

# THE UPDATE

THE LATEST IN UNIVERSITY PARK  
JULY 18, 2025

## WHY MOTHS MATTER

While butterflies often get the spotlight, **Maryland is home to hundreds of moth species**—many of which play critical roles in our local ecosystems. Moths are important nighttime pollinators, helping native plants reproduce while the rest of the world sleeps. Their larvae also serve as a key food source for birds and other wildlife.

Unlike butterflies, most moths are nocturnal, meaning they're active at night. They rely on darkness and cooler temperatures to safely navigate and avoid predators. Attracted to light sources, they're often spotted fluttering around porch lamps—but their real work happens quietly in the shadows, helping pollinate flowers, grasses, and trees that bloom after sunset.

Hosting a Moth Night isn't just a fun evening activity—it's a celebration of biodiversity, and a reminder that some of nature's most important work happens when we least expect it. Check out & follow UP Sustainability for more.



## MIDSUMMER MOTH MAGIC!

Have you ever wondered what our pollinator meadow looks like after dark?

This Saturday, July 19, the Town of University Park Sustainability Committee invites you to celebrate National Moth Week with a Midsummer Moth Night in the UP Native Pollinator Meadow, located just across the street from the Hyattsville Library. The event runs from 8:30 PM to 10 PM—or whenever our batteries run out!

This is your chance to explore the hidden nightlife of our local ecosystem. Moth Night features blacklight setups and informal observation stations where community members can

come together to identify moth species, learn about nighttime pollinators, and appreciate the natural beauty of our shared green spaces. This family-friendly event is a rare opportunity to see the Meadow come alive in a completely different way.

Whether you're an amateur naturalist, a curious kid, or just someone looking for a quiet evening in nature, Moth Night offers something unique. Volunteers will be on hand to help with identification and answer questions, and you'll walk away with a new appreciation for the diversity and resilience of these nocturnal creatures.

**Wear outdoor-appropriate clothes and shoes and bring a flashlight or headlamp (red setting preferred!).**

No registration is required—just show up ready to learn and enjoy!



### SUMMER PET SAFETY

Hot weather and sudden storms can pose real dangers to pets—especially in the height of Maryland summer.

**Heat stress is serious.** Never leave pets in a parked car, even for a minute, and try to schedule walks for early morning or late evening when pavement is cooler. Keep fresh water available at all times, and make sure indoor pets have access to fans or air conditioning. Dogs with short snouts or thick coats are especially vulnerable to overheating.

During thunderstorms or fireworks, pets may become anxious or disoriented. Create a quiet space where they feel secure. Consider ID tags or microchips in case of escape. Always keep emergency contact numbers (vet, ER vet, poison control) on hand. For more tips, [check out UP Helping Paws!](#)



### SUMMER SECURITY: HOME SAFETY

As residents travel, vacation, or simply relax outdoors during the long days of July, it's a good time to review some basic home safety practices. A few small habits can go a long way in keeping your home and neighborhood safe all summer long.

Before you leave town, **make sure all doors and windows are locked**—including basement and garage doors. Set interior lights on timers to give your home a lived-in appearance. If you'll be away for more than a few days, **pause your mail delivery** or ask a neighbor to collect it. **Avoid posting real-time travel updates** or vacation photos on social media until you return.

Be mindful of daytime security while you're home as well. Open windows can invite more than a breeze, and unlocked garage doors offer easy access to tools and other valuables. Put away ladders and yard equipment at the end of each day.

Don't forget **pet safety during heat waves**—ensure animals have access to shade and fresh water, and avoid long midday walks. Likewise, keep your grill area clean and clear, and store propane tanks away from direct sun.

Neighbors looking out for one another is part of what makes University Park a strong community. Thanks for doing your part!

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

**JULY  
19**

Midsummer  
in the Meadow

**JULY  
21**

Town Council  
Meeting

