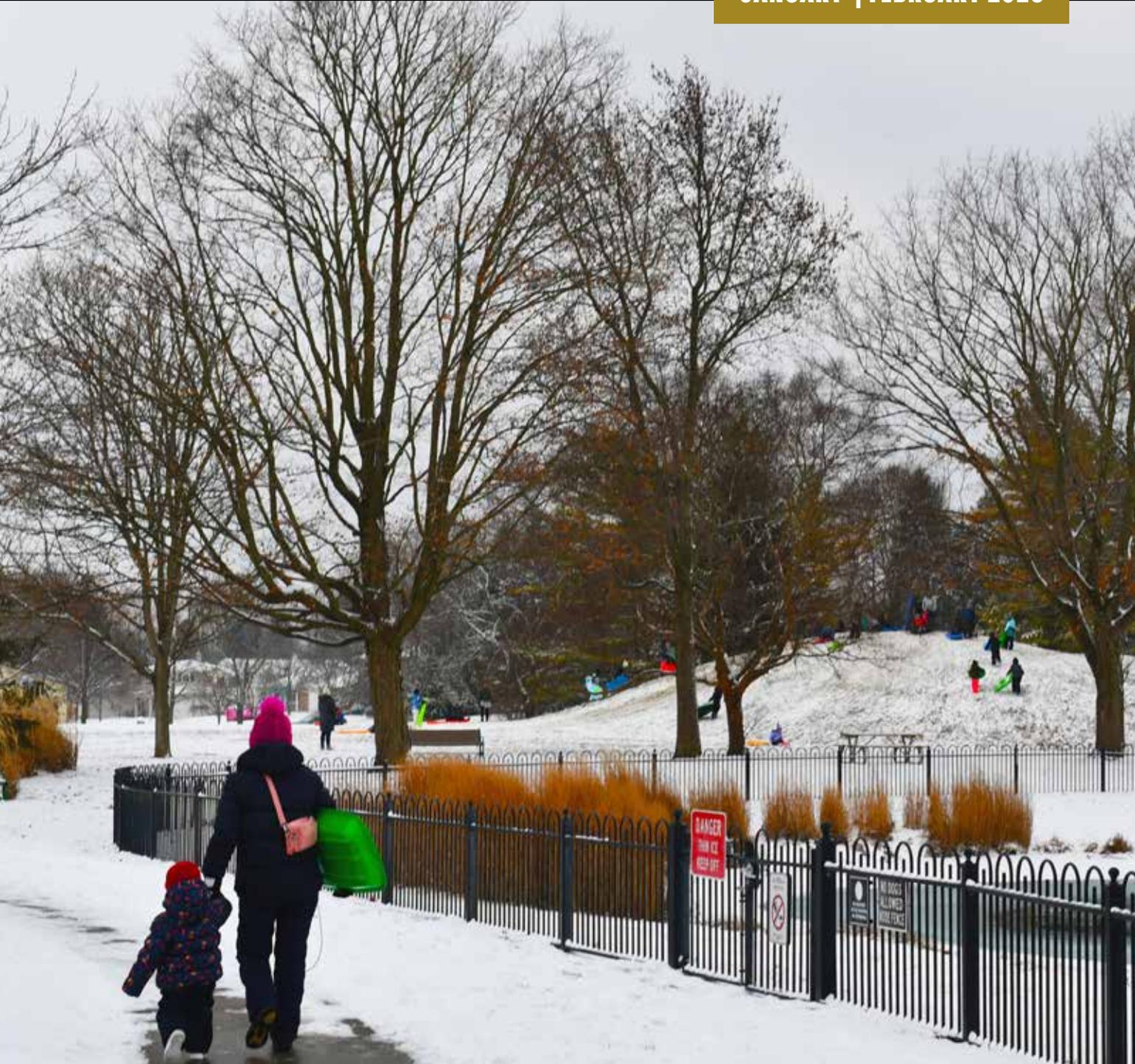


UA[★]iNSIGHT

JANUARY | FEBRUARY 2026



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



It's Time to Improve Five Points

By the end of 2026, the three major streets that come together at the Kingsdale Five Points intersection, will have undergone significant improvements. These upgrades have been enhancing safety and accessibility for motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists, as well as transforming roadway aesthetics with a plethora of new street trees and streetlights.

For all the improvements, these three streets converge into a dated intersection that has struggled to accommodate traffic levels efficiently and safely.

In preparation for addressing the challenges posed by the intersection, some initial study work was completed in 2016, and then revisited in 2024. In 2025, the City contracted with American Structurepoint, Inc., a national, full service architecture and engineering firm with an office in Columbus, to develop concepts for improving the intersection.

The team has undertaken a series of traffic counts through the intersection, developed future traffic flow projections, considered options for

optimizing safe access for pedestrians and bicyclists, considered emergency vehicle needs, and assessed options for accommodating the surrounding below-and-above-ground utilities that run through the area. From this work, they have developed several improvement concepts that are ready to be shared with the community (yes...roundabouts are under consideration in the concepts).

Community Meeting **Tuesday, January 27** **5:30-7:30 pm, Presentation at 6 pm** **Bob Crane Community Center** **Level 5 Event Center** **3200 Tremont Road**

Please join us to learn more about the history, challenges and opportunities presented by prospective improvements to the Five Points intersection.

The meeting will be a combination of open house and presentation formats. Attendees will be able to view visual exhibits for each of the concepts, with a representative from the consultant team at each exhibit to answer questions. A presentation will begin at 6 pm that

will include project history, high level traffic data and each of the proposed concepts. The presentation will be followed by a Q&A session. A brief survey will also be available to gather additional feedback.

Following this first meeting, a recording of the presentation will be shared on the City's website, and residents will be able to complete an online version of the survey.

This meeting will be the first of several opportunities to learn about the pending project and to share your thoughts, as a preferred alternative emerges from the design process.

It is hoped that final direction will be set by the close of 2026, with detailed design work scheduled for 2027, and construction currently slated for 2028.

If you have questions or comments about this project, please direct them to engineering@uaoh.net. A Five Points project page is available on the City's website, under the "Ready for a Change" section, which can be accessed from the homepage, at upperarlingtonoh.gov.

Bob Crane Community Center Fitness Class Passes

Taking effect January 1, 2026, the new Fitness Class Passes provide customer flexibility, variety & value

Effective January 1, 2026, UA Parks & Rec is transitioning its group fitness class model to a new approach that will greatly enhance customer options. Developed in direct response to feedback from fitness class participants, the key benefits of the new Fitness Class Pass model include:

- **Flexibility** - choose classes that fit best with your schedules each week.
- **Variety** - try different classes to mix up your workouts.
- **Value** - choose from a range of Fitness Pass options to maximize your investment.

Classes featured in the Fitness Class Pass schedule include various yoga and Pilates options, Zumba, strength and cardio conditioning, and low impact cardio options. The schedule is subject to change, based on demand, participation and instructor availability, therefore it's advisable to check the Fitness Pass Schedule regularly for the most up-to-date information.

Fitness Class Pass Options

Fixed Number Fitness Passes

Perfect for customers who want an option that fits with their busy schedules, who want to try a new class before committing, or for a visitor to UA looking for an option to keep them active while they are in town:

- **Single Class Pass** - \$12 for a BCCC member, or \$15 for a non-member
- **Five Class Pass** - \$60 for a BCCC member, or \$75 for a non-member
- **Ten Class Pass** - \$120 for a BCCC member, or \$150 for a non-member

The fixed number Fitness Class Passes are loaded onto a class pass key fob for non-members or your BCCC key fob for members.



Best Value: Monthly Unlimited Pass - \$60 for BCCC members

Available for customers with monthly BCCC memberships, the Monthly Unlimited Pass offers the best value for money for customers who participate in five or more classes per month. This add on is charged to your account the first of each month, along with your membership fee, and is loaded on to your BCCC membership key fob.

Fitness Class Pass Schedule & Class Participation

The Fitness Pass Schedule lists the days and times for all fitness classes that are included within the Fitness Class Pass format. Once you have purchased your Fitness Class Pass, you can participate in any of these classes drop-in style - just bring your class pass key fob or BCCC membership key fob with you (non-members must also check-in first at the front desk) to be scanned at class check-in, which typically begins 10 minutes before the start of a class.

All other fitness classes are available in a series of sessions, and require separate registration and payment, which is clearly indicated as part of the class description in the *Activity Guide*.

Older Adult Fitness & Water Fitness Classes

Due to popularity and/or limited space, the registration process for older adult fitness and water fitness classes is not changing. Patrons will still need to register and pay for a full session of classes in advance, and it will not be possible to participate in any of these classes in a drop-in manner.

New Year, New Fitness Goals

We hope you find these adjustments to the fitness classes available at the Bob Crane Community Center, beneficial to your fitness goals for 2026.

If you have questions about these changes, please contact parks@uaoh.net or stop by the front desk at the Bob Crane Community Center.

FROM CHAMBERS*Highlights of City Council & Its Policy Decisions***2026-2027 City Council**

The November election brought with it some changes in City Council, effective in the New Year. Council Vice President Brian Close and Council Member Jim Lynch both completed their second terms on Council and were therefore not eligible for an additional term. Kathy Adams had previously resigned from her role on Council in the fall, due to a move out of the community.

The remaining Council members will be welcoming newly elected members Nic Fortkamp, Laura Oldham and Ben Tracy to serve their first terms on Council.

The 2026-27 City Council is scheduled to convene for the first time on Monday, January 12, at which time the incoming members will be sworn into office for their 2026-30 terms. Additionally, Council as a Whole will select who from its ranks will serve as President and Vice President. These two positions also serve as Mayor and Vice Mayor for ceremonial duties.

Business will also include Council Member assignments to various entities, including:



The last meeting of 2025 included recognition for outgoing members Brian Close and Jim Lynch. Pictured from left: Todd Walter, President Ukeme Awakessien Jeter, Vice President Brian Close, Jim Lynch, Heidi Munc, and John Kulewicz.

- Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
- Council Liaison to the Community Relations Committee
- Board of Health
- 3 appointments to City Council's Rules Review Subcommittee
- 3 appointments to City Council's Financial Policies Subcommittee

Looking ahead to 2026, Council

meetings will typically be held the first, and second Mondays of each month, at the Municipal Services Center, 3600 Tremont Road. Please check the City's Meeting Calendar, at upperarlingtonoh.gov, in advance of these meetings, in the event of any schedule adjustments or cancellations.

If you have questions, please contact the City Clerk's Office, at city.council@uoah.net, or 614-583-5030.

"The Bob" Provides Training Facilities for Columbus Fury**Columbus' professional women's volleyball team takes advantage of UA's state-of-the-art facilities**

In December of 2025, the City began an exciting partnership that has brought the professional women athletes of a Major League Volleyball team to our community.

The Columbus Fury has made the Bob Crane Community Center ("The Bob") their primary training facility for the 2026 season.

"We're proud to welcome the Columbus Fury into the Bob Crane Community Center and into our community," said City Manager Steve Schoeny. "This partnership showcases the incredible resources we now have for fitness, recreation, and community

connection, and it gives residents the chance to see elite athletes in action right here in Upper Arlington."

The facility is conveniently located approximately six miles from Nationwide Arena, providing the team with an optimal space to prepare for the season ahead.

The Columbus Fury opens their 2026 season on the road on January 8 and returns to Nationwide Arena for their home opener on January 10.

As a thank you to the community, members of the Bob Crane Community Center are being offered a discount on ticket prices - watch for details via e-mail.



For ticket details, visit <https://provolleyball.com/ticket-center> or call 614-380-3879.

2026 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The City continues to place a high priority on maintaining and improving critical community infrastructure, as reflected by its 10-Year Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Read on for some highlights for 2026.

Northwest Boulevard Phase III Reconstruction

The section of Northwest Boulevard from Wilshire Drive to Fishinger Road will undergo complete roadway reconstruction, curb/gutter, and driveway approach replacement. This project will begin in the summer, following completion of the Columbia Gas transmission line project, and UA's Fourth of July celebrations.

Street Reconstruction Program

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

- Beverly Road - from Arlington Avenue to Coventry Road
- Elan Court - from Kempton Drive to the cul-de-sac
- Hoxton Court - from Surrey Hill Place to the cul-de-sac
- Kempton Drive - from Meekison Drive to Reed Road
- Meekison Drive - from Mackenzie Drive to Kempton Drive
- Farlington Drive - from Fishinger Road to River Park Drive (River Park Drive to Donna Drive will be mill and fill only)
- Shires Court - from Kempton Drive to the cul-de-sac
- Surrey Hill Place - from Johnston Road to Anson Street

Street Maintenance Program

Sections of 23 streets are scheduled for street maintenance work, which comprises street resurfacing and spot curb and gutter repairs: Allison Court, Ashmore Road, Bickley Place, Buckly Road, Center Drive, Chiselhurst Place, Donna Drive, Elginfield Road, Hillview Drive, Johnston Road, Kioka Avenue, Langport Road, Lear Road, Lowestone Road, Ly-

mington Road, Lytham Road, Middlesex Road, Norbrook Drive, Ridgeview Road, Surrey Hill Place, Wickliffe Road, Winfield Road, and York Road. Coventry Road, Riverside Drive and Sandover Road will receive new striping if funds allow.

Pedestrian Crosswalk Enhancements

The following crosswalks will receive various safety enhancements:

- Kioka Avenue at Swansea Road
- Kioka Avenue at Wickliffe Road
- McCoy Road at Mountview Road (2 crossings)
- McCoy Road at Woodbridge Road (2 crossings)
- Mountview Road at Lytham Road
- Northam Road at Coventry Road
- Redding Road at Edington Road (2 crossings)
- Ridgeview Road at Andover Road
- Stonehaven Drive at Stonehaven Place

Estimated at a total cost of \$670,000, these projects will be supported by up to \$393,000 in funding from ODOT's Transportation Alternative Program.

Other Highlights

- Waterline replacements are planned

for: Beverley Road, from Arlington Ave. to Andover Rd.; Lear Road, from Edgehill Dr. to Clairmont Rd.; and Zollinger Road, from Riverside Dr. to Tremont Rd.

- 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. This project is being funded through State Capital Grant Funds.
- A feasibility study will be undertaken for new sidewalks on Kioka Avenue, between Fishinger and Zollinger roads, and Nottingham Road, between Riverside Drive and Mountview Road.
- Continuation of the City's sidewalk maintenance program, annual bridge inspections and repairs; hydrant replacements, storm sewer repairs, and sanitary sewer rehabilitation projects.

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

Columbia Gas Transmission Line Replacement Projects

Columbia Gas plans to complete the bulk of its transmission line replacement projects in 2026, with the following streets impacted:

- 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 con-

struction 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 parade 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.



CITY MANAGER UPDATE

Steve Schoeny

Upper Arlington Part of America 250-Ohio Celebrations in 2026

The U.S. Semiquincentennial – marking 250 years since the nation's founding in 1776 – is upon us, and the Upper Arlington community is ready to be part of the celebrations.

This milestone year for our nation provides a time to reflect on the ideals that shaped the United States and how they continue to evolve. It offers us an opportunity to revisit the principles of liberty, democracy, and civic responsibility that underpinned the nation's creation, while also acknowledging the complexities and contradictions of that history.

Equally important, the Semiquincentennial is a forward-looking celebration that invites broad public participation across generations and cultures. It encourages Americans to connect local stories to the national narrative, highlighting how communities, individuals, and movements have shaped the country over our 250 year history. Through education, cultural events, and civic engagement, this commemoration can strengthen a shared sense of belonging and inspire renewed commitment to public service and the responsibility each generation holds to shape the nation's future.

Ohio has been preparing for the Semiquincentennial since 2022, when Governor DeWine formed the America 250-Ohio Commission, charged with leading Ohio's celebrations and inspiring communities across the state to participate.

Early in 2025, City Council passed a resolution enabling Upper Arlington to become an America 250-Ohio community, with a committee formed to



City of Upper Arlington

begin planning a series of projects and events tied to this milestone year.

Some highlights of these efforts include:

- **250 UA History Facts** - Watch for the launch of an interactive online map that will build over the course of the year to ultimately feature 250 history facts about UA. There are still facts to be created, and your ideas can be submitted via the Historical Society's website, at uahistory.org.
- **Walcutt-Legg Cemetery History Trail Sign** - Hidden away between Wellington School and the adjacent neighborhood is a small cemetery dating back to the early 1800s. Among those buried at the Walcutt-Legg Cemetery is Elijah Legg, a Revolutionary War soldier. The planning committee felt this was an appropriate year to upgrade signage at the site, to share insight on the cemetery and the area's founding families. On April 19, the community will be invited to a dedication ceremony that will include educational activities developed by Wellington students.
- **Spring Fling Celebrations** - Two America 250-Ohio activities will be combined with this year's Spring

Fling family event on Saturday, May 9: the unveiling of upgraded signage that details the genesis of the Amelita Mirolo Barn and its ties to the region's farming heritage; and the planting of 17 native Ohio trees in a nod to Ohio joining the union as the 17th state in 1803.

- **2026 July 4th Celebrations** - The UA Civic Association is incorporating America 250-Ohio themes into the "best day in UA."
- **Gallery Exhibits** - Look for a Historical Society exhibit celebrating 100 years of UACA's July 4th Parade, and community photos taken in during the United States' Bicentennial Year in 1976 by Robert Wagner - a former UA resident photographer and cinematographer at OSU - as part of UA's celebration.
- **Movies in the Parks** - UA Parks & Rec's popular outdoor summer movie series will feature at least one family-friendly movie with an Ohio tie.

Upper Arlington's America 250-Ohio celebrations are made possible thanks to the support and contributions of representatives from the following entities: Upper Arlington Historical Society, Upper Arlington Library, Upper Arlington Schools, Upper Arlington Civic Association, Upper Arlington Community Foundation, Upper Arlington Education Foundation, and Staff here at the City.

I do hope you join with us in these celebrations. For additional details, visit our America 250-Ohio webpage, at upperarlingtonoh.gov.

Older Adult Services Transition Update

Being able to age in place is a deeply meaningful goal for many older adults, allowing them to remain in their homes 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, and provide social connections.

After a months-long evaluation process, the New Year marks the consolidation of several community-driven older adult programs under the City's service umbrella. This includes programs previously provided by the Upper Arlington Commission on Aging, such as the UA Village and the "I Am Fine" automated telephone check-in service.

The move to consolidate these services follows the transition of former Senior Center programming and facilities into the Bob Crane Community Center - which has greatly expanded the opportunities available to older adults - and as the UA CARES paramedicine program continues to expand.

This approach will maintain and enhance existing programming, allow us to explore new services, centralize and expand volunteer opportunities, and simplify the user experience for older adults and their families.

Older Adult Services Community Conversations

Continuing our exploration of the needs and desires of older adult residents and how best to provide support for the aging process, a series of community conversations are scheduled. Caregivers, family members and residents are invited to share their thoughts at one of the following opportunities:

- **10 am, Monday, January 26** - Bob Crane Community Center, Level 5, Event Center C
- **3 pm, Wednesday, February 11** - Tremont Library, Friends Theater
- **12:30 pm, Tuesday, February 17** - Bob Crane Community Center, Level 5, Event Center A

Older Adult Services Webpage

upperarlingtonoh.gov/olderadultservices

An *Older Adult Services* landing page has been created on the City's website, under the *Services* section. Here you can find a list of available programs and services, links to resources, and more. We encourage you to check this page regularly for updates as our programming evolves.



While not required, RSVPs would be appreciated to olderadults@uaoh.net, or by calling 614-583-5326.

UA CARES Helpdesk

The CARES team is expanding its outreach to the community with the launch of regular CARES Helpdesk office hours each month. Residents can meet with our CARES Social Worker to ask questions about a variety of useful resources that can help older adults age safely, such as food and utility assistance, mental health and home safety checks, as well as providing support to caregivers, families and younger adults who may also be in need of connections with resources and services.

Please stop by the UA CARES Helpdesk to learn more about the available services on any of the following days, from 10 am-Noon:

- **Wednesdays, January 7 & February 4** - Bob Crane Community Center, Level 1, Public Safety Office
- **Wednesdays, January 14 & February 11** - Tremont Library
- **Wednesdays, January 21 & February 18** - Bob Crane Community Center, Level 2, Older Adult Services Office
- **Wednesday, January 28** - Miller Park Library
- **Wednesday, February 25** - Lane Road Library

Older Adults Services Volunteer Program

A key component to building a robust portfolio of older adult services, is strengthening the City's Volunteer Program.

Volunteer opportunities include:

- Engaging in social activities, through phone calls, friendly visits and helping with older adult events.
- Assisting with simple home exterior activities, such as raking leaves, snow removal, and light gardening.
- Providing home interior support, such as helping to change light bulbs, check/replace smoke detector batteries, help with paperwork, and pet care.
- Simple transportation support, such as driving older adults to appointments, and running errands.

Residents who are interested in joining the Older Adult Services Volunteer Program must complete a Volunteer Application Form, which can be accessed using the QR codes provided below.

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 older adult services, please contact our Parks & Rec Department, at 614-583-5326 or olderadults@uaoh.net.

Adult Volunteer Application Form



Minor Volunteer Application Form



NewsBITES

CITY NEWS AND USEFUL INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS

Public Holidays

City offices are closed in observance of the following holidays:

- **Thursday, January 1** – New Year's Day. Thursday's trash and recycling collection zone will be on a one-day delay.
- **Monday, January 19** – Martin Luther King Jr. Day. No Solid Waste delays.
- **Monday, February 16** – Presidents Day. No Solid Waste delays.

Bob Crane Community Center Holiday Hours

- **New Year's Eve** – Wednesday, December 31: 5:30 am-2 pm
- **New Year's Day** – Thursday, December 25: closed
- **Monday, January 19** – Martin Luther King Jr. Day. 5:30 am-10 pm
- **Monday, February 16** – Presidents Day: 5:30 am-10 pm

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.

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 Observances Calendar

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
friendsofuaoparks.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. If the temperature is below 25F, the event will be canceled.

- **January 24** - Thompson Park
- **February 21** - Reed Road Park

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.



PLAY UA

PARKS & RECREATION | parks@uaoh.net

UA Parks & Rec is committed to eliminating barriers for individuals and families, so that everyone can enjoy their programs and facilities. Don't let a financially challenging situation prevent you from much needed recreation and wellness activities. Learn how PLAY UA can help you participate in most programs at a 50% cost reduction.



CityINSIGHT

BI-MONTHLY NEWS FROM THE CITY OF UPPER ARLINGTON

Production:

Emma Speight, Community Affairs Director
Phone: 614-583-5045 | espeight@uaoh.net

City of
Upper Arlington

City of Upper Arlington

3600 Tremont Road
Upper Arlington, Ohio 43221
Phone: 614-583-5000
upperarlingtonoh.gov



[facebook.com/CityofUA](https://www.facebook.com/CityofUA)
[instagram.com/@cityofua](https://www.instagram.com/@cityofua)



UA Parks & Rec Receives Top Awards

We are thrilled to announce that the City will be taking home some top awards from the Ohio Parks & Recreation Association (OPRA) at its upcoming conference in early 2026.

Professional of the Year: Debbie McLaughlin, UA Parks & Rec Director - Debbie has been with the City for 10 years, and in many ways she has been the force behind Bob Crane Community Center, Northam Park improvements and much more.

First Place, Capital Improvement Projects: \$10 Million & Up: Bob Crane Community Center - UA's new central hub for health, wellness and connection took the top prize in recognition of the significant impact it has had on our community, and as a premier example of how indoor recreation space can be effectively provided on a limited urban site.

Third Place, Marketing Innovation: Bob Crane Community Center Preview Sessions - The Parks & Rec team was recognized for its innovative approach to introducing the Community Center to UA while affording staff hands-on training as they prepared for opening day.

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, under the *How Do I?* section.

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.

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.

PARKS & REC
City of Upper Arlington

INTERESTED IN JOINING OUR
TEAM?

YEAR-ROUND AND SEASONAL POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Lifeguards, Pool Managers, Swim Instructors, Summer Day Camp Workers, Facility Attendants, Building Attendants & More!

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

LEARN MORE ABOUT BENEFITS, WAGES AND MORE!

SCAN TO APPLY

Schools[★]iNSIGHT

BI-MONTHLY NEWS FROM UPPER ARLINGTON SCHOOLS

JANUARY | FEBRUARY 2026



Introducing Amplify: Our New District Student Voice Committee

Giving students a real voice in their education is at the heart of the Excellence & Innovation 2030 Strategic Plan for Upper Arlington Schools. This fall, the district took a big step forward with Amplify, a student voice committee for grades 7-12. Amplify empowers students to share their perspectives, influence school decisions and take on leadership roles that help shape the school experience for everyone.

In November, more than 30 students came together for an Amplify leadership retreat, building connections and exploring the committee's vision. The Upper Arlington Education Foundation generously provided financial support for the retreat, which featured Roy Hall Jr., a former Ohio State and NFL player and a prominent motivational speaker.

"Today is a really exciting day where we are all coming together for the first time – a group of over 30 students – to form the Amplify Student Voice Committee," said Ellen Wen, an Upper Arlington High School student who has

been deeply involved in the formation of the committee. "We're starting to develop leadership and communication skills and paint the picture for what this committee will do in the future."

The students involved in Amplify are focused on making the school a better, more inclusive place.

"I wanted to be part of Amplify just to represent and help all people," said Cruz Cardoso, a Hastings Middle School student.

Emilio Harari, also from Hastings Middle School, added, "I just want to make school productive and fun for kids—make it enjoyable for everybody."

Amplify also gives students a voice for communities with unique needs. Brooke Tice, an Upper Arlington High School student, shared, "I've gotten the chance to immerse myself in the deaf

community and work with kids who have inclusive communication needs. I want to help make a change for them."

Ellen highlighted the committee's broader impact: "The vision for this committee is to influence the policy that influences our lives."

"We have a great future, we have a great set of kids, we have great ideas bouncing around just from the few hours that we've been here today, and I'm just excited about the real change."





SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES

Robert Hunt, Ph.D.

Community Engagement Continues to Drive Phase Two of Facilities Master Planning

Robert Hunt, Ph.D., is the superintendent of Upper Arlington Schools. You can email him at superintendent@uaschools.org.

Community engagement has been central to this second round of our facilities master planning process, and I continue to be encouraged by the level of commitment from our stakeholders.

Over the past 18 months, more than 3,700 individuals have taken part in this work – volunteering on building teams, attending meetings or tours, completing surveys or participating in focus groups. That number will continue to grow as we await the final results from our most recent districtwide survey, which closed in mid-December.

As we move forward in the decisions phase, the feedback shared by our community will be even more valuable. It will help guide our efforts as we work to finalize a master plan recommendation for our aging middle schools and Burbank Early Childhood School.

This winter, we will convene a Financial Advisory Board made up of community members with expertise in facilities, construction and finance. This group will review and provide input on four key areas:

- The scope and cost of a phase two master plan
- Options for an implementation timeline
- Funding considerations for a potential bond issue
- The district's anticipated need for an operating levy in fall 2026

It's important to recognize that there is no zero-cost option. Hastings, Jones and Burbank all have immediate maintenance and repair needs – totaling an estimated \$124.8 million based on professional assessments completed earlier in phase two.

In the spring, we will share the findings of the Financial Advisory Board and offer additional opportunities for community feedback before presenting any recommendations to the Board of Education. We anticipate sharing a proposed master plan – including scope, implementation timeline, funding strategy and levy needs – in May or June.

I invite you to stay informed and involved as we continue this work together. You can learn more at www.uaschools.org/facilities. Your continued engagement will help ensure the final master plan reflects our community's shared values and vision for the future of our schools.



SchoolsINSIGHT

BI-MONTHLY NEWS FROM UPPER ARLINGTON SCHOOLS

Production:

Karen Truett
Chief Communications Officer
Phone: 614-487-5027
ktruett@uaschools.org



Upper Arlington Schools

1619 Zollinger Road
Upper Arlington, Ohio 43221
Phone: 614-487-5000 | www.uaschools.org

www.facebook.com/upperarlingtonschools

[www.twitter.com/UA_Schools](https://twitter.com/UA_Schools)

Treasurer's Notes

Andrew L. Geistfeld

Property taxes are a hot topic in Ohio right now. Over the past several decades, the overall tax burden on families, senior citizens and homeowners has increased. When it comes to school property taxes specifically, the share paid by homeowners and farmers across the state has risen from 47% in 1991 to 70% in 2023. This change is partly due to state-level adjustments, including the elimination of what was known as the "rollback" – where the state previously covered 12.5% of a homeowner's property tax bill – and the reduction of the business tangible personal property tax.

While homeowners now contribute more to public schools, property taxes also fund essential community services, including EMS, fire, police, libraries and



parks. Any state-level changes could affect both our schools and the services we all rely on every day.

We are closely monitoring legislation regarding property taxes and even a potential ballot initiative aimed at eliminating property taxes. As school leaders, we know that fair and balanced property tax reform is needed. However, we also know that careful planning is necessary to ensure continuity of the critically important services currently funded through property taxes.

We encourage you to share your thoughts with your state legislators. Together, we can help shape solutions that ensure our schools continue to provide the high-quality education our community values.

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

UPPER ARLINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION

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:

- **Organizational Meeting & Regular Meeting:** Tuesday, January 13, 6 pm – Council Chamber

The schedule of meetings for the remainder of the 2026 calendar year will be set by the Board at the January 13 organizational meeting. At this meeting, Kip Greenhill will be sworn in for his first term on the Board of Education, and Nidhi Satiani will be sworn in for her second term.

At the December 9 regular meeting, outgoing Vice President Lou Sauter was recognized for his service to the Board of Education.

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

2025-2026 SCHOOL DATES

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

Monday, December 22, 2025-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 16

Elementary Early Dismissal (K-5)

Thursday, February 19

Dismissal at 11:05 am; no lunch service

End of Third Quarter (K-12)

Friday, March 13

Spring Break

Monday, March 16-Friday, March 20

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

Monday, March 23

For the 2025-2026 calendar, visit www.uaschools.org/calendars. For a calendar of community events in our schools, visit www.uaschools.org/communitycalendar.

BITES From the Apple



SCHOOLS NEWS AND USEFUL INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS



Kindergarten Registration Begins in February

The Upper Arlington Schools community is looking forward to welcoming the Golden Bears Class of 2039! Children who will be five years of age on or before September 30, 2026, are eligible for kindergarten during the 2026-2027 school year.

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

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 11 at 6:30 pm.
- **Greensview Elementary School** – Thursday, January 29 at 6:30 pm.
- **Tremont Elementary School** – Tuesday, January 27 at 6:30 pm.
- **Wickliffe Progressive Elementary School** – Thursday, February 12 at 6:30 pm.
- **Windermere Elementary School** – Wednesday, February 4 at 6:30 pm.

Families interested in enrolling their child or children may do so beginning at 9 am on February 17, 2026, 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 17 and March 15, 2026, for staffing and planning purposes.

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



UAHS Girls Soccer

Golden Bear Highlights

This fall marked a historic moment for Upper Arlington High School athletics.

The **girls soccer team** captured their first-ever state championship with a dramatic 1-0 victory over Cincinnati Seton on November 8 at Historic Crew Stadium. Just weeks earlier, the **girls water polo team** continued their legacy of excellence, securing their sixth state title in seven years – and 22nd overall – in a thrilling 13-10 double-overtime win over Worthington Kilbourne on October 25 at Cincinnati Sycamore.

In other Golden Bear highlights:

- **UAHS boys water polo** and **UAHS girls field hockey** both finished their seasons as state runners-up.
- **UAHS girls tennis** claimed third place in the state team tournament.
- The **UAHS girls cross country** ended their season sixth in the state team championships.



UAHS Girls Water Polo



UAHS Senior Marches in Macy's Parade

Upper Arlington High School senior Leo Capetanopoulos brought Golden Bear pride to a national audience this Thanksgiving as he marched – and played his clarinet – in the Macy's Great American Marching Band during the iconic Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

"When I look back years from now, I will remember turning the corner right before Herald Square and for the first time seeing the wall of people in front of the store on one side and the wall of cameras and equipment on the other," Leo shared. "It felt surreal!"

Leo earned his spot after a highly competitive video audition process, placing him among the top 225 high school musicians from across the United States who were selected to be part of the Macy's Great American Marching Band. Leading up to the parade, the musicians had a rigorous schedule, with rehearsals for four days and a 1:30 am call time at their hotel on the morning of the parade.

"It was such an amazing group of talented musicians and a fantastic experience meeting so many high schoolers from all over the country," Leo shared. "It was really an honor to be selected for the band and was an experience I will never forget."

2026 UAHS Athletic Hall of Fame

Upper Arlington High School is proud to announce its 2026 Athletic Hall of Fame class – representing nearly nine decades of dedication to Upper Arlington athletics.

- **Abby Chin** ('11, swimming and water polo)
- **Allison McCombe Small** ('92, basketball and soccer)
- **Bob Gardner** ('74, tennis and wrestling)



- **Brett Hughes** ('00, lacrosse and football)
- **Christian Holstein** ('10, diving)
- **Dana Denning Flowers** ('91, track & field)
- **Dave Walter** ('86, wrestling and football)
- **Dr. Jim Mason** (Team Physician, Friend of the Program)
- **Jesse Kline** ('99, football)
- **Mike Borders** (Coach, Special Olympics)
- **Pete Hershberger** ('38, football and track)
- **Susie Walton Liebert** ('76, tennis)

These former student-athletes and coaches, along with a longtime team physician, will be celebrated at an induction ceremony on Saturday, January 10, 2026, 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 9; the first game begins at 6 pm and the second game is scheduled to start at approximately 8 pm. All are welcome at both events!

Educator, Alumni Nominations Wanted

Upper Arlington Schools, the Upper Arlington Education Foundation and the Upper Arlington Alumni Association are partnering to honor retired educators and alumni this summer as part of the annual UAHS Open House.

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2026 Educator Hall of Fame and alumni awards. The Educator Hall of Fame recognizes the best of the best among retired teachers and administrators of all grade levels, preschool through grade 12. The alumni awards recognize outstanding, distinguished and inspirational young Golden Bear alumni as they serve, lead and succeed in their career field or their communities.

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

The Upper Arlington Alumni Association's annual open house at Upper Arlington High School will take place on July 2, 2026, from 2-4 pm. The honorees will be recognized during a ceremony starting at 3 pm.

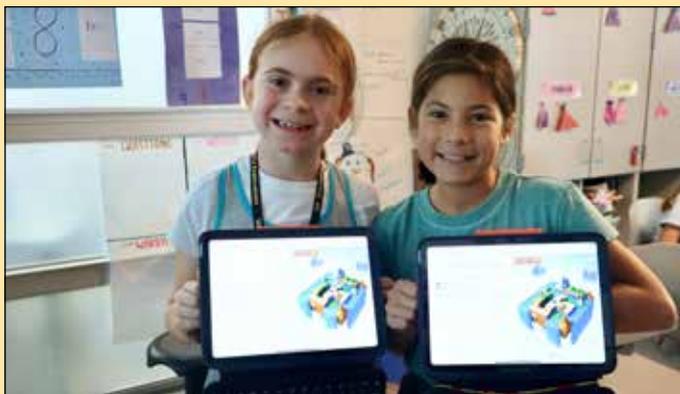
SERVE LEAD SUCCEED... SERVE LEAD SUCCEED



Sparks of creativity were flying as jewelry and materials science students from Upper Arlington High School visited the Central Ohio School of Metalwork in November.



An incredible 33 Golden Bears participated in the fall signing day at Upper Arlington High School – committing to continue their academic and athletic pursuits at the college level.



Hour of Code Across UA returned this fall for its eighth year! UAHS students teamed up with Elementary Explorations teachers to spark curiosity in computer science for K-5 students districtwide.



Upper Arlington and Grandview Heights students in the UC Early IT Microschool spent a day at the University of Cincinnati exploring campus life, meeting with professors and students, and competing in a hands-on IT challenge.



Greensview Elementary School first and fourth graders teamed up during the months of November and December to support the YMCA with a bracelet sale and the long-standing Rock-a-Thon fundraiser.



Windermere Elementary School hosted its annual Family Cultures and Traditions night, with support from the school PTO and the Upper Arlington Education Foundation.

SERVE LEAD SUCCEED... SERVE LEAD SUCCEED



Honoring Veterans Day

In November, Upper Arlington Schools students took part in meaningful classroom and schoolwide moments of commemoration and celebration in honor of Veterans Day. As part of these observances, students welcomed hundreds of current and former service members – creating opportunities to learn from and personally thank the veterans in our community. At Hastings and Jones middle schools, this experience is especially impactful for eighth-grade students, who study veterans’ roles in American history throughout the year. One veteran shared that the event was “a genuine exchange that honored the sacrifices of those who served,” while another said it was “the first time I have felt my service was honored and appreciated outside the military.” These moments reflect our ongoing commitment to service learning and help bring history to life for students.



Sparking Moments That Matter: Celebrating Language Arts Learning Through Innovation

Across Upper Arlington Schools, innovation in language arts is coming to life through immersive, creative experiences that help students deepen their learning and share it with pride.

This year, the district adopted a new language arts resource for grades K-5 called Amplify CKLA, which is designed to build knowledge through engaging content.

"We're always trying to come up with ways to excite the students so that the experiences we provide them through CKLA are really memorable," said Barrington Elementary School teacher Michele Crandall.

That spirit of innovation was on full display this fall at Barrington, where fourth graders in the progressive and informal programs stepped back in time with a full-scale Medieval Times Day. In honor of their language arts unit about the Middle Ages, teachers transformed their classroom neighborhoods into castle-themed learning spaces.

"We learned about serfs and monks and lords and ladies, and the kids thought it would be so cool if we could dress as these people," said teacher Nicole Staker.

With support from all fourth-grade teachers, intervention specialist Stacie Caruso, the Upper Arlington Education Foundation and the Barrington PTO, the



vision came to life.

"Everybody got to dress up and learn how stuff was made back then," shared student Noah R. "It's more fun than an average day of reading and writing, but also you're learning at the same time. It gives you a different perspective of how learning can impact you."

Local expertise also elevated the experience. "We had professors from Ohio State who could speak Old English and read it to us," said student Kate M. "We still did learning, but it was more like the fun side of learning."

Teachers were impressed by the depth of student engagement. "Our kids have taken it so much further than I would have ever thought," said teacher Emma Skarsten.

At Greensview Elementary School, third grade students had a different kind of celebration this fall – a poetry slam. Students spent the unit exploring multiple forms of poetry and building vocabulary around literary devices. They each wrote five poems before choosing their favorite to perform.

"So many kids were like, 'Can I

write another poem?'" recalled teacher Bethany McFarland. "There were no two poems alike, and I think that speaks to the level of originality we allowed our students to have."

Performing for classmates and families was a powerful moment. "It's really cool that I get to share with all of third grade and some parents that I love to write," said student Cami S., whose poem was inspired by her favorite things – animals and strawberries.

Student Elena P. added that the experience was more than a unit finale: "Even though the unit's over, I can keep doing it. ... You're never too old for poetry."

Both celebrations reflect how educators across the district are leveraging language arts instruction to make learning exciting, meaningful and memorable. Whether stepping into history or stepping up to the mic, students are discovering new passions and perspectives – showcasing that great learning doesn't end with a unit. It comes to life.



Golden Bear Reflections: Lydia Muldoon, Class of 2021

When Lydia Muldoon looks back on her time at Upper Arlington High School, she feels an overwhelming sense of gratitude.

"I feel very privileged to have gotten my education here at Upper Arlington," she said. "I think that's mainly because I was in the IB Diploma Programme. Nearly every class, even in math, involved writing papers. It gave me the freedom to explore topics I was passionate about."

That experience not only sharpened her academic skills but also gave her the confidence to pursue ambitious goals in college and beyond.

In addition to academics, athletics played a significant role in shaping her journey. As a member of the Golden Bears swim team, Muldoon learned discipline, resilience, and the importance of setting – and achieving – goals.

"Both my athletics and academics at UA gave me so much opportunity and advantage going into college," she said.

Muldoon's hard work and preparation paid off. She graduated from The Ohio State University in just three years, bolstered by credits earned through the IB Programme and her willingness to take summer courses. From there, she immediately began graduate studies in clinical mental health counseling.

Now, Muldoon is working with clients facing a variety of mental health challenges, with plans to one day specialize in addiction counseling. She credits her Upper Arlington education, particularly the writing and critical thinking skills she developed, with giving her the foundation for success.



"Those IB classes and being able to write really set me up well for college and for grad school," Muldoon said.

Through her academic achievements, athletic dedication, and commitment to helping others, Muldoon exemplifies what it means to be a Golden Bear – prepared to serve, lead, and succeed.



*Coffee &
Conversation*
WITH DR. HUNT

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.

Gifted Education

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23

Facilities Master Planning

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Special Education

FRIDAY, MARCH 13

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

Library ^{JANUARY | FEBRUARY 2026} iNSIGHT

BI-MONTHLY NEWS FROM THE UPPER ARLINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY



Go for the Win with our Winter Reading Program

Patrons of all ages will aim for reading gold during our 2026 Winter Reading Program, sponsored by the Friends of the Upper Arlington Public Library.

Join the fun from January 5-February 21 by tracking your reading and earning prizes along the way. Read for 7, 14, and 21 days to earn “medals,” collect rewards, and get entries into our grand prize drawings.

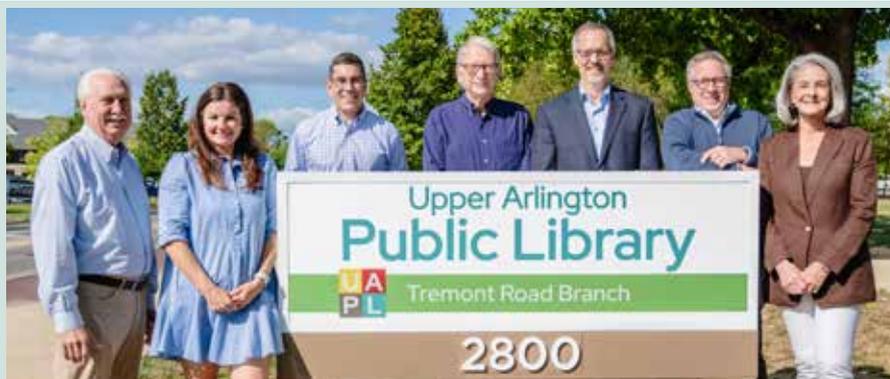
Dive into a cozy mystery, rediscover a classic children’s book, or share stories together as a family – every day you read brings you closer to victory!

How it Works

1. Pick up a log at any UAPL branch, or download one at ualibrary.org/winter-reading.
2. Mark a space on the log for each day you read.
3. Bring your reading log into the library each time you reach a medal milestone. Show it to a librarian and receive an entry form for the prize of your choice.
4. You’ll earn a bronze-level prize and drawing entry at 7 days, a silver-level prize and drawing entry at 14 days, and a gold-level prize and drawing entry at 21 days.
5. Grand prize winners will be drawn and contacted at the end of the program.



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 20
- Tuesday, February 17

2026 Board of Trustees

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

The Grand Prizes

Every time you earn a grand prize entry, you choose which prize you’ll chase for the win! Which will you aim for?

- **Franklin Park Conservatory Family Pass**
- **Peter Brown Bundle** featuring 2 signed books and a signed Wild Robot drawing.
- **Movies & More Bundle** featuring a \$50 gift card donated by Studio 35/Grandview Theater, the Disney edition of the Guess in 10 game, and a popcorn pack.
- **Dungeons & Dragons Bundle** featuring a \$120 gift card donated by Round Table Games, and a set of stackable D&D condition rings.
- **Snuggle Up & Read Bundle** featuring a curated book bundle, a Squishmallow, cozy blanket, and hot cocoa bombs.



A NOTE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Beth Pfahler

I want to take a moment to thank our UA community for another year of incredible support. 2025 was a year of accomplishment and change at the Library, and I'm proud of how our staff and community came together to move forward with optimism and purpose.

We celebrated several exciting milestones. We launched our Memory Lab, a new digitization hub where residents can preserve photographs, videos, and other media—helping families safeguard their memories for generations to come. We also introduced our Quick Pick collection, a fast-browsing selection of high-demand titles that has been incredibly well

received. For the first time in years, we saw an increase in overall circulation, thanks in part to our expanded investment in digital materials – like Overdrive (Libby) – and the reopening of our renovated Lane Road Branch.

2025 also brought changes at the state level that affected every public library in Ohio. The Public Library Fund (PLF) – which has traditionally provided libraries with a stable percentage of state tax revenue – has now shifted to a single line item in the state budget. While this change resulted in only a slight decrease in funding for us in 2025, it introduced uncertainty for the future. Libraries across Ohio are concerned about how future adjustments to the PLF or changes to property tax structures could impact revenue. For libraries, every dollar matters – because every dollar supports the services, collections, and staff that serve our community every day.

Despite these challenges, we remain committed to maintaining the high level of service our patrons expect.

Looking ahead, we're preparing to move forward with the next phase of improvements at our Tremont Road Branch. In 2026, we'll begin working with a design architect to develop a plan that reflects both our vision and our fiscal reality. Our master facilities plan with HBM Architects and Interior Designers recommended significant changes to the building. We're considering all options and focusing on improvements with the greatest impact – enhancing accessibility, efficiency and flexibility while ensuring sustainable operations.

Even as we plan carefully for the future, our mission remains unchanged: to build connections that make lives better. We connect people with information, resources, experiences, and each other to enrich their lives. Thank you for your continued trust and support. Together, we'll ensure that the Upper Arlington Public Library remains a place where everyone feels welcome, inspired, and proud to belong.

NewsBITES

LIBRARY NEWS AND USEFUL INFORMATION

Plenty of Puzzles

Adult puzzle fans have plenty to look forward to this winter! Winter Word Play returns to the Miller Park Branch January 4–March 1, with a new word game each week. Play for fun or submit your answers—those with the most correct responses each week will be entered into a drawing for a small prize. Prefer jigsaw puzzles? Visit the Puzzle Swap at the Tremont Road Branch on Sunday, January 11, from 2–3 p.m. Bring a puzzle to trade and take home a new-to-you challenge.

New Libby Holds Cap

Libby users are now limited to placing holds on 15 items – a reduction from the previous max of 25. This change is intended to help users get their holds

faster, and applies to all libraries in the Digital Downloads partnership.

SearchOhio and OhioLink

At press time, we are waiting to hear when the SearchOhio and OhioLink services will return. The upgrades are still in the testing phase across the state. We are keeping an eye on the progress and look forward to offering these services again soon.

Friends of the Library Book Sale

The Friends of the UA Library will hold a book sale from February 1–8 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 1 from 11 a.m.–1 p.m. The sale opens to the public at 1 p.m. that day, and will close each day 15 minutes before the library closes. On the final day of the Friends members can fill a paper grocery bag with books for \$5, nonmembers can do that same for \$10. Your support of the Friends makes initiatives like our Summer and Winter Reading Programs possible. Thank you!

Holiday Closings

We will be closed on Thursday, January 1 and on Monday, January 19 for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

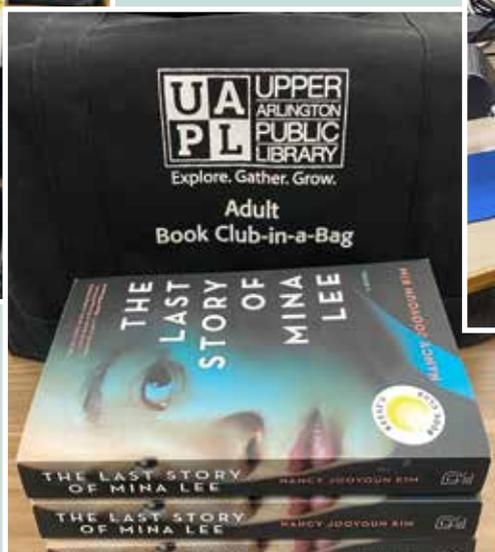
MAKING MEMORIES...building connections



The Glen Helen Raptor Center introduced kids to a peregrine falcon, a red-tailed hawk, and a barn owl.



Choosing titles for your book club this year? Consider a Book Club-in-a-Bag, which contains 10 copies of a single title. Search our catalog or check the shelves in the Tremont Road Branch's Adult Department.



Our new Memory Lab features technology and instructions for digitizing old photos, film, documents, videocassettes and more info digital files. Learn more and make an appointment at ualibrary.org/memory-lab.

OUR STAFF RECOMMENDS

The River is Waiting By Wally Lamb

Corby Ledbetter's life spirals downward after he is laid off from his job and arrested for a DUI. Now unemployed, his marriage is strained, and he is overwhelmed caring for his two-year-old twins. Under the weight of his struggles, Corby's dependence on alcohol and benzodiazepines intensifies, eventually leading to an unimaginable tragedy. As a result, Corby is sent to prison, where he faces the daily struggles of life among hardened inmates and cruel guards. He battles the unending darkness of his guilt, remorse, and anger, questioning whether he will ever find true forgiveness for his crime.

This is a heavy but worthwhile read, exploring the depths of addiction, the injustices and dangers in the prison system, and the small acts of kindness that can make a profound difference.

— Jennie, Adult Department

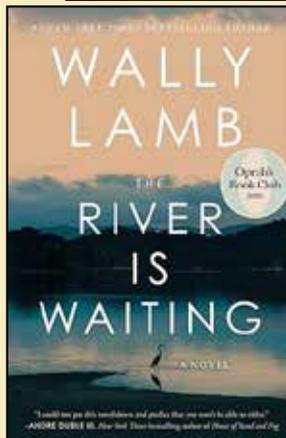
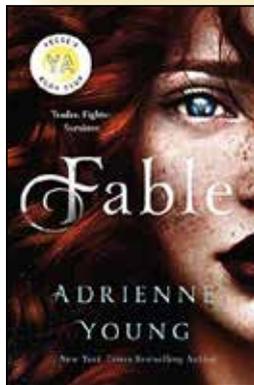
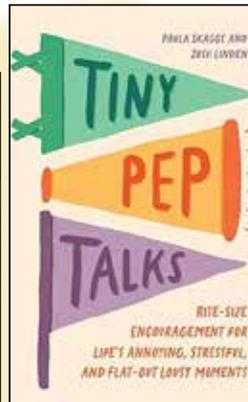
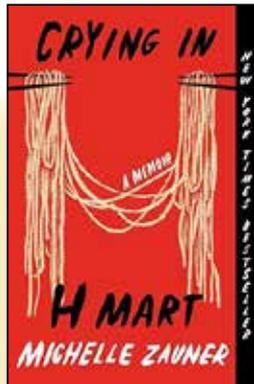
Crying at H Mart By Michelle Zauner

Michelle Zauner, lead singer of Japanese Breakfast, explores her identity as a Korean-American, her complicated relationship with her mother, and the overwhelming grief following her mother's death. Zauner's exploration of Korean cuisine serves as both metaphor and memory, making this not just a story about grief, but also one about love and resilience. The book beautifully explores the cultural ties that shape who we are.

— Alexa, Adult Department

Fable By Adrienne Young

After Fable's mother drowns and her father abandons her on an island of



cutthroats to fend for herself, she makes use of her deep diving skills to collect and sell valuable "pire." Fable outsmarts the questionable characters she encounters on her adventures through the oceans and islands to track down the father who left her. The tale includes a bit of romance and a cliffhanger ending.

— Cathleen, Youth Department

You Wanna Be on Top?: A Memoir of Makeovers, Manipulation, and Not Becoming America's Next Top Model

By Sarah Hartshorne

How much reality is in reality TV? Former contestant Sarah Hartshorne details her time on the once top-rated show, *America's Next Top Model*. Drawing on her experiences as well as interviews with other contestants and production crew members, Hartshorne explores

the stark conditions of filming and the emotional manipulations used to create "good TV."

— Laura, Technical Services

Open, Heaven By Seán Hewitt

In lovely, rich prose that makes incredibly apparent Hewitt's beginnings as a poet, *Open, Heaven* spins a tale of youth, memory, and first love. The novel begins with an adult James, newly separated from his husband and full of general discontent, as he ventures back to the rural English village of his childhood. There, he recalls the summer 2002; newly out to his community and freshly 16, he's a pariah of his own making and love seems like

an unattainable dream. Then, he meets Luke and suddenly his life changes. This short, heart-wrenching novel is as much an ode to the shifting beauty of the seasons as it is to the abilities of love—to split you open and wring you out, to leave you reeling and raw and new.

— Emma, Customer Service

Tiny Pep Talks: Bite-Size Encouragement for Life's Annoying, Stressful, and Flat-Out Lousy Moments

By Paula Skaggs and Josh Linden

A light, fun, perspective-shifting read. Has your favorite show been cancelled? This book sympathizes with a thoughtful obituary. Is it time to do your taxes? Choose between a 'Tough Love' and a 'Tiny Coddled Baby' pep talk to get you going, depending on what speaks to you. Written by a pair of comedians, this book explores dozens of everyday situations, motivating with humor and understanding.

— Nancy, Miller Park Branch



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

Untold Myths: Paul Rienzo Through January 30

Paul Rienzo re-imagines the timeless language of myth through bold, photo-realistic still lifes. Drawing on symbolic themes found across cultures and eras, his paintings weave together objects, ranging from toys and flowers to tribal masks and ancient bronzes, into powerful visual narratives.

Elementary School Students

February 4-27

Reception 5-7 pm, Thursday, February 5

Middle School Students

March 4-27

Reception 2-4 pm, Sunday, March 8

History Speaks: 50 Years of Legacy: The Upper Arlington Historical Society's Lasting Impact on Our Community

7 pm, Wednesday, February 4

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

Join the UA Historical Society as they celebrate the organization's 50th anniversary. The presentation will feature speakers who were the primary point people along the way, noting the specific impacts the Society has made on our current-day community. Free to attend, no reservation required.



UA Stage - Performance of The Adams Family

5 pm, Tuesday, February 17

UA High School, 1625 Zollinger Road
UA Civic Association | www.uaca.org

The UA Civic Association invites UA residents age 60+ to dinner and an evening of musical theater. The musical production is performed by students of the Upper Arlington High School. Check UACA's website for registration details.

The Adams Family

February 19-22

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: 100th Year Celebration

2-4 pm, Saturday, February 21

Bob Crane Community Center
3200 Tremont Road

UA Parks & Rec | upperarlingtonoh.gov

Celebrate a century of remembrance of Black history through music, art and voices that honor legacy and lived experience. Through dynamic performances and vibrant visual expression, this celebration reminds us how art keeps history alive.

Community Relations Committee Iftar Dinner

6 pm, Wednesday, March 11

Bob Crane Community Center
3200 Tremont Road

uacommunityrelations.com

Please join the CRC for the Third Annual Iftar Dinner, in celebration of Ramadan. This year's event features children's activities. Tickets go on sale early February.