

UNIVERSITY PARK NEWSLETTER

TOWN OF UNIVERSITY PARK, MARYLAND
MARCH 2025 OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER VOL. L, NO. 3

MAYOR'S COLUMN

Town residents who are Federal employees, contractors, and Federal grant recipients have endured one of the most stressful months in years. Drastic and unexpected Federal funding cuts and employee terminations have upended our lives and our understanding of the U.S. Constitution's separation of powers. People are scared and hurting. Let us have patience and compassion for each other, even if we don't agree on everything. The Town will likely receive less Federal funding in the coming years, and our spending will remain careful and disciplined. Rest assured that your Federal, State, County, and local legislators care about you and have your back.

When this newsletter arrives in most residents' mailboxes on March 1, spring will be only 19 days away. Since the winter solstice in late December, our days have got-

ten incrementally longer. For gardeners like me, the transition from winter to spring is our favorite time of year: gardening renews our faith that better days are coming soon. But first, let's talk traffic.

Traffic control

I'm delighted to report that the Town Council voted unanimously on February 18 to approve a contract with engineering firm, A. Morton Thomas & Associates. They will provide recommendations to reduce the amount of cut-through traffic, speeding, and stop sign running in our Town. Their suggestions may include one-way streets, raised crosswalks, "bump outs," and other measures to make UP an unattractive cut-through route and a safer place for us to drive, walk, jog, and ride our bikes. Town residents will be able to review these recom-

Town Meetings & Special Dates

Town Council	March 3 & 17
County Executive Early Voting	February 26-March 3
Special Election	March 4

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 January 9 & 21 Town Council Meeting
9	Town News & Events
13	Recycling Event
14	Town Election Notice

FROM THE MAYOR CONT.

mendations and provide feedback for the Council to consider when allocating funds to this project.

Pollinator meadow

University Park’s Native Wildflower Pollinator Meadow, located next to Adelphi Road, covers .33 acres with dozens of native plants. It’s a treasure we can enjoy and invest some time in. Residents will have several opportunities during the months of March, April, and May to help sow seeds, remove invasive plants, and apply compost to the meadow.

I encourage you to sign up to volunteer for a meadow maintenance activity. Students can earn service hours for helping with meadow maintenance.

Mark your calendars for May 31 when the UP Sustainability Committee will host its fifth annual Meadow Day. Festivities will begin at 11:00 a.m. and will include free native plants, a “pollinator parade” with participants in costume, a selfie station with props, activities and information from groups like the Anacostia Watershed Society and local gardening groups, the Tree Committee, and an expert on mushrooms from the Mt. Rainier Nature Center. I look forward to this family-friendly event each year and hope to see you there.



Make a difference with composting

Since 2011, many residents have disposed of kitchen scraps by participating in the Town compost program. Currently, 425 homes participate in our compost program and we encourage more residents to sign up.

About 60 million tons of food are wasted each year in the United States, and in Maryland, an estimated 1.86 million tons of compostable materials and 927,926 tons of food waste are generated annually. The Prince George’s County landfill is the top producer of the potent greenhouse gas, methane, in the entire state of Maryland. Nearly 24% of the garbage landfilled in Prince George’s County is food waste that could have been composted.



In July, the tipping fees (or drop off fees) at the County landfill will increase to \$85 per ton from the current rate of \$70, while the fees for compost drop off remain low (\$25/ton). Diverting your kitchen waste from the landfill to the County composting facility reduces the Town’s cost for this service. In fiscal year 2024, our public works department picked up 596 tons of trash, 291 tons of recycling, 378 tons of yard waste (including compost), and 331 tons of leaves. If we can decrease the amount of trash we send to the landfill, we will save money *and* help the environment.

Learn more about the Town’s sustainability activities at the QR codes below.

Warmly,

Laurie K. Morrissey

Meadow



Sustainability



Composting



FROM THE INTERIM CHIEF

Spring into safety, University Park! Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 10 at 2 AM. Remember to set your clocks forward one hour and take this opportunity to refresh your safety habits as we step into longer days and warmer weather. Whether you're enjoying a walk through the town, getting your home ready for spring, or hitting the road for a trip, a little awareness goes a long way in preventing accidents and crime. Let's work together to protect our homes, stay alert on the roads, and be mindful of our surroundings. Safety is a team effort! Check out these important seasonal tips to keep University Park safe and thriving:

Parking & Traffic Safety

- Do not block driveways—always park legally and leave space for residents to enter and exit.
- Keep intersections clear—avoid parking too close to stop signs, fire hydrants, or crosswalks to maintain visibility and safety.
- Slowdown in residential areas—watch for children playing, pedestrians and cyclists, especially near parks and schools.
- Use caution in school zones—be mindful of crossing guards, obey speed limits and never pass a stopped school bus.



Home & Community Safety

- Check your home security—lock all doors and windows, turn on outdoor lights at night, and report suspicious activity.
- Test smoke & carbon monoxide detectors—replace batteries and ensure they are in working order.
- Secure valuables in your vehicle—always lock your car and remove bags, electronics and other items from sight.

- Plan for spring storms—have flashlights, extra batteries and an emergency kit ready for unexpected power outages.

Pedestrian & Bicycle Safety

- Walk safely—use sidewalks when available and cross at designated crosswalks.
- Stay visible—if walking or biking at night, wear reflective clothing and use lights.
- Wear a helmet when biking—it's the best way to protect yourself from injury.
- Avoid distractions—keep your phone down and stay alert while walking, driving or cycling.
- Secure all bicycles—lock bikes securely with a sturdy lock and avoid leaving them in plain view to prevent theft.

Fraud Protection

- The IRS never calls, emails, or texts demanding payment.
- File taxes early to help prevent identity theft.
- Secure your Social Security number with an IRS Identity Protection PIN: Learn more: at [irs.gov/identity-theft-fraud-scams/get-an-identity-protection-pin](https://www.irs.gov/identity-theft-fraud-scams/get-an-identity-protection-pin) or call 800-908-4490.

By following these safety tips, we can all do our part to protect our community and keep University Park a safe place to live and visit. Let's look out for one another and enjoy a safe and happy spring!

January Crime Report

Vandalism On January 2 at approximately 9:45 PM, officers responded to the 4300 block of Sheridan Street for a vandalism report. The homeowners reported hearing a loud bang, followed by glass shattering in their guest bedroom. Upon investigation, they discovered a medium-sized rock inside the room and a shattered window, with estimated damages of \$500. Officers canvassed the area but did not locate any suspects.

Domestic Incident On January 12 at approximately 2:18 AM, officers responded to a domestic dispute in the 6700 block of 41st Avenue. The victim reported that the suspect had assaulted them earlier that evening, taking their keys and later choking them. The victim and children left the home for safety. At approximately 2:15 AM, while the victim was at the Prince George's County Commissioner's Office, the suspect allegedly returned to

TOWN NEWS

the home, stole a Ring camera (valued at \$300), and threatened to burn the house down. A domestic violence advocate and investigator were notified, and the victim was provided with support resources.

Fraud Report On January 22 officers received a fraud report from a resident in the 6800 block of Forest Hill Drive. The victim reported receiving a Cash App debit card in the mail that they had not requested. Later, they discovered unauthorized transactions totaling \$2,588.27 linked to their name. Additionally, they received a 1099 tax form for these transactions, despite having no record of an account being opened in their name.



Tree Committee News

As we roll through the spring equinox mid-March, the trees and animals around town will wake up with the first signs of spring. I love looking for red swelling buds followed by delicate red and yellow flowers on the red maple (*Acer rubrum*) trees around town. These flowers are often the first of the season to appear on trees, opening before the leaves emerge to allow wind to spread pollen from tree to tree more efficiently. While this species is primarily wind-pollinated, many tree species in town, such as tulip tree or yellow poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), provide essential food resources for animal pollinators.

With the new year, remember that the town tree ordinance requires all residents to file a tree form with the town before removing any trees. A form must be filed for all trees larger than 50 inches in circumference, the same as 15.9 inches in diameter, or about the size of a small telephone pole. If you decide to remove a large, healthy, noninvasive tree, the ordinance requires that you replace the tree with a similar canopy species within a year or contribute to the town's Legacy Tree Fund. These funds will allow the town to plant additional trees in other are

as to maintain a healthy tree canopy for residents. Also, note that the town is responsible for trees in the town right of way, and residents cannot remove town trees without DPW consent. More information can be found on the town website.

March yard care tasks

If there is an early warm snap with temperatures between 45 and 80 degrees for a few days, late February and early March is a great time to apply horticultural oil at a dormant rate for crape myrtle bark scale (CMBS) and many other scale insects. Note that dormant oil can also negatively impact natural enemy populations, so this is typically warranted only for very large and active populations damaging trees. UMD extension has released an updated website to help homeowners understand this pest: extension.umd.edu/resource/crapemyrtle-bark-scale-home-gardens/

March and April are excellent months to plant a tree as roots will have some time to establish before spring. The town will reimburse up to \$100 for an understory tree and \$300 for a canopy tree from the town-approved shade and understory lists on the website. Consultations from the TPE committee on species selection or questions about siting or planting are available by request.

Ivy League, Saturday, March 22, 10 AM If you've got spring fever, join us for the first TPE Ivy League volunteer activity of 2025! Meet at the rain garden at the corner of Woodberry and College Heights. We will have tools to use but bring your gloves and water. Our tasks will include rain garden maintenance and preparations for spring. Volunteer hour sheets are happily signed.

Sustainability Committee News

Compost Bin Rollout to Wards 3 & 5

On January 21, UP Town Council passed a motion to deliver compost bins to households in Wards 3 and 5 who are not currently in the compost program by April, as the first step toward eventually giving the entire town compost bins. Food scraps are one of the largest portions of our waste stream and expanding the program in line with the rest of Prince George's County is beneficial to our town for several reasons. It costs only \$25 a ton to dispose of compost, whereas trash prices are expected to increase to \$85 a ton in July 2025. By using your compost bin for lawn trimmings and food scraps, you can say goodbye to unsightly trash overflow and the bin locks

TOWN NEWS

keep your trash and recycling cans critter-free! Composting also reduces methane emissions from landfills and converts organic waste into locally made soil conditioners like Leaf-Gro. Eligible residents in Wards 3 and 5 will receive more information about the program in late March. If you would like a compost bin, please email the Director of Public Works at mbeall@upmd.org. For more information about the UP Compost Program please see upmd.org/169/Compost-Program or contact the Sustainability Committee chair, Ralph Dubayah, at rdubayah@upmd.org.



No Mow April is around the corner. We encourage residents to voluntarily hold off on mowing the lawn until May 1. May is a good time to dispose of any winter cuttings you kept on property to provide nesting for native pollinators as they will have emerged. Not mowing until May not only provides food for tiny native pollinators that have recently emerged with tiny flowers in bloom in April but also allows native plants to naturally reestablish on your property. In 2024, we saw the native Honewort (*Cryptotaenia canadensis*) reemerge only because the Department of Public Works did not mow last April. Honewort is a host plant for the Black Swallowtail Butterfly. This educational practice is recommended by Bee City USA, which University Park is currently designated!

UP Meadow Upkeep, Saturday, March 1, 10 AM-12 PM Help spread compost around UP Meadow to nourish the meadow and hopefully bolster it to better withstand drought. Bring a shovel, work boots and will power.

UP Meadow Upkeep, Saturday, March 15, 10 AM-12 PM Help restore and seed the meadow. We will also be sowing native seeds in jugs to plant in the meadow later in the year. Wear outdoor clothes and boots; bring a bucket and a trowel. UP Native Wildflower Pollinator Meadow is on Adelphi Road across from the Prince George's Plaza Rec Center.

Save the Date! Join us for **UP Meadow Day, Saturday, May 31, 9-11 AM** hosted by the Town of University Park Maryland Sustainability Committee. Meadow Day features family fun and lots of educational activities

around the meadow. Dress up as a butterfly and enjoy home baked muffins. Join the Pollinator Parade at 11 AM around the meadow as we invite children young and old to dress up as a pollinator for the parade. Learn about mushrooms from a Mt. Rainier Nature Center Naturalist. Enjoy over a dozen educational tables! And more! UP Native Wildflower Pollinator Meadow is on Adelphi Road across from the Prince George's Plaza Rec Center. We love dogs, but please leave your dog at home—thank you. Mark your calendars now and plan to join us for a fun filled time at the meadow!

Helping Hands University Park



Helping Hands University Park

Aging in place with meaningful quality of life for our members is our mission, through help that fosters the safety and dignity that comes with a sense of autonomy. Our members decide for themselves what they need and ask

for. Our volunteers are there because this is what neighbors do in a caring community. There is no such thing as a need that's too small to bother about, so we encourage our members to ask. Everyone knows our volunteers provide rides and shovel snow, but consider the importance of other small occasional needs: tasks requiring bending down or reaching up with an aging body, using arthritic hands, failing eyesight, technology (like smartphones, new, not working, or just plain confusing), anything involving a ladder or stool, carrying boxes to/from storage, moving furniture, hauling items to the UP Recycle Event, or help with projects such as decluttering. There is no such thing as too small a need. If you need it, it's important. So, consider this a gentle reminder. Don't hesitate to ask!

Members Monthly Lunch Club, Wednesday, March 19, 12-1 PM In person. Members and volunteers social gathering. Location changes every month. Become a member and join us!

Route 1 Corridor Conversations, Saturday, March 22, 2-3:30 PM Join us to learn about the vibrant arts scene supported by the Pyramid Atlantic Arts Center in Hyattsville. Sign up at hyattsvilleaginginplace.org

Executive Committee Meeting, Wednesday, March 26, 5:30-6:30 PM via Zoom. HHUP is a committee of the Town Council, and all UP residents are welcome to attend.

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

TOWN NEWS



Save the Date! Saturday, April 19 Spring Recycling & Shredding Event

The Department of Public Works reminds you of the spring Electronics and Paper Shredding Recycling Event on Saturday, April 19, 9 AM-12 PM, UPES bus turnaround. You may recycle electronics, tires, paint, EPS (Styrofoam) and have paper shredded.

Arbor Day Celebration, Friday, April 25, 1 PM Ceremony takes place at the UPES school cafeteria.

EV Charging Station Permits Notification

Permits are now required to use the EV Charging Stations located on Queens Chapel Road. Residents, University Park Elementary School staff and visitors can purchase a permit at the below rate:

- Residents - \$100 annually (based on a fiscal year)
- UPES Staff - \$100 annually (based on a fiscal year)
- Visitors - \$10 daily

Permits are available for purchase Monday through Friday. Annual decals are available for residents, UPES Staff, and Town Staff only. Identification is required.

Please call Town Hall for more information at 301-927-4262 or visit our website at www.upmd.org.

Introducing: Amy Knesel

We are excited to introduce Amy Knesel as the Town's new Administrative/Social Media Assistant. Amy has a background in non-profit fundraising, municipal governance, and project coordination. The role includes enhancing the Towns' online presence to foster community engagement, adminis-



TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

trative tasks supporting the Mayor and Town Administrator and light bookkeeping duties. Amy is a long-time resident of Prince George's County who is passionate about strengthening outreach and sharing important local stories. "I am looking forward to getting to know everyone, learning about the unique character of UP, and contributing to the wonderful sense of community that makes this town special" commented Amy.

January 9 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.

Public Comment

- A resident requested the status of the October 2024 request for proposal (RFP) for the traffic study stating it's been three months since it was approved. The resident hopes to see the RFP on next month's agenda as there is urgency acknowledged on this matter.
- Another resident also inquired about the traffic RFP and reported that this evening, ten cars had run the stop sign at the intersection of Clagett-Pineway and Pineway. The resident also expressed concern about drivers' lack of attention to safety would end tragically and traffic enforcement was required.
- A resident spoke about variance request on the agenda and asked the Town Council to oppose the request. She cited a lack of clarity in the justification for the request, the parking pad would have a negative impact on the flooding in the neighborhood, the development could decrease property values, and the personal view of other owners would be deteriorated. It was noted that the petitioners had not notified the other owners in the community regarding the request for variance. She is opposed to the variance.
- A resident expressed concern regarding the variance request V-79-24 and the impermeable materials to be used in construction. He noted that his property is adjacent to the property requesting variance. He expressed further concern regarding noise and property devaluation, and the proper disposal of health care waste related to diseases.
- A resident noted continuing construction without proper permitting. She approached the neighbor, and it unfortunately turned into a confrontation. She submitted a package to the Mayor and Ms. Barlow the

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

county reviewer listing her concerns including water mitigation and potential drainage issues. The neighbor built a ramp that is not to code and is starting to break apart.

- CM Morgan expressed the views of residents of Ward 4 regarding the zoning change. Residents do not want to see a zoning change but would prefer instead a change to include building a duplex on properties. People are in support of being able to build onto their property for elderly parents, but not a huge zoning change that would allow for a facility.
- A resident expressed his support for other residents who had spoken regarding the variance request; it will change the character of University Park. He further expressed his concern about vehicle fluids and contaminants leaking into the ground.
- A resident noted that there is no desire to have a commercial business in the neighborhood.

Mayor, Council, and Committee Comments and Reports

Mayor's Report Mayor Morrissey responded to the comments regarding the traffic study RFP, noting that it is underway and progressing. She thanked the public works team for its work plowing overnight to clean the snow and ice.

Sustainability Committee The Committee met on Tuesday and discussed several items including updates to the Meadow Policy and the University of Maryland's ENSP Program that is going to have a capstone project pertaining to the meadow. There's a calendar of events and an upcoming seed swap on January 25. Also discussed options for sustainable sidewalk planning and particular on 44th and have allocated money for a study there and met with the engineer Graham Projects. We've been considering how to expand our composting program and would like all households provided with composting carts. The Sustainability Committee is recommending the existing inventory be prepared for delivery to households that are not currently participating in the program whether they want a cart or not; new participants should receive carts. We should initiate and maintain information and education on composting.

Motion: Sustainability Committee would like to direct Public Works to deliver carts to households in Wards 1 and 3 that are not currently participating in the compost program by April 1. In the next round of budget

ing will consider more funds to buy more carts. Mayor Morrissey conferred with the town attorney, and it was decided that this item should be on the January 21 agenda. CM Sweet voiced residents concern about receiving carts they don't want and their lack of space to store the carts.

Police, Traffic, and Public Safety Committee The committee will meet on February 5.

Tree, Parks, and Environment Committee The committee will hold a retreat on Saturday.

Public Facilities Services Committee There was a sub-committee meeting with the architect and will update the committee shortly.

CM Sweet Noted that permitting for the town's six car chargers began on January 5. A permit is required if you want to charge your EV. The Clerk informed the Council she had issued 18 permits to date.

New Business

Motion: To set the date for election of town offices for May 6, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion: To introduce ordinance LR 25-O-01 to amend §2-113 to increase Council compensation to \$2,500 per year. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Request V-79-24- For a Variance from the County Zoning Ordinance to Locate a Parking Pad and Additional Driveway in the Front Yard of 7106 Wells Parkway

- The residents of 7106 Wells Parkway did not attend the meeting.
- Several Council members expressed their concerns and those of their constituents regarding the variance request. The town attorney also addressed concerns and questions about the possible second structure in the plans, the large addition to the house, and the 5,000 square feet of outdoor recreational space requirements.
- The Council members continued to express concerns regarding the parking pad, especially the environmental impact and agreed to oppose the variance request.
- The town attorney restated the reasons the Council opposed the variance request: the existing large driveway, garage, plans for large rear driveway, plans for a

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

parking pad in the rear of the lot, and no physical anomalies on the property restricting parking. It was further noted that there was no justification provided for the front parking pad.

Motion: To direct staff to prepare a testimony for the Board of Appeals consistent with what was summarized and to appear next Wednesday, to testify. Motion carried unanimously.

Presentation and Update by NGage on an Additional Request for Parking Restrictions for the 4200 Block of Sheridan Street

- A representative from NGage Properties Group presented the request for additional parking restrictions for the 4200 block of Sheridan Street as included in the agenda. It was noted that the first section of the request had been removed, as a dumpster had been placed for construction debris.
- The Town Attorney noted that the final two requests would require a new process or procedure to be added to the agenda and voted on prior to granting approval. It was agreed that the request would be limited to approval to notify neighbors within 24 hours of parking restrictions when the request is five days or less; no more than 10 days a month from January 20, 2025, through June 30, 2025.
- The representative from NGage Properties Group stated the original request to the Council was for the demolition of the interior of the home. Further renovations are being completed and requesting a dumpster on the property rather than having a dump truck come daily to remove debris is considered the best solution. It was noted that the intent had never been to complete the renovation in one month.
- The Council expressed concern regarding the timeline for the renovations. Justification was sought for requiring 10 unspecified days for a dumpster each month. The roof removal and replace, interior framing, brick removal from the current interior, drywall and insulation, painting and cabinetry, and exterior finishes were all noted as requirements for placement of a dumpster. It was noted that there appears to be no reason that dumpster placement could not be scheduled more than 24 hours in advance. The Council noted that there had been a lack of communication at the beginning of the project and a schedule would be beneficial in providing approval. The Council dis-

cussed the need to inform the surrounding residents of the length of the project and the need for parking restrictions.

- The homeowners stated they informed the neighbors of the project and how they continue to try to be neighborly. They agreed that the requests were unusual but noted that a combative neighbor had made the requests necessary.

Motion: To authorize staff to negotiate with the applicant for up to two days per week on Mondays and Fridays for the depositing and removal of a dumpster not to exceed 22 days in the next six-month period. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned by consent at 9:30 PM.

January 21 Council Meeting Highlights

Present via video and audio conference were Mayor Morrissey; Councilmembers Dubayah, Gathercole, Kelby, McGaughey, Godfrey, Sweet. Excused: Morgan. Staff present: Town Administrator Debi Sandlin; Town Attorney Suellen Ferguson; Town Clerk TC Hegeman; Interim Police Chief Captain Graddy; Public Works Director Mickey Beall.

Public Comment

- Two residents thanked Mayor and Council for their service and both spoke in favor of compost carts for everyone. It was noted that it would help the town save money and be in line with the county.

Mayor, Council, and Committee Comments and Reports

Mayor Morrissey thanked Public Works for shoveling and salting the roads during the recent snow. Thanked residents for their patience as the Council and Town Hall staff work diligently to implement changes aimed at improving the quality of life in the town, including traffic control.

Tree Parks Environment Committee The Committee met 10 days ago and developed a work plan for the year. Topics included tree plantings, maintenance, inventory, collaboration on the meadow, and possibly strengthening tree ordinances. Recommendations to the Council would include best practices for construction events.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Continuing Business

Discussion of LR 24-O-09 Amendment of Personnel Manual 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

The town attorney briefly explained the redlined changes. A review of the proposed changes to the personnel manual was conducted and Mayor and Council discussed various sections.

New Business

Consideration of Compost Cart Distribution

- CM Dubayah provided an overview of the composting figures by ward. The Sustainability Committee recommended delivering the 120 unused carts to Ward 3 and Ward 5 due to their close proximity. Under this plan, all households would receive either buckets or carts, with new participants receiving only carts. The Committee further recommended that Council allocate funds to procure more carts and increase resident education about composting.
- A discussion ensued about the benefits of composting, best practices, and equitable implementation for all households. It was agreed that promotion, communication and education would be made to the residents, starting with a two-month newsletter campaign and a message from Mayor Morrissey addressing environmental matters.
- The Council agreed to issue a notification stating that, unless households actively decline participation in the composting program, consent would be assumed. CM Sweet expressed reservations about delivering carts to residents whether they want them or not.

Motion: *To approve the Town Council Department of Public Works to deliver carts to those in Ward 3 and Ward 5 who are not currently participating in the compost program by April 1, 2025. Documentation to explain the purpose would be included with the cart.* Motion carried 5-0. CM Sweet abstained.

Department Reports

Treasury Report Todd Frankenfield with Alta CPA Group presented the Treasury Report for December, 2024.

Town Administrator The Town Administrator provided an update on the police chief search, noting that the selected candidate had declined the job offer. The position

TOWN NEWS & EVENTS

will remain posted and will also be shared with the Prince George's County Retired Police Chiefs Association.

Town Clerk The Town Clerk advised that her report was included in the packet. There were no questions asked.

Interim Chief of Police Captain Shameka Graddy notified the Council that Obvio had been engaged to install stop sign cameras for the purposes of data collection only. Communication would be made at the Public Safety Committee meeting and residents would be notified. A discussion ensued about formal authorization from the Council.

Motion: *To allow Obvio to collect data in certain places determined by the police department in conjunction with Avigilon.* Motion carried unanimously.

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

Motion: *To adjourn the open session and go into the closed session to discuss personal matters and consult the counsel to obtain legal advice. Mayor and Council will not return to open session.* Motion carried unanimously.

Open session adjourned at 8:54 PM.

UP Woman's Club Meeting

Monday, March 3, 11:30 AM

Our March meeting will focus on "Hospice Care: How They Help," a topic which encompasses the care, comfort and quality of life of a person with a serious illness who is approaching the end of life. All are welcome to attend this informative presentation and discussion, led by Karen Miller Brubaker, CEO of the Montgomery Hospice and Prince George's Hospice. Sign-in begins at 11:30 AM at University Christian Church, located at the corner of Adelphi and Belcrest Roads.



UP Woman's Club Spring Penny Project

Monday, March 17, 10 AM-5 PM

Please stop by with your loose change, whether in pockets or jars, at 6832 Pineway, for the benefit of St. Mark's Food Pantry. We look forward to your participation and

TOWN NEWS & EVENTS

extend a very special thank you to all who contributed to our Fall 2024 Penny Project collection, which enabled us to donate \$350 to the Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area.

After Eight Book Group Tuesday, March 18, 8-10 PM

Our reading for March is *Remarkably Bright Creatures*, by Shelby Van Pelt. April's book is *The Library at the Edge of the World* by Felicity Hayes-McCoy. 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.



UP Porchfest

Saturday, May 17, 2-6 PM

Stroll the streets of University Park, mingle with neighbors and enjoy an afternoon of local music. There will be something for everyone! Last year we had 30 performances around town. There is no application; if you want to host or perform, we are happy to have you. Sign-ups for hosting and performing are now available at forms.gle/QnDPyAb4Dc3aoCHR8



University United Methodist Church Rummage Sale

Friday & Saturday, April 4 & 5

The University United Methodist Church on Campus Drive in College Park, Maryland, is having its semi-annual Rummage Sale. Treasures galore. Items for sale include clothing (children's and adults), collectibles, toys, books, jewelry, electronics, DVD's/CD's, kitchenware, china, linens, tools, furniture and bric-a-brac. Tax deductible donations for the sale are accepted at the church from March 9-March 30. Call the church at 301-422-1400 to arrange a donation time. Friday, April 4, 9 am-4 pm. Saturday, April 5, 9 am-3 pm.

Azalea Classic Saturday, May 10



Think Spring! Registration is now open for our annual neighborhood 5K, 1-mile, and 1K run/walk. Find more info and sign up at AzaleaClassic.com or email upesazalea-classic5k@gmail.com with questions or to volunteer for this beloved event.



UP Woman's Club Scholarships

The University Park Woman's Club will again be awarding scholarships to graduating high school seniors. This will mark the 78th year that the University Park Women's Club has made these awards. The directions and application form may be obtained at upwomansclub.org/scholarships. **Completed applications for either scholarship must be received by Monday, March 24, 2025.** The application may be submitted online or mailed, as directed on the application form. There are two scholarships:

Doris McPhee Memorial Scholarship

This one-time \$1,500 financial need-based scholarship is available to a Northwestern High School graduating senior. A minimum cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.0 is required along with evidence of leadership and

TOWN NEWS & EVENTS

service. The applicant needs to complete Parts A, B and C of the application, which includes writing an essay, providing two teacher recommendations, and submitting the Student Aid Report from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

University Park Woman's Club Scholarship

- This one-time \$1,500 merit-based, need-blind scholarship is available to a graduating high school student who is a resident of Maryland and:
- Who resides in the Town of University Park or
- Whose parent is a current member of University Park Woman's Club of at least 2 years standing, or
- Whose grandparent is a current member of the University Park Woman's Club who joined prior to 2015.
- A minimum GPA of 3.0 is required along with evidence of leadership, service and scholarship. Applicants for this scholarship need to complete Parts A and B of the application, which includes writing an essay and providing two teacher recommendations.

Town of University Park Boundary Lines:

Wells Parkway/Clagett Road/Pineway to East-West Highway to Route 1 to Adelphi Road.

St. Mark's Food Pantry

You have many worthwhile charities to choose from, but please consider one within walking distance from your home right 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](https://www.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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

If you need help, our food pantry is open every Tuesday between 9:30 AM 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.



Hyattsville Library Independent Film Series, *Blink*, Monday, March 17, 7-9 PM A National Geographic documentary that shares the journey of the Pelletier family. Three of their children will gradually lose their sight due to retinitis pigmentosa, so the parents decide to take them on a global adventure to create lasting visual memories.

Hyattsville Library, 6530 Adelphi Road.



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!

Seniors Art Show, Friday, March 28, 4-7 PM The Seniors Art Show is back! Come support your neighbors as they show their art or contact info@cpae.org about displaying your own art at the show. Sponsored by CPAE & Explorations on Aging College Park, the Art Exhibit and Reception brings Seniors together to celebrate their art and to build a more robust and lively community in College Park. Bring friends and family. Show and Reception open to all. At the College Park Airport.

Women's Circle Dance with Lisa Bardack, Saturday, March 29, 2-4 PM Enjoy traditional circle dancing from many different cultures to celebrate the changing of seasons. Your generous donation is appreciated.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR



Printmaking with David Brosch, 10-week class, beginning Monday, April 7, 10 AM-12 PM David Brosch, a resident artist and printmaking instructor at the Montpelier Arts Center, will be teaching how to produce linocuts and printing them as well as creating monotypes. Once these art forms are learned, students will be able to continue creating new artwork at their homes long after the class is over. \$60 fee.



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 Soul Line Dancing by zoom is a fun and easy way to bring music and movement into your life. Teacher Karen Stewart broadcasts beginner level line dances from her home, and line dancers join in from their own living rooms. Karen knows all the moves and is a gifted dancer, choreographer and instructor. CPAE students love

Karen's teaching style and say that each lesson is filled with great music and movement! Contact info@cpae.org for zoom link.

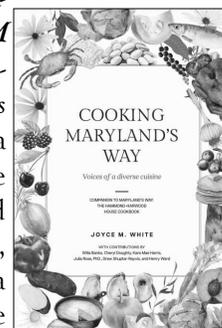
Riversdale House Museum

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

The Riversdale House Museum will be closed from December 15–March 15, 2025. However, the Riversdale grounds and Visitor Center will remain open daily and our Dependency Building on Fridays and Sundays during regular tour hours.

Book Talk & Cooking Demonstration, Saturday, March 8, 12-3 PM

Please join Joyce White, food historian and author of *Cooking Maryland's Way: Voices of a Diverse Cuisine*, for a book talk in celebration of the launch of her new Maryland food history book. Meet and greet Joyce, get your copy signed, and watch a cooking demonstration of one of the recipes from the book.



Riverdale Park Arts: Film + Music Competition, Sunday, March 23, 2-4 PM Riverdale Park Arts is proud to present the second RPA Film + Music Competition, designed to showcase emerging filmmakers in collaboration with accomplished musicians. Three filmmakers will create new films inspired by short classical pieces and the winning entries will be screened with the music performed live. Prizes and awards will be given at the event, with the opportunity for the filmmakers to speak about their film and the process.

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.

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

Saturday, April 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



NOTICE OF ELECTION

The Town of University Park
will hold an election for

The Offices of

Councilmember Ward 2
Councilmember Ward 4
Councilmember Ward 5
Councilmember Ward 6

on

TUESDAY, MAY 6, 2025

Poll hours will be conducted from 1-8 p.m. at Town Hall (6724 Baltimore Avenue).

You are encouraged to vote by mail or drop box but may vote in person on Election Day.

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

REGISTER TO VOTE:

Residents may register to vote the following ways:

Register to vote online at: www.elections.state.md.us/voter_registration

OR

Contact the Prince George's County Board of Elections at 1100 Mercantile Lane, Suite 115A, Largo, MD 20774; Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.; Phone 301-341-7300

Residents wishing to vote in the upcoming election must be:

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

CANDIDATES:

Candidate packets (Candidate Petition and Financial Disclosure Statement) must be completed and returned to the Town Clerk by 5:00 p.m. on April 7, 2025. Packets are available on the Town's website at www.upmd.org/2025CandidateInfo.

DEADLINES:

Monday, April 7, 2025, is the last day to register to vote.

Monday, April 7, 2025, by 5:00 p.m. is the last day to file as a candidate.

Thursday, May 1, 2025, by 5:00 p.m. is the last day to file as a qualified write-in candidate.

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

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

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

March 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Reminder: EV Charging Station permits are now required.</p>		<p>Town committees meet regularly, check the town website for current details.</p>				<p>1 Meadow Upkeep, 10 AM-12 PM</p>
<p>2</p>	<p>3 Yard Waste & Compost UPWC Meeting, 11:30 AM Town Council, 7:30 PM</p>	<p>4 Trash, Bulk Trash</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 Recycling</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>9</p>	<p>10 Yard Waste & Compost</p>	<p>11 Trash, Bulk Trash</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 Recycling</p>	<p>15 Meadow Upkeep, 10 AM-12 PM</p>
<p>16</p>	<p>17 Yard Waste & Compost UPWC Penny Project, 10 AM-5 PM, Town Council, 7:30 PM</p>	<p>18 Trash, Bulk Trash After Eight Book Group, 8-10 PM</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 Recycling</p>	<p>22 Ivy League, 10 AM</p>
<p>23</p>	<p>24 Yard Waste & Compost UP Woman's Club Scholarships</p>	<p>25 Trash, Bulk Trash</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 Recycling</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30</p>	<p>31 Yard Waste & Compost</p>					



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

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Hyattsville MD
Permit No. 2776

TOWN DIRECTORY

Town Hall

Office Hours M-F 9 AM-5 PM 301-927-4262
 Fax 301-277-4548
 TDD 800-735-2258
 Website www.upmd.org
 Town Field Status 240-297-8277
 Mayor Laurie K. Morrissey mayormorrissey@upmd.org
 Cell Phone 240-688-9534
 Town Administrator Debi Sandlin
 dsandlin@upmd.org
 Cell Phone 240-810-2177
 Town Clerk TC Hegeman thegeman@upmd.org
 Public Works Dir. Mickey Beall mbeall@upmd.org
 Town Treasurer treasurer@upmd.org
 Code Compliance Officer John Rogers
 jrogers@upmd.org
 Cell Phone 301-277-0050
 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	443-718-0625
4	Nathaniel Morgan	301-850-4249
5	David McGaughey	301-664-4030
6	Grant Godfrey	202-486-2436

NEWSLETTER

The April newsletter deadline is Thursday, March 6. The *University Park Newsletter* is published monthly, except for a combined November issue. Newsletter submissions, questions and comments may be emailed to uniparknews@gmail.com. The *Newsletter* publishes the milestones of current and former UP families (births, weddings, obituaries, graduations, awards, etc.) plus events of interest to residents. Political or commercial advertising is not accepted. Please send letters of opinion or Town suggestions to Town Hall. The *Newsletter* is online at www.upmd.org/newsletter. Editors Todd Stewart & Bridget Warren univparknews@gmail.com 301-209-7341

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

Email
 rdubayah@upmd.org
 mgathercole@upmd.org
 ckelby@upmd.org
 nmorgan@upmd.org
 dmcgaughey@upmd.org
 ggodfrey@upmd.org

