

# UNIVERSITY PARK NEWSLETTER

TOWN OF UNIVERSITY PARK, MARYLAND  
SEPTEMBER 2025 OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER VOL. L, NO. 8

## MAYOR'S COLUMN

The hottest summer in recent memory is almost behind us. Below are updates on issues that the Council, Town staff, and I are working on.

### Volunteer Service Day

Looking for a way to help your neighbors, especially those who are aging in place? Want to help clean out Wells Run or pick up litter? Planning is underway for our Town's first volunteer service day on Saturday, October 25. Volunteer activities will include the annual community tree planting (sponsored by the Town's Tree Committee), trash pickup at the Wells Run playground, clean up tasks at Town Hall, and more. If you're interested in participating or need help with a project at home, please contact me at [mayormorrissey@upmd.org](mailto:mayormorrissey@upmd.org) or Dave Tully at [tully.dave@gmail.com](mailto:tully.dave@gmail.com). More details and a sign-up sheet will be posted on our Town website soon.

### Stormwater Management MOU

As you know, University Park's stormwater systems are in dire need of modernization. The most significant flooding takes place in the basin-like area near Pineway and Claggett Pineway in Ward 5. When historic rains take place the existing, outdated stormwater system and residents' properties are inundated with water. In addition to Ward 5, there are seven other stormwater systems in UP that need varying degrees of remediation and/or easements that the Council will need to consider in the future.

The Town has worked with Prince George's County Department of the Environment's Municipal Storm Drain Acceptance Program for several years to have our stormwater system become part of the county-managed system. This would involve a significant financial investment by the County and requires a detailed Memorandum of

## Town Meetings & Special Dates

Town Council September 2 & 15

Town Holiday September 1

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

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Understanding. The MOU will include cost estimates, a scope of work, and preliminary design concepts. In pursuit of this MOU the Town has responded to many required and follow-up questions from the County.

In June, to speed the process along, Town staff, our contract engineer, and I met with County Councilmember Eric Olson to brief him on the Town's effort to realize a Memorandum of Understanding with the County.

In July, Town staff and our engineer had a productive and hopeful meeting with County officials who indicated they: 1) understand the documented severe flooding problems in UP; and 2) may be willing to contribute financially to upgrading pipes and other underground infrastructure to increase system capacity and significantly reduce flooding in Ward 5.

On August 16, the Town formally submitted documentation to the Municipal Storm Drain Acceptance Program. The question of how much the County will commit to contributing is still undecided, but we have made our best case. I'm hopeful that we are almost there.

This matter is our highest priority and our engagement with Councilmember Olson is ongoing. We know what a heavy burden this has been, particularly for Ward 5 residents.

### **Water Main Leak Update**

For about four months, water streamed down Route 1 from a broken water main that was installed in 1924. Many residents contacted Town Hall and County Councilmember Olson. He was in frequent contact with WSSC and they were finally able to fix the leaking water in late July.

### **Traffic Safety and Solutions**

At the August 8, Police, Traffic, and Public Safety (PTPS) Committee meeting, two representatives from A. Morton Thomas & Associates (AMT) presented raw data from their study and measurement of cut through traffic and speeding in Town. Ward 5 experiences a remarkable amount of speeding and cut through traffic, as do other parts of Town. In fact, the traffic engineer from AMT told PTPS Committee meeting attendees that she's never seen a municipality where speeding was evident on every single street. Armed with that information, AMT is working on a detailed report and rec-

ommendations for addressing our traffic problems for consideration by the Council within the next month.



Check out the PTPS Committee webpage for details about AMT's traffic study and other Committee projects they're working on to make our streets safer for everyone.



### **New Town Hall Project**

For the latest information about the new town hall project, consult the Public Facilities and Services Committee's town hall project webpage.



### **Pollinator Meadow**

If you haven't ventured over the Town's Pollinator Meadow on Adelphi Road lately, I encourage you to stop by the meadow to see the summer flowers. Fall keystone species, such as asters and goldenrods, keep bees and other pollinators buzzing around. To learn more about pollinators, visit the Maryland Pollinator Toolkit webpage.



On July 26, the Sustainability Committee hosted our Town's first Moth Night gathering at the Pollinator Meadow. Moths and other insects of many shapes and sizes were seen and documented. Take a look at some of the moths and other insects who showed themselves that night, including the Herpetogramma and Promalactis.

Warmly,  
Laurie K. Morrissey



## FROM THE CHIEF

With the start of the new school year, increased traffic and pedestrian activity can be expected throughout University Park, particularly during morning and afternoon hours. Our roadways will be active with school buses, crossing guards and students walking or biking to school. We urge all motorists to plan accordingly, allow extra travel time and exercise heightened caution in school zones and residential areas.



### Back-to-School Safety Tips

- **Slow Down & Stay Alert:** Follow posted speed limits in school zones and be prepared to stop for pedestrians or crossing guards.
- **Respect School Buses:** Never pass a stopped bus displaying flashing red lights or an extended stop arm.
- **Use Designated Crossings:** Pedestrians and cyclists should cross only at marked crosswalks and obey all signals.
- **Practice Safe Drop-Offs:** Have children exit curbside, adhere to drop-off procedures and avoid double-parking or blocking driveways.
- **Be Visible & Prepared:** Cyclists should wear helmets, and pedestrians should wear bright or reflective clothing. With shorter daylight hours approaching, visibility is reduced; plan ahead and leave early when possible.
- **Secure Personal Property:** Lock vehicles, remove valuables from view and promptly retrieve packages to deter theft.
- **Mail Safety:** Avoid leaving outgoing mail in unsecured mailboxes, and do not use the town mail box for bill payments or important documents. Use a post office or secure USPS drop box to reduce the risk of theft or fraud.
- **Do Not Block Driveways:** Ensure driveways remain clear for residents and emergency vehicles at all times.

Your continued patience and cooperation help keep our children safe and make University Park a safer, more welcoming place for all. Support our crossing guards; they play a vital role in protecting students and managing

## TOWN NEWS

traffic. Always follow their instructions, stop when signaled and remain patient; they are safeguarding our children's journey to and from school.

—Police Chief David Coleman

### Notable Incidents—July 2025

**Property Damage (7/3)** A dump truck accidentally ran over and broke a resident's ceramic flower pot on Sheridan Street. The property owner was compensated \$100 by the contractor.

**Citizen Dispute (7/10)** A resident had a verbal dispute with a University Park Public Works employee during trash collection. The Public Works Director and town officials were notified.

**Package Theft (7/14)** A UPS package containing a \$375 Honda part was stolen from a porch on Underwood Street. The theft was captured on Ring video; similar thefts have occurred at the same address in recent weeks.

**Fraud (7/18)** A resident's \$1,890 check for lawn care services was stolen from an out-of-state mailbox, altered and deposited into another account.

**Disorderly Conduct (7/20)** Officers responded to a landlord-tenant dispute on 40th Avenue. Parties were advised to resolve the matter in court.

**Garden Item Theft (7/29)** Garden sprays valued at \$50 were stolen from a driveway on Underwood Street. No suspect information is available.

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### New Town Treasurer

Carrina Bucknor is honored to serve as the new Town Treasurer for the Town of University Park. She brings over 15 years of experience in financial management, grant oversight and public sector accounting, with a strong focus on transparency, efficiency and community impact. Before joining University Park, Carrina served as Director of Finance for Arundel Community Development Services, where she led budgeting and compliance for a variety of federal, state and local grant programs. She has a passion for helping organizations operate with financial integrity and long-term sustainability.

Carrina grew up in College Park and now lives in Laurel with her husband and their four children. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with friends and family, organizing, decorating, event planning and keeping a tidy, welcoming home. She looks forward to contributing her skills to the Town's operations and connecting with residents in meaningful ways.

# THE UPDATE

## THE LATEST IN UNIVERSITY PARK

### Stay Connected With University Park

Want Town news delivered straight to your inbox? Subscribe to the *Update*—our weekly e-newsletter highlighting upcoming events, reminders, and community resources. Visit <https://upmd.org/list.aspx> and sign up for the Mayor’s List and News and Announcements to receive the Update. While you’re there, explore the other subscription options to customize the updates you get from Town Hall.

Stay connected between newsletters by following us on social media:

Town of University Park

- Facebook: /townofuniversitypark
- Instagram: @university\_park\_md

University Park Police Department

- Facebook: /universityparkpd

Be the first to know what’s happening in University Park—from Council actions to community events—and help keep our neighborhood informed, engaged, and connected.

### From the Dept. of Public Works



**Save the Date!** Our fall Electronics and Paper Shredding Recycling Event will be taking place **Saturday, October 18, 9 AM-12 PM**. It will be at the UPES bus turnaround and you may recycle electronics, tires, paint, EPS (Styrofoam) and have paper shredded.

### Sustainability Committee News

#### Compost Bin Rollout Across University Park

In January 2025, UP Town Council passed a motion to deliver compost bins to households who are not current-

ly in the compost program. Wards 3 & 5 piloted the expanded rollout in March, resulting in 115 bins delivered and 5 households opting out. Bins will now be delivered to homes that do not already participate in Wards 1, 2, 4, 6 & 7 in October. Composting is 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 for yard waste as well. If you live in Wards 1, 2, 4, 6 & 7 and prefer to opt out of having a compost bin, please email the Director of Public Works at [mbeall@upmd.org](mailto:mbeall@upmd.org). For more information about the UP Compost Program please see [upmd.org/169/Compost-Program](http://upmd.org/169/Compost-Program) or contact the Sustainability Committee chair, LK Klein at [upsustainabilitycommittee@gmail.com](mailto:upsustainabilitycommittee@gmail.com).



### Tree Committee News

As predicted, the activity of the invasive spotted lanternfly is higher this year in town with adult insects remaining present from August through October. This likely is the start of a boom in population in town which will increase for the next couple of years before decreasing to lower population levels. These insects feed on many deciduous tree species in town and are a nuisance pest, but research indicates that while they feed on trees, they are not a significant threat to our native trees in town. One important line of defense is to remove any tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) trees from your property, as these are native to the home range of the insect (and invasive in the USA) and play an important role in successful reproduction and defense of the insects. If you have questions about identifying tree of heaven trees feel free to reach out to the TPE committee ([treecomm@upmd.org](mailto:treecomm@upmd.org)) with pictures or for a home visit. Common look-alikes for tree of heaven are sumac and walnut.

## TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

**Tree ordinance** Please remember that the town tree ordinance requires all residents to file a tree form 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, noninvasive 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, please note that the town is responsible for trees in the town right-of-way, and residents cannot remove town trees without DPW consent. For more information, please visit the town's website.

**Ivy League, Saturday, September 27, 9-11 AM** We will meet at the town pollinator meadow to remove invasive species near the creek. Bring water and gloves. We will have tools available, but you are also welcome to bring your favorite prying tool or clippers. Volunteer forms are happily signed. Join us! Also mark your calendars for October 25 from 9-12 PM for the annual town street tree planting!

—Tree Committee Chair Karin Burghardt

### Helping Hands University Park

#### HHUP Calendar



**Members Monthly Lunch Club, Wednesday, September 17, 12-1 PM** In person. Members and volunteers social gathering. Location changes every month. Become a member and join us!

**Executive Committee Meeting, Wednesday, September 24, 5:30-6:30 PM** via Zoom. HHUP is a committee of the Town Council, and all UP residents are welcome to attend. Contact us by phone or email for the Zoom link.

**Conversational Spanish, Wednesdays, 3-4 PM** Members meet weekly to practice with instructor Edda Osborne. Skill level: intermediate and up. Contact us by phone or email for information.

**HHUP Poetry Gathering, Sundays** approximately every six weeks at 4 PM via Zoom. All are welcome, whether a poet, poetry lover, or just poetry curious. For info, contact Gerry Hendershot, ghendershot@earthlink.net; Loretta Saks, lorettahhup@gmail.com or Deborah Rosenfelt, dsr@umd.edu.

**Route 1 Corridor Conversations** An online informative series cosponsored by HHUP to entertain, engage and educate. For more info on the next presentation and to watch previous events check online at [hyattsville-aginginplace.org/programs-and-activities/corridor-conversations/](http://hyattsville-aginginplace.org/programs-and-activities/corridor-conversations/)

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

### June 16 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; Police Chief David Coleman; Public Works Director Mickey Beall; Todd Frankenfield, Alta CPA Group.

#### Mayor, Council, and Committee Comments and Reports

**Police, Traffic, and Public Safety Committee** The committee met last Wednesday, and there was a representative from Jenoptik, who showcased their camera technology designed for speed, red light and stop sign cameras. We meet again on July 2 and will have a report from A. Morton Thomas related to the traffic calming study.

**Sustainability Committee** The committee meets on July 1.

Mayor Morrissey spoke about the productive meeting involving staff, County Council Member Eric Olson and our engineer as they discussed the stormwater MOU that we've been trying to enter into with the county for nearly five years.

#### New Business

**Motion: To approve Resolution 25-R-05 recognizing Council Member Morgan's accomplishments and service to the Town.** Motion was carried unanimously.

Todd Frankenfield presented the Treasurer's Report for May 2025.

**Motion: To approve the purchase of a 2026 Kenworth T480 trash packer with a 25-yard packer body, for an amount not to exceed \$258,900, funded by a 10-year lease of approximately \$330,000, and to waive the bid**

## TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

*process for the purchase with good cause being avoidance of continued operational disruption, with the contract and lease subject to the Town Attorney review.* Motion was carried unanimously.

### Department Reports

All departmental reports were included in the packet.

The meeting adjourned by consent at 7:52 PM.

### July 7 Council Special Session Highlights

Present via video and audio conference were Mayor Morrissey; Councilmembers Dubayah, Gathercole, Kelby, Mowery, Godfrey, Sweet. Excused: McGaughey. Staff present: Town Administrator Debi Sandlin; Town Attorney Suellen Ferguson.

#### Close Open Session

*Motion: To close open session and go into closed session, to discuss personnel matters and consult with counsel to obtain legal advice. Mayor and Council will return to open session.* Motion was carried unanimously.

Returned to Open Session 9:06 PM.

#### Consideration Of Approval Of Town Treasurer Candidate

*Motion: The Council authorize the hiring of Carrina Bucknor as the Town Treasurer at a salary of \$75,000 a year with benefits and other benefits as been discussed and subject to review by the Town Attorney part-time, pending a background check.* Motion was carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned by consent at 9:08 PM.

### July 21 Council Meeting Highlights

Present via video and audio conference were Mayor Morrissey; Councilmembers Dubayah, Gathercole, Kelby, Mowery, McGaughey, Godfrey, Sweet. Staff present: Town Administrator Debi Sandlin; Town Attorney Suellen Ferguson; Town Clerk TC Hegeman; Police Chief David Coleman; Public Works Director Mickey Beall; Todd Frankenfield, Alta CPA Group.

### Treasurer Report

Todd Frankenfield presented the Treasurer's Report for the period ending June 2025, indicating a net asset change of \$908,000 for the fiscal year, with an approximate gain of \$100,000 in the most recent financial statements.

### Discussion of Whether to Add Tasks to the Audit

Debi Sandlin discussed the memo she sent to Council. The town attorney informed Council that a standard audit practice is what went out for bid and the town does receive a management letter every year as required. She also explained the three types of audits: standard, single and forensic. The discussion clarified the differences among standard audits, single audits (triggered by federal funding levels), and forensic audits (used for suspected mishandling). The Town currently requires only standard audits. The Council should specify its concerns and desired scope to the auditors. Staff will arrange a meeting with the auditors for interested council members. This may include closed sessions to discuss sensitive financial security issues.

### Mayor, Council, and Committee Comments and Reports

Mayor Morrissey shared that members of town staff and the county will meet tomorrow to discuss final questions before the MOU process wraps up. This is related to Clagett Pineway stormwater acceptance program.

*Police, Traffic, and Public Safety Committee* The committee met on July 2 and discussed several items, including Jenoptik, which is on the Council agenda tonight for consideration. A. Thomas Morton presented the findings of a recent traffic study; however, the results were unclear and complicated to read on Zoom. They will come in person on August 6, to provide more precise results and address any questions that may arise.

*Development Committee* The committee met last week to discuss the Queens Chapel and Hyattsville Sector Plan. The committee decided to research possible impacts and develop a strategic approach. The Mayor expressed concerns about the potential impact of allowing accessory dwelling units, which could lead to the removal of trees and changes in the neighborhood character.

*Sustainability Committee* The committee is seeking Council approval to procure and distribute additional compost bins to residents. The committee discussed the need



## TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

to clarify the process for the subsequent rollout of compost bins.

***Motion: The Director of Public Works to provide a plan for the rollout of the compost bins for the remaining residents of town that are not already participating in the program.***

**Policy Rules and Municipal Structure Committee** The July 28 meeting will be rescheduled to August 11. The committee will discuss charter amendments, personnel policies, and rules and procedures.

**Public Facilities and Services Committee** The committee did not meet this month but is scheduled to meet on August 21.

### Continuing Business

***Motion: To adopt ordinance 25-O-04 to amend the FY26 budget to add a Town Committee budget line-item for funding of various activities of Town committees, and to transfer committee use funds to this line item.*** Motion was carried unanimously.

***Motion: To refer the development of a new Town Hall back to the Public Facilities and Services Committee for review and recommendations on scope and financing based on the revised cost estimates that have been received.*** Motion was carried unanimously.

### New Business

**Consideration of Recommendations from the Supervisors of Elections—Uncontested Elections**  
Some Council members cautioned that reducing election activities could diminish voter engagement, underscoring the importance of maintaining opportunities for public participation. The Council agreed to refer the proposal to the Policy Rules Municipal Structure Committee for further review and drafting, with election supervisors participating to refine the process.

***Motion: The matters raised by the election supervisors will be referred to the Policy, Rules, and Municipal Structure Committee for review.*** Motion was carried unanimously.

### Consideration of Committee Appointments

The Council addressed committee appointments, including the recommendation to add Orlando Velez to the Development Overview Committee due to his relevant background. It was noted that John Tabori, a former Mayor and Council member, is leaving the Committee and Town, with a farewell potluck scheduled for July 30, 2025, at a member's home.

***Motion: To approve the committee appointments as presented.*** Motion was carried unanimously.

***Motion: To approve the reappointment to the Ethics Commission of Constance Belfiore to a three-year term, and of Melanie Aclander and David Crocker to a two-year term, with all subsequent appointments to be for two years.*** Motion was carried unanimously.

***Motion: To appoint Councilmember Godfrey to serve as Mayor Pro Tem to perform the duties and exercise the authority of the Mayor during the Mayor's absence.*** CM Godfrey abstained. Motion was carried 6-1.

***Motion: To approve a motion to enter into a contract in substantially the form attached for the replacement of the garage roof, subject to review by the Town Attorney, and to waive the bid process, as provided by Section 2-115(D)2 of the Town Code for riding the contract of another governmental entity whose purchasing policies are similar to the Town's policies.*** CM Mowery abstained. Motion was carried 6-1.

### Consideration of PEPCO Vegetation Management Permit

This process is overseen by a certified town arborist, who has the authority to veto any decisions that could harm trees. Since 2015, the Town has established a precedent for managing PEPCO's tree trimming and removal activities, including agreements on private property and protections for public trees.

***Motion: To approve a motion to issue a tree pruning permit to PEPCO for the portion of town that receives electrical service from Feeder 14771.*** Motion was carried unanimously.

***Motion: To approve the request to Jenoptik by the Chief of Police to place traffic cameras in the vicinity of our existing traffic cameras to see if there is a difference in images captured.*** Motion was carried unanimously.



## OBITUARIES

### Department Reports

Departmental reports were included in the meeting package.

*Chief of Police* The department highlighted the unique capability of moving stop sign cameras among various locations. This flexibility is expected to enhance the effectiveness of each camera, particularly for high-speed monitoring. The steps to follow involve contractual processes to facilitate this deployment.

*Director of Public Works* The solar array that has reached its first anniversary of full operation. Over the past year, it has produced as much electricity as any comparable system, demonstrating full productivity. Working in coordination with Pepco and contractors to complete electrical work and HVAC upgrades.

Upcoming meetings with DOE staff aim to clarify and agree on necessary replacements based on as-built plans. Recent heavy rainfall data and related video footage are also being reviewed to assist in these evaluations.

The meeting adjourned by consent at 8:58 PM.

**Leila J. Steiner**, a longtime resident, passed away on Monday, July 28, 2025. She was born on February 18, 1943 in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, daughter to the late Russell Clarence Tharp and Isabel Joseph Tharp. Leila moved to University Park with her husband Paul and two sons, Adam and Matthew, in 1981 when Paul accepted a teaching position at the University of Maryland. Leila taught English at Northwestern and High Point High Schools for many years. She received her bachelor's degree in 1964 from Gettysburg College, her Master of Social Work in 1978 and her Ph.D. in Higher and Adult Education in 1982 from the University of Missouri. She was an avid reader who enjoyed gardening, playing bridge and spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She is survived by a brother, Russell Tharp, her sons Adam and Matthew, her grandchildren Rachel, Cole, Jackson and two great-granddaughters, Skylar and Moura.

**Phillip Wayne Harris, Sr.**, 84, passed away peacefully on May 14, 2025 at his home in Towson, MD. Phil was a longtime resident of UP. Born on January 24, 1941 in Raleigh, NC, as a child Phil's family relocated to Washington and then Hyattsville, where he lived until he was

married. Phil was a graduate of Northwestern High School and the University of Maryland, where he earned a B.S. in Information Management Systems. Phil spent the bulk of his career with the federal government, working first for the US Postal Service, then moving to the Department of Defense. He worked in information technology at several Department of Defense agencies before joining DARPA (Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency) where he worked until his retirement.



In 1962, Phil married Florence Dietrich, his high school sweetheart. They began their married life in Greenbelt before settling in University Park, where they lived for 54 years. Phil coached basketball for his sons and spent hundreds of hours as head timer at swim meets in support of his six children. He also spent two terms as President of University Hills Swimming Pool. Tennis was one of Phil's lifelong passions. He played for over 50 years, starting a neighborhood tennis ladder and developing longtime friendships with the same group of buddies. He continued playing tennis several times per week until well into his retirement.

Phil enjoyed talking, reminiscing and laughing with family and friends. He was generous, genuine and sincere. He loved listening to and singing along to music, and his kids have the fondest memories of car rides with the windows down, singing along to the radio. Phil invested his time, love and energy in the people he cared about. He was a family man and a devoted provider. His absence as patriarch is, and will forever be, deeply missed. Phil spent the last year of his life in Towson, where he and Flo were visited daily by their ever-growing family. He is survived by his wife, Florence Dietrich Harris, four children, eight grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

### 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.

## TOWN NEWS & EVENTS

### After Eight Book Group

Tuesday, September 16, 8-10 PM

September's book is *The Last Runaway* by Tracy Chevalier. October's title is *The Paris Novel* by Ruth Reichl. Those interested in attending should contact Laura Donnelly at 301-927-6550.



tiny gelli prints or mini-works on canvas. More details will be available at the Information Desk on the day of the event. We are working with the University Park Civic Association to see if we can have food carts available along Queen's Chapel Rd. by the soccer field.



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.

### Artist Registration is Still Open

Whether you draw, paint, photograph, carve, stitch, sculpt, quilt or engage in any other of the visual arts, you can set up your display along the footpath that runs behind the soccer field. If interested in registering, go to <https://tinyurl.com/UParts2025> and complete the brief questionnaire. **Deadline September 19.** Follow-up information will be emailed to you. Any questions or concerns, email us at [UPartsinthepark@gmail.com](mailto:UPartsinthepark@gmail.com) or call Dick Groppe at 301-864-2096.



### Arts in the Park Celebration

Saturday, September 27, 1-4 PM

Rain Date October 4



Join us at the fourth annual Arts in the Park, a day about sharing and celebrating our community through its visual arts. No judging, no competitions, no prizes! Just a fun day in the park. Meet the artists and learn how they create their works of art. We'll have demonstrations by several of our local artists with specific demonstrations for young people. Let Scott Sullivan show your children how to sculpture or let your children and young adults join Michelle Wedge's Tiny Art class and create their own

young people. Let Scott Sullivan show your children how to sculpture or let your children and young adults join Michelle Wedge's Tiny Art class and create their own

### 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](http://gofundme.com) and search "St. Mark's Food Pantry" to donate. Checks are also welcome and may be

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payable to the St. Mark's Food Pantry. Please mail to:

St. Mark's Food Pantry  
7501 Adelphi Road  
Hyattsville, MD 20783

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



### UP Helping Paws

Completed dog training in the last year or so? UP Paws would love to share and celebrate your training success stories. We know how much time and patience it takes to do it well, and as fellow dog lovers and owners, we know it is worth it. Please share your training experiences with us. Did your puppy make it through puppy class? Have you moved on to intermediate or advanced work? Explored fun sports like agility or nosework? Did you get your Canine Good Citizen? Get certified for therapy dog work? Let us help celebrate every milestone! Submit this form for spotlight consideration: <https://bit.ly/DogGraduate>

Email [uphelpingpaws@gmail.com](mailto:uphelpingpaws@gmail.com) for more information.



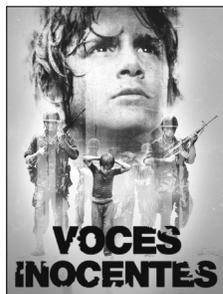
**University United Methodist Church Rummage Sale, Friday, September 19, 9 AM-4 PM; Saturday, September 20, 9 AM-3 PM** Items for sale include furniture, clothing (children and adult), collectibles, toys, books,

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

electronics, housewares, kitchenware, china, linens, tools and bric-a-brac. Estate sale items including furniture and rugs are for sale. Treasures galore. Tax deductible donations for the sale are accepted at the church until Sunday, September 14. Call the church at 301-422-1400 to arrange a donation time. University United Methodist Church, Campus Drive, College Park.



**Hyattsville Arts Festival, Saturday, September 20, 12-6 PM** Everyone is invited to this free, family event in Downtown Hyattsville! The Festival features over 100 jury-selected artist and artisans as well as craft breweries, food vendors, live music performances and children's activities. There's something for everyone at this event—with shopping, locally brewed beer, great food and fun activities, we have you covered. More info at [hyattsvilleartsfestival.com](http://hyattsvilleartsfestival.com).



**Hyattsville Library Indie Film Series, Voces Inocentes, Monday, September 22, 6:30-9 PM** Join Dr. Rob Chester, film professor at the University of Maryland, as he guides us through the 2004 film *Voces Inocentes*, directed by Luis Mandoki. The film is set in the 1980s Civil War in El Salvador where 11-year-old Chava attempts to live the normal life of a child. 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](http://cpae.org). Subscribe to our weekly email newsletter for program updates and check out our full calendar at [cpae.org/arts/full-calendar/](http://cpae.org/arts/full-calendar/).

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR



### Performing Arts Programs

**College Park Youth Orchestra, *Sunday Evenings*** Auditions Sunday, September 7. Audition times will be scheduled after registration. See [cpyo.net](http://cpyo.net) for more info.

**College Park Youth Band, *Tuesdays, 6-7:30 PM*** at Greenbelt Middle School, 6301 Breezewood Dr, Greenbelt, MD 20770.

**Youth Choir and Vocetti, *Thursdays, 6:30 - 8:30 PM*** beginning September 4.

**College Park Chorale, *Sundays, 7 -9 PM*** At St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, beginning September 14.

**Sacred Circle Dance with Lisa Bardack, *Saturday, September 20, 2-4 PM*** Sacred circle dance is a collective dance experience that draws from ancient and traditional folk dances, many from Eastern Europe and the Balkans. We will dance to cultivate the mindfulness needed to move through the autumn with peace, clarity and joy. No dance experience needed (just basic mobility and coordination), as the dances are simple to moderately easy, and the dance steps repetitive.



**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*** Jessie's Soul Line Dancers (JSLD) is a professional line dance organization established over 25 years ago by Jessie Barnes. JSLD instructors provide step-by-step instruction, and students then perform the dance to soul, gospel or pop music. JSLD offers a variety of classes for all ages and skill levels. The organization places heavy emphasis on the fun of line dancing in support of a healthy lifestyle. Contact [info@cpae.org](mailto:info@cpae.org) for zoom link.



### Shop Locally at Farmers Markets

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

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

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

Greenbelt Farmers Market  
25 Cresecnt Rd.  
Greenbelt MD 20770  
Sunday 10AM-2PM

Crossroads Farmers Market  
Anne Street at University Blvd. East  
Takoma Park, Maryland 20912  
Wednesday 11 AM-2:30 PM

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

**Saturday, October 18, 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](http://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



# Spotted Lanternfly

## In Home and Community Landscapes

By Madeline Potter, Faculty Specialist for Entomology & IPM

### Key Information

- **An invasive insect** (planthopper), scientific name: *Lycorma delicatula*, native to eastern Asia that has been spreading in certain areas of Maryland since 2018 (in the U.S. since 2014).
- **Has straw-like mouthparts**, feeding on plant sap (phloem) from a wide range of plants; they can NOT chew plants.
- **Does NOT bite or sting.**
- **Does NOT significantly harm most plants.** Their feeding can stress plants and impact plant health (especially with heavy infestations), but plant death from their feeding has only been seen with some grape vines, young black walnut trees, and the invasive tree-of-heaven.
- **Mainly a nuisance pest** in home and community landscapes. Like other plant sap feeding insects (i.e. cicadas, aphids, soft scale), spotted lanternfly excretes honeydew (a sugary substance) that can stick to any surface below, potentially damaging items, attracting other insects, and resulting in sooty mold growth.
- **Pesticides are NOT recommended** for management of spotted lanternfly in home and community landscapes. These insects are highly mobile and pesticides will only have a small, temporary impact. Pesticides can harm pollinators and other animals, especially longer lasting, systemic products. If you want to use control tactics, more sustainable management options are recommended (see back page).



**Straw-like mouthpart**

Frontal view of an adult spotted lanternfly, showing its proboscis (straw-like mouthparts).

Photo credit: © donald\_mcmunn, some rights reserved (CC BY-NC), iNaturalist.

### **“But I heard they are really bad insects and should be killed on sight.”**

When spotted lanternfly first arrived in the U.S., its potential impact was unclear, so widespread control was urged out of caution. Current findings suggest **most healthy plants are not seriously harmed** and squishing has little impact on populations. Efforts now focus on sharing up-to-date information, reducing the spread by checking vehicles and transported goods, and supporting grape and other growers whose crops could be affected without control measures.



# Spotted Lanternfly

In Home and Community Landscapes

By Madeline Potter, Faculty Specialist for Entomology & IPM

UNIVERSITY OF  
MARYLAND  
EXTENSION

HOME & GARDEN  
INFORMATION CENTER

## Sustainable Management Options

- **Leave them for predators** (spiders, birds, bats, praying mantids, and more). Many different natural predators are learning to feed on spotted lanternflies, including bats.
- **Avoid home remedies** (vinegar, dish soap, bleach, etc.). Home remedies like household or cooking ingredients and cleaning products are not designed to be used outdoors for pest control. Ingredients that seem safe to us can harm plants, pollinators, and wildlife, and may pollute waterways. Mixing certain products can also be dangerous to people.
- **Apply exclusionary netting** (<1/8 inch openings) around vulnerable plants like grape vines, young black walnut trees, peach trees, and cucumbers; removing netting during cucumber flowering to allow for needed insect pollination. Periodically check the netting for any trapped wildlife.
- **Physically remove them.** In your own garden, you can choose to remove them by blasting with a strong stream of water, knocking them into a container of soapy water, or squishing them. Always identify the insect before assuming it's a spotted lanternfly. Maryland is home to many different beneficial insects.
- **Remove tree-of-heaven** (*Ailanthus altissima*), a primary host of spotted lanternfly and a widespread invasive plant in Maryland. Distinguish it from native lookalikes and use effective removal methods; it resprouts if only cut. Details at: [extension.umd.edu/resource/tree-heaven/](http://extension.umd.edu/resource/tree-heaven/).



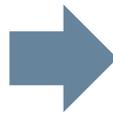
Bird catching a spotted lanternfly.

Photo credit: © corderonature, some rights reserved (CC BY-NC), iNaturalist

## Identification (Images not to scale)



EGG MASS



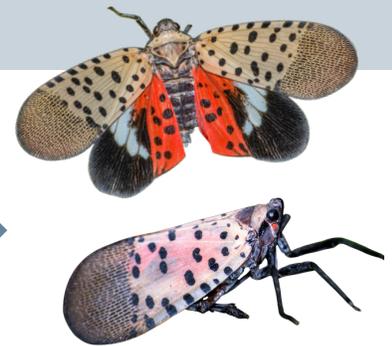
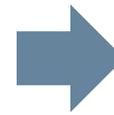
EARLY STAGE



LATE STAGE



IMMATURE (NYMPH)



ADULT

## See It, Report It

Maryland Department of Agriculture online reporting form:  
<https://tinyurl.com/46nvxyez>



## Still Have Questions?

Visit:  
[go.umd.edu/SLF](http://go.umd.edu/SLF)



# September 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Town Holiday	2 Trash, Bulk Trash Town Council, 7:30 PM	3 Yard Waste & Compost	4	5 Recycling	6
7	8 Yard Waste & Compost	9 Trash, Bulk Trash	10	11	12 Recycling	13
14	15 Yard Waste & Compost Town Council, 7:30 PM	16 Trash, Bulk Trash After Eight Book Group, 8-10 PM	17	18	19 Recycling	20
21	22 Yard Waste & Compost	23 Trash, Bulk Trash	24	25	26 Recycling	27 Ivy League, 9 AM Arts in the Park Celebration, 1-4 PM
28	29 Yard Waste & Compost	30 Trash, Bulk Trash	<p><b>Save these October Dates!</b></p> 	Recycling, Shredding & More Event October 18, 9 Am-Noon	Annual Tree Planting October 25, 9-12 PM	<i>Town committees meet regularly, check the town website for current details.</i>



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

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**TOWN DIRECTORY**

**Town Hall** 9 AM-5 PM  
Office Hours M-F 9 AM-5 PM 301-927-4262  
Fax 301-277-4548  
TDD 800-735-2258  
Website [www.upmd.org](http://www.upmd.org)  
Town Field Status 240-297-8277  
Mayor Laurie K. Morrissey [mayormorrissey@upmd.org](mailto:mayormorrissey@upmd.org)  
Cell Phone 240-688-9534  
Town Administrator Debi Sandlin  
[dsandlin@upmd.org](mailto:dsandlin@upmd.org)  
Cell Phone 240-850-8233  
Town Clerk TC Hegeman [thegeman@upmd.org](mailto:thegeman@upmd.org)  
Public Works Dir. Mickey Beall [mbeall@upmd.org](mailto:mbeall@upmd.org)  
Town Treasurer Carrina Bucknor [cbucknor@upmd.org](mailto:cbucknor@upmd.org)  
Code Compliance Officer John Rogers  
[jrogers@upmd.org](mailto:jrogers@upmd.org)

**Police** 8 AM-4PM  
Emergency 911  
Non-Emergency 301-352-1200  
Department phone number 301-277-0050  
Chief David Coleman [dcoleman@upmd.org](mailto:dcoleman@upmd.org)  
Cell Phone 240-723-7869

**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	Cynthia Mowery	301-237-2120
5	David McGaughey	301-664-4030
6	Grant Godfrey	202-486-2436
7	William Sweet	301-541-7642

**NEWSLETTER**

The October newsletter deadline is Saturday, September 6. The *University Park Newsletter* is published monthly, except for a combined July-August issue. Newsletter submissions, questions and comments may be emailed to [univparknews@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.upmd.org/newsletter).  
Editors Todd Stewart & Bridget Warren  
[univparknews@gmail.com](mailto:univparknews@gmail.com) 301-209-7341

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