

UNIVERSITY PARK NEWSLETTER

TOWN OF UNIVERSITY PARK, MARYLAND
OCTOBER 2024 OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER VOL. XLIX, NO. 9

MAYOR'S COLUMN

On September 16, the Town Council voted unanimously to adopt a Town Charter amendment to codify the role of a fulltime Town Administrator to oversee the day-to-day operations of our Town and to be the supervisor of department heads.

“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

Our form of government remains strong mayor-council. The Council holds the “power of the purse” and makes all decisions regarding Town expenditures.

Under the leadership of three consecutive mayors, several Councils have diligently studied and debated the need for such a position. Former Mayor Biermann and a prior Council (including me as I represented Ward 3) considered this at our Council retreats in October 2023 and February 2024.

When I joined the Town Council in June 2018, I was skeptical about the notion of a full-time administrator to oversee the operation of our Town. The more I learned about the intricacies of how a town is run, the more evidence I saw that justified the expense of hiring a professional administrator.

Town Meetings & Special Dates

Town Council	October 7 & 21
Town Holiday	October 14
Recycling Event	October 19

Town Hall is open Mon.- Fri., 9 AM to 5 PM. Residents must ring the call button for service. Council meetings are at 7:30 PM and currently conducted by video. Agendas are posted at www.upmd.org/agenda center. Sign up for alerts at www.upmd.org/notifyme

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FROM THE MAYOR CONT.

As I stated in my September column, the Council unanimously voted in early August to hire Debi Sandlin for this important position. So far, Mrs. Sandlin has assisted with the recruitment for our next police chief and advised me and the Council on several important issues and projects that are underway, including the stormwater MOU with Prince George's County and the renovation of our town hall building. Mrs. Sandlin is also assisting with revising the Town's personnel manual for consideration by the Council during the month of October.

As I've recently shared informally with Town residents on the listserv, I'm writing an in-depth history of, and justification for, this position as a shared benefit for Town residents and will send it via the Town's official communications channel, the mayor's mailing list. Stay tuned for that as it will include links to past Council discussions, public forums, and a 2019 Town Operations and Management Study. The primary goal of this communication effort is to educate Town residents about how the Council arrived at their decision.

Building relationships with local leaders

In mid-September, I had the pleasure of meeting with District 22 mayors and State Senator Alonzo Washington, Berwyn Heights Mayor Tiffany Papanikolas, Edmonston Mayor Tracy Gant, Hyattsville Mayor Robert Croslin, Greenbelt Mayor Emmett Jordan, Riverdale Park Mayor Alan Thompson, and New Carrollton Mayor Katrina Dodro. We discussed the presentation of our municipalities' priorities during the 2025 legislative session of the Maryland State Assembly. University Park's priorities will be shared with Sen. Washington at

the District 22 legislative dinner in November. Last year, Sen. Washington sponsored and helped pass legislation regarding noise ordinance cameras, stop sign cameras, and flood mitigation funding.

Building relationships with local, county, and state legislators and leaders benefits University Park in myriad ways, including learning about local initiatives and sources of expertise and perspective. I'm grateful to learn from these colleagues and public servants.

Mulch and soil volcanoes

Please avoid the human-made phenomenon known as "the mulch volcano." I'm sure you've seen trees surrounded by hills of mulch, and sometimes soil, pressed right against the tree trunk. Mulch volcanoes deprive trees of much needed oxygen and cause root dehydration and bark damage. Please ask your landscaper to discontinue this practice. It may look "neat," but it's detrimental to the health of your tree. This has been a strong and regular recommendation from the Committee on Trees, Parks, and the Environment (TPE).

Upcoming community events and observances

On Friday, October 25, residents are cordially invited to join the Halloween-themed Community Tennis Festival at the Junior Tennis Champions Center on Campus Drive. The festival will offer activities for kids, including face painting and a bounce house. Residents will also be able to take advantage of discounted tennis lessons.

Planning is underway for our Town's observance of Veterans Day on Monday, November 11. An honor guard from the NJROTC program at Northwestern High School will be part of the commemoration of the selfless service by members of our Nation's military. If any resident is interested in assisting with the event, please contact me or Town Administrator Sandlin.

Ward listening sessions

Ward listening sessions are in the works for Wards 3, 6, and 7. Councilmembers Kelby, Godfrey, and Sweet, respectively, will join me to hear your concerns and questions. Stay tuned for details and information on similar listening sessions in your part of town.

Warmly,

Laurie K. Morrissey



FROM THE CHIEF

Halloween Safety Tips for Trick-or-Treaters and Parents

Halloween is an exciting time filled with costumes, candy and fun, but safety is our number one priority. As you and your family prepare for a night of trick-or-treating, the University Park Police Department reminds everyone to stay vigilant and follow essential safety guidelines.

Town residents, please plan to start and finish your Halloween activities between 6 and 8:30 PM, as trick-or-treating will end at 8:30 PM in University Park for maximum safety. Additionally, please be aware of road closures in the following areas to ensure a safer environment for pedestrians:

- College Heights and Wells Parkway
 - College Heights and Underwood Street
 - Wells Parkway and College Heights
 - Wells between Calverton Drive and Chansory Lane
- These roads will be closed to vehicle traffic during trick-or-treating hours to enhance pedestrian safety, so plan your route accordingly.



To ensure your Halloween is both safe and enjoyable, we've compiled these essential tips for parents, children, and drivers:

- Always walk on the sidewalk when available. If there is no sidewalk, walk facing traffic and stay as far to the side as possible. This allows you to quickly move out of the road if needed. Drivers may not expect pedestrians in the roadway or emerging from between parked cars or behind shrubbery. Assume drivers won't see you and wait for them to pass before crossing.
- Always follow the rules of the road. Use crosswalks or traffic signals at intersections. Even if you have the right of way, ensure traffic has completely stopped before stepping into the street. Avoid distractions like electronic devices, which can prevent you from noticing important visual or auditory traffic signals.

- Children should always be under adult supervision while trick-or-treating, especially in areas with vehicle traffic.
- Ensure costumes are safe and fit properly to prevent tripping. Costumes should allow for clear vision and include bright or reflective materials to improve visibility at night.
- Both parents and children should carry flashlights to illuminate walking paths at night and signal their presence to motorists from a greater distance. Attaching glow sticks to your child's costume is another great way to increase visibility and help them stand out in the dark.
- Parents should inspect all candy to ensure it hasn't been tampered with. Make sure your children know not to eat any candy until you've checked it first.
- Adults—Before heading out for Halloween festivities, plan a safe way to get home. If alcohol is involved in your evening, remember that it affects judgment, balance and reaction time. Use a buddy system to ensure everyone gets home safely. Walking while impaired can be as dangerous as drunk driving, so plan accordingly.

By following these safety tips and being mindful of road closures, you can help ensure a safe and enjoyable Halloween for everyone. To report suspicious activities, dial 911 immediately. Stay safe and have a happy Halloween!

Home Security Rebate Program

University Park offers a \$100 rebate for residents who purchase and install approved security equipment costing \$150 or more, aimed at enhancing home safety. Submit proof of purchase to qualify for the rebate. For details and to apply, visit upmd.org/FormCenter/Police-5/Home-Security-System-Rebate-Request-48.



Why Install Security Cameras?

- Crime Deterrence: Cameras discourage criminals.
- Evidence Collection: Provides footage for investigations.
- Remote Monitoring: Monitor your home from anywhere.
- Community Safety: Neighborhood cameras enhance safety.

Protect Your Personal Information Use strong, unique passwords; enable two-factor authentication; keep firmware updated; encrypt video data; secure your Wi-Fi network; disable remote access when not needed; be mindful of camera placement.

Stay safe and secure with these tips! For more information, scan QR Code:



Crime Report—August 2024

Fraud On August 23, a resident in the 4100 block of Woodberry Street reported a fraudulent roofing scam. Two suspects quoted an inflated repair cost of \$175,000, which was reduced to \$53,000 after the resident expressed inability to pay.

Theft from Auto On August 26, officers responded to a theft from auto in the 6700 block of Adelphi Road involving a Honda Accord. The suspect shattered the driver’s door glass and stole the vehicle’s steering wheel airbag.

Theft from Auto On August 26, officers responded to a theft in the 4000 Block of Beechwood Road from a Honda Odyssey. The suspect shattered the driver’s side window and stole the steering wheel airbag.

Theft from Auto On August 27, a Honda Insight was broken into in the 4100 block of Tennyson Road, with the steering wheel airbag stolen. The unknown suspect gained entry by breaking the driver’s side window.

Burglary On September 5, a resident in the 4300 block of Van Buren Street received a fraud alert for a suspicious charge of \$79.63. After checking his home, he discovered his wallet missing, that a first-floor window was left open, and that the screen shield had been ripped out.

Stay Informed! Sign up for Nixle Alerts

Stay updated with important safety notifications and community alerts by signing up for our Nixle alert system. It’s free and easy to sign up! Please visit local.nixle.com/signup/widget/g/82117 for timely updates directly from the University Park Police Department.



Introducing Debi Sandlin, New Town Administrator

Debi has more than 24 years of public service experience at the city and town level and has dedicated her career to building better communities through improved municipal operations and organizational poli-

cies and programs. She has helped develop innovative programs, performance management, operational improvements, team building, and regional partnerships Her service has resulted in greater economic sustainability for communities.

She has considerable expertise in budgetary principles and administration; strategic planning; organizational development; and comprehensive project management within municipal governments. She has a wealth of experience in economic development, urban revitalization planning, historic preservation, land use, and urban revitalization.

Prior to joining the University Park team, Debi was the Bladensburg Town Manager, Glenarden City Manager, Town of Garret Park, Interim Town Manager, Greenbelt Interim Assistant City Manager and, most recently, the Interim Director of Community Development for the City of Hyattsville.

Ms. Sandlin holds a Bachelor of Science degree in communications, is a University of Maryland-Baltimore Public Administration Certified Public Manager, and a IC-MA Credentialed Manager.

Opening: Administrative/Social Media Assistant Part-time



The Town of University Park seeks a part-time Administrative/Social Media Assistant to support the Town Administrator and Mayor. The Administrative/Social Media Assistant is responsible for performing a variety of administrative tasks, and managing and improving the Town’s online presence with the community. This position requires a person who enjoys working with the public, is friendly and professional, detail oriented, able to prioritize and can multi-task. Those interested, please send your resume to dsandlin@upmd.org.

**Tree Committee News
Tree Reimbursement**

Mid-October through December 10 is the best window of the entire year to plant trees and shrubs. If you take advantage of the town’s Tree Reimbursement Program, you can give your family and the town’s tree canopy the gift of a lifetime at zero to little cost. There’s a large selection of shade and understory trees to select from, all vetted to be urban and climate change tolerant. Learn more about the program at upmd.org/194/Trees-Parks-Environment-Committee.

TOWN NEWS



Community Tree Planting, Saturday, October 26, 9 AM The Committee on Trees, Parks and Environment will be coordinating the annual Community Tree Planting of 33 trees in Ward 6, between College Heights and Underwood Street. Community engagement is crucial for success. This is a modern day version of barn raising where many hands make light work. Please assemble at the corner of Underwood and 41st Avenue. Bring your favorite planting shovel or borrow one from our toolshed. Welcome beginners or planting experts—we'll be offering guidance and best practices to all planters. Holes will be pre-dug by DPW and the trees of a manageable size. Children as young as six can help us spread mulch. Experience the satisfaction of volunteering for your town and the consequent thrill of passing by the trees you helped plant in the years to come. Community Service vouchers will be signed on site.

Ivy League, Saturday, October 12, 9 AM This month's Ivy League will assemble at the Veteran's Memorial (Eversfield and Wells Parkway). For two hours we'll be removing English ivy from the trunks of town trees. What could be better than two hours of camaraderie taking the autumn air with your UP neighbors? Answer: Earning two of five credits toward your very own limited edition Ivy League bandana. Bring a pair of hand pruners and a sturdy prying tool such as a large screwdriver or dandelion weeder. Community Service Vouchers signed on site.



For more information on any of these events or services, contact treecomm@upmd.org.

Sustainability Committee News

Join us to restore the UP Pollinator Wildflower Meadow. Learn the critical role native plants play in regaining the health of our habitat. Our meadow is now 6 years old—come celebrate!

Saturday, October 19, 10 AM-12 PM This session will include meadow seeding which is fun for children! Laura Klein lead organizer with Jenny Glenn, Master Naturalist.

Find us across the street from Hyattsville Library on Adelphi Road. Wear outdoor clothes and garden gloves. Bring a bucket. Families welcome!



Helping Hands University Park

Attention Members and Volunteers—special calendar note: The annual Fall Party will be held on Sunday October 19. More information will be shared by email and the HHUP listserv. See you there!



Helping Hands University Park

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

Members Monthly Lunch Club, Wednesday, October 16, 12-1 PM In person. Members

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

Executive Committee Meeting, Wednesday, October 23, 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/programs-and-activities/corridor-conversations/

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

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

Reminders from the Dept. of Public Works

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.



August 19 Council Meeting Highlights

Present (via video and audio conference) were Mayor Morrissey; Councilmembers Dubayah, Gathercole, Kelby, Morgan, Godfrey, Sweet. Excused: McGaughey. Staff present: Town Administrator Debra B. Sandlin; Interim Town Administrator Angela Lawrence; Town Clerk TC Hegeman; Director of Public Works Michael Beall; Interim Chief of Police Shameka Grady.

Excused: Town Attorney Suellen Ferguson; Town Treasurer Dan Baden.

Public Comment

- A resident wanted to remind the Council the speed bumps were slowing cars, causing the traffic to be very high, making it difficult for residents to go about their usual activities. He is hoping the Council will act instead of just analyzing the issue.

- The Town Clerk read a public comment from a resident supporting instituting a fee for EV charging and opposing the proposed decal system. The comment noted to propose charging nonresidents \$500 is unreasonable and can be easily perceived as a simple way to block neighbors from using the chargers. The commenter added no one is consuming this amount of electricity at the chargers, so the \$500 cannot be justified.

Mayor, Council, and Committee Comments and Reports

Mayor Morrissey introduced the new permanent Town Administrator, Debra B. Sandlin, and welcomed her to the Town of University Park. Mayor Morrissey noted that there will be a Council work session on August 22, 2024, to discuss the capital improvement plan; the public is welcome to call in. She addressed a resident's comment about heavy traffic.

Helping Hands University Park (HHUP) HHUP continues to co-sponsor the Route 1 Corridor Conversations; the next conversation on Saturday, is about the Arts for All initiative at the University of Maryland. The September 2024 conversation is called *What's in the Library?* and is about available resources at Prince George's County libraries. HHUP is planning a member outing to see Mary Poppins at the Goddard Space Flight Center. The HHUP Chair met with a resident about plans for Helping Hands to participate in a UP service day in the fall of 2025, and the committee is currently brainstorming activities. HHUP's monthly luncheon is at noon this Wednesday at Terrapin Station. Planning was underway for the annual fall party for members and volunteers and the Council and Mayor will be invited. A member's guide is being created so members can easily contact each other.

Police, Traffic, and Public Safety Committee CM Gathercole reported the committee met on August 12, 2024. Verra Mobility, a photo enforcement company, gave a presentation to the committee on stop sign cameras, noise abatement cameras, and automatic license plate recognition. The company uses radar as opposed to laser, claiming that radar is more reliable. CM Gathercole suggested that Verra Mobility would be a good company for the town because they are an all-in-one service provider. CM Gathercole relayed that Captain Graddy also discussed the duty phone and parking enforcement.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Trees, Parks and the Environment Committee CM Godfrey stated the Tree Committee will meet this Saturday at Woodberry Street and College Heights for a site visit testing the Healthy Trees, Healthy Cities application for managing the Town's street tree inventory.

Policy, Rules and Municipal Structure Committee CM Godfrey reported the committee hasn't met but will meet in September. They will likely meet the fourth Monday.

Public Facilities Services Committee CM Morgan reported that the committee did not meet this past Thursday. He will report on Frederick Ward updates at next the Council meeting.

Continuing Business

Motion: *To introduce Legislative Resolution 24-O-06, to institute a permit system for the EV charging stations and parking spaces to include:*

- *All users will be required to obtain an annual permit/decal at the Town office. The following fees will apply:*
 - *Annual permit: \$500/year*
 - *Daily permit: \$10/day*
 - *Prorated fee for first-time purchaser of permit if purchased after the first of the year*
- *Restrict all commercial vehicle use – including identifiable cost-share service vehicles.*
- *Delegate format and placement of permit to Mayor or designee.*
- *Subsidy of \$400 to Town residents and UPES staff.*

Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Motion: *To approve the resolution recognizing Angela Lawrence.* Motion carried unanimously.

Department Reports

Town Administrator Angela Lawrence presented the Town Administrator report, which was included in the meeting package.

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

Interim Chief of Police Captain Shameka Graddy noted that there were four vacancies in the police department

and her team was actively working to fill those vacancies; she anticipates two of the vacancies to be filled by August 1, 2024. Also, her team has created a flyer outlining when to call 911 versus when to contact the duty officer.

Director of Public Works Michael Beall noted that his report was included in the meeting package and responded to questions from the Council.

Motion: *To adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. and 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.

August 22 Council Work Session Meeting Highlights

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

Staff Present: Interim Town Administrator Angela Lawrence; Town Administrator Debi Sandlin; Town Attorney Suellen Ferguson; Director of Public Works Michael Beall.

Motion: *To go into Closed Session to Consult with Counsel to Obtain Legal Advice.* Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor and Council returned to open session at 9:17 PM.

Discussion Of Capital Improvement Plan

Angela Lawrence explained that the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) is a planning effort separate from the budget. It includes a capital budget and a capital plan, with the budget reflecting the agreed capital programs for the year. Each project in the CIP has a unique code and correlating timeframe. For example, the police department's project is coded as PD01. Current funds were listed to show the balance for projects like stormwater management. The PD01 project involves seven cameras and license plate readers, initially dependent on a grant that was not received. The project has been moved to FY26, with updates noted on the worksheet.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Angela Lawrence shared that PW01 (public works) involves street work and sidewalk installation post-utility work by WSSC. Adjustments to the budget were made based on updated information, such as the removal of PD01 funding due to the grant not being received. Future budget cycles will reflect these changes.

Potential traffic measures for College Heights Drive were discussed, but they were deferred pending the completion of a WSSC project. The WSSC sewer project is expected to start in October 2024, the resurfacing of College Heights Drive and other related works is expected to commence upon the completion of the WSSC project. Budget transfers were made to cover the costs of the temporary patchwork needed on College Heights Drive and Clagett Pineway. The permanent patchwork will be done upon the completion of the WSSC sewer project.

Updates on the streetlight project were discussed. There are 252 existing streetlights which will be assessed and potentially replaced with LED fixtures. Funding to purchase the existing fixtures is in the FY25 budget. Funding to replace fixtures could be included in the FY26 budget at a projected cost of \$87,000. The town hall renovation project is underway, with design options recently provided and plans for public input sessions. The project has a budget of \$3 million, potentially funded from reserves. The CIP includes long-term projects with projected costs and timelines and ensures funds are allocated appropriately for future needs.

Angela Lawrence suggested collaborating with the treasurer to designate funds in the budget for long-term projects, noting the budget should reflect transfers to the reserve funds. It was also mentioned there are limitations due to a lack of access to certain documents. She also explained project prioritization is part of an annual planning session before the budget cycle and emphasized the importance of council initiatives being discussed during this process. It was suggested to create a separate reserve capital budget by transferring surplus funds at the end of each fiscal year based on the difference between revenue and expenses.

Angela Lawrence advised reviewing the budget document, particularly the sections that reconcile each fund, to understand designated and regular reserves. At the end of the year, unspent funds are added to the reserve fund. These unspent funds are divided, with 75% going

to the reserve fund and 25% allocated to the capital budget.

There was a discussion on whether the budget numbers had been adjusted for inflation, with the response indicating they had not. The projections are best estimates and are refined as the actual budget year approaches.

The meeting adjourned by consent at 9:44 PM.

August 22 Public Record of Council Closed Session

Present: Councilmembers Dubayah, Gathercole, Kelby, Morgan, McGaughey, Godfrey, Sweet; Mayor Laurie Morrissey; Town Administrator Debi Sandlin; Interim Town Administrator Angela Lawrence; Director of Public Works Michael Beall; Jason Mills, Soltese Engineering.

The Council voted to meet in closed session under the following part(s) of section 10-508 to:

- Discuss (i) the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation or performance evaluations of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction; or (ii) any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals.
- Consult with counsel to obtain legal advice.

List of topics discussed: 1) Advice from Attorney on upgrades to the Town's infrastructure; 2) Personnel matter; 3) Transfer of streetlights from Pepco to the Town.

Actions taken: Motion to approve employee action.

Meeting adjourned: 9:17 p.m.



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>.

UP Woman's Club

Monday, October 7, 11:30 AM



The University Park Woman's Club will welcome an important presentation by Thu Huynh, NDA, RD, LDN, a registered dietitian and nutritionist with the Healthy Living Team of Giant Food, on new and easy ways to get to zero waste eating. You've heard of recycling. This is upcycling! You will learn about sustainable ways to use food to save money and prevent food waste. The meeting will be held at University Christian Church at the corner of Adelphi and Belcrest Roads in Hyattsville. Sign-in begins at 11:30 AM and new members are always welcome! Please RSVP to cmd9514@gmail.com.

After Eight Book Group

Tuesday, October 15, 8-10 PM

October's book is *The Wishing Game* by Meg Shaffer. Our reading for November is *The Little Village Book of Lovers*, by Nina George. 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.

Community Mosquito Control Program

Thanks to everyone who participates in our program. Through October, please keep your traps deployed and maintained. In November, clean them out (all plastic parts can be put in the dishwasher—don't heat dry) and store them in an enclosed space, away from winter weather. Traps that are exposed to temperatures below freezing for an extended period can shatter, making them unusable for next year.

You can learn more about the UP Community Mosquito

Control Program, including how to remove mosquito habitat from your yard and maintain traps, at upmd.org/222/Community-Mosquito-Control. Questions or comments? Please send us an email at: upmosquitoc@gmail.com.



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.

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. We need your help. Please consider donating 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 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.

Green Summit 10th Anniversary, Saturday, October 19, 11AM-4 PM Join us as we celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Green Summit at the David C. Driskell Community Park, 3911 Hamilton Street, Hyattsville. This free event features green exhibitors, eco-friendly vendors, sustainable tips, giveaways, food trucks, music, kid-friendly activities and fun for the whole family! The Green Summit will also showcase some pretty special pet friends who are ready for adoption. Don't miss out on this opportunity! Adoption ready pets will be showcased!



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
animal services DIVISION

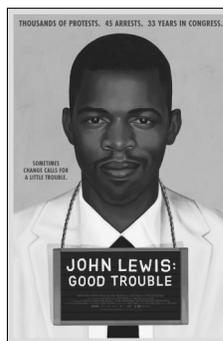
Please Adopt or Foster Now! Prince George's County Animal Services and Adoption Facility is in critical need of finding loving, forever homes for dogs at the facility, especially our larger and senior dogs. Without immediate help, we face the heart-wrenching possibility of finding alternative solutions for healthy, adoptable dogs awaiting their best friend. Our Animal Services Facility is open to the public, Tuesday–Friday, 10 AM–6 PM; Saturdays, 10 AM–4 PM and is ready to help you find and adopt. For more information and to see pets ready to be adopted, visit www.princegeorgespets4us.com.

College Park Day 2024, Saturday,

October 5, 12-6 PM Join us at the College Park Aviation Museum and Airport for College Park Day 2024! This annual festival features 2 stages of live music and performances, food and beer, kids and game zones, helicopter fly-in, free museum entry, and family entertainment—all for free! Rain or shine. Free parking available nearby at the College Park-UMD metro garage and other nearby lots. More event details at collegeparkday.org. College Park Airport and Aviation Museum, 1985 Corporal Frank Scott Drive.



Coffee and a Classic, West Side Story, Wednesday, October 16, 1-4 PM All are welcome to the Library's Coffee and a Classic film series. This month it takes place at the Hyattsville branch. *West Side Story* is a musical set in the slums of the upper West Side of Manhattan where two rival gangs compete to "own" the neighborhood streets.



Hyattsville Library Independent Film Series, John Lewis: Good Trouble, Monday, October 21, 7-9 PM All are welcome for a screening and discussion about Georgia Representative John Lewis and his years of social activism and legislative action on civil rights, voting rights, gun control, health care reform, and immigration.



Jazz Jam at Busboys and Poets, Wednesday, October 30, 7:30 PM Clarice Presents' Jazz Jams, brings D.C.-based saxophonist Elijah Jamal Balbed to perform and lead a community-wide jam! Elijah's band will play a set starting at 7:30PM. Bring your instrument! After enjoying their set, you'll have a chance to call a tune. Participation in our jazz jams is free but not obligatory!

College Park Arts Exchange

All events take place at the Old Parish House, 4711 Knox Road, College Park, unless otherwise noted. Learn more about CPAAE 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/.

Arts Workshops with Mary Ann Lipovsky, Saturday, October 19, 1-4 PM abstract self-portrait on charcoal paper with oil pastels; bring a photo of yourself and incorporate favorite flowers or other images with personal meaning. RSVP. \$10 material fee.

Belly Dancing Concert, Saturday, October 19, 7:30 PM Free.

Spooky Kid Disco, Saturday, October 26, 2-4 PM Free. Costumes welcome!

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

PUBLIC WORKS

Fall Seasonal information



CURBSIDE LEAF VACUUMING

November 4, 2024 - January 10, 2025

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



Bag Your Leaves

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

TRASH/BULK TRASH/ BULK METAL RECYCLING COLLECTION

- Trash, bulk trash and bulk metal recycling is collected every **Tuesday**.
- Trash should be placed in Town-provided carts. Please secure lids to prevent littering and attracting wild animals and birds.
- Residents must bring all trash and recycling to the curb for pick up before 7:00 a.m. unless they have already arranged for side or back door service.
- Residents should complete the bulk trash request form found on the Public Works- Trash/Bulk Trash page of the website.
- **Mattresses & box springs must be bagged.**
- Bulk metal items include appliances, grills, mowers and smaller household items.
- Bulk metal items should be separated from other trash items so they can be recycled.

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



SHADE & UNDERSTORY TREE REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM

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

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

Nesting & Overwintering Habitat

FOR POLLINATORS & OTHER BENEFICIAL INSECTS

STEPS TO CREATE NESTING & OVERWINTERING HABITAT:

- ✂️ SAVE THE STEMS
- 🍃 LEAVE THE LEAVES
- 🌿 REDEFINE THE "PERFECT" LAWN
- 🌱 RETHINK HOW YOU USE MULCH
- 🪵 SAVE A SNAG AND "PLANT" A LOG
- 🌿 BUILD A BRUSH PILE
- 🪨 BUILD A ROCK PILE OR ROCK WALL
- 💧 PROVIDE A SAFE WATER SOURCE
- 📍 INSTALL A HABITAT SIGN



FIGURE 1: By selecting native plants and managing habitat purposefully, even small wildflower plots (left) can provide high-quality overwintering habitat for pollinators and beneficial insects, like these small carpenter bees hibernating in a pithy stem (right).

Moving Beyond Flowers

While flowering plants provide pollinators with food, insects also require suitable shelter for nesting and overwintering. Most bees and wasps create small nests beneath the soil or within dead plant stems or cavities in wood. Other beneficial insects such as butterflies, wasps, moths, fireflies, lady beetles, and ground beetles seek shelter in places that offer protection from predators and the elements, such as leaf litter and brush piles.

The More, The Better

The primary habitat features used by pollinators and other insects for shelter include stems and branches of trees, shrubs, and wildflowers; leaf litter; undisturbed ground; bare ground; dead wood; brush piles; and rock piles. Retaining and incorporating as many of these features as possible into your landscape (rather than "cleaning" them away) will help attract and support a diversity of bees and other beneficial insects.

Why Natural Is Best

The availability of nesting and overwintering habitat is one of the most important factors influencing populations of native bees and other beneficial insects. Yet, traditional

landscaping practices rarely leave enough natural resources to support pollinators and other wildlife. This guide focuses on a variety of natural nesting habitat features that can be readily incorporated into most landscapes. Compared to artificial nesting options such as bee blocks and bee hotels, natural nesting habitat features often better mimic the natural nest site density of insects, and also break down naturally with time, limiting disease and parasite issues. Moreover, natural nesting features often provide multiple conservation benefits. An appropriately managed wildflower planting, for example, can provide nesting sites, pollen, and nectar for bees; host plants and overwintering habitat for butterflies; and abundant food for songbirds.

Our **Bring Back the Pollinators** campaign is based on four principles:

1. **Grow** a variety of pollinator-friendly flowers;
2. **Protect and provide** bee nest sites and caterpillar host plants;
3. **Avoid** using pesticides, especially insecticides; and
4. **Spread** the word!

You can participate by taking the **Pollinator Protection Pledge** and registering your habitat on our nationwide map at:

www.bringbackthepollinators.org.





FIGURE 5: Fallen leaves (A) have all the properties and benefits of wood mulch (moisture retention and weed control) *and* are vital resources for overwintering pollinators and beneficial insects, like red-banded hairstreak (B, *Calycopis cecrops*) larvae and bumble bee (C, *Bombus* sp.) queens.

2 Leave the Leaves

In cold climates, the vast majority of butterflies and moths use leaf litter for winter protection of eggs, caterpillars, chrysalises, or adults. For example, great spangled fritillary (*Speyeria cybele*) and woolly bear (Arctiini) caterpillars tuck themselves into a pile of leaves for protection from cold weather and predators. Red-banded hairstreaks (*Calycopis cecrops*) lay their eggs on fallen oak (*Quercus* spp.) leaves, which become the first food of the caterpillars when they emerge. Luna moths (*Actias luna*) encase their cocoons in leaves and the chrysalises of swallowtail butterflies (*Papilio* spp.) resemble dried leaves, blending in with the real leaves. Some overwintering queen bumble bees (*Bombus* spp.) also rely on leaf litter for protection. At the end of summer, the mated queens burrow an inch or two into the earth to hibernate; an extra thick layer of leaves is welcome additional protection from the elements. In addition to these pollinators, there are many, many other animals that live or overwinter in leaves: lace bugs, snails, worms, beetles, millipedes, mites, spiders, and more—which in turn support the chipmunks, turtles, birds, and amphibians that rely on these invertebrates for food. Leaves also help plants weather spring freeze-thaw cycles by providing additional insulation to their root systems.

ACTIONS:

- ✿ Leave a thin layer of leaves on any lawn areas. While a couple of inches or more could smother the turf, research has shown that a thin layer of leaves actually benefits lawns, since decomposing leaves provide organic matter and nutrients to help lawns grow.
- ✿ If leaving leaves on your lawn isn't an option, rake them up and spread them over vegetable or flower beds, where they will help to build soil and provide habitat.
- ✿ Pile leaves around ornamental trees, shrubs, and perennials for mulch. Fallen leaves have the same weed suppression and moisture retention properties of shredded wood mulch—and they're free!
- ✿ Consider reducing your overall lawn footprint, replacing it instead with wildlife supporting plantings that can be future repositories for fall leaves. Leaves, along with cardboard and other compostable materials, can also be used to smother existing grass when converting lawn areas to habitat.
- ✿ When moving leaves, opt for raking or using a leaf vacuum to capture whole leaves, rather than shredding them with a mower.
- ✿ While the idea is to "leave the leaves" permanently—if you do decide to remove some of the leaves in spring, make sure you wait until late spring to increase the chances of successful emergence by butterflies, queen bumble bees, and other overwintering animals.



FIGURE 6: Join the Xerces Society's social media campaign to "leave the leaves" by using the hashtag #leavetheleaves.

October 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Town committees meet regularly, please check the town website for current details.		1 Trash, Bulk Trash	2	3	4 Recycling	5
6	7 UP Woman's Club, 11:30 AM Town Council, 7:30 Yard Waste & Compost	8 Trash, Bulk Trash	9	10	11 Recycling	12 Ivy League, 9-11
13	14 Town Holiday	15 Trash, Bulk Trash	16 Yard Waste & Compost	17	18 Recycling	19 Electronics, Tire, Paint & EPS Recycling and Paper Shredding, 9 AM-Noon Meadow Work Day, 10 AM-12 PM
20	21 Town Council, 7:30 Yard Waste & Compost	22 Trash, Bulk Trash	23	24	25 Recycling	26 Community Tree Planting, 9 AM
27	28 Yard Waste & Compost	29 Trash, Bulk Trash	30	31 Halloween activities 6-8:30 PM		



TOWN OF UNIVERSITY PARK
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 Cell Phone 240-688-9534
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 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 301-277-0050b&wa acorn
 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

NEWSLETTER

The November newsletter deadline is Sunday, October 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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