

UNIVERSITY PARK NEWSLETTER

TOWN OF UNIVERSITY PARK, MARYLAND
DECEMBER 2019 OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER VOL. XLIV, NO. 11

MAYOR'S COLUMN

My congratulations to the Town Council for their work this year in deciding some of the more important and thorny Town matters to come along for some time. That the Council has carried out their work appropriately and well is a marked contrast to the painful dysfunction and incivility seen at the national level. I am thankful that our experience here this year has been different. The Council worked together to study and weigh options on some difficult issues, and to seek out points of agreement or convergence, possibilities for compromise. Our local government works well together to make our community better and to protect our interests. That takes a lot of effort; it doesn't happen easily or by accident, and it moves our community forward.

How we are able to talk about important Town matters

says a lot about what kind of community we are. We will always have concerns and issues to deal with, some of them difficult, and the future of our community will be shaped not just by their resolution, but *how* we address them. Our collective wisdom is strong, and we rely on that. Coming together to solve problems and address issues makes us a healthier, more sustainable, and stronger community. We don't see much of it in the national give-and-take, but conversations here at the local level are two-way and community conversations – talking and listening together – can continue to move us forward through difficult terrain. Community takes all of us, and we all must continue to listen to each other and to pay attention, show up and speak up on the issues as they arise. Working together, as the neighbors we are, is the right approach.

Town Meetings & Special Dates

Town Council	December 2 & 16
Potluck & Tree Lighting	December 8
Town Holidays	December 25 & January 1

Town meetings are at 7:30 PM at University Park Elementary School. Residents are encouraged to attend. Please request interpreting services 10 days in advance. Council agendas are posted at www.upmd.org.

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FROM THE MAYOR CONT.

We often find ourselves together at this holiday season at one or more of the many events going on in town, whether ambling about considering possibilities for snow, or at the holiday potluck, tree lighting, holiday house tour, or other nearby event. As always, I look forward to seeing you in town or nearby, and hope you will come over to say hello. I wish you the comforts of home and community, and peace always.

—*Len Carey*

*Do you agree or disagree? Did I miss something?
Let me know: mayorcarey@upmd.org*



Holiday Funds for Town Employees

Please consider contributing to the University Park Holiday Funds for Town employees. These funds offer a way for residents to express their appreciation for the exemplary work done by the Town's dedicated employees throughout the year.

We are very fortunate that much of our staff has been with the Town for more than five years, some for more than 20 years. The winter holidays afford a chance for residents to show their appreciation for the continued conscientious service to our community given by these very dedicated Town employees through foul or fair weather.

To contribute, checks should be made payable to "Town of University Park" and marked on the memo line of your check for the "Holiday Funds." You may also indicate whether your contribution is intended for Public Works, Police Department and/or for General Administrative Staff (including bus drivers) and the respective amount you wish to donate to each.

Checks for the 2019 Holiday Funds should be mailed or delivered to the Town Hall by Friday, December 27, 2019.



Holiday Schedule

Holiday Closures

Town Hall will be closed December 25 and January 1. The shuttle will not operate.

Waste Pickup

Will take place on regularly scheduled days.

Curbside Leaf Vacuuming

Continues through January 10, 2020.

Last Call: 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, babysitting, pet care, etc.) should email their name, age, phone number, street name, email address and type of service(s) to univparknews@gmail.com before December 6 for publication in the January Newsletter.



The holiday season is often filled with excitement and joy. Many people rush about, preparing for visitors and shopping for gifts. As we try to maximize our time, many of us enjoy the convenience of online shopping. With online shopping, however, we are vulnerable to a big risk: package theft. According to a study produced by research firm Edelman Intelligence, 11 million homeowners had packages stolen in the last year. This number is probably higher as many homeowners don't report the packages stolen to the police since they may get a refund or a replacement of the stolen item. Thieves who steal packages from porches have been dubbed "porch pirates." They wait until your package is delivered and steal it from your front porch. In some instances, porch pirates follow the delivery person from a safe distance and steal the package after the delivery is made. Most porch pirates strike during the day when homeowners are away.

The University Park Police takes this crime very seriously and offers these suggestions to help you prevent package thefts:

- If possible, pick up the ordered item at the store.
- Ship the item to your workplace.
- Install security cameras to deter package theft.
- Have a neighbor keep an eye out for the item if you know you won't be home during the delivery window.
- Have the item sent to a friend or family member who is home during normal delivery hours.
- If possible, ship the item to an Amazon Locker (6621 Baltimore Ave, Riverdale Park, MD), UPS Office (4423 Lehigh Rd, College Park, MD), FedEx Office (4400 Woodberry St., Riverdale Park, MD) or Post Office (6411 Baltimore Ave., Riverdale, MD).
- Require a signature at the time of delivery.

Parent Reminders: Safe Route to School Plan

We are approaching the holiday break for University Park Elementary School and it is a good time to remind parents that the University Park Police Safe Route to School Plan was developed in part with their input along with staff, elected officials, residence and public safety. Our most critical goal of the plan is to ensure all children arrive safely to school. While aspects of the plan have been supported, we are still observing far too many parents ignoring certain traffic control devices. We recognize how hectic it can be trying to get children to school on time while not being late for work. However, these parent reminders were developed to encourage your on-

SafeRoutes



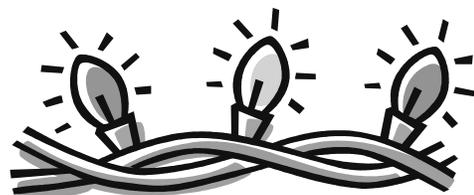
going support, partnership and compliance with the University Park Police Safe Route to School Plan.

- When using the drop off zone have your child exit your vehicle on the curbside.
- Please use the crossing guard to cross Queens Chapel Road and Underwood Street.
- Follow the direction of the crossing guard and encourage your child to do the same.
- Set the proper example - do not jaywalk with your child.
- Do not make a U-turn on Queens Chapel Road.
- Do not park in the drop off zones.
- Do not walk your child across the University Park Elementary School parking lot.
- Please obey the posted speed limit.
- Please come to a complete stop at all stop signs in University Park.
- Let's all do our part to make sure the students arrive safely for school.

Theft of bicycle On October 28, an unknown suspect stole a bicycle that was chained to the porch in the rear of a residence in the 6700 block of Baltimore Avenue. The stolen item was valued at \$1,000. There are no suspect(s) at this time.

Help the University Park Police prevent theft from your vehicle by removing all valuables and locking the doors. Remember - Keep it safe, keep it with you!

Have a safe and happy holiday season!



Helping Hands University Park

Following our successful Fall Social and Annual Meeting, HHUP has two new volunteers ready to be trained. They are eager to help members tend to repairs and tasks in and around their homes.

We are also facing some changes on our Steering Committee. Two of our members have had to step aside for personal and family reasons. Sue Yarvin, our newest committee member, had jumped into her role energetically, helping with programs, graphic design and as a very active volunteer. Ned Goldberg, a founding board member and Vice Chair, designed our website, provided volunteer training, served as one of our Village Rides administrators and has been a valued volunteer since our inception. We express our tremendous gratitude, wish them well and hope to have them continue as HHUP volunteers.

Sue's and Ned's departures mean we need new folks to join our Steering Committee. Any Town resident is invited to attend a monthly Committee meeting to learn more about what we are all about. We generally meet on the 3rd Tuesday of the month from 7:30-9 PM at Town Hall. Please confirm this ahead of time by emailing HHUniversityPark@gmail.com or calling 301-892-6636.

HHUP Lunch Club HHUP members and volunteers are invited to come buy lunch and socialize with others at our monthly lunch club. Questions? 301-892-6636 or HHUniversityPark@gmail.com. December's Lunch Club date is Wednesday, December 18 - check our website or Facebook page for further information. This month, we may decide to meet for an early dinner.



Parents and Teens HHUP welcomes help from UP teens for activities like leaf raking and snow shoveling. If you would like to volunteer for these jobs while earning community service hours (if attending a local public school), send an email to: HHUniversityPark@gmail.com to indicate your interest. We'll contact you as needed.

Have you checked our HHUP website lately? At helpinghandsup.org you can see upcoming events, fill out a volunteer or member application and stay up to date on all HHUP happenings. Also check our Facebook page, [HelpingHandsUP](https://www.facebook.com/HelpingHandsUP); you'll see photos from past events as well as information on upcoming events.



Think of HHUP and your neighbors as you make your end-of-year charitable donations. We are continuing to raise funds for the HHUP Temporary Assistance Fund (TAF). Send your check, payable to Town of University Park, designated to HHUP-TAF, to: HHUP, % Town Hall, 6724 Baltimore Ave., UP, MD 20782. Thank you! Donations shall be used for the following purposes:

- In-kind or monetary assistance
- Food/Nutrition
- Housing-temporary emergency assistance or crisis situations to avoid foreclosure or eviction
- Medical-small co-pays, urgent care visit
- Services, such as short-term health care aide assistance

Tree Committee News

Deferred Holiday Gifts

University Park's Tree Reimbursement Program is a wonderful gift to all residents from the town that we can defer "opening" until 2020. Receive \$300 for planting an approved shade tree or \$100 for an approved understory tree. Details are online at the town website. You can celebrate all year long, provided funds are available.

Keep it Green in December

If your holiday decorating includes a tree, please go green. An artificial tree is only environmentally beneficial if used for more than 10-15 years at least. Choosing a locally grown, recently cut tree supports a small business and is a carbon neutral purchase, as the town picks up our used trees and mulches them. The best choice remains a potted tree that is used for one or more years before being planted or mulched.

Thanks from the committee to all the volunteers and participants in our tree-centric programming. We're looking forward to a "treemendous" 2020 in Tree City USA, University Park.—*Chris Aubry, on behalf of the Committee for Trees, Parks, and Environment, TreeComm@UPMD.org*

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

October 21 Council Meeting Highlights

Present were Mayor Carey; Councilmembers (CM) Brosch, Schultz (arrived at 6:32 PM), Morrissey, Verrill, Caskey, Wells, Stephen.

Presentation

CM Morrissey gave highlights from the four-page annual report from the Trees, Parks and Environment Committee. The full report can be found on the Town website in the News and Announcements section on the homepage.

Questions/Responses

- Does the Committee contact homeowners if they see a tree in somebody's yard that is in serious shape? *CM Morrissey was not aware of that.*
- How many regularly active members are on the Tree Committee? *No less than ten and sometimes up to eighteen.*
- Is the Ivy League a subsidiary to the Committee? *Yes, they meet once a month. They pick an area and remove ivy.*
- Does Ward 4 have a steward? *Yes.*
- How are the native plant gardens? *There is a dedicated sub-group that keeps an eye on them. CM Morrissey has not heard of any issues.*

Consent Agenda

Motion: To approve the following consent agenda items. Motion approved 7 to 0.

On April 29, Ms. Siegel was permitted to add a 12'x 14' screened porch addition located at 4404 4307 Tuckerman Street. A request has been made to extend building permit 2019/04/29 5C for six (6) months through to April 30, 2020.

To replace existing 4' fence located at 4403 Tuckerman Street.

On April 29, Mr. Boucaud was permitted an eleven (11) month extension to construct three two-story additions of 17'x 24', 13.3'x 6', and 6'x 6.10'; a 5'x 17' deck with steps; a 10.5'x 18.25' second story addition; to replace existing basement areaway steps; and to remove an existing garage and portion of driveway to meet lot coverage requirements located at 4413 Beechwood Road. All work has been done except the removal of the garage. A request has been made to extend building permit 2017/04/24 4A for two (2) months through to December 21, 2019.

Public Comment

(Residents made the following comments. Responses from Councilmembers, the Mayor or staff are italicized.)

- Please remind the Ivy League not to cut down vines on personal property.
- Recommend that the decision on the Town Manager be postponed until after the next election. The Mayor is choosing to make this a 24/7 position. CM Wells has misstated by saying there is a lack of Mayoral candidates who are willing to take on the responsibility of running the Town. This is untrue and needs to be corrected. *The topic of Town Manager has been under discussion since as early as the 1990s and most recently beginning at the Council's November 2016 Strategic Planning Retreat. The report of that retreat is available through the Town website.*
- If a Town Manager is hired, then it may lead to hiring a permitting expediter and a grant writer. You will not be able to find someone who can do both. *Since 2014 the Town has received slightly less than \$700,000 in grants, with high probability of another \$260,000 in grants, totaling nearly \$1 million in grants. This was done by hiring a part-time bookkeeper to free the Treasurer up to write grant proposals, and the Mayor working with the legislature.*
- For those who are not in favor of hiring a Town Manager due to the affordability, need to consider what is currently being spent because there is not the staff to manage the projects well that have been taken on.

Continuing Business

Further Discussion of Town Manager or Administrative Officer Position

Summary of October 7 meeting and Council discussion and next steps.

CM Wells put a document together titled "Options for Providing Additional Administrative Support for Town Government" that lists all the options that have been suggested for the position. Three of these options were rejected at the last meeting: 1) Do nothing; 2) Contract Manager/Administrator; and 3) Dissolve Town. CM Wells asked the Council to review the remaining list and eliminate more options.

Council Comments

- A Councilmember was against unpaid internships. Volunteers and interns are welcome, but not for this discussion.
- It is not appropriate to rely on volunteers to do many of the higher function duties the Mayor does.

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- The Town is very special with lots of retired professionals and sometimes you just need to ask for their help.
- Relying on volunteers/interns for administrative support is not the right idea, although they are welcome in other aspects.
- A Councilmember stated they are looking for consistent day-to-day support for the staff.
- A Councilmember suggested adding to the list of options two At-Large Councilmembers.
- A full-scale professional is more expensive than this Councilmember has in mind.
- Thank you to resident Sarah Elder of Ward 7 who organized a meet and greet.

Motion: To remove “Volunteers” and “Paid Interns/students/recent grads” from the list. The Council recognizes that volunteers and paid interns can contribute to administrative support for the Town but are not the solution for professionalization of Town management. Motion approved 7 to 0.

Council Comments

- It does not make a lot of sense for someone to make a career out of being a Mayor in Town. Being Mayor is something someone is going to do because they love the Town.
- Mayor Carey was asked that if the stipend was increased to compensate for the time required in the existing strong Mayor form of government, would that solve the problems which have been identified. He said “no, an increased stipend doesn’t bring more hours in the day.”

Motion: To remove “Mayor - full time \$, no Manager/Administrator” and “Mayor - better \$, no Manager/Administrator” from the list. Motion approved 7 to 0.

Motion: To remove “Mayor - better \$, part-time Manager/Administrator” from the list. Motion approved 7 to 0.

Council Comments

- Not aware of any local towns that have a Deputy Mayor. There is Mayor Pro tem, who is authorized to act as Mayor at meetings or in case of an emergency when the Mayor is absent, but they do not generally take on administrative activities on behalf of the Mayor.
- Chief of Staff is someone who assists the Mayor and does not require a Charter amendment but does not

have their own source of power. A Manager has their own source of power that is fairly broad. An Administrator has limited powers.

Motion: To remove “Deputy Mayor (paid or unpaid)” from the list. Motion approved 6 to 1 (Morrissey opposed).

Motion: To remove “Chief of staff” from the list. Add “Chief of staff” position to Manager/Administrator options on the list. Motion approved 7 to 0.

Council Comments

- Part-time is only part of the solution to some of the challenges. This could be experimental and informative.
- By removing a full-time Manager/Administrator does not achieve what needs to be done.
- How will a part-time job address the issues and get us closer to sustainable good governance?
- The Town has been very successful with their part-time Attorney; part-time Treasurer and part-time Code Compliance Officer. A part-time Manager/Administrator/Chief of Staff could be extremely effective in terms of helping the Mayor in management of the Town.

Motion: To remove “Full-time Manager/Administrator/Chief of Staff - Mayor same \$” from the list. Motion fails 3 to 4 (Schultz, Verrill, Wells, Stephen opposed).

Council Comments

Options that will remain on the list are:

1. Mayor - reduced \$, part-time Manager/Administrator/Chief of Staff;
2. Mayor - same \$, part-time Manager/Administrator/Chief of Staff;
3. Mayor - same \$, full-time Manager/Administrator/Chief of Staff;
4. Mayor - reduced \$, full-time Manager/Administrator/Chief of Staff

▪At-Large Councilmembers could be a possibility especially with the jobs today that offer flexibility in working from home. Consider adding additional duties to the seven Councilmembers.

▪The At-Large positions would be an elected official, and this could be difficult to balance at the end of each term. It would be difficult to run the Town with this sort of floating staffing situation.

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Motion: To add two (2) At-Large Councilmembers to the list. Motion fails 0 to 7.

CM Wells distributed a 3-page document on Mayoral and Administrative Duties. The list shows what the state says the Mayor is supposed to do, what the Town Charter says he should do, and some tasks that the Mayor has to do. CM Wells said that this list can be discussed at the next Special Session that is scheduled for Monday, October 28.

Public Comment

- A resident thanked the Councilmembers for all the hours that have been put into this. She is disappointed to see that only 7 residents attended this particular meeting. Unfortunately, this may reflect the attitude in the neighborhood which is “it’s a done deal, we don’t have anything to say about it.”
- Another resident stated she did not see a “done deal” attitude at this meeting. She saw debate and she appreciated that.

New Business

Motion: To adopt the Proclamation declaring November 2019 as Municipal Government Works Month, which is a prerequisite to be eligible as a Banner City in the Maryland Municipal League. Motion approved 7 to 0.

Council Comment

- For clarification, Councilmembers agreed to include the following text under Public Comment: Residents made the following comments. Responses from Councilmembers, the Mayor or staff are italicized.
- CM Verrill asked CM Stephen to explain his comment in the minutes, “It seems that a full-time Town Manager may be too rich for our needs.” CM Stephen explained that a full-time manager is too costly for our needs as we understand them now.

Mayor’s Report

- Attended the Maryland Municipal League fall conference. Discussion included 5-G small cell.
- Attended the Prince George’s County Municipal Association Meeting. Discussion also included the small cell issue.
- Bids close on November 1 for the installation of the Town bridges. Mayor Carey anticipates bringing the proposals to the Council at the November 4 meeting.

- Mayor Carey responded to a question regarding status of the Town Hall project. He said that this project is in the hands of the Public Facilities and Services Committee. Mayor Carey asked CM Caskey to schedule a committee meeting in January.

Council and Committee Reports

Policy, Rules and Municipal Structure Committee The October 24 meeting was cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 7.

Development Overview Committee The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 14. CM Wells will not be present. Topics of discussion will include Mr. Chad Williams and a minor amendment at Whole Foods.

Update from the October 10 meeting:

- Landy Project construction is expected to begin in the spring and the stormwater has been approved.
- The Dewey Property project has a tentative approval on their stormwater plan. There will be approximately 1,100 units. University Park Elementary School is the designated school for all of these units. The Committee may want to invite the School Board representative, Pam Boozer-Strother, to come to a meeting so that concerns can be expressed. Mayor Carey said that University Park should host a meeting with other municipalities, District 3 Councilmember Dannielle Glaros, and invite Deni Taveras because the school capacity issue in our area needs to be addressed.

Town Clerk Andrea Marcavitch The goal is to have more residents and Councilmembers sign up on the website to receive notifications via email or text when agendas, Town news or alerts are posted. It’s a great way to stay informed. Click the “Notify Me” button on the homepage to sign up. The office is continuing to scan and document minutes and legislation from the attic.

Chief of Police Baker

- Distributed the Crime Report (Two incidents since the September report).
- On Saturday, October 26 the National Prescription Drug Take Back Day will take place from 10 AM- 2 PM at Town Hall.
- On Monday, October 28 Coffee with the Chiefs is scheduled from 9-10 AM at Starbucks at Riverdale Park Station.

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- On Friday, November 8 University Park staff is scheduled to attend an ALICE (Alert, Look Out, Inform, Calm, Evacuate) training at Word of God Church.
- CM Stephen thanked Chief Baker for attending the meet and greet in Ward 7.

Town Treasurer Dan Baden The September 2019 Treasurer's Report was distributed.

Director of Public Works Michael Beall

- There are at least six potential bidders for the installation of the bridges who attended the pre-bid meeting. Bidding closes on Friday, November 1 at 11:30 AM. The Council will be asked to make a decision on a contractor at the November 4 Council meeting.
- As of November 4, the Town field will be closed for seeding and blanketing. The field will not be available for the UPCA Turkey Bowl.
- Descendants of the Deakins family came to visit the cemetery. Mr. Tiegh Thompson was able to share a lot of history with the family and they were very appreciative.
- Working on getting the Tennyson Road crosswalks and stop bars on the schedule for completion.
- There will be 79 trees planted in Wards 1, 2, 3 and 4 within the next two weeks.
- The electronics/paper shredding event took place on Saturday, October 19. Details are not yet available.
- The white spray-painted circles throughout Town indicate where trees will be planted.
- Mr. Beall responded to a question about the requirement that WSSC repair the streets where work was done. Mr. Beall said that WSSC is only responsible for their limit of disturbance and that he is not aware of any updates to that requirement that would have an impact on University Park.

The meeting adjourned by consent at 9:15 PM.

October 28 Council Special Session Highlights

Present were Mayor Carey; Councilmembers (CM) Brosch, Schultz, Morrissey, Verrill, Caskey, Wells. Excused: Stephen.

Public Comment

(Residents made the following comments. Responses from Councilmembers, the Mayor or staff are italicized.)

- The idea of going to a full-time City Manager, going

from a strong Mayor to a strong City Manager, seems like a revolutionary change. The other option where the Mayor stays as is and with a part-time City Manager seems more evolutionary. This resident prefers the evolutionary option. *The thing that is really changing is the realization that we might have to start paying for what we never did. The Town should evolve and get some assistance but it's a lot easier to go into this with a part-time employee and if it's not adequate we can move up. The Town needs help so there has to be a compromise.*

- Not exactly sure what a Town Manager is going to do. There is a concern about the cost and there needs to be some consideration about the Town taxes.
- Before making a decision on hiring a Town Manager, wait until the next election and see if the Mayor and Councilmembers who are re-elected support this.
- The salary of a Town Manager will be another cost for the Town that will continue to expand.
- Would like to see a cost/benefit analysis.
- Can you reduce the number of personnel in other departments in order to reduce costs? *Since 2008 Public Works Department has reduced size by three employees.*
- Consider hiring someone from the local government department in the school of Public Policy. *We make use of the University of Maryland students on a project by project basis.*
- Residents are obviously very upset about this and do not want this.
- Is there a job description for a Town Manager? *There will be a discussion on the job description after public comment.*
- It is not prudent to add another layer of government to our Town.
- What is causing the increased work? Consider part-time first. *If there is one issue that has made things more complicated in the last ten years, it is the development around our borders. We need some help, but I don't think we need to fundamentally change the management structure at this time.*

Continued Council Discussions on Town Management

Continued discussions on options for providing additional administrative support for Town government.

CM Wells said that after last week's meeting, the four options for consideration are: 1) Mayor reduced \$ - part-time Manger/Administrator/Chief of Staff; 2) Mayor same \$ - part-time Manager/Administrator/Chief of Staff; 3) Mayor less \$ - full-time Manager/Administrator/

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Chief of Staff; 4) Mayor same \$ - full-time Manager/Administrator/Chief of Staff. A document titled "Mayoral and Administrative Duties" was distributed for discussion.

- There are a number of things where the Town lost money because the amount of attention was not given when needed, such as managing the pedestrian bridges and working with the permitting process with Prince George's County Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement (DPIE).
- If someone doesn't work out as a Town Manager, then fire them.
- In local towns, there were Managers that were fired or had serious problems, so bringing in a Manager doesn't mean the Town will avoid some of the risks that are being discussed. A Manager is not always the best system.
- The Town has no systematic mechanism in place to ensure that the person who comes in to be the Chief Executive of the Town knows anything about the job whatsoever. This is a problem that needs to be resolved.
- We have a good idea of what a full-time Manager will cost, and we don't have a good idea of what benefit we are going to get for that cost.
- The cost per town resident in terms of their taxes is: \$.01 on the Town tax rate raises approximately \$40,000 and this will continue to go up as the property value goes up. If the budget is \$80,000 for a part-time Manager, that is \$.02 on the tax rate. \$.01 on a \$500,000 house tax rate is \$50 a year.
- Another way to look at the tax increase is: In the percentage of the Town's operating budget, the Town spends about \$30,000 a month to run the Town. The interest and principal on the recent bond is going to be approximately \$128,000 a year (3.5%) for the next fifteen years. A full-time Manager would be another 3.5%.
- The reality is that for the next several years the Town taxes will need to be increased or the Town services will need to be reduced.
- The Town is working on developing a capital budget, which is a different approach than what has been done in the past.
- What goes into the initial budget proposal is something that involves the Mayor a great deal and putting this in the hands of a Town Manager/Administrator is a way to reduce the Mayor's time.
- It is hard to try and make a decision based on "lack of

- time." A lot of time is spent in all the areas but no one knows exactly how much time that is. It would be helpful to have more information before making a decision.
- The Mayor goes to Upper Marlboro to work on increasing the tax differential to obtain reductions in the County tax rate to credit Town taxpayers for services that University Park offers but for which the County collects property tax to provide. This takes a lot of time, and most municipalities send their Managers to handle this issue.
- What goes on day-to-day in a Town Hall varies tremendously, it is not the same thing every day. A Town Manager would be there to take the load off the Mayor and to leave the Council to make policy decisions and look to the Town's future.
- There are many residents who want the services that are provided to continue, and they want more services, and support hiring a Town Manager/Administrator/Chief of Staff.

Motion: To suggest removing the two full-time manager positions (options labeled P & Q) off the list. Motion withdrawn

- There are sufficient funds in the current budget for a part-time person.
- There are four months before the next budget; consider getting a job description out in the marketplace to see if there are any candidates that are qualified for this part-time position.
- Would like for the person to look across the different departments and see how to achieve efficiencies at a high level. By taking the full-time option off the table there is a concern that the needs that have been identified will not be met.

Motion: To create a position and to fill it on a part-time basis using the funds available in the current budget at this time. Motion withdrawn.

CM Wells said we'll go forward to the Council at the November 4 meeting with a recommendation of the Council acting as Committee of the whole that we look at creating a position, developing the job description, filling it on a part-time basis within the current budget for the rest of this fiscal year.

The meeting adjourned by consent at 9:30 PM.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

November 4 Council Meeting Highlights

The Mayor called a closed session to begin at 7 PM. Before a contract is awarded or bids are opened, to discuss a matter directly related to a negotiating strategy or disclosure would adversely impact the ability of the public body to participate in the competitive bidding or proposal process.

Present were Mayor Carey; Councilmembers (CM) Brosch, Schultz, Morrissey, Verrill, Caskey, Wells, Stephen.

Consent Agenda

Motion: To approve the following consent agenda items. Motion approved 7 to 0.

To install a 14'x 8'shed located at 6829 Pineway.

To replace broken concrete 10'x 45'driveway with a gravel driveway located at 4011 College Heights Drive.

Public Comment

(Residents made the following comments. Responses from Councilmembers, the Mayor or staff are italicized.)

- Council needs to be more specific with the wording under 6A#1 (Part-time Town Administrator) by inserting the number of hours for this position. This resident suggests up to 20 hours per week.
- Resident finds it odd to vote to create a position without a job description for the position.
- For as odd it seems, this resident said he would create the position first and then the job description.
- There has to be limitations on the hours. It should say not to exceed a certain amount of hours or not to exceed a certain budget amount. There is a sense of frustration in Town that this Council is not listening to the residents. There are only a couple of comments from homeowners on the listserv in favor of a Town Manager. She does not see any low cost or no cost options on the list. *At the October 21 Council meeting, the Council went from 17 options to the remaining 4 options. It is somewhat presumptuous to accuse the Council of not paying attention to what people think, as everybody is doing that diligently. If the position of a part-time Town Manager doesn't work, it can be discontinued. The Charter is not being changed at this point. The goal is to hire a part-time person at a level high enough to be a leader and to help coordinate and give support on issues. This one issue has been discussed for the last few years. There is no rushing anything, and everybody cannot be pleased.*

▪ She has not been attending meetings but has read the listserv. This is a big deal and feels there has not been any outreach. There is not a lot of listening and that is problematic. This is such a big decision that people should be engaged in this.

- *It is wildly inaccurate to say that there is a majority of residents against hiring a Town Manager.*
- It is totally reasonable for the Council to have a written concept of what this person will do. This resident has not seen any specific things, only that the Mayor is working a lot of hours and needs help. *The Mayor is directed to develop the job description and the Council will approve the job description, this will be happening in a public meeting. No one will be hired until there is a job description.*
- Everyone is trying to figure this out but there is not a nose count and this is why people are upset. On a subject that is this important, where you are changing the structure and the authority lines, people want a nose count. It wouldn't be tough to put this on a ballot option.
- What are the legalities of how we can change the primary job description for somebody that has already been hired or who may or may not have the abilities and the expertise when the next Mayor is elected? What are the legalities if the Town decides they no longer need a Manager, will the Town be forced to keep that position simply because we cannot fire someone? *This will be a job that is at the will of the Mayor and Council, it can be curtailed at any time. If you eliminate a position and it's not there anymore then nobody has a right to it.*
- If the Mayor and Council decide to change their minds and eliminate the position, is there a possibility of being sued if the person says, "it was because they changed their minds?" *That is true from any employee in the United States. There is no guarantee that an employee will not sue.*
- A resident cannot understand how her neighbors who happen to be on the Town Council can really insist on pushing for this vote when this is such a divisive issue. Why push this through without really feeling like you have gotten your neighbor's ideas. Take it to a vote.
- Does the already budgeted \$75,000 include benefits and any kind of future scale for growth? If the position is voted in, how will you know if the position is effective and how will you know if it needs to be expanded into a full-time position?
- In terms of the job description, the one thing heard was "we missed out on some grants." There are organizations that handle grant writing for towns. *If the position*

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

is approved, before \$1 is spent, the position has to be approved in an open meeting that will be announced in the newsletter.

- Consider labeling the position “intern” rather than “Town Manager.”

Continuing Business

Town Management

Further Council discussion and possible votes on options for legislative action on Town Management.

CM Wells said that after a lot of discussion and several special sessions, a collective decision was made to create the position of a part-time Town Administrator who will report to the Mayor. At this time, there will be no change to the Charter, or tax implications.

Part-time Town Administrator

Per Section 402 (b) of the Town Charter, to create the position of Town Administrator to assist in the day-to-day administration of Town affairs and operations under the Mayor's direct supervision; and to authorize the Mayor to appoint the Town Administrator, subject to approval of the Council. The Town Administrator will serve on a part time basis at the pleasure of the Mayor and Council and will be paid as authorized in the Town budget. The Mayor is directed to develop a job description for the Town Administrator for Council approval. Any changes to the provisions of this motion require a public vote of the Mayor and Council.

Motion: *To approve 6A#1 to create a position of a part-time Town Administrator who will report to the Mayor and Council. The Mayor will develop a job description and to bring it back before Council at the earliest possible opportunity.* Motion approved 7 to 0.

New Business

Contract for Installation of Pedestrian Bridges

To be announced on Monday with a revised agenda.

Motion: *To approve the recommendation of the Director of Public Works to approve the contract for the installation of two bridges.* Motion fails 1 to 6 (Caskey in favor).

Note: CM Stephen asked that the Director of Public Works and Town Clerk enter into the record the net cost of the bridges project if completed entirely as proposed from start to finish. Costs were estimated at be

tween \$30,000-\$35,000 for engineering and permitting; \$20,000 for wooden spans; \$5,000 for Van Buren St. bridge demolition; \$3,000 for Pepco; and \$191,000 to install and complete the project. There is \$100,000 in the current budget. To complete the project \$91,000 would come from Reserves. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$250,000.

Motion: *To accept the low-bid price at the recommendation of the Director of Public Works to re-build only the Van Buren Street bridge.* Motion withdrawn.

Motion: *To thank all the people who have been involved in this for such a long time. With regret, to reject the bids and reject the recommendation of the Director of Public Works to build the two bridges. The plan is to do some careful capital planning so that the Town is prepared to rebuild the Beechwood bridge when that becomes necessary.* Motion approved 7 to 0.

Note: Mr. Beall requested that the Council consider authorizing an inspection of the Beechwood bridge by a certified structural engineer to provide a report as to what its life span is and what it may cost to do repairs to extend the life span.

Motion: *To authorize the Mayor and the Director of Public Works to contact a structural engineer to inspect the Beechwood bridge, estimate its condition and life span and to recommend any repairs that could extend the life span if that seems suitable.* Motion approved 7 to 0.

Motion: *To adopt Proclamation 2019-R-07 honoring the Washington Nationals for their 2019 World Series Championship.* Motion approved 7 to 0.

Mayor's Report

Has registered for the Maryland Mayor's Association Meeting in February in Annapolis. Commended the Council on finishing the fight today regarding Town Management.

Council and Committee Reports

Policy, Rules and Municipal Structure Committee The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 7 at 7 PM at University Park Elementary School (Conference Room).

Sustainability Committee The next meeting is scheduled

TOWN NEWS & EVENTS

for Wednesday, November 6 at 7:30 PM at Town Hall.

Development Overview Committee The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 14 at 7:30 PM at Town Hall. CM Schultz will chair this meeting.

The meeting adjourned by consent at 9:33 PM.

UP Turkey Bowl 2019 Sunday, December 1, 11 AM

Flag football returns! Please note the change in location for this year's game. We will be playing at Calvert Park in College Park, just a 5-minute drive from UP. It is located down the street from the CP Metro Station. There is a large gazebo with bathrooms, a basketball court and a playground also available at the park. Calvert Park, 4811 Drexel Road, College Park. Registration Fee: \$10. T-shirts will be provided for every participant. Pizza and other drinks/snacks will be available throughout the day. To register, please visit <https://forms.gle/TfW5p6rq7Snz9cTV9>. Questions? Contact Sam Jackson, samj0460@gmail.com or Jason Jackson, jasonhjackson@gmail.com.

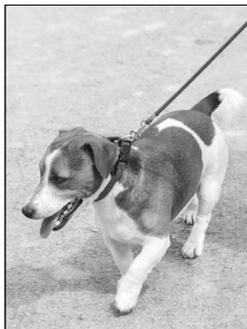


For All Good Causes Holiday Sharing Fair Saturday, December 7, 9:30 AM-2 PM

International crafts and foods, gifts and products from local artists and craftspeople will be on sale almost at your doorstep. All shopping benefits Fair Trade groups doing peace, justice, environmental and service work. Children are invited to join in puppet-making! Baked goods, brats & burgers, Chinese barbecued beef and Syrian delicacies produced by locally resettled refugee families will be available. University Park Church of the Brethren, 4413 Tuckerman Street.

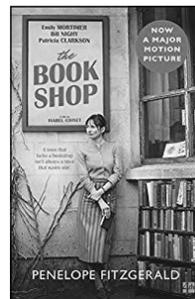
Change is Coming to the UP Pet Database!

Several residents are expanding the UP Pet Database to a group called Helping Paws, to better support issues around lost and found pets, wildlife encounters and pet resources in general. To update your pet family info, ask questions or join our group, contact Mary Sue Twohy at 240-274-2893 or email UPHelpingPaws@gmail.com.



UPCA Holiday Potluck and Tree Lighting Sunday, December 8, 4-7 PM

Please join the community in celebrating the holidays. For the potluck dinner, please bring a dish or dessert to share that serves at least 15 people. There is no kitchen access, so please plan accordingly. After dinner, walk with neighbors to Henson Green at Sheridan and Queens Chapel Road for the Tree Lighting. Santa will make his appearance! Caroling and candy canes for all! UPWC will be collecting winter clothing (scarves, mittens, gloves, hats) for those in need. Holiday potluck at University Park Elementary, 4315 Underwood Street.



After 8 Book Group Tuesday, December 10, 8-10 PM

December's title is *The Bookshop* by Penelope Fitzgerald. January's book is *Pachinko* by Min Jim Lee. Please call Carol Hurtt 301-927-2772 or Laura Donnelly 301-927-6550 for more information.

UP Woman's Club Holiday House Tour

Saturday, December 14, 4-8 PM

Five UP residents have generously agreed to participate in this year's UP Woman's Club Holiday House Tour and showcase their lovely homes. Coming on the tour is a great way to get into the holiday spirit, socialize with friends and neighbors and get decorating ideas. Tickets may be purchased in advance (\$20.00 each) by calling Jean Pirovic, Chair, at 301-520-8420. Checks should be made payable to UPWC ("House Tour Tix" on the memo line) or in cash and UPWC welcomes donations. Tickets will also be sold at the Town Tree Lighting, and at the houses the evening of the event for \$20 each. All proceeds benefit various UPWC charities and our annual scholarship fund. As always, the UPWC thanks you for your support.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

UP Woman's Club Holiday House Decorating Contest Sunday, December 15, 5-8 PM



It's that time of year again! Deck the halls and get recognized by the UP

Woman's Club during our annual Holiday House Decorating Recognition Awards. Three houses in UP/CHE will be recognized for their original efforts: awards will be given for Most Unique/ Most Original, Special House Front Decoration & Most Attractive Whole House Decoration. No need to sign up, the judging committee surveys the entire neighborhood - just make sure your holiday display is in full effect on the 15th! Recent award recipients must have a new display to be considered. Winners will be chosen that evening and Recognition Award Signs placed in their yards for all to see. Names of winners will also be announced in the UP Town Newsletter. Questions? Contact Mary Anne Hakes at mahakes@comcast.net.

Qigong & Tai Chi Lessons Saturdays, 8-9:30 AM

Come join us to learn the ancient Chinese martial art often referred to as "meditation in motion" and leave feeling relaxed and energized. Free. Hosted by UP Church of the Brethren, 4413 Tuckerman Street. For more information, call 301-466-5894.

Festival of Nine Lessons
& Carols, *Friday December 6, 8-9:30 PM* UMD Choral Activities presents the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. The festi-



val is modeled after the historic Christmas Eve tradition presented by King's College of Cambridge. Conductors Kenneth Elpus, Tim Keeler and Matthew Goinz will lead host choirs UMD Treble Choir, UMD Men's Chorus and University Chorale, accompanied by organist Theodore Guerrant and brass quintet. Guest performers include vocal ensembles Femmes de Chanson and MannerMusik. Audience participation is encouraged during performances of traditional Christmas carols. Tickets \$20 for general admission/\$15 senior (62+)/\$10 students. Call 301-405-2787 or visit theclarice.umd.edu for tickets. University of Maryland Memorial Chapel.

Greenbelt Art and Craft Fair, *Saturday, December 7, 10 AM - 5 PM; Sunday, December 8, 10 AM - 4 PM*

The Festival of Lights Juried Art and Craft Fair showcases handmade wares by local artisans, plus a hands-on workshop, prize drawing, live music, open studios and more. Additional wares include clothing, accessories, jewelry, toys, paintings, prints, housewares, bath and body products, edible goods and books. On Saturday enjoy live gypsy jazz with the Hot Club of DC from 2:30 to 4:30 PM. Sunday includes a free craft workshop from 1 to 3 PM where guests of all ages can make luminous, sun-catching art with instructor Aaron Springer. From 1:30 to 3:30 PM, enjoy bluegrass music while you shop with Big Howdy. Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Rd, Greenbelt, 301-397-2208. Parking and admission free.



Hyattsville Library Independent Film Series, *Monday, December 9, 7 PM* *From Extremes to the Mainstream.* Local filmmaker Eddie Becker has been documenting social, religious and political movements for decades. He is interested in "an independent view of reality...to make more complex stories than three-minute reports. Stories unfold and people are allowed to speak for themselves." The library program will include selected highlights of his work. Presentation and discussion with the filmmaker following the screening. Refreshments provided. Hyattsville Library temporary branch, 6502 America Blvd.

College Park Arts Exchange Community Concert, *Tuesday, December 17, 7 PM* Join CPAE performing groups for a fun joint concert and bring a canned good and/or donation for CPAE. St Andrew's Church, 4512 College Ave, College Park.

Riversdale by Candlelight, *Saturday, December 28, 6-9 PM* Enjoy some historic festivity! Resi-



dents from Riversdale's past welcome guests to the candlelit museum for tours, refreshments, music and children's activities. All ages welcome. \$5 Adult; Free for children 12 & younger with paid adult. Riversdale House Museum, 4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale.

Town of University Park

SNOW AND WINTER OPERATIONS



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.

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



UP SHUTTLE BUS WINTER CONDITIONS POLICY

Town Shuttle Bus operations to and from Metro during winter conditions will seek to parallel the operating status of federal government offices in the area. Therefore, follow news media reports regarding the operating status of federal government offices within the Washington Beltway as the best indicator of whether the Town Shuttle Bus is operating.

- Bus status recording will be updated as needed due to changing conditions.
- If federal government offices are closed due to winter conditions, the Town Shuttle Bus will not operate.
- If federal government offices are open, even if on delayed arrival, the Town Shuttle Bus will operate on its established route and schedule so long as we deem the conditions safe for it to do so.
- If federal government offices are open and announce early dismissal, the Town Shuttle Bus will operate on its established route and schedule so long as the conditions are deemed safe by the Town.

Shuttle Bus Route and Schedule:

<http://www.upmd.org/docs/11-576-1428347459.pdf>

**Bus Status Recorded Line:
240-297-8287**



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--3900 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--4400 block
Van Buren St
Woodberry St



*Denotes change from previous plan.

Questions?

**Call Town Hall at 301-927-4262
Email Town Clerk Andrea Marcavitch
at amarcavitch@upmd.org**

December 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Turkey Bowl 2019, 11 AM 	2 Yard Waste, Compost Town Council, 7:30 PM	3 Trash, Bulk Trash	4	5	6 Recycling	7 For All Good Causes Holiday Sharing Fair, 9:30 AM-2 PM 
8 UPCA Holiday Potluck and Tree Lighting, 4-7 PM 	9 Yard Waste, Compost	10 Trash, Bulk Trash After 8 Book Group, 8-10 PM 	11	12	13 Recycling	14 UPWC Holiday House Tour, 4-8 PM 
15 UPWC Holiday House Decorating Contest, 5-8 PM 	16 Yard Waste, Compost Town Council, 7:30 PM	17 Trash, Bulk Trash	18	19	20 Recycling	21
22	23 Yard Waste, Compost	24 Trash, Bulk Trash	25 Town Holiday: Town Hall closed, no shuttle service.	26	27 Recycling	28
29	30 Yard Waste, Compost	31 Trash, Bulk Trash	January 1 Town Holiday: Town Hall closed, no shuttle service.			Curbside Leaf Vacuuming Now through January 10, 2020



TOWN OF UNIVERSITY PARK
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University Park MD 20782

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TOWN DIRECTORY

Town Hall

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 Fax 301-277-4548
 TDD 800-735-2258
 Website www.upmd.org
 Town Field Status 240-297-8277
 Town Bus Status Recording 240-297-8287
 Mayor Lenford C. Carey mayorcarey@upmd.org
 Mayor Carey Cell Phone 240-338-2826
 Town Clerk Andrea Marcavitch amarcavitch@upmd.org
 Public Works Dir. Mickey Beall mbeall@upmd.org
 Chief Harvey Baker 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 Harvey Baker 301-277-0051

Town Council

Ward	Council Member	Phone
1	David Brosch	301-779-3168
2	Joe Schultz	301-892-6314
3	Laurie Morrissey	301-906-0276
4	Linda Verrill	301-927-6743
5	David Caskey	301-699-8785
6	Martha Wells	301-864-1735
7	Roland Stephen	919-522-5589

NEWSLETTER

The January newsletter deadline is Friday, 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 univparknews@gmail.com or sent via www.upmd.org > Communications > Contact. 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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