

# UA<sup>★</sup>iNSIGHT

NOVEMBER | DECEMBER 2025



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



## Construction Ahead!

Get ready for what promises to be one of UA's busiest periods of significant infrastructure improvements. The next few years will see major construction on some of our busiest roads.

"We recognize that it's going to be challenging and frustrating at times," said City Engineer Aaron Scott, "but we will be doing our best to keep the community informed and moving through the projects that are on the horizon."

"We are so fortunate to be in a financial position that allows us to be proactive in our capital projects planning and implementation," said City Manager Steve Schoeny. "When all is said and done, we will have transformed every arterial and connector street in UA, enhancing traffic flow for motorists, improving safety for everyone, giving residents more access to sidewalks and shared-use paths, and further beautifying our community. And the process will be disruptive!"

"This won't be fun for any of us while the construction is happening," continued Schoeny. "We ask for the community's patience and understanding in the months ahead. I'm confident it will be worth it once we get to the other side."

Read on for details of these major initiatives, all scheduled in addition to the City's regular slate of annual capital projects, such as road reconstruction and maintenance, waterline replacements, sidewalk maintenance, stormwater and sanitary sewer repairs.

### 2026 Highlights

#### Columbia Gas Transmission Line Replacement Projects

The good news - Columbia Gas plans to complete the bulk of its transmission line replacement projects in 2026. The bad news - this work will impact several major streets:

- Northwest Boulevard (from Lane Avenue up to Five Points);
- Tremont Road (from Five Points to Kenny);
- Kenny Road (from Tremont to UA's northern boundary); and
- Lane Avenue (from Northwest to Riverside Drive).

The schedules for these phases are still being finalized, but Columbia Gas has committed to completing any construction that might interfere with UA's Fourth of July parade and celebrations in June. This will include making sure Northwest Boulevard is safe for all pa-

rade participants. Additionally, work on Lane Avenue will pause at Tremont Road in advance of the U.S. Senior Open at Scioto Country Club, which will also be taking place around the Fourth of July holiday. The Lane Avenue work, from Tremont to Riverside Drive, is expected to wrap up in 2027.

Columbia Gas will be responsible for resurfacing the impacted lanes as they complete each section.

#### Northwest Boulevard Improvements

The third and final phase of full street reconstruction along Northwest Boulevard will follow the Columbia Gas work, for the section between Northam Road and Five Points. Expected to begin mid-summer, this phase includes new roadway, curb and gutter.

#### Riverside Drive Shared-Use Path

Following some design delays, the new shared-use path that will run along the west side of Riverside Drive, from Lane Avenue to Trabue Road, is back on track for construction in 2026. This path will connect the UA community with convenient pedestrian and bicycle access to the Quarry Trails Metro Park. While the construction will have limited impacts on



traffic, there will be changes at the Lane Avenue and Riverside Drive traffic signal, to accommodate a pedestrian crossing.

## 2027 Highlights

### Lane Avenue Improvements

Another of the projects to follow Columbia Gas' transmission line replacements, Lane Avenue improvements will be undertaken for the section between Northwest Boulevard and Riverside Drive. The project will be in design in 2026, with outreach to the community planned to identify any issues that could be addressed by the pending improvements. As currently planned, the section of Lane Avenue between Northwest Boulevard and Tremont Road will undergo full reconstruction, with new pavement, curb and gutter. The section between Tremont Road and Riverside Drive will be repaved.

### Zollinger Road Improvements

The 2025 Zollinger Road Mobility & Safety Improvement study identified a series of safety, access and aesthetic enhancements by the design team and participating residents. Design concepts for these improvements - which will encompass the entire length of this east/west connector, from Riverside Drive to

North Star Road - will be shared with the community soon. Once final design work has been completed, construction is scheduled for 2027.

## 2028 Highlights

### Five Points Intersection Improvements

The time has come to address one of the community's busiest intersections, and it's a complicated one since it involves three of our arterial streets. Our Engineering Division is preparing to share a high level review of options for the Five Points intersection with the community early in 2026. This will be the first of several opportunities for residents to learn about and provide feedback, as a preferred concept emerges from the initial design process over the course of the year. Thereafter, the design team will undertake detailed design work in 2027, with the improvements currently scheduled to take place in 2028. The same consultant currently under contract will complete the detailed design.

### Long Term Henderson Road

To shape the redevelopment of any area, we must start with a vision of what the

community wants and needs. Following the Envision Henderson study, the City is building on that shared vision by exploring opportunities to transform the corridor into the community's northern signature gateway.

Future improvements could focus on enhancing safety, accessibility, and aesthetics - such as adding traffic-calming features, improving pedestrian and bicycle connections, incorporating landscaping and streetscape upgrades, and creating a more cohesive and attractive environment.

Ultimately, it is believed this redesign will serve as a catalyst for encouraging redevelopment of adjacent properties to align with the new aesthetics and functionality.

A project of this magnitude will take time and significant investment to complete. Two phases are planned, with detailed design work kicking off in the next few years.

The proposed 10-Year Capital Improvement Program will be presented to City Council at its first 2026 budget hearing, which is scheduled for 7 pm, on Monday, November 10, at which time a draft document will be available for viewing on the City's website.

## Parks Capital Projects

### Fancyburg Park Master Plan

With the master planning process for Fancyburg Park completed earlier this year, the Parks & Recreation Department is planning to construct a new service yard at the south east corner of the park in 2026. The remainder of the park redevelopment will now occur in one phase, scheduled for 2027.

Improvements will include a new, four-season shelter and plaza, an open air shelter, a new playground and natural play area, renovated athletic fields, three tennis courts and six pickleball courts with a hitting wall between the two use types, a small nature stage, as well as several natural landscaping features.

### Reed Road Park Improvements

For those of us at the City who remem-

ber celebrating the grand opening of the Reed Road Water Park, it's hard to believe that was over 20 years ago. The time is approaching for the facility to undergo some renovation work, and UA Parks & Rec will also be undertaking some additional improvements within the park. This will include drainage and other park improvements. The project will be designed in 2028, and with construction slated for 2029.

### Fire Station 71 Renovations

Housed within the City's first municipal building on Arlington Avenue in the Mallway District, Station 71 is long overdue for an overhaul. In its current condition, the facility has dated living quarters, and inadequate parking bay

space for emergency vehicles. The expected renovations will be significant, and are currently programmed for construction in 2028.



## FROM CHAMBERS | Highlights of City Council & Its Policy Decisions

### 2026 Budget

The fall of each odd numbered year marks the time for departments to review and make adjustments to the second year of the City's biennial budget document. The results of that effort come before Council starting in November, with a series of public hearings that look at the different budget components.

The City's financial position remains strong, thanks to several interrelated factors that include:

- The leadership of past and present City Councils that have guided reviews, updates and adherence to strong fiscal policies and financial accountability practices;
- The cumulative effect of a proactive economic development program, which is diversifying and strengthening the business community.

The proposed 2026 budget is reflective of conservative revenue projections that align with the current economic climate, while positioning the City to be able to continue providing a high level of services and reinvestment in the 10-Year Capital Improvement Program, relative to streets, sidewalks, waterlines, sewers, parks and other public infrastructure.

Dates for the budget hearings are as follows:

- **Monday, November 10** - Capital Improvement Program
- **Monday, November 17** - Operating, Capital Equipment, Schedule of Fees



FROM LEFT: Todd Walter, Kathy Adams, Brian Close (Vice President), Ukeme Awakessien Jeter (President), Jim Lynch, Heidi Munc, John Kulewicz. (NOTE: Kathy Adams resigned from her seat in September)

- **Monday, December 1** - open items
- **Monday, December 8** - final budget changes, 1st Reading
- **Monday, December 15** - final budget changes, 2nd Reading, Council Vote

Meetings begin at 7 pm, at the Municipal Services Center, 3600 Tremont Road. For additional budget process details, contact our Finance Director, Brent Lewis, at 614-583-5288 or [blewis@uaoh.net](mailto:blewis@uaoh.net).

## Holiday Fire Safety Reminders

Residents will be celebrating several holidays in the weeks ahead. These holidays often combine decorations and candles with large family gatherings, cooking and alcohol. This can be a dangerous combination. Our Fire Division wants you to celebrate safely, so please consider the following tips:

- Use battery operated candles, if possible.
- Keep decorations away from open flames and other heat sources.
- Keep lighters, matches and candles away from small children and pets.
- Blow out candles when leaving the room or going to bed.
- If a candle must burn continuously, make sure it is in a glass container and placed on a metal tray or in a deep basin filled with water.
- Remain in the kitchen when cooking on the stove top.
- Make sure holiday lights are used per the directions.
- Keep Christmas trees well-watered, away from heat sources and turn off lights when going to bed.
- **Close before you doze:** close bedroom doors when sleeping.
- **ABOVE ALL:** Ensure all smoke detectors are in place and working properly.

## Tri-Village Packers Update

[www.trivillagepackers.com](http://www.trivillagepackers.com)

The Tri-Village Packers are back for a third year of providing healthy snacks and meals for children experiencing food insecurity, and the program has expanded to include the Thanksgiving, Winter, and Spring Break holidays. They are seeking financial donations to help make this possible. Each donation of \$100 will provide breakfast and lunch items, and healthy snacks for each enrolled child.

Any funds raised beyond the group's needs for this year's program will be housed in the Tri-Village Packers Fund with the Upper Arlington Community Foundation to support future projects focused on food insecurity in our community.

Another way to support the Packers is to help with picking up food items, preparing and distributing the food packages. As each holiday approaches, the Packers open an online sign-up for various volunteer opportunities. The best way to let us know that you're interested in helping is to send an email in advance to [trivillagepackers@gmail.com](mailto:trivillagepackers@gmail.com) and you will be notified when the registration portal has opened.





As Veterans Day approaches, UA has a series of activities planned to honor the members of our community who have served or are serving in the armed forces.

### Oral Histories: Veterans Voices

[uahistory.org/veterans-voices](http://uahistory.org/veterans-voices)

The Upper Arlington Historical Society continues to grow the *Oral History: Veterans Voices* section of its website. New for 2025, Vietnam War Veteran and Upper Arlington resident John Stegmiller, shares insight on his experiences in the service, and the Society is pleased to have received authorization to feature a Minneapolis PBS documentary featuring UA resident and Vietnam War Veteran, Seth Wolf.

### UA Schools Service-Learning Events

Each year, local veterans are invited to share their stories with students at Jones Middle School, Wickliffe Progressive Elementary School, Hastings Middle School, and the Upper Arlington High School. These service-learning events are cherished by students, teachers and the veterans who join them, as an opportunity to connect across generations in a meaningful way, broadening students' understanding of what it means to serve, and reinforcing for the veterans that their sacrifices were not in vain.

### Veterans Day Ceremony

**10:45 am, Friday, November 7**

**Veterans Plaza, Mallway Park, 2096 Arlington Avenue**

Immediately following the Jones Middle School Veterans Event on the morning of Friday, November 7, City officials will honor all our community's Veterans with a brief Veterans Day Ceremony that is open to the public.

Veterans will be invited to join a procession from Jones to the Veterans Plaza in Mallway Park. The ceremony will include some comments from Vietnam Veteran, Seth Wolfe, who is featured in the Upper Arlington Historical Society's Oral Histories: Veterans Voices series.

UA residents who are veterans or currently serving in the U.S. armed forces are invited to register with us for updates of future programming, at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/uaveterans>.

## Bob Crane Community Center Updates

### Community Center Receives Prestigious Award

In September, Columbus Landmarks announced that the Community Center has been awarded the **2025 James B. Recchie Design Award**. The annual award honors excellence in urban design in Central Ohio, celebrating projects that enhance the distinctive character and quality of life of the region.

### Fitness Class Adjustments Take Effect in January

UA Parks & Rec have made some adjustments to their Adult Group Fitness classes, in direct response to customer feedback. Effective in the New Year, Community Center members can purchase a Monthly Unlimited Group Fitness Pass as a membership add-on, along with Punch Pass options available in increments of 1, 5, and 10 classes. These flexible options allow participants to join classes as their schedules permit and to try new programs without committing to a full session.

Older Adult Fitness and Water Fitness programs will continue to require full-session registration in advance and will not be included in the fitness pass.

More information about the updated format and pricing can be found in the Winter edition of the *Activity Guide*, which will be available online mid-November and mailed to homes in the week leading up to Thanksgiving. The Monthly Unlimited Fitness Pass and Punch Passes will go on sale starting December 1.

## Fall Fest 2025



The community enjoyed a beautiful fall day for this year's Fall Fest celebration at Fancyburg Park.



# SAFE UA

Steve Schoeny, City Manager  
Keith Hall, Police Chief

## Residents Are Part of the Community Safety Solution

Whenever we field our community survey to gauge satisfaction with City services and community life, we hear loud and clear from residents that they believe UA is a safe place in which to live, work and raise a family. The 2025 survey continued to reflect those sentiments, and our safety services received high marks for resident satisfaction, with the Police Division seeing an increase of 4% in "excellent" or "good" ratings, from 91% in 2022 to 95% in 2025. Further exploration on safety revealed that 96% of residents feel "very safe" or "extremely safe" in UA during the daytime, and 82% feel "very safe" or "extremely safe" at night.

Building on this good news, a recent *Axios Columbus* article highlighted the 2024 violent crime rates for communities within the region. Using FBI data to analyze trends, the findings showed that Columbus had the lowest violent crime rate for Ohio's large urban cities (with 435 reports per 100,000 residents), and Upper Arlington has the second lowest violent crime rate when compared to the region's suburbs, at 28 reports per 100,000 residents.

While we can certainly celebrate these statistics, we still have work to do when it comes to property crimes.

In the table below, we show some statistics for the past two years. General Thefts could be any crime considered a theft, such as shoplifting, vehicle

theft, theft from a property (such as stealing parcels from a front porch), or theft from a vehicle. The Unsecured Vehicle Involved reports capture thefts of or from a vehicle that had either been left unlocked or its keys had been left inside the car. The number of reports taken is not an accurate reflection of how many unsecured cars had been impacted because one report could include multiple unsecured vehicles that were victims of a spate of thefts within one neighborhood.

It's also worth noting that the number of reports for 2024 and 2025 are similar through the end of September, but in 2024, reports of thefts involving one or more unsecured vehicle had almost doubled by year's end. The holiday season is a prime target for opportunistic thefts.

Community members play a role in how we address and reduce these types of crimes.

- Always lock your vehicle!
- Don't keep a spare set of keys in your car.
- Keep your garage door shut, even if you're home.
- When out shopping or running errands, park in a safe, well-lit area.
- Don't leave shopping bags, packages or personal items such as your phone or wallet in plain view in your car.



- Try to schedule parcel deliveries on days you are home, or have items sent to your office if that's an option.
- Consider investing in one of the doorbell or home video technologies now available, and if you do invest in some smart technology, put out the signs that let passersby know your home is protected.
- Register your camera through the Police Division's Citizen Camera Partnership program.

Another simple way to help reduce opportunistic property thefts is to watch out for any strange activity. If you see something suspicious, call our Police non-emergency line, at 614-459-2800, and we'll dispatch a cruiser to make a pass through your neighborhood. If you see a crime in progress, call 9-1-1.

The professionals in our Police Division take pride in their service to the Upper Arlington community. Working together, we can reduce UA's appeal to criminals who are looking for quick and easy opportunities to steal property.

If you have questions on safety in UA, please contact us, at [police@uaoh.net](mailto:police@uaoh.net). For additional safety tips, visit our *Safe UA* section, at [upperarlingtonoh.gov](http://upperarlingtonoh.gov).

### Theft Reports

	Through Sept. 30, 2025	Through Sept. 30, 2024	2024 Total
General Theft	209	197	280
Unsecured Vehicle Involved	32	35	61

## Older Adult Services Transition Update

The City has been evaluating how it can best leverage its resources in support of the community's senior residents, a process that was initiated this summer following a series of recent developments and new opportunities.

The opening of the Bob Crane Community Center has greatly expanded the facilities and programs available to older adults compared to the former Senior Center. As a result, many more older adults are choosing to become active members of the Community Center - with membership levels increasing by more than 80% since the transition. Additionally, the UA CARES paramedicine program has been growing, integrating support services from the Police Division within its portfolio and most recently adding a social worker position on the team.

The strength of the CARES program, when combined with the opportunities available at the Community Center, presents a unique opportunity to consolidate City and community-driven older adult services to enhance existing programming, explore new ideas, centralize and expand volunteer activities, and simplify the user experience for older adults and their families.

A City team has been undertaking a detailed assessment of existing programs and resources provided by the City and by other entities, to ensure a smooth transition in services while also better understanding resident needs. This has included:

- Working closely with the Commission on Aging Board to transition many of their services to the City by year's end.
- Meeting with older adults and their caregivers who are utilizing services through the Commission to understand the full scope of needed and desired support services.
- Exploring the approaches and best practices of other communities.
- Considering the creation of a City Council Board or Commission focused on older adult support services.
- Preparing to redirect City funds - such as annual grants given annually to outside service agencies - to support the growth of in-house older adult services.
- Pursuing expanded external financial resources and grant opportunities.
- Centralizing and expanding volunteer opportunities.

Early in 2026, a series of Community Conversation sessions will be scheduled, so that we can hear from the older adults who are not part of the Commission's programs, to learn about their concerns and thoughts on service needs. This will be accompanied by an online survey that will allow us to hear from the broader older adult community.

Being able to age in place is a deeply meaningful goal for many older adults—it allows them to remain in their homes and the community they know and love, surrounded by familiar people, places, and routines. This requires a range of scalable and responsive resources and services to maintain a safe home environment, support health and wellness needs, provide social connections and more. The CARES and Parks & Rec team are excited at the opportunity to build a robust, sustainable program that supports and enriches the lives of older adults through all stages of the aging process.

If you have any questions about the transition in senior services, please contact our Parks & Rec Department, at 614-583-5326 or [olderadults@uaoh.net](mailto:olderadults@uaoh.net).

## 2026 Community Relations Innovation Small Grant Program

**Applications Accepted: October 31-December 12**

The City is accepting applications for the 2026 grant cycle of the Community Relations Innovation Small Grant Program. The program is designed to create opportunity spaces for new initiatives, and enhancements to existing community programs and events that advance the welcoming goals of the Community Relations Committee, with grants of \$1,000-\$5,000 awarded to successful applicants.

Past year recipients have included the UA Culture & Artisans Fair at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Equal UA's Porch Parties, the UA Civic Association's Neighbors Night Out event, and the UA Historical Society's History Speaks series.

Applications will be accepted through Friday, December 12, 2025. Successful applicants will be announced at the January 2026 Community Relations Committee Meeting.

## CityINSIGHT

BI-MONTHLY NEWS FROM THE CITY OF UPPER ARLINGTON

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# NewsBITES

CITY NEWS AND USEFUL INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS

## Public Holidays

City offices are closed in observance of the following holidays:

- **Tuesday, November 11**  
– Veterans Day. Trash and recycling collection is not affected.
- **Thursday, November 27** –  
Thanksgiving Day. Thursday's trash and recycling collection zone will receive service on Friday.
- **Thursday, December 25** – Thursday's trash and recycling collection zone will be on a one-day delay.
- **Thursday, January 1** – New Year's Day. Thursday's trash and recycling collection zone will be on a one-day delay.

## Bob Crane Community Center Holiday Hours

- **Veterans Day** – Tuesday, November 11: 5:30 am-10 pm
- **Thanksgiving** – Thursday, November 27: closed
- **Christmas Eve** – Wednesday, December 24: 5:30 am-2 pm
- **Christmas Day** – Thursday, December 25: closed
- **New Year's Eve** – Wednesday, December 31: 5:30 am-2 pm
- **New Year's Day** – Thursday, December 25: closed

## 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.



## 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, at [upperarlingtonoh.gov](http://upperarlingtonoh.gov).

## 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>.

## 2026 Community Calendar

As a service to the community, the City provides an online Community Calendar of special events on its website. These event listings are oftentimes promoted by the City via other means, as space permits. Now is the time to send us details of qualifying community events for 2026. Use the QR code to submit your event details.



## 2026 Leadership UA Program Applications Being Accepted

It's time for aspiring community leaders to get their applications in for the 2026 Leadership UA Program. With more than 500 alums, Leadership Upper Arlington, a program of the Upper Arlington Community Foundation, engages and inspires current and emerging leaders



to take an active, effective role in their community. Leadership UA creates connections, motivates change, and fosters philanthropy to strengthen our community. Participants gain impactful insights to build their personal and professional leadership skills, build confidence and growth through networking and education, increase their civic community involvement, and become difference makers.

## 2026 Observances Calendar

[uacommunityrelations.com](http://uacommunityrelations.com)

Each year the Upper Arlington Community Relations Committee provides an observances calendar on its section of the City's website that

details notable national and religious holidays and observances, as a useful reference tool for the community when planning special events or public meetings. Just look for the calendar under the *Resources* section.



## Friends of UA Parks

**Saturdays, 9 am-Noon**  
[friendsofuaparks.com](http://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.

- **November 8** – Smith Nature Park
- **December 13** – Northwest Kiwanis Park

## Firefighters for Kids Toy Drive

**Station 71, Arlington Avenue**  
**Station 72, Reed Road**

Help the UA Fire Division make the Christmas holidays memorable for Central Ohio kids in need, by dropping off new toys at either firehouse in the month of November and into early December. Watch for details of the annual Drive-Thru event mid-December.



## Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery\*

### Sunday, November 2

As Daylight Savings Time comes to a close, clocks "fall back" one hour at 2 am on Sunday morning. This is also a good day to change the batteries in your home's smoke alarms. This should be done at least once a year, but changing them while changing your clocks serves as a great reminder. Alarms should also be tested once a month and if an alarm chirps, warning that the battery is low, replace the battery right away.

## 2026 Wall of Honor Nominations

### Nomination Deadline: December 5

[www.uahistory.org](http://www.uahistory.org)

Each May, a new bronze plaque is added to the limestone wall of the Municipal Services Center Plaza to honor a deceased UA resident who had a positive impact on the community and beyond through their professional, philanthropic, volunteer or public service. Nominations are being accepted for the 2026 Wall of Honor, a partnership of the UA Historical Society and the City. Nomination forms are available at [www.uahistory.org](http://www.uahistory.org), and at the Tremont Library.

## CALEA Police Feedback Portal

### POLICE | 614-583-5150

The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) has an online feedback portal for the public to provide comments about UA Police, as part of their national accreditation compliance program. The feedback goes directly to CALEA, who send a copy to the Police Chief. Any comments received are reviewed by CALEA Assessors as part of their on-site assessments. The portal can be accessed at <https://cimrs2.calea.org/419>.

## Community Special Event Application

Community event organizers must submit an application with the City for events that require the use of City

property and/or logistical support. For 2026 events, the deadlines are as follows:

- **Events held April 1-June 30:** January 16
- **Events held July 1-September 30:** April 17
- **Events held October 1-December 31:** July 17
- **Events held January 1-March 31, 2027:** October 16

The online Activity/Event Application can be accessed at [upperarlingtonoh.gov](http://upperarlingtonoh.gov), under the *How Do I?* section.

## UA CHAT

### November is Alzheimer's Awareness Month

Every 65 seconds, someone develops Alzheimer's Disease in the U.S. We encourage families with loved ones aged 65 and older to look for signs such as, but not limited to, memory loss, confusion, difficulty with language or speaking, and mood changes. If you have concerns about a loved one, The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center provides screening and testing within the SAGE Program (<https://wexnermedical.osu.edu/brain-spine-neuro/memory-disorders/sage>).

The Upper Arlington Library provides Memory Care Kits, to promote mental stimulation and positive and engaging interactions to improve quality of life amongst residents with this disease. We understand that it is hard work to be a caregiver. Please know that support is available for caregivers through the Alzheimer's Association (<https://www.alz.org/>), and Franklin County's Office on Aging provides Caregiver Support Classes (<https://www.franklincountyohio.gov/Resident-Services/Seniors/Caregiver-and-Kinship-Support>).

## 2026 U.S. Senior Open Call for Volunteers

The U.S. Senior Open Championship is back in Columbus at Scioto Country Club, June 29 - July 5, 2026. Volunteer and be among the greats of the game! Don't miss your opportunity to get involved & be a part of the action. Available roles include marshals, standard bearers, caddie services and many others.



## Navratri & Diwali Celebration



Many residents enjoyed dancing, delicious food and beautiful outfits at this year's Navratri & Diwali Celebration, an event made possible thanks to the Community Relations Committee Welcome Series, the Upper Arlington Community Foundation, the Upper Arlington Library, and several community members.

## Leaf Collection

**Public Works Division | 614-583-5350**

The City is providing leaf collection services through early December, weather permitting. A Leaf Collection Tracking Map is available on the **Leaf Collection** section of our website, so that



you can follow the progress of collection crews in your area and anticipate when they are likely to be on your street.

Please follow these guidelines:

- Place loose-raked leaves close to the edge of the street in the tree lawn, **not in the street.**
- Leaf piles should extend no further than two-three feet behind the curb.
- Do not place grass clippings, rocks, sticks or other objects in leaf piles – please continue to use the weekly yard waste collection service to dispose of other yard waste debris.
- Keep piles away from signposts, light poles, trees and mail boxes.
- Do not block storm sewers as this can increase the chance of flooding in the event of a heavy rain.
- Parked vehicles should be at least 15 feet away from either side of leaf piles so that collection crews have safe access to the leaves with their truck and leaf machine.
- **The last day to rake leaves is Sunday, December 7.**
- Once the program has ended, place leaves in approved biodegradable bags or trash cans clearly marked as “Yard Waste” and put them out for collection on your regular Solid Waste collection day.

## Election Signs Collection

**November 3-21**

**3600 Tremont Road**

The City will host a collection site for election signs through Friday, November 21, located at the back of the Municipal Services Center by the Police Bay. Residents are asked to separate the signs from their metal stakes and to place items in the appropriate, marked collection bins:

- Paper signs
- Corrugated plastic signs
- Film plastic signs
- Metal stakes

## Bring Us Your Pumpkins!

**November 1-December 8**

Special pumpkin-only collection containers will be available at Fancyburg Park beginning October 31 through early December. Simply toss your pumpkins into the containers and they will be transported to a compost facility. Please



**DO NOT** put any pumpkins in your curbside food waste containers or the food waste drop-off bins at the Municipal Services Center, Sunny 95 Park, and Fancyburg Park.

## Holiday Lights Recycling Program

**Available Through January 31**

Public Works Division | 614-583-5350

Following the holidays, the City is offering a holiday light recycling program. Bins will be available at the Municipal Services Center, 3600 Tremont Road, at the rear of the building, near the food waste composting containers. Lights only please, no bags or other material. Light strands should never be placed in the blue recycle containers as they are considered “tanglers” and can cause major issues within the recycling facility.

Holiday lights are also accepted year-round through the City's Electronic Waste Drop Off location, at 4100 Roberts Road.

## Christmas Tree Collection

**Yard Waste | 614-583-5370**

Local Waste, will collect live Christmas trees on your regular collection day as part of the yard waste collection program. Remove all decorations and place trees (do not place in bags) at the curb by 7 am. If the tree is eight feet or taller, please cut it in half.

## 2026 Trash & Recycling Holiday Collection Delays

Since Local Waste collection crews follow some, but not all City holiday observances, here's a rundown of the trash and recycling collection delays for 2026:

- **New Year's Day:** Thursday, January 1 - **Thursday zone collected on Friday**
- **Memorial Day:** Monday, May 25 - **All zones have a one-day delay**
- **Independence Day:** Friday, July 3 - **No delays**
- **Labor Day:** Monday, September 7 - **All zones have a one-day delay**
- **Thanksgiving Day:** Thursday, November 26 - **Thursday zone collected on Friday**
- **Christmas Day:** Friday, December 25 - **No delays**
- **New Year's Day:** Friday, January 1, 2027 - **No delays**

# Schools<sup>★</sup>iNSIGHT

BI-MONTHLY NEWS FROM UPPER ARLINGTON SCHOOLS

NOVEMBER | DECEMBER 2025



## Facilities Master Planning Update

Upper Arlington Schools is moving forward with phase two of the facilities master planning process, with an emphasis this fall on gathering even more feedback from stakeholders to help inform the decisions ahead.

In June, the Upper Arlington Board of Education reviewed extensive community feedback from the spring on the draft options for the aging middle schools and Burbank Early Childhood School. The Board recommended removing some of those options from consideration due to higher estimated costs and longer construction timelines.

This fall, the remaining options are being shared with stakeholders for further input and clarification through a variety of opportunities, including:

- A joint meeting of the building teams for Hastings and Jones middle schools and Burbank in September.

- Focus groups including randomly selected parents/guardians in the district and community members, conducted by a third-party research provider.
- A scientific community survey conducted in October and November, as well as a corresponding online survey open to all residents.

"Our goal throughout this process has been to make sure that every voice in our community can be heard," said Superintendent Robert Hunt, Ph.D. "This fall, we're creating even more opportunities for parents, staff, students, and residents to share their thoughts, ask questions, and help us get to the best path forward for our schools."

This will all lead up to an opportunity for the community to come back together for the fifth community engagement session in the process – on November 19 at 6 pm at Upper

Arlington High School, 1625 Zollinger Road. This session will include a review of the revised draft options, updates on the feedback opportunities this fall, and an initial overview of the input received.

By the end of the year, the district expects to have a clearer understanding of the community's priorities and desires for phase two of the master planning process.

"As we continue to listen and learn, the feedback we gather will directly shape the recommendation we bring forward," Dr. Hunt said. "This is a community-driven process, and our decisions must reflect the values and expectations of the people we serve."

Following this extensive outreach effort, the district will convene a Financial Advisory Board of community experts to help finalize a master plan recommendation. That recommendation is expected to be presented to the Board of Education in the spring of 2026.





## SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES

Robert Hunt, Ph.D.

### Taking Bold Steps on the Excellence & Innovation 2030 Strategic Plan

*Robert Hunt, Ph.D., is the superintendent of Upper Arlington Schools. You can email him at [superintendent@uaschools.org](mailto:superintendent@uaschools.org).*

This fall, Upper Arlington Schools continues to advance the goals of our Excellence & Innovation 2030 Strategic Plan, focusing on providing engaging learning experiences, fostering a strong culture, and strengthening connections across our community.

- **Engaged Learning:** We are exploring ways to enhance school schedules and staffing practices to better support student outcomes through a research partnership with New Solutions K12. Tremont and Windermere elementary schools are also continuing their pilot of the Next Education Workforce model, which promotes collaboration to more effectively meet the needs of every student. Additionally, the district has established new committees focused on STEM and AI, ensuring we stay at the forefront of innovation and emerging technologies.
- **Culture & Climate:** This fall, we are introducing Amplify, a district-level student voice committee for grades 7-12. Amplify gives students a platform to share their perspectives, help shape the school experience, and promote leadership and engagement opportunities.
- **Connections:** We are strengthening two-way communication with families, staff and community members through ongoing and new initiatives. Our monthly Coffee & Conversation events provide opportunities for open dialogue with residents, while Board



**EXCELLENCE  
& INNOVATION  
2030**

Upper Arlington Schools Strategic Plan

Connections offers regular insight for Board of Education members into school activities and programs. Upcoming Coffee & Conversation dates are available at [www.uaschools.org/CoffeeConversation](http://www.uaschools.org/CoffeeConversation).

While we have made important strides, we are still at the beginning of this strategic work, which will continue to guide and shape our district through 2030. We are energized by the progress so far and excited about the opportunities ahead to enhance learning, engagement and innovation for every student.

#### State Report Cards

In September, the Ohio Department of Education released the 2024-2025 school report cards. Upper Arlington Schools again earned five stars overall, one of only 47 districts of the more than 600 statewide to achieve this distinction. We also received five stars in Achievement, Progress, Gap Closing and

Graduation, with our overall Performance Index score increasing for the fourth consecutive year.

While these results are encouraging, they reflect only one measure of success. Our primary focus remains on challenging and supporting every student while nurturing the whole child.

#### Progressive Education Review

Over the past year, we have conducted a review of our long-standing progressive education program, which serves approximately 475 students at Wickliffe Progressive Elementary School and 330 students at Barrington Elementary School. Based on feedback from students, staff and families, we have developed a set of recommendations to strengthen this program for today's students and for the future.

We shared an update on the review with the Board of Education at a special meeting in September, and work on these next steps is already underway.

## Treasurer's Notes

Andrew L. Geistfeld

In October, I presented the district's financial forecast, formerly known as the five year forecast, to the Board of



Education at their regular meeting. This represents a shift in our past practices based on a provision in the state biennium budget approved this past summer.

Under the new state law, public school districts are now required to submit their current budget information, three years of historical financial information and three years of projections by August 31 of each fiscal year. This information must be updated and re-submitted with the state by the end of February for that fiscal year. Due to the timing of the passage of the budget bill, we had additional time to prepare our financial forecast for this fiscal year only and submit it by an October deadline.

Although the new state law outlines a requirement for only three years of future year projections, as a district we will continue to provide our community with four years of projections. This

is an important part of our ongoing commitment to financial transparency for our community. It also serves as a critical tool to help us assess potential impacts on our district's financial health and identify future needs.

The new financial forecast reflects the continued phase-in of the Fair School Funding Plan for the next two years, plus additional funding for performance-based initiatives. For Upper Arlington Schools, this will translate into an increase of approximately \$1.4 million in state unrestricted funding in fiscal year 2026 and an additional \$1 million in fiscal year 2027. However, it's important to remember that only 14% of the school district's general fund revenue is projected to come from some type of state support. The district receives the

largest portion of its revenue – 81% – from local property taxes.

This fall, we are also continuing to monitor the potential for legislative movement and veto overrides related to property tax funding for public school districts.

You can review the new financial forecast on our website at [www.uaschools.org/treasurer](http://www.uaschools.org/treasurer). If you'd like to take a deeper look at our finances, I also encourage you to review our most recent Financial Update, our annual financial accountability report. If you have additional questions about our district's finances, you can contact me at [treasurer@uaschools.org](mailto: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](http://www.uaschools.org) for the most up-to-date information.

### Upcoming Board of Education Meetings:

- Tuesday, November 11, 6 pm – Council Chamber
- Tuesday, December 9, 6 pm – Council Chamber

For additional information on the members of the Board of Education and its policies, please visit [www.uaschools.org/board](http://www.uaschools.org/board).

## SchoolsINSIGHT

BI-MONTHLY NEWS FROM UPPER ARLINGTON SCHOOLS

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# BITES From the Apple

SCHOOLS NEWS AND USEFUL INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS



## 15 Students Named National Merit Semifinalists

Upper Arlington Schools is proud to celebrate the accomplishments of 15 Upper Arlington High School seniors who have been named National Merit Semifinalists.

These outstanding members of the Class of 2026 scored among the top 1% of high school seniors nationwide on the PSAT/NMSQT, earning the opportunity to compete for nearly \$28 million in scholarships.

Congratulations to Upper Arlington High School's National Merit Semifinalists: **Anthony Cavallario, William Fitkin, Keshav Goyal, Edie Hampel, Hannah Hunt, Colin Kennedy, Izzy Midlam-Mohler, Angie Nguyen, Anya Pathak, Adrian Pecourt, Andrew Petzinger, Matt Schmersal, Ayla Sutherland, Alex Vacchiano and Mani Vutha.**

Beginning in February, the National Merit Scholarship program expects to notify about 95 percent of the Semifinalists that they advanced to Finalist status after fulfilling several requirements, including having a record of a high academic achievement in grades nine through 12 and earning a high score on the SAT or ACT.

Approximately half of the Finalists will be awarded National Merit Scholarships and the Merit Scholar® title.

## 20 UAHS Musicians Selected for All-State Ensembles

Congratulations to 20 Upper Arlington High School students who have been selected for the 2026 Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA) All-State Ensembles. This highly selective recognition is awarded to students from across Ohio through a competitive audition process.

- All-State Band: **Mani Vutha**
- All-State Choir: **Dominic Alicea, Kennedy Bates, Martin Cabrera,**

**Santiago Castro Araya, Lily Comisar, Griffin Crowe (alternate), Aizik Gentile, Cameron Krisiewicz, Chloe Malatesta, Miles Prince, Henry Wade and Jimmy Zolkowski**

- All-State Jazz Band: **Joseph Jonaus**
- All-State Orchestra: **Bob Cai, Charlie Cheng, Cindy Ju, Andre Olate (alternate), Joonyoung Park (alternate) and Jintao Wu**

These talented Golden Bears will perform at the OMEA Professional Development Conference in January.

In addition, 18 additional UAHS musicians have been selected for the 2026 OMEA Regional Orchestra, showcasing the depth of musical talent in our school community.

Further showcasing the depth of musical talent in our school community, 17 additional UAHS musicians have been selected for the 2026 OMEA Regional Orchestra: **Claire Ammons, Milo Buehler, Serena Huang, Emily Lin, Neel Mawalkar, Avery Meier, Angela Nguyen, Daniel Park, Hannah Piao, Nathan Reaves, Evan Reinhardt, Marion Robertson, Ashton Saling, Lillian Schriver, Jacob Stross, Masao Tamiya and Angela Wei.** Their peers who were selected for All-State Orchestra will join them in performing as part of the Regional Orchestra.







### Tremont Teacher Earns Smithsonian Recognition

Tremont Elementary School teacher Paula Eschbach has been honored with the Community Collaborator Award from the Smithsonian Air and Space Teacher Innovation Institute (TII). She was nominated for the award by her peers in the program, which she has been part of since 2019.

Since then, Eschbach has participated in weeklong summer professional learning experiences in Washington, D.C., bringing a wealth of innovative opportunities to her fifth-grade students at Tremont. Highlights include a year-long project comparing solar eclipse data with students in Oklahoma; launching rockets with pocket labs that collect real-time data on speed, altitude, temperature and more; and integrating technology into the classroom in creative ways – including “planet putt-putt courses” using Sphero and Ozobot robots.

“The relationships I’ve built through this program have kept me excited and energized to learn and try new things,” said Eschbach, who is in her 15th year of teaching at Tremont. “These approaches have expanded my own learning and made me even more enthusiastic about teaching.”



### Greensview Designated an Apple Distinguished School

Greensview Elementary School is pleased to announce it has been recognized as an Apple Distinguished School for the

2025-2026 program term. Schools apply and are selected for this distinction based on their commitment to continuous innovation in education and using Apple products to inspire, imagine, and impact teaching and learning.

Apple Distinguished Schools are centers of leadership and educational excellence, with a clear vision for how technology-rich environments support learning goals. In Apple Distinguished Schools, forward-thinking leaders and their communities work to inspire, imagine, and impact teaching and learning, and they have documented results of academic accomplishments.

Schools all over the world are using iPad and Mac to transform learning. As teachers incorporate technology into their lessons, they empower students to lead, learn, and thrive, to discover new opportunities, and to make their world a better place.

“At Greensview, technology is not just a tool – it’s a pathway for students to imagine, create and share their learning in ways that impact both their local and global communities,” Principal Jason Wulf said. “This distinction reflects the hard work of our staff, the support of our families and the innovation of our students.”

### Thanksgiving Break Food Support



Upper Arlington Schools is partnering with the Tri-Village Packers for their Thanksgiving break food distribution program. The Tri-Village Packers will distribute grocery items to district families for the days out of school over Thanksgiving break (November 26-30). The food will be provided at no cost to district families who would benefit from the support.

To sign up for this round of food distribution, please scan the QR code and complete the form by the end of the day on **Monday, November 10, 2025**. The school district will keep the information you provide in the form confidential unless you request otherwise.

## SERVE LEAD SUCCEED... SERVE LEAD SUCCEED



*Our preK students at Burbank Early Childhood School saved pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters to support childhood cancer research – raising an incredible \$3,100. Thanks to a generous anonymous donor, that total was matched for even greater impact!*



*Students at Jones Middle School embraced a commitment to service during their Service Learning Kickoff Day – reflecting our schools' long-standing dedication to making a positive impact in the community. In addition to a nonperishable food drive for Heart to Heart Food Pantry, they supported various causes in the community.*



### Fostering a Conversation with John O'Leary

On September 17, Upper Arlington High School students, in partnership with Upper Arlington Schools, the Upper Arlington Education Foundation and Alumni Association, and the Upper Arlington Community Foundation, led the second annual Fostering a Conversation event – bringing inspiration and connection to the heart of our community. John O'Leary, burn survivor, bestselling author and the inspiration behind the upcoming film "Soul on Fire," captivated Upper Arlington High School students with stories of resilience, courage and the impact a single person can have on the world. Students engaged in both full-school assemblies and small-group discussions during the school day, leaving energized and challenged to live boldly and with purpose. That evening, the community gathered to hear O'Leary's moving message of encouraging everyone to embrace life fully, joyfully and intentionally. From heartfelt reflection to laughter, the day was filled with moments that sparked conversation across generations.





# SERVE LEAD SUCCEED... SERVE LEAD SUCCEED



*Tremont Elementary School students turned math into pesto magic! Using grams, milliliters and tablespoons, they whipped up fresh basil pesto – delicious learning from the school garden.*



*Upper Arlington High School welcomed Erin Moriarty (Class of 1970), an award-winning "48 Hours" and CBS News journalist and one of our 2025 Distinguished Alumni Award recipients. She joined UAHS broadcast journalism students for the "Kickin' It Live" broadcast and a Q&A session.*



*Upper Arlington High School celebrated homecoming in September. Pictured are the members of the Homecoming Court on Ted Wolford Field at Marv Moorehead Memorial Stadium.*



*Barrington Elementary School students and staff were all smiles for the start of a new school year – taking time to focus on creating a strong sense of community and support within their classrooms.*



*Windermere Elementary students came together for Windermere Way Day – celebrating teamwork, community and living out the Windermere Way: Respectful, Responsible and Ready to Learn.*



*With the support of teachers and high school student counselors, students from both Hastings and Jones middle schools made memories at their annual 6th grade camps.*



# Sparkling Moments That Matter: Wickliffe Students Bring Math to Life With Bird Data Center

What happens when math takes flight? At Wickliffe Progressive Elementary School, students are discovering the answer firsthand. Their bird data collection center turns classroom lessons into a hands-on project where numbers, nature and curiosity soar together. Maintained throughout the year, the center keeps lessons connected to the real world, sparking questions, observations and conversations.

The project began last year as an end-of-year challenge for Shelly Hughes and Andrew Williams' math classes: take all the skills learned throughout the year and apply them to a real-world problem. With a grant from the Upper Arlington Education Foundation, students sketched designs, measured fences, calculated budgets, and built trellises, planted gardens, and installed bird feeders.

"This was just one big word problem in real life," said one student, Livie.

Beyond the calculations, students gained hands-on experience with tools, teamwork and responsibility. "It makes me feel grown up using that stuff," said another student, Margaux.

Once built, the center became an ongoing classroom resource. Students track birds, tend the plants and turn observations into graphs and data analyses, linking math and science lessons



to tangible results. "We write down what we see, and then we ask questions about it," Margaux explained. "It brings a lot of curiosity into the classroom."

Looking ahead, the center will continue to inspire new generations of students, offering opportunities for data collection, problem-solving and scientific inquiry – while reminding the original builders that their work has a lasting impact. "It will always make me come to Wickliffe and say, 'Oh hey, I built that,'" Margaux said.

By giving students a chance to apply learning in meaningful, hands-on ways, projects like the bird data collection center create moments that foster curiosity, confidence and a love for discovery.

## Sparkling Moments That Matter: How This Project Supports Our Strategic Plan

Creating authentic academic experiences, rooted in the characteristics of the Profile of an Engaged Learner, is one of the primary focuses of the Excellence & Innovation

2030 Strategic Plan for Upper Arlington Schools. This project reflects four skills/characteristics in the Profile of an Engaged Learner:

- **Solution Seekers:** We engage curiously with each other and the world by asking meaningful questions, synthesizing knowledge, thinking critically and considering diverse perspectives to generate actionable ideas.
- **Creative:** We take purposeful risks to build connections that allow us to innovate beyond what currently exists.
- **Skilled Communicators:** We clearly, thoughtfully and ethically give language to our ideas, listen with the intent to understand, and connect respectfully with others.
- **Responsible and Resilient:** We own our actions. We take pride in our work, accept challenges, and persevere through setbacks.



## 2025-2026 SCHOOL DATES

**General Election Day: No School for Students; Staff Report Per Schedule**

**Tuesday, November 4**

**No School for Students; Staff Report Per Schedule**

**Wednesday, November 26**

**Thanksgiving Break**

**Thursday, November 27 and Friday, November 28**

**End of 2nd Quarter & 1st Semester (Grades K-12)**

**Friday, December 19**

**Winter Break: No School for Students; Staff Report Per Schedule**

**Monday, December 22-Friday, January 2, 2026**

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

**Monday, January 5**

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Day: No School for Students & Staff**

**Monday, January 19**

**Early Dismissal (K-12)**

**Wednesday, January 21**

**Dismissal at 1 pm for elementary; 1:30 pm for secondary**

**Presidents' Day: No School for Students & Staff**

**Monday, February 15**

**Elementary Early Dismissal (K-5)**

**Thursday, February 19**

**Dismissal at 11:05 am; no lunch service**

For the 2025-2026 calendar, visit [www.uaschools.org/calendars](http://www.uaschools.org/calendars). For a calendar of community events in our schools, visit [www.uaschools.org/communitycalendar](http://www.uaschools.org/communitycalendar).

## Golden Bear Reflections: Phillip Stevens, Class of 2023

For Phillip Stevens (Class of 2023), Upper Arlington High School was a place full of discovery. From the band room to AP classrooms, he found opportunities that not only shaped his passions but also helped prepare him for the future.

Music was at the heart of Phillip's high school experience. He spent all four years playing trombone in the marching band, symphonic band and jazz band. "They really gave me a sense of community and purpose," he said.

At the same time, Phillip was developing another side of himself through his classes. Science and math courses sparked an interest that would ultimately guide his college path. Today, he is studying chemical engineering at The Ohio State University – while also keeping music in his life as a member of the OSU Athletic Band, which plays at numerous athletic events, including the Spring Game.

Looking back, Phillip says the academic opportunities at UAHS gave him confidence to take the next step. "A lot of the AP classes and other courses helped prepare me for college," he reflected. "They gave me a foundation that I can build off of in my classes now."

When asked what stands out most



from his Golden Bear years, Phillip points to the wide range of choices students are given. "There's just so many different opportunities here," he shared. "There's lots of great staff, lots of great programs, and they're always willing to help you out and get you on the right path."

For Phillip, those opportunities added up to more than just a high school experience. They gave him the chance to explore, grow and carry the Golden Bear spirit with him into the future.



Join us this school year as we continue to build on our popular Coffee & Conversation series so you can stay connected and engaged with our schools.

**Finances & the UA+Ed**

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21**

**Technology in Our Schools**

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12**

**Gifted Education**

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 23**

All from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at the Bob Crane Community Center, 3200 Tremont Road



# Library NOVEMBER | DECEMBER 2025 iNSIGHT

BI-MONTHLY NEWS FROM THE UPPER ARLINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY



## Feed Kids, Help Pets, and Spread Joy

For many years you've supported our annual donation drive for Franklin County Children Services' Holiday Wish program. This year, we're expanding the drive to include help for hungry kids and sheltered animals.

Visit any UAPL branch from December 1-10 to add an item to our Bins of Kindness. We're collecting toys for FCCS Holiday Wish, supplies for CHA Animal Shelter, and nonperishable snacks for Tri-Village Packers, who provide food support for local students.

CHA Animal Shelter and Tri-Village Packers have specific requests, so visit <https://uapl.me/DonationDrive25> to see their wishlists as well as suggested toys for Franklin County Children Services.

Thank you for your generosity!



## A NOTE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Beth Pfahler

### An Update on Facilities

As we wrap up 2025, I want to share a few exciting updates and reflections on the past year.

We've officially hired a design architect for the Tremont Road Branch roof project. This is the first step toward making sure Tremont stays in great shape for the future, and we'll have more details to share with you as the design process moves forward. We know there's more work to do to make Tremont even better, but this is an important step in addressing critical building maintenance

issues. The project comes at a steep cost – projected at over \$1 million – but thanks to the community's support of our 2022 levy, we can continue to keep our buildings well-maintained for generations to come.

Over at the Miller Park Branch, we're starting to dream about new furniture and more flexible shelving. We're bursting at the seams during programs, and we'd love to make the space more adaptable – accommodating both quiet study and the lively programs you enjoy. Our goal is to make Miller Park work even better for all the ways you use it, whether that's finding the perfect book, meeting a neighbor, or settling in for storytime.

I'm thrilled with how much you've embraced our Quick Pick collection. These popular books that can't be placed on hold have been flying off the shelves, and many of you have told us how much you love the surprise of finding a new bestseller ready to take home.

And of course, we're still hearing glowing reviews about the renovated Lane Road Library! The two new first-floor meeting rooms have quickly become community favorites, buzzing with tutors, book clubs, and small group meetings nearly every day.

Thank you for making 2025 such a special year for UAPL. We can't wait to share even more good news with you in the year ahead.



# NewsBITES

## LIBRARY NEWS AND USEFUL INFORMATION

### Memory Lab

The new Memory Lab in the Research Department of our Tremont Road Branch is a do-it-yourself space with access to technology and instructions for digitizing audio and video media formats. Users can also scan photos and documents so that meaningful content can be preserved and easily shared with friends and family members. Formats that can be digitized include VHS and audio cassettes, 8 mm and Super 8 film, vinyl records, slides and negatives, photographs, and documents up to 11x17 inches. Note that a Research staff member can get you started, but the lab is self-service.

### Friends of the Library Book Sale

The Friends of the UA Library will hold a book sale from November 9-16 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 November 9 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 the famous bag sale, where shoppers can fill a paper grocery bag with books for \$5 (Friends members) or \$10 (nonmembers). Looking to donate items to the Friends? They accept books, videos, CDs and magazines that are in good, sellable condition. Please check your items to ensure they are free of mold and mildew, and are not significantly torn or damaged.

### Holiday Programs

We're getting ready for holiday- and winter-themed programs at our three branches. Santa will visit the Tremont Road Branch on Sunday, November 23. Sensory friendly visits will be held from 11 am-12:30 pm and regular

visits from 1-3 pm. Explore the Story of Christmas in Art with Sean Crum on December 2 at 4:30 pm at the Tremont Road Branch. Winter Wonderland will return to the Tremont Road Branch on Saturday, December 6. The Miller Park Branch will host Home for the Holidays featuring visits with Santa on Thursday, December 4. The branch will also offer a winter greeting card exchange from December 1-31, where you can donate an unused card or take one home. Kids can visit the Lane Road Branch to make cozy cards anytime from December 7-13. We're still planning at press time, so visit our program calendar at <https://uapl.me/events> to see our full schedule.

### Winter Reading Program

Our annual Winter Reading Program for all ages will run from January 5 through February 21, 2026. Read the next issue of *UA Insight* for details.

### Holiday Closings

We will close at 5 pm on Wednesday, November 26 and remain closed on Thanksgiving Day, November 27. We'll be closed from December 24-25 for Christmas. Finally, we'll close at 3 pm on Wednesday, December 31 and remain closed on Thursday, January 1 for New Year's.

## 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:

- No November meeting
- Tuesday, December 5

#### 2025 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](https://www.facebook.com/UAPublicLibrary)



[www.instagram.com/uapubliclibrary](https://www.instagram.com/uapubliclibrary)

# MAKING MEMORIES...building connections



The Ohio Bird Sanctuary visited to introduce children to a kestrel, chicken, bunny, and other friends from their facility.



Seniors met an anteater, skunk, and other critters when the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium brought their animal ambassadors for a visit.



Kids used a sock to smash open geodes and see what beauty was inside.





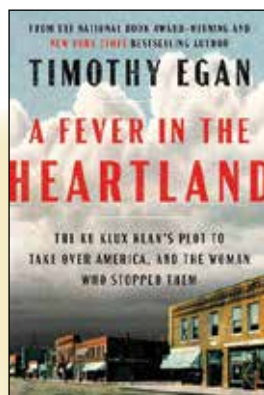
## OUR STAFF RECOMMENDS

### ***A Fever in the Heartland***

**By Timothy Egan**

This historical work tells the story of the rise of the Ku Klux Klan in the 1920s, the man who drove that rise, and ultimately the story of the woman who brought them to their knees. The shocking aspect of the story is that their domain at that time was not the south, but the American Heartland and West, with major incidents happening in Columbus, Ohio. This was a fascinating read.

– Dale, Adult Department



### ***The Guest***

**By Emma Cline**

Alex is a grifter with a shady past who finds herself in the Hamptons with Simon, a wealthy and capricious older man, who quickly discards her after a faux pas at a party. With dwindling funds and a broken phone, Alex must rely on her own resourcefulness and cunning as she navigates a series of increasingly desperate situations. Cline skillfully builds tension in prose that is at once precise and lyrical, calling attention to the fragile yet unyielding boundary of class in this compelling narrative of an undaunted guest without an invitation.

– Ash, Miller Park

### ***Over the Top: A Raw Journey to Self-Love***

**By Jonathan Van Ness**

Jonathan Van Ness (JVN) is the bubbly 'grooming expert' with a loud and fun personality on the hit Netflix series *Queer Eye*. In this book, he takes the reader on the raw and vulnerable journey through his life's story, refusing to shy away from the ugly truths of growing up queer in a small town. From



an assault in adolescence to infidelity in adulthood, we are given all the details in JVN's unique idiolect. This book highlights the nuances and multifaceted aspects of a singular person, even when they come off as the "endlessly positive" friend.

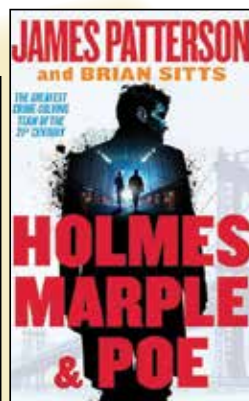
– Rose, Adult Department

### ***The Pine Cone's Secret: A Life Cycle Poem***

**By Hannah Barnaby**

In this rhyming life cycle picture book, a pine cone becomes something new with each turn of the page, from a tower to a feast, from a magic trick to a Christmas tree. Extensive back matter on fun facts about pine trees and where to find them, along with a craft, are included.

– Laura, Technical Services Department



### ***Holmes, Marple & Poe and Holmes is Missing***

**By James Patterson**

In *Holmes, Marple & Poe*, three detectives open an investigation agency in a large old building that formerly housed a bakery in NYC. All three have mysterious backgrounds and something is always happening as they accept and tackle any and all cases. Each investigator adds their own spin

to their detective work. In the second book in the series, *Holmes is Missing*, babies are missing and the trio is on the case. The police aren't happy with their help, but one detective becomes friends with the three investigators. But then Holmes is hospitalized and goes missing, and Marple and Poe are on their own. They find out there is more going on than the three missing newborn babies from the hospital.

– Bonnie Meyers, Lane Road Branch

### ***Candle Island***

**By Lauren Wolk**

Lucretia and her mother move to a small island off the coast of Maine to get away from the paparazzi who constantly look for Lucretia's mom, a famous artist. They also both want to process the death of Lucretia's father, the man who held the family together. Lucretia begins a new life on the island, which is full of secrets, summer vacationers, and the possibility of her mother's location being found. Amidst all of this, Lucretia has her own secrets to keep but may find that harder to do than she ever thought.

– Maddie Smith, Youth Department





City of **Upper  
Arlington**

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# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Visit our Community Event calendar at  
[upperarlingtonoh.gov](http://upperarlingtonoh.gov) for more on these events

## **UACA Golden Bear Scare**

6-9 pm, October 27-29  
Smith Nature Park, Fishing Road  
UA Civic Association | [www.uaca.org](http://www.uaca.org)  
Free event.

## **History Speaks**

**Ohio v. Michigan: The Rivalry**  
7-8:15 pm, Wednesday, Oct. 29  
Bob Crane Community Center  
UA Historical Society | [uahistory.org](http://uahistory.org)

## **Beggars Night & Pumpkin Patrol**

6-8 pm, Thursday, October 30  
Throughout UA neighborhoods  
UA Police & Pumpkin Patrol ensure  
children are safe as they Trick or Treat.

## **CRC Welcome Series**

**Upper Arlington: The Early Years**  
6:30 pm, Wednesday, November 12  
Tremont Library, Friends Theater  
Join Kristin Greenberg, Executive  
Director of the UA Historical Society for  
a presentation of the people, challenges  
and defining moments of our young  
community. Free to attend.

## **Santa's Mailbox**

**November 14-December 11**  
Bob Crane Community Center  
3200 Tremont Road  
Boys and girls who place a letter in  
Santa's special mailbox receive a letter



from Santa. To guarantee delivery, include  
child's full name, address and an un-  
affixed postage stamp. One child's letter  
per envelope please!

## **Chase Columbus Turkey Trot**

9 am, Thursday, November 27  
Begins at Shops on Lane Avenue  
[www.columbusturkeytrot.com](http://www.columbusturkeytrot.com)  
This annual event brings together  
thousands of runners and walkers for a 2.6  
mile or five mile course, and all in support  
of the Easter Seals of Central & Southeast  
Ohio.

## **Winter Festival**

6-8:30 pm, Friday, December 5  
Mallway Business District  
UA Parks & Recreation  
Join UA Parks & Rec for an evening of  
carols, cookie decorating, ice sculpting,  
horse-drawn carriage rides, visits with  
Santa, and the traditional tree lighting  
ceremony.

## **Breakfast & Brunch With Santa**

Saturday, December 6  
Amelita Mirolo Barn, Sunny 95 Park  
Registration Opens 6 am November 5 for  
Residents and BCCC members; and at Noon  
for Non-Residents  
UA Parks & Recreation | [parks.uaoh.net](http://parks.uaoh.net)  
Enjoy a delicious breakfast/brunch buffet  
with Santa. Visit with Santa for pictures  
and discuss your Christmas wishes.

## **UACA Christmas in the Park**

Noon-4 pm & 5-9 pm, Sunday,  
December 7  
6-9 pm, Monday-Thursday,  
December 8-11  
Thompson Park  
Registration opens November 10  
UA Civic Association | [www.uaca.org](http://www.uaca.org)  
Registered families enjoy crafts and  
snacks in the north shelter house before  
enjoying a personalized visit with Santa.  
You must be a current UACA member to  
be able to register for this event.