

UA[★]iNSIGHT

JANUARY | FEBRUARY 2025



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



We are pleased to report that the schedule for completing the Bob Crane Community Center continues to be on track for an April 2025 opening. Preparing for opening day is a priority for the UA Parks & Rec team, and we have a few updates to share with you.

Membership Sales

Membership sales are expected to begin approximately one month prior to opening day, so please watch for details in the weeks ahead.

In the meantime, it's possible to buy gift cards (in any amount) for memberships. Gift cards can be purchased in person from the Parks & Rec offices at 3600 Tremont Road during regular office hours, or online, at parks.uaoh.net.

Membership Rates

- **Individual Monthly Membership (ages 3 & older):** \$35 for Residents, \$70 for Non-Residents.

- **Senior Monthly Membership (ages 60-plus):** \$22 for Residents, \$44 for Non-Residents (information on Medicare Supplemental Programs to be determined).
- **Monthly Rate for Each Additional Person Per Household (all ages):** \$22 for Residents, \$44 for Non-Residents.
- **Daily Admission:** \$10 for Residents, \$20 for Non-Residents (initially, Non-Residents will be limited to one daily admission).

Work in UA? Enjoy the Resident Rate!

Anyone who works in UA qualifies for Resident status and therefore will be charged the Resident rates, along with members of their household.

Event Center - Now Taking Reservations for Events Starting in May 2025

Don't miss your opportunity to rent our stunning new Event Center for

weddings, wedding receptions, conferences, graduation parties and more. Located on the Fifth Floor, the Event Center includes one large event space that can accommodate up to 250 guests banquet style, or can be split into three smaller spaces. Other amenities include a south-facing outdoor balcony/patio with incredible views, a catering kitchen, a green room/dressing room, and an art gallery, which can extend the overall event space.

Other facilities that will be available for rental include:

- Gymnasiums
- Board Room
- Program Rooms
- Party Rooms
- Pool (outside regular operating hours)
- E-Sports
- Combined Packages (Party Room & Pool, Party Room & E-Sports, etc.)

For additional details on the Event Center and other Community Center

Envision Henderson Report Pending in New Year

For much of 2024, the City was focused on the "Envision Henderson" West Henderson Road Vision Plan. Led by MKSK, a local community planning and urban design firm, the study was initiated following zoning updates in 2022, within the office district centered around Arlington Centre Boulevard.

The study area runs from Stonehaven Drive/Chevy Chase Court on the west, to Reed Road on the east, an area that represents the last major business district within the City with the potential for significant change, similar to what has occurred on Lane Avenue and at Kingsdale. However, a combination of factors make the district more complex, with no significant projects emerging to date. Without intervention, at best this aging district faces inconsequential reinvestment on a parcel-by-parcel basis - a future that would fail to transform the area into a vibrant community gateway - or worst case, the district will continue to decline.

The study has generated extensive input, with participation from more than 800 residents and stakeholders. Feedback on concepts for improving roadway safety and aesthetics, creating a northern gateway, facilitating live + work neighborhood redevelopment opportunities, and expanding sidewalk and trail connections were all positively received.

The final report and recommendations will be presented to the Board of Zoning and Planning and then to City Council in the first quarter of 2025. Prioritization of the recommendations and an implementation timeline will be developed and shared with the community by mid-year.

A significant step toward moving the City's plans forward - gaining control of the Henderson Road



right-of-way within this district - was finalized at the close of 2024. Throughout much of the year, the City of Upper Arlington worked with the City of Columbus to assume ownership of this portion of the road, a critical first step for developing and implementing a capital investment schedule for the corridor. In December, Columbus City Council authorized the transfer of ownership to Upper Arlington. As 2025 begins, the City can now focus on putting the necessary physical framework in place to help facilitate the district's evolution.

For more on the Envision Henderson study, scan the QR code provided here.



rental opportunities, contact our Rental Coordinator, at rentals@uaoh.net, or 614-583-5330.

Part-time Employment Opportunities

UA Parks & Rec will have many part-time positions available at the Bob Crane Community Center.

Available positions include:

- Attendant positions, including building, child watch, e-sports, fitness, front desk and rec. facilities
- Lifeguards
- Shift lead positions including child watch and front desk

- Manager positions
- Facilities coordinators

Some of the benefits of part-time work at the Community Center include:

- Competitive wages: attendant positions start at \$12 per hour; shift lead positions start at \$13.50 per hour; management positions start at \$17.50 per hour
- Flexible hours and shifts
- Paid training
- Community Center membership (employee pays applicable taxes)
- Premium Holiday pay
- Participation in OPERS Retirement

- "Resident" status for the employee and their household members

Opportunities will also exist for contract instructors and personal trainers. For more on this, please send an email to parks@uaoh.net.

Scan our QR code for more on the Bob Crane Community Center. If you have any questions, contact the department, at parks@uaoh.net.



Seasonal Employment Opportunities



It may be the start of the New Year but UA Parks & Rec is already focused on hiring the many seasonal employees needed for a successful summer of youth camps, days at the pool, tennis programming and more. 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, earn some money, and enjoy the great outdoors.

Seasonal positions exist in the following areas:

- **Pools:** management positions, lifeguards, office support (lifeguard certification courses are provided)
- **Summer camps:** various camp leader and manager positions
- **Parks maintenance:** various three-nine month opportunities
- **Tennis:** various facility operations support positions
- **Rental facilities:** various support positions
- **Safety Town:** teachers and classroom assistants
- **Senior Center:** facility support

Check out our seasonal recruitment video on the Employment section of our website, at upperarlingtonoh.gov. To submit an application, visit www.governmentjobs.com/careers/uaoh/seasonal.

UA Police Accreditation Renewed

The City's Police Division has successfully attained reaccreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). The division was first accredited in 1993 and has been able to retain this important standard since that time.

Much effort is required to keep up with the evolving challenges and opportunities associated with providing relevant, first-rate safety services. For Police, criminal activities take advantage of societal shifts and technological advancements, so it's important that the

division keep current with these changes and the community's needs.

National certification from CALEA provides an invaluable measurement tool to confirm the division is meeting the highest standards of law enforcement. The benefits of being an accredited agency includes greater accountability within the agency, reduced risk and liability exposure, stronger defense against legal lawsuits, staunch support from government officials, and increased community advocacy.

Update on Columbia Gas Projects

Some major infrastructure upgrades by Columbia Gas are tentatively scheduled to begin in the Spring of 2025, to replace old gas lines with new, federally mandated 12-inch, 16-inch, and 20-inch diameter steel pipes with safety features. These pipes are designed to service a large geographic area that extends beyond Upper Arlington's borders.

The proposed route for the first phase will enter UA at the easternmost point of Zollinger Road (from OSU's west campus), head south on North Star Road, west on Ridgeview Road, south on Brandon Road, then west on Northam Road to Northwest Boulevard.

As part of this phase of work, Columbia Gas plans to construct a new utility station on Ridgeview Road, replacing an existing single-family home located at 1336 Ridgeview Road. They also plan to replace an existing utility station located on Brandon Road. The buildings must adhere to City zoning requirements, so that the design, operation and maintenance blends with the surrounding neighborhood. To that end, the proposed structures must be reviewed and approved by the Board of Zoning and Planning (dates to be determined), a process that includes opportunities for public comment.

Columbia Gas has relayed to the City its commitment to proactively engage with residents in the affected

areas, through mailed updates and public meetings in advance of work, and regular updates once each project begins. To that end, the planning team hosted a series of public meetings at the close of 2024.

Looking forward, a series of "Office Hours" sessions are scheduled in January at the Tremont Library:

- 5:30-7:30 pm, Monday, January 6
- 5-6 pm, Monday, January 13
- 6-7:30 pm, Wednesday, January 22
- 4-5:30 pm, Monday, January 27

These sessions have no set agendas but are scheduled for residents to learn more about the project, ask questions and share any concerns that they might have.

In December, at City Council's request, the City filed a Notice of Intervention with the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB), providing the City the means to participate in the review and approval process. Council is also planning to schedule a discussion on the project at one of its meetings in the New Year, so please watch for updates on this.

A project webpage is available, at: www.columbiagasohio.com/our-company/about-us/regulatory-information/west-central-nchp. If you have questions, please contact Columbia Gas, at NCHP@nisource.com or 1-800-242-6227.

FROM CHAMBERS | Highlights of City Council & Its Policy Decisions

2025-2026 Budget

At the close of 2024, City Council's focus was on finalizing and adopting the City's 2025-26 budget, a process that concluded at its December 16 meeting.

The budget provides the necessary resources for continuing a high level of services for the community and provides for reinvestment in public infrastructure and parks.

The City's financial position continues to be strong, thanks to the leadership of present and past Council bodies, updates and adherence to a strong set of fiscal policies and financial accountability practices, and the cumulative effect of a proactive economic development program that has diversified the City's business base. Of note, income tax revenues have continued their upward trajectory, with projections of \$46 million and \$48 million respectively for 2024 and 2025, serving as a positive source of support for many major operations and projects, changing our landscape and infrastructure for the better.

General Fund reserves continue to grow and are projected to reach 82% of the operating budget in 2025, well above the City's target of 30-50%. Recognizing this impressive accomplishment, City Council and the Administration have engaged in a series of conversations to identify several Council priorities for utilizing these overages.

These include:

- Expanding the City's focus on community wellbeing by adding a new social worker position within the Fire Division starting in 2025.
- Undertaking a study and developing design options of a roundabout at the Five Points intersection, for possible construction in 2029.
- Transferring \$2 million to the Economic Development Fund to support structured parking needs as redevelopment projects occur within the City's commercial districts.



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

- A one-time reduction in Solid Waste fees for homeowners, to be reflected in the City's January 2025 Utility Bill (see page 6 for details).
- Expanded investment in the City's network of sidewalks and shared-use paths.
- Studying the feasibility of burying utilities along the Henderson Road corridor, as proposed by the Envision Henderson visioning study.
- Funding water safety/learn to swim programming for the community's youth, beginning in 2026.

Other budget requests of note include:

- Expanded facilities maintenance funding to support some major investments, including a new generator at the MSC
- Funding for increased technology and security needs.
- Various adjustments for the start up and operation of the Bob Crane Community Center.

- The replacement of several public works vehicles and police cruisers, and the aging fire safety training house known as Sparky's House.

The draft 2025-2026 Municipal Program of Services can be viewed on the *Finance* section of the City's website, at upperarlingtonoh.gov. The final document will be available in the first quarter of 2025.

CityINSIGHT

BI-MONTHLY NEWS FROM THE CITY OF UPPER ARLINGTON

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CITY MANAGER UPDATE

Steve Schoeny

Parks Capital Improvements Keeping Pace With Other Infrastructure Investments



If you lived in UA prior to 2014, you probably remember wondering when (or if) the City was going to do something about Tremont Road, or numerous other streets that were visibly falling into disrepair. Fast forward to today, and it's a completely different story.

We have not only caught up on a significant backlog of needed infrastructure improvements - \$112 million-worth and counting - we are in a position to implement significant enhancements and additions to the City's network of streets, sidewalks, and shared-use paths. What lies ahead for the Henderson Road corridor and the Five Points intersection is the stuff many communities can only dream about.

And I'm pleased to report that we can say the same thing about our parks and the facilities within them.

Northam Park is transforming into the central park we have been dreaming about for many years. This Spring, the community will be able to enjoy a vastly



improved Northam Tennis facility, brand new pickleball courts, and enhanced support amenities. Plus, sports teams will enjoy the improved athletic fields on the west side of the park. There is one more phase to go, with the east athletic fields slated for improvements in 2026, and we'll be able to call this a job well done.

As Northam enters its final stages, our attention has turned to Fancyburg Park, with the launch of a master planning process in 2024. We are committed to involving residents throughout the planning and design phases, and it's been fascinating to see how the feedback received to date is

already playing into the design concept.

While recognizing that Fancyburg is one of a few larger, community parks in UA that serves a larger swath of residents and provides a range of recreation needs, park neighbors clearly appreciate the traditions and lowkey flavor of the park.

Those sentiments are reflected in the design concept, which proposes enhancements to existing features, and an exciting addition or two, while maintaining the spirit of Fancyburg Park.

As designs progress, watch for updates and further opportunities for providing feedback in 2025. If all stays on track, improvements will occur in phases, beginning in 2026.

Last but not least, Devon toddler pool will be replaced following the 2025 swim season, completing a series of improvements to this beloved community facility. This is another project that reflects residents' desire to preserve the character of the pool while making modest enhancements that improve access and provide some play features for the toddlers to enjoy.

Details of all of these projects can be found under the **Parks & Recreation | Parks Projects** section of our website, at upperarlingtonoh.gov.



NewsBITES

CITY NEWS AND USEFUL INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS

Public Holidays

City offices are closed in observance of the following holidays:

- **Wednesday, January 1** - New Year's Day. Wednesday & Thursday solid waste collection zones will be on a one-day delay.
- **Monday, January 20** - Martin Luther King Jr. Day. No Solid Waste delays.
- **Monday, February 17** - Presidents Day. No Solid Waste delays.

Public Meetings

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE | 614-583-5030

The City has an online portal for 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 by e-mail:

- **City Insight** - weekly e-news on City services, special projects & events.
- **Activity Link** - monthly news from UA Parks & Rec, including Bob Crane Community Center updates.

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

Won't You Be Our Neighbor 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>.

CityofUA YouTube Channel

youtube.com/@CityofUpperArlingtonOhio/videos

Subscribe to the City's YouTube channel for convenient access to our latest

service videos, highlights of community events and more.

2025 Community Calendar

upperarlingtonoh.gov

Each year, the City provides an online Community Calendar of special events on its website. These listings are often promoted by the City via other means, as space permits. Now is the time to submit details of qualifying community events for 2025. Visit our *Events* section, at upperarlingtonoh.gov.

2025 Observances Calendar

uacommunityrelations.com

Each year the City's Community Relations Committee provides an observances calendar on its website detailing notable national and religious holidays and observances, as a useful reference tool when planning special events or public meetings. Just look for the calendar under the *Resources* section.

2025 Wall of Honor Nominations

Nomination Deadline: January 10, 2025
www.uahistory.org

Each May, the City and UA Historical Society honor a deceased resident who had a positive impact on the community and beyond by inducting them onto the Wall of Honor. Nominations are being accepted for the 2025 program, visit www.uahistory.org for more.

Friends of UA Parks

Saturdays, 9 am-Noon
friendsofuaparks.com

Volunteers are always welcome to help remove invasive plant species from UA's local parks. Wear long pants and closed-toe shoes, equipment is supplied.

- January 11 - Reed Road Park
- February 8 - Thompson Park (meet near south shelter)
- March 8 - Miller Park

Community Special Event Application

Community event organizers must submit an application with the City for events requiring the use of City property and/or logistical support. For 2025 events, the deadlines are as follows:

- For events held April 1-June 30: January 17
- For events held July 1-September 30: April 18
- For events held October 1-December 31: July 18
- For events held January 1-March 31, 2026: October 17

The online application can be accessed at upperarlingtonoh.gov, under the *Events* section.

Sunday Swim at UAHS

PARKS & RECREATION | 614-583-5300

Sunday Swim lap swimming is available at the UA High School Natatorium from 1-3 pm most Sundays over the Winter. Register at parks.uaoh.net.

Help Keep Sidewalks Clear This Winter

Navigating the community on foot can be hazardous in the winter, especially for the elderly or those with disabilities. Help keep sidewalks in front of your property or business clear of snow and ice. If you have elderly neighbors, take a few extra moments to help clear their sidewalks too.

Fire Hydrants in Winter

UA FIRE | 614-583-5100

If you find yourself clearing snow and ice from your driveway and sidewalk this winter and you have a fire hydrant in front of your property, please take a little extra time to clear the hydrant.

2024 Community Awards Nominations

Nomination Deadline: January 17, 2025

Each year, we seek nominations of individuals and groups that have helped make our community better in some way,



At the December 2 City Council Meeting, two awards were presented to members of the UA Fire Division: Firefighter Tim Cash (photo on left, pictured fourth from left) was presented with the 2024 Firefighter of the Year Award in recognition of his 20-plus years of service in UA, including his work on the design for a replacement Engine 71 and his ongoing efforts to mentor and help train newer members of the division. Firefighter/Paramedic Tyler Collins (fourth from left) received the peer-nominated 2024 Dr. Mary E. Fontana EMS Distinguished Service Award. Our congratulations and gratitude to Tim and Tyler for your commitment to the safety of our community members.

through our annual Community Awards Program. Now is the time to submit your nominations for the following categories:

- **Business**
- **Community Enrichment**
- **Community Relations**
- **Senior**
- **Youth**

Visit upperarlingtonoh.gov for more and to submit your nominations.

Dog License Renewals

Renewal Deadline: January 31

<https://doglicense.franklincountyohio.gov/>

Ohio law requires all dogs over three months of age to have a valid license, which must be renewed at the start of each year (unless you purchase a three-year or permanent license). The tags often come in handy as a means for identification should your dog go missing, and funds raised from the licensing program support the Franklin County Dog Shelter and the County's Animal Control operations.

UA Civic Association Fundraiser

www.uaca.org

Also included in the City's January utility bill is a fundraiser flyer from the UA Civic Association, the all-volunteer group that brings you many of the community's special events, including Fourth of July, Golden Bear Scare and Christmas in the Park. Their efforts are funded entirely by community donations.

Citizen Camera Partnership

UA POLICE | 614-583-5150

Citizen Camera Partnership is an opt-in program designed to build a database of properties with video cameras. By registering, residents and businesses are simply letting the division know cameras are in use on their property, with Police only requesting access to video footage following a crime or other notable safety incident in the immediate area. The database is secure and confidential. Visit the *Police* section of the City's website to register.

AEDs and Naloxboxes at UA Libraries

FIRE | 614-583-5100

Thanks to a partnership between our Fire Division and the UA Library, all branches now have a Naloxbox with doses of Narcan and an AED available for staff or public use in the event of an emergency. Ask a staff member if you need help locating these life-saving items.

Cultural Arts Performer & Vendor Opportunities

CULTURAL ARTS | 614-583-5310

The City's Cultural Arts Division is making plans for the 2025 event season, specifically the UA Performance Series and the Labor Day Arts Festival. The call is out for the following:

- Band and performing artists applications - deadline January 5. Visit: <https://airtable.com/appJfzWxWt-4vUYAH6/pagG4FtAKH6ScbzRA/form>
- LDAF artist applications - deadline February 23. Visit: <https://www.zapplication.org/event-info.php?ID=13026>.

Tri-Village Packers Spring Break Program

www.trivillagepackers.com

For the Thanksgiving break, the Tri-Village Packers provided healthy snacks, breakfast and lunch items to 103 children experiencing food insecurity in our community. This accomplishment was made possible by the efforts of more than 80 volunteers and financial donations from community members.

As the New Year begins, the Packers have turned their attention to the upcoming Spring Break, and they are once again seeking support from the community. To donate, 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. For more about the Packers, visit www.trivillagepackers.com.

2025 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

In 2024, the City transitioned into its second decade with a 10-Year Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Since expanding the CIP to 10 years, more than \$112 million has been invested in our streets, waterlines, stormwater and sewer lines. But there's more work to be done, and the 2025 construction season will be another busy one. Read on for some highlights.

Redding Road Resurfacing

The section of Redding Road between Fishingner Road and Zollinger Road will be greatly enhanced, with new bicycle and pedestrian accommodations planned as part of the resurfacing and lane use changes.

Street Reconstruction Program

these projects include full pavement replacement, new curb and gutter, and driveway approaches.

- **Bramford Road** - from Woodbridge Road to Lytham Road
- **Carriage Hill Lane** - from Windham Road to Longeaton Drive
- **Overdale Drive** - from Donna Drive to Johnston Road
- **Walhaven Road** - from Glenmere Road to Surryhill Place
- **Chardon Road** - from Woodbridge Road to Mountview Road
- **Churchview Lane** - from Reed Road to Patricia Drive
- **Nayland Road** - from Windermere Road to Woodbridge Road
- **Weslyan Drive** - from Mountview Road to Redding Road (to be included if bids fall within estimates)

Street Maintenance Program

Sections of 17 streets are scheduled for street maintenance work, which comprises street resurfacing and spot curb and gutter



repairs: Chatfield Road, Chester Road, Colchester Road, Fairlington Drive, Hythe Court, Haverford Road, Hythe Road, Kirkham Road, Pemberton Drive, Sedgewick Drive, Suffolk Road. Sections of London Drive and Riverhill Road will also be included if bids fall within estimates.

Pedestrian Crosswalk Enhancements

Ten crosswalks are scheduled to undergo safety enhancements, to include improved pavement striping and flashing beacons:

- Ridgeview Road at Andover Road
- McCoy Road at Mountview Road
- McCoy Road at Woodbridge Road
- Redding Road at Edington Road
- Kioka Avenue at Swansea Road
- Kioka Avenue at Wickliffe Road
- Stonehaven Road at Burbank School
- Northam Road at Coventry Road
- Coventry Road at Jones Middle School
- Stonehaven Drive at Stonehaven Place

Veterans Day Ceremony



The City hosted its first Veterans Day Ceremony in November, as an extension of Jones Middle School's tradition of welcoming veterans into the school to meet with students. Our thanks to UA Schools, the UA Spirit of '76 Honor Guard, Rev. Vicki Zust from St. Mark's Episcopal Church, and soloist Jacob Conrad for helping us create a meaningful event in recognition of our community's veterans.

Other Highlights

- Waterline replacements are planned for sections of three streets: Chester Road, Fairlington Drive, and Nayland Road.
- A shared-use path will be installed on the west side of Riverside Drive, from Lane Avenue to Trabue Road. This project will tie into a shared-use path on Trabue Road, completing a connection to the Quarry Trails Metro Park.
- Continuation of the City's sidewalk maintenance program, annual bridge inspections and repairs; and sanitary sewer rehabilitation projects.

Full project details - including an interactive GIS Story Map can be found under the **Construction Updates** page, at upperarlingtonoh.gov. As construction season gets underway, we also share project updates via social media.

Schools[★]INSIGHT

BI-MONTHLY NEWS FROM UPPER ARLINGTON SCHOOLS

JANUARY | FEBRUARY 2025



Facilities Master Planning Update

Based on the results of professional assessments conducted this fall, the estimated cost for simply funding needed maintenance and repairs at the aging middle schools and Burbank Early Childhood School is now clear.

That figure – approximately \$103.7 million for all three schools – was shared with residents at the latest community engagement sessions on December 3 and 4 in phase two of Upper Arlington Schools' facilities master planning process.

Physical Assessments

The \$103.7 million estimate reflects a thorough review done this fall by Moody Nolan and Heapy, local architecture and engineering firms, respectively, to update the physical assessments that were conducted in 2015, during the first phase of facilities master planning, for Hastings Middle School, Jones Middle School and Burbank Early Childhood School. For these assessments, they looked at all aspects of the buildings' physical state – from the foundation and roof to the electrical, plumbing and HVAC systems.

"While these assessments found that our buildings have been well-maintained over the decades, they also found that many aspects of our buildings are simply at the end of their useful life," said Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer Andrew Geistfeld.

Based on the list of identified issues, Turner Construction estimated the cost of repairs for each building, arriving at the \$103.7 million total for all three buildings.

"Construction costs have increased dramatically across the country over recent years, but that is especially true in Central Ohio, where several large construction projects have increased demand for labor and depleted supplies," Geistfeld said. "This estimate from Turner reflects those challenges."

Superintendent Robert Hunt, Ph.D., added, "It's important to note that this figure simply would cover the needed repairs and mechanical updates to these buildings. Going forward, the community experts on our Facilities Task Force, our volunteers on the building teams and the community as a whole will have to wrestle with any options that go above and beyond simply repairing these

buildings so they remain functional for the next 20 years."

Educational Assessments

As Moody Nolan and Heapy were conducting the physical assessments of the buildings, architects from Perkins + Will were simultaneously conducting educational adequacy assessments – looking at the flow, functionality and other aspects of each building. Their primary findings included undersized and cramped classrooms at all levels, acoustics issues in learning spaces due to outdated mechanical units, and low or lack of daylighting in certain classrooms at Burbank and Jones.

The full reports for both the physical and educational adequacy assessments will be available at www.uaschools.org/facilities in the coming weeks.

What's Next

Now that the Assessments Phase is completed, the master planning process will be moving into the Options Phase. Over

CONTINUES ON PAGE 12



SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES

Robert Hunt, Ph.D.

Community Input Key to Our Success

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.

During this time of year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the extraordinary community we share here in Upper Arlington. The resources, opportunities and incredible people who come together in support of our schools truly create something special for our students.

The dedication of our staff, our families and our community as a whole allows us to set a standard of excellence and, most importantly, make a difference in the lives of our young people. This is also what will drive us forward in the coming years as a school district.

As we welcome 2025, we also will welcome the next chapter for excellence and innovation in the Upper Arlington Schools. In early 2025, I will present to the Board of Education the Excellence & Innovation 2030 Strategic Plan. This plan reflects the 8,700-plus touchpoints that have informed the strategic planning process, spanning the superintendent search that brought me to Upper Arlington in the spring of 2022, my UAdventure in the fall of 2023, the Listen

Learn Lead community engagement sessions in the spring of 2023, and districtwide equity audit in the fall of 2023.

Over the past year, the voices of students, staff members, parents/guardians and community members have been crucial as we have worked together to develop the strategic plan. More than 75 students, staff members and community volunteers were involved in our Strategic Inquiry Teams and our Strategic Coordination Team, and all of our staff members have had the opportunity to share their thoughts at various points in the process. Our Teaching and Learning Team, a group of educators from across the district, has been essential to this process, developing the action steps you see in the final plan. As a final step to gather feedback, all community members were invited to share their thoughts at a town hall meeting in November.

The final strategic plan identifies three priority areas – Engaged Learning, Culture & Climate and Connections, each strengthened by a focus on

continuous improvement through Excellence and Innovation. Under the three priority areas, we have identified a total of 10 strategies, each with a set of action steps that will guide the work that will be done over the next five years.

The Quality Profile, our annual accountability report, will offer a deeper dive into the new strategic plan and the groundwork that is already happening across our district to put these ideas into action. All Upper Arlington households will receive the Quality Profile in their mailboxes in the coming months.

Following the presentation to the Board of Education, I encourage you to visit www.uaschools.org/strategicplan to learn more about the process that has led us to today and to review the final document in more detail.

As I shared, our new strategic plan is the culmination of the work and dedication of so many people. My thanks to everyone who played a role in this process and to all who will continue to support the excellence and innovation we have ahead of us over the next five years.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

the next few months, the building teams for Burbank, Hastings and Jones will be using the findings of these assessments to help develop additional options beyond maintaining and repairing.

This winter, the building team volunteers and any interested community members will come together to explore the future of education and learning spaces at a Learning Environments Summit on January 22 at 6:30 pm in Upper Arlington High School North Learning Commons, 1625 Zollinger Road.

Following the summit, the community may learn about the draft planning options developed by the building teams at Community Engagement Session #3 – February 18 at 6:30 pm at Burbank Early Childhood School, 4770 Burbank Drive; and February 19 at 9 am at the Graf Center, 2020 Builders Place.

“If you haven’t yet become involved in this process, I can’t emphasize enough how much we want you to join us,” Dr. Hunt said. “Our schools belong to our community, and your voice truly matters as we plan for the future together.”

SchoolsINSIGHT

BI-MONTHLY NEWS FROM UPPER ARLINGTON SCHOOLS

Production:

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Upper Arlington Schools

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www.facebook.com/upperarlingtonschools



www.twitter.com/UA_Schools



Treasurer's Notes

Andrew L. Geistfeld

In November, I shared an important financial document with the Board of Education: the five-year forecast. This legally required document, which is filed with the state in November and updated every May, provides a comprehensive look at three years of actual financial data and five years of anticipated revenues and expenditures. It is more than just a state compliance measure; it serves as a critical tool to help us



assess potential impacts on our district's financial health and identify future needs.

The November 2024 forecast revealed a few important updates compared with the May 2024 forecast. Revenue is slightly down by 0.34 percent, while expenditures are up by 1.62 percent. These changes are largely driven by the addition of 30 positions to our general fund following the conclusion of federal ESSERS grant funding and additional staffing needs to support growth in enrollment in student services. While some of these changes have been anticipated and planned for in recent financial discussions, the actual

need has exceeded what we projected in the May 2024 five year forecast.

In addition to the staffing needs, we are also facing rising costs in medical insurance, with both the frequency and cost of claims increasing. For the past eight years, we have been able to manage claims and keep premium adjustments for our staff well below the industry trend. Going forward, though, we will be increasing premiums in 2025 and potentially beyond, keeping us closer to the industry trends.

As always, it's helpful to view our financial picture through the lens of our broader context. Approximately 82 percent of the district's revenue comes from local taxes, while 80 percent of expenditures are dedicated to personnel costs – an expected figure for a people-driven organization like ours.

The November 2024 five-year forecast reflects the typical three- to four-year levy cycle that is standard for a district like Upper Arlington. Due to school funding laws in the state of Ohio, generally speaking, suburban school districts like Upper Arlington see expenditures begin to exceed revenue three to four years after the approval of an operating levy – which is why they return to voters every three to four years in order to keep up with inflation and maintain the current level of school operations. In our case, the forecast projects expenditures to start exceeding revenue beginning in fiscal year 2026.

Looking ahead, we will continue to carefully monitor these financial trends to ensure our district remains on solid footing. As always, I invite our community to stay informed by reviewing the updated five-year forecast on our website at www.uaschools.org/treasurer. If you have any additional questions about our district's finances, you can contact me at treasurer@uaschools.org.

2025 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, January 14, 6 pm – Council Chamber

The schedule of meetings for the 2025 calendar year, including the regular business meeting for the month of January, will be set by the Board at the January 9 organizational meeting.

Please visit www.uaschools.org/board to view the schedule for the 2025 calendar year following the January 9 meeting. For additional information on the members of the Board of Education and its policies, please visit www.uaschools.org/board.

BITES From the Apple



SCHOOLS NEWS AND USEFUL INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS



Kindergarten Registration Begins in February

The UA Schools community is looking forward to welcoming the Golden Bears Class of 2038! Children who turn five years of age on or before September 30, 2025, are eligible for kindergarten during the 2025-2026 school year.

The district is pleased to offer a full-day kindergarten program for UA families, giving our younger children more opportunities to learn and grow socially, emotionally and academically.

Before registration begins, all five elementary schools will offer kindergarten information nights to provide families with more information about the kindergarten program and registration process.

- **Barrington Elementary School** – Wednesday, February 12 at 6:30 pm.
- **Greensview Elementary School** – Thursday, January 30 at 6:30 pm.
- **Tremont Elementary School** – Thursday, February 6 at 6:30 pm.
- **Wickliffe Progressive Elementary School** – Tuesday, February 11 at 6:30 pm.
- **Windermere Elementary School** – Thursday, February 6 at 6:30 p.m.

Enrollment begins at 9 am on February 18, 2025, through an online registration form that will be available

at www.uaschools.org/kindergarten. We strongly encourage families to complete the registration process between February 18 and March 18, 2025, for staffing and planning purposes.

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

Educators Nationwide Visit and Learn from UA Schools



Upper Arlington Schools recently hosted two prominent events that drew educators from across the state and country to learn about our innovative, student-centered programs.

In October, Wickliffe Progressive Elementary School made history as the first public school to host the Progressive Education Network (PEN) Conference. This year's conference, themed "The Space Between: How Progressive Education Fosters Curiosity, Creativity, Community, and Connection," brought hundreds of educators to Wickliffe, Barrington Elementary and other Columbus-area progressive schools. Through site visits, workshops, and keynote sessions, participants explored how Upper Arlington's unique approach to progressive education nurtures student curiosity, collaboration and creativity.

Continuing this national spotlight, Upper Arlington Schools also welcomed a visit from the Eastern States Consortium – a group of 16 forward-thinking school districts committed to sharing best practices. About 50

educators visited Upper Arlington High School and Greensview Elementary School to explore the Elementary Explorations and Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) programs, as well as those new and renovated facilities.

Uniquely Accomplished

- The High School proudly recognized nearly 70 students from the classes of 2025 and 2026 who are on track to complete the International Baccalaureate coursework required to earn an IB Diploma or an IB Career Related Diploma.
- Sixteen High School students were welcomed into the school's Computer Science Honor Society, part of a national organization led by the Computer Science Teachers Association. These students satisfied the requirements for membership, including academic excellence in two or more computer science courses. They will complete 10 hours of community service related to computer science annually to maintain eligibility.
- Ten High School students have completed the requirements to earn Entrepreneurship and Small Business certification, giving them a strong foundation for a future in the business field.





UAHS Choir Inspires Joy with World Premiere

The UA High School Symphonic Choir had the incredible opportunity to perform the world premiere "I Took a Walk With Joy," a commissioned piece by Philadelphia composer Melissa Dunphy. Ahead of the premiere at the fall concert in October, students worked with the composer on their performance and to better understand her perspective on the piece and her creative process.

This opportunity was made possible thanks to the support of the Upper Arlington Vocal Music boosters and the Upper Arlington Education Foundation, as well as funding from a Columbus Symphony award won by choir director Dr. Brandon Moss.

2025 Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees to be Recognized

In January, the High School will celebrate the outstanding contributions of 12 former student-athletes and coaches, representing six decades of excellence in athletics. The Upper Arlington Hall of Fame was established in 2017 to recognize individuals who have made significant contributions as student-athletes, coaches, administrators and friends of the Golden Bear athletics program. Included in the 2025 induction class are:

- Juan Acevedo ('77, soccer)
- Mike Boggs ('73, coach, football)
- Andy Grindley ('07, ice hockey)
- Mike Janowicz ('96, lacrosse)
- Christine Johnston Nidiffer ('06, tennis)
- Kelly Harper King ('95, cheer,

- gymnastics, diving)
- Kate Milling Kling ('97, swim)
- Patrick Maynard ('95, swim)
- Dave Parsons ('55, friend of the program, football, basketball, baseball)
- William (Bill) Pfeil (coach)
- Kim Taylor ('73, football, basketball, track)
- Nate Wilbourne ('92, basketball)

The UAHS Athletic Hall of Fame induction ceremony is scheduled for January 11, 2025, at 10 am in the UAHS Performing Arts Center. The inductees will also be recognized between the games of the girls/boys basketball doubleheader on Friday, January 10. The first game of the doubleheader is scheduled to start at 6 pm, with the second game scheduled to start at approximately 8 pm.

To learn more about the inductees, please visit www.uaschools.org.

Nominations Wanted for Educator Hall of Fame

UA Schools, the UA Education Foundation and the UA Alumni Association will recognize outstanding retired educators and alumni this summer as part of the annual UAHS Open House. Nominations are now being accepted for the 2025 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

2024-2025 SCHOOL DATES

Winter Break

Monday, December 23-Friday, January 3

Teacher Work Day: No School for Students; Staff Report Per Schedule

Monday, January 6

Martin Luther King Jr. Day: No School for Students and Staff
Monday, January 20

Early Dismissal (K-12)

Wednesday, January 22

Elementary dismissal at 1 pm; secondary at 1:30 pm

Presidents' Day: No School for Students and Staff
Monday, February 17

End of 3rd Quarter

Friday, March 14

Spring Break

Monday, March 17 - Friday, March 21

For the full 2024-2025 school year calendar, visit www.uaschools.org/calendars. To view a calendar of community events in our schools, please visit www.uaschools.org/communitycalendar.

and succeed in their career field or their communities.

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

The Alumni Association's annual open house at the High School will take place on July 3, 2025, from 12:30-3 pm. The honorees will be recognized during a ceremony starting at 2 pm.

SERVE LEAD SUCCEED... SERVE LEAD SUCCEED



In November, 20 Upper Arlington High School student-athletes made the commitment to continue their athletic and academic pursuits in college.



Burbank Early Childhood School learners had an egg-citing time on a beautiful day in November with a special visit from the Farm to You program, thanks to the school PTO.



Hour of Code Across UA

Now in its seventh year, Hour of Code Across UA showcased the power of collaboration and innovation in education. This fall, approximately 100 high school students worked alongside the Elementary Explorations teachers to deliver engaging offline and online coding activities to nearly all 3,000 elementary students in the district. Their efforts exemplify the district's commitment to providing hands-on STEM experiences while continually improving and evolving programs to benefit students. The success of this initiative is supported by contributions from the Upper Arlington Education Foundation and the UAHS PTO.



Upper Arlington High School students met this fall with members of the UA Senior Center's Current Events Discussion Group as part of an ongoing partnership that encourages intergenerational dialogue.



This fall, Upper Arlington High School students took a street art tour with a local muralist, exploring how this artform communicates ideas and connects communities.

SERVE LEAD SUCCEED... SERVE LEAD SUCCEED



Upper Arlington High School Symphony Strings, pictured above, and the Jones Middle School eighth grade choir shared their talents at the Ohio School Boards Association conference in November.



World Kindness Day bingo brought extra kindness into Upper Arlington's schools – including at Hastings Middle School, pictured here.



Veterans Day Traditions

In November, Upper Arlington Schools students welcomed current and former service members for Veterans Day celebrations at Wickliffe Progressive Elementary School, Hastings and Jones middle schools, and Upper Arlington High School. These events not only are a way to celebrate veterans in our students' families and in our community but also offer a deeply impactful learning experience for students. At Hastings and Jones middle schools, in particular, this long-standing tradition allows eighth-grade students to expand their knowledge about the role of veterans in American history. Middle school educators, students and veterans shared more about what this experience means to them in the video available at www.youtube.com/UpperArlingtonSchools_OH.



Students Take the Lead as Superintendents for the Day

Meet Logan and Giggi Crawford, who this fall stepped aside from their roles as students at Jones Middle School to become “Superintendents for the Day.” Their unique opportunity to lead was a result of their family’s generous contribution to the UA Education Foundation at the Golden Bear Bash live auction in September.

On November 1, Superintendent Robert Hunt, Ph.D., invited Logan and Giggi to take over for the day. The experience offered them insider access and a unique view on the operations of their schools and the district.

Their day began with a behind-the-scenes tour of Jones Middle School with Principal Aimee White and School Resource Officer Travis Goodman, where they got to explore secret spots like the basement, attic and even the roof! Next, they made a visit to Barrington Elementary to thank their favorite former teachers, Andrea Garvey and Ellen Schooley.

Logan and Giggi then sat down with their new bosses, Board of Education President Jenny McKenna and Vice President Lou Sauter, before wrapping up their day by sharing their creative ideas with architects from Perkins + Will about the future of Jones Middle School.



“Spending the day with Logan and Giggi was a joy,” Dr. Hunt shared, “and seeing our schools from their point of view was truly refreshing.”

Logan and Giggi enjoyed having a new perspective on the schools for a day that was very different from their experience as seventh and sixth graders, respectively, at Jones.

UA Schools Students Serve and Lead through Service Learning

Service learning has long been a cornerstone of the Upper Arlington Schools educational experience—a year-long commitment for students and staff that connects learning with meeting real community needs. This tradition has spanned decades and will continue to grow as part of the district’s 2025-2030 Strategic Plan.

Through service learning, students tackle real-world challenges that directly tie to their classroom studies. They gain a deeper understanding of the world around them, learning the lifelong importance of service while honing academic skills in literacy, math, science, social studies and more.

Here are a few examples of projects rooted in this long-standing tradition.

Buckeyes for a Purpose

At Barrington Elementary, the 4th Grade Progressive classes partnered with the multiple disabilities classroom for a meaningful service-learning project called Buckeyes for a Purpose, formerly Buckeye Bonanza. Focused on raising



disability awareness and fostering inclusivity, this month-long initiative was inspired by their shared read-aloud, *Out of My Mind* by Sharon M. Draper, a powerful story about a young girl with cerebral palsy who strives to overcome societal misconceptions.

Students researched and created products to raise awareness about autism, cerebral palsy, blindness, deafness and Down syndrome. Their efforts aimed to fund an adaptive bike for Barrington students with disabilities and support the launch of a Best Buddies Chapter at the school.

To enrich the experience, the students have engaged with

organizations such as Special Olympics, Goodwill’s Adult Day Services, Adaptive Sports Connection and Best Buddies.

Rock-a-thon Collaboration

At Greensview Elementary, the fourth grade classes have carried on a remarkable tradition for more than 20 years through their Rock-a-thon service-learning project. Focused on providing basic necessities to families in need in the Columbus area, this project exemplifies the power of compassion and collaboration.

This year, Greensview’s first grade classes joined in the effort by hosting a bracelet sale. The funds raised were used to purchase items for personal care kits, which will be donated alongside the fourth-graders’ Rock-a-thon contributions to families served by the YMCA.

Together, these projects teach students the importance of serving others while fostering teamwork, creativity and a deeper connection to their community.

Library JANUARY | FEBRUARY 2025 iNSIGHT

BI-MONTHLY NEWS FROM THE UPPER ARLINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY



Author Peter Brown to Visit UA

Acclaimed author and illustrator Peter Brown will speak at Hastings Middle School, 1850 Hastings Lane, on Monday, February 3 at 6:30 pm. This special event is presented in partnership with the Upper Arlington Community Foundation.

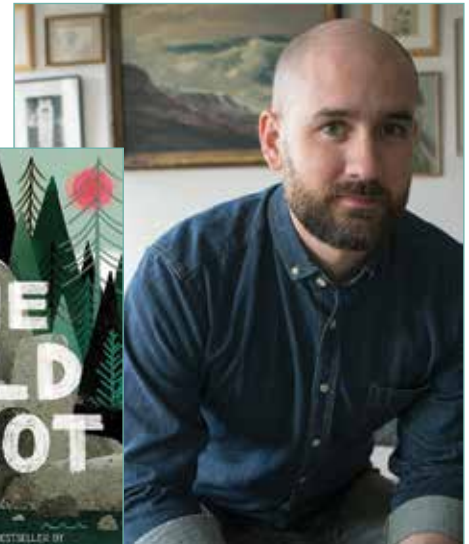
Peter Brown is the author of *The Wild Robot*, a *New York Times* bestseller made into a major motion picture by DreamWorks featuring the voices of Lupita Nyong'o, Pedro Pascal, and Mark Hamill, among others.

At his Upper Arlington appearance, Brown will share his creative process, discuss the journey behind his books, and reveal the inspiration for his whimsical characters.

Cover to Cover will be onsite with available copies for purchase.

Registration is free and opens on Monday, January 20 at <https://uapl.me/PeterBrown>.

Don't miss this chance to meet one of today's most innovative children's authors, and to spark your love for reading and creativity.



A NOTE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Beth Hatch

How Can the Library Help You Meet Your New Year's Resolutions?

As you set your goals for 2025, the Upper Arlington Public Library is here to support you every step of the way! Whether your resolutions are about learning, creating, or exploring, we have something to help you succeed:

- **Travel More:** Planning to see the world? Start your journey with us! The library is a U.S. Passport Acceptance Facility, making it easy to apply for or renew your passport.
- **Read More:** Celebrate the new year with new books and join the *50 Book Challenge 2025*. Pick up a reading log at any UAPL location

starting January 1, track your reading progress, and earn a stylish new mug to commemorate your reading journey.

- **Learn Something New:** From crafting to coding, we offer books, online courses, and workshops to help you master something new. Use our free online tools and resources like *The Wall Street Journal*, *LinkedIn Learning*, and *Consumer Reports* to enhance your life and gain new skills.
- **Spend More Time with Family:** Bring the whole family to our engaging programs, or choose a family read-aloud book and enjoy the magic of reading together.
- **Save Money:** Borrow books, movies, music, and even specialty items like video games, light therapy lamps, or memory care kits for free –

your library card is your key to smart saving. A library user who borrows three books, two movies, and attends one event a month could save over \$300 per year.

- **Discover Local Adventures:** Check out a Discovery Pass at our Tremont Road Branch. These passes provide free access to cultural and recreational activities from fantastic local organizations like the Columbus Museum of Art, National Veterans Memorial and Museum, ProMusica, Columbus Gay Men's Chorus, and the Columbus Clippers.

Whatever your goals, we're here to help you achieve them. Stop by any of our locations or visit us online to discover everything we offer to make 2025 your best year yet.

Passport Fair Coming January 5

Get ready for spring and summer travel! Apply for a new passport with no appointment needed at our Passport Fair on Sunday, January 5 from 9 am-Noon in the atrium of our Tremont Road Branch.

To ensure the process is smooth and easy, bring your completed DS-11 application, citizenship document, and identification, and be prepared to pay with a check or money order.

Passport fees to the U.S. Department of State vary, and the Library charges \$35 for each application and \$15 for each photo. Visit <https://travel.state.gov/> for complete information, including prices of passport options, and a fillable DS-11 form.



Program Highlights

Painting to Music

Do you know a kid who loves music AND art? Bring them to the Tremont Road Branch on Wednesday, January 15 at 4 pm for a fun hour of varied ways of painting paired with different genres of music. Registration opens January 1.

Ask an Expert

Our new series for adults introduces you to a variety of professionals who will answer questions about topics that matter to you and your family. We kick off at the Tremont Road Branch on Thursday, January 16 at 1 pm with a visit from Arpan Kuman, MD, a neuropsychiatrist with OhioHealth. Dr. Kuman will be on hand to answer questions about brain health and dementia. On Thursday, February 13, we welcome Heather Giatis, DVM who will answer questions about your pets' health, behavior and care. Registration is now open.

Burning Tree Mastodon and Ohio's Ice Age

The 1989 discovery of a giant, ancient

elephant-like creature opened an unprecedented window onto Ohio's Ice Age. Join Dr. Brad Lepper, senior archaeologist for the Ohio History Connections' World Heritage Program, on Thursday, January 23 at 6:30 pm at the Tremont Road Branch for a presentation on the incredible find. Registration is required.

Spies Undercover

Time to go undercover! Children ages 6-12 years are invited to choose an alias and invent a cover story; craft a coded message; take photos in disguise; navigate a "laser" course, and more! Young spies can accept this assignment on Saturday, February 1 from 2-4 pm at the Tremont Road Branch.

Drive-in Movies

Together, young children and caregivers will build and design their own cars out of moving boxes, paper plates, and other decorations. After construction is complete, we'll jump in to watch a selection of youth movie shorts. We'll have sessions on Saturday, February 8 at 10 am and 3 pm at the

Miller Park Branch. Registration opens January 25; please register for only one session.

Black History Month: Honoring Black Labor Through the Arts

Celebrate Black History Month with this showcase of the powerful legacy of African American workers. Through dynamic performances, a compelling art exhibit, and an engaging hands-on art activity, we will explore the resilience, creativity, and enduring contributions of Black labor. Join us on Saturday, February 15 from 3-4 pm at the Tremont Road Branch.

Garden Explorers

The youngest gardeners will learn about worms and gardening when the Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens presents a special storytime with their "friends" from the compost bin. Don't miss this preschool program at the Miller Park Branch on Friday, February 28 at 10:30 am. Registration opens February 14.

NewsBITES

LIBRARY NEWS AND USEFUL INFORMATION

Winter Reading Program

Our Winter Reading Program for all ages continues through January 31. Track the days you read or your own reading goals, and earn weekly prizes. You'll also be entered in our grand prize drawings. Read a book, listen to an audiobook, read to a child, peruse the newspaper...all reading counts! Pick up a log on your next visit, or download one at ualibrary.org/winter-reading.

50 Book Challenge Returns for 2025

Our 50 Book Challenge for adults is back with a new mug design! Beginning January 2, stop by our Tremont Road or Miller Park Branches 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 2025 or while supplies last.

Winter StoryWalk

Have you visited the StoryWalk at the Fancyburg Park playground this winter? This season's book is *Snow Globe Wishes* by Erin Dealey, illustrated by Claire Shorrock. Read the charming story with a child you know, and have fun with literacy prompts like making up a story and pretending to ice skate.

Sign Up for eNewsletters

Last summer we debuted new options for receiving UAPL news right in your inbox. Visit ualibrary.org/subscribe to opt in to be informed about General Library News, Books and Programs for Children, Books and Programs for Adults, and eBooks, Streaming and Digital Content. You can unsubscribe at any time.

Friends of the Library Book Sale

The Friends of the UA Library will hold a book sale from February 2-9 in the atrium of the Tremont Road Branch. The sale will feature a large selection of fiction and nonfiction books for all ages, plus DVDs, CDs, vinyl, magazines and more. A members-only presale will take place on February 2 from 11 am-1 pm. The sale opens to the public at 1 pm that day, and will close each day 15 minutes before the library closes. The final day of the sale will feature a bag sale, where shoppers can fill a paper grocery bag with books for \$5 (Friends members) or \$10 (nonmembers).

Red Cross Blood Drives

The Red Cross will hold blood drives at the Tremont Road Branch on Friday, January 3 from 11 am-4 pm, and Friday, February 21 from 11 am-4 pm. Make an appointment at www.redcrossblood.org using sponsor code **UAPL**.

Holiday Closings

All three UA libraries will be closed on Wednesday, January 1 and Monday, January 20.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



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, January 21
- Tuesday, February 18

2024 Board of Trustees

From Left: John Yesso, Kate Hare, Matthew Courser, William Shkurti, Kevin Fix, Peter Hahn, Sue Ralph

LibraryINSIGHT

BI-MONTHLY NEWS FROM UPPER ARLINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

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www.facebook.com/UAPublicLibrary

www.instagram.com/uapubliclibrary



MAKING MEMORIES...building connections



Herps Alive stopped by to introduce young visitors to some new friends.

Kids weren't the only patrons who got up close and personal with animals! The Columbus Zoo brought critters for our Senior Safari .



The new play table at the Tremont Road Branch features roads and train tracks winding among familiar UA landmarks.

OUR STAFF RECOMMENDS

Killer Underwear Invasion!: How to Spot Fake News, Disinformation & Conspiracy Theories

By Elise Gravel

This funny graphic novel tackles the vital topic of media literacy through goofy characters and silly, nonpolitical scenarios. Gravel lays out a simple and clear explanation of what disinformation is, why people may believe or spread it, and how to tell what is real and what isn't. Though aimed at middle-grade kids, this timely book is an excellent conversation starter for any age.

— Bridie, Miller Park Branch

I Miss You Most

By Charlotte Cheng

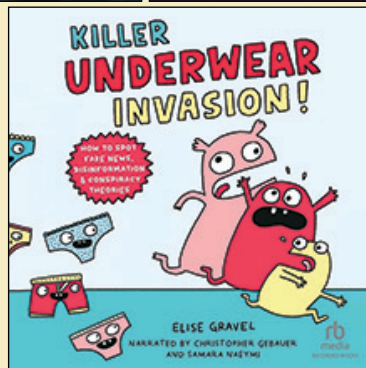
I Miss You Most is an emotional journey of a child's experiences during the loss of a loved one. A young girl recaps the impact her grandfather has had on her and her journey through grief when she is struggling to carry on because everything reminds her of him. The child comes to realize her grandfather's life lessons are always with her, and she can help others because of what he has taught her.

— Brittany, Youth Department

When Women Ran Fifth Avenue: Glamour and Power at the Dawn of American Fashion

By Julie Satow

This is a glittering portrait of the golden age of American department stores and of the three visionary women who led those stores. In the 1930s, Hortense Odlum of Bonwit Teller came to her husband's department store as a housewife tasked with attracting more shoppers like herself and wound up running the company. In the 1940s



Dorothy Shaver of Lord & Taylor championed American designers during World War II, before which American fashions were almost exclusively Parisian copies. She was the first businesswoman to earn a \$1 million salary. And in the 1960s Geraldine Stutz of Henri Bendel re-invented the look of the modern department store turning Bendel's into a chic emporium of designer brands.

— David, Adult Department

Reykjavik: A Crime Story

By Ragnar Jonasson and Katrin Jakobsdottir

What happened to Lara? Iceland was not the same after the young teen vanished in 1956 while working as domestic help on an island. That sort of thing just doesn't happen there. For 30 years it haunts the young cop who was asked to investigate until a young journalist is assigned the story in 1986. Set against the backdrop of historical events in Iceland and a veil of secrets kept,

Jonasson and former Prime Minister Jakobsdottir (yes, really!) craft a story that keeps the pages turning with the action and reaction of its characters. Vivid and engrossing!

— Pat, Miller Park Branch

Demon of Unrest

By Erik Larson

Erik Larson brings the pre-Civil War era to life. Lincoln narrowly wins the 1860 Presidential race and all the while Southern extremists are plotting to dismantle the Union. Slavery was the definite underlying tone of the policy differences between the North and the South. Larson tells the various storylines that led the US to the flashpoint of the Civil

War – a nondescript federal Fort Sumter in South Carolina. The organization of the book highlights the various political ideals at the time and how they intertwine and come to a climax.

— Scott, Adult Department

The Fifth Star: Ohio's Fight for Women's Right to Vote

By Dr. Jamie C. Capuzza

Capuzza tells the story of the 70-year-long campaign for women's suffrage in Ohio. She draws on a vast array of primary and secondary sources in this narrative history that is suitable for high school and college teachers and students, as well as the amateur history buff. Capuzza tells the story of the suffrage movement in Ohio chronologically and includes biographies of the prominent activists, all while situating the movement within the shifting political and social landscapes in Ohio and the larger United States. *The Fifth Star* sheds a new, local light on this important issue in American history.

— Charlotte, Customer Service Department



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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

**Between the Mountains, Exploring
the Great Plains of North America,
Artist: Thomas Croce
Through January 31**

Elementary School Students

February 5-28

Reception 2-4 pm, Sunday, February 9

Middle School Students

March 5-28

Reception 2-4 pm, Sunday, March 9

History Speaks: A "Sweet" History of the Ohio Buckeye Candy

7 pm, Tuesday, February 4

Amelita Mirolo Barn, Sunny 95 Park
UA Historical Society | uahistory.org

Local author, Renee Casteel Cook, uncovers the story behind Ohio's favorite confection. Free event, but members of the Historical Society can reserve their seats in advance. Copies of her book, *Ohio Buckeye Candy*, will be available for purchase.

UA Stage - Performance of The Sound of Music

5 pm, Tuesday, February 11

UA High School, 1625 Zollinger Road
UA Civic Association | www.uaca.org
Register at parks.uaoh.net

The UA Civic Association invites UA residents age 60+ and/or past members of the UA Senior Center to dinner and an evening of musical theater. The musical production is performed by students of the Upper Arlington High School. Resident registration opens 8 am January 22. Non-Resident registration opens 8 am on January 24.

The Sound of Music February 13-16

UA High School Performing Arts Center
www.uavocalmusic.org

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

Black History Month Celebration: Honoring Black Labor Through the Arts

2-4 pm, Saturday, February 15
Tremont Library

UA Parks & Rec | upperarlingtonoh.gov
Celebrate Black History Month with this showcase of the powerful legacy of African American workers. Through dynamic performances, a compelling art exhibit, and an engaging hands-on

art activity, we explore the resilience, creativity, and enduring contributions of Black labor.

UA Quest

February 22-March 2

UA Historical Society | uahistory.org

UA's favorite team-based scavenger hunt is back with new clues and challenges. Watch for details of a new resident component, as part of the Community Relation Committee's Welcome Series.

History Speaks: Caring & Repairing Your Historic Home

7 pm, Thursday, March 6

3600 Tremont Road

UA Historical Society | uahistory.org

Join a staff member from Columbus Landmarks to review all aspects of tending to an older home. Free to attend. No registration necessary.

Senior Center Celebration 2-4 pm, Wednesday, March 19

1945 Ridgeview Road

UA Parks & Rec | 614-583-5320

Save the date for our open house celebration of the UA Senior Center, as UA Parks & Rec readies to open the Bob Crane Community Center. Free, please register in advance.