

UNIVERSITY PARK NEWSLETTER

TOWN OF UNIVERSITY PARK, MARYLAND
NOVEMBER 2025 OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER VOL. L, NO. 10

MAYOR'S COLUMN

"The nine most terrifying words in the English language are 'I'm from the government and I'm here to help.'" – President Ronald Reagan

"Close enough for government work." – Unknown

Over the years, we've all heard strong criticisms of the federal government that it is ineffective, bloated, or even irrelevant. But the truth is often far more complex and deeply personal.

Alongside 750,000 of my fellow federal colleagues, I have spent the past three weeks on furlough due to the ongoing government shutdown. Since January 20, more than 15,000 Marylanders have lost their federal jobs, not including thousands of contractors whose positions were eliminated, including my previous role with the National Institutes of Health.

I am incredibly fortunate to have found a path into federal service during a particularly uncertain time. No one's ability to serve their country should depend on chance or timing. I am writing today especially to those of you who've also been affected by the shutdown: you are not alone. You are valued, and the work you do matters to our communities, our country, and to the everyday lives of people across the nation.

Federal workers from scientists, researchers, and statisticians to park rangers, air traffic controllers, and attorneys play a vital role in keeping our country safe, healthy, and innovative. Your service often goes unseen, but it does not go unappreciated.

On a recent visit to a remote part of West Virginia, I was reminded of how powerfully the federal government touches our lives. The George Washington National For-

Town Meetings & Special Dates

Town Council	November 3 & 17
Town Holidays	November 11, 27 & 28

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

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FROM THE MAYOR CONT.



est, which spans over 1.8 million acres across two states, is managed by the U.S. Forest Service. As we drove through the area, we traveled on well-maintained roads, visited safe and clean parks, and saw accessible recreation facilities that welcomed all. These public resources exist because of intentional investment decisions made by legislators and carried out by dedicated public servants. These are quiet, everyday triumphs of governance, and they are made possible by people like you.

Here in University Park, your local government, including some of us who are also federal employees, continues to press forward. We're working to make our town safer, more sustainable, and more connected through projects like traffic safety enhancements, stormwater mitigation efforts, and community improvements. Our work may be small scale because it's local, but we draw strength and support from the efforts of colleagues across all levels of government.

To my fellow furloughed colleagues: your dedication does not go unnoticed. We will get through this together and your service will continue to shape the future we all share.

Warmly,

Laurie K. Morrissey



Notice of Introduction of Ordinance 25-O-07

On October 6, 2025, Ordinance 25-O-07 was introduced. This ordinance would amend Chapter 16, "Tree Maintenance", by repealing and re-enacting § 16-103 "Committee on Trees, Parks, and Environment", § 16-104 "Tree Replacement", § 16-106, "Removal of healthy, large trees on private property", § 16-107, "Municipal infractions", and § 16-108, "Reforestation and maintenance of large trees on private property" of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of University Park, to expand the responsibilities of the Committee on Trees, Parks, and Environment to include development of the Official Town Shade Tree List and Town Understory Tree List, determine that trees planted to comply with § 16-106 are not eligible for reimbursement, clarify the provisions concerning removal of unhealthy or hazardous large trees, and invasive species trees, clarify measurement of trees, create a designated reserve fund for private tree reforestation and maintenance in the Town budget and increase the fine for violation of § 16-106. The meeting set for November 3, 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.

Notice of Introduction of Ordinance 25-O-08

On October 20, 2025, Ordinance 25-O-08 was introduced. This ordinance would amend the FY 2026 Budget Ordinance, Legislative Resolution 25-O-03, to include a Traffic Calming budget line item, in the amount of \$42,639.85, to fund the \$39,428.25 remaining traffic study costs and \$3,211.60 for additional data collection points. The increase in budget expense will be offset by a greater than expected Income line item 4015-00 Highway User Revenues. Further, the amendment would reinstate Designated Reserve Line Item 6655-08 for Stormwater Management – Design & Engineering in the total amount of \$971,000.00, reflecting the amount remaining after \$175,000 was included as budget line item 7135.00, Clagett-Pineway SWM MOU - Engineering Services in FY 2026, transferring the funds from Undesignated/Unreserved 8000-00 and to add the 4247-00, Environmental Stewardship Grant income budget line item and the 6237-02 Environmental Stewardship Grant (Pepco) expense line item to authorize the receipt and expenditure of the grant. The meeting set for November 3, 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.

FROM THE CHIEF



This time last year shed break-ins rose in the area and we want to ensure that it doesn't happen again this fall. Thieves frequently target sheds because they house valuable items like power tools, bikes and lawn equipment, which are easy to resell. To significantly reduce your risk, always keep your shed securely locked with a high-quality, heavy-duty padlock and hasp.

Furthermore, it's essential to store valuable tools and equipment out of sight, perhaps in locked cabinets or covered with a tarp, to discourage opportunistic theft. Finally, if you have a home security system, make sure you point at least one security camera directly at your shed and verify that it is properly powered and continuously recording. Taking these proactive steps can turn your shed from an easy target into a protected storage space.

—Chief David Coleman

Notable Incidents

Theft From Auto On September 7 officers responded to a theft from auto report. The reporting person advised that he parked his vehicle on September 6, at approximately 0800 and when he returned to it on September 7 at 1755 hours, he noticed that the driver's side window was destroyed and that the steering wheel airbag was stolen.

Theft from Auto On September 8 officers responded to a theft from auto call. The victim reported that her passenger window was smashed inwards and the airbag was removed from the steering wheel.

Trespassing On September 9 officers received a call regarding a suspect seen entering a garage on Beechwood Rd. When officers arrived on scene, they contacted the

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victim, who reported that he had received a call from his neighbor informing him that an individual had entered his garage. When the neighbor yelled out the window, the individual promptly exited the garage. The victim then reviewed his security camera footage, which confirmed that the suspect did enter the garage. However, it was noted that he did not take any items.

Suspicious Person On September 14 officers received a call regarding a suspicious person on Pineway. The victim reported a young male, possibly intoxicated, knocking on her back door and attempting to open it. After being informed that he was at the wrong house, the suspect left the area.

Break in Report On Sunday October 5 officers responded to a break in report on Beechwood Rd. The victim stated that around 0830 hours he noticed his shed door was open and broken into. The lock on the shed was completely off the door. Items were stolen and the entire shed had been ransacked.

Break in Report On October 6 officers responded to Adelphi Road for the report of a break in. The victim stated that she noticed that her shed door was damaged. According to the victim, through reviewing camera footage, the door to her shed was broken into by an individual on Saturday October 4. To her knowledge nothing was taken from the shed. The suspect's image was forwarded to PGPD detectives.



Sustainability Committee News

Winter Sowing at the UP Meadow, Saturday, November 15, 10 AM-12 PM Our focus for the month will be winter sowing and collecting seeds from the meadow to give away at future seed swaps. Small children with par-

ents, big kids and adults welcome! Please leave your pets at home. Meadow care counts towards service hours—please bring your paperwork. Rain date, Sunday, November 16.



**Sustainable Communities
Environmental Stewardship
Grant Award**

The Town of University Park has been selected to receive a 2025 Sustainable Communities Environmental Stewardship grant funded by Pepco in the amount of \$10,000 for the project: Enhancing and Preserving University Parks Community Meadow.

We extend our deepest appreciation to the Sustainability Committee members Deborah Markenson, Mary Sue Twohy, Holly Halifax, and Kimberly Nugent for their exceptional contributions in crafting the Town’s application narrative and action plan and for the support of the Sustainability Committee Chair, Laura Klien (LK). Through their unwavering dedication, strategic foresight, and countless hours of thoughtful collaboration, they played a pivotal role in securing the grant award. This achievement stands as a testament to their profound commitment to the long-term vitality and stewardship of the Meadow.



Tree Committee News

The committee has been working on language to clarify some aspects of the workflow of the Tree Ordinance and this new language has been introduced and discussed at council meetings. Your feedback is welcome! The committee also conducts an annual ward survey to identify potential tree maintenance needs in the town’s right-of-way. If you have issues to report, you can also reach out to TreeComm@upmd.org and we can connect you with your ward representative.

Ivy League, Saturday, November 22, 10 AM Meet at the parking lot by the town playground for our final Ivy League event of the year, where we will remove invasive species from the town park. 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!

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.

—Karin Burghardt (TPE Chair)

**Helping Hands University Park
HHUP Calendar**



**Helping Hands
University Park**

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

Executive Committee Meeting, Wednesday, November 26, 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 UP residents are welcome, whether a poet, poetry lover, or just poetry curious. Contact 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/

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

July 21 Common Council Meeting Corrections

The following portions of the July 21 Common Council Meeting which appeared in the September issue of the Newsletter have been amended:

Discussion of Whether to Add Tasks to the Audit

Ms. 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.

Consideration of Mayor Pro Tempore Appointment

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 6-0.

Consideration of Approval of Public Works Garage Roof Replacement Contract

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 6-0.

September 15 Council Meeting Highlights

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

Treasurer Report

Ms. Bucknor presented the report for the period ending August 2025, indicating a deficit of \$488,000. The current deficit is expected for this time of year, with fund balances and savings reserves in place to bridge the gap until revenues come in. CM Mowery inquired about a few expenses that are already high and noted that we've spent 50% of the budget on those line items. Ms. Bucknor confirmed the line items have been reviewed, and discussions with department heads will take place to ensure the accuracy and correct coding of these expenses. CM Mowery also inquired about the management of unexpected insurance cost increases that were not anticipated when the budget was set. Mr. Frankenfield explained that insurance payments are typically made at the start of the fiscal year, causing expected timing distortions in budget lines. He also noted anticipation of property tax revenues arriving mainly in October and January, which will help reduce the current year-to-date deficit of \$400,000 as the fiscal year progresses.

Public Comment

A resident inquired about the status of the Park Plan that has been included in the budget for the last four years.

Mayor, Council, and Committee Comments and Reports

Police, Traffic, and Public Safety Committee The committee will meet on October 1, with A. Morton Thomas.

Public Facilities and Services Committee The committee will meet Thursday at 7:30 at Town Hall. The Park Plan is in the queue; it won't make it this Thursday but will appear in the very near future.

The Development Oversight Committee The committee will meet tomorrow which is off schedule.

Sustainability Committee The committee met last week. CM Dubayah didn't attend but had the unapproved minutes. They discussed the compost bin rollout for October, as well as the lighting issue and how they can contribute. An announcement in Sustainable Maryland about the Meadow project plan is expected soon.

CM McGaughey Inquired about the Pepco Street Light Acceptance Program and asked for an update. Ms. Ferguson explained that they are still in negotiations. She also provided details on Pepco's requirement for municipali-

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ties to install a disconnect switch. The switch is expensive and can cost more than the lights themselves. Pepco is nowhere near ready to switch out the lights. Ms. Ferguson represents a group of municipalities, not including UP and will keep everyone informed about the process. Ms. Ferguson offered to provide a copy of the two agreements and the cost sheet she received. She also explained the three options available; two of them are Pepco options, which are very expensive. The third being buying your own lights, then you have to have a contract to maintain them. It should be quite a lot less expensive than Pepco doing so. But you have to have a contract for that, and you'd want to share that with other municipalities that are doing the same thing.

New Business

Consideration of Fence Special Exception Request

Ms. Ferguson explained the reason for the special exception and the issues Council needed to review regarding the request. There is a hearing scheduled next week with the county and the town needs to provide a response regarding this request. The Council inquired about the specifics of the location for the front yard fence at 4415 Beechwood which is a corner lot where the front yard faces Route 1, rather than Beechwood Road. This affects the setback requirements and fence height limits. The request from the homeowner is for a six-foot solid fence in both the front (as defined by the county) and side yards, which requires special exceptions and variances from both the county and town authorities.

The applicant detailed the reason for his request, emphasizing the need for a solid six-foot security fence due to repeated thefts, attempted break-ins, and trespassing on the property. Initial attempts to use natural barriers such as magnolia trees failed due to theft. He also informed them that his neighbor at 6802 Baltimore Avenue had been consulted and expressed no objection, with the neighbor's porch elevation allowing visibility over the fence.

The Council discussed the implications of granting this exception, noting that while the county's designation of the front yard must be accepted, the town can impose conditions on the fence materials and design to balance security with neighborhood aesthetics and safety. It was highlighted that precedent is case-specific, and approval here does not guarantee future approvals for other properties.

The Council asked that written consent or acknowledgment from the affected neighbor at 6802 Baltimore Avenue be obtained to formalize their support for the fence, given its proximity to their property and potential visual impact. The applicant agreed to secure this written consent.

Motion: To approve a special exception to install a 6-foot fence in the front and side yards of 4415 Beechwood Road, the requirements of §4-110 of the Town Code having been met, and contingent upon obtaining written acknowledgment of this fence from the owner at 6802 Baltimore Avenue. Motion was carried unanimously. Ms. Ferguson stated she will provide a letter of support from the town to the county prior to the hearing.

Motion: To introduce Ordinance LR 25-O-06 to authorize the transfer of \$175,000 from Designated Reserves to the new FY26 Public Works Capital Outlay line item 7135-00 to fund the engineering for the Clagett-Pineway SWM MOU Project as amended. Ms. Ferguson explained that there are different line-item numbers from what was originally presented, and the numbers are going to change. The MOU project is 7135-00 and the bridge project is 6522-05. These did not carry over from the prior budget and are not shown in the budget but were intended. She made the corrections in the ordinance. Motion was carried unanimously.

Motion: To introduce Ordinance LR 25-O-06 to authorize the transfer of \$175,000 from the Unreserved/Designated line item and \$75,000 from Undesignated/Unreserved funds to the FY26 Garage Roof and Building Renovation/Design line item 6536-05. Motion was carried unanimously.

Continuing Business

Consideration of Axon Contract Renewal

Council asked if competitive bids were received. Ms. Ferguson stated the town had received competitive bids. She then explained the specifics of the proposed contract renewal. It was noted that the Council had budgeted for the increased cost, which is higher than previous amounts due to added equipment and inflation, with the final cost being about twice the earlier planned amount. There was recognition of the value in staying within the Axon ecosystem for ease of use and integration, despite higher costs. Chef Coleman noted that Axon is integrating new technologies rapidly, such as ac-

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quiring other companies to improve police equipment, which supports its dominant market position.

Motion: To ride the State of Maryland Participating Addendum to the Omnia/University of Nebraska Master Agreement #3544-21-4615 and approve a contract with Axon for 63 months beginning August 14, 2025, with a delivery date of November 15, 2025, for a total contract price of \$112,499.94, payable on a yearly basis, subject to review of the contract by the Town Attorney.
Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion of Term Changes for Elected Officials

Council discussed concerns from residents about extending terms from two to four years, fearing it may discourage young candidates and prolong negative impacts from controversial past leadership. The current election process was noted as costly and labor-intensive, relying on a small group of paid volunteers who are becoming fatigued. Ms. Ferguson informed the Council of the option to have an election every two years for every seat versus the current staggered election. There were concerns about the entire Council and Mayor turning over at the same time. It was noted that the current election schedule creates a gap between the election and swearing-in to allow budget adoption by the outgoing council, but this could be adjusted to shorten the “lame-duck” period. Ms. Ferguson explained that they can decide to have the elections whenever they want to; the election can be moved to June and the swearing in be scheduled shortly after.

Department Reports

Each department report was included in the meeting package.

The meeting adjourned by consent at 8:52 PM.

October 6 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 Suelen Ferguson; Town Clerk TC Hegeman; Police Chief David Coleman; Public Works Director Michael Beall.

Mayor, Council, and Committee

Comments and Reports

Police, Traffic, and Public Safety Committee The committee met October 1, last Wednesday, A. Morton Thomas and Associates (AMT) did not attend. Residents on Van Buren Street want a Do Not Enter sign across from the high school but we’re going wait until the mitigation report from AMT. The Chief provided the committee with a handout on BSM boards. Funding for that was previously removed due to a lack of storage; this will be reconsidered in the next budget. The Chief also discussed The Blue Lights Initiative with PG County which resulted in 26 violations over two nights. The mayor would like a bigger sign at Van Buren on Route 1. People are ignoring the roundabout and driving straight across to Whole Foods. They will ask Obvio to monitor the area and collect data and have a report next month. The next committee meeting is November 5; and asked Ms. Sandlin to share the preliminary reports from A. Morton Thomas so the committee can be ready when they come.

Public Facilities and Services Committee The committee met on the 18th and Town Hall was the topic. We discussed increased costs for the town hall, explored funding options, and received an update on the stormwater management MOU from the town attorney. Also discussed plans for potential outreach to Ward 5 to address their concerns. The committee discussed agenda items such as park planning, car charger permitting, and resident transportation (that does not include a shuttle). Additionally, they considered a playground bathroom request, which was tabled; the streetlight purchase program with Pepco; and a bridge recognition dedication which was tabled. The next meeting is October 16.

Helping Hands UP Committee They have a Chromebook lending program, with two devices left and possible internet service available on a case-by-case basis.

Sustainability Committee The committee will meet tomorrow from 7:30-8:30 p.m. to discuss the compost bin rollout, meadow project grant, October 25, 2025, Service Day, and town lighting.

The Development Oversight Committee The Committee will meet this Thursday to discuss Maryland Senate Bill 891 and a letter from Senator Washington.



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Continuing Business

Motion: To adopt Ordinance LR-25-O-05 adopting Town Code §2-117, Personnel Policies, to authorize adoption and amendment of Town personnel policies, including the Town Personnel Manual, by resolution. Motion was carried unanimously.

Motion: To adopt Ordinance LR 25-O-06 to authorize the transfer of \$175,000 from the Unreserved/ Designated line item and \$75,000 from Undesignated/ Unreserved funds to the FY26 Garage Roof and Building Renovation/Design line item 6522-05 and the transfer of \$175,000 from Designated Reserves to new FY26 Public Works Capital Outlay line item 7135-05 to fund the engineering for the Clagett-Pineway Storm Water MOU Project. Motion was carried unanimously. It was noted that the Department of Environment has indicated they will provide feedback after reviewing their position with DPI. They aim to present a unified stance by October 10, 2025, which is considered a positive development. This feedback will help clarify what they are willing to support financially. While the update is expected on Friday, the actual signing of the MOU may take longer and could involve further negotiations depending on the departments' final position.

New Business

Consideration and Possible Introduction of Ordinance LR-25-O-07 Amending Chapter 16, "Tree Maintenance" of the Town Code CM Godfrey explained that the Tree Committee recommended updates to the tree ordinance—not a complete revision, but tweaks to improve functionality, such as increasing fines for violations to discourage bypassing the process. This expands the Tree, Parks and Environment Committee's responsibilities to include maintaining official tree lists; clarifying measurement standards; increasing fines; establishing a designated reforestation and maintenance fund; and explaining that no fee is required for removing hazardous or invasive trees.

Committee members supported and discussed the need for the changes. Mayor Morrissey concluded that the ordinance would be introduced now, with further discussion and potential revisions to enforcement language before adoption.

Motion: To introduce Ordinance LR-25-O-07 to expand the responsibilities of the Committee on Trees, Parks, and Environment to include development of the Official Town Shade Tree List and Town Understory

Tree List, make trees planted to replace healthy trees that are removed not eligible for reimbursement, clarify how trees are measured, create a designated reserve fund for private tree reforestation and maintenance in the Town budget, increase the fine for violations and clarify that payment of a fee is not required to remove a hazardous or invasive species tree. Motion was carried unanimously.

Consideration of an Ordinance Amending the FY26 Budget to Reestablish a Traffic Calming Study Budget Line-Item and Adding Funds to Provide for Additional Data Collection The amendment restores \$42,639.85 to the traffic study budget line item, covering \$39,428.25 in remaining study costs and \$3,211.60 for additional data collection. This funding will come from highway user revenues, which exceeded expectations by over \$45,000. The adjustment corrects a budgeting error and does not represent a new expense.

Motion: To authorize the Town Attorney to draft an ordinance to amend the FY26 budget to restore the Traffic Calming budget line item in the amount of \$42,639.85, to fund the \$39,428.25 remaining traffic study cost, and \$3,211.60 for additional data collection points, to be funded from greater-than-expected Highway User Revenues consistent with this memorandum. Motion was carried unanimously.

Consideration of a Motion to Introduce an Increase in the Amount of \$12,315 in the FY26 Budget, Police and Public Safety-Line Item 6346-03 Police Overtime It was noted that this is the remainder of a \$45,000 grant. The grant came in higher than expected and was received after the budget was finalized; \$3,000 of the grant remains unallocated and will go to the general fund.

Motion: To introduce an increase in the amount of \$12,315 in the FY26 Budget, Police and Public Safety-Line Item 6346-03 Police Overtime. Motion was carried unanimously.

Discussion of Veterans Day Activities

Ms. Hegeman discussed Veterans Day preparations, confirming that chairs, a tent and a podium have been reserved, and setup will be delivered on Monday before the Tuesday holiday. She noted that the police may be arranging horses for the event, but logistics are still pending.

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Mr. Beall shared that an officer from College Park expressed interest in funding the renovation of the Veterans Memorial, requesting a scope of work, a cost estimate, and on-site recognition. In addition, WSSC's long-awaited sewer project will begin on November 11, with a two-year contract covering over a mile of roads and affecting 16 streets. Mr. Beall invited Council to attend the WSSC public meeting on Saturday. The Council recommended adding the sewer project to the next Council meeting agenda and suggested inviting WSSC representatives for public discussion.

CM Sweet reminded the group that \$25,000 was allocated for Veterans Park improvements, including a solar-lit flagpole, plaque, granite/marble seating, and landscaping, though planning was delayed due to budgeting. Mr. Beall stated it would be preferable to hardwire the lighting instead of using solar.

The meeting adjourned by consent at 8:32 PM.

Annual Sharing Fair

Saturday, November 1, 9:30 AM-3 PM



Browse the pop-up shops and nonprofit booths including 10,000 Villages jewelry, gifts and home decor for gifts and information about their missions. Sample baked goods and famous Binkert's sausages as well as vegetarian options.

Please join us at University Park Church of the Brethren, 4113 Tuckerman Street.



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



UNIVERSITY PARK WOMAN'S CLUB

Celebrating over 80 years of service

UP Woman's Club Meeting Monday, November 3, 11:30 AM

At our November meeting, UPWC looks forward to learning about the very impressive University of Maryland Do Good Institute Campus Fund program. In its second year at UMDCP, the Do Good Institute has awarded 22 grants to faculty, staff and student groups driving meaningful change across campus. Awards are selected annually to support projects which will enhance academic programs and social impacts both inside and outside the classroom. We look forward to seeing our members and neighbors. Please be sure to consult our website at upwomansclub.org for more information about UPWC. University Christian Church, Adelphi and Belcrest Roads, Hyattsville.

Penny Project Collection, Tuesday, November 11, 10

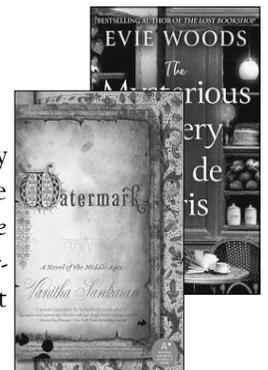
AM-5 PM UPWC reminds members and neighbors that there will be a Penny Project collection jar on the front porch at 6832 Pineway between 10 AM and 5 PM. Your extra change is always greatly appreciated! The fall donation will benefit Montgomery Hospice and Prince George's Hospice.



After Eight Book Group

Tuesday, November 18, 8-10 PM

November's book is *Watermark* by Vanitha Sankaran. December's title is *The Mysterious Bakery on Rue de Paris* by Evie Woods. 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.

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Arts in the Park: A Delayed, But Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood

ARTS IN THE PARK

Mother Nature didn't cooperate with our fifth annual Arts In The Park scheduled for September 27, so we re-scheduled to October 4. It turned into a gorgeous sunny day that saw roughly 160 friends and neighbors joining in celebrating the art of 14 local town artists. Their artwork covered a wide range of visual arts including printmaking, graphite, ink, watercolor, oil, acrylic and oil pastel paintings, photography, pottery, stained glass and digital. A special thanks to the artists who volunteered their time to share their artwork, discuss their art with our visitors and often offer free demonstrations. Their dedication makes this a special event. Also, thanks to the volunteer organizing committee of Mary Gathercole, Dick Groppe, Don Oberg, Scott Sullivan and Michelle Wedge with a special shout out to Jacquie and Karen Groppe who ran the registration and information desk. Arts In The Park has become a fun family event thanks to the efforts of these artists and volunteers.



UPES PTA 2025 Feather Our Nest Fall Fundraiser November 4-22

The 2024 Feather Our Nest Fall Fundraiser (FON) is the second annual fundraising drive developed by the University Park Elementary School Parent Teacher Association to create an easy and accessible way for parents, family, friends and neighbors to support the school community. The UPES PTA mission is to provide financial and volunteer support to the school for the education and development of our children. We focus on facilitating the work of the teachers, providing them with resources to improve learning, build morale and create enriching programming for students.

All proceeds generated through the 2024 FON will offset the UPES PTA's annual fundraising goals and accelerate the PTA's ability to advance larger projects. Thanks to

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

your generous support, last year's fundraiser FON brought in a whopping \$22,197 in proceeds which will allow us to renovate the UPES Media Center (Library) and continue to inspire the joy of reading in UPES students. We are happy to report that this major project will be completed during the current academic year.

Supporting your community school is easier than ever. Make your donation anytime between Monday, November 4 and Friday, November 22 at <https://tinyurl.com/upesfon24>. Corporate sponsors welcome and will receive promotion across all fundraiser events and communications. A strong and supported school benefits everyone! Your donation will make it possible for the UPES PTA to fund programming and initiatives that help make UPES thrive. Every dollar counts! Thanks in advance for supporting UPES!



Hyattsville Library Independent Film Series, *Standing Above the Clouds*, Monday, November 17, 7-9 PM Native Hawaiian mother-daughter activists stand to protect their sacred mountain Mauna Kea from the building of the world's largest telescope. Hyattsville Library, 6530 Adelphi Road.



Hyattsville Mennonite Church Ten Thousand Villages Craft Market and Bake Sale, Saturday, November 22, 9 AM-5 PM Get started on your holiday shopping while supporting fair trade incomes for diverse artisan cultures from around the world. Explore handmade jewelry, home décor, art, rugs, textiles and accessories, all of which are certified fair-trade and help create sustainable, long-term relationships in places where skilled artisans struggle to make a living wage. Stock up on homemade baked goods, with proceeds going to support programs in our community. Talented bakers from the church will offer up whoopie pies, breads, cookies and more! Also, heirloom quality Bunyaad hand-knotted rug rugs and pillows crafted by fairly paid adults will be available during the market hours on Saturday, and at a special rug opening night Friday, Nov. 21, 5 PM-8 PM. Hyattsville Mennonite Church, 4217 East-West Highway, Hyattsville. Admission is free. For more information visit hyattsvillermenonite.org/ten-thousand-villages-craft-market-bake-sale/ Online shopping is always available at tentousandvillages.com/alexandria

COMMUNITY CALENDAR



College Park Arts Exchange

All events take place at the Old Parish House, 4711 Knox Road, College Park, unless otherwise noted. Learn more about CPAE programs by visiting cpae.org. Subscribe to our weekly email newsletter for program updates and check out our full calendar at cpae.org/arts/full-calendar/.

Sunshine Concert, Saturday, November 1, 4 PM with Eric Maring and friends. Come and enjoy a fall Sunshine Concert for children. Bring your voices and families and be a part of this special community event. Free; donations welcome at the door.

St. Martin's Day Lantern Festival, Sunday, November 16, 3:30 PM All are invited to make beautiful paper lanterns, then walk with the lanterns outside at dusk! At St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Parish Hall, 4512 College Avenue, College Park.



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.



Jessie's Soul Line Dancing, 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 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 Crescent 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



PUBLIC WORKS

Fall 2025 Information



CURBSIDE LEAF VACUUMING **November 3, 2024 - January 9, 2026**

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



Bag Your Leaves After January 9

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

TRASH/BULK TRASH/ BULK METAL RECYCLING COLLECTION

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

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



SHADE & UNDERSTORY TREE REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM

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

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



Town of University Park, Maryland

2025-2026 Information Sheet

301-927-4262 | 6724 Baltimore Avenue | www.upmd.org

Town Hall hours are Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Staff can also be reached using the contact information listed below.

Town Hall	301-927-4262
Fax	301-277-4548
TDD	800-735-2258
Website	www.upmd.org

Mayor and Department Heads 301-927-4262

Mayor Laurie Morrissey	Ext. 100
mayormorrissey@upmd.org	cell 240-688-9534
Town Administrator Debi Sandlin	Ext. 102
dsandlin@upmd.org	
Town Clerk TC Hegeman	Ext. 101
thegeman@upmd.org	
Public Works Director Mickey Beall	Ext. 200
mbeall@upmd.org	
Police Chief David Coleman	Ext. 300
dcoleman@upmd.org	
Town Treasurer Carrina Bucknor	Ext 103
cbucknor@upmd.org	

Town Council

A ward map is available at www.upmd.org/wardmap.

Ward	Councilmember	
1	Ralph Dubayah	301-458-0128
	rdubayah@upmd.org	
2	Mary Gathercole	301-325-9415
	mgathercole@upmd.org	
3	Casey Kelby	443-718-0625
	ckelby@upmd.org	
4	Cynthia Mowery	301-237-2120
	cmowery@upmd.org	
5	David McGaughey	301-664-4030
	dmcgaughey@upmd.org	
6	Grant Godfrey	202-486-2436
	ggodfrey@upmd.org	
7	William Sweet	301-541-7642
	wsweet@upmd.org	

University Park Police Department 301-277-0050

Chief David Coleman	Ext. 300
Emergency	911
Prince George's County Police	
Dispatch Non-Emergency	301-352-1200

Website Notifications and Alerts

Get connected and be informed! The website is filled with the latest news and announcements, the Chief's Blog, calendar information, Council and Committee agendas,

minutes and more. Sign up online to receive notifications and alerts via email or text by visiting www.upmd.org/notifyme.

Town Police Department

The Department is located at Town Hall (6724 Baltimore Avenue). Residents are reminded to call 911 for emergencies or to report suspicious activity and a UP Officer will be dispatched. Residents should report non-emergency requests to Prince George's County Police Dispatch Non-Emergency. If a resident has a question, please call the office Monday-Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Nixle Public Safety Alerts

Residents can receive real-time alerts for localized emergency situations and relevant community advisories. <https://local.nixle.com/register/>

Notary Services

Residents may receive free notary services at Town Hall. Remote notary services are also available. Please call the Police Department to schedule an appointment.

Home Security Rebate

Residents who have purchased and installed a new home security system costing \$150 or more are eligible for a \$100 rebate. Please contact the Police Department for more information.

Special Services

Please call the Police Department to schedule an appointment for Child Safety Seat Installation or House Security Survey.

Reporting Traffic Issues

Residents can report traffic issues online. Visit www.upmd.org/Traffic to make a report.

Leash Law

All dogs must be leashed when not on owner's property. All dog walkers must bag their pet's waste and dispose of the bags in a trash receptacle.

Building Permits

Building permit information is online at www.upmd/BuildingPermits. If a Special Exemption is requested, a Special Exemption application must be submitted to the Town Clerk's office no later than five (5) days before a Council meeting. Residents requesting a Special Exception must attend the Council meeting.

Rentals Require Permits

Anyone intending to rent or lease a residence in University Park must obtain a rental permit. All owners who reside in their home and rent to no more than one other person are exempt from the requirement. Rental licenses cost \$400 per year and require a yearly inspection. The Rental Property License Application can be found online at www.upmd.org/BuildingPermitApp under Rentals.

Parking Permits

Residents who rent may obtain a parking permit from the Town Clerk's office. View the Town Code Section 9-104 at www.upmd.org/Code to learn which streets have restricted parking.

UP Vehicle Stickers

University Park homeowners may obtain one blue and white UP sticker per licensed vehicle for free. Display the sticker on the driver's side of your car's rear bumper or low on the rear window. Contact the Town Clerk's office to obtain a sticker.

EV Decals

To use the electric chargers located on Queens Chapel Road (across from the elementary school) you must purchase an annual decal or daily/weekly hangtag from Town Hall. Application and fee information are online at www.upmd.org/EVpermit.

Trash, Recycling & Compost Carts

All collections carts must be at the curb by 7:00 AM on the scheduled collection day.

Do not put trash, recycling or compost carts out earlier than the night before the scheduled pick-up days. It is the resident's responsibility to return the cart from the curb on the same day after pick-up. Carts stored outside must be out of view from the street. If the most convenient place to locate your carts is a visible one, consider installing wooden surrounds, barrier walls or lattice and plants.

Yard Waste and Compost - Mondays

Yard waste is composted rather than taken to the landfill, so it is important to keep it free of trash, rocks and other debris. **Bamboo is considered trash.** Please put yard waste out only on the evening before collection in a bin or brown paper bag. **Plastic bags are prohibited.** To participate in the compost program, complete the Compost Enrollment Program form. For more information or to complete the enrollment form visit www.upmd.org/Compost.

Trash - Tuesdays

Visit www.upmd.org/trash to complete a Bulk Trash/Bulk Metal request form and to view a detailed list of unacceptable items that will not be collected. All mattresses

and box springs must be bagged for collection. TV's and electronics will not be collected. Residents can take these items to the semi-annual electronics event or to the Brown Station Landfill in Upper Marlboro.

Recycling - Fridays

Recycling is collected from the blue single-stream recycling cart. Plastic bags and all other sheet-like plastic are prohibited from County and Town recycling. Items for collection:

- many plastics including food containers numbered 1-7, cups and tableware, plant pots and Rx containers
- clothes hangers
- all glass except mirrors, light bulbs, broken glass and windowpanes
- mixed paper including telephone books, magazines, boxes, rinsed milk & juice aseptic cartons, envelopes and newspapers, etc.
- some metal including aerosol cans, aluminum foil, aluminum and metal food & beverage containers

Please rinse all containers so they are free of food and grease. Labels, tabs and lids are allowed. Please take batteries to a local retailer as most have collection boxes near the entrance.

Leaf Collection

Public Works collect leaves by vacuum from November through early January. Residents should rake their leaves up to the curb line for collection. *Do not rake leaves into the gutters or street. Please keep leaf piles free of sticks, stones and other debris, as they can damage the vacuum equipment.*

Snow Removal

All residents are required to remove snow from their public front sidewalks within 24 hours after the snow has stopped. For more information including snow emergency parking restrictions, visit www.upmd.org/Snow-Winter-Operations.

Electronics, Paint & Tire Recycling, Paper Shredding

Every spring and fall, the Town holds a recycling and paper shredding event at University Park Elementary School. Residents may recycle electronics, tires or shred papers at no cost. Hard drive destruction is available for a nominal fee and paint recycling is available for \$5/container, regardless of size. All paint must be in the original container. Visit www.upmd.org/Recycling-List for a detailed list of acceptable/unacceptable items.

Tax Address

Be sure to use University Park (not Hyattsville) as your address on your Maryland income tax forms. Designating University Park as your address ensures the Town receives its appropriate share of state taxes for Town services.

Please clip & save!



November 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			Town committees meet regularly, check the town website for current details.			1 Annual Sharing Fair Saturday, 9:30 AM-3 PM
2	3 Yard Waste & Compost UP Woman's Club Meeting, 11:30 AM Town Council, 7:30 PM	4 Trash, Bulk Trash	5	6	7 Recycling	8
9	10 Yard Waste & Compost	11 Town Holiday	12 Trash, Bulk Trash	13	14 Recycling	15
16	17 Yard Waste & Compost Town Council, 7:30 PM	18 Trash, Bulk Trash After Eight Book Group, 8-10 PM	19	20	21 Recycling	22
23	24 Yard Waste & Compost	25 Trash, Bulk Trash	26 Recycling	27 Town Holiday	28 Town Holiday	29
30						



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

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TOWN DIRECTORY

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 Office Hours M-F 9 AM-5 PM 301-927-4262
 Fax 301-277-4548
 TDD 800-735-2258
 Website www.upmd.org
 Town Field Status 240-297-8277
 Mayor Laurie K. Morrissey mayormorrissey@upmd.org
 Cell Phone 240-688-9534
 Town Administrator Debi Sandlin
dsandlin@upmd.org
 Cell Phone 240-850-8233
 Town Clerk TC Hegeman thegeman@upmd.org
 Public Works Dir. Mickey Beall mbeall@upmd.org
 Town Treasurer Carrina Bucknor cbucknor@upmd.org
 Code Compliance Officer John Rogers
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
 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 December newsletter deadline is Thursday, November 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. The *Newsletter* publishes the milestones of current and former UP families (births, weddings, obituaries, graduations, awards, etc.) plus events of interest to residents. Political or commercial advertising is not accepted. Please send letters of opinion or Town suggestions to Town Hall. The *Newsletter* is online at www.upmd.org/newsletter. Editors Todd Stewart & Bridget Warren univparknews@gmail.com 301-209-7341

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