

# THE UPDATE

**THE LATEST IN UNIVERSITY PARK  
DECEMBER 12, 2025**

## A JOYOUS TREE LIGHTING

Thank you to everyone who joined us for this year's annual lighting of the Town Tree. The sense of community, shared cheer, and the joyful turnout made the evening truly special. We appreciate every volunteer, staff member, and neighbor who helped make the event shine.

University Park Police and residents send a very special thank you to our friends at the Hyattsville Volunteer Fire Department for their continued support!



## TOWN LEAF COLLECTION: WARDS 4 & 5

Town crews are continuing their rounds for fall leaf collection, and residents are reminded to rake leaves to the curb but never into the street. Keeping the gutter line clear helps prevent blockages during rain and ensures that our stormwater system can function properly. When leaves wash into storm drains, they not only clog the system but also carry excess nutrients into local waterways, so curb placement really does make a difference.

As you rake, please keep sticks, rocks, and other debris out of your leaf piles. These items can damage the vacuum machinery and delay the collection schedule. Piles should be placed in long, low rows along the curb so crews can efficiently collect from block to block. If possible, try to keep vehicles off the street on your scheduled collection day, as parked cars can prevent the truck from reaching your pile.

Bagged leaves are always welcome, especially if you're dealing with late-dropping trees or a backyard cleanup that's easier to manage in bags. Simply put them out with your regular yard-waste pickup. Many thanks to our Director of Public Works, Mickey Beall, for [keeping the Town webpage updated](#) with all of the latest dates and routes for our leaf collection crews.

Thank you, as well, for doing your part to keep our curbs clean, our storm drains open, and our neighborhood looking great through all of the seasons!



## HOLIDAY HOME, VEHICLE & PACKAGE SAFETY

The University Park Police Department reminds residents that the holiday season often brings an uptick in opportunistic theft from both vehicles and from porches.



One of the simplest preventative measures is also the most effective: lock your vehicles every time, even if you're only stepping away for a few minutes. Also always remove valuables from sight.

At home, good lighting goes a long way. Turning on porch lights, using timed indoor lights while traveling, and trimming back shrubs near doors and windows all help discourage criminal activity. If you're leaving town, consider asking a trusted neighbor to keep an eye on things, bring in mail, or move packages out of view.

Package thefts tend to spike in November and December as more residents receive holiday deliveries. If you're expecting an item while you're away, consider shipping to a staffed pickup location, using a parcel locker, or scheduling deliveries for times when someone is home. Doorbell cameras and motion lights can also be effective deterrents.

Officers will continue regular patrols throughout the season. They aim to be visible, approachable, and engaged, so please feel free to say hello, ask questions, or share concerns when you see them out in the neighborhood. Together, small measures taken consistently can make a big difference.

### SEASONAL REMINDERS

As colder weather settles in, **Washington Gas** reminds residents to check furnace filters, clear outdoor vents, and ensure heating systems are operating efficiently.

For more savings resources, such as rebate information, [check their website](#).

University Park residents come together each year to show appreciation for the Public Works Crew and Police Department. These teams keep our streets safe, clear, and running smoothly in all kinds of weather. If you'd like to express your gratitude, **please consider contributing to the Town's Holiday Fund**.

To give, make your check payable to the Town of University Park with "Holiday Funds" in the memo line and drop it in the Town Hall mail slot by Wednesday, December 17. Thank you for helping us recognize our amazing Town staff!

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

**DEC 12-18**

Leaf Vacuuming:  
Wards 4 & 5

**DEC 18**

Public Facilities &  
Services Committee  
Meeting

