

UA[★]iNSIGHT

MARCH | APRIL 2024



BI-MONTHLY NEWS FROM THE CITY OF UPPER ARLINGTON, UPPER ARLINGTON SCHOOLS & UPPER ARLINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY



City of Upper
Arlington

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BI-MONTHLY NEWS FROM THE CITY OF UPPER ARLINGTON

MARCH | APRIL 2024



For much of 2024, the City will be focusing on its northern edge, as it works to develop its “*Envision Henderson*” West Henderson Road Vision Plan. This study is the next logical step for the corridor, following recent zoning updates within the office district centered around Arlington Centre Boulevard, a process that was finalized at the close of 2022.

MKSK, a local community planning and urban design firm, is heading up the process on behalf of the City, with support from Burgess & Niple, Jones Architectural Studio, and Toole Design.

The study area will run from Stonehaven Drive/Chevy Chase Court on the west, to Reed Road on the east. The planning process will include an evaluation of prior studies and plans for the corridor, a review of existing regulations, meaningful public involvement to gather community input about the corridor, consideration of

prospective regulations for future redevelopment opportunities, and an exploration of complete streetscape concepts to safely accommodate all users. The final plan will highlight an aspirational, yet achievable vision for the corridor that will be supported by policy recommendations, recommended roadway and streetscape improvements, potential site concepts, and guidance for funding and implementation.

Why the Study is Happening

The Henderson Road commercial corridor is important to the City for several reasons.

The Central Ohio region is growing rapidly, and every community – Upper Arlington included – is feeling the impacts and pressures of this change. How communities prepare will be key to their longterm health, identity and vibrancy.

West Henderson Road is the last

major business district within the City with the potential for significant change, similar to what has been occurring along Lane Avenue and at Kingsdale.

However, unlike Lane Avenue and Kingsdale, a combination of factors make the district a more complex proposition for prospective developers, with no significant projects emerging to date under the City’s existing Planned Mixed-Use District framework:

- Henderson Road serves as the boundary between Upper Arlington and the City of Columbus. With multiple property owners, and different zoning and design standards for each jurisdiction, the resulting developments over the years have created an inconsistent look and feel.
- The district is located at the northern edge of the community and lacks a defined sense of place within UA.
- The current roadway configuration

does not reflect contemporary safety, access, streetscape and aesthetic expectations, and lacks the walkable feel of the adjacent neighborhoods.

- The retail environment is very competitive and some areas along the corridor are outdated.

As a result, the district is aging and at risk of decline or inconsequential reinvestment on a parcel by parcel basis – a future that fails to solve some of the big picture issues that could ultimately transform this district into a vibrant community gateway that features new housing options, businesses and amenities, within an attractive, accessible environment.

Study Goals

The study will set out to:

- Facilitate a consistent, safe, and attractive corridor.
- Add community value by creating a welcoming, open corridor.
- Maximize economic development opportunities.
- Enhance the vibrancy and walkability of the corridor.
- Identify opportunities for additional housing.
- Define a transitional edge to Upper Arlington.

Community Engagement Opportunities

Throughout the study process, a series of community engagement opportunities will be provided, so that residents and businesses within the district, as well as our neighbors to the immediate north in Columbus, have an opportunity to share their ideas and concerns, and provide feedback as the visioning plan is developed.

Spring Activities

As part of the initial fact-finding process, starting in early March the planning team will conduct its first round of community engagement. This will include a series of stakeholder interviews and focus groups with community leaders, major property owners, business owners, area residents and employees within the district, as well as City of Columbus and Northwest Civic Association representatives.

The first of three community meetings will also be held at this time.

Also watch for pop up displays staffed by City employees, to be scheduled at different times and locations within the district, and providing another means for community members to share their thoughts and ideas for improving the district.

Stay Informed

For full details and updates on the Henderson Road Visioning Study, use the QR code provided here to access our West Henderson Road Vision Plan webpage, available at upperarlingtonoh.gov.



Construction Updates

Our Engineering Division has lined up another busy season of construction projects or UA. For the latest updates on Fishinger Road, street reconstruction and maintenance projects, waterline replacements, sidewalk repairs and more, use the QR code to access our construction webpage and "storymap," which includes real time project updates.



Northam Park Improvements

Work has begun for the next phase of improvements at Northam Park, which include a new service building, nine new clay tennis courts, six new pickleball courts, additional shade/shelter structures, and expanded green space surrounding the project area. Replacement of the service building and construction of the new pickleball courts has already begun and will continue throughout the summer. Work on the tennis courts will begin in August, following an abridged Northam Tennis season. Full details of this project can be found on the Parks & Rec section of our website, at upperarlingtonoh.gov.



CityiNSIGHT

BI-MONTHLY NEWS FROM THE CITY OF UPPER ARLINGTON

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City of Upper Arlington

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upperarlingtonoh.gov



facebook.com/CityofUA
instagram.com/cityofua



Bob Crane Community Center Updates

Construction progress at the Bob Crane Community Center reached a milestone moment on February 12, as the final structural beam was lifted into place. To celebrate, representatives from the design and construction team of MSA Sport, Elford Construction, Continental Building Company and The Pizzuti Companies, joined with members of City Council, the Upper Arlington Community Foundation, and the City Administration for a Topping Out Ceremony.

With the building's structure in place, construction will be transitioning to installation of the exterior facade, plus excavation for the pool, with the building "dried in" by mid-April. Work to install the interior finishes will begin by mid-May, and Council is expected to review contracts for furnishings and fittings in late May. The project's progress remains on schedule, and a Spring 2025 grand opening will be here before we know it.

Parking Update

In February, City Council approved a contract with Elford, Inc. for the construction of a parking deck at the north end of the Giant Eagle parking lot. Scheduled to begin in April with completion by late fall 2024, this project will provide a total of 310 parking spaces on two levels, bringing the total



The UA Parks & Rec team gathered early February to sign a smaller structural beam that has been installed within a storage area, and will be visible to the team as they go about their daily operations, starting a little over one year from now!

amount of available parking within the Kingsdale Mixed-Use Project to more than 900 spaces, with the following breakdown of space availability:

- 586 spaces within the adjacent apartment building. This includes 37 limited mobility spaces and 12 ADA spaces.
- 17 spaces in the courtyard between The Coventry Senior Living building and the Community Center. This includes six ADA spaces.
- 31 parallel spaces surrounding the Community Center, including nine limited mobility spaces.
- 310 spaces in the parking deck, including eight ADA spaces.

This significantly exceeds parking standards for a development project of this size, and will provide a welcome buffer during peak usage of the Kingsdale area.

Focus Group Discussions

UA Parks & Rec is in the midst of hosting a series of focus groups with residents, to help guide programming and operations. The focus groups are expected to run through the spring, with topics including adaptive recreation needs, aquatics, arts, music & dance, education & enrichment, fitness & wellness, sports, teens, businesses, and overarching operations.

Watch for a report out on the findings and next steps as these discussions conclude.

For construction and operations updates, use the QR code below, or visit uacommunitycenter.com.



FROM CHAMBERS | Highlights of City Council & Its Policy Decisions

2024-25 UPPER ARLINGTON CITY COUNCIL

FROM LEFT: Todd Walter, Kathy Adams, Brian Close (Vice President), Ukeme Awakessien Jeter (President), Jim Lynch, Heidi Munc, John Kulewicz

2024-2025 City Council

The first official business of the year for Upper Arlington City Council focused on welcoming its newest members and selecting Council leadership for the next two years. Heidi Munc and Todd Walter were sworn into office for their first terms on City Council, and John Kulewicz was sworn into office for his second term. Council members selected Ukeme Awakessien Jeter to serve as President of Council and Mayor, and Brian Close to serve as Vice President and Vice Mayor.

Business also included a number of Council Member assignments:

- Board of Health – John Kulewicz
- City Council Financial Policies Subcommittee – Todd Walter, John Kulewicz, Jim Lynch
- City Council Rules Review Subcommittee – Brian Close, Heidi Munc, Todd Walter
- Community Improvement Corporation – Brian Close
- Community Relations Committee – Kathy Adams
- Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission – Heidi Munc



- UA Commission on Aging – Kathy Adams

City Boards & Commissions

Application Deadline: April 30

The City is fortunate to have many residents who are willing to donate their time and expertise serving on the various Boards and Commissions that have been formed to address specific community issues. In return, these individuals are afforded the opportunity to help shape their community in areas that are of interest to them.

Several seats on various Boards and Commissions will be expiring on June 30, and City Council is currently seeking

applications from residents who are interested in serving.

Visit <http://onboard.upperarlingtonoh.gov> to access our Board and Commission portal, to learn more about each Board and Commission, opportunities to serve, and to complete an application. While the call for applications for the upcoming transition in terms runs from March 1-April 30, recent applicants will also be considered as part of the selection process. Council will finalize new and renewing appointments by mid-June.

If you have any questions about the Board and Commission selection process, please contact the City Clerk's Office, at city.council@uaoh.net.

Thompson Park Playground Update

As part of Parks & Recreation's 2024 Capital Improvement Program, the playground at Thompson Park is scheduled for replacement. Thanks to more than 700 points of feedback from residents throughout the design process, the resulting playground will provide kids with the play elements they enjoy, such as rope bridges, climbing play and spinners. The design is also responsive to a desire for shade and retaining as many existing trees as possible, and is designed to provide space for a nature play area, to be installed at a future date.

The new playground will be installed this Spring, in time for this year's Summer Camp programming.

If you have questions about this improvement project, contact UA Parks & Rec, at 614-583-5300 or parks@uaoh.net.



City's Curbside Food Waste Collection Program Expands

PublicService.....614-583-5350

The City is proud to offer one of the only municipal curbside food waste collection programs in Central Ohio. After successful completion of the curbside pilot program, we are expanding services to more residents! The program is still offered on a first-come, first-served basis but all residents are encouraged to apply, and over the coming months we will have more participants to the program.



If you are interested in participating, use the QR code to learn more and to register. For questions about the program, please email us, at ***foodwaste@uaoh.net***.

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT

Nationally, approximately 40% of all food produced goes to waste, which means the nutrients in the food never return to the soil. In Franklin County, nearly 1 million pounds of food waste is sent to the landfill every day. Wasted food in the landfill rots, producing methane gas, and the EPA estimates that wasted food is responsible for 58% of landfill methane emissions to the atmosphere. Composting food waste creates a nutrient-rich product that can be used to help improve soil, grow crops, and improve water quality.

Solid Waste Reminders

Solid Waste614-583-5350

Please take a few moments to familiarize yourself with various solid waste requirements, so that you are doing your part to ensure the program's ongoing success.

Screening Requirements - Households should keep trash and recycling containers out of view from the street, except when putting them at the curb before collection day. Options are to store the containers in an enclosed structure, such as your garage or shed. If that is not possible, containers should be stored to the side or rear of the residence and screened from street view. This can be accomplished with a natural landscaped barrier or with fencing that is a minimum of 42 inches in height. Full details of this requirement can be found within §7.15(A)4 of the UDO.

When to Put Containers at the Curb – In an effort to preserve community aesthetics, the City restricts the length of time that trash and recycling containers can be at the curb in advance of and following your collection day. Per UA Streets and Services Code §935.02, containers or materials for collection should not be placed at the curb any earlier than 6 pm of the day preceding collection day but must be out ready for collection by no later than 7 am

of collection day. Following collection, containers must be removed from the curb and returned to their regular storage location by 7 am of the next day.

Correct Placement of Containers - For ease of access, trash and recycling containers should be placed at least three feet apart from other items, and away from parked cars, so that crews have unobstructed access. Place containers with the lid openings facing into the street.

For full details, visit our **Solid Waste Services** page at upperarlingtonoh.gov.

Sustainability Fair

10 am-2 pm, Saturday, April 6

Tremont Library

www.ualibrary.org

The City's Green Team will be participating in the Upper Arlington Library's Sustainability Fair, scheduled for Saturday, April 6, with the following activities:

General Household Items Collection: Goodwill is joining the Green Team's collection efforts, and will be on hand in the parking lot to collect clothing & shoes, books, furniture, housewares & home decor, and musical instruments.

E-Waste Collection: Also look for our e-waste collection in the parking lot.

- **Accepted items include:** Computers, laptops, phones, stereo equipment, small kitchen appliances, cameras, and all cords
- **Not Accepted:** TVs & monitors, light bulbs, large appliances, items containing Freon, and any chemicals or household hazardous waste.

Before or after this event, you can always use our e-waste drop-off location, at our Public Service Center, 4100 Roberts Road, open 7 am-4 pm Monday-Friday.



**Franklin Soil and Water
Conservation District**

Creating Conservation Solutions for Over 70 Years

It will soon be gardening season! As you start to plan your backyard maintenance and landscaping projects, take advantage of the resources and programs offered by the Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District, so that your backyard is healthy, brimming with native plants, AND helping to protect our natural waterways by absorbing rain water more effectively. Programs include a backyard rebate program to help cover the costs of installing a rain barrel, rain garden, switching to native plants, and at-home composting.

Learn more today:

<https://www.franklinswcd.org/>



CITY MANAGER UPDATE Steve Schoeny

Our Collective Role in Reducing & Preventing Substance Abuse

Tragically, substance abuse, drug addiction, and the drug overdose epidemic continue to worsen in our nation. No community is immune from the devastating impacts on families, and, sadly, I suspect that most of us know someone who has lost a family member to an overdose, or someone struggling with addiction. It touches all our lives.

Addressing this epidemic is a daunting prospect but we can't let that stop us from trying, and grassroots, community-based programming is a critical part of the puzzle. Thanks to entities such as The Stand Project, UA CARES and the efforts of our Police Division, there are many opportunities for us all to become informed and equipped to tackle this issue head on.

Here are a few of the opportunities coming up this Spring:

Operation Streetsmart

6-8 pm, Thursday, March 7

UA High School

The Stand Project thestandprojectua.org

A must see for every parent/caregiver, Franklin County Sheriff's Office personnel will provide insight on the signs of potential substance use in adolescents. Plus, UA's School Resource Officers will share details on what they are seeing in the UA community.

The Fentanyl Crisis

7-8:30 pm, Thursday, April 4

UA High School

The Stand Project thestandprojectua.org

Bexley resident and founder of BirdieLight, Beth Weinstock - who lost her son to an unintentional fentanyl

ingestion in 2021 - will educate parents and the community about the dangers of fentanyl, and the tools to stay safe.

Community Naloxone Training

6:30 pm, Monday, April 22

Tremont Library

UA CARES & The Stand Project

thestandprojectua.org

Franklin County Public Health will offer a session on substance use disorders and the different types of opioids. Learn how to identify the signs and symptoms of an opioid overdose and how to administer naloxone. At the end of the training, participants will receive a naloxone kit. This program is offered in partnership with The Stand Project, the UA Library, and UA CARES. For ages 14 and up. Register at: <https://ualibrary.libnet.info/event/10041456>.

DEA Prescription Drug

Take Back Day

10 am-2 pm, Saturday, April 27

Fire Station 72, 3861 Reed Road

UA POLICE

614-583-5150

Drop off old and unused prescription drugs drive-thru style at this bi-annual event. Accepted items include:

- Any prescriptions of pills. Empty items into plastic bags for easy, anonymous disposal.
- E-cigarettes as long as they do not have a battery.
- Liquid products, such as cough syrup, if it is in the original container with a tightly sealed cap.
- Over the counter medications.

Tri-Village Packers Food Support Program Update

"I appreciated everything about the program, including the ability to specify dietary preferences and the sheer variety of what was included. Thank you so much to all the wonderful people who made this possible."

After successfully providing food bags to 93 children experiencing food insecurity over Thanksgiving, the Tri-Village Packers are planning a similar program for Spring Break.

Various volunteer opportunities are available between March 12-22, from sorting food items to pickup/delivery of supplies, and food bag distribution. Visit trivillagepackers.com to learn about the opportunities and to register.

To help sustain the Tri-Village Packers on an ongoing basis, support from the community is key. Visit the uacommunityfoundation.com/donate/ page on the Upper Arlington Community Foundation's website, and select the Tri-Village Packers Fund from the drop-down menu.



PARKS & REC
City of Upper Arlington

PLAY UA Financial Assistance Program

UA Parks & Rec is committed to eliminating barriers for individuals and families, so that everyone can enjoy their programs and facilities. Don't let a financially challenging situation prevent you from enjoying summer at the pool or the many programs offered each year.

New this year, swim lesson fees will be reduced by 75% for PLAY UA participants. All other programs and memberships receive a 50% discount (with the exception of day camps).

**Learn more about PLAY UA
and how to qualify:**

upperarlingtonoh.gov/play-ua/

NewsBITES

CITY NEWS AND USEFUL INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS

Public Meetings

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE 614-583-5030

upperarlingtonoh.gov/city-council-city-clerk/

The City has an online portal for all public meetings, where you can also register for meeting agenda notices. A full list of public meetings can also be found on our *Community Events* calendar.

City e-News

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS 614-583-5040

Get timely service news, event reminders and special project updates from the City by e-mail:

- **City Insight** - weekly e-news on City services, special projects & events
- **Activity Link** - monthly updates from Parks & Recreation
- **Senior Center Updates** - monthly program updates from the Senior Center

Visit the *Connect* section of our website, at upperarlingtonoh.gov to register.

Won't You Be Our Neighbor Podcast

You never know who might show up on our podcast. City Manager Steve Schoeny and City Attorney Darren Shulman discuss City happenings and introduce you to various members of our community. Get started today, at <https://podcasters.spotify.com/pod/show/cityofua>.

Friends of UA Parks

friendsofuaparks.com

The Friends of Upper Arlington Parks coordinate monthly gatherings from 9 am-Noon on Saturday mornings, clearing invasive species from UA parks and assisting with tree planting. All tools are provided, wear long pants and closed-toe shoes. Upcoming dates:

- March 16 - Miller Park
- April 20 - Northwest Kiwanis Park

Heart of UA Award

Nomination Deadline: February 29

Event: Saturday, May 19

uacommunityfoundation.com

The Upper Arlington Community Foundation is accepting nominations for the 2024 Heart of UA Award. The recipient will be honored at the annual Heart of UA event on Sunday, May 19.

Special Event Applications

Deadline for Events Held July 1-Sept 30: Wednesday, April 17

upperarlingtonoh.viewpointcloud.com/

An application and permitting process is in place for community special events that require use of City property and/or City logistical and planning support.

2023 Income Tax Filings

Deadline: Monday, April 15

www.ritaohio.com

All residents aged 18 years and over must file an annual income tax return with the City, regardless of whether any tax is due. The City uses the services of the Regional Income Tax Agency (RITA) for the processing of UA income taxes.

RITA provides free onsite municipal income tax return assistance each spring. RITA's Worthington office, located at 760 Lakeview Plaza Boulevard, Suite 400, is providing in person taxpayer assistance Monday-Friday, from 9 am-4 pm. Please bring all necessary documents, including:

- W-2 Forms from all employers, and any W-2G Forms and 1099-MISC Forms.
- Federal Form 1040, Federal Schedules C, E & F, Federal forms K-1, 2106 (if applicable).
- Addresses and dates for each location in which you resided during 2022 and any previous tax year filings being submitted

The City's Finance Department is also available for in-person assistance, and taxpayers can drop off their information at convenient, secure drop boxes at either the RITA/Worthington location or the Municipal Services Center Kenny Road parking lot - please include a phone number or email address in case there are questions.

Federal/State Tax Preparation Services for Seniors

AARP is offering free tax preparation assistance for older adults on Wednesdays and Fridays, through April 12, at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 2151 Dorset Road. This assistance is available by appointment only - call 614-359-8194 to schedule.

Spring/Summer Activity Guide Registration

UA Residents: Begins 6 am, March 13

Non-Residents: Begins 6 am, March 15

UA Parks & Rec

parks.uaoh.net

UA Parks & Rec's *Spring/Summer Activity Guide* will be reaching homes early March - filled with details of classes and programs, health & wellness activities, special events and more. View an online version of the *Activity Guide* and register for programs, at parks.uaoh.net.

Pool & Tennis Info

UA Parks & Rec

parks.uaoh.net

Get a head start on the summer by purchasing your pool and tennis passes early. UA's three outdoor pools open for the season starting Memorial Day Weekend, and remain open through August 11, with back to school hours through Labor Day Weekend. Due to construction, Northam Tennis will be open May 4-August 4. Membership fees have been reduced by 25%. A combined pool/tennis pass will not be offered in 2024, due to the shorter tennis season.

Statewide Tornado Drill

9:50 am, Wednesday, March 20

www.ready.ohio.gov

As part of Ohio's Spring Severe Weather Awareness Week, Franklin County



A new Ohio History Marker will mark the 50th anniversary of the CompuServe office complex on Arlington Centre Boulevard, and the technological advances launched here that helped pave the way for the region's growth as a technology hub. Lt Governor John Husted (left) joined former CEO Jeff Wilkins (5th from left), and former employees, including UA Council Member Heidi Munc (4th from left) to unveil the plaque at the office complex, thanks to the new owners, GOSH Enterprises.

Emergency Management and Homeland Security will participate in the annual statewide tornado drill. This is a timely reminder of how important it is to have an emergency plan – both at home and at work – and to practice it.

Seasonal Job Opportunities

UA Parks & Rec

parks.uaoh.net

Help UA Parks & Rec plan for a successful summer by becoming one of our seasonal employees. Opportunities exist for teens, college students and teachers looking to fill their summers with rewarding experiences and a useful paycheck, as well as for adults and recent retirees with some extra time on their hands who would like to support their community and enjoy the great outdoors. Seasonal positions exist in the following areas: pools, summer camps, parks maintenance, tennis, rental facilities, Senior Center, and Safety Town.

Check out our seasonal recruitment video on the Employment section of our website, at upperarlingtonoh.gov.

Fire Hydrant Flushing

April 15-May 3

FIRE DIVISION 614-583-5100

Fire hydrant flushing will occur week-days, April 15-May 3. It is recommended that you refrain from doing laundry on the day hydrants are flushed in your area.

Before resuming laundering, partially fill washers on the cold setting until the water runs clear. Run a sample of water into a transparent container to check for settling or discoloration. Once the water is clear, the washer can be spun out to drain the tub for a normal laundry load. Turn on all faucets and allow water to run until it appears clear. Visit the **Fire Prevention** page on our website to view this year's schedule and map.

2024 Wall of Honor Program

3 pm, Sunday, May 19

The City of Upper Arlington and the Upper Arlington Historical Society are planning their annual Wall of Honor induction ceremony, scheduled for the afternoon of Sunday, May 19. Watch for additional details in the *May/June UA Insight*, or visit www.uahistory.org.

Safety Town Registration

June 10-14, 24-28, July 8-12, 15-19

UA POLICE

parks.uaoh.net

Safety Town is a popular summer preschool program that teaches children all aspects of safety. Registration begins at 6 am, on Wednesday, March 13 for residents. The cost is \$125, and children entering kindergarten and first grade are eligible, but must be five years of age prior to September 30, 2024. Please note that classes fill quickly.

Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery®

Sunday, March 10

To kick off Daylight Savings Time, clocks "spring forward" at 2 am, Sunday morning. The Fire Division reminds you this is a good time to change the batteries in your smoke alarms. Smoke alarms should be tested monthly and if an alarm chirps, warning the battery is low, replace the battery right away.

Building Permit Reminders

DEVELOPMENT

614-583-5070

If you have plans to remodel part of your home, our Community Development Department can help with an important first step: checking to see if your project requires a permit. Examples of projects that require a permit include:

- Constructing a deck
- Finishing or altering a basement
- If framing is removed/added to a kitchen/bathroom or the layout is altered
- If non-load-bearing walls and/or soffits are removed, altered or added
- Adding a porch or covered entry
- Building a fence or replacing an existing fence
- If roof decking, exterior sheathing or framing is replaced, along with shingles or siding
- If an exterior wall and/or header framing is altered during window replacement

Float Builders

Information Session

UA CIVIC ASSOCIATION

www.uaca.org

If your neighborhood is planning to enter a float in the 2024 Fourth of July parade, learn the tricks of the trade from the UA Civic Association by watching their float builder video, available in early April.

Community Relations Committee Updates

The Community Relations Committee (CRC) is hitting its stride with efforts to advance UA as a welcoming community for all who live here, work here, or visit.

UA Welcome Series

Launched in the fall of 2023, the UA Welcome Series aims to tap into existing community events and programming, providing opportunities for new or newer residents to connect with the CRC, community groups and their neighbors, and to learn more about their hometown of choice.

Some of the opportunities on the horizon this spring include:

UA Historical Society's UA Quest

From March 2-10, registered teams earn points for solving clues, answering bonus questions and taking group photos at the clue's destination. Every point earned is a raffle entry to win UA-centric prizes, including summer one-day pool passes, Golden Bear Scare fast passes, restaurant gift cards and more. A special prize is available for newer residents, as part of the UA Welcome Series. Visit uahistory.org to learn more and register.

Cherry Blossom Celebration

5 pm, Wednesday, April 10,
Mallway Park

The community is invited to join CRC members and other community groups to celebrate the start of spring, enjoy the grove of cherry trees at the Mallway, and to learn about Japanese culture.

2024 Community Relations Innovation Grant Recipients

For the 2024 grant cycle, five groups have been awarded grants:

Leadership UA Non-Profit Governance Workshop

A \$1,500 grant will support a Non-Profit Governance Workshop, for 2024 program participants and the UA non-profit community, helping to engage and strengthen the network of service organizations that, in turn, help foster a



welcoming and supportive community.

St. Mark's Culture & Artisans Fair

10 am-3 pm, Saturday, May 4

2151 Dorset Road

A \$3,000 grant will help the St. Mark's Culture and Artisans Fair expand its support of refugee and immigrant populations in Central Ohio, while providing an opportunity for the UA community to welcome, learn from and build positive connections with the artisans and other visitors. Since the Fair aligns closely with CRC goals, it is also part of the UA Welcome Series. The event includes food and music and is free to attend.

UA High School hUmAn Connection Festival

6-8 pm, Wednesday, March 6

& Thursday, March 7

A \$2,500 grant will support the March 6 evening event - open to families, community leaders and CRC affiliates - in addition to a school day full of activities on March 7. See page 12 for additional details.

UA Civic Association's Neighbors Night Out

A \$3,500 grant will support UACA's second annual Neighbors Night Out event, tentatively scheduled for September. The event will include new neighbor welcoming components, with plans for developing a process to

address ticket affordability for residents who may be experiencing financial constraints.

UA Historical Society's History Speaks Series

A \$2,000 grant will enable the Historical Society to share videos from this year's History Speaks Series on its website. The 2024 schedule continues goals for sharing varying perspectives on the community's history. The 2024 series includes:

- **1883: Eva's Journal Reveals Life in Southern Perry Township:** March 7 - UA residents and UAHS volunteer archivists, Melanie Brown and Lee Bracken, present their findings from this young woman's journal documenting 1863. Eva lived near today's Wellington School.
- **How Cloud Computing Began: CompuServe & Its UA Origins:** April 24 - Former CompuServe CEO, Jeffrey Wilkins, shares insight on CompuServe's founding in 1970, the launch of its consumer-facing service in 1980, and the many other innovations that CompuServe brought to life.

For more information on the CRC and its programming, visit:
uacommunityrelations.com

Schools[★]iNSIGHT

BI-MONTHLY NEWS FROM UPPER ARLINGTON SCHOOLS

MARCH | APRIL 2024



Strategic Planning Update

This winter, Upper Arlington Schools launched an ambitious strategic planning process that draws from the innovative and collaborative vision of students, staff, parents/guardians and community members for the future of education in Upper Arlington.

"This is an incredibly exciting moment for our district and community as we continue the conversations we have been having to shape the future of education in Upper Arlington," Superintendent Robert Hunt, Ph.D. shared. "By relying on all of the information we have gathered over the past year and a half, we will ensure that our strategic plan is well-informed and aligned with the needs of our students and community."

The strategic planning process, guided by design principles from the Board of Education, places an emphasis on community involvement and data-driven decision-making. The process will be divided into four stages, with a goal of adopting a new strategic plan by December 2024.

The first phase – the design

phase – began with the "Dr. Hunt's UAdventure" listening tour launched in the fall. Since then, Dr. Hunt has gathered feedback from nearly 1,400 students, staff members, parents/guardians and community members. That feedback – along with other key data points including feedback from the superintendent search process in 2022, the Listen Learn Lead community engagement sessions last spring and the equity audit conducted in the fall of 2023 – has helped inform the development of the priority areas for the future:

Excellence and innovation in...
Engaged learning
Well-being and belonging
Connection and communication

"Under each of these priority areas, we will have specific goals that will guide us and ensure that we continue to excel and innovate," Dr. Hunt added.

The second phase of the process – the discovery phase – is already underway. During the discovery phase, inquiry teams made up of students, staff members, parents/guardians and

community experts will delve into the specific priority areas and identify recommendations for each priority area.

This spring, Upper Arlington Schools will host three opportunities for stakeholders to learn more about the strategic planning process.

- **Coffee & Conversation with Dr. Hunt**
– March 13 from 6-7 pm and March 14 from 10-11 am at Kingsdale Market District, 3061 Kingsdale Center
- **Listen Learn Lead Community Engagement Session on Strategic Planning** – May 9 from 6-7:30 pm in the Upper Arlington High School first floor north learning commons, 1625 Zollinger Road.

"This strategic planning process reflects our dedication to continuous improvement, adaptability, and stakeholder engagement," Dr. Hunt shared. "Together, we are charting a course for a bright future for Upper Arlington Schools."

To learn more about the strategic planning process, please visit www.uaschools.org/strategicplan.aspx.



SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES

Robert Hunt, Ph.D.

Quality Profile Offers Transparent Look at the Success of Our Strategic Plan

As Upper Arlington Schools launches a strategic planning process to envision our priorities and goals for the next three to five years, I feel excitement for our future and a great appreciation for the foundation that has been built here under our current strategic plan.

To better understand the progress that has been made under our current 2019-2024 Strategic Plan, you can look to our annual *Quality Profile*. Every year, we publish this annual accountability report to give our community a clear and transparent look at what's happening in our schools.

This spring, all Upper Arlington households will receive a copy of the 2024 *Quality Profile* in their mailboxes, and you will also be able to find an electronic version on our website at www.uaschools.org/QualityProfile.aspx.

Our 2019-2024 Strategic Plan identifies a focused set of priorities that support our position as a national leader in education and continue our focus

on challenging and supporting every student, every step of the way.

Whole learning is our core business - academics. We are building on the district's long-running philosophy of educating the whole child by providing rigorous academic content and real-world learning experiences that will give our students an even stronger foundation to serve, lead and succeed in life.

Student and staff well-being is critical to the success of our students. We are building on our strengths to foster a safe and inclusive environment by focusing on two fundamental aspects of well-being: belonging and balance.

Continuous improvement is the foundation of the strategic plan. This is the idea of getting better at getting better – and, as you'll see in the *Quality Profile*, it is threaded through everything we do in our schools.

In the 2024 *Quality Profile*, you can find updates on our work to implement a new state law involving literacy, the

creation of new college and career pathways for students, our strategies for supporting a sense of belonging in our schools, and our ongoing commitment to engaging all stakeholders to inform the future of our district. You can also find updates on how we compare with other districts here in central Ohio, in the state and across the nation on the state report card, test scores and other data points, including finances.

We believe it is critically important to continue to provide our community with the *Quality Profile* to measure our progress toward these strategic priorities. I encourage you to spend some time with the *Quality Profile*, and if you have any suggestions for the report, please complete the online form available at www.uaschools.org/qualityprofile.aspx.

Robert Hunt, Ph.D., is the superintendent of Upper Arlington Schools.

You can email him at superintendent@uaschools.org and follow him on X (formerly Twitter) at @Hunt_EdLeader.

hUmAn Connection Festival

Upper Arlington Schools invites you to be part of the 2024 hUmAn Connection Festival, a two-day event celebrating the diverse experiences and perspectives that make our community unique. Started last year at Upper Arlington High School, the hUmAn Connection Festival celebrates culture, inclusion and understanding and supports new connections within and beyond our community.

Please join us on the evening of March 6 at Upper Arlington High School, 1625 Zollinger Road, for a community-wide event featuring:



- 6-7 pm: hUmAn Connection Festival exhibit gallery on Golden Bear Boulevard
- 7-8 pm: an interactive and inclusive performance by Columbus Jazz Arts Group in the performing arts center

The festivities will continue the following day for high school students.

The hUmAn Connection Festival is offered by Upper Arlington Schools with support from the Upper Arlington Community Relations Committee and Upper Arlington Education Foundation.

Treasurer's Notes

Andrew L. Geistfeld

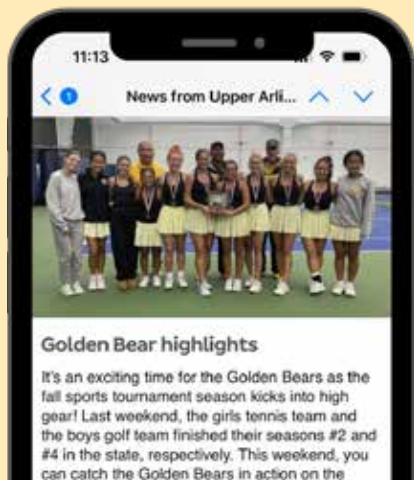
Using our funding wisely is a crucial part of our district's commitment to being a good steward of taxpayer dollars for our community. Every year, we rely on an external, third-party review of our finances by the state auditor's office as an important check-in point on this commitment. This process involves a team from the auditor's offices spending a significant amount of time delving into our financial records and reviewing our practices.

I am pleased to share that our district

Sign Up to Receive UA Schools e-newsletters!

Upper Arlington Schools remains committed to keeping all stakeholders informed of what is happening throughout the district and receiving and responding to feedback from stakeholders.

Community members can sign up to receive the monthly district e-newsletter that is sent to families and staff at the end of each month. Please visit www.uaschools.org/emailsignup.aspx to subscribe to the e-newsletter. Current families with children in the schools and current staff members do not need to take any action, as they are automatically subscribed to these emails.



has again earned a clean audit opinion and the Auditor of State Award for the 2022-2023 fiscal year, recognizing our commitment to effective and accountable financial practices for our community. You can find the fiscal year 2023 audited financial report from the state on our website at www.uaschools.org/annualaudits.aspx.

The annual state audit is one way that our stakeholders can learn about the district's use of taxpayer dollars. Our community can also get a closer look at our fiscal year 2023 financial information in the 2023-2024 Financial Update, which will soon be available on our website at www.uaschools.org/treasurer.aspx. This annual report serves as a companion piece to our Quality Profile, our annual accountability report, by providing a deeper dive into our district's finances. It details the sources of our funding, how that money is used and other topics that may affect district finances in the future.

In addition, you can find several other financial reports on our Treasurer's Office webpage – including the monthly financial reports presented at each regular meeting of the Board of Education and the five year forecast, an important check-in point and planning document for our district.

An additional resource that helps us plan for our future is our enrollment projection report, an independent report that looks at everything from real estate trends to birth data to project how many students will be enrolled in our schools during the next 10 years. This report helps us better anticipate the needs of our district in terms of staffing, space and resources.

The most recent enrollment report was completed by Cooperative Strategies and presented to the Board of Education in January. Overall, districtwide K-12 enrollment has increased over the past decade and is projected to continue to grow over the next 10 years – from 6,349 students in 2023-2024 to 6,726 students in 2033-2034. You can view the full report on our website at www.uaschools.org/enrollmentdata.aspx.

With this trend likely to continue over the next several years, the district will continue to closely monitor our enrollment growth to efficiently plan for additional students and the additional people, space and resources our students need to support them.

If you have additional questions about our district's finances, you can contact me at treasurer@uaschools.org.

BITES From the Apple



SCHOOLS NEWS AND USEFUL INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS

Summer Academy Returns for 2024

Upper Arlington Schools is proud to offer an exceptional summer program for our students for the summer of 2024. Summer Academy 2024 will offer comprehensive academic and well-being programming to students who will be entering grades 1 through 12 in the fall.

Course schedules for Summer Academy 2024 will be available at www.uaschools.org/SummerAcademy.aspx beginning on Friday, March 8, and registration will open on Tuesday, April 2. All courses will be offered free of charge for 2024 thanks to federal funding.



Kindergarten Registration Open for 2024-2025



The Upper Arlington Schools community is looking forward to welcoming the Golden Bears Class of 2037! Children who will be 5 years of age on or before September 30, 2024, are eligible for kindergarten during the 2024-2025 school year.

The district is pleased to offer a full-day kindergarten program for the families of Upper Arlington. Full-day kindergarten in Upper Arlington Schools gives our younger learners more opportunities to learn and grow socially, emotionally and academically.

Information about starting the registration process is available now at www.uaschools.org/kindergarten.aspx. We strongly encourage families to complete the registration process by March 20 for staffing and planning purposes.

For more information on kindergarten registration and a map of the elementary attendance areas, please visit our website.

Nominations Sought for UA Educator Hall of Fame

Upper Arlington Schools, the Upper Arlington Education Foundation and the Upper Arlington Alumni Association will recognize outstanding retired educators and alumni this summer as part of the annual UA Alumni Day festivities.

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2024 Educator Hall of Fame and alumni awards. The Educator Hall of Fame recognizes the best of the best among retired teachers and administrators of all grade levels, preschool through grade 12. The alumni awards recognize outstanding, distinguished and inspirational young Golden Bear alumni as they serve, lead and succeed in their career field or their communities.

Nomination criteria and forms are available at www.uaschools.org/EducatorHallofFame.aspx and www.bearalums.com.

The 2024 honorees will be recognized on July 5, 2024, during the Upper Arlington Alumni Association's Alumni Day at Upper Arlington High School.

2023-2024 SCHOOL DATES

End of 2nd Trimester (K-5) and 3rd Quarter (6-12)
Friday, March 8

No School for Students; Staff Report Per Schedule
Monday, March 11

Election Day: No School for Students; Staff Report Per Schedule
Tuesday, March 19

Spring Break
Monday, March 25 - Friday, March 29

Early Dismissal (preK-12)
Monday, April 8

Dismissal at 1 p.m. for elementary schools; 1:30 p.m. for middle schools, high school and Burbank Early Childhood School

For the full 2023-2024 school year calendar, please visit our website at www.uaschools.org/calendars.aspx. To view a calendar of community events in our schools, please visit www.uaschools.org/communitycalendar.aspx.

Wickliffe Woods Playground Update

After decades of love and use by the Upper Arlington community, Wickliffe Progressive Elementary School's castle playground has reached the end of its useful lifespan, with maintenance becoming increasingly challenging and costly. So, in the same community spirit that drove the creation of the castle playground, a group of school and community volunteers launched the Wickliffe Woods Project a year ago with an ambitious charge – to design and fundraise for a new outdoor playspace for Wickliffe. The vision is to create an iconic, world-class inclusive playground rooted in elements of nature-based play, STEM and environmental learning for Wickliffe students and the larger Upper Arlington community.

This spring and summer, the new playground will begin taking shape. New swings and spinners will be installed,

thanks to initial fundraising efforts by the Wickliffe Woods team, and following the end of the school year, the wooden castle structure will be decommissioned and removed. Prior to that, there will be a community celebration for the castle playground and its place in the history of Wickliffe and the Upper Arlington community. Please look for a community invitation with more details in the spring at www.uaschools.org and in the next issue of *UAiNSIGHT*.

This summer, a new play structure will be installed, thanks to funding from the Upper Arlington Schools, that will help bring the Wickliffe Woods vision closer to reality. This will include a traditional post and platform play structure, an accessible spinner, monkey bars and poured-in-place surfacing.

Just as the Wickliffe community came together to build the castle structure more



than three decades ago, Wickliffe will continue that tradition with a community build process for the play structure that will be guided by Midstates Playground Equipment, the manufacturer's representative.

With the investment from the district in a new play structure, the Wickliffe Woods Project will continue fundraising for the final phase – which will include Earthscape play structures and help bring the unique personality of the Wickliffe community to the playground.

If you are interested in learning more about the Wickliffe Woods project or in making a financial contribution, please visit www.wickliffeplayground.com or email wickliffewoods@gmail.com.

2024 UPPER ARLINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION

FROM LEFT:
Liz George Stump,
Lori Trent, Vice President
Lou Sauter, President
Jenny McKenna and
Nidhi Satiani



Thanks to a partnership with the City of Upper Arlington, Board of Education meetings take place in the Council Chamber of the City's Municipal Services Center, 3600 Tremont Road. In general, the meetings begin at 6 pm on the second Tuesday of each month. Some exceptions apply, and last-minute scheduling changes are possible. Please refer to www.uaschools.org for the most up-to-date information.

Upcoming Board of Education Meetings:

- Tuesday, March 12, 6 pm – Council Chamber
- Tuesday, April 9, 6 pm – Council Chamber
- Tuesday, May 14, 6 pm – Council Chamber

For additional information on the members of the Board of Education and its policies, please visit www.uaschools.org/board.

SchoolsINSIGHT

BI-MONTHLY NEWS FROM UPPER ARLINGTON SCHOOLS

Production:

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www.twitter.com/UA_Schools



SERVE LEAD SUCCEED... SERVE LEAD SUCCEED



Windermere Elementary School celebrated the 100th day of school in January with a cup-stacking STEM challenge and other activities.



Greensview Elementary School artists brought Upper Arlington's century-old historical homes to life and held a special gallery reception at The Coventry, where their work was on display.



2024 UAHS Athletic Hall of Fame

The Upper Arlington High School Athletic Hall of Fame was established in 2017 to recognize individuals who have made significant contributions as student-athletes, coaches, administrators, and friends to the tradition of Golden Bear athletics. Upper Arlington High School honored the 2024 induction class for its Athletic Hall of Fame in January. The inductees and their families were recognized during a girls and boys varsity basketball double-header at Upper Arlington High School and a ceremony the following morning in the Performing Arts Center.

Congratulations to the inductees and their families: former coach Bruce Blackston; Michele DeVault ('04, basketball); Dale Keitz ('75, football and baseball); Jeff Lewis ('70, swimming); Jud Millhon ('47, basketball, baseball and football); Bill Nosker ('37, basketball, football, golf and track & field); Mike Sabo ('84, baseball and football); Laura (Burke) Sandbloom ('06, cheer and lacrosse); John Schmidt ('39, track & field); Brendan Shook ('97, football and lacrosse); Melissa Smith Richardson ('90, cross country and track & field); and the Girls Athletic Association.

This was the seventh full induction class and increased the number of former student-athletes, coaches, administrators and friends of the UAHS athletics program enshrined to 69.

SERVE LEAD SUCCEED... SERVE LEAD SUCCEED



Hastings and Jones students represented Upper Arlington in the 2023 OSTA District XV Middle School Honors Orchestra in December.



Wickliffe Progressive Elementary School spread cheer through an annual gift drive for the children of Heart to Heart Food Pantry.



Barrington Elementary School students felt a spark for science when Project BioEYES, offered in partnership with Ohio State University's Department of Molecular Genetics, returned in December, giving students opportunities to observe live zebrafish.



These budding neuroscientists examined and dissected sheep brains in IB Sports, Exercise & Health Science class at Upper Arlington High School.



Tremont Elementary School students were buzzing with brainpower on the last day of school before winter break as they partnered up to tackle a whole school math challenge.



Burbank Early Childhood School had some special visitors in December - Ferris the facility dog and his buddies from Upper Arlington High School. The Ferris team is visiting one school each quarter to sharpen their own leadership skills while connecting other students in the district to Ferris.

Jones Middle School 100th Birthday

Jones Middle School is turning 100 years old this spring, and Upper Arlington Schools and the Upper Arlington Historical Society are collaborating on special events to celebrate this milestone for the district's first permanent school building.

Designed by Ohio Stadium architect Howard Dwight Smith, the building now known as Jones Middle School opened on March 17, 1924, with six teachers and approximately 150 students from grades 1 to 6, according to newspaper archives (grades 7 to 12 would later be added following the building's expansion in 1926). While the building wasn't yet finished when it opened, the article reassured that "classes will be carried on without any interruption."

The building later served as Upper Arlington's high school and junior high school and eventually became known as Jones Middle School, after J.W. Jones, who had served as the building's principal and the first full-time superintendent of the district.

"Jones is a unique building in the history of Upper Arlington, in that it has served nearly every grade level from elementary to high school," shared Superintendent Robert Hunt, Ph.D. "It has gone through many updates and changes over the years but continues to be a symbol of our community's commitment to providing our students with the best possible education."

This spring, Jones Middle School and the Upper Arlington Historical Society will offer the community a



glimpse into the history of Jones and its significance to students, families and the community.

During the month of March, the Upper Arlington Historical Society will offer a historical display at the Tremont Road branch of the Upper Arlington Public Library. Jones will also be gathering art and writing submissions from students to enhance the display.

Coinciding with the Upper Arlington Alumni Association's UAHS Open House event on July 5 from 12:30 to 3 pm, Jones Middle School will host its own open house on the same day from 9 to

11 am. This will be an opportunity for alumni, as well as community members and current students and families, to walk through the building and view historical displays and student work to commemorate its 100th birthday.

This isn't the only century milestone this year for Upper Arlington Schools. This spring, Upper Arlington will celebrate its 100th graduating class, and the 100th edition of the Norwester, Upper Arlington High School's yearbook, will be released to students. Look for more about these milestones in upcoming issues of *UAI*NSIGHT.

**If you have memories of Jones Middle School
you would like to share, please visit
www.uaschools.org/Jones100th.aspx.**

Library MARCH | APRIL 2024 iNSIGHT

BI-MONTHLY NEWS FROM THE UPPER ARLINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY



From the Library Board President

Peter Hahn

The Upper Arlington Public Library has always stood for and valued transparency and open communication. Recently you may have read an article or otherwise heard about the efforts of some UAPL employees to organize a union with the Ohio Federation of Teachers.

The Library's Board and Administration have always and will always be receptive to the needs of our incredible staff. We value and appreciate all they do. They are the lifeblood of our organization, and we could not offer all that we do without their expertise, hard work, and dedication.

The library leadership has dedicated significant time and resources over the past three years to meet continued needs expressed by staff to make UAPL a better place to work and grow. Below are a few improvements that have been implemented:

- Salary adjustments in 2023 to be competitive with other local libraries and employers. Library leadership spent many months researching industry data and working with a consultant on a comprehensive salary study. These efforts resulted in an average salary increase of 16%, which included a years-of-service salary range to ensure increases for long-time staff.
- New health insurance plan in 2021 of which the Library pays 82% of the premium. The plan also has better coverage and a substantial reduction in employees' deductible and out-of-pocket costs.
- Two additional paid federal holidays (Martin Luther King Jr. Day and Juneteenth) for all staff.
- Better benefits for part-time staff, including more vacation and sick leave, and paid holidays
- Formation of an Internal Communications Committee composed of staff representing many levels and departments
- Formation of a Staff Appreciation Committee to perform activities related to engagement, welcoming new staff, and the annual Staff Development Day
- Focus groups and surveys to gather employees' thoughts and questions about culture, communication and facility needs
- An enhanced staff intranet with easy access to important information from administration
- Office hours with the director available to any staff member
- Team building and department days to allow staff to focus on special issues or projects

All of these adjustments have been driven through the open communication and cooperative environment that exists between staff and administration.

To ensure that all of our staff members' voices are heard regarding union organization, the Board has chosen to request an election through SERB. My hope and that of my fellow Board members is that UAPL staff at all levels can continue to work together in a collaborative environment where employees know they are appreciated and supported.



Sustainability Fair Returns April 6



Join the Upper Arlington Public Library and Sustainable UA as we celebrate the sustainable initiatives happening in our community at the 2024 Sustainability Fair on Saturday, April 6 from 10 am-2 pm at our Tremont Road Branch.

Visit with local organizations, try hands-on activities, learn about sustainable backyard practices, and enjoy youth-focused programs with the family.

At 10:30 am, Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District will present a Community Backyards Rebate Workshop. Find out what you can do to help protect our waterways beginning right in your own backyard! Franklin County residents can receive a rebate to install a backyard conservation practice.

Our youth activities include author Danae Wolfe reading her book *Deep in the Branches* at 10:30 am and Bugman Mark Berman introducing families to the big, beautiful world of bugs at 1 pm. The Tremont Road Branch parking lot will be bustling with activity, too. You can drop off book or household item donations, try an electric bike, recycle your e-waste, and more.

Get the full schedule of the day's events at <http://uapl.me/SF24>.



A NOTE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Beth Hatch

I can finally breathe a sigh of relief, with major repair projects for our buildings on the way. The Tremont Road Branch is getting a new roof, and the HVAC systems at both Lane Road and Miller Park are being replaced. Safety and major repairs and maintenance are at the top of the Library's list of priorities in 2024.

We were excited to see the results of the 10-Year Master Facilities Plan conducted by HBM Architects. It details the major repairs and costs, and general ways to improve our spaces, accessibility, and the usability of the collection. We had a great response in the community engagement sessions and the online survey, and here is what we learned:

What is important to you and what you want us to continue:

- Maintain the inviting and warm feel of UAPL facilities.
- Continue to provide access to the collection.
- Continue to provide stellar children's and family spaces with interactive play, collections, and

programming.

What you think the Library needs:

- Increased access to power everywhere.
- Study and meeting rooms of all sizes.
- Enclosed spaces with different seating options.
- A small business resource center.
- Covered outdoor seating as long as it does not duplicate park functions.
- To ensure flexibility to adapt to community needs.

To keep up with the progress of the Master Facilities Plan, look for our new Facilities Update feature in each issue of Library Insight.

Program Highlights

Storybook Adventures with Columbus Children's Theatre for the Very Young

Very young children and their families can join experienced actors and teaching artists from Columbus Children's Theatre for performances of classic books and interactive drama activities. Come to the Miller Park Branch on Saturdays, March 9, April 6 and May 4 at 10:30 am. Registration is required.

Pet Rocks

The best kind of carefree pet is a pet rock! Stop by the Lane Road Branch on Thursday, March 14 at 3:30 pm, decorate your own pet rock and even make a small house for it. For kids of all ages.

Living Historians: Sally Ride and Neil Armstrong

Travel back in time and hear about life as an astronaut! Living Historians portraying Neil Armstrong and Sally Ride will visit the Tremont Road Branch on Saturday, March 23 at 2 pm. Hear them tell their stories and discover what life was like in space.

Climate Change Series

Our Lane Road Branch is hosting two programs on the topic of climate change. On Thursday, April 4 at 6:30 pm, join Dr. Brad Lepper, Senior Archaeologist at the Ohio History Connection, to learn about the long history of humans and climate change in Ohio. On Tuesday, April 9, a representative from the Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center will talk about public policy considerations and actions to address climate change. Registration is required.

Backyard Predators: Coyotes, Foxes and More

As urban sprawl continues to increase, encounters between wildlife and humans are more frequent. Coyotes, foxes, skunks, and other wildlife are using our communities and backyards in search of food, water, and shelter. Come to the Tremont Road Branch on Saturday, April 20 at 11 am to hear Marne Titchenell from OSU's Extension Program. She will help us better understand these animals and their behaviors, and give tips to prevent conflict.

Get Organized: Tips to Tackle Home Organization

Kick start your Spring cleaning with Ellen Limes, Certified Professional Organizer and founder of Organized by L. On Thursday, April 25 at 6 p.m., Ellen will visit our Lane Road Branch and draw on her nearly 20 years of experience to offer tips and tricks that will help you organize the troublesome spaces. Bring your questions and get ready to get organized!

LibraryINSIGHT

BI-MONTHLY NEWS FROM UPPER ARLINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

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NewsBITES

LIBRARY NEWS AND USEFUL INFORMATION

50 Book Challenge

In 2023, we debuted our reading challenge for adults...read 50 books in one year and receive an exclusive mug. The fun is back this year with a new mug design and many new books! Stop into any UAPL branch to pick up a reading log, or just keep track in your own way. After you've read 50 books, eBooks or audiobooks, bring your list into the library to receive your reward. Prizes will be ready in early spring, and will be available through the end of December 2024 or while supplies last.

Summer Library Link Photo Contest

Your photo could be featured on the cover of our Summer 2024 Library Link program guide! Take and submit an original photo of you or your family and friends at one of our branches. The photo should illustrate the upcoming Summer Reading Program theme of "Adventure Begins at Your Library." Fill out the Google form at <https://uapl.me/3SbKxwV> and attach your hi-res photo (300 dpi or higher). A Google account is required. You may submit up

to 3 photos for consideration. Deadline for submissions is April 11. Photos may also be featured in our social media.

Taxes Hot Topic

Tax season is in full swing! The filing deadline is Monday, April 15. Visit uapl.me/taxes23 for printable forms and instructions, tax help centers, and other helpful info. Please note that library employees cannot give out tax advice or answer specific tax questions, but we're happy to direct you to information.

Priority Access for UAPL Cardholders

As a member of the Central Library Consortium, we share print and digital materials with 16 other Central Ohio libraries. We also maintain a digital collection that is used to fill the Libby requests of our own cardholders first. While you may still need to wait for an item to become available, the wait time for the most popular eBooks and audiobooks should be reduced.

Red Cross Blood Drives

The Red Cross will hold blood drives at the Tremont Road Branch on Thursday, March 28 and Friday, April 12 from 11 am-4 pm. Make an appointment at www.redcrossblood.org using sponsor code UAPL.

Library Closings

All three UA libraries will be closed on Friday, March 29 for Staff Development, and on Sunday, March 31 for Easter.

Facilities Update



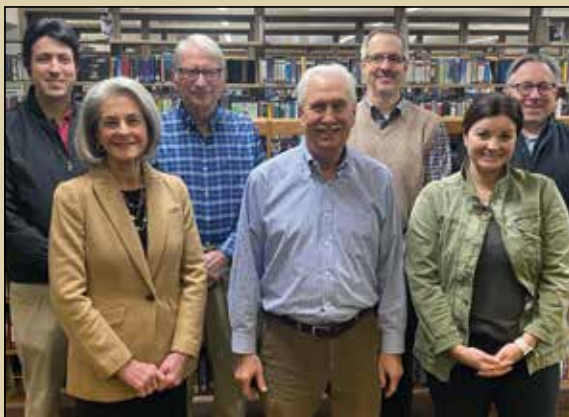
We're currently creating and implementing a 10-year Master Facilities Plan. In 2023, we received input from patrons and staff, and worked with HBM Architects and Interior Designers on a plan that will ensure our spaces are comfortable, safe, and meet the needs of the community. As we carry out the plan, we'll use this space in Library Insight to provide progress updates. Here's the news at press time.

- The Library's Board of Trustees will meet on February 27 to develop a timeline and next steps for the Master Facilities Plan.
- We've begun work on reconfiguring the workspace for employees in our Adult, Technical Services, Facilities, and IT Departments at a cost of approximately \$500,000.
- The Lane Road Branch will undergo changes later this year, including new HVAC. We're currently in the design phase of this project, and it will go out for bids soon.
- We anticipate replacing portions of the roof at the Tremont Road Branch later this year.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

2024 Board of Trustees

From Left: Stephen Flynn, Sue Ralph, William Shkurti, John Yesso, Vice President Kevin Fix, Kate Hare, President Peter Hahn



All meetings of the Board and its committees, with the exception of executive sessions, are open to the public. Meetings begin at 5 pm, and are held in Meeting Room B of the Tremont Road Branch.

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

Tuesday, March 19 | Tuesday, April 16

MAKING MEMORIES...building connections



These crafty patrons made an Amigurumi crocheted penguin.



Our first Lit and Libations at Littleton's Market was a big success.



Families built custom reading forts at an after-hours program at Miller Park.



Kids decorated penguins and played penguin bowling at Lane Road's Penguin Party.



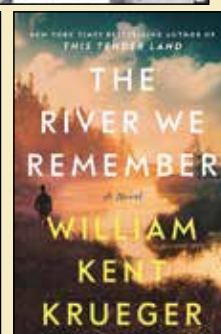
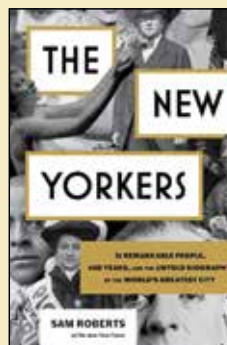
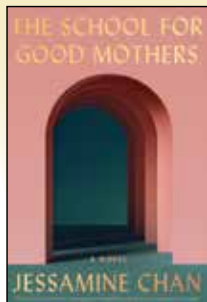
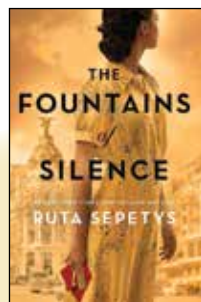
OUR STAFF RECOMMENDS

The New Yorkers: 31 Remarkable People, 400 Years, and the Untold Biography of the World's Greatest City

By Sam Roberts

This work from the veteran New York journalist takes the reader through time, twists and turns of fate, and territory one never could imagine existed before today's concrete and steel of New York City. The people, the places, the antics, the mayhem. Packed with characters, events, deals and drama, this book is rich with information and vocabulary to rival any college history class. Dense and descriptive, it's a challenge to keep it all straight, so I didn't. It was enough to read each of the 31 chapters, let my head unspin and jump into the next chapter. Fascinating.

— Pat Connor, Miller Park Branch



they've underestimated the bride, and soon the posh vacation turns into a terrifying nightmare.

— Julia McGrath, Lane Road Branch

Holly

By Stephen King

Holly Gibney, a favorite (yet awkward) character from Bill Hodges trilogy and several short stories, is back as the main character in this new book by Stephen King. Holly is hesitant to take this "missing daughter" case amid the COVID pandemic but she opts to help. The deviant married couple that are behind the string of missing people is classic Stephen King. A well told

story as Holly methodically pieces the clues together.

— Scott Potter, Adult Services

The River We Remember: A Novel

By William Kent Krueger

When the body of universally despised landowner Jimmy Quinn is found floating in the river, Sheriff Brody Dern must shift through lies, rumors, indifference, and prejudice to bring the community back together. This complex historical novel set in the small town of Jewel, Minnesota takes a hard look at the consequences of World War II on family relationships and honor.

— Laura Griffin, Technical Services

retrained in motherhood. Failing could mean never seeing her child again. This dystopian novel showcases the situation many mothers find themselves in with little support, including constant judgment for being too much or not enough. Frida will do all that's asked of her, but is any mother good enough?

— Aimee Cook, Miller Park Branch

She Started It

By Sian Gilbert

Four (former) best friends are invited on an extravagant bachelorette trip for their former classmate, whom they haven't spoken to or thought about in years. The girls can't turn down the trip of a lifetime, with white sand beaches on a luxury remote private island, and they're curious to see what their former classmate has made of herself. But the island is more remote than they anticipated, with no cell service and no other guests invited on the trip. They start to realize that

The Fountains of Silence

By Ruta Sepetys

Welcome to Spain during the 1950s under the rule of dictator General Francisco Franco. This is a story about love, silence, and secrets. It's told from the perspective of a young American photographer and the beautiful albeit mysterious Spanish maid assigned to his family at a luxury hotel in Madrid. The story delves into the countless ways people suffered under Franco's dictatorship, and how American and foreign tourists were blinded to the reality of the human rights violations for the sake of their comfort and luxury.

— Sharon Adams, Lane Road Branch

A School for Good Mothers

By Jessamine Chan

Frida Liu is your typical middle-class woman until one bad day changed everything. Her husband recently left her for a younger woman, and she is struggling with being a newly single mother of an infant. One lapse of judgment has led Frida to be sentenced to a one-year program requiring no contact with her baby and to be



City of **Upper
Arlington**

3600 Tremont Road,
Upper Arlington, OH 43221
upperarlingtonoh.gov



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Visit our Community Event calendar at
upperarlingtonoh.gov for more on these events

Concourse Gallery

M-F, 8 am-5 pm, 3600 Tremont Road
Cultural Arts Division | 614-583-5310

UA High School Student Exhibit
April 3-May 3

hUmAn Connection Festival

6-8 pm, March 6

UA High School www.uaschools.org

See page 12 for details.

UA Historical Society "History Speaks" Series

www.uahistory.org

**1883: Eva's Journal Reveals Life in
Southern Perry Township**

7 pm, Thursday, March 7

Amelita Mirolo Barn, Sunny 95 Park

The Society's archives contains the
transcription of journal, written by a
young woman living near today's Reed
and Fishinger roads in 1883.

How Cloud Computing Began: CompuServe & its UA Origins

7 pm, Wednesday, April 24

The Wellington School, 3650 Reed Road

Founded in 1969 and headquartered
in UA, CompuServe grew into the first
major online service in the U.S.

UA Stage - Mean Girls

5 pm, Tuesday, March 12

UA High School

UA Civic Association

www.uaca.org

UACA invites residents age 60+ and
Senior Center members to dinner and an
evening of musical theater. Registration
required.

Mean Girls

March 14-17

UA High School Performing Arts Center

www.uavocalmusic.org

The UA High School Vocal Music
Program takes on another show-biz
musical.

UACA Easter Egg Hunt & Bunny Trail

10 am, Saturday, March 16

Thompson Park

www.uaca.org

Enjoy this free event from UACA. Arrive
by 9:45 am for a prompt start. If it rains,
candy is handed out drive-thru style.

Cherry Blossom Celebration

5 pm, Wednesday, April 10

Mallway Park

uacommunityrelations.com

Join with the Community Relations
Committee and others to celebrate the
start of spring and learn about Japanese
culture.

Jazz at the Barn

6-9 pm, Thursday, April 18

Amelita Mirolo Barn, Sunny 95 Park

UA Parks & Rec

614-583-5300

All ages are welcome for an evening of

smooth rhythms and soulful melodies.
Join us for a perfect fusion of music,
drinks, food and a memorable
atmosphere that will leave you with
lasting memories.

Arbor Day Ceremony

Friday, April 26

UA PARKS & REC

614-583-5300

UA celebrates Arbor Day each year
with a tree planting ceremony. This year's
event will be at one of the elementary
schools. Check the City's Community
Calendar for updates.

St. Mark's Culture & Artisans Fair

10 am-3 pm, Saturday, May 4

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

2151 Dorset Road

See page 10 for details.

Wall of Honor Ceremony

3 pm, Sunday, May 19

Municipal Services Center

www.uahistory.org

See page 9 for details.

Heart of UA

Sunday, May 19

Scioto Country Club

UA Community Foundation

www.uacommunityfoundation.com

See page 8 for details.