

UNIVERSITY PARK NEWSLETTER

TOWN OF UNIVERSITY PARK, MARYLAND

JUNE 2013

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

VOL. XXXVIII, NO. 7

FROM THE MAYOR

The past month has been heavily focused on the FY2014 budget and the Cafritz development project.

The Council passed the FY2014 budget in the amount of \$4.78 million dollars on May 20, by a unanimous vote of 6-0, with one council member not present. Approximately \$3.74 million make up the operating budget with the remaining \$1.44 million in reserves. Within the operating budget, approximately 20.5% is spent on General Government, including the Town Bus service; 36.1 on the Public Works Department; 27.6% on the Police Department; and 15.8% on debt service.

There are two important highlights of the budget that should be of immediate interest to the community. First,

the budget adopts a .6315 property tax rate, which represents a nominal increase in Town property taxes of 4.99% over FY2013. The dollar impact of this increase will vary considerably for individual properties depending on the new 2013 real property tax assessments sent out earlier this year.

Second, the budget restructures the Town debt by paying down, consolidating and refinancing the two existing bonds at a lower rate. This will result in an immediate reduction of debt service costs in the amount of \$120 thousand dollars per annum over the next seven years and an overall savings of \$400 thousand over the next twenty years, significantly more if we are able to pay off the bond at an earlier point in time. It also reduces our

Town Meetings & Special Dates

Town Council June 3 & 17, July 1

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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debt to total budget ratio to 0.52, well below our 0.60 guideline, as well as the annual debt service proportion of the operating budget to below 10%. In making these adjustments, we assure that we will continue to receive low interest rates on any future bonds or financing requirements.

Enjoy the remainder of the spring and keep safe. Congratulations to those of you who graduated this year and hope that the future brings you great blessings.

John Rogard Tabori

NOTICE OF INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE

On June 3, 2013, at a regular meeting of the Mayor and Common Council, Ordinance 3-O-05 will be introduced.

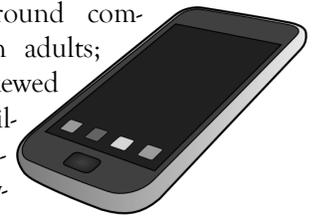
The proposed Ordinance will provide for the prepayment and refinancing of: (1) Town of University Park General Obligation Bond, 2009 Series, in the original principal amount of \$1,061,692.00, issued to fund past service costs of entering the State Retirement and Pension System of Maryland; and (2) Town of University Park General Obligation Bond, 2011-1, in the original principal amount of \$2,380,000.00, issued to fund the performance of infrastructure improvements in the Town.

The proposed Ordinance will authorize the refinancing of Town of University Park General Obligation Bonds, 2009 Series and 2011-1, by the issuance of a new Town of University Park General Obligation Bond in an amount up to \$2,625,000, with terms and conditions in reasonable conformity to the Term Sheet dated May 13, 2013, issued by lender, STI Institutional & Government, Inc. ("STING").

The earliest date that this Ordinance may be considered for passage is the Mayor and Common Council meeting on June 17, 2013.

Social media has become a way of life. As children finish the school year and spend long summer days at home, the internet has become an activity that occupies hours of time. We all enjoy being connected to instant information, news, activities, emails, tweets and so on. All of this instant access has inherent dangers that come with it. Our internet connections are easily accessed anywhere, anytime using a variety of devices from internet access televisions to handheld devices. As adults we should know better, but still get zinged by viruses, phishing traps and other e-related issues.

Many children maneuver around computers more proficiently than adults; however, their judgment is skewed by their lack of experience. Children have the ability to compete against and chat with players around the world using internet gaming systems or exchange messages, photos and videos at any time with anyone. We cannot watch our kids constantly, but strategies can help to monitor activities, allow them to benefit from the Internet and avoid its potential risks.



If you start exploring the internet with your kids early on, you greatly expand its capacity as an educational tool. Providing guidance and discussion along the way helps to increase their online skills and confidence along with their ability to avoid potential risks. Teach your kids that if they see any material which makes them feel scared, uncomfortable or confused to immediately tell you or another trusted adult. Regularly check the computer's history to verify where your kids have been and with whom they've been communicating. Keeping our children safe is one of the most important jobs we have as a community.

Whether a child is focused on an electronic device or outside playing with friends, it's important to take responsibility for their development and safety and follow some safety precautions:

- ◆ Make sure you know where your children are at all times.
- ◆ Be involved in your children's activities at home, school, after school, in sports and while on vacation.
- ◆ Listen to your children, even when they are talking to others.

FROM THE CHIEF & CRIME REPORT

- ◆ Be sensitive to your children's behavior or attitude.
- ◆ Be sure to screen babysitters and caregivers.
- ◆ Practice basic safety skills with your children.
- ◆ Remember there is no substitute for your attention and supervision.
- ◆ In most cases, dangers to children come from a perpetrator known to the parent/guardian or the child, and that person may be in a position of trust or responsibility to the family.

The following are safety suggestions to tell your children:

- ◆ Always check with you before they go anywhere or accept anything.
- ◆ Never walk up to or get into a car with a stranger and never share personal or family information with a stranger or online.
- ◆ Always take a friend when they go places or play outside.
- ◆ It's okay to say no if someone makes them feel scared, uncomfortable or confused.
- ◆ Adults don't need help from children to locate lost puppies, get directions, etc.
- ◆ There will always be someone to help them.

Continue to be vigilant in your home and throughout our community for the safety of everyone. As a community, we know it takes us all to raise children. If you see a child doing something dangerous to themselves or others, do not hesitate to notify a parent (or the police if a parent is not around).

Breaking & Entering On Friday April 5 at 1:15 PM in the 4200 block of Sheridan St. a friend of the homeowner entered the residence and discovered a broken basement window and the rear kitchen door wide open. UPPD officers responded, checked the home and secured the premises. It was determined that a basement window had been broken and suspect/s entered the premises and stole a flat screen TV, an iPod, some coins and a bottle of alcohol. During the investigation the TV was located in the rear of the property behind some bushes. No suspect/s was located. The home was processed for fingerprints. The investigation is ongoing.

Theft from Auto Between April 13 5 PM and April 14 11 AM in the 4000 block of Beechwood Rd. suspect/s entered an unlocked 2005 Toyota Matrix and stole a Sirius radio unit. No suspect/s was located. The investigation is ongoing.

Theft from Auto On April 6 at 6 PM in the 3900 block of Underwood St. it was reported that suspect/s had stolen the vehicle plates from a 2000 Toyota Corolla. No suspect/s was located. The investigation is ongoing.

Stolen Auto On April 11 between 10 AM and 6 PM in the 6900 block of 40th Ave. suspect/s stole a 2008 Volkswagen Jetta from in front of the residence. No suspect/s was located. The investigation is ongoing.



University Park Shade Tree Reimbursement Program



aesthetic benefits.

The Shade Tree Reimbursement Program offers residents up to \$300 towards the price of purchasing and planting a tree on private property. The purpose of the program is to enhance the town's tree canopy, which provides many benefits including conserving energy, reducing air pollution, increasing property values, enhancing wildlife habitat and providing

The Town of UP recognizes these benefits and has an ongoing tree planting and maintenance program. But the town can only manage trees on public land, such as in parks and along streets.

To increase and maintain a healthy urban tree canopy, the town needs to ensure that trees are also planted on private property. To take advantage of this program, follow these steps:

1. Plant a tree from the Approved Shade Tree List.
2. Fill out the Shade Tree Reimbursement Request form.
3. Deliver the tree receipt and the form to Mickey Beall at Town Hall or mbeall@upmd.org.

Complete guidelines, the request form and the Approved Shade Tree list are available at the Town of UP website at: Public works/Department Info. This program is in effect as long as funds are available.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

April 8 Council Meeting Highlights

Present were Mayor Tabori; Council Members Brosch, Gekas, Christiansen, Carey, Sorensen, Cron, Alvarez.

An Executive Session was called to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto.

Permits

Application to Replace an Existing Deck with Steps and Install a Storage Shed, 4409 Tuckerman Street Motion to approve the application to replace an existing 16' x 23' deck with steps and install a 10' x 12' storage shed located at 4409 Tuckerman Street. Motion approved 7 to 0. The property owner was present at the meeting to address council regarding approval of permit for installation of deck and steps. CM Brosch spoke with the owner and it appears the existing deck is larger than requested deck. The existing deck did not conform to code causing safety hazard. CM Alvarez suggested the application should include whether or not neighbors have been contacted for permit approval. CM Sorensen mentioned this option was removed from the application as the town cannot legally require residents to contact neighbors for building permit applications.

Department and Council Reports

Mayor Tabori discussed Maryland Highway User revenues are not being returned to municipalities or counties. This is a tax paid by all at the gas station and should be distributed to state and local agencies based on road mileage and the number of automobiles in its jurisdiction. As a result the town would not have to raise taxes over seven years upon returning revenue. Mayor Tabori will discuss at MML.

Mayor Tabori discussed a recent bill passed at the State Assembly which prevents municipalities/counties from enforcing vegetative management rules on Pepco and other utilities.

CM Christiansen discussed concerns regarding development of bridge only being local, not regional connectivity. CM Gekas suggested meeting with the University of Maryland to discuss the Cafritz project.

CM Carey discussed the date of the design advisory board meeting for the Veterans Memorial has been planned at the town hall for 4/24/13.

Continuing Business

Report On the Cafritz Project of Riverdale Park 4-13002

Important note: M-NCPPC considers the Cafritz Project of Riverdale Park a new application, if you would like to be a Person of Record for this project you must register with the Prince George's County Planning Department; http://www.pgplanning.org/Resources/Person_of_Record.htm. To register as a Person of Record the following information is required for this project:

Name of Project: Cafritz Property of Riverdale Park
Project No.: Preliminary Plan of Subdivision (PPS) 4-13002,
Detailed Site Plan (DSP) 13009, Special Permit (SP) 130002

Budget Transfer

Motion to approve the adoption of the budget item transfers as presented by the Town Treasurer on February 25, 2013, to make the necessary adjustments per the fiscal year six-month analysis, and to transfer the funds to the appropriate budget items. Motion approved 7 to 0.

Wells Parkway Resurfacing

Motion to approve option 1 as drafted by the Town Engineer to resurface Wells Parkway and direct the Mayor to complete the Town Street resurfacing project. Motion approved 7 to 0.

Mayor and Council discussed the resurfacing project options as drafted by the Town Engineer. Residents Mr. and Mrs. Robert Weidner, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Flick and Mrs. Mary Ann Gardner discussed the resurfacing project. They support option 1 as drafted by the Town Engineer, which basically keeps Wells Parkway at the same width and adds gutters on the Town side of the street. Parking will be allowed on the College Heights Estate side of the street only. The residents requested that grass and plantings be put in where asphalt is removed from current parking pads and along the Town side of the street between Chansory Lane and Eversfield Drive. They also requested that driveway aprons that are currently concrete remain concrete and driveway aprons that are asphalt remain asphalt. Mayor Tabori estimated the start date for resurfacing as April 2013.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Special Rules of Order Recommended by the Policy, Rules & Municipal Structure Committee

Motion to introduce Special Rules of Order (including appointing parliamentarian) as recommended by the Council Committee on Policy, Rules, and Municipal Order in its December 17, 2012 Committee Report. Motion approved 7 to 0.

CM Sorensen provided an update on Special Rules of Order. CM Sorensen will look into different terms to replace the suggested "parliamentarian" as well as the purchase of visual cues to be used during meetings as a way to manage the order of the meeting.

Revised Agenda for Council Meetings Recommended by the Policy, Rules & Municipal Structure Committee

Motion to introduce Revised Agenda for Council Meetings as recommended by the Council Committee on Policy, Rules, and Municipal Order in its December 17, 2012 Committee Report. Motion approved 7 to 0.

CM Sorensen discussed structure of the agenda, moving Legislative and Public Comment to the beginning of meeting with agenda corrections to the end.

New Business

Budget Transfers-Introduction

Motion to approve the introduction of the budget modifications to transfer \$10,000 from the Public Works Salaries line item into the Public Works Working Storage Space line item to cover the costs to modify the garage and provide for vehicle access. Motion approved 7 to 0.

House Bill 587

Motion to request that the Town Attorney research the matter and advise as to the applicability of Article XI-E (the Municipal Home Rule Amendment) of the Maryland Constitution and other provisions of constitution and law to a possible challenge and overturn of House Bill 587 and related legislation. Motion approved 7 to 0.

Legislative Resolution 13-O-04: Fiscal 2014 Budget-Introduction

Motion to approve the introduction of Legislative Resolution 13-O-04: Fiscal 2014 Budget. Motion approved 7 to 0.

Mayor Tabori introduced Fiscal 2014 Budget. Voting by Town Council will take place on May 20. Budget discussion includes pay scale and proposed real property taxes increase by a small margin. Real property tax rate is 63.15 cents per \$100 of assessed value compared to the present 2013 budget real property tax rate of 58.18 cents. Business property taxes will remain the same.

Revenues for the town, such as state income taxes, are projected to continue to grow at a 2.2% to 3.5% per year. Police protection funding (\$9,500) and highway user revenue (\$100,000) is not being returned, resulting in a big loss for the town. Salary analyses were discussed for each department. Reduction of interest rate and possibility of refinancing our loan as well as a write down of \$425,000 to pay for a portion of our infrastructure bond was discussed.

If the Town can restore highway user revenue and police protection funding, the pressure to increase the property tax rate will be considerably diminished.

The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 10:28 PM.

Editors' Note: We apologize for the lack of current minutes and wanted to share several additional ways for residents to stay up to date on meetings and activities in the Town of University Park.

The Town Electronic Notice System offers several lists regarding official Town business, events, meetings and agendas for Town Council and committee meetings. Visit upmd.org and click on Register in the upper right corner to sign up.

UPPD Safety Alerts are sent out by Police Chief Michael Wynnyk. Subscribe to this list by contacting the UPPD and providing your contact info.

Univ. Park Listserv Google Group is a list for residents of University Park and the College Heights Estates. This listserv is not an official listserv of any municipality or civic association. Search on Google for the list name to sign up for this and the next group.

WATCH UP & CHE Google Group is a neighborhood watch-type list and public safety officials do not monitor it. Any concerns should always be called in to the appropriate number: emergencies go to 911 and non-emergency calls to 301-352-1200.

TOWN NEWS & EVENTS

Strawberry Festival

Sunday, June 2, 3-4 PM

All Town residents, their neighbors and friends are invited. The treats will be served on the front lawn of RPC (on Queens Chapel Road across from UPES). In case of inclement weather, the event will move indoors to Custis Hall. Your nominal donation will include a generous serving of ice cream topped with sumptuously sweet, just-picked strawberries along with cake, lemonade, and the ambience of a small-town gathering. All contributions will be donated to Help by Phone. At 4 PM, enjoy a concert by Julie and Darrell Parsons. For more information, please contact the Church office at 301-927-0477.



Music at Riverdale

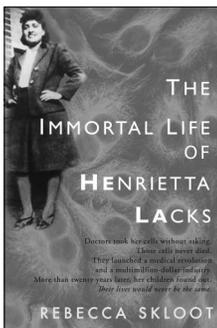
Sunday, June 2, 4 PM

Come hear University Park's own Julie and Darrell Parsons with Cheek to Cheek for a fun and upbeat jazz concert, with a touch of pop and show tunes. You won't want to miss this one! Free concert; goodwill offering taken. Riverdale Presbyterian Church sanctuary, 301-927-0477, www.cheektocheekjazz.com.

Tree Helpers Needed

Saturday, June 15, 9:30 AM-12 PM

Join your neighbors in the effort to keep town trees healthy by removing English ivy. Trees provide beauty, shade and character that add comfort and charm to our streets and parks. English ivy is a threat to trees, as it makes them susceptible to wind stress and disease. Meet at the intersection of Chansory Lane and Wells Parkway. Bring gloves, hand pruners and/or loppers. Questions? Contact Joanne Fletcher at joanne.fletcher1113@gmail.com or 301-864-3524. Rain date June 16, same time.



After 8 Book Group

Tuesday, June 18, 8-10 PM

June's selection is *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot. The After Eight Book Group meets on the third Tuesday of each month from September to June. Call Laura Donnelly at 301-927-6550 for more information.

UPCA News

The UP Civic Association organized a tremendous Townwide Yard Sale with more than 50 homes selling their wares. Many thanks to Dawn Nichols for organizing the sale, and to the folks who jumped in at the last minute to organize the address list and create a map. Our April UPCA Social, hosted by Kate and Bruce Beveridge, saw nearly 20 UP/CHE residents drop by, including the two UPPD officers on duty, who stopped by to say hello. We are in need of a Treasurer for the UPCA. The financial records are in outstanding shape and it is not a difficult job to manage the income from contributions and expenditures for the various events. If you think that you, or a neighbor or friend, would be interested in serving your town in this role, please contact Leatha Thome at 240-770-3710 or Carol Cron at 301-277-4718.

UPCA Social

Tuesday, June 18, 7-9 PM

Join us at the next UP Civic Association Social, hosted by Len Carey and Janet Young. Come by and say hello to your neighbors. 4308 Van Buren Street. Questions? Contact Len at 301-864-1383 or lencarey@verizon.net.

Vacation Bible School

June 24 through June 28

University Baptist Church, on Campus Drive in College Park and Riverdale Presbyterian Church in University Park will again combine forces to offer a free, full day Vacation Bible School from 9 AM-Noon at UBC and Noon-3 PM at RPC. This joint program will be offered for all children ages 5-12. Transportation will be provided from RPC to UBC just before 9 AM and back from UBC to RPC at Noon. For a small fee aftercare and camps (art, sports, service camp for teens) from 3 until 5 PM will be available at RPC. Registration information will be available soon at www.rivpres.org and www.weareubc.org.

July 4th Picnic and Parade

Thursday, 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 UPES gazebo. To register a group to march in the parade or to volunteer please email Dawn Nichols at dawnandjoe@verizon.net.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Hyattsville Library Independent Film Series: *Paso Latinos, A Mambo-Mentary*, Monday, June 17, 6:45 PM
Paso Latinos, by local filmmaker Miriam Machado-Luces, explores the marriage of rhythm and movement, clave and Latin dance. Dance defies economic & racial barriers bringing people, communities and cultures together. The story of Latin Dance starts in Africa, spreads to the Caribbean, and then blooms and explodes in the Americas. *Paso Latinos, A Mambo-Mentary* tells that story. Includes live demonstrations of Latin dance and a discussion with local filmmaker Andrew Millington. Refreshments provided! Hyattsville Library, 6530 Adelphi Rd.



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.

20th Anniversary Kick-Off Celebration & Concerts at Riversdale Wednesday, June 12 at 6:30 PM In June of 1993, Riversdale House Museum opened its doors as a 19th century historic house museum. This June and throughout the next six months, Riversdale will be celebrating with some very special 20th Anniversary events. At the first concert of Riversdale's annual Jazz on the Lawn series, enjoy the sounds of the Bay Jazz Project, a swing jazz quartet that has been gracing venues and festivals throughout the mid-Atlantic.

As a special treat to begin our 20th anniversary celebration, Tom Koerner and Debra Stemberg of Gotswing.com will be giving swing dance lessons before the concert. Bring a picnic basket or purchase dinner on the grounds courtesy of the Calvert House Inn tent. Concerts are free.

Concerts continue throughout the summer at 7 PM. On June 26 we will be hosting *Cheek to Cheek*.

College Park Arts Exchange

All events are free and take place at the Old Parish House, 4711 Knox Road, College Park, unless otherwise noted. Parking passes are available. Contact info@cpae.org or 301-927-3013 for more information.



College Park Youth Orchestra Spring Concert Sunday, June 2, 7 PM Enjoy a wonderful evening of free orchestra performances under the direction of Kenneth Whitley. Kay Theatre, Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, University of Maryland, College Park.

College Park Youth Choir and Vocetti Concerts Tuesday, June 4, 7:30 PM at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 4512 College Avenue. **Wednesday, June 26, 7:30 PM** at the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land, 1400 Quincy St., NE Washington, DC with special guests The Pennsylvania Youth Chorale.

Mini-Bop Disco for Parents and Children Sunday, June 9, from 2-4:30 PM Come celebrate summer, dance to great hits and enjoy refreshments. Your donation for refreshments gratefully accepted.

CPAE Book Club Friday, June 14, 7:30 PM Discuss literary nonfiction by women at the CPAE Book Club. June's book is *Swimming Up the Sun: A Memoir of Adoption* by Nicole Burton. Join us for this special author visit.

Children's Arts Drop-In Programs June 15 and 16 Arts Specialist Aaron Springer leads free fun arts workshops for children ages 3-8 with their parents. Saturday 10 AM-12 PM at College Park Community Center, Sunday 2-4 PM at Old Parish House. This month's theme is mobiles.



Lost Pet Database To register your pet, report a lost or found pet, please call Linda Verrill at 301-927-6743. Have your pets wear their tags or a microchip at all times so they can be identified.



TOWN OF UNIVERSITY PARK
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 Mayor John Rogard Tabori mayor@upmd.org
 Town Clerk Tracey Toscano ttoscano@upmd.org
 Public Works Dir. Mickey Beall mbeall@upmd.org
 Energy Coach Suzanne Parmet energycoach@upmd.org
 Chief Michael Wynnyk upchief@upmd.org

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	301-927-2394
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

The July-August newsletter deadline is Tuesday, June 4. 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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