

UNIVERSITY PARK NEWSLETTER

TOWN OF UNIVERSITY PARK, MARYLAND
DECEMBER 2025 OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER VOL. L, NO. 11

MAYOR'S COLUMN

Celebrating a Steady Voice: Honoring Our Long-Term Newsletter Editors

In every thriving town, there are people whose work is so steady and dependable that we sometimes forget how much effort, heart, and time goes into what they do. Today, our community pauses to recognize and sincerely thank Bridget Warren and Todd Stewart who have served as the editors of the University Park newsletter since March 2011.

For more than a decade they have been the quiet force behind the stories that connect us. Each issue of the newsletter has carried their unmistakable touch: clear writing, thoughtful curation, and a genuine interest in the people and events that shape our shared life. Bridget and Todd highlighted local achievements, informed residents of important meetings, and preserving moments of joy and challenge.

What many may not see is the dedication behind the scenes, the late-night edits, the careful fact-checking, the patience required to wrangle deadlines, and the commitment to presenting information accurately and with compassion. It has been a labor of love, and our Town is better for it.

Beyond the pages of the newsletter, they have nurtured a sense of belonging. Through their work, neighbors have learned more about one another, newcomers have found their footing, and longtime residents have seen their stories honored. In an age when genuine community connection can feel fragile, they helped strengthen ours.

As Bridget and Todd step back from this role, we offer our heartfelt gratitude. Thank you for your years of care, consistency, and service. Thank you for treating our town not just as a collection of addresses but as a tapestry of

Town Meetings & Special Dates

Town Council	December 1
Town Holidays	December 25 & January 1

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

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FROM THE MAYOR CONT.

people worth listening to. We wish Bridget and Todd the very best in the next chapter and we will always be grateful for the one they helped write for all of us.

With appreciation,

*Mayor Morrissey,
the Town Council, and Town Staff*

Town Christmas Tree Lighting
Saturday, December 6, 6 PM

The holiday season is just around the corner, and we are excited to invite everyone to join us for the Town's Annual Tree Lighting Celebration. Our annual tree lighting is more than just an event; it is a celebration of the warmth and togetherness that makes University Park such a special place. Come join your friends and neighbors as we share in the magic of the season. Santa Claus, with the help of the Hyattsville Volunteer Fire Department, will be here to spread a little extra joy, so bring your cameras and your holiday spirit! You will not want to miss out on this tradition.



Mayor's Veterans Day Remarks, 2025

Good morning, everyone. Thank you for coming out on this very cold morning. I will keep this brief, but I wanted to share something. When I was growing up, I wasn't a fan of military service. Despite my two grandfathers' combat service in the Navy and Army Air Corps during World War II, I grew up suspicious of the military and the motivations of people who volunteered to serve. That was part of the culture of growing up in the late 70s and early 80s. My reasons, both legitimate and not so legitimate, were grounded in our society's collective experience in the 1960s and 70s, when many of us were unable to separate military missions and actions ("wars") and the men and women who were asked to fight them. I think there was also an absence of the moral clarity that we had during World War II. As such, I was suspicious of the military, and I realize now that my understanding of how the world works was pretty two dimensional and not nearly as well informed as it is now.

It was hard to reconcile my suspicion with my fond memories of my maternal grandfather's stories about his service in the Aleutian Islands in Alaska. Anyone who

knows me well knows that Papa was my hero. For fun, he had me do "close order drill." He worked for the Air Force for 34 years and that fascinated me. I memorized all the Air Force ranks by repeatedly studying the A book in my grandparents' encyclopedia. And it is unequivocal that my grandfathers and their comrades in arms, quite literally saved the world. And they are almost all gone. Today, approximately 61,000 to 66,000 to American WWII veterans are still alive, and the numbers decrease daily. Projections indicate that the number of living WWII veterans has fallen below 0.5% of the 16.4 million Americans who served during the war.

Four months ago, I started my dream job with the U.S. Department of Defense. Before I started, a well-intentioned friend asked me if I had any qualms about working for DOD. My reply was "no," because the older I get, the necessity for our country to maintain a strong military becomes more and more clear. National security undergirds everything else we enjoy in our country. I am honored to work with active duty and retired military officers from all of America's armed forces. I describe them to people who ask about my new job as "serious and measured." When I was younger, I didn't see the serious and measured aspect of military service, especially military leadership.

A quote from Jack Nicholson's controversial character in the 1992 film "A Few Good Men" comes to mind: "We live in a world that has walls, and those walls have to be guarded by men with guns." My colleagues are, or were, leaders of the men and women with guns who guard that wall. Those of you here, and the many dozens of University Park residents, living or dead, have served a cause greater than yourselves. I am a beneficiary of your service. And I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

**Notice of Public Hearing for
Charter Resolution 25-CR-01**

On November 17, 2025, Charter Resolution 25-CR-01 was introduced. This Charter Resolution amends Article VI, "Finance", Section 618, "Purchasing and Contracts" of the Charter to delete the Town Newsletter Editor as a professional service position required to be appointed by the Mayor and approved by the Council and to serve at the pleasure of the Mayor and Council. A public hearing on the Charter Amendment is set for the Common Council meeting on January 6, 2026, at 7:30 p.m. For more information or a copy of the proposed Charter Resolution, call Town Hall at 301-927-4262.

FROM THE CHIEF

There has been a recent increase in shed and detached storage unit burglaries throughout our town. While University Park remains an incredibly safe community, a pattern has emerged, and it's essential that we work together to shut down this activity. These break-ins are often crimes of opportunity. Thieves are targeting sheds because they typically contain valuable items like bicycles, power tools, lawn equipment and seasonal sports gear. Even worse, an unsecured shed can provide a burglar with the tools they need (like ladders, pry bars, or bolt cutters) to break into your main residence or a neighbor's home. The University Park Police Department is increasing patrols and actively coordinating with PGPD, the investigating jurisdiction. However, crime prevention starts at home, and the single most effective tool we have is a vigilant and proactive community. I urge all residents to take a few moments this week to evaluate the security of your shed or detached storage unit. Simple steps can make a significant difference in deterring a thief.

Lock it Up, Every Time

- Use a high-quality lock: Replace any flimsy or old locks with a strong, heavy-duty, closed-shackle padlock. A closed shackle exposes less of the metal loop, making it much harder to cut with bolt cutters.
- Secure the door and hinges: Ensure the door has sturdy hasps and latches that are secured with carriage bolts (bolts that cannot be unscrewed from the outside). If the hinges are on the outside, check that the pins cannot be easily removed or consider using non-removable pin hinges.



Out of Sight, Out of Mind

- Cover windows: If your shed has windows, use privacy film, obscuring paint, or simple curtains/blinds. Don't give a potential burglar an easy way to see the expensive contents inside.
- Secure valuables: Chain or cable expensive items like bikes and lawnmowers to a solid, fixed object (like a floor-mounted anchor point) even inside a locked shed.

Brighten Your Defense

- Improve lighting: Install motion-activated lighting near

your shed and other exterior areas. A sudden, bright light is a huge deterrent for anyone attempting to hide in the shadows.

- Trim foliage: Keep shrubs and trees around the shed and yard trimmed to eliminate hiding spots for intruders.
- Cameras: Consider facing exterior cameras towards your sheds. This functions as both a deterrent and an evidence-gathering tool that can strengthen prosecution.

Keep a Record

Document and mark property: Keep a detailed inventory, including photographs and serial numbers, of valuable items. Consider using an engraver or forensic property marking kit to visibly or invisibly mark tools with a unique identifier. This helps in recovery and proves ownership.

Report Suspicious Activity

If you see something that looks out of place—a vehicle slowly cruising the alleys multiple times, a person lingering around a neighbor's yard, or someone tampering with a lock—please do not hesitate to call us. Emergency: 911. Non-Emergency Dispatch: (301) 352-1200. Your cooperation is vital to keeping our community safe. By making a few small changes to your routines and security setup, we can significantly reduce the appeal of University Park to these opportunistic criminals.

Notable Incidents

Theft On October 13 at 1130 hours, an officer received a call regarding a theft report at an address in the 4400 block of Underwood Street. Upon arrival, the officer met with the victim. The victim reported that they and their spouse had been out of town and returned home on October 12. Upon their return, they discovered that a new computer, which had been left on the dining room table, was missing. The victim indicated that after noticing the computer was gone, they conducted a thorough search of their home but found no additional items missing or out of place. They suspected they may have left their front door unlocked during their absence, allowing someone to enter the residence. The officer then cleared the house to ensure there were no other issues. During the inspection, the officer found no signs of forced entry, and everything appeared to be in order. There were no disturbances or additional items reported missing.

FROM THE CHIEF

Child Abuse Report On October 14 at approximately 1641 hours, an officer received a call for service to respond to an address in University Park in reference to a welfare check on a juvenile who was possibly being abused by her mother. Child Protective Services (CPS) was contacted, and a report was taken by a CPS representative. The investigative component of the Prince George's County Police Department was notified.

Fraud On October 20 at approximately 1800 hours, officers were notified via a station phone call regarding a reported fraud involving a victim who lives at an address in University Park. An officer met with the victim and conducted an interview. During this time, the victim stated they noticed that on their utility account there was an address in Fort Washington, Maryland, that had been on the account since January 2024, that was not theirs or anyone in the family's. The victim attempted to get the address removed from the account but was unable to. PGPD will handle the investigation.

Stolen Vehicle On October 22 at approximately 1051 hours, an officer was dispatched for the report of a stolen vehicle in the 4200 block of Sheridan Street. When the officer arrived on scene, the victim stated that around 0730 hours that morning their car was stolen from their driveway. The victim stated that the last time they saw their vehicle was at 1900 hours the night before. The vehicle doors were locked, nobody had access to the vehicle at the time, and there were no signs of debris from the vehicle in the driveway. The victim also stated that they have cameras, but they were not working properly. Auto theft detectives were notified, which resulted in negative results and no sign of repossession or tow.

Domestic On October 26 at approximately 0201 hours, officers received a call via dispatch notifying them of a domestic dispute at an address in University Park. Officers responded to the scene and met with the resident. The resident was referred to the Commissioner's Office.

Vandalism On October 28 at approximately 0813 hours, Officers responded to a call for vandalism in the 6800 block of 40th Avenue. Upon arrival, one officer spoke with the victim who stated that around 0715 hours, they noticed their shed had been vandalized and their bird feeder was misplaced. The top half of the shed door was destroyed by an unknown object, and the bird feeder was still in the ground but tipped over. The victim advised

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that they had no camera footage, and the lock on the shed was still intact. At the time, the victim also said that nothing was taken out of the shed. Shortly after completing the initial visit, around 1150 hours, the victim called the station duty phone to inform the officer of missing power tools.

Break-In On October 28 at approximately 0856 hours, Officers were dispatched to a break-in report in the 6700 block of Adelphi Road. Upon arrival, the officers met with the victims who stated they noticed that their shed had been broken into. The victims noticed that the lock on the shed was broken off. Power drills and clamps were missing. Video footage from the incident was sent to the investigating detective with the Prince George's County Police Department.

Theft On October 30 at approximately 1905 hours, officers were notified of a break-in report at the 3900 block of Underwood Street. The victim stated that at approximately 0730 hours on the same date they noticed that their shed door was damaged. The victim's camera captured motion in the back of the house of the individual who may be responsible for the damage done to the shed door. The relevant photographic evidence was forwarded to the investigating detectives with the Prince George's County Police Department.

Holiday Funds



Please consider contributing to the University Park Holiday Funds for Town Public Work Crew and Police Officers. These funds offer a way for residents to express their appreciation for the exemplary work done by these dedicated employees who work throughout the year. The winter holidays afford a chance for residents to show their appreciation for the continued conscientious service given by these very dedicated Town employees through foul or fair weather.

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To contribute, checks should be made payable to “Town of University Park” and noted in the memo line on your check, “Holiday Funds”. You may also indicate whether your contributions are intended for the Public Works Crew, the Police Department or both and the respective amount you wish to donate to each. Contributions should be mailed or dropped off in the mail slot at Town Hall by Wednesday, December 17.

Thank you for helping us recognize the dedication and hard work of our Town employees during this special season.

Town Christmas Tree Lighting Saturday, December 6, 6 PM



The holiday season is just around the corner, and we are excited to invite everyone to join us for the **Town’s Annual Tree Lighting Celebration**. Our annual tree lighting is more than just an event; it is a celebration of the warmth and togetherness that makes University Park such a special place. Come join your friends and neighbors as we share in the magic of the season. Santa Claus, with the help of the Hyattsville Volunteer Fire Department, will be here to spread a little extra joy, so bring your cameras and your holiday spirit! You will not want to miss out on this tradition.



New Newsletter Editor

The Town’s long-time newsletter editors are stepping down and we extend our heartfelt gratitude for their years of dedication, consistency, and for treating our town not merely as a collection of addresses, but as a vibrant community of voices worth hearing. At the November 17th Town Council meeting, the Council approved bringing the management and publication of the newsletter in-house beginning with the January 2026 issue.

Effective December 6, 2025, the Town’s social media and administrative assistant, Amy Knesel, will assume responsibility for managing and publishing the newsletter. We look forward to sharing the first in-house edition with you in January 2026. Amy can be reached at newsletter@upmd.org or 301-927-4262, ext. 104.

Helping Hands University Park



Helping Hands
University Park

HHUP Calendar

Members Monthly Lunch Club, Wednesday, December 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, December 24 (Possible change due to holiday), 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/

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

Tree Committee News

Thanks to all who attended the UP Service Day, especially those 24 residents who helped plant 18 native street trees in Wards 6 and 7, including oaks, sycamores, black gum, pagoda dogwoods, choke cherry and white fringe-trees! This year’s planting focused on planting trees to create noise, light and shade buffers between Adelphi Road and town residential properties, the benefits of which will increase as the trees grow. The committee would also like to thank DPW for help with digging holes and watering, the service day organizers and the residents whose right-of-way will be hosting the new trees as they grow. The committee also conducts an annual ward survey to identify potential tree maintenance and planting needs in the town’s right-of-way. If you have issues to report or a possible spot for a tree in the town right-of-way, contacts TreeComm@upmd.org.

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There will be no Ivy League in December or January, as they are quiet months for the town trees. Deciduous trees particularly have stored their sugar and nutrients below ground for winter. This is a great time of year to prune woody plants for shape, as you will remove minimal resources from the plant in the branch removal process.

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)

Sustainability Committee News

Congratulations to UP Meadow! Sustainable Maryland, in partnership with Pepco, announced the 2025 awardees for the Sustainable Communities grant program. The Town of University Park was named as one of this year's environmental stewardship grant recipients and was awarded \$10,000 to support ongoing meadow maintenance, including seeding and path restoration. Congratulations to the entire town on the award and to the Sustainability Committee members who applied for the grant!

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Thank you also to the Department of Public Works and Town residents for the successful rollout of compost carts across University Park. As of November 1, over 96% of homes in UP have a compost container and can participate in Monday pickups. If you did not receive a bin, please email the Director of Public Works at mbeall@upmd.org.



From the Dept. of Public Works
Christmas trees will be collected Mondays through March 30. Please be sure trees are fully unadorned.

October 20 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; Town Treasurer Carrina Bucknor; Police Captain Graddy; Public Works Director Michael Beall.

Presentation: Anacostia Trails Heritage Area

Meg Baco, Executive Director of Anacostia Trails Heritage Area, provided an update on the organization's activities. She also discussed Prince George's 250 event celebrating the semiquincentennial next year and Trolley Trail Day, which is scheduled for June 13, 2026.

Presentation: Fiscal Year 2025 Audit

Tobi Hollander, Audit Partner with SBC, presented a draft of the results of the Fiscal Year 2025 financial statement audit. CM Godfrey expressed concern about the timing of the audit presentation, noting that October 20 is late in the process for Council engagement, particularly given that the audit is due to the state shortly thereafter. CM Mowery requested confirmation that Council will receive the complete audit and be able to review it before submission to the state, which was confirmed.

Mayor, Council, and Committee Comments and Reports

Public Facilities and Services Committee The committee did not meet this month.

Policy, Rules and Municipal Structure Committee The committee will not meet next week due to member absences. The meeting has been rescheduled for Monday, November 10.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Trees, Parks and Environment Committee The committee discussed changes to the Tree Maintenance Ordinance. The committee expects to have ideas ready for the next meeting after discussions with Ms. Ferguson.

Sustainability Committee The committee met last week and discussed various topics including how they can be involved in the town's lighting project. The committee is interested in learning about the options, timeline, and what residents can do. Ms. Ferguson stated she could provide the committee with some information about the project.

Development Overview Committee The committee met on October 9 and continued discussions about Senate Bill 891 (accessory dwelling units). The committee recommended that the town reach out to the Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement (DPIE) to inquire about the county's implementation plans. The committee also asked the Mayor and CM McGaughey to informally reach out to state and county level representatives to gather information and perspectives on the bill's implementation. CM McGaughey discussed the committee's concerns about the bill. The Council tentatively discussed holding a town hall meeting in late December or early January to present information and gather public input on Senate Bill 891.

Mayor Morrissey asked Ms. Ferguson to provide an update on the status of the Clagett Pineway stormwater project. Ms. Ferguson informed Council that the county report was due October 10 but had not been received. The town engineer has been in contact with the county requesting information, and Eric Olson has been alerted to assist in moving the process forward if needed. The Mayor indicated that a meeting with the most affected residents in Ward 5 (approximately 4-5 families) will be scheduled in the next few weeks.

New Business

Consideration of Temporary Change to Rental Inspection Process

Mr. Beall explained the reason for the temporary process change request. Currently, no current staff member possesses the expertise to identify code compliance issues. Ms. Ferguson clarified that this decision should be authorized by Council, as it was during COVID.

CM Godfrey asked about enforcement mechanisms, and

staff explained that outreach is being conducted, and properties cannot receive licenses without completing the self-checklist. CM Dubayah noted that the checklist process should be clearly documented in the minutes to reflect that it applies to both outstanding inspections and new applications during the interim period.

Motion: To authorize the temporary use of a rental self-checklist by owners to satisfy the inspection requirement for obtaining a rental license until the town is able to hire a code compliance officer. Motion was carried unanimously.

Consideration of Amendment to Fiscal Year 2026 Budget to Add Sustainable Action Grant Income and Expenditure Line-items

Ms. Sandlin shared that the town was awarded a \$10,000 Community Sustainable Environmental Stewardship Grant funded by PEPCO; the ceremony is tomorrow morning. We created an income line-item and an expenditure line-item to track the grant funds and ensure proper accounting when the \$10,000 threshold is reached.

Consideration of Amendment to Fiscal Year 2026 Budget to Reinstate Reserve Line-item for Stormwater Management Design and Engineering (6655-08)

Ms. Ferguson noted that agenda items 8B and 8C, along with the previously approved Traffic Calming line-item, could all be incorporated into a single ordinance (agenda item 9A) for efficiency.

Motion: To introduce Ordinance LR-25-O-08 Amending the FY26 Budget to reestablish a Traffic Calming Study Budget line-item to fund the remaining traffic study costs and add funds to provide for additional data collection, reinstate Designated Reserve line-item for Stormwater Management- Design and Engineering (6655-08), and to add Sustainable Action Grant Income and Expenditure line-items. Motion was carried unanimously.

Consideration of Resolution of Intent to Reimburse with Bond Proceeds Expenditures for the Town Hall Design, Construction and Improvement Project Incurred before Issuance of the Bond

Ms. Sandlin explained the reason for the need for the resolution. Ms. Ferguson stated that the resolution is expected to cover design expenses already incurred.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Motion: To approve the resolution declaring the official intent of the Town of University Park to reimburse expenditures to be incurred or paid from certain funds for the design, construction, and improvement of the Town Hall with proceeds of debt. Motion was carried unanimously.

Continuing Business

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

Department Reports

All departmental reports were included in the packet.

Town Treasurer Ms. Bucknor presented the financial statement for the period ending September 30, 2025, representing the first quarter of fiscal year 2026.

Police Department Captain Graddy said Halloween plans are still being finalized, with several residents requesting block parties.

Public Works Director Mr. Beall reported that compost bins have been delivered, and distribution is ongoing. Mr. Beall asked about potential staging areas for the upcoming WSSC sewer project and the town's stormwater project on Clagett Pineway. He stated that he had not discussed this with any residents pending Council consideration of the concept. Ms. Sandlin recommended adding this item to the next Council meeting agenda for full discussion and public input.

The meeting adjourned by consent at 9 PM.

November 3 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; Town Treasurer Carrina Bucknor; Police Chief David Coleman; Public Works Director Michael Beall.

Presentation: WSSC Sewer Rehabilitation Project

Jose Paz, WSSC Contract Manager, presented information about the upcoming sewer rehabilitation project. Walter Saavedra (Inspector 2), Brian Jackson (Inspector

1), and Chief Inspector Folifak Alemanji participated remotely.

Project Overview: Replacing approximately 2.64 miles of sewer pipes and rehabilitating 26 manholes. Start date: November 3, 2024 (contractual). Completion date: April 2027. Methods: trenchless lining and open-cut excavation. Work hours: 8 AM to 5 PM, Monday through Friday.

The Council engaged in extensive discussion regarding tree removal requirements, particularly on Queens Chapel Road where WSSC identified trees requiring removal to replace 6-inch main lines (being upsized to 8-inch). The existing main is located between the sidewalk and curb in the tree box. WSSC explained that 6-inch mains cannot be lined and must be replaced, and trees in the work area would be removed.

Council members questioned whether alternatives exist to preserve trees, including relocating the main or using different methods. WSSC agreed to CCTV the lines to verify lateral locations and measurements, meet with town officials onsite, and consult with designers about alternatives before proceeding with Queens Chapel work.

Mayor, Council, and Committee Comments and Reports

Police, Traffic and Public Safety Committee The committee will meet Wednesday at 7:30 PM. The committee anticipates receiving the A. Morton Thomas traffic study report.

Sustainability Committee The committee will meet tomorrow night to discuss the Sustainable Maryland grant, lighting updates and compost bin rollout. The total number of households with compost containers is approximately 885. The town distributed 120 carts out of a possible 354 to non-participating households.

Development Overview Committee The committee will meet a week from tomorrow and continue discussing Maryland Senate Bill 891 (accessory dwelling units).

Public Facilities Committee The committee will meet November 20, pending information on funding, grants and stormwater management.

Policy, Rules and Municipal Structure Committee The committee will meet Monday.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Morrissey The mayor reported on the highly successful October 25 Service Day with approximately 50 volunteers. Activities included installing devices for HHUP, trash pickup at three locations, tree planting and meadow seeding. A 17-person group from the United Council for Negro Women at the University of Maryland participated. Special thanks to CM Godfrey, CM Dubayah and Ward 7 resident David Tully for organizing the event.

Continuing Business

Motion: To adopt Ordinance LR25-O-07 to expand the responsibilities of the Committee on Trees, Parks, and Environment to include the development of the official town shade tree list and the 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 made by CM Sweet, seconded by CM Gathercole. After discussion with Tree Committee Chair Dr. Karin Burghardt and input from Town Attorney Ferguson, the Council adopted an amendment to add an alternative measurement provision.

Amendment: If a tree cannot be measured at 4.5 feet above ground, measurement may be taken at the top of the stump. The 50-inch circumference threshold remains standard regardless of measurement height. The ordinance maintains the \$300 fee for removing a healthy tree through proper process and establishes a



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.

OBITUARY

\$500 fine for removal without permit when a permit is required. Motion was carried unanimously.

Motion: To adopt Ordinance LR-25-O-08 to amend the FY26 budget to restore the designated reserve SWM design and engineering budget line item in the amount of \$1.146 million, less \$175,000 already reflected for the current FY 2026 expenditure, 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, and to add a sustainable community environmental stewardship grant income budget line item in the amount of \$10,000 and expenditure line item to track expenditures of the Meadow project grant. Motion was carried unanimously.

New Business

Motion: To approve the 2026 Council meeting schedule as presented. Motion was carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned by consent at 9:32 PM.



Longtime UP resident Gerry Hender-shot died peacefully, surrounded by family, on October 4, 2025. Gerry was born on October 1, 1937, in Highland Park, MI, the youngest of three siblings. Gerry grew up with a keen mind and a quiet determination that would shape a life of service, scholarship and reflection. He earned degrees in sociology from the University of Michigan (BA) and the University of Chicago (MA, PhD), where he also met Doris Penn. They married on December 13, 1964 and shared 48 years together until Doris's passing in 2013.

Gerry's early career as a sociology professor took him across the globe. He taught at the College of Wooster, the University of the Philippines, Vanderbilt University and Brown University. Later, he worked for the Federal Government as a statistician with a focus on health and disability research. He paid close attention to how people navigated the world—especially those living with disabilities. He noticed where public transportation faltered, where sidewalks failed, and where systems could do better. These insights weren't just academic; they became personal as Gerry aged and experienced firsthand the

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challenges of mobility and daily living. He met those changes with curiosity, grace, and a continued commitment to understanding others. After retiring, Gerry poured his energy into his church, community life and spiritual exploration. He organized groups around spiritual poetry, prison writing, Bible studies and theater outings for young people. He taught adult education courses on art and poetry and became an accomplished poet himself. His writing was generous, reflective, and often dedicated to those he loved.

Gerry touched many lives with his intellect, empathy and forthrightness. He believed in the dignity of every person and the power of community. His legacy lives on in the institutions he shaped and the people he inspired. Gerry wrote a poem after Doris's death that reflected on their first date. The last verses of that poem capture his spirit and zest for life, which will endure in the hearts and minds of those who were blessed to know him:

*"Our time will come, our road will open free
and give our lives that fine majestic slant.
Our party will go on, that you will see."*

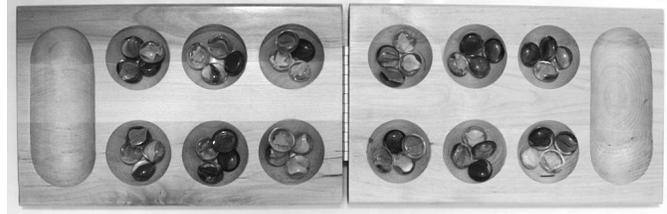
Holiday Light Building Party

Saturday, December 6, 1-4 PM



Let's light up UP for the holidays! We're having a giant holiday ball-making party in the community room at Church of the Brethren, on the corner of Tuckerman and Route 1. It's not too late to make one to hang on your tree, porch, and/or at your front door for the holiday season! For those new to UP, here's how it works: The UP Civic Association supports the project by buying the chicken wire, which is the foundation for the balls. Then you either buy 300 LED mini lights yourself, or we sell them to you at cost, between \$15 and \$20. Once you make the balls, you need an extension cord and string to hang them. We can help with hanging!

Email one of us ASAP and let us know you want to join us, (so we will have the chicken wire ready for you) and whether you'll provide your own lights or will buy them from us. Children welcome. Questions? Norma Babington, Babington.norma@gmail.com, 410-627-9856; Ellen Whitaker, ewhittor@aol.com, 202-288-9008.



Community Game Night

Saturday, December 6, 6-8 PM

Bring your favorite board and card games to play with neighbors for a night of cozy fun. All ages are welcome. We'd love to have help with this event—bring a game or snacks or help with cleanup. Please don't hesitate to reach out with questions! Hope to see you there! Emily McNally, emilymcallen@gmail.com. Church of the Brethren, corner of Tuckerman and Route 1.



HOLIDAY home tour

UP Woman's Club Holiday House Tour

Saturday, December 13, 3-7 PM

Mark your calendars to ring in the holidays and celebrate with neighbors at our Annual Holiday House Tour. It is our largest fundraiser of the year. This year's featured homes are:

- The Beckmann Residence—4305 Sheridan St.
- The Cox-Lansverk Residence—4209 Woodberry St.
- The Dworkin Residence—4213 Woodberry St.
- The Guillen-Escobar Residence—7018 Hunter Lane
- The Zurmuhlen Residence—6908 Wells Parkway

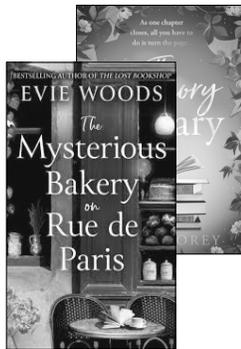
Tickets can be purchased in advance (\$20) by contacting Jean Pirovic, 301-520-8420 or jean.pirovic@LNF.com, or Debbie Jackson, 301-351-2981 or deborahjackson4113@verizon.net. Tickets at the door are \$22. All proceeds benefit the UPWC Scholarship Fund. Many thanks to all who participate and support this wonderful community event.

TOWN NEWS & EVENTS

After Eight Book Group

Tuesday, December 16, 8-10 PM

December's title is *The Mysterious Bakery on Rue de Paris* by Evie Woods. January's book is *The Memory Library* by Kate Storey. 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.



Attention:

Teen Workers

A Town Teen Worker List is published twice a year in the Newsletter. University Park teens aged 13-19 with services to

offer Town residents (raking, shoveling, car washing, babysitting, pet care, etc.) should email their name, age, phone number, street name, email address and type of service(s) to newsletter@upmd.org before December 6 for publication in the January Newsletter.

Holidays at Church of the Brethren

Sunday, December 21, 11 AM Christmas Play put on by the youth of the church with adults during Sunday worship.

Christmas Eve, December 24, 7:30 PM Candlelight Christmas Eve service. Includes lessons and carols with a candlelight closing. All offerings benefit the Capital Area Food Bank.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR



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 and search "St. Mark's Food Pantry" to donate. Checks are also welcome and may be payable to the St. Mark's Food Pantry. Please mail to:

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

UMD Festival of Lessons & Carols, Friday, December 5, 8-9:30 PM UMD Choral Activities rings in the holidays with its Festival of Lessons and Carols, a tradition now in its 24th year. Choirs, brass quintet and organ combine to perform carols, hymns and spoken word that epitomize hope and bring the joy of the season to life. This event takes place at the University of Maryland Memorial Chapel, College Park. For tickets call 301-405-2787 or visit: theclarice.umd.edu/events/

Material Things & Friends Holiday Extravaganza, Saturday, December 6, 4-9 PM We at MT open our doors to host local creatives for a holiday shopping event.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Expect vendors selling their art, goods and other hand-made items, plus good shopping spirit with a DJ, bar, food trucks, bonfire, cookie contest, kid's activities and more. 4529 Rhode Island Ave, North Brentwood.

College Park Winter Wonderland, Saturday, December 6, 2-8 PM Join us on the Plaza at City Hall for the annual Winter Wonderland Holiday Market and Tree Lighting! This free community event features a wide array of activities, entertainment and fun to celebrate the holiday season. There will be live music, story readings and a petting zoo. Check some items off your wish list at the holiday market, featuring local vendors selling hand-made and unique items. Food and drink vendors provide refreshments. Also featured is an appearance by Santa, a gingerbread house display and the lighting of the City of College Park's Holiday tree. See the full schedule of events at collegetparkmd.gov/292/Winter-Wonderland.

Ampersand Art Space Winter Open Studio, Saturday, December 13, 12-5 PM & Sunday, December 14, 12-4 PM Visit our shared artist studio for our holiday market offering a variety of pottery and ceramics, jewelry, lighting and wall-worthy works of art. We'll also have Baltimore tintype photographer Elena Volkova visiting to take portraits. Our neighboring warehouse art studios will also be open on Saturday, including Otis Street Art Project, Washington Glass School and many more! More details and portrait booking info at ampersandartspace.com. 3708 Wells Ave, Mount Rainier.



Riversdale House Museum

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

Hands on History: Winter Series, Saturday, December 6, 10 AM-12 PM Experience history at Riversdale through unique hands-on activities focused on holiday

traditions from around the world. This session will dive into Belgium's heritage and traditions! Perfect for ages 6-12; children 10 and under need a chaperone. No more than two adults per family. \$10/Child.

Riversdale by Candlelight, Saturday, December 13, 5:30-8:30 PM Walk through history during this festive evening open house. During your candlelit tour of the museum, you'll learn about the stories of those who lived and worked in the mansion. Live music will fill the halls and the Riversdale Kitchen Guild will be baking holiday treats in the dependency kitchen! \$5/Adult.

Hands on History: Winter Series, Saturday, December 20, 10 AM-12 PM Join Riversdale staff this winter to get your hands on history! This session will explore the origins of New Year's celebrations and how it was celebrated at Riversdale. Perfect for ages 6-12; children 10 and under need a chaperone. No more than two adults per family. \$10/Child.

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/.

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.

Town of University Park

FALL AND WINTER OPERATIONS INFORMATION



Curbside Leaf Vacuuming Continues Through January 10, 2025

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

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

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

Snow Plan

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

Snow Event Parking

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

Both Sides No Parking:

The Mews
Queens Chapel Rd—6400-6700 blocks

Creekside No Parking:

Wells Pkwy

Odd # Side No Parking:

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

Queens Chapel Rd—6300 block

Sheridan St

Tuckerman St

Tennyson Rd

Underwood St--4000 thru 4300 blocks

Even # Side No Parking:

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

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



University Park Town Council
2026 Adopted Meeting Schedule
All meetings are open to the public.

January 5
January 19

February 7
February 17*

March 2
March 16

April 6
April 20

May 4
May 18

June 1

June 15

July 6

August 17

September 8*
September 21

October 5
October 19

November 2
November 16

December 7

Note: Dates of official Town holidays are below. Town Hall is closed on these dates. A few times a year, a public holiday falls on a Council meeting date in which case the meeting is scheduled the next day. These meetings are indicated above with an asterisk (*).

Thursday, January 1

Monday, January 19

Monday, February 16

Monday, May 25

Friday, June 19

Saturday, July 4

Monday, September 7

Monday, October 12

Wednesday, November 11

Thursday, November 26

Friday, November 27

Friday, December 25

New Year's Day

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Presidents' Day

Memorial Day

Juneteenth

Independence Day

Labor Day

Indigenous People's Day

Veterans Day

Thanksgiving

Employee Appreciation Day

Christmas Day

December 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Yard Waste & Compost Town Council, 7:30 PM	2 Trash, Bulk Trash	3	4	5 Recycling	6 Holiday Light Building Party, 1-4 PM Town Christmas Tree Lighting, 6 pm Community Game Night, 6-8 PM
7	8 Yard Waste & Compost	9 Trash, Bulk Trash	10	11	12 Recycling	13 UP Woman's Club Holiday House Tour, 3-7 PM
14	15 Yard Waste & Compost	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 Town Holiday	26 Recycling	27
28	29 Yard Waste & Compost	30 Trash, Bulk Trash	31	January 1 Town Holiday	Recycling	<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

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TDD 800-735-2258
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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 January newsletter deadline is Saturday, December 6. The *University Park Newsletter* is published monthly, except for a combined July-August issue. Newsletter submissions, questions and comments may be emailed to newsletter@upmd.org. The *Newsletter* publishes the milestones of current and former UP families 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.

Editor Amy Knesel
newsletter@upmd.org or 301-927-4262, ext. 104

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