell Phone 301-277-0050
 Captain Shameka Graddy 240-571-8826

Town Council

Ward	Council Member	Phone
1	Ralph Dubayah	301-458-0128
2	Mary Gathercole	301-325-9415
3	Casey Kelby	215-260-0944
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 October newsletter deadline is Friday, September 6. The *University Park Newsletter* is published monthly, except for a combined November issue. Newsletter submissions, questions and comments may be emailed to univparknews@gmail.com. The *Newsletter* publishes the milestones of current and former UP families (births, weddings, obituaries, graduations, awards, etc.) plus events of interest to residents. Political or commercial advertising is not accepted. Please send letters of opinion or Town suggestions to Town Hall. The *Newsletter* is online at www.upmd.org/newsletter. Editors Todd Stewart & Bridget Warren univparknews@gmail.com 301-209-7341

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

Email
 rdubayah@upmd.org
 mgathercole@upmd.org
 ckelby@upmd.org
 nmorgan@upmd.org
 dmcaughey@upmd.org
 ggodfrey@upmd.org
 wsweet@upmd.org

