

THE UPDATE

**THE LATEST IN UNIVERSITY PARK
OCTOBER 10, 2025**

MEADOW RESTORATION DAY

If you're looking for another way to get involved this month, join your neighbors for Meadow Restoration Day on Saturday, October 18, 10am-12pm at the Town Meadow on Adelphi Road, across from the Hyattsville Library.

This month's focus will be on clearing Bindweed, Mugwort, Vetch, and Bush Clover overgrowth to help native species thrive. Volunteers will also plant native seeds and install milk jug tops to protect young seedlings. There are all small but powerful steps our community can take toward restoring our local ecosystem.

It's a great opportunity to get outdoors, learn about native plants, and make a visible impact right here in town. Bring your gloves, your energy, and your love for University Park's green spaces!

Rain date:

Sunday, October 19

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS: UP SERVICE DAY COMING OCTOBER 25!



On Saturday, October 25, University Park will launch its first-ever Service Day, a town-wide volunteer event designed to bring neighbors together in a spirit of care and collaboration.

From sprucing up shared spaces to lending a hand on local projects, residents of all ages and abilities are invited to take part in a morning dedicated to community connection and stewardship.

Beginning at 8 a.m. at Town Hall, volunteers can fuel up with a provided breakfast and meet their teams before heading out for projects around town. From 9 a.m. to noon, residents will take on a variety of service opportunities, reflecting the many ways residents can contribute to the life of their town. Whether it's planting flowers, clearing pathways, or supporting an older neighbor, everyone can play a meaningful role.

Organizer Dave Tully hopes the event will become a new local tradition, strengthening the ties that make University Park such a special place to call home.

Spots are filling up fast, but there's still time to join in. Volunteers are especially needed for the Ward 6 tree planting and trash pickup at the Wells Playground - two projects that will make a visible difference in the town's shared spaces. These efforts embody the true spirit of the day: neighbors rolling up their sleeves and working side by side to care for the environment and each other.

In a time when so much of life pulls us apart, Service Day offers a reminder that helping each other is the way forward. Sign up to join us! Questions? Email Dave Tully.



HELPING HANDS, WHEN IT'S NEEDED MOST

As part of its mission, Helping Hands University Park (HHUP) has established a Temporary Assistance Fund (TAF) to provide short-term help for residents facing urgent needs.

The fund offers temporary financial or service-based assistance for essentials such as housing, food, medical expenses, or safety measures.

All applications are handled with the strictest confidentiality, and residents do not need to be HHUP members to apply. It's one more way neighbors are looking out for each other—quietly, compassionately, and close to home.

For more information or to request assistance, visit the TAF page on the Helping Hands UPMD website or [contact HHUP directly by email](#) or phone (301-892-6636).

FURLOUGHED? SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE.

Many University Park residents serve in federal agencies, and the government shutdown has understandably created sudden financial stress for those impacted. Fortunately, Maryland and local partners have several programs to help residents bridge the gap until normal operations resume.

Unemployment and Emergency Loans:

- Furloughed federal employees who are not working or being paid may qualify for Unemployment Insurance through the Maryland Department of Labor. [Learn more here.](#)
- For those still working without pay, the Maryland Federal Shutdown Loan Program offers \$700 no-interest loans to help cover essentials like rent and groceries. [The application is now open.](#)

Housing Protections:

- [Federal employees](#) at risk of eviction or foreclosure can request that a judge pause proceedings during the shutdown. Bring your federal ID, recent pay stub, or furlough notice to court as proof. Courts can extend this protection for up to 30 days after the shutdown ends.

Utility Protections:

- Federal employees who are not being paid may not have their electric or gas service shut off during the shutdown. Contact your provider before your bill is due to set up a payment plan. PEPCO: 202-833-7500
- Protections begin on the eighth day of the shutdown and last through seven days after it ends.
- While water bills are exempted from utility protections, [WSSC has hardship programs and flexible payment options.](#)

Help from Banks and Credit Unions:

Many local financial institutions—including Maryland's credit unions—are offering low-interest loans, penalty-free withdrawals, and payment deferrals for those affected by the shutdown. Contact your own bank or credit union to ask for specific options.

As Governor Moore said, "We're all in this together." University Park stands with its public servants - our friends and neighbors - through every challenge and every shutdown.

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Restoration](#)

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**OCT
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[UP
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