

THE UPDATE

THE LATEST IN UNIVERSITY PARK
FEBRUARY 20, 2026

PERMITS & LICENSES 101

University Park requires permits and licenses for matters that affect Town property, public ways, rentals, and other community functions. Before starting a project or hosting an event, check whether a permit is needed - and contact Town Hall if you're unsure.

Some frequently requested forms are:

- Dumpster/Storage Container
 - Includes moving pod-style curbside and driveway bins
- Building Permit
 - Use this form for fences, sheds, patios, and driveways, as well as all construction projects
- Rental License
 - Applications must be submitted annually; a \$400 fee applies (or \$250 if issued after Jan 1)
 - Landlords must adhere to the Town's Rental Housing Code
- EV Parking Permit
 - Valid July 1-June 30
 - Residents: \$100

Even small projects can trigger permit requirements, and starting work without an approved permit can lead to municipal infractions. When in doubt, reach out to Town Hall at (301) 927-4262 or check online.

UPPD WELCOMES NEW CODE COMPLIANCE OFFICER

The Town of University Park Police Department is pleased to welcome David Holsey as our new part-time Code Compliance Officer.

David is a lifelong Marylander who recently retired as a Lieutenant with Prince George's County Fire/EMS after more than 22 years of service to the community. His decades of public service experience drive his strong commitment to safety and neighborhood well-being.



In his new role, David will work closely with residents and property owners to support compliance with Town property and rental requirements. The Office of Code Compliance encourages residents and visitors to follow Town Code to help ensure that University Park remains a safe and pleasant place to live, visit, and enjoy.

Established standards improve the appearance and longevity of our community, support property values, and help preserve University Park's reputation as a fine town in which to live.

Code Compliance is responsible for:

- Rental Permit Applications
- Rental Inspections
- Building Permits (including fences and renovations)

The most common rental and code-related concerns include:

- Exterior Maintenance of Structures
- Outdoor Storage
- Overgrown Vegetation
- Unregistered Vehicles

Residents may contact David via the Town website, by email, or by calling UPPD at 301-277-0050, extension 4.

Please join us in welcoming David to the University Park team!

RECORD COLD DRIVES HIGHER WINTER ENERGY USE: PEPCO RESPONDS

WAYS TO BEAT HIGH WINTER ENERGY BILLS

While extreme weather drives up usage, small changes at home can add up to make a meaningful difference:

- **Lower your thermostat** 1–2 degrees (try overnight!).
- **Use ceiling fans** on a low, clockwise rotation to circulate warm air.
- **Seal drafts** around doors and windows with weather-stripping or draft stoppers.
- **Replace HVAC filters** to improve system efficiency.
- Open blinds on sunny days to capture natural heat; close them at night.
- Schedule a [home energy assessment](#) to identify efficiency upgrades.
- Enroll in Budget Billing to smooth seasonal bill spikes.
- Check eligibility for assistance programs, including LIHEAP or other relief credits.

Even modest adjustments can help reduce strain on both household budgets and heating systems during extended cold weather.



Following one of the coldest starts to winter in recent years, customers across the region used significantly more energy as prolonged extreme temperatures increased heating demand.

According to Heating Degree Day (HDD) data - a key measure of heating demand - December 2025 was the coldest in ten years, followed by a January that also ranked as the coldest of the past decade. January was more than 14 percent colder than the 10-year average and colder than the same month in 2025. Together, these back-to-back months created one of the harshest winter stretches in recent memory.

Despite the sustained cold and elevated demand, Pepco reported that its electric system performed reliably throughout the extended cold snap.

What does this mean for customers? No blackouts! But high bills. When outdoor temperatures remain low for long periods, heating systems must work harder to maintain indoor comfort - even if thermostat settings don't change. That additional runtime increases overall energy use. Customers with gas heat may also see higher electric bills due to the electrical components that power HVAC systems and circulate warm air.

Pepco acknowledged that the unusually harsh winter has placed a strain on many households and emphasized that tools and assistance programs are available to help customers better manage seasonal energy costs. The company also noted that ongoing grid upgrades — including substation improvements, smart devices that automatically reroute power, and enhanced outage detection systems — supported reliable service during the extreme weather.

Customers seeking bill support or assistance programs are encouraged to visit [Pepco's Bill Support page](#).

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

FEB 23

Policy, Rules & Municipal Structure Committee Meeting

FEB 25

HHUP Executive Committee Meeting