

MAYOR'S COLUMN



Greetings & Happy New Year to my friends and neighbors!

The University Park Town Council's Committee on Police, Traffic, and Public Safety (PTPS) has diligently worked for more than a year to find sensible solutions to our Town's myriad traffic problems: speeding; stop sign running; and unsafe cut-through traffic.

The Council is trying to strike a balance between ease of travel for our residents and providing solutions that many residents have literally begged for. Wards 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6 have significant problems with the issues.

We've updated the Committee webpage (see QR

code, next page) with more information about Committee members, their meeting schedule, and how they are empowered by Town Code to work on issues affecting police, traffic, and public safety.

Installation of stop sign cameras is imminent, pending the finalization of a contract. The plan is for warnings to be sent first and then tickets.

Placement of sidewalks, or other types of paths, such as walker/biker lanes on the streetway are under consideration.

Our goal is to make our town the least desirable route for cut-through traffic. Cut-through traffic is defined as trips that originate outside of University Park, enter town, and then exit town via another town street within a certain amount of time (~3.5 minutes) without stopping anywhere in town.

Mayor's Column continues inside.

NEW YEAR, NEW LOOK



Welcome to the Town of University Park's community newsletter! Inside you will find updates on local projects, new programs, upcoming events, and initiatives happening right here in your neighborhood.

We believe staying connected makes our community stronger, so please feel free to share this news with friends and neighbors. Encourage them to sign up for the weekly UPdate by subscribing to the Town's News & Announcements via NotifyMe® or checking www.upmd.org.



Throughout the Newsletter, hover your phone's camera over QR codes for additional information.

TOWN COUNCIL

Mayor's Column, continued...

There is also a [new webpage devoted to all the studies](#) and documents associated with their efforts. Both pages contain links to videos of stop sign running in our town.

You are represented by a smart and dedicated group of seven elected Councilmembers, who are your neighbors. They share your concerns and frustrations about town traffic and safety.

Every single Councilmember is dedicated to wise stewardship of your tax dollars and making informed decisions to help solve residents' problems and challenges. They are doing their best to weigh the pros and cons of recommended courses of action, and residents have made it clear that doing nothing is unacceptable. They have my full confidence.

I ask you to trust your Council and the process.

Warmly,
Mayor Laurie Morrissey



11/3/25 MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Ordinances & Motions

- Tree Ordinance Amendments (LR25-O-07)
- Motion: Amend the Town Tree Ordinance to expand committee responsibilities, clarify reimbursement eligibility, establish fees and fines for tree removal, and allow alternative tree measurements when stumps interfere.
- Action: Motion passed unanimously.
- Budget Amendment (LR25-O-08)
- Motion: Amend the FY2025 budget to restore funding for stormwater management design and engineering reserves, traffic calming, and add funding for Meadow Project grant tracking.
- Action: Motion passed unanimously.
- 2026 Council Meeting Schedule
- Motion: Approve the 2026 Council meeting schedule as presented.
- Action: Approved.

Next Council Meeting:
Mon., Jan. 5, 2025
7:30 p.m. via Zoom

Full meeting minutes→



Ordinance Notices

On December 1, 2025, Ordinance LR 25-O-03 was introduced. The ordinance would amend the FY 2026 Budget Ordinance, Legislative Resolution 25-O-03, to reestablish Reserve-Designated line item 6650-08, Town Hall Construction and Design and for the transfer of \$454,047.00 from Unreserved Undesignated Funds to that line item, and to establish Public Works Capital Outlay expense line item 65-3505, Stormwater Management – Design & Engineering for expenditures, including transfers from Reserve-Designated Line Item 6655-08 for Stormwater Management – Design & Engineering. For more information or a copy of the proposed ordinance, contact Town Hall at 301-927-4262.

CORRECTION: The notice of public hearing for Charter Resolution 25-CR-01 published in the December newsletter advertised a Council meeting hearing date of January 6, 2025, which is incorrect. The Council meeting is actually on January 5, 2026.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

As the year comes to a close, we highlight key accomplishments across Town Administration, the Police Department, and Public Works in 2025.

We invite residents to explore the highlights below and see how Town staff and volunteers supported the community throughout the year.

Strong advocacy, strategic collaboration, and sound financial stewardship defined general government accomplishments in 2025.



Maryland Senator Alonzo Washington presents Mayor and Council with bond grant, May 2025

ADMINISTRATION HIGHLIGHTS

Building Capacity & Leadership

- Hired Town's first Social Media Assistant
- Hired a new Chief of Police
- Hired a new Town Treasurer
- Welcomed Cindy Mowery, Ward 4 Councilmember, to the Town Council

Funding & Fiscal Stewardship

- Received a \$400,000 Maryland State Bond Grant for construction of the new Town Hall, presented by Maryland State Senator Alonzo Washington.
- Awarded a \$65,273 Maryland State Police & Protection Grant
- Secured a \$10,000 PEPCO-funded grant (via the UMD Environmental Finance Center)
- Transitioned to LGIT Health, with an expected \$31,906 savings to the Town

Governance & Compliance

- Worked collaboratively with the Town Council to hold four FY26 budget work sessions, strengthening Council involvement
- Submitted the 2025 ARPA Funding Report

POLICE DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Professional Development

- Awarded FY26 Grant
- 515 total training hours completed

Community Engagement

- 430 community walks
- Nearly 5,000 premise checks completed

Traffic Safety & Enforcement

- 466 proactive traffic stops
- 873 total violations addressed
 - ~200 written parking tickets

BY THE NUMBERS



466 traffic stops



430 community walks



515 training hours

2025 YEAR IN REVIEW

PUBLIC WORKS HIGHLIGHTS

Environmental Initiatives

- Distributed 500+ compost carts
- Planted 64 trees
- Replenished Tot Lot engineered wood fiber

Infrastructure & Facilities

- UP Public Works in Bladensburg:
 - Replaced garage roof
 - Paved parking lot
 - Installed emissions and ventilation
- Retrofitted pedestrian bridge railings on Van Buren St & 41st Ave

Permitting & Code Enforcement

- Issued 24 building permits
- Processed 77 private tree removal requests
- Completed 14 private tree reimbursements
- Resolved 40 code and rental issues
- Issued 15 special utility permits

Operations & Maintenance

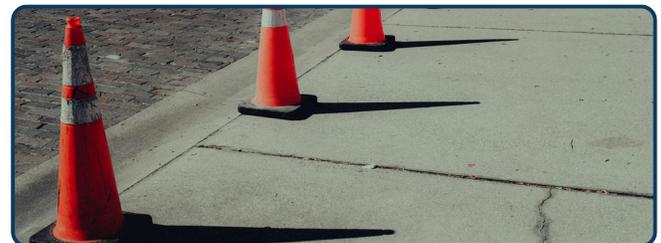
- Oversaw PEPCO vegetation management
- Restriped e-scooter hubs, sharrows, and playground parking lot
- Installed EV charging station hose reels

Staff & Equipment

- Completed training in heavy equipment, CDL, forklift, and heat illness
- Purchased a new trash packer

Community Support

- Provided logistical and operational support for 23 community events



COMMITTEE UPDATES

See Town Calendar for all committee meetings and events.

Helping Hands UP (HHUP)

HAPPY NEW YEAR from the volunteers & members of HHUP. Prospero ano y felicidad!!

HHUP Poetry Gathering:

Varying Sundays, 4:00 p.m. via Zoom. All UP residents are welcome, whether a poet, poetry lover, or just poetry curious. Contact Loretta Saks, lorettahup@gmail.com, or Deborah Rosenfelt, dsr@umd.edu.

Rt1 Corridor Conversations:

An online informative series co-sponsored by HHUP to entertain, engage, and educate. Call 301-892-6636 for more information.

Teen Workers

The following local teenagers are available for small jobs as noted:

Simon Wedge, age 17: babysitting (CPR/First Aid Certified), petsitting, swim lessons, yard work, car cleaning, kids intro to 3D printing with Tinkercad (240) 770-6097

Greta Wedge, age 15: babysitting (CPR/First Aid Certified), petsitting, soccer skills practice, kids' art/painting classes (240) 770-6097

Alex Rohlf, age 14: raking, yard work, shoveling, babysitting (202) 394-8413



UPPD November Incident Report

Sexual Assault (Juvenile)

- Reported Nov. 7
- Referred to Prince George's County Police and Child Protective Services
- Victim resources provided

Stolen Vehicle

- Reported Nov. 8
- Vehicle stolen from a residential driveway
- Vehicle later recovered outside of town
- Items reported missing from inside the vehicle

Theft from Auto

- Reported Nov. 11
- Property stolen from unlocked vehicle in residential driveway
- No vehicle damage reported

Fraud (Identity Theft)

- Reported Nov. 10
- Unauthorized account opened with resident's personal information
- Financial institutions and credit bureaus notified

Fraud (Check Fraud)

- Reported Nov. 20
- Altered check deposited without authorization
- Incident reported to the bank and investigative agencies

WINTER SAFETY

As evenings get longer, staying visible and alert is key. Here are some quick safety tips for University Park residents:

- **Be seen:** Wear reflective clothing or carry a flashlight. Make sure bikes have lights and reflectors.
- **Stay alert:** Avoid headphones and distractions while walking, jogging, or cycling.
- **Travel in groups:** Safety increases when you move with friends or family.
- **Lock it up:** Secure doors, windows, and vehicles—even for short trips.
- **Report concerns:** Call 301-352-1200 for non-emergencies, or 911 if urgent.

Our officers are patrolling regularly, but these simple steps help keep you and your neighbors safe this winter.

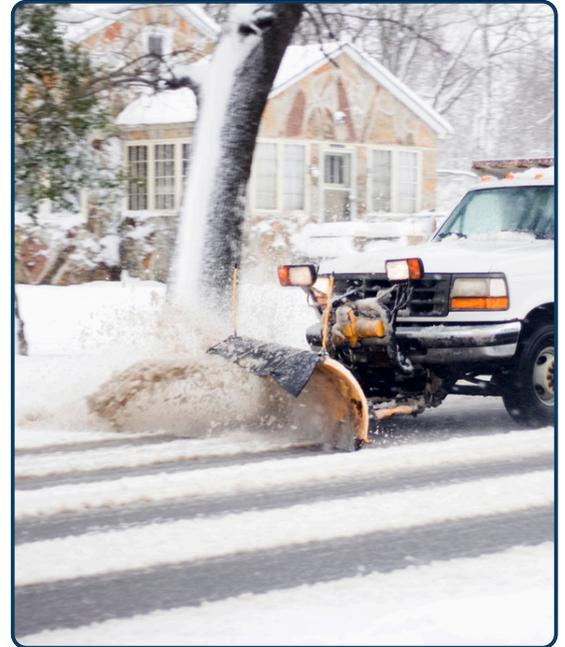
REMEMBER!

Lock vehicles, bring valuables inside, and monitor financial accounts regularly.

PUBLIC WORKS

When snow is in the forecast, please help keep University Park safe and passable. It's as easy as 1-2-3!

- 1 PARK SMART** Use driveways or garages to keep streets clear for plows.
- 2 STAY CLEAR** To keep everyone safe and maintain our crew's efficiency, limit street activity while plows are working.
- 3 SHOVEL PROMPTLY** Clear your sidewalks within 24 hours of snowfall/ice event. (Town policy and keeps our neighbors safe!)



Snow Event Parking Restrictions

No Parking (either side):

- The Mews
- Queens Chapel Rd (6400-6700)

Odd Side No Parking:

- 40th Ave
- 41st Ave
- Beechwood Rd (3900-4300)
- Calverton Dr
- Oakridge Rd
- Pineway
- Queens Chapel Rd (6300)
- Sheridan St
- Tuckerman St
- Tennyson Rd
- Underwood St (4000-4300)

Creekside No Parking

- Wells Parkway

Even Side No Parking:

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

MAYOR & COUNCIL



Laurie Morrissey, Mayor
240-688-9534



Ralph Dubayah
Ward 1
301-458-0128



Mary Gathercole
Ward 2
301-325-9415



Casey Kelby
Ward 3
443-718-0625



Cynthia Mowery
Ward 4
301-237-0625



David McGaughey
Ward 5
301-664-4030



Grant Godfrey
Ward 6
202-486-2436



William Sweet
Ward 7
301-541-7642

Cut along the dotted line to retain the calendar (front) and important numbers (back) for easy reference.

TOWN CALENDAR

J A N U A R Y

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

- 1** Federal Holiday:
Town Hall Closed
- 5** Town Council Meeting
7:30 p.m. via Zoom
- 14** TPE Committee Meeting
7:00 p.m. via Zoom
- 19** Federal Holiday:
Town Hall Closed
- 20** Town Council Meeting
7:30 p.m. via Zoom

STAY CONNECTED

Sign up for NotifyMe[®] email and/or text alerts to receive timely updates from the Town about:

- Council meetings
- Public notices
- Weather updates
- Public safety notifications

Recommended:

- [Mayor's Email List](#)
- [News & Announcements](#)

Scan to sign
up for alerts,
or visit
UPMD.org



TOWN OF UNIVERSITY PARK
6724 Baltimore Avenue
University Park, MD 20782

IMPORTANT NUMBERS



**In a true
emergency
always call**



University Park:

Town Hall	301-927-4262
Town Administrator	301-927-4262 x102
Chief of Police	301-927-4262 x300
University Park Police	301-277-0050
Public Works	301-927-4262 x200

Prince George's County:

Non-Emergency Police	301-352-1200
Animal Control	301-780-7200

Utilities:

PEPCO	877-737-2662
Washington Gas	844-927-4427
WSSC	301-206-4002