

UAⁱINSIGHT

MARCH | APRIL 2026



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



City Readies to Update its Planning Documents

Upper Arlington has a long legacy of thoughtful, forward-looking planning that has helped shape the high quality of life residents enjoy today. In recent years, planning efforts have focused on specific areas of the community, such as Lane Avenue and Henderson Road, as well as individual topics including parks, housing, and the arts. Beginning in 2026, the City will take a broader look ahead through a community-wide update to the Master Plan and the Parks & Recreation Plan, and creation of an Urban Forestry Plan.

The City has selected OHM Advisors, a local firm with expertise in community planning, architecture, urban design, and engineering, to lead this effort. OHM will be supported by a multidisciplinary team that includes BerryDunn, Brainstorm Media, Civic Uplift, CommunityScale, and First & Main Films.

Why the Update is Happening

Upper Arlington's current Master Plan was originally developed in 2001 and

most recently updated in 2013. The Parks & Recreation Plan was completed in 2017. Since then, both the community and the region around it have continued to change in meaningful ways.

Just beyond Upper Arlington's borders, new development and transportation initiatives are beginning to take shape. Updates to Columbus' zoning code, known as Zone In, will enable new development along key corridors near the City. In the coming years, COTA's LinkUS initiative is also expected to bring bus rapid transit service to the Olentangy River Road and Bethel Road corridors. These changes have the potential to influence traffic patterns, land use, and daily life in Upper Arlington.

Upper Arlington has experienced its own transformation. Lane Avenue and Kingsdale have evolved into active mixed-use districts, the Bob Crane Community Center has opened as a new civic hub, and the City has continued to invest in parks, recreation, and neighborhood amenities that residents use every day.

Together, these changes make now the right time to step back and look ahead. This update is an opportunity for residents to help guide how Upper Arlington evolves and adapts, ensuring that future decisions reflect community values while protecting the character and quality of life that make Upper Arlington home.

Plan Goals

The Master Plan will create a shared, community-driven vision to guide Upper Arlington's growth, investment, and decision-making in the years ahead. It will help align future land use, public investments, and policies around clear priorities, with the goal of strengthening neighborhoods, protecting community character, and enhancing the quality-of-life residents value.

The Parks & Recreation Plan will focus on sustaining and improving the parks, programs, and facilities that residents use every day. It will establish clear goals and a long-term investment strategy based on extensive public input and a careful evaluation of existing

facilities, services, operations, and community needs. The Urban Forestry plan will help guide future decisions related to the City's tree canopy and natural assets.

Together, these plans will help guide how Upper Arlington grows and invests, while preserving the character and quality of life residents care about.

Project Process, Approach, and Plan

The update process will take place over approximately 18 to 20 months and will be completed in five phases. The process is designed to balance technical analysis with meaningful community engagement, ensuring the plans are both visionary and practical. Together, the plans will address land use, housing, economic development, parks and recreation, mobility, and urban forestry as part of one coordinated, community-wide vision.

The five project phases include:

- **Phase I : Launch & Coordinate (January - June 2026)** - This phase establishes the project foundation, including formation of a community Steering Committee, and initial outreach efforts. It also includes a detailed review of existing conditions to inform both plans.
- **Phase II : Educate & Engage (July - October 2026)** - During this phase, residents will be invited to participate through surveys and public meetings to help define shared values, identify priorities, and shape an early framework for future land use and investment.
- **Phase III: Collaborate & Envision (November 2026 - January 2027)** - City staff, the Steering Committee, and the consultant team will work together in collaborative workshops to translate community input and analysis into a first draft of the Master Plan and Parks & Recreation Plan.
- **Phase IV: Synthesize & Refine (February - May 2027)** - Draft plans will be shared with the community for feedback. Input from residents,



UPPER ARLINGTON MASTER PLAN

A Community Vision For 2040

including a second survey, will be used to refine recommendations, confirm priorities, and strengthen the plans in preparation for adoption.

- **Phase V: Finalize & Adopt (June - August 2027)** - The final phase focuses on formal review and adoption of the plans. It also marks a moment to reflect on the process and celebrate the community vision that will guide Upper Arlington into the future.

A Plan That Transcends Paper

The final Master Plan and Parks & Recreation Plan will be designed to be accessible, practical, and easy to use for residents, decision-makers, and community partners. To support this, the plans will be shared through multiple formats:

- **Plan Documents:** Traditional, book-style documents that are visually engaging and easy to navigate, whether in print or online.
- **Online Interactive Platform:** A digital, interactive version of the plans, with dynamic maps, visualizations, and functionalities that make them a working tool.
- **The Plan in Film:** Key elements of the planning process and final recommendations will be shared through a series of short videos. Together, these will form a documentary-style story that captures the community's journey from early conversations to adopted plans, creating a shared record the community can revisit and celebrate.

Upcoming Opportunities to Participate

Community involvement will be central to the process. A project Steering Committee made up of residents, business owners, and elected leaders will be formed in early 2026. The committee will help guide discussions, review ideas, and represent community perspectives. Serving on the Steering Committee will require a meaningful commitment of time and participation.

There will be many ways for residents to be involved, including:

- **Public Workshop #1 (mid-2026)** - An introductory workshop to learn about the planning process, review existing conditions, and begin shaping a shared vision.
- **Community-Wide Survey (mid-2026)** - An online survey open to all residents, focused on life in Upper Arlington today and the values that should guide the City's future.
- **Public Workshop #2 (late-2026)** - A follow-up workshop to refine the community vision and confirm core values that will inform both plans.
- **Community Events and Festivals** - Informal opportunities to provide input and connect with the project team throughout the year at local events.

How To Stay Informed

For full details and updates, use the QR code provided here to access the Upper Arlington Master Plan and Parks & Recreation Plan website, also available at upperarlingtonmasterplan.com.



FROM CHAMBERS

Highlights of City Council & Its Policy Decisions

2026-2027 City Council

At the January 12, 2026 City Council Meeting, newly elected members, Nic Fortkamp, Laura Oldham and Ben Tracy were sworn into office, with Ukeme Awakessien Jeter sworn in for her second term. Council members selected Ukeme Awakessien Jeter as Council President and Heidi Munc as Vice President for 2026, with plans for the two to switch roles in 2027.

Additional appointments included:

- **Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission** - Laura Oldham
- **Community Relations Committee Liaison** - Nic Fortkamp
- **Board of Health** - John Kulewicz
- **Board of Education Liaison** - Heidi Munc
- **City Council's Rules Review Subcommittee** - Laura Oldham, Ben Tracy, Todd Walter
- **City Council's Financial Policies Subcommittee** - Nic Fortkamp, Ben Tracy, Todd Walter

Council meetings will typically be held the first, and second Mondays of each month, at the Municipal Services Center, 3600 Tremont Road, beginning at 6 pm. 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.

Council Accepting Applications for Boards & Commissions

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



2026 City Council (from left): John Kulewicz, Vice President Heidi Munc, Nic Fortkamp, President Ukeme Awakessien Jeter, Todd Walter, Ben Tracy, Laura Oldham.

City Council is currently seeking applications from residents who are interested in serving on the following Boards and Commissions, with an application deadline of April 30, 2026. All terms begin July 1, 2026. Public service of this nature is voluntary.

- **Board of Health** - typically meets four times per year to establish policy and direct the public health activities for the residents of Upper Arlington.
- **Board of Tax Review** - meets on an on-call basis to hear appeals for municipal income tax and denials of refund claims.
- **Board of Zoning & Planning** - meets the first and third Wednesdays of each month to hear and decide on conditional uses, special exceptions and interpretation of the City's zoning code. Additionally, BZAP grants conditional permits, non-conforming uses, temporary structures and uses, hears/decides appeals, and grants variances.
- **City Tree Commission** - meets the first Tuesday of every other month to study issues related to municipal tree care and planting, make recommendations to City Council,

and to review contributions to the City's tree planting fund.

- **Community Relations Committee** - typically meets the fourth Thursday of the month, to support UA as a welcoming community, to promote understanding and respect, foster diverse culture, and to enhance the City's vision to support respect and fairness. Members participate in extracurricular CRC activities and events throughout the year.
- **Cultural Arts Commission** - typically meets the first Wednesday of each month to advise and support the Cultural Arts Staff in their mission to provide and promote a diverse, lively, accessible arts environment that advances the cultural assets and enriches the life of the community.
- **Library Board of Trustees** - typically meets the third Tuesday of each month, to create and support the strategic plan for the Upper Arlington Library System, and to approve the Library budget and programming.
- **NEW BOARD! Older Adults Advisory Board** - This new Board will provide guidance to the City on services and programs that support

Five Points Intersection Improvements

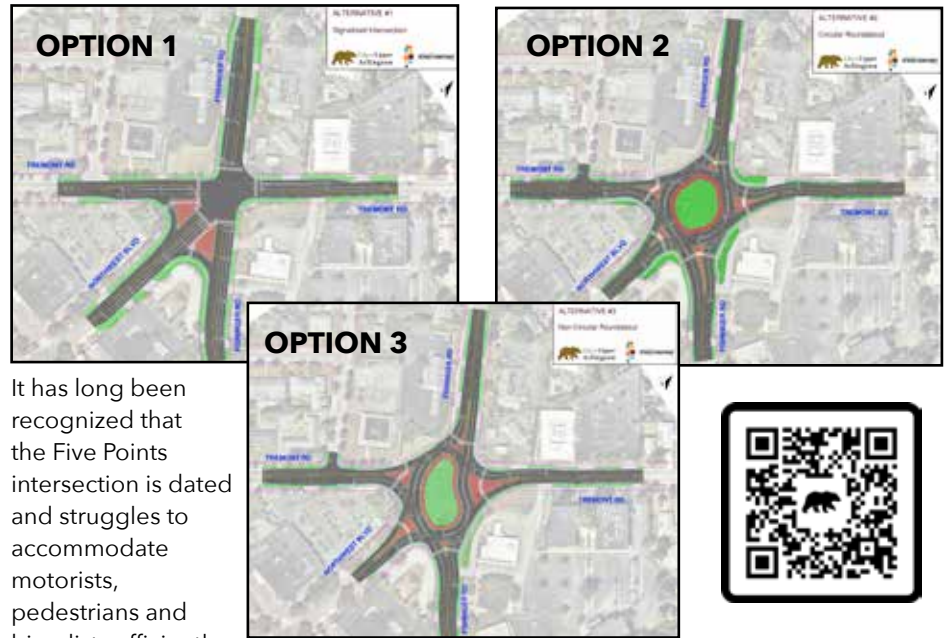
Take the Five Points Survey: Deadline March 10, 2026

older adults in aging within the community. The Board will serve as ambassadors by sharing information about available resources, fostering connections, and offering input on current and future initiatives to help ensure Upper Arlington remains a welcoming and supportive community for older adults and their caregivers. Acting solely in an advisory capacity, the Board may make recommendations to City leadership but will not have policy-making authority.

- **Master Plan Task Force** - the City is no longer accepting applications for this task force. Council will be making their final selection from candidates by early March.

To learn more about these boards and to apply, scan the QR code provided, or go to: <https://onboard.upperarlingtonoh.gov/application/>

If you have any questions about the Board and Commission selection process, please contact the City Clerk's Office at city.council@uaoh.net or 614-583-5030.



It has long been recognized that the Five Points intersection is dated and struggles to accommodate motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists efficiently and safely. As the arterial streets feeding into the intersection undergo significant upgrades, the need for change has become increasingly clear, and the City's Engineering Division has been studying the issue for some time.

In 2025, the City contracted with American Structurepoint, Inc. to develop concepts for improving the intersection. Using a variety of data, such as traffic counts, future traffic flow projections, accommodations for pedestrians, cyclists and emergency vehicles, available right-of-way, utilities, and more, they have developed three concepts.

A Community Meeting was held February 10, with approximately 120 residents and business representatives in attendance. The team provided insight on the challenges and opportunities associated with the intersection, and shared three concepts that are under consideration:

- **Option 1** - A reconfigured signalized intersection with extended turn lanes and signal timing adjustments
- **Option 2** - A circular roundabout
- **Option 3** - A non-circular roundabout

For both roundabout options, safety features would be included to enhance pedestrian safety, and bicyclists using existing bike lanes would be able to continue through the roundabout or use the pedestrian accommodations.

The meeting presentation slides and a video are available on the project webpage, with an online survey available through Tuesday, March 10, so that the team can gather additional input from the community about the three concepts before identifying a preferred option, and further refining the design concept.

A second phase of community outreach to share this concept is expected to be scheduled later this year. Thereafter, the project will undergo detailed design in 2027, with construction slated for 2028.

We encourage you to view the presentation and to complete the survey, using the QR code provided above.

If you have questions or comments about this project, please direct them to engineering@uaoh.net. The 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.

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

3600 Tremont Road

Upper Arlington, Ohio 43221

Phone: 614-583-5000

upperarlingtonoh.gov



facebook.com/CityofUA

instagram.com/@cityofua





CITY MANAGER UPDATE

Steve Schoeny

Navigating a Challenging Fall and Winter for Public Services and the Community

Looking back at the past few months, some unusual weather put our Public Service Department to the test.

First, our annual Leaf Collection Program got off to a very slow start, as much of our beautiful urban forest refused to shed its leaves per the typical schedule. Then, just as things started to get moving, we had an early, and record setting snowfall that brought leaf collection operations to halt. What would typically be an eight-nine week collection period extended out to 12 weeks. We know this caused frustration for many, and we appreciate everyone's patience as our crews did their best with what Mother Nature had given them.

In January, the entire region experienced more record snowfall and bone chilling cold. Crews were out preparing streets before the storm even hit, and they just kept going, working 12-hour shifts, until the snow finally stopped



The UA High School Boys Baseball team made light work of clearing the drive and pathways for an older adult in the neighborhood.

and our streets were restored to safe driving conditions. Working with the Upper Arlington Schools, I'm proud to say that no one in Central Ohio opened before UA.

Not to be left out, our Parks & Forestry crews did their part to clear critical walkways and parking lots around our public facilities and in our community parks.

Since this was such a significant snowfall, we wanted to make sure any members of our community with physical challenges who were not immediately helped by their neighbors or a snow removal service got the

support they needed. We put the call out for volunteers, and in a very short period of time, more than 50 individuals and groups had registered. As a result – and with the help of several City staff volunteers – we were able to connect about 100 residents with help clearing their drives and sidewalks.

I want to thank everyone involved in these hurricane efforts. If you cleared the drive and sidewalk of an elderly neighbor, thank you. If you are part of our Public Service and Parks & Recreation crews, thank you. In true UA fashion, our community showed up and helped out.

Tri-Village Packers Adds Amazon Wish List to Support Options

The Tri-Village Packers are continuing to explore and enhance opportunities for supporting underserved children in our community so that they don't go hungry.

Several local schools now feature Grab and Go food tubs, filled with various snacks, allowing students to discreetly pick up food when they come to school hungry or at any point in the day.

It's now possible for community members to support this initiative by purchasing items through an Amazon Wishlist. Items are listed based on current needs, and are shipped directly to the restock team. To learn more and to participate, visit the Tri-Village Packers website, at trivillagepackers.com/donate.



FEEDING OUR COMMUNITY

LinkUS Progress Report

<https://linkuscolumbus.com>

The latest LinkUS Progress Report is now available, detailing how Central Ohio's transformative transit initiative is moving from vision to reality. This comprehensive update covers project milestones, community engagement activities and upcoming opportunities to get involved.

The report also includes information on the 2026 launch of the new COTA Line 30 connecting Dublin, Hilliard and Upper Arlington to OSU, among other projects.

View the report at the above link.

UA's America 250-Ohio Celebrations

Upper Arlington is proud to be hosting a series of activities that celebrate the U.S. Semiquincentennial – marking 250 years since the nation's founding in 1776. 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. Equally important, the Semiquincentennial is a forward-looking celebration that 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.

The History of UA: 250 Stops on Our Story

Explore our interactive online map, highlighting Upper Arlington's history. The map will continue to grow throughout the year, ultimately featuring 250 unique historical facts about our community, new and old. There are still history facts to be created, and we invite you to submit your ideas, via uahistory.org.

History Speaks Event Preserving the Past: The History of the Walcutt-Legg Cemetery and Its Revolutionary War Veteran

1:30-3 pm, Sunday, April 19

History Trail Sign dedication, 2:30 pm
Wellington School, 3650 Reed Road
FREE, NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Join us as we honor the one Revolutionary War veteran buried in our community – Elijah Legg. Mr. Legg moved his family to this area by the early



1820s, making his family one of our original pioneers.

Wellington Upper School students will present their research into:

- The history of the Walcutt-Legg cemetery land, located adjacent to the Wellington School's grounds.
- Elijah Legg, his family, and his neighbors - the Walcutts - along with their ties to military service.
- Biographies of other pioneers buried at the cemetery.
- General cemetery practices of the 1800s.

Wellington Middle School students will present an overview of Wars and military honors in our cemetery with ties to America-250. Lower School students will display grave rubbings from the Walcutt-Legg Cemetery.

A new interpretive history sign - which is part of the UA History Trail - is being installed at the cemetery, detailing its beginnings, and the families associated with the site. The sign has been funded by a grant from the Upper Arlington Community Foundation, in partnership with the Upper Arlington Historical Society and City of Upper Arlington. A dedication ceremony for the sign is scheduled at 2:30 pm.

Arbor Day Ceremony

Time TBD, Friday, April 24
Sunny 95 Park

For the City's 2026 Arbor Day Ceremony, the Parks & Forestry team will gather with City officials and students from Greensview Elementary School, to plant trees as part of a grove of 17 native Ohio trees in a nod to Ohio joining the union as the 17th state in 1803.

Amelita Mirolo Barn History Trail Signs: Dedication Ceremony

Part of 2026 Spring Fling
11 am, Saturday, May 9
Sunny 95 Park

Join with City officials as we kick off this year's Spring Fling family event, with an unveiling and dedication ceremony for five new History Trail signs that detail the genesis of the Amelita Mirolo Barn and its ties to the region's farming heritage.

View our UA America 250-Ohio webpage, at upperarlingtonoh.gov. Just scan the QR code and you're there!



NewsBITES

CITY NEWS AND USEFUL INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS

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>.

Friends of UA Parks

Saturdays, 9 am-Noon
friendsofuaparks.com

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

- **March 28** - Northwest Kiwanis Park
- **April 18** - Smith Nature Park
- **May 16** - Smith Nature Park

Community Special Events 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 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.

2026 Wall of Honor

3 pm, Sunday, May 17

www.uahistory.org

The City and UA Historical Society invites the community to the 2026 Wall of Honor Ceremony on Sunday, May 17, as we honor John Steven Christie. Visit www.uahistory.org for more.

Statewide Tornado Drill

9:50 am, Wednesday, March 18

www.ready.ohio.gov

As part of Ohio's Spring Severe Weather Awareness Week, Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security will participate in the annual Statewide tornado drill. This is a timely reminder of how important it is to have an emergency plan - both at home and at work - and to practice it.

Fire Hydrant Flushing

April 20-May 8

FIRE DIVISION | 614-583-5100

Fire hydrant flushing will occur weekdays, April 20-May 8. It is recommended that you refrain from doing laundry on the day hydrants are flushed in your area. Before resuming laundering, partially fill washers on the cold setting until the water runs clear. Run a sample of water into a transparent container to check for settling or discoloration. Once the water is clear, the washer can be spun out to drain the tub for a normal laundry load. Turn on all faucets and allow water to run until it appears clear. Visit the *Fire Prevention* page on our website to view this year's schedule and map.

2026 Safety Town

June 8-12, 22-26, July 6-10, 13-17

UA POLICE

Safety Town is a popular summer preschool program that teaches children all aspects of safety. Registration begins at 6 am, on Wednesday, March 11 for residents. The cost is \$125. Non-resident



Our congratulations to UA Parks & Rec, as they received three awards at the Ohio Parks & Recreation Association annual conference. This included 1st Place for Capital Improvement Projects over \$10M, for the Bob Crane Community Center, and Director Debbie McLaughlin (pictured center) was recognized as the Professional of the Year.

Sustainability Fair**10 am-1 pm, Saturday, April 11****Tremont Library** www.ualibrary.org

The City's Green Team will be participating in the Upper Arlington Library's Sustainability Fair, scheduled for 10 am-1 pm, on Saturday, April 11, with the following activities:

General Household Items

Collection: Goodwill will be on hand in the parking lot to collect clothing & shoes, books, furniture, housewares & home decor, and musical instruments.

E-Waste Collection: Look for our e-waste collection in the parking lot, courtesy of Columbus Micro Systems.

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

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

registration begins at 6 am, on Friday, March 13, at a cost of \$150. Children entering kindergarten and first grade are eligible, but must be five years of age prior to September 30, 2026. Please note that classes fill quickly.

Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery® Sunday, March 8

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

an alarm chirps, warning the battery is low, replace the battery right away.

Native Tree & Plant Sale**LAST DAY TO ORDER: March 22**<https://www.franklinswcd.org>

Early each year, the Franklin Soil & Water Conservation District provides an opportunity for residents to order native trees, shrubs and plants that provide many benefits to the environment, such as attracting pollinators and reducing erosion. Their tree sale webpage provides details of the species available and recommendations on where to plant them for best effect.

UA CARES Helpdesk**UA CARES | 614-583-5352**

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, March 4, April 1** - Bob Crane Community Center, Level 1, Public Safety Office
- **Wednesdays, March 11, April 8** - Tremont Library
- **Wednesdays, March 18, April 15** - Bob Crane Community Center, Level 2, Older Adult Services Office
- **Tuesday, March 24** - Miller Park Library
- **Wednesday, April 22** - Lane Road Library

Spring/Summer Activity Guide**PARKS & REC | 614-583-5300**

The latest edition of the UA Parks & Rec *Activity Guide* is packed with warm weather activities for all ages and interests, community events, fitness and wellness opportunities, and much more.

Registration Details

- Priority Registration for UA Residents and members of the Bob Crane Community center begins at **6 am, on Wednesday, March 11**.
- Non-Resident Registration begins at **6 am on Friday, March 13**.

Early Bird Rates for Outdoor Aquatics and Northam Tennis

Purchase your season passes early and enjoy 2025 pricing:

- **Outdoor Aquatics** - discount pricing good through May 14.
- **Northam Tennis** - discount pricing good through April 14.

View an online version of the *Activity Guide* and register for programs, at parks.uao.net.

Building Permit Reminders**DEVELOPMENT****614-583-5070**

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

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

2025 Income Tax Filings

Deadline: Wednesday, April 15

www.ritaohio.com

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

RITA's Worthington office, located at 760 Lakeview Plaza Boulevard, Suite 400, provides in person taxpayer assistance Monday-Friday, from 9 am-4 pm.

Taxpayers can drop off their information at convenient, secure drop boxes at either the RITA/Worthington location or the Municipal Services Center Kenny Road parking lot - please include a phone number or email address in case there are questions.

City of UA Income Tax Assistance

10 am-2 pm, Fridays, March 3-April 10
Tremont Library

The City's Finance Examiner will be available at the Tremont Library to provide help with preparing 2025 Upper Arlington/RITA income tax filings for older adults and other community members, in tandem with a series of free AARP tax support sessions being held at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 2151 Dorset Road.

No pre-registration required. Please bring the following items with you:

- W-2 forms from all employers, and any W-2G Forms and 1099 MISC Forms
- Federal Form 1040, Federal Schedules C, E & F, Federal forms K-1
- Addresses and dates for each location in which you resided during 2025
- Any previous tax year filings being submitted

Community Relations Committee 2026 Welcome Series

Iftar Dinner

6-9 pm, Wednesday, March 11

Bob Crane Community Center

Don't miss the Third Annual Iftar Dinner on Wednesday March 11, as part of the CRC Welcome Series. Activities for the kids have been added to this year's event, thanks to the support of the UA Library, and we thank the UA Community Foundation for assisting us with event logistics. We hope you can join us for an evening open to all, to enjoy a shared meal, and an opportunity to learn about the significance of Ramadan in the Muslim faith.

A limited number of tickets are available at the following prices:

- \$25 | Adults & Ages 13 Years & Up
- \$15 | Children Ages 12 & Under
- FREE | Children Under 3 Years



Cherry Blossom Celebration

5 pm, Monday, April 6

Mallway Park, Arlington Avenue

Please join us for an inspiring program that celebrates spring and Japanese culture, with participation from UA High School AAPI students, art activities, refreshments and more. We thank Asian American Community Services and the Upper Arlington Public Library for their partnership on this year's event.

Each year, this celebration of the grove of cherry trees by the Veterans Plaza is part of a broader series of activities scheduled across Central Ohio under the umbrella of the Greater Columbus Cherry Blossom Festival.



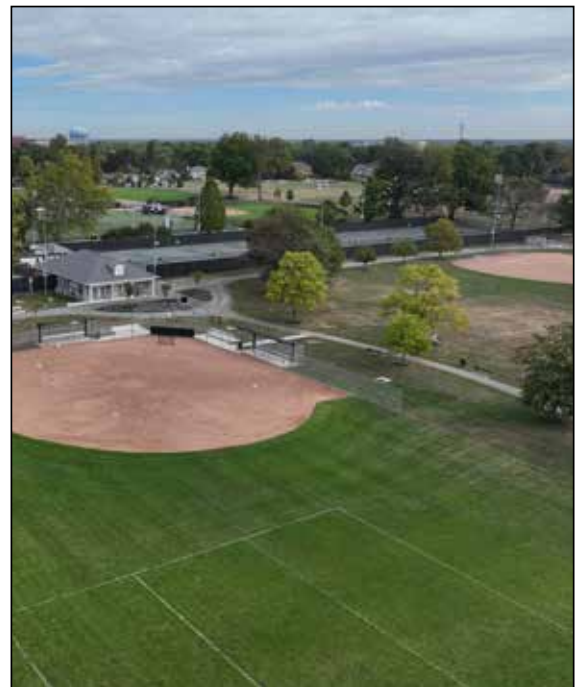
Northam Park Athletic Fields

The final phase of improvements at Northam Park begins this Spring, as the east two athletic fields undergo renovations.

Similar to the improvements made to the west fields in 2023/24, the work will include regrading and drainage upgrades, the installation of an irrigation system, new infields, backstops, fencing and dugouts.

Construction should be complete in the fall of 2026, with the fields staying closed until the fall of 2027 to provide time for the turf to be fully established.

If you have questions about this project, please contact the Parks & Recreation Department, at 614-583-5300.



Schools[★]iNSIGHT

BI-MONTHLY NEWS FROM UPPER ARLINGTON SCHOOLS

MARCH | APRIL 2026



Your Voice Matters in Finalizing a Master Plan!

Since the fall of 2024, more than 5,000 stakeholders have shared their thoughts in Upper Arlington Schools' phase two facilities master planning process – reflecting an incredible level of involvement from families, staff and community members. This input has been invaluable in guiding discussions around the future of Hastings and Jones middle schools and Burbank Early Childhood School.

Now, as the Board of Education moves closer to a decision on a master

plan for these schools, it is even more important to get involved and share your thoughts.

The district invites all community members to attend a final community engagement session on Wednesday, March 25, at 6 pm at Upper Arlington High School, 1625 Zollinger Road. This meeting will offer an opportunity to learn more about, and provide feedback on, the draft master plan recommendation that reflects all of the feedback gathered so far in the process and the input of



the community experts on the Financial Advisory Board. Following the meeting, all stakeholders will also have an opportunity to take an online survey, available at www.uaschools.org/facilities, to share their thoughts.

"We have been incredibly encouraged by the thoughtfulness and commitment of our community," said Superintendent Robert Hunt, Ph.D. "Your input will ensure that our final plan reflects the values and priorities that matter most to the people we serve."

Since the start of phase two, community involvement has continued to grow through volunteer building teams, community engagement sessions, focus groups, surveys and building tours. That feedback has remained central as the district works toward finalizing a long-term, fiscally responsible plan for the future of these schools.



CONTINUES ON PAGE 12



SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES

Robert Hunt, Ph.D.

Quality Profile Offers Window into Strategic Plan, How It's Shaping the Student Experience

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

At the start of this school year, I challenged our staff to think about the power of both the big and the little everyday moments that have an impact on our students. Drawing inspiration from the book by Chip Heath and Dan Heath called *The Power of Moments*, we set out to spark the moments that matter for our students – and celebrate those moments throughout this school year.

Since then, you have seen some of these moments highlighted through stories in this publication and through videos on our district social media and YouTube accounts – including the story in this issue about a jewelry project in which our students created custom works of art and moments of gratitude for staff members who have inspired those pieces.

Such moments lay the foundation for our vision of uniquely accomplished students who are prepared to serve, lead and succeed and support our mission to challenge and support every student, every step of the way. In our classrooms

and various activities outside of the school day, students are encouraged to take risks, explore new ideas and discover their strengths.

These experiences also reflect the vision of our Excellence & Innovation 2030 Strategic Plan. This forward-thinking roadmap for our district is designed to further our commitment to challenge and support every student, every step of the way. Approved by the Board of Education in January 2025, this strategic plan centers on three key priorities:

Engaged Learning is rooted in our Profile of an Engaged Learner, emphasizing the creation of meaningful and challenging learning experiences that inspire curiosity, critical thinking and a love of learning.

Culture & Climate focuses on building systems and structures that amplify student and staff voices and strengthen school culture.

The **Connections** priority emphasizes the importance of those relationships

with families, community members, businesses and local organizations.

To better understand our strategic plan and our progress toward the priorities identified within it, each spring we share our Quality Profile, an annual accountability report that gives our community a clear and transparent look at what's happening in our schools.

Every household in Upper Arlington will receive a copy of Quality Profile in mailboxes this spring. I encourage you to spend some time with this document and see how our daily work – and how sparking the moments that matter – connect to our long-term vision. You can visit our website, www.uaschools.org/qualityprofile, to learn more about this report and see past issues.

Your partnership and support are the foundation of our success. Together, we will continue to spark moments that matter for our students and ensure that every day offers opportunities for learning, growth and connection.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

This winter, the process has continued with the formation of a Financial Advisory Board (FAB), composed of community members with expertise in finance, construction and facilities planning. The FAB is reviewing the facilities master planning process as a whole, including stakeholder feedback, and providing input on:

- The scope and cost of a phase two facilities master plan
- Options for an implementation timeline

- Funding considerations related to a potential bond issue
- The district's anticipated need for an operating levy in fall 2026

The FAB's findings will be incorporated into the draft recommendations shared with the community in March. Following additional community feedback, a final master plan recommendation – including scope, timeline, funding strategy and levy considerations – will be presented to the Board of Education for action in May or June.

"It's important to recognize there is no zero-cost option – Hastings, Jones and Burbank all have immediate maintenance and repair needs totaling an estimated \$124.8 million," Dr. Hunt said. "Our schools are central to our community, and the decisions ahead will shape Upper Arlington for generations. If you haven't yet shared your voice, please join us on March 25 to be part of this important conversation."

More information about the facilities master planning process is available at www.uaschools.org/facilities.

Treasurer's Notes

Andrew L. Geistfeld

The first months of the year bring two notable milestones on the financial side of our district – the results of our annual state audit and the update to our financial forecast.



Auditor of State Award

Being good stewards of taxpayer dollars is a core responsibility for our district, and wisely managing our resources is central to that commitment. Each year, we undergo a thorough, third-party financial review conducted by the State of Ohio Auditor's Office. This independent evaluation ensures transparency and accountability in our financial practices. A team from the auditor's office carefully examines our records and processes, providing an important check on our fiscal management.

I am proud to announce that, for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, our district has once again earned a clean audit opinion and received the prestigious Auditor of State Award. This achievement reflects our ongoing dedication to sound financial practices and commitment to the community. You can view the full audited financial report for fiscal year 2025 at www.uaschools.org/departments/treasurer/annual-audits.

Financial Forecast

In February, I presented an update to the district's financial forecast, formerly known as the five year forecast, to the Board of Education at their regular meeting. This legally required document for public school districts must be submitted to the state twice a year – with a new forecast issued by August 31 and an update in February.

The forecast serves as a crucial tool to help us assess potential financial impacts on the district and future needs. It offers a full picture of the district's financial health, past, present and future – looking at four years of historical data and four years of projections.

The updated forecast reflects what we have been expecting for some time – that, after stretching the last operating levy for an additional year, expenditures are beginning to outpace revenue. Due to school funding laws in the state of Ohio, generally speaking, suburban school districts like Upper Arlington see this happen three to four years after the approval of an operating levy – which is why they return to voters every three to four years in order to keep up with inflation and maintain the current level of school operations.

Over the past few years, we have continued to build on our commitment to seeking out cost savings and efficiencies wherever possible. This is why we have been able to stretch the last operating levy longer than we initially expected.

The district's need for a new operating levy is one of the key considerations as the district moves forward in phase two of the facilities master planning process for the aging middle schools and Burbank Early Childhood School. The community experts on the Financial Advisory Board will offer their thoughts on a potential operating levy and bond issue for the November 2026 ballot, and Superintendent Robert Hunt, Ph.D., and I will ultimately make a recommendation to the Board of Education. We expect the Board of Education to take action on this in May or June.

You can review the new financial forecast at www.uaschools.org/treasurer. Later this spring, we will also publish our annual Financial Update on our website. This accountability report provides stakeholders with an even deeper look into our finances. As always, if you have any questions about our finances, you can contact me at treasurer@uaschools.org.

2025-2026 SCHOOL DATES

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

No School for Students; Staff Report Per Schedule
Friday, April 3

Election Day: No School for Students; Staff Report Per Schedule
Tuesday, May 5

Upper Arlington High School Commencement
Sunday, May 24 at 9:30 am
Jerome Schottenstein Center, 555 Borrer Drive

Memorial Day: No School for Student and Staff
Monday, May 25

Last Day for Students; Early Dismissal
Thursday, May 28
Elementary dismissal at 1 pm; secondary at 1:30 pm

Teacher Work Day: No School for Students; Staff Report Per schedule
Friday, May 29

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

Honoring Excellence in Music Education

It's a high-note moment for Upper Arlington's music program – as two orchestra educators have been recognized for their outstanding impact on students.

- Jones Middle School orchestra teacher **Vince Huzicka** has been named the recipient of the 2026 Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA) Young Music Educator Award. This statewide honor recognizes OMEA members in their first three to eight years of teaching who demonstrate excellence in music education through outstanding service, dedication and meaningful contributions to their programs and students.
- Upper Arlington High School orchestra teacher **Gretchen Wyder Zunic** has been named the winner of the Manilow Music Teacher Award. She will receive \$10,000 for the UA Orchestra program and be recognized by Barry Manilow at his upcoming Columbus concert.



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.

Families interested in enrolling their child or children may do so through an online registration form that is available at www.uaschools.org/kindergarten. We strongly encourage families to complete the registration process by March 15 for staffing and planning purposes.

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

Uniquely Accomplished

- Upper Arlington High School seniors have been recognized for multilingual excellence, with **29 students earning the Ohio Seal of Bilingual Proficiency**. These students

demonstrated proficiency in five languages – ASL, French, German, Portuguese and Spanish – qualifying for significant college credit at many Ohio universities. Through a new pilot opportunity at UAHS, students were able to take the proficiency exam during the first semester. This number will continue to grow in the second semester as even more students qualify.

- Barrington Elementary fourth- and fifth-grade students have received national recognition for their writing, with **25 young poets selected for publication** in the upcoming anthology *A Celebration of Poets*, to be released in June 2026.
- Three Upper Arlington High School ensembles – **Concert Orchestra** (directed by **Gretchen Wyder Zunic** and **Chris Lape**), **Bel Canto** (**Amy Leacock**), and **Camerata** (**David Monseur**) – performed at the 2026 Ohio Music Education Association Professional Development Conference in January. Only 39 ensembles from across the state – spanning all grade levels and including band, choir and orchestra – earned this prestigious honor.

These honors highlight the exceptional talent and commitment of our music staff – and the powerful role music plays across our schools.

Kindergarten Registration Open for 2026-2027

The Upper Arlington Schools community is looking forward to welcoming the Golden Bears Class of 2039!

Due to a new state law, children will now need to be 5 years of age as of the first day of school – August 12, 2026, for the upcoming school year – to be eligible for kindergarten. This is a change from previous years.

Festival Celebrates Culture, Connection

Upper Arlington High School students



invite you to be part of the 2026 Human Connections Festival on the evening of March 25. This multi-generational school and community celebration features a student-created interactive gallery space designed to celebrate culture, explore diverse lived experiences, learn from new perspectives and build relationships.



Students will design and host tables independently, with a student group or with the support of a staff member or community member who shares a vision for connection and cultural celebration. These options will allow student groups from UAHS and our elementary and middle schools to join the celebration.

Families and community members are invited to experience the Human Connections Festival and walk the gallery space from 6-8 pm on March 25 at Upper Arlington High School, 1625 Zollinger Road. The festival will also be open only to UAHS students and staff during the school day. We hope you will join us as we elevate student voices and stories in a celebration of belonging!

Educator, Alumni Nominations Needed



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.

Where Hope Takes Root: A Garden to Remember and Inspire



The Upper Arlington Education Foundation (UA+Ed) is honored to partner with the Short family and Upper Arlington Schools to create a Hope Garden to be located at Upper Arlington High School. The space will be a peaceful and welcoming place for students, families, staff and community members to pause in times of heartache, seek hope in the midst of fear and find joy in times of remembrance.

The Hope Garden is inspired by the life of Sam Short who passed away in April 2024. Sam was the beloved son of Mike and Tori Short, and the first graduate of Upper Arlington High School's 100th class. Sam's courageous life and enduring optimism has led his family to create a place that honors not only his memory but all Upper Arlington students who pass away too soon.

To be located between the high school building and the tennis courts, the garden is designed to include peaceful seating areas and welcoming plantings.

The UA+Ed welcomes gifts in honor of Sam and in remembrance of students who pass away during their time in our schools and ensure their memory continues to inspire hope and connection within our community. All gifts are tax-deductible.

You can give online by visiting uaeducationfoundation.com and selecting the "Hope Garden Fund" from the gift designation menu, or you may write a check payable to the Upper Arlington Education Foundation and mail to: UA+Ed, 1619 Zollinger Road, Upper Arlington, OH 43221. Be sure to write "Hope Garden Fund" on the memo line so your gift supports this project.



SERVE LEAD SUCCEED... SERVE LEAD SUCCEED



LABS (Literature, Anthropology, Belonging & Service), a unique combination of IB courses at Upper Arlington High School, celebrated its fourth annual potluck – with students gathering to share family favorite dishes in a vibrant, multicultural experience.



Fifth grade classes at Tremont Elementary School took their study of light and color to a whole new level – using the dark space in the Friends' Theater at the Upper Arlington Public Library to experiment with how light helps us see color.



2026 UAHS Athletic Hall of Fame

The Upper Arlington Athletic Hall of Fame was established in 2017 to recognize individuals who have made significant contributions as student-athletes, coaches, administrators, and friends to the tradition of Golden Bear athletics. Upper Arlington High School honored the 2026 induction class for its Athletic Hall of Fame in January.

The inductees and their families were recognized during a girls and boys varsity basketball double-header at Upper Arlington High School and a ceremony the following morning in the Performing Arts Center.



Congratulations to the inductees and their families: 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); and Susie Walton Liebert ('76, tennis)

This was the ninth full induction class and increased the number of former student-athletes, coaches, administrators and friends of the UAHS athletics program enshrined to 93.

SERVE LEAD SUCCEED... SERVE LEAD SUCCEED



Thanks to the generosity of the Wickliffe Progressive Elementary School community, more than 125 gifts were collected and donated to families through the Heart to Heart Food Pantry during the holiday season.



Windermere Elementary students spent their winter parties assembling snack packs for Seeds of Caring and Hilliard Food Pantry and decorating coffee sleeves for Ronald McDonald House.



As part of Barrington Elementary's fifth grade Authentic Learning and Leadership Program, students took what they were learning about homelessness and food insecurity and turned it into action with a "Cram the Cruiser" service learning project in December.



Fourth grade classes at Greensview Elementary School came together for the 24th annual Rockathon in December to support the YMCA of Central Ohio.



Hastings Middle School students jumped into a variety of teacher-designed activities that encouraged collaboration, communication and connection for their Sparc & Engage Day.



Upper Arlington High School students and staff showed their commitment to service by collecting over 200 toys for the Firefighters for Kids Toy Drive – a shining example of our school community giving back!

Sparking Moments That Matter: Gems of Gratitude at UAHS

In Upper Arlington Schools, learning often goes hand in hand with giving back. At Upper Arlington High School, students had the chance to create moments of gratitude, designing custom jewelry for staff members who have inspired them.

"Once we had the opportunity to do a commissioned piece, I was like, I have to do it for Fran," Katy Cole, a student in Honors Advanced Jewelry & Metals, said of her chosen staff member – study hall aide Fran DiDonato.

Katy's design – a bezel-set ring – was carefully planned to both highlight the turquoise and aquamarine stones and create the statement piece that DiDonato desired.

"She decided she wanted to do a ring, and I had a couple of sketches of what's possible," Katy explained.

Bella Anderson-Bates, a student in AP 3D Art & Design, also took a deeply personal approach to this service learning project, creating a ring for her former biology teacher, Jaren Woodland.

"We came up with the idea to use two moonstones and make an infinity symbol surrounding the ring," Bella said of the design, which holds special meaning for Woodland.

Janey Carron drew inspiration from her teacher's family, designing a



pendant featuring emeralds to represent Angela Bower's two children.

"When you look down at these emeralds, you see the little humans you've brought into the world," Bower said. "There's no better thought than that."

For the students, the service-learning project offered a rare chance to turn classroom skills into something tangible, personal, and meaningful.

"This is kind of my first opportunity to make something professional that is going to be, 'Oh, who made this? One of my high school students did,'" Bella said.

Katy added, "I think it's amazing that we have this opportunity, especially because we're in high school."

Staff members were deeply touched by the thoughtful creations.

"This was the sweetest," Nick Komjati said of the ring designed by Mina Beekman for his wife. "Mina's excitement throughout the whole process made me really excited about it."



DiDonato simply put it: "It means everything."

These projects are more than just creative assignments. They are examples of service in action, giving students the opportunity to capture gratitude, thoughtfulness and care in a tangible form. At Upper Arlington High School, moments like these remind everyone that learning isn't just about what happens in the classroom – it's about building connections that truly matter.



Golden Bear Reflections: Juan Barros ('14)

For Juan Barros, Upper Arlington Schools felt like home from the very first day. Arriving from Colombia at just five years old, he quickly found his place in the UA community.

"I never felt out of place. I never felt like an outsider," he recalls. "That really speaks to the culture of this place, and I'm so thankful I was able to feel like part of the community from day one."

Barros credits that supportive culture with shaping the person he is today.

"The staff here really sets you up to succeed," he says. "They really teach you how to be independent but also how to work as part of a team, and also teach you how to be proactive in your life and your goals ..."

"That core, foundational culture was so, so helpful and really the biggest reason why I've been successful in my career and life."

Sports and extracurriculars played a key role for Barros, too.

"I played a lot of soccer, and some of my lifelong friends were made right



on the practice field," he says.

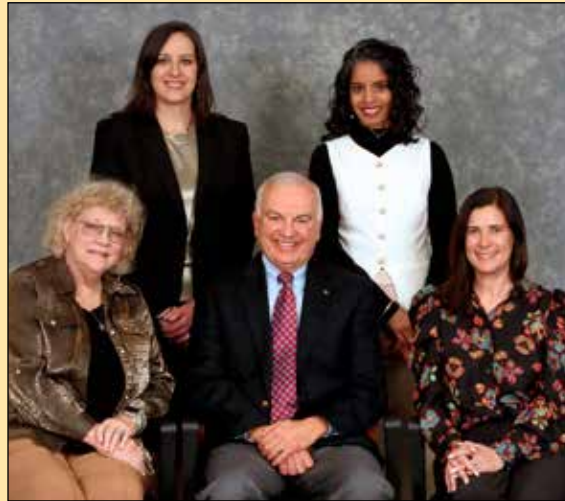
Now working locally in tech sales for a business technology solutions company, Barros sees the lessons he learned at UA every day.

"The biggest thing I got from my education here was ... my ability to communicate with others," he explains. He also learned how to be a leader and how to be a successful member of a team – "all of that I learned here."

For Juan, Upper Arlington Schools wasn't just a place to learn; it was a place to grow, connect and prepare for the world beyond the classroom.

UPPER ARLINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION

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



Thanks to a partnership with the City of Upper Arlington, Board of Education meetings take place in the Council Chamber of the City's Municipal Services Center, 3600 Tremont Road.

In general, the meetings begin at 6 pm on the second Tuesday of each month. Some exceptions apply, and last-minute scheduling changes are possible. Please refer to www.uaschools.org for the most up-to-date information.

Upcoming Board of Education Meetings:

- **Tuesday, March 10** – 6 pm, Council Chamber
- **Tuesday, April 14** – 6 pm, Council Chamber
- **Tuesday, May 12** – 6 pm, Council Chamber

At the January 13 organizational and regular meeting, Nidhi Satiani was sworn in to continue her service for a second term on the Board of Education, and Kip Greenhill was sworn in to begin his first term. The Board of Education also selected its leadership for the year, with Jenny McKenna serving as president and Liz George Stump as vice president.

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

SchoolsINSIGHT

BI-MONTHLY NEWS FROM UPPER ARLINGTON SCHOOLS

Production:

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

Library MARCH | APRIL 2026 iNSIGHT

BI-MONTHLY NEWS FROM THE UPPER ARLINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY



Author Jerry Craft to Visit UA

Newbery Medal winner Jerry Craft will visit Upper Arlington on Monday, March 2 for a public talk at 6:30 pm in the Performing Arts Center at UA High School, 1625 Zollinger Road.

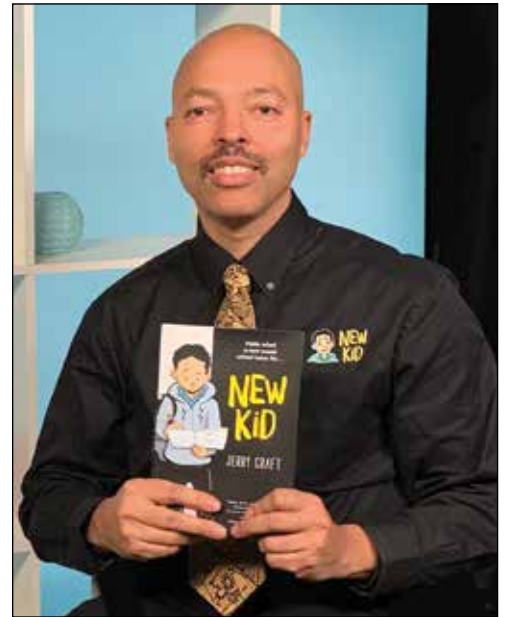
Craft will lead an interactive presentation on his journey from reluctant reader to award-winning author, illustrator and cartoonist. A book signing will follow the presentation, with Cover to Cover onsite to sell his books.

This program is recommended for ages 8 years & up. Free registration is now open at <http://uapl.me/JerryCraft>.

Craft's #1 New York Times bestseller *New Kid* was awarded the 2020 Newbery Medal. He also wrote *Class Act* and *School Trip*, and is the creator of "Mama's Boyz" – a comic strip which won the African American Literary Award five times. He is a co-founder of the Schomburg Center's Annual Black Comic Book Festival.

Craft's visit will also include presentations exclusively for Hastings and Jones Middle School students earlier that day.

This special event is offered in partnership with the Upper Arlington Community Foundation, the Upper Arlington Education Foundation, and Upper Arlington City Schools.



NewsBITES

LIBRARY NEWS AND USEFUL INFORMATION

Tremont Road Branch Roof

We expect work on our Tremont Road Branch roof to begin this spring. Construction will undoubtedly cause some disruptions and noise for visitors, and we thank you for your understanding as we tackle this critical project.

Community Health and Wellness Fair

10 am-2 pm, Saturday, March 7
Tremont Road Branch

Join us for our annual Community Health and Wellness Fair on Saturday, March 7, from 10 am-2 pm at the Tremont Road Branch. This lively event aims to help you stay healthy and active. The fair will feature free health screenings, interactive demonstrations, and informative presentations

designed to support well-being at every stage of life. With over a dozen local organizations on hand, you'll have plenty of opportunities to connect with community experts, discover helpful resources, and pick up practical tips for maintaining a healthy lifestyle. See the full list of exhibitors at <https://uapl.me/3NEKwDh>.

Sustainability Fair

10 am-1 pm, Saturday, April 11
Tremont Road Branch

Celebrate Earth-friendly living at our Sustainability Fair on Saturday, April 11, from 10 am-1 pm at the Tremont Road Branch. This hands-on event highlights the many ways our community is working toward a greener future, with exhibitors and activities including a compost sale, electronic waste and

household goods collection, a bike repair and maintenance station, and an informative presentation from Franklin Soil and Water. Families are welcome, and young children can enjoy a sustainability-themed activity led by our librarians from 10-11:30 am. See the full list of exhibitors at <https://uapl.me/4t90422>.

Red Cross Blood Drives

The American Red Cross will hold blood drives at the Tremont Road Branch on Friday, March 27 and Friday, April 24 from 11 am- 4 pm. Walk-ins welcome or make an appointment at www.redcrossblood.org with sponsor code "UAPL".

Holiday Closing

We will be closed on Easter Sunday, April 5.



A NOTE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Beth Pfahler

Levy Funds in Action

Library Fund or future voter-approved levy support. We are carefully planning how to invest in our facilities and services to carry the Library into the future, and only through levy support are we able to make significant improvements.

The levy came with a promise to invest in our buildings over the next five years, beginning with critical maintenance and repair. We have committed funds to major projects, including replacing the roof at the Tremont Road location and completing significant infrastructure and HVAC upgrades across all three facilities. To date, roughly half of the levy funds have been directed toward these building improvements as we work through an extensive list of priorities and plan for future renovations.

One important project was the renovation of our Lane Road Branch – its first in 50 years. Community feedback on the improvements has been overwhelmingly positive, with the new meeting rooms and shared spaces being

heavily used. Thank you to the patrons who made use of our other locations during the necessary eight-month closure.

The additional levy money also enabled the Library to complete a comprehensive salary and compensation study in 2022-23, which led to meaningful investments in employee pay and benefits in 2024.

Looking ahead, the Tremont Road Branch will be a major focus in the coming year. We are assembling a community task force that will work closely with HBM Architects and Interior Designers to develop more detailed concepts for the Tremont renovation. This effort will prioritize operational efficiency, responsible financial planning, and better use of existing space, while keeping community needs at the center. The Library plans to fund this future renovation by continuing to invest in our Building Improvement Fund to prepare sustainably for upcoming projects.

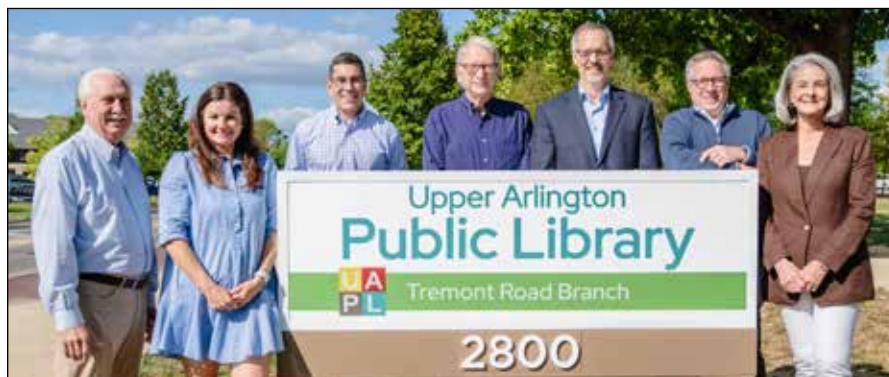
I am excited about what lies ahead and confident that our libraries will continue to be vibrant, essential spaces for learning, connection, and opportunity.

I am so grateful for the continued support of our community, our Board, and our staff.

As we move into the final year of our current Strategic Plan, which focuses on customer impact and use of space, I find myself reflecting on how much progress this library system has made –and how well-positioned we are for the work ahead.

We are greatly appreciative of the levy support in 2022, which has made all of our progress and future plans possible. In 2022, the Library's total revenue was \$6.3 million, made up of levy funds and support from the State's Public Library Fund. With the passage of the 10-year levy, annual revenue reached \$9.3 million – an increase of approximately \$3 million each year. However, the structure of our revenue will remain relatively flat over time unless there are increases to the State's Public

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 March Meeting
- Tuesday, April 21

2026 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

Production:

Christine Minx
Marketing & Communications Manager
614-486-9621 | cminx@ualibrary.org



Upper Arlington Public Library

2800 Tremont Road
Upper Arlington, Ohio 43221
Phone: 614-486-9621 | www.ualibrary.org

 www.facebook.com/UAPublicLibrary
 www.instagram.com/uapubliclibrary

MAKING MEMORIES...building connections



A professional violinist provided the soundtrack for our ProMusica Storytime.

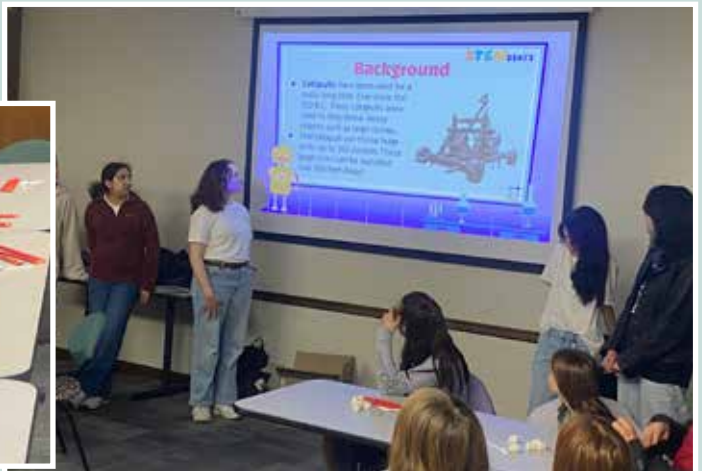


We partnered with Sustainable UA to host a Repair Café for household items.

Kids designed colorful scarves using felt, markers and imagination.



The Stemsters Club from the UA High School led a STEAM program, which included the creation of a marshmallow catapult.



OUR STAFF RECOMMENDS

The Most Wonderful Crime of the Year

By Ally Carter

Rival mystery authors Maggie Chase and Ethan Wyatt get an invite to spend the holidays with the legendary but reclusive Eleanor Ashley at her remote English manor. However, when she suddenly vanishes from a locked room, they find themselves forced to collaborate to solve the mystery of how and where. This is the perfect twist of a locked-room mystery with some fun romance.

– Donna, Lane Road Branch

Lonely Planet Kids: America's National Parks

By Alexa Ward

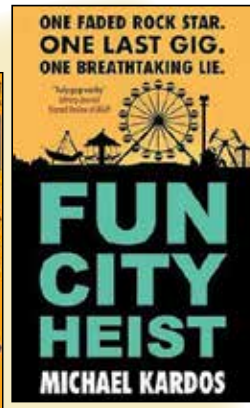
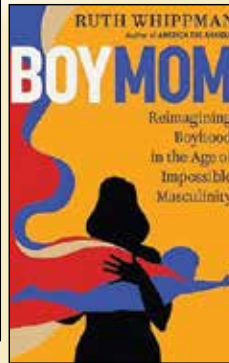
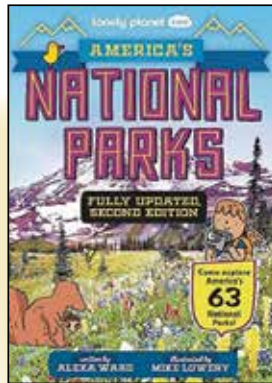
This overview of our country's 63 national parks is a treasure trove of full-color photographs on every page, supplemented by small cartoon graphics. The four pages dedicated to each national park contain the best views and descriptions of the land, a list of "Things to See," and a list of "Things to Do." This book is an engaging way to introduce children to the national park system that began under President Wilson in 1916. It can inspire imaginations about what it might be like to be there, and perhaps entice your family to visit them!

– Cathleen, Youth Department

BoyMom: Reimagining Boyhood in the Age of Impossible Masculinity

By Ruth Whippman

Whippman, a journalist and mother of three boys, combines memoir, cultural analysis, and reporting as she tackles the complexities of parenting boys in today's culture. Despite the lame term, *BoyMom*



is not so much about moms raising boys but more about the societal messaging around masculinity in our culture, from infancy to young adulthood. This book is challenging, insightful, and deeply thought-provoking, and does not offer easy answers and solutions.

– Bridie, Miller Park Branch

Fun City Heist

By Michael Kardos

Mo Melnick used to be the drummer in an almost famous rock band. Now he rents beach umbrellas to tourists on the Jersey Shore. Ex-bandmate Johnny Clay shows up to tell Mo that the band is getting back together for one last gig at Fun City, the beachfront amusement park where it all began. But Johnny doesn't really care about the gig, he wants to use the performance as a cover to rob Fun City. Perfect for fans of Elmore Leonard and Donald Westlake.

– Laura, Technical Services

She Didn't See It Coming

By Shari Lapena

In this thriller, a wife and mother goes missing in her own apartment building. In an attempt to solve the mystery, police try to work with friends and family to see if she could still be trapped somewhere inside another unit. The problem? Everyone has secrets of their own and are holding their cards close to learn what really happened. As secrets are revealed, family learns you never really know what is going on behind closed doors. This book will keep you guessing throughout and put you through the panic

of a missing person.

– Brittany, Lane Road

Helen of Wyndhorn

By Tom King

17-year-old Helen is the daughter of esteemed fantasy author C.K. Cole. Upon her father's tragic and untimely passing, Helen is called to her grandfather's mysterious estate, Wyndhorn House. Helen grieves at the bottom of a bottle, while her new governess tries desperately to guide an aimless girl. It's not until she discovers the secrets hidden in her grandfather's battle scars and the uncanny creatures living in the vast forest surrounding Wyndhorn that Helen realizes her father's adventurous tales were not fiction at all. Helen of Wyndhorn is a gothic sword and sorcery epic graphic novel centered around the adventures of the Cole family and their fantastical double lives. If you're a fan of *Conan the Barbarian*, *D&D*, or *The Wizard of Oz*, you'll want to get lost in Evely's stunning illustrations and King's enchanting worldbuilding.

– Iliana, Adult Department



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



Presort Standard
US Postage
PAID
Columbus OH
Permit #758

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
Middle School Students
March 4-27

High School Students
April 1-30

Community Health & Wellness Fair
All day, Saturday, March 7
Tremont Library | ualibrary.org
See page 20 for event details.

Magic at the Market Photo Exhibit
March 6-31
Reception: 2-4 pm, Sunday, March 8
Tremont Library | commongreensohio.org
At last year's UA Farmers Market, kids were encouraged to borrow a Polaroid camera and take pictures of the Market. The results of their efforts will be on display at the Tremont Library.

Community Relations Committee Iftar Dinner
6 pm, Wednesday, March 11
Bob Crane Community Center
uacommunityrelations.com
See page 10 for details.

UACA Easter Egg Hunt & Bunny Trail
10 am, Saturday, March 28
Thompson Park | www.uaca.org
Enjoy this free event from UACA. Arrive by 9:45 am for a prompt start. If it rains, candy is handed out drive-thru style.

Sustainability Fair
10 am-2 pm, Saturday, April 11
Tremont Library | ualibrary.org
See page 20 for event details.

Community Relations Committee Cherry Blossom Celebration
5 pm, Monday, April 6
Mallway Park | uacommunityrelations.com
Join the CRC to celebrate the start of spring and learn about Japanese culture.

History Speaks: Preserving the Past: the Story of the Walcutt-Legg Cemetery and its Revolutionary War Veteran
1:30-3 pm, Sunday, April 19
Wellington School
UA Historical Society | uahistory.org
Part of UA's America 250-Ohio celebrations. See page 7 for details.

Arbor Day Ceremony
Time TBD, Friday, April 24
Sunny 95 Park

UA PARKS & REC | 614-583-5300
See page 7 for details.

DEA Drug Take Back Day
10 am-2 pm, Saturday, April 25
Fire Station 72, Reed Road
Drop-off old and unused prescription drugs drive-thru style, as UA Police participates in the Spring Drug Take Back Day.

UA Culture & Artisans Fair
10 am-3 pm, Saturday, May 2
St. Mark's Episcopal Church
2151 Dorset Road
Artisans from across the globe showcase and sell their handmade items. This event is part of the CRC Welcome Series.

History Speaks: The Best Day in UA: Celebrating 100 Years of July 4th Traditions
3-4:30 pm, Sunday, May 3
Bob Crane Community Center
UA Historical Society | uahistory.org
Part of UA's America 250-Ohio celebrations.

Spring Fling
11 am-2 pm, Saturday, May 9
Sunny 95 Park
UA PARKS & REC | 614-583-5300
Family friendly event with a fishing derby, games, Touch A Truck and more.