

UNIVERSITY PARK NEWSLETTER

TOWN OF UNIVERSITY PARK, MARYLAND

APRIL 2025

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

VOL. L, NO. 4

MAYOR'S COLUMN

The most beautiful months of the year have begun in earnest, and I recommend that we all spend more time outside beautifying our gardens, talking to neighbors, and participating in the myriad Town events, including the Azalea Classic and Meadow Day. The sight of cherry blossoms, daffodils, hyacinths, and so much more gives me a renewed sense of hope.

During the months of April and May, our Town Council will consider the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2026. We are handling the budget differently than in years past. Department heads formulate a draft budget and are always consulted about their anticipated needs for the next fiscal year (July 1-June 30). This year all Councilmembers were brought into the discussion early in the

process to consider upcoming expenses and revenues, the needs of each department, and how Town and Council projects can be paid for. By the time this newsletter goes to print, the Council, Town Administrator, Public Works Director, Interim Police Chief, and I will have held three work sessions to discuss the budget.

We are required to inform the County what our tax rate will be by May 16.

On April 1, the draft budget will be sent to the Council. The Council will then begin the formal process of evaluating the budget and making decisions about Town expenditures at the April 7 meeting. In addition to maintaining our staffing levels and providing expected Town services, the Council will consider allocating funds

Town Meetings & Special Dates

Town Council	April 7 & 21
Candidates Deadline	April 7
Town Election	May 6

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

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to traffic and public safety projects, design and construction of a new town hall, stormwater management remedies, and other initiatives. I encourage interested residents to call into these meetings via Zoom so you can see your local government in action. Besides April 7, the other budget meetings will be held on April 21 and May 5.

Your elected Council is a smart group of residents who carefully consider every expense and weighs “needs” versus “wants.” I am grateful for their partnership, as well as the work on this by all Town staff, and look forward to the finalization of the budget by the end of May.

Warmly,

Laurie K. Morrissey



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



Notice of Introduction of Ordinance 25-O-2

On March 17, 2025, Ordinance 25-O-02 was introduced. This Ordinance would amend the FY 2025 Budget Ordinance, Legislative Resolution 24-O-04, to make adjustments based on the mid-year financial analysis, including without limitation transfers between various line items of the budget, recognition of changes in revenue, and reflecting the surplus as revised by the 2024 budget audit. The meeting set for April 7, 2025, 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



Free Tax Preparation Services

The federal and state individual income tax deadline is April 15. Tax assistance is available for low to moderate income households.

AARP Tax-Aide Assistance Though designed for low and moderate income seniors, anyone who needs to file a federal and Maryland tax return can make use of the Tax-Aide service. Certain tax situations are not eligible such as rental income or extensive self-employment. By appointment only. To find a convenient location, call 1-888-227-7669 or visit AARP online, <https://www.aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp-taxaide/locations/>

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) People who make less than \$67,000 may get free assistance in preparing their a federal and Maryland tax returns. On-site volunteers are certified by the IRS and state. By appointment only. To locate a site, call 800-906-9887 or visit irs.treasury.gov/freetaxprep/

FROM THE INTERIM CHIEF

With spring in full bloom, it's a great time to enjoy the beauty of our town! As you head outdoors for walks, bike rides and neighborhood strolls, we encourage everyone to stay alert and safe. Whether you're an early morning jogger, an excited nature lover, or just out enjoying the fresh air, please remember to be mindful of traffic and obey all pedestrian and roadway safety rules.

Traffic Safety Update—Let's Drive Safer

We continue our efforts to improve traffic safety in our community. The Let's Drive Safer website has been updated with new stop sign violation videos and data from key intersections around town. Only three locations remain for data collection, with completion expected soon. Visit letsdrivesafer.com/university-park to view the latest updates.



Traffic Enforcement Initiative

On February 27, 2025, the University Park Police Department conducted a Traffic Enforcement Initiative in Wards 3, 4 and 5 from 6:30 to 10:30 AM. The initiative focused on ensuring compliance with traffic laws and promoting roadway safety.

Results:

- Enforcement Actions Taken: 49
- Vehicle Impounds: 1
- Safety Brochures Distributed: 19

We appreciate the community's cooperation in making our roads safer for everyone. Additional traffic initiatives will be conducted throughout the year.

See Something, Say Something

Your safety is our top priority! If you witness suspicious activity or need police assistance:

- Emergencies: Dial 911
- Non-Emergencies: Call 301-352-1200

Thank you for your continued partnership in keeping University Park safe.



National Prescription Drug Take Back Day Saturday, April 26, 10 AM-2 PM

University Park Police Department is participating in the Drug Take Back initiative. Bring your unused or expired medications to the police department for safe disposal. Properly disposing of medications helps prevent misuse and protects our environment.

Crime Report

Disorderly Conduct On February 12 officers responded to a report of disorderly conduct in the 4400 block of East-West Highway involving an ongoing neighbor dispute. The suspect was reported to have engaged in repeated acts of harassment, including verbal abuse and intimidation, toward the victim. The victim was advised, and an arrest warrant was obtained.

Disorderly Conduct & Arrest On February 14 an individual in the 4400 block of East-West Hwy involved in a prior harassment case was located and arrested on an outstanding warrant for harassment. The suspect was taken into custody without incident and transported to Upper Marlboro Department of Corrections.

Theft Report On February 19 a resident in the 4300 block of Sheridan Street reported the theft of \$800 in cash from their home. Investigators are reviewing potential leads, including access granted to service personnel in the days leading to the discovery of the theft.

Package Theft On February 22 a resident in the 4300 block of Clagett Pineway reported a stolen package containing an Apple HomePod mini. Surveillance footage captured two unknown suspects approaching the residence before taking the package.

Sustainability Committee News

Compost Carts

Homes in Wards 3 and 5 will receive new compost bins this month, instructions on how to compost and maybe most importantly why to do it. This is the first stage of a town wide compost cart distribution initiative. Composting is approximately 65% less expensive than sending trash to the landfill, saving our town money, and food waste gets turned back into soil. These bins can be used

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for yard waste as well. 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.



Stream Cleanup, Saturday, April 26, 11 AM-1 PM UP Sustainability is partnering with the Anacostia Watershed Society for our Earth Day Wells Run stream cleanup at the Town Park (on Queens Chapel Road next to the Elementary school). Volunteer registration is now open. Please wear water-resistant outdoor clothes and shoes. Families are welcome! Event rain or shine. For more information, please email Holly Halifax, at hollyhalifax@gmail.com.

Pollinator Meadow Upkeep, Saturday, April 12, 10 AM-12 PM Help restore the meadow. Wear outdoor clothes and boots. Bring work boots, a bucket and a trowel. Meet your neighbors and connect with native habitat!

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!

Tree Committee News

Woodland spring flowering ephemerals will be gracing the town's woods, streambanks and yards this month. These native plants evolved to take advantage of the brief window in spring when sun rays strengthen, temperatures rise, yet tree leaves have not fully expanded. Light penetrating to the forest floor allows hundreds of peren-

nial plant species to push up through the layer of fallen leaves, quickly flower and capture as much carbon as possible before going dormant as the summer tree canopy closes and light no longer reaches the forest floor.



Species you can see in town include the ephemeral spring beauties (pictured above along Wells Run), trout lilies, bloodroot, and Virginia bluebells. Many only open their flowers for limited periods and have close associations with native pollinators. Spring beauties, *Claytonia virginiana*, for example, have unassuming leaves that you may not notice or may even be growing in your lawn! They only open their waif-like white and pink flowers on warm sunny days and close them by late afternoon. A native specialist mining bee species, *Andrena erigeniae*, carefully collects the pink pollen to construct a pollen ball, which she buries and lays an egg next to. When the egg hatches, the larva feeds on the pollen, ready to emerge as an adult next spring right in sync with the spring beauties. These species are adapted to live with ~2 inch layer of fallen leaves, so are great species to consider interplanting with native sedges and ferns under large canopy trees to create 'soft landings' for wildlife. More on that next month.

April yard tasks

Warm-season grasses, including many of our native species, can benefit from a haircut of last year's blade growth to allow new blades to emerge. If you cannot leave the cut grass as mulch on the ground around the plants, consider creating a clipping pile out of sight. Birds may gather your discarded material for their nests. April is also a good time to install woody plant material and perennials. We've had a windy and stormy winter this year. Working with certified arborists to perform corrective pruning or deadwood removal can prolong a majestic tree's lifespan. An arborist can ensure that the

limb is pruned at the correct angle, enhancing the tree's ability to heal the wound and preventing unwanted pathogens from entering.

Tree Ordinance

The town tree ordinance requires all residents to file a tree form with the town before removing any trees from their property. A form must be submitted for all trees larger than 50 inches in circumference, equivalent to 15.9 inches in diameter, or about the size of a small telephone pole. If after filing the form you still choose to remove a large, healthy, non-invasive tree, the ordinance mandates that you replace it with a similar canopy species within a year or contribute to the town's Reforestation Fund. These funds will enable the town to plant additional trees in other areas to maintain a healthy tree canopy for residents. Additionally, 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.

Ivy League, Saturday, April 26, 10 AM-12 PM Join us for this Ivy League volunteer event. Spring ephemerals in our park are crowded by invasive species introduced by animals or wind from our yards or washed down the creek during floods. These competitors include liriopse, periwinkle, English ivy, lesser celandine, Japanese knotweed, and bush honeysuckle. This month, we'll remove invasive species to give native species more room to thrive. If they are still up, we will also scout for spring ephemerals to identify populations to preserve. Meet at the town playground parking lot. Bring water and gloves. We will have tools. Volunteer hour sheets are happily signed.



Helping Hands University Park

Life is not all chores and appointments, and neither are we! We like getting out and having fun. If you are interested in joining us

for our monthly lunches, our excursions and other social events, or have questions about how to become a member of Helping Hands, please contact us by phone or email. We would love to hear from you.

HHUP Calendar

Members Monthly Lunch Club, Wednesday, April 15, 12-1 PM In person. Members and volunteers social gathering. Location changes every month. Become a member and join us!

Executive Committee Meeting, Wednesday, April 22, 5:30-6:30 PM via Zoom. HHUP is a committee of the Town Council, and all residents are welcome to attend.

Route 1 Corridor Conversations, Saturday, April 25, 2-3:30 PM Join Mike Franklin online for a discussion of the commercial history of Route 1, starting with the old Hyattsville Hardware Store that is home to today's Franklins general store, restaurant and brewery. To sign up for the Zoom link or more info online at: hyattsvilleaginginplace.org/programs-and-activities/corridor-conversations/

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 via Zoom. All residents are welcome, whether a poet, poetry lover, or just poetry curious. Contact Gerry Hendershot, ghendershot@earthlink.net; Loretta Saks, lorettahhup@gmail.com, or Deborah Rosenfelt, dsrc@umd.edu.

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).

February 13 Mayor & Council Budget Work Session

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

General Discussion of Public Works and Police Department Budget

Public Works Budget

Action—The Town Administrator will add an item to the agenda in the Tuesday meeting to discuss and vote on the reallocation of the budgeted curb painting funds.

Action—CM Sweet will draft a notice in the newsletter for resident feedback regarding the design layout of the veteran's park.

Action—The Public Works Director will circulate the list of Public Works Department priorities and requests to the Council.

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CM Gathercole inquired about the costs to elevate a crosswalk, to paint the road, and obtain a pedestrian sign at Beechwood, College Heights Drive and 40th Avenue. A detailed discussion ensued. The Public Works Director confirmed that thermal plastic crosswalks, including signage, could be installed at a cost of \$2,000 to \$2,500, while a raised crosswalk at Pineway and Clagett Road would cost approximately \$7,000 to \$8,000.

After further discussion, it was agreed to reallocate the \$10,000 currently budgeted for curbs to fund a painted crosswalk at Beechwood Avenue and a raised crosswalk at Pineway and Clagett Road. The Town Administrator outlined the process for reallocating budget funds, explaining that a discussion would take place, followed by a motion directing the Town Attorney to draft an ordinance to transfer funds from the Curb Painting line item to Street and Sidewalk Maintenance Line Item in the budget.

The Public Works Director expressed concern about the design layout for the bench, monument, flagpole, and flagpole lighting planned for the veteran's park. It was proposed that a focus group, including at least one veteran, be formed to provide input. CM Sweet agreed to lead this initiative.

The Public Works Director discussed the priorities of his department as follows:

- **Replace the garage roof** Originally budgeted for 2024, but it may not be completed by the year end. The feasibility study will be paid from this FY24 line item.
- **New garbage truck** The crew was incurring overtime due to reliance on a single truck, as the backup truck failed its health inspection. The estimated cost of a new truck is approximately \$250,000. The backup truck has been a recurring maintenance issue.
- **Utilities** Consolidate Pepco, Washington Gas and WSSC into a single budget line item in the budget.
- **Tree Committee and Sustainability Committee** Allocate separate budget line items for each committee.
- **911 bridge** Replace either the railing or the entire bridge.
- **Hose reel** Upgrade electric vehicle charging stations to include a hose reel.

A discussion ensued regarding ad hoc expenses requiring reimbursement and committee ideas needing funding. It was noted that formalizing a spending plan is essential, particularly given the potential tightening of funds under

the new federal administration.

The Town Administrator introduced a new required budget request form. Committees specify the amount requested and provide a detailed spending plan. This form will be a mandatory part of the budget process going forward.

Police Department Budget

Action—Captain Graddy will circulate a cost analysis comparing leasing versus purchasing new police vehicles.

Action—The Town Administrator will review the Police Department's budget requests and prepare details for Council review.

In response to a Council inquiry, Captain Graddy confirmed that a request for proposal would be issued for stop sign cameras. She noted that Avigilon would install the cameras at no cost and collect a percentage of revenue from issued tickets. The traffic calming contract proposal will be circulated to the Council after review by the Town Attorney. The Mayor acknowledged approval for implementing Avigilon's data collection devices.

The Town Administrator proposed developing a vehicle replacement plan, noting that the maintenance costs for aging police vehicles have been exceeding budget.

Captain Graddy discussed the Police Department's priorities as follows:

Obtain three new police vehicles One vehicle would be designated for the new police chief. A discussion ensued regarding costs, noting that leased vehicles would come fully outfitted for police use. The Council requested a cost analysis.

- **Upgrade to the Taser 10** An additional \$7,000, this will bring the total close to \$19,000 a year for the subscription and equipment.
- **Install in-car cameras to read license plates** The expected additional cost is approximately \$6,500.
- **Obtain a second electric bicycle** Designed for male officers.
- **Obtain a radar message sign** A quote was received for approximately \$19,000.
- **FTO pay** Add an additional \$500 bonus to FTOs who train new officers.
- **Implement LEOPS (Law Enforcement Officers' Pension System)** The Town Administrator reported that

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offering LEOPS would likely improve responses to the police chief posting.

- **Implement Cloud Permit** A system for permit applications, inspection monitoring, recordkeeping.

The Town Administrator announced the addition of a new administrative/social media assistant who will start on February 19, 2025.

The session adjourned at 9:13 PM.

February 18 Council Meeting Highlights

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

- A resident of Ward 2 thanked the Council for supporting World Cholangiocarcinoma Day on February 20, 2025, to raise awareness of the rare cancer, also known as bile duct cancer.
- Another resident discussed the comments he had circulated to the Council regarding the contract requirement, suggesting an amendment to specify a minimum number of meetings. The Council acknowledged the concern and agreed to bring the proposed adjustment to the Town Attorney for review.

Mayor, Council, and Committee Comments and Reports

Police, Traffic, and Public Safety Committee CM Gathercole reported that a meeting was held with the state highway administration, where she expressed concerns about installing a traffic light or extending the median along East-West Highway, also discussed signage at Van Buren and Route 1 and didn't get much positive feedback. The discussion also included setting aside funds for crosswalks in Ward 5 and Ward 6. She noted that Captain Graddy attended the meeting and presented photos from Avigilon showing vehicles driving through stop signs in town. The next meeting is scheduled for early March.

Sustainability Committee CM Dubayah reported about the University of Maryland class utilizing the meadow as a class project was discussed. Additionally, a municipal

guidebook detailing the history and maintenance of the meadow was created and could serve as a template for other municipalities. The rollout workflow of the compost carts in Wards 3 and 5 was finalized, with implementation expected between April and May 2025.

Development Overview Committee CM McGaughey discussed a letter about two addresses in College Park, both projects are redevelopments and will be further reviewed with the developer during a meeting scheduled for March 13, 2025.

Mayor Morrissey reported that budget preparation was underway, the search for a new police chief was ongoing, and an administrative assistant/social media coordinator had been hired.

New Business

Motion: To recognize and observe the third Thursday of February as World Cholangiocarcinoma Day in commemoration of all patients and caregivers impacted by this rare lethal cancer. Motion was carried unanimously.

Approval of the A. Morton Thomas Traffic Implementation Contract

The Town Attorney reviewed the details of the traffic implementation contract, noting that A. Morton Thomas was appointed to provide traffic engineering services focused on addressing cut through traffic, stop sign compliance and travel speeds, as well as offering recommendations to reduce cut through volume. The successful contract bid by A. Morton Thomas in 2020 on the Town of Chevy Chase was referenced, highlighting that identical engineer hourly rates were provided. The town is allowed to ride a contract fully bid by another jurisdiction if they offer the same rates, and they have. The Council also discussed that a status update meeting with the engineers would be necessary to clarify intersection locations, data and survey collection points, and the volume and speed data collections.

Motion: To approve the award of a contract and substantially the form attached to A. Morton Thomas and Associates Inc. in the total amount of \$66,485, subject to final review by the Town Attorney, to provide traffic engineering and related services in connection with the town-wide traffic study and to provide recommendations to reduce the amount of cut through traffic, increase compliance with stop signs, and lower travel speeds along specific town roadways in a traffic calming implementation plan. Motion was carried unanimously.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Department Reports

Town Administrator Debi Sandlin presented the 2024 Year in Review, highlighting key projects completed by town staff. The extensive work completed by the Public Works Department and the Police Department were emphasized, noting that the presentation featured only a selection of the completed projects.

Town Clerk TC Hegeman The report was included in the packet.

Interim Chief of Police Shameka Graddy The report was included in the packet. Captain Graddy confirmed she would develop a plan to transition the administration of the speed cameras, noting that the current contract expires in October 2025. A discussion ensued and the Town Attorney confirmed that the town is required to rent the cameras. Captain Graddy confirmed receipt of the data collection from Avigilon. She demonstrated the letsdrivesafer.com site, which displays monitored locations and the number of daily stop sign violations.

Treasurer Report The Treasurer's report was presented. It was noted that year-to-date revenue exceeded expenditures by \$786,000, primarily due to property taxes collections. The 2026 budget will separate revenue projections for speed cameras and the red-light cameras for clearer reporting.

Director of Public Works Michael Beall The report was included in the packet.

Motion: To adjourn and go to closed session to discuss the appointment, the employment assignment promotion discipline, promotion compensation removal or resignation or performance evaluations of appointees, employees or officials. Mayor and Council will not return to open session. Motion was carried unanimously.

The open session ended at 8:45 PM.

February 26 Council Meeting Highlights

Present via video and audio conference were Mayor Morrissey; Councilmembers Dubayah, Gathercole, Morgan, McGaughey, Godfrey. Staff present: Town Administrator Debi Sandlin; Public Works Director Mickey Beall.

Public Works Budget Work Session

The budget process was explained, and the rise in per-

sonnel costs, mainly due to health insurance, was discussed. Open enrollment for health insurance occurs in the spring, and a 12% increase has been budgeted, with more staff choosing family plans.

The Council discussed the utility costs for the park and the possibility of a separate utility account instead of combining it with the park upkeep line item. The projected utility costs for the park are around \$6,600, driven primarily by EV charging stations and community events.

The discussion shifted to public works and capital outlay, specifically focusing on street and sidewalk maintenance, tree upkeep, and the acquisition of new vehicles. The budget for street and sidewalk maintenance has decreased by \$20,000, as special projects such as speed humps and raised crosswalks are not allocated for the next year.

The budget for street tree maintenance has increased by \$5,000 due to rising prices and the challenging spring and summer conditions for the trees. The significance of maintaining trees, including root injections for certain species, was underscored. The discussion also addressed the acquisition of trash and recycling carts, resulting in a decision to eliminate the budget for these items, as there are enough carts available. Additionally, the Council took into account the effects of increased landfill tipping fees resulting from county rate hikes.

The Veterans Memorial project, originally budgeted at \$30,000, is unlikely to be completed within the current fiscal year and may need to be carried over to the next year. The garage roof renovation is a priority due to significant leaks, with a budget of \$150,000. The project may not be completed by June 30, 2025, requiring the funds to be carried over. The purchase of streetlights from Pepco was discussed, with a budget of \$50,000 to be carried over to the next year. The Council also considered upgrading EV charging stations with hose tenders to prevent cables from becoming trip hazards.

The need for repairs or replacement of the 911 bridge was considered, with costs ranging from \$25,000 for repairs to \$150,000 for replacement. The Council discussed the benefits of each option and the potential impact on the budget.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

The Council discussed the key decisions and next steps, including the need to finalize the budget and address any remaining questions.

March 3 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; Interim Police Chief Captain Graddy; Public Works Director Mickey Beall.

Update From Ethan Sweep, Community Liaison to Congressman Glen Ivey

Mr. Sweep provided an update on Congressman Ivey's activities and concerns regarding the recent firings of federal employees. The congressman was deeply concerned about the executive actions taken by President Trump and Elon Musk, which have impacted diversity programs, jobs and federal aid.

The congressman's office is accepting nominations for military service academies. While a nomination is required for consideration, it does not guarantee admission. Applications are open for a summer internship program in Congressman Ivey's district office. This program offers hands-on experience in public service for students and recent graduates.

The office is preparing to accept applications for the Community Project Funding Grant Program. This program supports projects by 501(c)(3) nonprofits and local governments in Maryland's 4th congressional district. The congressman's office provides resources for federal workers, immigrant families, and the LGBTQIA+ community affected by Trump administration policies. These resources are accessible through their website.

Public Comment

- A resident expressed concerns about a proposed construction project that involves laying concrete and its impact on the environment and community. The construction contravenes existing Town ordinances that forbid building parking in front of properties and sets a precedent for future commercial development, which has previously been halted in the area. The proposal also requires the removal of large trees, which were already cut down without a permit, indicating a disregard for regulations.

- A resident expressed her concerns about the proposed modifications to the property at 7106 Wells Parkway. The resident highlighted that the proposed parking pads and driveway extensions would increase stormwater runoff into Wells Run, exacerbating flooding issues in University Park. She argued that converting the property into an assisted living facility would decrease surrounding property values and set an undesirable precedent for commercial ventures in a residential area.

Mayor, Council, and Committee

Comments and Reports

Police, Traffic, and Public Safety Committee The committee will meet this Wednesday at 7:30 and have a guest speaker from UP Helping Paws.

Sustainability Committee The committee will meet tomorrow at 7:30 to discuss the draft park plan, composting cart rollouts, and the budget for the coming year.

Development Overview Committee The committee will meet on March 13. CM McGaughey asked Mr. Hatcher, the consulting attorney, on the project because the project listed two addresses, one on Knox Road and one on Hardwick whether it was a mistake that those are in the same application. Mr. Hatcher informed him that it was not a mistake because both projects are related.

Mayor Morrissey The Mayor shared a positive experience with the sustainability committee and volunteers who spread mulch in the Wildflower Meadow. There was also a listening session in Ward 2, where they met with approximately 15 residents to discuss various concerns, including traffic, budget and the search for a police chief. The session also addressed the current instability in the country, emphasizing the importance of community support.

New Business

The implementation of a new software system called Cloudpermit was discussed to improve rental licensing and code enforcement processes. The system will help transition from paper-based to electronic record-keeping, allowing residents to check project statuses and make payments online. The system included modules for permitting, code enforcement, planning and zoning, and licensing and registration. The initial focus will be on rental licensing, but it can be expanded to other areas if needed.

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The standard contract is for three years, but the Town can opt for a one-year contract with renewal options based on budget constraints. The Town Attorney will review and negotiate the contract to ensure it meets legal requirements and is beneficial for the Town. The Town has approximately 80 rental properties, mainly in Ward 6, which will be managed using the new system.

Motion: To approve the implementation of Cloudpermit for rental licensing, subject to review of the contract by the Town Attorney. Motion carried unanimously.

The Council discussed the proposal of increasing the contract amount with Frederick Ward Associates from \$46,000 to \$54,400. This adjustment is necessary to complete the programming, space concepts, and construction cost phase of the new town hall project. The increase is attributed to the additional work performed beyond the original budget.

Motion: To approve increasing the contract amount with Frederick Ward Associates from \$46,000 to \$54,400 to complete the Programming and Space concepts and Construction Costs phase of the new Town Hall project. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Amended 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 town attorney provided background information regarding the request. The amended application now includes more lot coverage but does not exceed the legal limit of 35%. The mayor and town attorney will appear at the hearing to present the town's position and answer any questions. The Council decided to maintain their opposition to the variance request, which is solely for a parking pad. They concluded that the criteria for the variance had not been met.

Motion: To make no changes in the Council's opposed position for the variance request. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned by consent at 8:20 PM.

OBITUARY

Longtime resident Bob (Robert) Tadlock Park, passed away on January 3, 2025 after a brief illness. He went peacefully with his loved ones by his side at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. Musician extraordinaire. Gentle but with a strong backbone. Generous. Kind. Unassuming. A lover of good food and beer. Among those who knew Bob well, this is how he will be remembered.



Born on April 7, 1954, as a young boy, Bob followed his parents as they pursued their education and career aspirations. They moved from Texas to Rhode Island; to New Mexico; and finally to Maryland, where he settled in University Park for over 40 years. Bob's life changed forever when, in 2007, at the Chamber Music Conference in Bennington, Vermont, he met violinist/violist May. She would become and remain his beloved partner for the rest of his life. Bob and May created a welcoming and comfortable home in University Park—full of music, love and laughter. Over their 15 years together, Bob and May generously played in front of countless audiences in chamber and outreach concerts far and wide.

Over his 70 years, Bob managed several careers and pursued myriad interests. He held degrees in physics and computer science, both from UMD. He received a Master's in Cello Performance and a Doctor of Musical Arts from Catholic University. For 22 years, Bob was in the U.S. Army Band "Pershing's Own," where he served as principal cello with the rank of Master Sergeant. He was also an adjunct faculty member at George Mason University. After retiring from his Army position, Bob worked as a systems engineer at MITRE Corporation, retiring in 2022. Dr. Bob returned to working as a fulltime musician while also taking up parttime graduate studies at UMD. A Celebration Memorial will take place in UP on Saturday, April 26, 4 PM at 6711 44th Avenue, in the backyard.





**University United Methodist Church
Rummage Sale**

Friday & Saturday, April 4 & 5

The University United Methodist Church on Campus Drive in College Park is having its semi-annual Rummage Sale. Treasures galore. Items for sale include clothing (childrens and adults), collectibles, toys, books, jewelry, electronics, DVDs/CDs, kitchenware, china, linens, tools, furniture and bric-a-brac. Friday, April 4, 9 AM-4 PM; Saturday, April 5, 9 AM-3 PM.



**UPCA Spring Egg Hunt and Games
Sunday, April 6, 3 PM**

Join us in the woods next to the town soccer field for our annual egg hunt. The egg hunt for the youngest kids will start at 3:15 PM, so be sure to arrive a few minutes early. Children as young as infants through elementary school age are welcome to participate in the egg hunt, face painting, crafts and more. Wear warm clothes and shoes appropriate for walking in the park, and please bring your own basket and drinks. We look forward to seeing you!

**UP Woman's Club Meeting
Monday, April 7, 11:30 AM**

Join us for an interesting presentation and lively discussion led by Chuck Baker, scientist, aviator, educator, experienced pilot and search-and-rescue specialist. His research advances severe weather forecasting, air quality monitoring and climate resilience, blending fieldwork with numerical modeling. He has applied science in real

world aviation missions and disaster relief efforts and has taught within the framework of mathematics and the physical sciences, fostering the growth of future researchers. Sign-in begins at 11:30 AM at University Christian Church at the corner of Adelphi and Belcrest Roads. All are welcome!

**2nd Saturday Lecture
Saturday, April 12, 4 PM**

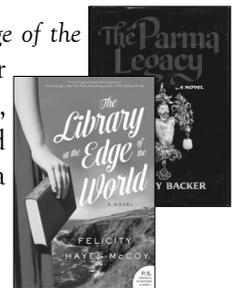


Amanda Lay is a Trainer with People on the Go Of Maryland. She also served on the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council, where she advocated for people with developmental disabilities at the state level. As a person with a disability, Amanda is a lifelong advocate for people with disabilities to live the lives they choose with the people they choose in the places they choose. She believes in the value and importance of full inclusion. In her spare time, Amanda enjoys writing, music and spending time with her family.

Amanda will talk about how she has managed to live with her disabilities, thrive and help other people with disabilities and their caregivers have good and productive lives. This presentation will be virtual. You will be able to hear her by going to this Zoom link: <https://rb.gy/llt17n> For more info, contact Dave Brosch at davidcbrosch@comcast.net or 240-888-1225.

**After Eight Book Group
Tuesday, April 15, 8-10 PM**

April's book is *The Library at the Edge of the World* by Felicity Hayes-McCoy. Our reading for May is *The Parma Legacy*, by Dorothy Backer. 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.

TOWN NEWS & EVENTS

Easter Breakfast & Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 20, 9:30 AM

Come to the Annual Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt at the University Park Church of the Brethren. Breakfast starts at 9:30, egg hunt begins at 10:15. Join us! RSVP at upcob.org. Corner of Route 1 and Tuckerman St.



Azalea Classic Saturday, May 10



Registration is now open for our annual neighborhood 5K, 1-mile, and 1K run/walk. Find more information and sign up at AzaleaClassic.com or email upesazalea-classic5k@gmail.com for questions or for information on how you can volunteer for this beloved event.



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. Signups for hosting and performing are now available at forms.gle/QnDPyAb4Dc3aoCHR8

St. Mark's Food Pantry

With an all-volunteer team, we provide food at no cost to the unhoused, poor, unemployed, seniors, immigrants, children and anyone 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. Please donate if you can. Funds will be used only to purchase food to

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

those we serve and are typically 100% tax deductible to the extent possible under the law. Visit gofundme.com and search "St. Mark's Food Pantry" to donate. Checks are 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.



Hyattsville Library Coffee and a Classic, Wednesday, April 16, 1-3:30 PM Join us for a showing of *The Manchurian Candidate*, a psychological political thriller starring Frank Sinatra, Laurence Harvey, Angela Lansbury and Janet Leigh. 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.

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.



Blue Sky Puppets presents Pig Tales, Saturday, April 12, 3 PM Pigs learn sharing and taking turns at school while they act out the stories of "The Three Billy Goats Gruff" and "Jack and the Beanstalk." Ages 2-10. Free. Donations gratefully accepted at the door.

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 your animal(s) up for the UP Pet database at <https://tinyurl.com/UPPet>. This database is for residents and helps 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

April 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Reminder: EV Charging Station permits are now required.</p>		<p>1 Trash, Bulk Trash</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 Recycling UUMC Rummage Sale</p>	<p>5 UUMC Rummage Sale</p>
<p>6 UPCA Spring Egg Hunt and Games, 3 PM</p>	<p>7 Last day to file as a candidate for Councilmember by 5 PM Yard Waste & Compost, UPWC Meeting, 11:30 AM, Town Council, 7:30 PM</p>	<p>8 Trash, Bulk Trash</p> 	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 Recycling</p>	<p>12 Pollinator Meadow Upkeep, 10 AM-12 PM 2nd Saturday Lecture, 4 PM</p>
<p>13</p>	<p>14 Yard Waste & Compost</p>	<p>15 Trash, Bulk Trash After Eight Book Group, 8-10 PM</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 Recycling</p> 	<p>19 Electronics, Tire, Paint & EPS (Styrofoam) Recycling and Paper Shredding, 9 AM-Noon</p>
<p>20 COB Easter Breakfast & Egg Hunt, 9:30 AM</p>	<p>21 Yard Waste & Compost Town Council, 7:30 PM</p>	<p>22 Trash, Bulk Trash</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 Recycling</p>	<p>26 Ivy League, 10 AM Drug Take Back Day, 10 AM-2 PM Stream Cleanup, 11 AM-1 PM</p>
<p>27</p>	<p>28 Yard Waste & Compost</p>	<p>29 Trash, Bulk Trash</p>	<p>30 Save the Date! Azalea Classic Saturday, May 10</p> 		<p>Save the Date! Join us for UP Meadow Day, Saturday, May 31, 9-11 AM</p>	<p>Town committees meet regularly, check the town website for current details.</p>



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

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TOWN DIRECTORY

Town Hall

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 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 240-850-8233
 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
 Interim Chief Shameka Graddy sgraddy@upmd.org

Police

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

Town Council

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

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

Email
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