

UNIVERSITY PARK NEWSLETTER

TOWN OF UNIVERSITY PARK, MARYLAND

JULY-AUGUST 2012

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

VOL. XXXVII, NO. 7

FROM THE MAYOR

Employee Service Awards On June 29, the Town will celebrate our employees who have served for 5 or more years. Each will be given a token of the Town's appreciation at the staff and public service/75th Anniversary picnic dinner beginning at 6 PM at the Gazebo behind the University Park Elementary School. We will also honor the many volunteers who help make this Town such a wonderful place to live, especially those who made our 75th Anniversary so much fun. Refreshments will be served and music provided. If it rains, the festivities will move to the Riverdale Presbyterian Church.

Town Street Work The contractor is preparing to complete the last sections of Town at this point, principally Ward 4 and 5. Once all the streets have been repaved, the contractor will replace the existing speed humps and tables with speed tables similar to those on Pineway on the northern curve. It was decided that the Pineway-style

tables are more in character with the neighborhoods needing speed tables. The Town is completing a small traffic study and may place additional speed tables elsewhere in Town, either in late summer or early fall.

PEPCO Tree Trimming PEPCO would like to trim street trees in the vicinity of their electrical lines. As a Tree City, poorly managed tree trimming can cause significant damage to our canopy. For this reason, the Town is discussing this issue with PEPCO and will make every effort within our legal powers to ensure that all trimming is done under a mutually agreed upon plan that balances Town needs against PEPCO's desires. When you receive notices from PEPCO regarding tree trimming, it would be very helpful if you notify Town Hall so we can monitor their crews.

UPES & Science On June 4 the Mayor and Council

Town Meetings & Special Dates

Town Council July 9 & 23,
August 13

New Date & Time Staff Appreciation Day &
Public Service Dinner, June 29, 6 PM, UPES Gazebo

Town meetings are at 7:30 PM at Univ. Park Elem. School. Residents are encouraged to attend. Please request interpreting services 10 days in advance. Council agendas are posted at www.upmd.org and on the Town Hall bulletin board Fridays prior to meetings.

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FROM THE MAYOR CONT.

had the great pleasure of honoring the UPES Science Bowl Champions and the Prince George's County Science Fair winners with County Council Member Eric Olson. Science Bowl members Charlie Dawson, Madeleine Wonneberger, Surya Pukazhenth, and alternates Louis Catacalos, Vivian Tran, and Alexis Arnason were joined by coach Geoff Favero. As usual, UPES students did very well at the county science fair: James Dawson, Grand Prize, 4th grade; Chloe Widman, blue ribbon, Excellence in the Biological Sciences; Amelia Komisar-Bury, blue ribbon, Excellence in the Environmental Sciences; Jasmine Booker, blue ribbon, Excellence in the Biological Sciences, 6th grade; Alfredo Ruiz-Malca, blue ribbons, Excellence in the Physical Sciences, 6th grade. Science fair coordinator Michelle Rowland was also in attendance. *Congratulations* to all and much luck in the future!

Regarding the Town's recent memorandum of understanding on the UPES solar array, I would like to publicly thank Dr. Hite, PGCPD superintendent, and Amber Waller, our Board of Education representative, for their help in this matter. I would also like to give a big *tip of the hat* to our own Solar LLC that has so willingly provided technical advice and has been a persistent advocate for solar energy within the Town.

Finally a brief comment on three indispensable members of the Council scene, Council Members Susan McPherson and Jacquelyn Bradley-Chacon, and Recording Secretary Jenny Glenn is in order. All three brought great skill and dedication to their respective positions. Each contributed to outstanding discussions on difficult and sometimes contentious issues. Their service is highly prized and I hope they will choose to stay engaged in the Town whenever time and interest permits.

Please join us for the annual July 4th parade sponsored by the University Park Civic Association. As usual, it should be great fun and with a picnic at the UPES Gazebo afterwards. As has become the custom, the parade will assemble at the top of Queens Chapel Road around 10 AM, when the bicycle and wagon decorating tables open, and march off not long after.

Have a great summer and take care of yourselves. See you around Town.

John Rogard Tabori

A UP Korean War Hero

University Park Historic Preservation Association

Robert William Bennington grew up at 6501 41st Avenue. "Sonny" Bennington attended UPES and Hyattsville High School. School photos show Sonny and UP resident Mickey Lucas, who today resides across the street from the former Bennington home, as typical youngsters of our nation's World War II and post-war years.

Sonny was movie-star handsome with a winning smile and persuasive ways. In the fall of 1947 he enlisted in the Army, giving his birth date as February 6, 1930. Sources indicate that he was actually 15, but looked older. But he was 18 when his platoon received orders to report to the Korean front. Initially he was to remain in Tokyo, but Sonny persuaded his commanders to allow him to join his unit at Yongsan, Korea.

On the night of September 15, 1950, Private First Class Bennington and his platoon were holding Hill 189 near Yongsan when they came under heavy attack by Communist forces. In the early hours of September 16 the order came to withdraw to higher ground. Bennington provided cover for his comrades, allowing them to escape, until he was killed by an enemy hand grenade. When his body was recovered later that day, the remains of fifty enemy soldiers lay around him. General Douglas MacArthur was one of the commanders writing his parents with expressions of condolence. Today the area that Private Bennington died defending is known as Heartbreak Ridge.

On March 6, 1951, the President posthumously awarded Pfc Robert W. Bennington the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in action. The award was upgraded by Bennington's division commander from the Silver Star originally recommended by his corps commander. His parents accepted the award on Memorial Day, 1956 in a special ceremony at their home in Florida, where they had relocated in 1954. Robert W. Bennington is buried in Arlington National Cemetery under a headstone bearing the designation "DSC."

The UP Historic Preservation Association seeks information about other town residents, past or present, who have served in our nation's Armed Services during war or peace. Please contact Town Hall or any member to contribute to UP's recognition of our veterans.

FROM THE CHIEF & CRIME REPORT

It's summer vacation season. UPPD offers the following vacation safety tips.

Stop mail, newspapers and other deliveries. If a neighbor brings your newspapers and deliveries inside, have them put it somewhere that can't be seen through the window.

Use motion detectors with outside lights and timers. If an intruder comes to your house at night, it's the action of the light coming on that scares them away, not just the light being on. Also use timers to turn lights and a radio or TV on and off at appropriate times.

Arrange to have yard work done. Unmown grass gives the impression a home is not occupied. Also have a neighbor set out trash on normal collection days. Empty cans and recycle bins should be removed the same day.

Turn ringers on phones down or off, and don't change the outgoing message on your answering machine. Never program it to announce that you're out of town, or to give another number where you can be reached. Instead, periodically call and listen to messages.

Make sure electrical appliances are unplugged, the gas supply is shut off, and water taps are tightly turned off. Set the air conditioner to a higher temperature, but don't turn it off. A silent compressor on a hot day is a good indication that the house is unoccupied.



If you have an alarm system, make sure it is in working order. If it's connected to a monitoring service, tell them when you'll be gone and where you're going, along with a phone number of the person keeping an eye on

things. A home protected by a security system is three times less susceptible to a break-in than one without.

Avoid discussing your travel plans in public places. A stranger could overhear them, follow you home and return after you've left on your trip. Use luggage tags that can't be easily read, or use your business address. Someone standing behind you at the airport check-in counter could notice your address and write it down.

Don't leave a garage door opener in the car, especially if you are parking your car on the street. Unplug your

electric garage door opener before you leave. Don't keep keys hidden around the outside of your home or in your garage. Intruders know all the secret places where keys could be hidden. After everyone is in the car, take one last walk around. Check to make sure that all windows and doors are securely locked and that the alarm system has been properly armed.

A travel safety kit for your vehicle should contain everything from a simple flashlight and batteries to a fluorescent safety vest. Many of the items can be found around your house. Start with an old tote or duffel bag and add the following items:

- Small throw rug
- Work gloves
- 2 bread wrappers and 4 rubber bands
- Basic tools: large standard screwdriver, pliers, four-way tire wrench, rubber hammer, folding shovel or a short-handled shovel
- Penetrating oil
- Jumper cables
- Wheel chock
- Emergency flares
- Large flashlight and extra batteries
- Mechanic's wire
- Funnel
- Old shower curtain for ground covering if you have to crawl under the car
- Belt or scarf for emergency hose repairs
- Cigarette lighter
- Plastic jug of water
- First aid pack
- Fluorescent safety vest to wear if you have to repair a car on the side of the road
- Dried fruit, nuts or other nonperishable food in case you ever get stranded
- Blanket to ward off cold weather

Stolen Auto Between May 30 12 AM and May 31 1 PM in the 4300 block of Underwood St. suspect/s stole a 1997 Honda Accord from in front of the residence. No suspect/s was located. The investigation is ongoing.

Breaking & Entering On May 15 between 1:45 and 4:40 PM in the 3900 block of Beechwood Rd. suspect/s entered the home through an unlocked basement window and stole a backpack, notebook computer, iPad, camera and other property. The scene was processed and the neighborhood was canvassed for witnesses. No suspect/s were located Investigation is ongoing.

STEP UP

SMALL TOWN ENERGY PROGRAM
FOR UNIVERSITY PARK

STEP-UP would like to introduce our Summer Associates. This young team will be active throughout the summer, visiting the porches of UP and bringing the Small Town Energy Program to our new partner communities of College Heights Estates, Hyattsville and Riverdale Park. This expansion is an important part of our obligation to the Department of Energy to demonstrate that the STEP-UP model is both scalable and replicable outside of University Park. This expansion will not dilute the STEP-UP services or incentives available to UP residents.

Dana Amihere has been living in University Park for about two years. A Floridian by birth, she's a Terp at heart. Amihere is earning her master's degree from the University of Maryland. She loves getting to know her neighbors as friends and feels blessed to be a part of such a unique community.

Sasha Goldberg is a student at Cazenovia College, near Syracuse, NY. She has lived in University Park, MD for all of her 21 years. She heard about the program through a neighborhood friend and immediately jumped at the chance to help her community. She is proud to be on the STEP-UP team and has had a great time changing the world in her own small way.

Eli Bergman has been involved in environmental issues for awhile: with a sustainability project in Costa Rica in 2011, an organic farm with off-the-grid sustainability innovations and as a volunteer with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Eli is also a peer tutor with the National Honor Society. He will be attending classes at the University of Maryland in the fall as an incoming freshman.

If you haven't taken advantage of STEP-UP, just a reminder that it's almost your last chance to access rebates worth an average of 60% of the cost of improvements and to work with STEP-UP Energy Coach Suzanne Parmet. To begin, simply contact Suzanne Parmet by calling 240-695-3991, by e-mailing energycoach@upmd.org, or through our web site at www.mystep-up.org.

University Park Receives Award for Compost Pilot Program

The Maryland Recycling Network (MRN) recently awarded the University Park the Outstanding Small Government Program Award for their work on the STEP-UP Kitchen Waste Compost pilot program. Director of Public Works Mickey Beall received the award on behalf of the Town at the statewide MRN meeting.

STEP-UP partnered with a local company, Compost Cab, to provide weekly household pick-up from fifty volunteer households for composting. Compost Cab used sturdy, food-grade plastic buckets with screw-top lids that eliminated the need for backyard composters and delivered the kitchen scraps to local urban farms for composting.



All but one respondent said they would recommend the program "enthusiastically with no reservations," and 98% of respondents ranked their overall satisfaction as 8 or higher on a scale of 1 to 10. In the five months the program has been running, Compost Cab collected an average weekly weight of 8.5 pounds of food scraps per pilot household, adding up to almost 4 tons of food waste. A Town-wide program could divert more than 150 tons of food scraps from the Town's waste stream each year.

University Park Elementary Becomes First County School to Use Solar Energy

UPES is slated to become the first public school in Prince George's County with roof-mounted solar panels. The solar project, now entering the initial design phase, is part of the STEP-UP program.

Working in partnership with the Prince George's County Board of Education, University Park should be ready to accept bids for the initial engineering work within a few weeks. The planned solar array could generate enough power to offset the electricity consumption of up to seven homes with families of four, according to estimates by real estate trade publication *The Cooperator*.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

May 21 Council Meeting Highlights

Present were Mayor Tabori; Council Members Brosch, McPherson, Cron, Sorensen, Bradley Chacón. Excused were Council Members Gekas, Carey.

Permits

Application to Replace Sections of an Existing 6' Fence, 6930 Pineway Motion to approve the application to replace old and damaged sections of the existing 6' fence located at 6930 Pineway. Motion approved 5 to 0.

Application to Replace Existing Walkway, Patio and Stoop, 4406 Underwood Street Motion to approve the application to replace the existing walkway, patio and stoop located on at 4406 Underwood Street. Motion approved 5 to 0.

Department Reports

Mayor Tabori said he is waiting to find out the date of the final vote on the Cafritz property by the District Council. Mayor Tabori said the Town Clerk hiring decision would happen on June 4, 2012 when the full Council is present.

Mayor Tabori reported that all the planned STEP-UP municipal agreements have been signed, including agreements with Riverdale Park, Hyattsville and College Heights Estates. College Park is not eligible to participate in the program as they have received Department of Energy funds under a different program.

Mayor Tabori reported that 9-Ponds discussions are continuing. Using 9-Ponds as a means of reducing storm water surges is important to halting the deterioration of the 44th Street bridge. Mayor Tabori praised Mr. Tom Stickles and Mr. Mickey Lucas for their seven years of continued focus and effort to address the health of Wells Run. Mayor Tabori said he did not doubt that without a means of managing storm water surge, the park would be significantly damaged.

Director of Public Works Mr. Beall said that the contractor working on Town Hall has completed the work. As a result, the attic space at Town Hall is much more usable. The air infiltration has been decreased by 25%. The Saturday electronics recycling and paper shredding event was very successful; almost 3 tons of paper and almost 4 tons of electronics were collected.

Mr. Beall said that on Thursday he attended the Maryland Recycler's meeting and accepted an award on behalf of University Park in recognition of the compost pilot program. Prince George's County is actively working to be able to accept food scraps with yard waste. He estimated that University Park's recycling rate is 63%. He discussed various alternatives for hazardous waste recycling.

Mr. Beall recommended that the 44th Avenue Bridge have the curb removed, as two bicyclists have had accidents there. He said that unless the Council directed otherwise, the Public Works Department would maintain the bridge as minimally as possible.

Suellen Ferguson, Town Attorney, reported that a public hearing will be held on June 18 at the Town's regular Council meeting to discuss negotiations and renewal of the cable franchise with Comcast. Attorney Ferguson and the Council members briefly discussed the I-Net and the potential to broadcast the Council meetings.

Chief Wynnyk said the e-tickets citation-writing program is fully operational and being used by the officers. He also reported that the police radios are fully compliant with the new FCC requirements. Mayor Tabori noted that Chief Wynnyk had just completed a 300-mile bike tour, as part of the Police Unity tour, which raises funds for charitable causes.

Continuing Business

Legislative Resolution 12-O-04: Fiscal 2013 Budget Motion to Approve the Adoption of Legislation Resolution 12-O-04: Fiscal Year 2013 Budget for the Town of University Park Motion approved 5 to 0.

Motion to Amend Legislation Resolution 12-O-04: Fiscal Year 2013 Budget for the Town of University Park, to Move \$15,000 from Budget Line Item W5 Back to the Undesignated Unreserved Line Item Motion approved 5 to 0.

Motion to Amend Legislation Resolution 12-O-04: Fiscal Year 2013 Budget for the Town of University Park, to Increase Budget Line Item W4 to \$5000 from \$1000, with the Additional \$4,000 from the Undesignated Unreserved Line Item, for a Mosquito Survey Pilot Program Motion approved 5 to 0.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Motion to Approve the Adoption of Legislation Resolution 12-O-04: Fiscal Year 2013 Budget for the Town of University Park, as Amended Motion approved 5 to 0.

Ordinance 12-O-05 to Amend Ordinance 12-O-02: Employee Service Recognition Bonus Introduction Mayor Tabori noted that the service awards for this year would be taken out of this year's (Fiscal Year 2012) budget. *Motion to Approve/Disapprove the Introduction of Ordinance 12-O-05 to Amend the Schedule in Ordinance 12-O-02 that Provides Town Employees Otherwise in Good Standing, in Addition to His/Her Regular Compensation, Shall Receive Monetary and Other Recognition for Specified Years of Service* Motion approved 5 to 0.

Ordinance 12-O-03 an Ordinance to Prohibit Placement of Construction and Other Storage Receptacles on Private Property Without a Permit, and to Provide for a Permit Fee and Penalty Attorney Ferguson said the Ordinance has to be adopted by the University Park Council, and then will go before the County Council for review. After discussion the Council members agreed that the permit fee would be waived.

Amended Motion to Amend as Discussed; to Approve/Disapprove the Passage of Ordinance 12-O-03 to Enact Chapter 7 "Public Health and Sanitation" Section 7-107 "Dumpsters and Other Storage Receptacles," and to Repeal, Re-Enact and Renumber Section 7-107, "Penalty," of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of University Park, to Institute a Permit System for Placement of Construction and Other Storage Receptacles on Private Property, with the Permit Fee Changed from \$25 to \$0 and the Municipal Infraction Being Set to a Fine of \$400, with Council Having the Ability to Waive the Fine in Extenuating Circumstances Motion approved 5 to 0.

Motion to Move the Amended Motion to a Vote Motion approved 5 to 0.

Motion to Approve/Disapprove the Passage of Ordinance 12-O-03 to Enact Chapter 7 "Public Health and Sanitation" Section 7-107 "Dumpsters and Other Storage Receptacles," and to Repeal, Re-Enact and Renumber Section 7-107, "Penalty," of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of University Park, to Institute a Permit System for Placement of Construction and

TOWN EVENTS

Other Storage Receptacles on Private Property Motion approved 5 to 0.

New Business


Budget Transfer Introduction *Motion to Approve the Transfer of \$12,000 from Capital Outlay Equipment Line Item in the Public Work Budget to Be Divided as Needed Among General Government Office Supplies and the Respective Salaries Line Items for Each Department to Cover the Potential Costs for Both Monetary and Non-Monetary Awards Associated with Each Line Item* Motion approved 5 to 0. The final vote on this motion will be taken on June 4, 2012.

Budget Transfer Introduction *Motion to Approve the Transfer of \$9,000 from Capital Outlay Equipment Line Item to the Vehicle Maintenance Line Item to Cover the Cost of Repairs Made on the Trash Packer When Circumstances Did Not Allow the Purchase of a Replacement Truck* Motion approved 5 to 0. The final vote on this motion will be taken on June 4, 2012.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM.

UP Civic Association News

We have some fun and new events planned for the late summer and early fall. An outdoor family movie is scheduled for Saturday, September 8, and an adult only wine and cheese party is scheduled for Saturday, September 22 at the Old Parish House in College Park. Tickets will be available for purchase ahead of the event. And of course, just around the corner is the UPCA 4th of July Parade and Picnic. Details of these events will be available at www.upcivicassociation.com and on the UP Listserv.

 Our membership efforts continue to improve our financial base, as more families are making their \$25 annual supporting contribution using PayPal on our website or by mailing a check to our treasurer at 4108 Van Buren Street, UP, 20782. With more contributions and more members, we can have more fun events!

TOWN EVENTS

After 8 Book Group

The After Eight Book Group, which meets from 8 to 10 PM on the third Tuesday of each month from September to June, has started their list for the next year. For those who'd like to read ahead over the summer, selections will be: Alan Bradley, *The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie*; Abraham Verghese, *Cutting for Stone*; Joyce Maynard, *Labor Day*; Alexander McCall Smith, *44 Scotland St*; Kate Morton, *The Forgotten Garden*; Hilary Mantel, *Bring Up the Bodies*. Call Laura Donnelly at (301) 927-6550 for more information.

July 4th Picnic and Parade

Wednesday, July 4, 10 AM



Join the UP Civic Association for some Independence Day fun. Bike/stroller/wagon decorating starts at 10 AM near town hall on Queens Chapel Road. At 10:45 the parade marches down Queens Chapel with a picnic to

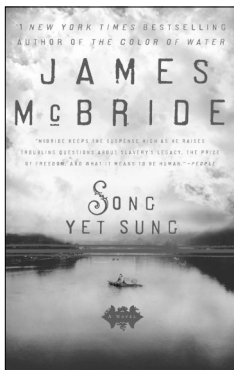
follow at the gazebo. UPCA will provide subs and pizza. Please bring drinks for your family and a dessert or side dish to share. Water balloon toss, relay races and other kid and parent games will follow the picnic.

Prizes given for best decorated bike, stroller and/or wagon and most patriotic pet! To register a group to march in the parade or to volunteer please email Dawn Nichols at dawnandjoe@verizon.net. We also need parade watchers, so feel free to set up chairs along the parade route and join us at the gazebo for the picnic.

Socially Conscious, Seasonal Book Club

Wednesday, July 25, RPC

The summer discussion is of *Song Yet Sung* by James McBride (author of *The Color of Water*). *Song Yet Sung* takes place on Maryland's Eastern Shore and was the 2009 One Maryland, One Book selection. This quarterly book club is open to all adult readers. Gather for supper 6:30-7 PM, discussion is 7-8 PM. The fall selection (date TBA) is *The Cellist of Sarajevo*, a novel by Steven Galloway, and this year's One Maryland, One Book selection.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

UCC Vacation Bible School

August 6-10, 6-9 PM

UP residents and friends are invited to attend Vacation Bible School at University Christian Church. The VBS topic is "Adventures on Promise Island," ages 3 to adult. VBS is from 6 to 9 PM and dinner will be provided. On August 10, VBS is from 7 to 8:30 PM for a closing ceremony and snacks. UCC is located at 6800 Adelphi Road (Adelphi and Belcrest Roads), Hyattsville. For additional information, please call 301-864-1520, email cucoffice@verizon.net or visit www.cucmd.org.

Riversdale Events

Events take place at Riversdale House Museum, 4811 Riverdale Road in the town of Riverdale Park, Maryland. Call 301-864-0420 or email riversdale@pgparks.com for more information.

Battle of Bladensburg Encampment, Saturday, August 11, 12-4 PM

Enjoy a day at Riversdale as costumed interpreters portraying both American and British War of 1812 troops allow us a peek into camp life on the eve of battle. Cannon firing, gunnery drills, children's activities, camp and kitchen displays and refreshments all happen on the grounds. Of course, the mistress of Riversdale will be on hand. Scouts, please call for details on earning a badge or patch. Events on the grounds are free. House tours \$3 adults, \$2 senior citizens, \$1 students, 4 and under free. The Riversdale Kitchen Guild will sell historically-inspired refreshments.

Jazz on the Lawn, July 25 and August 15, 7 PM As the sun sets, bring a blanket or lawn chair to Riversdale's beautiful grounds and enjoy the grass under your toes and the jazz wafting through the air. Pack a picnic or purchase dinner on the grounds before the show courtesy of the Calvert House Inn. The second concert of the season features Cheek to Cheek on July 25 (rain date July 26), followed by the MSG Acoustic Blues Trio on August 15 (rain date August 16). Concerts are free.

Hyattsville Library HyLi Book Discussion, Saturdays, July 21 & August 18, 3 PM Our book discussion title for July is Philip Meyer's *American Rust*, and for August, Abraham Verghese's *Cutting for Stone*. Upper Level Meeting Room.



TOWN OF UNIVERSITY PARK
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 Energy Coach Suzanne Parmet energycoach@upmd.org
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Police

Emergency 911
 Non-Emergency 301-352-1200
 Police Dept. Direct 301-277-0050
 Police Dept. Cell Phone 240-375-1077
 Chief Michael Wynnyk 301-277-0051
 Mayor Tabori home 301-779-6530

Town Council

Ward	Council Member	Phone
1	David C. Brosch	301-779-3168
2	James Gekas	301-864-2734
3	Arlene Christiansen	301-827-2394
4	Lenford C. Carey	301-864-1383
5	Heidi Sorensen	301-927-4977
6	Michael Cron	301-277-4718
7	Roy Alvarez	301-779-6746

NEWSLETTER

Friday, August 3 is the deadline for the September 2012 issue. The *University Park Newsletter* is published monthly, except for a combined July-August issue. Newsletter submissions may be made via the correct monthly form at www.upmd.org. 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 > Documents.

Subscriptions Former residents may subscribe for \$15/year by contacting Town Hall. Subscribers must renew each year before the month that their subscription ends. No reminders are sent. The address label indicates your renewal date.

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