

UNIVERSITY PARK NEWSLETTER

TOWN OF UNIVERSITY PARK, MARYLAND

DECEMBER 2024

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

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MAYOR'S COLUMN

Recent Town events have affirmed my affection for our unique community. Not long ago, I attended my first Chili Cookoff and wondered what took me so long! On a crisp Sunday afternoon, nearly 200 residents sampled more than 20 chili recipes in several categories. The spirit of community was remarkable, and I'll be there in the future.

Our Veterans Day commemoration was well-attended by veterans, from ages 40 to 90 years, and supporters. A mounted unit from the Maryland-National Capital Park Police stood by as a Navy JROTC color guard from Northwestern High School opened the ceremony by presenting the American and Maryland flags as the national anthem played. Jack Pinney (USA, Ret.) and Mike Donnelly (USAF, Ret.), both from Ward 3, shared reflections on their service. Our Police Department and Department of Public Works ensured everything was in place

and ready. The University Park Civic Association (UPCA) provided coffee, donuts, and apple pies. I left the event buoyed with gratitude for the men and women who voluntarily risked their lives to protect our Nation and its interests.

The Town's annual Christmas Tree Lighting is Saturday, December 7 at 6:00 p.m. at Henson Green on Queens Chapel Road. We're expecting a special visitor from the North Pole! Residents are encouraged to celebrate the winter holiday season with their neighbors. UPCA will provide holiday refreshments.



These events exemplify the character and spirit of University Park. In a world that may be less civil than in the

Town Meetings & Special Dates

Town Council December 2

Town Holidays December 25 & January 1

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

Contents

3 From the Interim Chief

4 Town News

6 Highlights of October 7 & 14, November 4
 Town Council Meetings

11 Town News & Events

12 Community Calendar

14 DPW Fall & Winter Operations

FROM THE MAYOR CONT.

past, we remain a friendly, tolerant community. We celebrate our shared values at Town events like the Fourth of July, National Night Out, and Arts in the Park. When people walk or cycle around our clean, tree-lined streets, enjoying the pleasant surroundings and conversations with neighbors, our strengths are evident. We may not always agree with each other, but we treat each other with respect and compassion.

My job, and the job of your elected Councilmembers, is to provide stability and safety, against a backdrop of fluctuating national politics.

The recent presidential election has potential ramifications for our state and region. Maryland is home to 140,000 Federal employees, plus thousands of contractors, who use their skills and expertise to serve Americans. Many are apprehensive about what the future holds. As we navigate challenges that may come, let us not forget who we are and that we are in this together.

I encourage residents to read former Mayor Len Carey's [December 2016 newsletter column](#) which speaks poignantly about civility.

I recognize that not everyone in town feels the same way about the results of the election. I have voted in 10 presidential elections since I turned 18. In half of them, my candidate won; in half of them, they did not. I have voted for candidates from both major political parties and once cast a "protest vote" for a minor party's candidate. I understand how it feels in both scenarios, but always find myself returning to our country's foundational ideals of equality, liberty, and democracy.

Please know that your elected municipal officials keep your interests foremost in our minds. We govern in a non-partisan way and strive to use your tax dollars wisely. I feel honored to be your mayor.

Warmly,

Laurie K. Morrissey

Holiday Fund

Please consider contributing to the University Park Holiday Funds for Town employees. These funds offer a way for residents to express their appreciation for the exemplary work done by the Town's dedicated employees throughout the year. We are very fortunate that much of our staff has been with the Town for many years, some



longer than 20 years. The winter holidays afford a chance for residents to show their appreciation for the continued conscientious service to our community given by these very dedicated Town employees through foul or fair weather.

To contribute, checks should be made payable to "Town of University Park" and noted in the memo line on your check, "Holiday Funds". You may also indicate whether your contributions are intended for Public Works, Police Department and/or General Administrative Staff and the respective amount you wish to donate to each. Contributions should be mailed or dropped off in the mail slot at Town Hall by Monday, December 16.

Notice of Introduction of Ordinance 24-O-09

On November 4, 2024, Ordinance 24-O-09 was introduced. This ordinance would amend the Personnel Manual, by repealing and re-enacting various sections to recognize the recently adopted powers and duties of the Town Administrator, to make conforming changes, and to generally update to reflect current law. The meeting set for December 2, 2024, is the first meeting at which the ordinance could be adopted. For more information or a copy of the proposed ordinance, call Town Hall at 301-927-4262.

Notice of Introduction of Ordinance 24-O-10

On November 4, 2024, Ordinance 24-O-10 was introduced. This ordinance would amend the FY 2025 Budget Ordinance, Legislative Resolution 24-O-04, to transfer \$10,000 from the Police and Public Safety Budget Line Item P1, "Salaries", to the General Government Budget Line Item G20, "General Office Expenses", to fund the purchase of office furniture for the Mayor and Town Administrator's office. The meeting set for December 2, 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.

FROM THE INTERIM CHIEF

Happy Holidays, University Park!

The most wonderful time of the year is here, and we're excited to celebrate the season with you! Amidst the lights, laughter and holiday cheer, safety is always in style. Whether you're shopping for the perfect gifts, heading out of town or enjoying festivities close to home, a few mindful tips can make all the difference in ensuring a joyful and secure holiday season. Here are some reminders to help you and your family stay secure while shopping, traveling and celebrating.

Holiday Shopping Safety Tips

- Be aware of your surroundings. Keep your purse, wallet and personal items close to you, especially in crowded areas.
- Avoid using your phone while walking to and from your car. Staying alert helps prevent incidents.
- Park in well-lit areas, close to the store entrance whenever possible, and lock your car.
- Avoid keeping valuables in your car, and if necessary, make sure they are out of sight, like in the trunk, to deter theft.
- Stick to familiar websites, use strong passwords and avoid public wi-fi for purchases.



Protect Yourself from Fraud and Scams

- Scammers may send fake order confirmations or urgent payment requests. Verify directly with companies if you receive anything suspicious.
- Be cautious if someone requests payment in gift cards—this is often a red flag for fraud.
- Don't share personal information over the phone. Report suspicious calls to local authorities.

Protect Your Home from Break-Ins

- Install motion-activated lights around entry points and consider using timers for indoor lights to give the appearance of someone being home.

- Double-check that all doors and windows are securely locked before leaving home, even for short trips.
- A security system can be a powerful deterrent. Take advantage of our \$100 rebate program for residents who install approved security equipment costing \$150 or more.
- Avoid leaving valuable items in plain view from windows or doors.
- If you'll be away for an extended period, request a hold on your mail and packages to prevent pileups that may alert burglars.
- If you are mailing items, especially valuables, please take all mail directly to the post office.

Prevent Vehicle Thefts

- Even if you're stepping away briefly, always lock your car and take your keys with you.
- During colder months, it's tempting to warm up your car before leaving, but leaving it unattended makes it a target for thieves.
- Use well-lit or secure parking lots and avoid isolated areas if possible.

Secure Your Holiday Package Deliveries

- If you're ordering through Amazon and won't be home, consider using an Amazon locker location for secure pickup.
- If you know when a package is scheduled to arrive and won't be home, ask a trusted neighbor to pick it up and keep it safe until you return.
- When possible, request packages be placed in a discreet location out of plain view, like behind a planter or near a side door.
- Many services now offer secure delivery options to prevent theft.

Going Out of Town?

Take Advantage of Our House Check Program

- Planning to travel this holiday season? Our House Check Program provides peace of mind while you're away. Officers will conduct periodic checks on your property to help ensure it stays secure. Just submit our house watch request form at upmd.org/FormCenter/Police-5/House-Watch-Request-Form-44. Provide any instructions, such as gardener or pet-sitter visits, so we can coordinate accordingly.

FROM THE CHIEF

Thank you for being vigilant and helping us keep University Park safe this holiday season. Please don't hesitate to reach out to the University Park Police Department at 301-277-0050 for any questions or assistance. To report suspicious activities or for non-emergencies, call 301-352-1200. For emergencies, dial 911. Stay safe, enjoy the season and let's all look forward to a wonderful New Year ahead!

October Crime Report

Vandalism to Vehicle On Friday October 4 at approximately 10:48 AM, an officer responded to a vandalism report in the 6500 block of 40th Avenue. The owner of a white Kia discovered that an unknown individual had shattered a window and damaged the steering wheel column. The vehicle was last seen in good condition about an hour before the incident, with all doors locked.

Stolen Vehicle On Sunday October 6 at approximately 11:22 AM, an officer responded to a stolen vehicle report in the 6500 block of 41st Avenue. The victim last saw the vehicle parked on October 5 at around 8:30 PM. The next morning, the victim noticed it was missing, with shattered glass on the ground where it had been parked. A neighbor reported hearing a noise around 11:35 PM on October 5 and saw two males running toward a vehicle resembling the victim's.

Theft from Auto On Friday October 11 at approximately 9:41 AM, an officer received a report of theft from a vehicle in the 3900 block of Beechwood Road. The owner of a 2020 Honda found the front driver's side window smashed and the steering wheel airbag stolen. The vehicle was last seen undamaged at 12:01 AM that day. The damage was discovered at 7:30 AM, and the vehicle's doors were locked at the time of the theft.

Breaking and Entering On Monday October 14 at approximately 5:45 PM, officers responded to a breaking and entering report in the 7000 block of 40th Avenue. A homeowner, whose property was under renovation, found a woman inside his home without authorization. Entry was gained by breaking a rear glass door. The woman claimed she had been living there for two weeks but could not provide proof of ownership. She was taken into custody and transported to the Department of Corrections for processing.

Vehicle Tampering On Tuesday October 15 at approximately 3:04 PM, officers were dispatched to a vandalism report in the 4000 block of Beechwood Road. The victim reported that an unknown suspect entered the vehicle and went through belongings but did not take anything. The victim last observed the vehicle in good condi-

TOWN NEWS

tion at 10:00 PM on October 14. At 7:00 AM the next morning, they found the armrest, glove box and fuse box open.

Christmas Tree Lighting

Please join us for the Town's Annual holiday tree lighting scheduled for Saturday, December 7 at 6 p.m., located at Henson Green (intersection of Sheridan Street and Queens Chapel Road). Santa is planning to visit with the help of the Hyattsville Volunteer Fire Department. You will not want to miss out on this annual tradition to kick off your holiday season.

EV Charging Permit Info

Effective January 5, 2025, permits will be required to charge vehicles at the EV charging stations located at 6501 Queens Chapel Rd. Annual passes will be available for University Park residents, and daily passes will be available for the public.

- The link for the EV Permit form can be found at www.upmd.org/EVPermit. Please note the link won't be active until January 5, 2025.
- Resident Annual Permit Fee: \$500 (with a \$400 waiver available), subject to change.
- Public Daily Permit Fee: \$10 per day (subject to change)

Email townhall@upmd.org for more information.

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 multitask. To read the full job description, please go to www.upmd.org. Those interested, please send your resume to dsandlin@upmd.org.

Tree Committee News

Few life forms can reach their end without encountering "the whips and scorns of time." It is no mistake that gravity carries two meanings: 1) a fundamental law of nature; 2) extreme seriousness. As we age, we all slowly fall back to earth—be we mammal or tree. Now we approach the solstice; many of us will visit Henson Green and note UP's holiday tree—a battered Norway spruce



with her torn and scruffy top, still dancing in the wind after 60-70 years, wrapped in lights, supporting wildlife while uplifting the spirits of University Park.

The best gift you can give this holiday season is the planting of a tree. The best time to plant a tree extends to about December 10. It's not too late to do so and you can do it for free by taking advantage of the town's tree reimbursement opportunities, at upmd.org/194/Trees-Parks-Environment-Committee. Please spend a few hours early this month to purchase and plant any tree found on our list of understory and shade trees. It will be perhaps the most enduring gift that you will deed to future residents of University Park.

I have served as Chair of the Committee for Trees, Parks, and Environment since 2013 and am very proud of the committee members—past, present, and future—that strive to improve the environment of this one square mile of urban forest. I will now join the ranks and happily serve under the new Chair starting in January.

Helping Hands University Park



Helping Hands UP Member Testimonial (Ok, I'm the HHUP chairperson but I'm also a member!): I have been a volunteer and member of HHUP for more than five years but had

never used the volunteer services for myself. I'm "older" so it should be alright, right? Recently, I had a minor medical procedure that made me housebound for a few days, but I had to get some materials from my house to Church of the Brethren. I thought, "I'll make an HHUP volunteer request," and then I thought "No! I can do this myself." After much internal arguing, I made myself post the request for help and was delighted with how many volunteers wanted to assist me. I know that it's hard for our members to ask for help but now, having

gone through the struggle myself, I understand the reluctance to ask for help a lot better. But now I also have a good feel for how our volunteers really want to be involved with their neighbors in the community. It's a win-win!

HHUP Calendar

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

Executive Committee Meeting, TBD Note: Christmas falls on our regular meeting day. Check our website for December committee meeting info.

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/

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

From the Dept. of Public Works

Christmas trees will be collected every Monday from December 26 through March 31. Please be sure trees are fully unadorned.



Incorrectly Parked VeoRide Scooters/Bikes

Having you spotted an incorrectly parked VeoRide scooter or bike? Contact VeoRide at hello@veoride.com in the VeoRide app, or call 855-836-2256 to report problems. This information is on each scooter so anyone who sees one parked improperly can easily report it.



TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

October 7 Council Meeting Highlights

Present via video and audio conference were Mayor Morrissey; Councilmembers Dubayah, Gathercole, Morgan, McGaughey, Godfrey, Sweet. Absent: Kelby. Staff present: Town Administrator Debi Sandlin; Town Attorney Suellen Ferguson; Town Clerk TC Hegeman; Town Treasurer Dan Baden.

Public Comment

- A resident noted traffic on Pineway increased dramatically after school started. He added that the speed bumps installed have not controlled the traffic volume. He asked why the town does not utilize speed bumps similar to those in College Park and Riverdale Park.
- A representative of NGage Properties Group made comments regarding NGage's request for parking restrictions on the 4200 block of Sheridan Street. The mayor advised the speaker and any resident on the call, the issue will be open for discussion when the item is addressed on the meeting agenda.

Mayor, Council, and Committee Comments and Reports

Mayor's Report Mayor Morrissey attended the Arts in the Park on Saturday, and it was enjoyable. She also stated the Council was closer than any other council has ever been in getting a plan on the books for consideration of the town hall renovation.

Public Facilities Services Committee The committee met with Frederick Ward Associates, the Town Hall Redevelopment Plan architect, and reported that they have reached a point where they can make an actual plan for a town hall. Whether the plan is affordable remains to be determined, but CM Morgan believes good progress has been made and is waiting to receive feedback.

Sustainability Committee The committee met October 1 and discussed the contours of the park. The committee stressed the park plan should focus on habitat diversity and promoting some limited kinds of recreation, stormwater, etc. The Town Administrator is working on an RFP. They also discussed light pollution and the Keep Maryland Beautiful Grant and Sustainable Maryland Grant. The committee is working on a meadow care/restoration policy.

Police, Traffic, and Public Safety Committee The committee recently met and received an update from Captain Graddy that the 911 duty cell phone was up and running. The

committee said Captain Graddy confirmed she would contact the county about the process for noise abatement cameras. The committee recommended that the Town and the Council should move forward with stop sign cameras. The committee wanted to make a motion to include in the next meeting agenda an introduction of an ordinance for a monitoring system for stop signs. CM Gathercole thanked all the people who helped make Arts in the Park a success.

Policy, Rules, and Municipal Structure Committee The committee met late September to set its new schedule and discussed a work plan/agenda for the coming year. A motion was in the meeting packet that covered what the committee discussed.

Motion: To authorize the Policy, Rules, and Municipal Structure Committee to take up the following during the 2024-25 Council year: recommending charter amendments as needed for Council discussion, developing rules and procedures for handling Council business to include clarifying procedures, related to town committee, monitoring the implementation of the gas-powered leaf blower ban, developing a privacy policy to clarify what data we collected and what to do about it, and look at the meadow policy once it is more fleshed out. Motion carried unanimously.

Trees, Parks, and Environment Committee Chris Aubry, Chair of the Trees, Parks, and Environment Committee presented the 2023 annual report. CM Godfrey noted that the Committee recommended a ban on dyed or artificial mulch on Town property and Town right-of-way and asked the Council to discuss. Currently, there are not any fines attached to doing something in the rights of way without permission; the Town could always remove anything that is in the right of way because land belongs to the Town.

Motion: To prohibit the use of dyed or artificial mulch on the Town's property and rights of way. Motion carried unanimously.

Amended Motion: To prohibit the Town's use including by people we permit of dyed or artificial mulch on Town property, including the right of way, and to task the Tree Committee to develop some educational options for outreach to residents on why they should not use it. Motion carried unanimously.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Presentation by Ethan Sweep

Mr. Sweep from Congressman Glen Ivey's office presented information to the Council about the Service Academy Nomination application process, programs and upcoming events.

Continuing Business

Motion: *To consider the restricted parking request in the 4200 block of Sheridan Street.* Zach Gilreath of NGage Properties Group spoke on NGage's request for parking restrictions on the 4200 block of Sheridan Street. He noted that NGage was currently working on renovating a single-family residence at 4207 Sheridan Street.

The Council noted that this restricted parking request was previously approved subject to proof that residents were notified of the request. The Council and residents discussed the request. A resident confirmed the first flyer from NGage Properties lacked information about the restricted parking request. Several residents on Sheridan Street expressed their concerns with the restricted parking request and the lengthy timeframe of the request.

Motion: *The applicant be allowed to institute Emergency No Parking during construction hours for 48 linear feet across from 4207 Sheridan Street with one-week advance email notice and 24 hours advance posting of signage; no more than twice a week from October 28 through November 25, 2024, Monday through Friday.* Motion carried 5-0, with a recusal from CM Dubayah.

Motion: *To adopt the final FY24 budget transfers.* Motion carried unanimously.

Motion: *To adopt Legislative Resolution 24-O-06, Electric Vehicle Charger Permit System.*

Amended Motion: *Add to ordinance to allow 90 days before implementation of the program to give staff time to set the program up and have the policies in place, ordering and disseminating decals and placards as well as a tracking system as well as launch an information campaign.* Motion carried unanimously

Motion: *To adopt Legislative Resolution 24-O-07, Amendment to § 9-104 to Change Student Loading Zone Hours.* Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

- TC Hegeman summarized her report regarding Auto-agent, an online payment platform that was included in the meeting package.
- The mayor noted that interest was expressed by the Town in helping coordinate Veterans Day activities and that a speaker was lined up for the event. The mayor encouraged attendance.

The meeting adjourned by consent at 9:27 PM.

October 21 Council Meeting Highlights

Present via video and audio conference were Mayor Morrissey; Councilmembers Dubayah, Gathercole, Kelby, Morgan, McGaughey, Godfrey, Sweet. Staff present: Town Administrator Debi Sandlin; Town Attorney Suelen Ferguson; Town Clerk TC Hegeman; Director of Public Works Michael Beall; Interim Chief of Police Shameka Graddy; Town Treasurer Dan Baden.

Public Comment

- A resident spoke about ongoing traffic issues on Pineway emphasizing the increase in traffic volume despite recent measures. The resident also noted a significant increase in traffic over the past year, exacerbated by nearby development projects. The resident also commended the Town police for their efforts in providing temporary relief.
- A resident expressed his support for the stop sign monitoring ordinance and encouraged the Council to pursue additional traffic calming and enforcement measures. He appreciated the Council's actions, such as lowering speed limits and improving crossings, and urged them to keep pushing for more improvements.
- A resident of Pineway discussed the historical traffic issues on Queen's Chapel Road that divided the community and how measures taken then benefited the greater community despite inconveniencing Pineway residents. He urged the Council to adopt similar community-minded measures for current traffic issues, such as restricting entry to Pineway at certain times or making it one-way to distribute the traffic burden more equally.
- A resident of Pineway expressed concerns about traffic chaos, speeding and safety risks, especially for children. The presence of police has helped but is not a complete solution. The resident highlighted a recent traffic collision requiring medical attention and urged further action to prevent potential fatalities.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor, Council, and Committee Comments and Reports

Mayor's Report Attended the lovely HHUP event yesterday. Mayor Morrissey invited everyone to attend University Park Night, this Friday from 7-9 at the tennis center on Campus Drive, featuring Halloween-themed activities and discounts on tennis lessons. Spoke about the community tree planting on Saturday in Ward 6.

Police, Traffic and Public Safety Committee Provided a brief report on the Helping Hands annual party, which was praised for its success. CM Kelby has launched the new website. CM Gathercole addressed concerns about increasing traffic violations, particularly stop sign runners and speeders, and assured residents that measures are being taken to address these issues. She stated her appreciation for residents voicing their concerns.

Sustainability Committee Reported the Sustainability Committee meeting has been rescheduled from November 5 to November 12, 2024, due to an unavoidable conflict. Additionally, Mary Sue Twohy was invited to discuss the successful seed-planting event that took place over the weekend. Mary Sue shared that volunteers worked on a meadow project to remove invasive species and plant drought-resistant seeds, aiming to adapt to drier conditions. This long-term initiative involves surveying University Park's private properties to assess drought impacts and track changes. The PG Audubon Society has noted significant damage to certain plants, such as the arborvitae tree. The deadline for the drought impact survey has been extended to the end of October 2024.

Public Facilities Services Committee Reported the committee met on October 17, 2024, to discuss the town hall redevelopment plan. The meeting, attended by the town administrator, mayor, public works director, and town

attorney, was productive, and progress is being made. The committee plans to present its findings to the public soon. They will meet again on October 28, 2024.

Policy, Rules, and Municipal Structure Committee The committee has not decided on a new date for its meeting. It was considering whether to push everything to the next month or set a different date, taking into account the upcoming holidays and potential scheduling conflicts.

Tree, Parks, and Environment Committee The committee has recommended Karen Burghardt as the next chair starting in 2025, as Chris Aubry stepped down after nearly a decade. Discussions included mulch volcanoes and notable trees, with more updates to follow. Additionally, there is a community tree planting event scheduled for October 26, 2024, in Ward 6, around College Heights.

New Business

Motion: To authorize a local beer brewer to sell beer in conjunction with the Chili Cook-off on Sunday, November 10, 2024, from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. upon proof of authorization by the Prince George's County Board of License Commissioners and adequate liability insurance, and to waive any applicable fees. Motion carried unanimously. CM Gathercole wanted to state, the truck will not be on the cul-de-sac on Tennyson Road for the safety of residents. The truck will be on Queens Chapel Road.

Motion: To approve the Stop Sign Camera Monitoring Ordinance LR 4-O-08. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion: To approve the drafting of an ordinance to transfer funds between the Police Department's budget line item P1 and the General Government's G20 general office expenses. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion of Personnel Manual Revisions

The personnel manual was being revised to align with a recent charter amendment and new state laws, and copies of the proposed revisions were distributed for review. The charter amendment specifically authorizes the position of town administrator, assigning certain powers and duties, and necessitating changes to the personnel manual to reflect this new role. Updates included changing references from the "Law Enforcement Officer's Bill of



UP Helping Paws

Please make sure dogs use the right of way, avoiding private front lawn property. Pick up after your dog and dispose of waste in public trash cans or your own trash can. Please sign up your animal(s) in the UP Pet database at <https://tinyurl.com/UPPet>. This database is for University Park residents. Committee members can view the information to help reunite lost pets with their owners.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Rights" to the "Police Accountability and Discipline Act" and incorporating new state-mandated personal leave policies.

Changes would address compensation and retirement contributions for the mayor and town administrator, who must now be referenced as employees for specific purposes. However, most manual provisions do not apply to them. The revisions would clarify the delegation of duties, specifying when the town administrator or the mayor's designee should be responsible for certain tasks, while some decisions remain under consideration. The Council was not required to make an immediate decision; the revisions will be presented with an ordinance next month for formal review and potential adoption.

Department Reports

Each department report was attached to the meeting package for the Council to review.

Town Treasurer Dan Baden presented the report covering the first three months of the fiscal year. The largest portion of revenues comes from real property tax, with significant collections expected in October 2024. Income taxes and highway users' revenue were expected to increase later in the year. Expenditures are generally within the expected range, with some larger payments made upfront for insurance and memberships. The police department has vacancies, leading to lower salary expenditures. Public Works was mostly fully staffed, with some savings in salaries. Debt service payments have been made as scheduled.

Motion: To adjourn the open session and to go into closed session, Mayor and Council to discuss personnel matters, the Council will not return to open session.
Motion carried unanimously.

Open session adjourned at 8:42 PM.

November 4 Council Meeting Highlights

Present via video and audio conference were Mayor Morrissey; Councilmembers Gathercole, Kelby, McGaughey, Godfrey, Sweet. Excused: Dubayah, Morgan. Staff present: Town Administrator Debi Sandlin; Town Attorney Suellen Ferguson; Town Clerk TC Hegeman; Director of Public Works Michael Beall; Town Treasurer Dan Baden.

Public Comment

- A resident reported a problem with the sidewalk in front of 4316 Tuckerman. The sidewalk has been forced up by a couple of inches, creating a hazard for pedestrians.
- The residents at 4207 Sheridan discussed issues related to a parking permit. Their general contractor's attorney attended the meeting and conveyed the Council's decisions, which the residents found unsatisfactory. They argue that the proposed restrictions on parking were not enforceable and would extend their project timeline and increase costs. They requested the Council to reconsider their decision and allow the same permit conditions as before.
- A representative for NGage construction company stated there had been several instances of miscommunication, leading to confusion and concern among the new neighbors. She emphasized that the original request for sign placement has remained consistent and was inaccurately represented in recent statements. She also pointed out that the lack of a written, enforceable process for signing permits has complicated the situation.
- Suellen Ferguson, Town Attorney addressed the permit issue discussed in two Council meetings, emphasizing the need for the contractor to propose alternatives if the current plan is not acceptable. The request for an enforceable no parking town sign that is enforced by the police department is a realistic request and that can be done.
- A resident spoke about the written evidence he provided Council regarding the alleged inaccuracies as stated by NGage construction company; three families were present at the previous meeting. He asked that residents be notified if this comes before council again.

Mayor, Council, and Committee Comments and Reports

Mayor's Report Invited everyone to the Veterans Day commemoration on November 11, 2024, at 11:00 a.m., expressing confidence that attendees would be pleased with the event.

Police, Traffic, and Public Safety Committee The committee will not meet this Wednesday, November 6 but will meet November 13 at 7:30 p.m.

Tree, Parks, and Environment Committee The committee has decided to reschedule its meeting. The new time has

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

yet to be confirmed, but it will be announced once it is finalized.

CM Godfrey Thanked Mayor Morrissey for coming to the upcoming Meet & Greet on November 16 in Ward 6.

CM Kelby Announced that Mayor Morrissey will be visiting Ward 3 on November 17, 2024.

Continuing Business

Motion: *To adopt LR 24-O-07 to change the hours for enforcement of the Queens Chapel Road student loading zone from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.* Motion carried unanimously. The ordinance was revisited because it was not included in the Town newsletter. It was noted that the police department temporarily placed signs to protect drop-off areas without needing permanent signs.

Motion: *To adopt LR 24-O-08 to authorize the use of a stop sign monitoring system to enforce compliance with stop sign regulations.* Motion carried unanimously.

Motion: *To introduce Legislative Resolution 24-O-09, to recognize the recently adopted powers and duties of the Town Administrator, to make conforming changes, and to generally update to reflect current law and practice.* Motion carried unanimously. The Council discussed the personnel manual and proposed changes. Concerns were raised about the potential for a future town administrator to misuse their power, suggesting the need for checks and balances involving the mayor and Town Council.

Motion: *To amend the FY25 budget to transfer \$10,000 from the Police and Public Safety budget line item P1, "Salaries," to the General Government budget line item G20, "General Office Expenses," to fund the purchase of office furniture for the Mayor and Town Administrator's office.* Motion carried unanimously.

Motion: *To approve entering into an agreement with Alta CPA for interim financial assistance on substantially the term stated herein subject to entering into a contract approved by the town attorney.* Motion carried unanimously. The contract is modeled after previous auditor contracts and includes standard indemnification, insurance requirements, and termination clauses, with some flexibility for changes in particulars. This contract was an interim measure, expected to be less costly

OBITUARY

than current expenses, and will be funded from the general government salaries budget.

New Business

Motion: *To approve the 2025 Council meeting schedule as presented.* Motion carried unanimously.

Motion: *Move to adjourn the open session and go into closed session to discuss personnel matters and consult with counsel to obtain legal and will not return to open session.* Motion carried unanimously.

Open session adjourned at 8:34 PM.

OBITUARY

Longtime UP resident James "Jim" C. Fletcher passed away on Tuesday, October 14, 2024; he was 90. Jim was born on December 28, 1933, in Washington, DC. He moved with his parents to 4317 Woodberry in 1935. The family subsequently moved to 4100 Van Buren St. in 1952, the year Jim graduated from Northwestern High School. Following graduation, he served two years in the Naval Air Reserve at Naval Air Station Anacostia. In 1957, he and his high school sweetheart Joann married, moving in 1960 into 4100 Van Buren Street when his parents retired to Florida. The couple raised their children and lived there until December 2023, when they moved to Adamstown, MD.

Jim was a career Montgomery County firefighter. He was dedicated to his profession and was a life member of the College Park Volunteer Fire Department, where he served as Chief from 1961 to 1967. He was also an accomplished jack-of-all-trades helping everyone in his beloved town of University Park. A resident for 88 years, Jim served two terms on the Town Council, from 1982 to 1986. While in the Navy, he developed an interest in aviation and a love of flying, ultimately obtaining instrument and multi-engine ratings. His other recreational interests included hunting and boating.

He is survived by his devoted wife of sixty-seven years, Joann B. Fletcher; his children, Glenda L. Miller (Gene) and Robert J. Fletcher (Wendy); grandchildren Audrey Kennedy, Steven Alberstadt, and James Fletcher; and great grandchildren Wylder and Cassandra. Online condolences can be made on the Fort Lincoln Funeral Home and Cemetery website at dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/brentwood-md/james-fletcher-12032546.



2024 UPWC Holiday House Tour
Saturday, December 14, 3-7 PM

Please join us in participating in this cherished annual event. It is our most important fundraiser to support our scholarship program. You can purchase tickets (\$20 in advance, \$22 at the door) by calling Jean Pirovic, chair, at 301-520-8420 or by emailing jean.pirovic@LNF.com. Donations to the University Park Woman's Club are tax deductible.

The following residents will be showcasing their homes on this year's tour:

- The Jackson Residence - 4113 Woodberry St.
- The Moore Residence - 6408 Queens Chapel Rd.
- The Myer Residence - 6808 40th Ave.
- The Monroe Residence - 4103 Woodberry St.
- The Kilber Residence - 4212 Woodberry St.

2nd Saturday Lecture
Saturday, December 14, 4 PM

Our next lecture will be given by UP resident Robert Moss and his colleagues, Dr. Jeremy Perkins and Kate Fowee Gasawy, who work for the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center. Come and join us for a fascinating look at the research that is currently taking place in the American Space Program.

Bob has been a Mission Systems Engineer for over 20 Years. During his career he has delivered flight products for various Small Shuttle Payload Missions and satellites including Solar Dynamics Observatory, Global Precipitation Measurement, and the Laser Communications Relay Demonstration. Recently he worked on a series of CubeSats that were launched from the International Space Station. Jeremy is an astrophysicist who serves as the Observatory Integration and Test Scientist for the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope, NASA's next flag

ship observatory. He is the principal investigator of the BurstCube CubeSat. Kate's career at Goddard has focused on small satellite technology and missions. Her most recent work has been in integration, test, and operations of NASA's BurstCube mission and in autonomous navigation for small satellites. At University Park Church of the Brethren, 4413 Tuckerman.

After Eight Book Group
Tuesday, December 17, 8-10 PM

December's book is *The Lost Children* by Shirley Dickson. Our reading for January is *Remarkably Bright Creatures*, by Shelby Van Pelt. 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.



Girl Scout Troop Visit

Mayor Morrissey visited Girl Scout Troop 23031 (Brownies and Juniors) at their October 20 meeting to help scouts learn about local government roles and operations as part of their Democracy badge requirements. The scouts enjoyed hearing about council meetings, voting, trash and, of course, traffic! They had many questions for the mayor, who patiently and expertly answered each one. The scouts will continue their badge work with upcoming visits to the U.S. Capitol and Maryland's Statehouse.

TOWN NEWS & EVENTS



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.

You have many worthwhile charities to choose from, but please consider one within walking distance from your home on Adelphi Road. The St. Mark's Food Pantry has been in operation 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, children and anyone else in need.

We need your help to feed the poor and less fortunate. Sadly, our food lines are getting longer and the need is growing. Our neighbors simply need help. Please donate if you can. They depend on us, and we depend on you. 100 percent of funds donated will be used only to purchase food to those we serve and 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.

If you need help, our food pantry is open every Tuesday between 9:30 a.m. and 12 noon at the above address. All are welcome. Thank you for your unwavering support and kindness. It truly makes a big difference in our community.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR



UMD Festival of Lessons & Carols, Friday, December 6, 8-9:30 PM UMD Choral Activities rings in the holidays with its Festival of Lessons and Carols, a tradition now in its 23rd year. Choirs, brass quintet and organ combine to perform carols, hymns and spoken word that epitomize hope and bring the joy of the season to life. This event takes place at the UMD Memorial Chapel in College Park. For tickets call 301-405-2787 or visit: theclarice.umd.edu/events/2024/festival-of-lessons-carols-umd-choral-activities

Hyattsville Library Coffee and a Classic Film Series, Wednesday, December 11, 1-3 PM

Come and enjoy a screening of the 1952 musical *Singin' in the Rain*, consistently ranked among the 10 best movies ever made. Gene Kelly, Donald O'Connor and Debbie Reynolds star in this funny insider spoof about the film industry's uneasy transition from silent pictures to talkies. Hyattsville Library, 6530 Adelphi Road.



UMD Campus Club Holiday Luncheon, Wednesday, December 18, 12 PM

Please join the ladies of UMD Campus Club for their annual holiday luncheon, hosted by Mrs. Sylvia Pines at University House, located, 8150 Presidential Drive, College Park. Enjoy the holiday season in the President's home, complete with plated luncheon and a festive sing-along. Stay for the fun, get a tour of the house, and learn more about UMD Campus Club, an affiliate of the Big 10 Campus Clubs. Campus Club is open to emerita and active UMD faculty, staff or spouse, UMD alumnae or local UMD community members who are supporters of the University of Maryland community. To register for the luncheon, visit tinyurl.com/ccholiday24. Cost is \$35. Free parking is available at University House. We will be collecting nonperishable food items in support of the UMD Campus Food Pantry. Questions: umdcampusclub@gmail.com

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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/. Email info@cpae.org to suggest an event or if you know a teacher or artist interested in working with us!

Women's Circle Dance with Lisa Bardack, Saturday, December 7, 2-4 PM Enjoy traditional circle dancing from many different cultures, to celebrate the coming of winter! Your generous donation is appreciated.

Berwyn Ballet presents the Nutcracker, Saturday December 7, 5 PM The Berwyn Ballet School is excited to present its first annual production of The Nutcracker! Come and experience this unique portrayal of the beloved ballet inside the glorious Memorial Chapel. Admission is free and open to the public with a suggested minimum donation of \$25. Tickets and more info at berwynballetschool.com. At UMD Memorial Chapel.

Elves' Workshop, Saturday, December 14, 11 AM-4 PM Make handmade gifts including compact mirrors and fridge magnets, decoupage tins, tissue paper stained glass, earrings and bracelets, peg doll angels, weaving coasters from yarn, and more! Volunteer elves are welcome! At College Park Community Center, 5051 Pierce Avenue.

Tai Chi with Maureen Stone and Mark Grisar, Wednesdays, 10 AM Tai Chi is an ancient martial art consisting of slow and controlled movements, which improve balance, muscle tone and control, and encourage a meditative state of mind. This introductory class is practiced in a standing position wearing comfortable clothes, offered in conjunction with Age-Friendly College Park. Instructors Maureen Stone and Mark Grisar have been practicing Lao Yang Family Style Tai Chi for over 15 years. \$45 for 6-week session, or \$10 drop-in fee.



Soul Line Dancing with Karen Stewart, Fridays, 10 AM Join by Zoom for this fun and easy to follow dance class! No experience needed. Contact info@cpae.org for zoom link.

College Park Aviation Museum

Events take place at 1985 Corporal Frank Scott Dr., College Park, 301-864-6029

Santa Fly-In, Saturday, December 7, 10 AM-4 PM Santa makes his annual return for a fun day of holiday merriment with some changes and new activities. Make memories with crafts, activities, & festive refreshments. Advance registration required. \$7 resident; \$9 nonresident. Field of Firsts members are free but must register by emailing collegeparkaviation@pgparks.com

Schedule of Events

10-10:30 AM: The Nutcracker with Berwyn Ballet School

10:30 AM-3:30 PM: Activities & Crafts

11 AM: Santa fly-in (weather permitting)

11:30 AM-2:30 PM: Photos with Santa (Santa speaks English & Spanish; photo slot registration required)

3 PM: Santa fly-out (weather permitting)

Holiday Trains And Planes, Friday-Sunday, December 13-15, 10 AM-4 PM The National Capital Trackers invite you to experience the thrill of this annual tradition. Meet and greet train hobbyists and go back in time experiencing the sights and sounds of their festive train displays. Free with admission.

Cub Corner: All Aboard! Saturday, December 21, 10:30 AM Explore a variety of STEM and aviation-themed sciences with a short lesson and activity. Ideal for learners ages 3-6. This month: All aboard for Trains and Planes! Kids are invited to join us for a special reading of *The Polar Express* by Chris Van Allsburg, followed by a fun craft where they can make their very own paper conductor hats. No registration required. Free with admission.

Afternoon Aviators: Train Stations, Saturday, December 28, 1 PM Explore a variety of STEM and aviation-themed sciences with a short lesson and activity. Ideal for learners ages 8-12. This month: Did you know there is a train station near the College Park airport? Come learn about the history of the B&O Railroad and design your own version of the train station. No registration required. Free with admission.



Town of University Park



Curbside Leaf Vacuuming Continues Through January 10, 2025

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

After January 10 If you miss curbside leaf vacuuming, leaves will need to be collected into paper bags or a durable container and put at the curb. The county does not accept leaves in plastic bags. Leaves will be picked up on Mondays with yard waste.

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

Snow Plan

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

Snow Event Parking

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

Both Sides No Parking:

The Mews
Queens Chapel Rd—6400-6700 blocks

Creekside No Parking:

Wells Pkwy

Odd # Side No Parking:

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

Queens Chapel Rd—6300 block

Sheridan St

Tuckerman St

Tennyson Rd

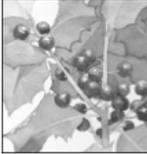
Underwood St--4000 thru 4300 blocks

Even # Side No Parking:

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

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

December 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 	2 Yard Waste & Compost Town Council, 7:30 PM	3 Trash, Bulk Trash	4	5	6 Recycling 	7 Christmas Tree Lighting, 6 PM, Henson Green
8	9 Yard Waste & Compost	10 Trash, Bulk Trash	11	12	13 Recycling 	14 UPWC Holiday House Tour, 3-7 PM 2nd Saturday Lecture, 4pm
15	16 Yard Waste & Compost	17 Trash, Bulk Trash After Eight Book Group, 8-10 PM	18 	19	20 Recycling	21
22	23 Yard Waste & Compost	24 Trash, Bulk Trash	25 Town Holiday	26 	27 Recycling	28
29	30 Yard Waste & Compost 	31 Trash, Bulk Trash	January 1 Town Holiday		Curbside Leaf Vacuuming until January 10, 2025	Town committees meet regularly, please check the town website for current details.



TOWN OF UNIVERSITY PARK
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TOWN DIRECTORY

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 Cell Phone 240-688-9534

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 Cell Phone 240-810-2177

Town Clerk TC Hegeman thegeman@upmd.org
 Public Works Dir. Mickey Beall mbeall@upmd.org
 Interim Chief Shameka Graddy sgraddy@upmd.org

Police

Emergency 911
 Non-Emergency 301-352-1200
 UP Police Department 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	443-718-0625
4	Nathaniel Morgan	301-850-4249
5	David McGaughey	301-664-4030
6	Grant Godfrey	202-486-2436
7	William Sweet	301-541-7642

NEWSLETTER

The January newsletter deadline is Friday, December 6. The *University Park Newsletter* is published monthly, except for a combined November issue. Newsletter submissions, questions and comments may be emailed to univparknews@gmail.com. The *Newsletter* publishes the milestones of current and former UP families (births, weddings, obituaries, graduations, awards, etc.) plus events of interest to residents. Political or commercial advertising is not accepted. Please send letters of opinion or Town suggestions to Town Hall. The *Newsletter* is online at www.upmd.org/newsletter.

Editors Todd Stewart & Bridget Warren
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