

UNIVERSITY PARK NEWSLETTER

TOWN OF UNIVERSITY PARK, MARYLAND

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 2026

WEATHERING IT TOGETHER:

A Message from Mayor Laurie Morrissey

The past few weeks have reminded me of something important about University Park: when things get hard, our neighbors show up for one another.

During the recent snow emergency, I saw residents checking in on each other, sharing shovels, helping clear sidewalks, and offering rides or supplies to those who needed them.



These small acts of kindness—often done quietly and without recognition—are what make a community strong. They are also what make this town such a special place to call home.

There is a lot happening in the world right now, and many of us are feeling uncertainty, stress, or concern about the future. While we may not always be able to control events beyond our town limits, we can choose how we treat one another here. We can choose patience over frustration, care over indifference, and connection over isolation.

University Park has always been at its best when we remember that we are not facing challenges alone. Whether it's a snowstorm, a personal hardship, or something larger weighing on our collective minds, our strength comes from standing together—neighbor to neighbor, block by block.

Thank you for looking out for one another, and for continuing to make this a community defined not just by where we live, but by how we live together.

Warmly,
Mayor Laurie Morrissey

UPDATES CONTINUE!

We have heard your feedback! This University Park Newsletter includes a calendar with all Public Works pick up collections and Town meetings listed and less reliance on QR codes/digital pairing.

And we are still here to listen and connect!

Town Hall: 301-927-4262

townhall@upmd.org
EV and parking permits,
general information.

Newsletter: 301-927-4262 x104

newsletter@upmd.org
Events and activities,
community announcements.

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TOWN MEETINGS



Thank you to our residents for helping keep University Park moving during the recent winter weather!

Clearing sidewalks promptly, allowing crews room to plow, and looking out for one another made a real difference.

We appreciate your patience, cooperation, and neighborly spirit as we worked together to keep the town safe for everyone!

12/1/26 MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Actions:

- Meeting agenda & Nov 17, 2025 Council meeting minutes approved
- Consideration of a budget line item for Town Hall Construction and Design
- Discussion of a proposed ADP payroll contract, including service needs and cost considerations

1/5/26 MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Actions:

- Meeting agenda & Dec 1, 2025 Council meeting minutes approved
- Adoption of Charter Resolution 25-CR-01, amending the Town Charter to remove the requirement that the Newsletter Editor be appointed by the Mayor, approved by Council, and serve at the pleasure of the Mayor and Council
- Adoption of Ordinance 25-O-09, amending the FY 2026 Budget to reestablish a reserve-designated line item for Town Hall Construction and Design and transferring \$454,047 from unreserved, undesignated funds to that line item
- Discussion of the Meadow Path
- Presentation of the Year in Review

1/20/26 MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Actions:

- Meeting agenda & Jan 5, 2026 Council meeting minutes approved
- Reappointment of the Supervisor of Elections Chair and Supervisor
- Consideration of approval of a contract with Obvio, Inc. for installation of a stop sign camera system
- Town Election Date set: May 12, 2026
- Consideration of a special exception request to allow installation of a three-foot fence in the front and side yard of a corner property at 6601 44th Avenue, pursuant to Section 4-113 of the Town Code
- Recognized Bridget Warren and Todd Stewart for their service as former Town newsletter editors

Next Town Council Meeting:

Mon., Feb. 2, 2025

7:30 p.m. via Zoom

Full meeting minutes:

DEC 1



JAN 5



TOWN ADMINISTRATOR HIGHLIGHT: NOISE CAMERA INSTALLED & ACTIVATED

By: Debi Sandlin, Town Administrator

Over the past several years, many University Park residents have shared concerns about the impact of excessively loud vehicles on neighborhood peace and quality of life. In direct response to this community feedback, a noise-enforcement camera was installed and activated at the intersection of Adelphi Road and Van Buren Road on January 7, 2026.

This local initiative is part of a larger, countywide and statewide effort to address vehicle noise. Through a partnership with Senator Alonzo Washington, the Town successfully secured one of only two noise cameras authorized for placement in Prince George's County. Senator Washington's advocacy was instrumental in ensuring that University Park was selected as a pilot location.

"I'm proud to have sponsored the legislation that made these noise cameras possible—because illegal vehicle noise is stealing peace from people in University Park and across Prince George's County. Maryland has only a small number of jurisdictions using this kind of technology, and it's a real step forward in holding the worst offenders accountable. After hearing from residents in University Park, Hyattsville, and throughout the county, we made this a priority and with law enforcement, town leadership, and residents working together, we got it done," commented Senator Washington.

"Residents have been clear that traffic noise, especially from modified cars, affects their daily lives," said Mayor Laurie Morrissey.

[continues on next page]



Photo: Amy Knesel

From left: Hyattsville Councilmember Kelson Nisbett, Hyattsville Police Chief Jarod Towers, Hyattsville City Council Vice President Kareem Redmond, Maryland Senator Alonzo Washington, Hyattsville Councilmember Michelle Lee, UP Town Administrator Debi Sandlin, Town Councilmember Ward 6 Grant Godfrey, Maryland Delegates Ashanti Martinez and Nicole Washington, UPPD Police Chief David Coleman

"Senator Washington's leadership helped ensure that University Park could participate in this pilot program and access a tool that supports both public safety and community well-being."

-Mayor Laurie Morrissey

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

[Noise Camera, continued]

Noise cameras are increasingly being used by communities to reduce excessive traffic noise, which is one of the most common neighborhood concerns and a recognized public-health issue. The cameras use microphones to measure sound levels and are triggered only when a vehicle exceeds Maryland's legal noise limit of 80 decibels. When a vehicle reaches approximately 85 decibels, the system records a short video and captures an image of the license plate. All potential violations are reviewed by a trained employee before any citation is issued.

Under Maryland law, the first violation results in a warning. Subsequent violations may result in a civil fine of up to \$75, with no points assessed on a driver's license.

This noise camera is part of a Maryland-authorized pilot program approved by the General Assembly for Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. The pilot is scheduled to run through June 30, 2026, unless extended for further evaluation.

By participating in this pilot program, Senator Washington and University Park are taking a proactive, data-driven approach to addressing excessive vehicle noise, helping to create calmer streets, protect public health, and preserve the sense of community that residents value.



Photo courtesy of Jenoptik, 2024.

COMMUNITY UPDATES

University Park Woman's Club Meeting

Monday, February 2, 2026 | 11:30 A.M.

University Christian Church (Adelphi & Belcrest Rds)

Guest Speaker: Rosalind A. Morgan, PhD

Dr. Morgan is a retired educator and current volunteer at the National Museum of African American History and Culture, where she helps visitors begin family genealogy research.

Community members are welcome to attend.

Learn more about the University Park Woman's Club and upcoming meetings at upwomensclub.org.

PGCMLS Independent Film Series

Monday, February 9, 2026 | 7:00-9:00 P.M.

Hyattsville Library (6530 Adelphi Road)

This is the first documentary to explore how African American communities have used the camera as a tool for social change from the invention of photography to the present.

Save the Date: UP PorchFest 2026!

Saturday, May 16, 2026 | 2:00-5:00 P.M.

Stroll University Park, enjoy live local music, and mingle with neighbors. Performers & hosts needed! To sign up, submit your t-shirt design, or learn more, contact Daniel Epstein: daneps@gmail.com

Warmly Remembered: Jean Y. Kissinger

Jean, a long-time resident of University Park, passed away peacefully on December 18, 2025, at the age of 98. Jean was known in the community for her kind spirit, gentle humor, and unwavering ability to see the best in others.



A lover of music, reading, and the arts, she brought warmth, curiosity, and joy to those around her and remained young at heart throughout her life.

Jean was deeply devoted to her family and is remembered as a loving mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. She was preceded in death by her husband of 57 years, Warren Kissinger, and her son John.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

UPPD Incident Report: 12/1/25-1/7/2026

Property Damage

- 12/1/2025
- 6600 block Baltimore Ave (WARD 3)
- A tree branch fell and struck a vehicle windshield while it was traveling southbound. No injuries reported.

Property Damage

- 12/17/2025
- 4200 block College Heights Dr (WARD 7)
- A resident reported the left side-view mirror of their parked vehicle was shattered and detached by an unknown cause overnight.

Vandalism

- 12/19/2025
- 6900 block Adelphi Rd (WARD 6)
- A vehicle window was shattered, and a handicap parking placard was stolen. The incident was captured on video.

Disorderly

- 12/22/2025
- 4300 block Sheridan St (WARD 1)
- A resident reported a neighbor at 4313 Sheridan St. shouted homophobic slurs while driving by. The complainant was advised on filing a stay-away order.

Vandalism

- 12/26/2025
- 6500 block 41st Ave (WARD 2)
- A resident discovered a vehicle window shattered and a rear door left open. No items were reported missing and no suspects identified.



Robbery (Unfounded)

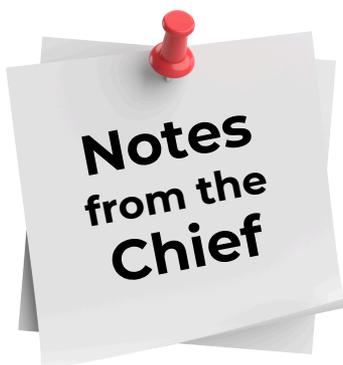
- 12/31/2025
- 6700 block Baltimore Ave (WARD 3)
- A report of an armed robbery involving multiple suspects was determined to be not credible after investigation. The "stolen" phone was located inside the residence; no robbery occurred.

Property Damage

- 12/31/2025
- 4200 block Van Buren St (WARD 4)
- A "No Parking" sign was struck and detached from the ground by a vehicle that fled the scene.

Theft Report

- 1/7/2026
- 6900 Adelphi Rd (WARD 6)
- A resident reported \$800 in cash and a passport stolen from her home on two separate dates. The victim noted the back door is routinely left unlocked.



To enhance the safety of our streets and protect our residents, the University Park Police Department will soon begin installing **automated stop sign enforcement cameras at key intersections** throughout the community.

These cameras are a vital tool in our commitment to ensuring our neighborhood remains walkable and secure for everyone.

As a reminder, Maryland law requires all drivers to bring their vehicle to a complete and total stop at the white limit line before proceeding through any stop sign. Rolling through an intersection, even at low speeds, poses a significant risk to pedestrians, cyclists, and fellow motorists. We appreciate your cooperation in keeping University Park a safe place to live and drive.

PUBLIC WORKS

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

- 1 PARK SMART** Keep streets clear:
Use driveways/garages
- 2 STAY CLEAR** Maintain safety:
stay out of street while plows work
- 3 SHOVEL SWIFTLY** Clear your sidewalks
within 24 hours

Snow Event Parking Restrictions

No Parking (either side):

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

Creekside No Parking

- Wells Parkway



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)

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

COUNCIL SPOTLIGHT

Councilmember Ralph Dubayah represents Ward 1 on the University Park Town Council. He has lived in UP for 18 years with his wife and two children and currently serves our local community alongside his professional academic work as a Distinguished University Professor at the University of Maryland, College Park.



Dr. Dubayah is internationally recognized for his work in Earth observation and environmental science. As a professor in UMD's Dept. of Geographical Sciences, his research focuses on using satellite remote sensing to

better understand ecosystems and climate dynamics.

He is the principal investigator for NASA's Global Ecosystem Dynamics Investigation (GEDI), a space-based laser instrument onboard the International Space Station, that measures forest vertical structure (height of trees) to understand how forests respond to disturbances, such as fires, and the impacts of these changes on climate and biodiversity.

Throughout his career, Dr. Dubayah has focused on using science to inform real-world decision-making - a perspective he also brings to his role on the Town Council. In University Park, Councilmember Dubayah was drawn to the community because of its unique combination of lovely housing, green infrastructure, and proximity to campus and Washington D.C. What he values most about the Town is its amazing residents and their commitment to creating and maintaining community in so many ways and he describes University Park as "an oasis amid the bustle of life within the Beltway."

On Council, his areas of interest include sustainability and the environment, improving traffic and issues that impact the livability of the Town. He is particularly proud of his work on mitigating stream damage from construction and runoff, and leading efforts of the

TOWN CALENDAR

F E B R U A R Y

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Yard Waste	3 Trash	4 7:30 pm PTPS	5	6 Recycling	7
8	9 Yard Waste	10 Trash	11 7 pm TPE	12 7:30 pm DOC	13 Recycling	14
15	16 Holiday: Town Closed	17 Trash 7:30 pm TC	18 Yard Waste	19 7:30 pm PFS	20 Recycling	21
22	23 Yard Waste 7:30 pm PRMS	24 Trash	25 5:30 pm HHUP	26	27 Recycling	28

Meeting/Committee Abbreviations:
 PTPS=Police, Traffic & Public Safety
 PRMS=Policy, Rules & Municipal Structure

TC=Town Council
 PE=Trees, Parks & Environment
 HHUP=Helping Hands UP

SC=Sustainability Committee
 PFS=Public Facilities & Services

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Sustainability Committee to implement townwide composting during his time serving the Town.

Outside of Council and academic work, Dr. Dubayah enjoys trail running and making music, and you may recognize him from performances with his band, Tower Green (www.towergreenband.com), a



“renaissance folk” group that plays in the mid-Atlantic. His wife, Mary Shelley, also plays in the band, and is Director of IT at the UMD School of Public Health.

Town of 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
 Emergency 911
 Non-Emergency 301-352-1200
 Animal Control 301-780-7200

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

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](#)

To sign up,
scan below
or visit
UPMD.org



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

TOWN COUNCIL

The 2026 University Park Town Election will be held on Tuesday, May 12, 2026.

Additional information about voting, candidates, and polling locations will be shared as it becomes available.

Interested in running for Town Council or learning more about what the role entails? Visit the Town's Elections and Candidate Information page at the University Park website for eligibility details, forms, and contact information.



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