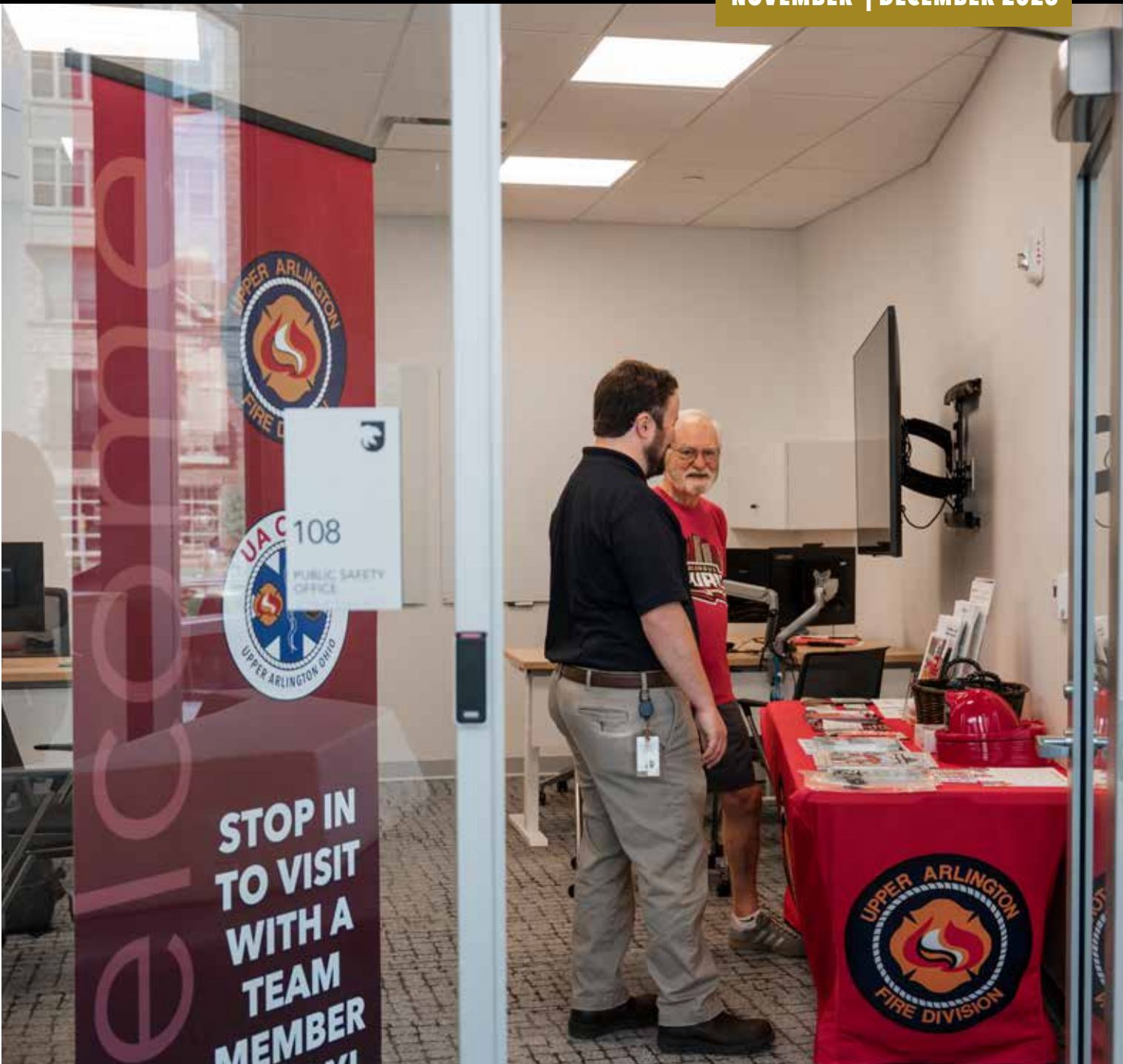


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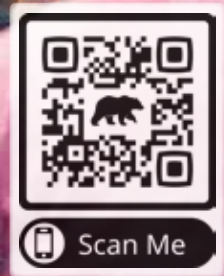
NOVEMBER | DECEMBER 2026



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



Master Plan Update: From Listening to Planning



Over the past several months, the Upper Arlington Master Plan has moved through two important phases: understanding where we are today, and listening to where the community wants to go next.

Earlier this year, the planning team completed the first round of technical analysis, taking a detailed look at the trends, opportunities and challenges shaping Upper Arlington. This work explored land use, housing and economic development; mobility and connectivity; parks and recreation; and emerging technology, resilience and future disruptions.

During the summer and fall, the focus shifted from research to listening. Through community surveys, more than 20 stakeholder focus groups, the first Community Open House, pop-up events, and conversations with students,

older adults and other community members, thousands of voices and interactions helped provide a clearer picture of what residents value today and what they want to be considered as Upper Arlington plans for the future.

Across these conversations, several themes rose consistently to the top. Residents want to preserve what makes Upper Arlington special, while allowing thoughtful change and reinvestment in the right places. They want to maintain and build upon strong community assets, make it easier and safer to get around, respond to the needs of residents of all ages and abilities, and prepare thoughtfully for future change.

The Master Plan Film Series has also helped tell the story of the planning process. The first film introduced the Master Plan and why this work matters for Upper Arlington's future. A second film, scheduled for release later this fall, turns the camera toward the community, highlighting the voices, experiences and perspectives gathered during this first round of engagement,

highlighting what we heard and learned from residents.

So, What Comes Next?

Through the winter months, the planning team and Master Plan Steering Committee will bring the technical analysis and community input together to begin developing the Master Plan framework, including the vision, core values and strategies that will guide Upper Arlington's next chapter.

Then, in spring 2027, we'll come back to the community to share what we've developed, continue the conversation, and make sure the emerging plan reflects both what we've learned and where Upper Arlington wants to go.

The Master Plan is moving from research and listening to vision and action, with the community's voice helping guide every step along the way.

For project details and updates, use the QR code above to access the Master Plan website, also available at upperarlingtonmasterplan.com.



Issue 34 - Police and Fire Pension Levy

The November 3 General Election is just days away. If you have not voted early and you're still researching the candidates and issues, here's an overview of Issue 34—the City's request for a five-year, 1.13 mill property tax levy to fund the City's portion of the police and fire personnel's pensions.

Community surveys consistently confirm just how important safety is to residents, highlighting their confidence in the exceptional services provided by the City's Police and Fire divisions.

Achieving a high standard of safety services is a costly endeavor. Combined, our safety forces represent approximately half the City's workforce and general budget each year. The equipment and training required to make our Police, Fire and EMS response teams the best they can be is extensive. And yet, the City is able to provide an exceptional level of safety services at one of the lowest costs per capita compared with similar Ohio communities.

Ensuring a firm financial footing for the City and its operations is something City Council and the Administration take very seriously. It is accomplished by maintaining a mix of revenue sources and building a strong rainy day fund, so that we have flexibility during times of challenge.

The Issue 34 property tax levy is a prime example of a stable revenue stream that helps provide a foundation for our safety forces, enabling us to invest in the personnel, training and equipment necessary for a community of our size.

By Ohio Statute, the City is required to fund the equivalent of 19.5% (Police) and 24% (Fire) of gross wages to support the Police & Fire Pension Fund. The City has funded its Police and Fire pensions through property tax for the past 50 years, with residents voting to approve 10, five-year ballot issues. All previous levies have been set at or close to 1.0 mill.

2026 Police & Fire Pension Levy - in Dollars & Cents

Here's what the levy would mean for your annual property tax bill:

Home Value	Current Levy	Proposed Levy	Increase
\$100,000	\$17.50	\$26.00	\$8.50
\$500,000	\$87.50	\$130.00	\$42.00

What Homeowners Will Actually Pay

Because the renewal portion of the levy is subject to Ohio's 12.5% rollback provision, applicable homeowners would be estimated to pay:

- **\$23.71 for every \$100,000 of home value**
- **\$118.55 for a \$500,000 home**

Many communities in Ohio use a combination of permanent and voted property tax levies to help fund their safety services or their required contribution to the Police & Fire Pension Fund, since it provides a predictable, fixed source of income.

What Is the Police and Fire Pension Levy Request?

The City's existing 0.89-mill Police and Fire Pension Levy expires at the end of tax year 2026. Voters are being asked to approve a renewal of .89 mills plus a .24 mill increase for a total rate of 1.13 mills.

When Will the Levy Take Effect?

If approved by voters, the new Police and Fire Pension Levy will take effect for tax year 2027, which is payable beginning in 2028.

What Does the Levy Fund?

The proposed levy will fund the state-mandated retirement and disability fund for the City's police and fire personnel for a period of five years. If approved, 100 percent of the proceeds will be dedicated to the Police & Fire Pension Fund.

Approximately 8% of the property taxes paid by Upper Arlington residents is received by the City. The Police & Fire Pension levy is counted as part of this. The majority of your property taxes

support the Upper Arlington Schools, Library and various Franklin County levies.

What Will the Levy Generate?

The proposed 1.13-mill levy will generate approximately \$2.2 million annually. The renewal of the existing .89-mill levy will generate approximately \$1.5 million per year, the same amount currently collected. The proposed .24-mill increase will generate approximately \$700,000 annually to fund anticipated increases in the City's Police & Fire Pension obligation over the next five years.

If you have questions about Issue 34, please contact our Finance Director, Brent Lewis, at blewis@uaoh.net.

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



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instagram.com/@cityofua



FROM CHAMBERS | Highlights of City Council & Its Policy Decisions

2027-2028 Budget

The fall of each even numbered year marks a busy time for the City as departments develop their proposed budgets for the next two years. The results of that effort come before Council starting in November, with a series of public hearings that look at the different budget components.

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

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

The proposed 2027-2028 budget is reflective of conservative revenue projections that align with the current economic climate, while positioning the City to be able to continue providing a high level of services and reinvestment in the 10-Year Capital Improvement Program, relative to streets, sidewalks, waterlines, sewers, parks and other public infrastructure.

Dates for the budget hearings are as follows:

- **Monday, November 9** - Capital Improvement Program
- **Monday, November 16** - Operating, Capital Equipment, Schedule of Fees
- **Monday, November 30** - open items
- **Monday, December 7** - final budget changes, 1st Reading
- **Monday, December 14** - final budget changes, 2nd Reading, Council Vote

Meetings begin at 6 pm, at the Municipal Services Center, 3600 Tremont Road. For additional details, contact our Finance Director, Brent Lewis, at 614-583-5288 or blewis@uaoh.net.



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

Code Updates

In early September, Council approved a series of updates to the City's Administrative Code. This followed an extensive review process by the City Attorney to modernize, simplify and streamline the code so that it is easier to interpret and apply, while ensuring alignment with state laws. Some highlights include:

- Flexibility in Council's meeting practices;
- Expanding the City Manager's authority for settling claims against the City from \$30,000 to \$50,000;
- Enabling Boards and Commissions to meet remotely or via a hybrid approach, with the exception of the Board of Zoning and Planning;
- Enabling UA Parks & Rec to set and adjust rules for all parks and facilities under the department's purview;
- Shifting appeals previously heard by the Board of Building Appeals to the Board of Zoning and Planning;
- Instituting a fine of four times the value of each applicable permit fee for any construction work undertaken without obtaining the necessary permit(s);
- Requiring full site restoration within 30 days of demolition for properties that do not have active, approved

redevelopment plans, or following the expiration of development approvals or permits, or abandonment of a site or project.

City Considers Expanded Review Requirements for Automated License Plate Readers

Recognizing the concerns arising both regionally and nationally over possible privacy violations and misuse of data obtained through automated license plate readers, such as Flock Cameras, Staff and Council have been working to strengthen the internal controls surrounding the access and use of data by our Police Division.

A series of search timelines and approval requirements are proposed to ensure the proper use and oversight of data.

A Third Reading on this issue is scheduled for the November 9 City Council Meeting. For additional information and to view video from the discussion of this issue at the October 12 meeting, visit upperarlingtonoh.gov, then look for the **Agendas and Meetings** link under the **Government** tab of our homepage.

Holiday Fire Safety Reminders

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

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

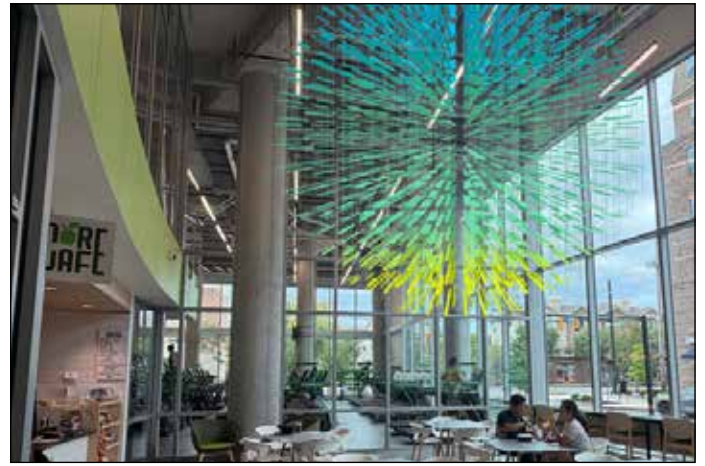


More than 300 UA households receive SNAP benefits from the federal government, and there are likely more families facing food insecurity that have not completed the necessary paperwork to qualify for this program. To help address this issue, the Tri-Village Lions and Coventry Senior Living have teamed up to provide a Little Free Pantry for any community members who are struggling to make ends meet. Similar to the Little Free Library concept, the food inside is there for the taking by anyone who needs it, and will be stocked-in part-by contributions from community members.

Located on the northeast corner of the property, anyone can take items from the pantry at any time.

If you would like to contribute to the Little Free Pantry, just drop items off in the box. Please only donate items that are shelf-stable – examples include canned fruits, veggies, soups and proteins, pasta and rice, pasta sauces, peanut butter, baby formula, flour, sugar, condiments, and healthy snacks.

Public Art Coming to the Bob Crane Community Center



The opening of the Bob Crane Community Center in the Spring of 2025 presented an exciting opportunity for advancing the City's Arts & Culture Master Plan's goals for expanding public art in the community. At the October 12 City Council Meeting, Staff and Cultural Arts Commission representatives presented the results of a months-long process to select a preferred artist and commission the design of a unique, three-dimensional sculptural piece for the Level 1 Entry Lobby.

In May of this year, an appointed artist selection panel was able to narrow a field of 122 artist applicants, representing 33 states, down to three finalists. The finalists were then asked to prepare project proposals. From these submittals the artist selection panel recommended a local artist—Virginia Kistler, from Gahanna—to the Cultural Arts Commission.

Ms. Kistler is an interdisciplinary artist who works primarily in sculpture and photography. She is a graduate of OSU and CCAD, and spent more than 20 years designing interactive exhibits for children's museums before becoming a public artist.

Inspired by UA's identity as a Tree City, and the American Sycamore tree that once stood on the site, the sculpture draws on the form of the sycamore seed ball, representing the multi-generational community coming together at the Community Center for celebration, health and wellness reasons, then dispersing back into the community carrying their experiences and reflections beyond the walls of the space. Made of 1/4" custom resin pieces connected by stainless steel aircraft cable, the color palette pays homage to the blue bricks of the former Lazarus/Macy's building and the community's natural beauty.

With a budget of \$100,000, the task of transforming Kistler's design from concept to reality begins, with plans for installation in the fall of 2027.

Full details of this exciting project can be found on the City's website, upperarlingtonoh.gov, under the **Parks & Recreation** | **Cultural Arts** section.



CITY MANAGER UPDATE

Steve Schoeny

E-Mobility Device Registration, Safety Education, and Parking Restrictions Program Moves to Implementation

For much of this year, we have been working to identify the most effective way to improve the safety of e-mobility devices (i.e., e-bicycles, e-scooters and motorized skateboards) in UA. We have looked at how these devices are regulated across the United States. We have surveyed the UA community, and we talked to young residents, our older residents, our patrol officers who enforce the laws, and medical professionals who see kids in the emergency room and study the data.

Through all of that, a few things became clear:

- Safety concerns are based on fact.
- The vast majority of our residents want e-mobility devices, but they want them used safely.
- Police cannot be everywhere at all times, so just outlawing more behaviors won't work.
- The most dangerous behavior we see is with kids who haven't had a class on road safety since Safety Town.

Based on these conclusions, we proposed a system that combines a requirement to register e-mobility devices with a registration system. From June until early October, City Council debated our proposal, heard from the community, made amendments, and, ultimately, passed a new system to facilitate the safe use of e-mobility devices on our streets. That system is built on the idea of requiring education for everyone who operates a motorized vehicle in UA, clarifying our laws for riding on sidewalks and in the parks, and requiring helmets for minors.

Below is a summary of the new program and how it will roll out.

Program Highlights

Registration and Operation

If you have a valid motor vehicle driver's license, you can ride any e-mobility device in UA without doing anything else. By obtaining a driver's license, you have demonstrated that you know the rules of the road.

If you do not have a valid driver's license, you can only ride a device that has been registered with UAPD and that registration identifies you as an authorized operator of the device.

The requirements to register the device are:

- All authorized riders who do not have a valid driver's license must take and pass a safety class offered by UAPD.
- If the authorized riders are under 18 years old, a parent or guardian must affirm that they have reviewed the training materials, accept financial responsibility for any fines, and acknowledge key terms of the program.
- Once all of that is completed, UAPD will provide a registration sticker for the device that must be displayed on the device.

It will also be illegal for someone without a driver's license to park an unregistered e-mobility device at a school, library, park, or the Bob Crane Community Center.

Helmets

Through this process, City Council added a new requirement that a helmet be worn on all bikes and scooters (motorized and not motorized) by everyone under 18 years old.

Enforcement, Seizure and Immobilization Protocols

Police officers will have the discretion to stop young riders of e-devices that

lack a visible registration sticker. Any devices that are illegally operated or improperly parked will either be secured (immobilized) to a public bike rack using a City-owned locking device, or they will be transported (impounded) to a City facility.

Fees for a first-time violation of the registration requirements, or an associated immobilization or impoundment will be waived upon registration and completion of the safety course (if required). Subsequent violations will levy a fine of \$150 before the e-device is released.

Park Rules

The legislation also clarifies rules for sidewalks, shared use paths, and parks. All wheeled devices, whether motorized or not, must follow the following rules when they are in UA's parks, or on our sidewalks and shared use paths:

- Obey City laws and requirements.
- Operate in a safe manner per the manufacturer's requirements.
- Travel only on paved areas.
- The use of e-devices on natural trails and in natural areas is prohibited. Obey the speed limit of 10 miles per hour.
- Operators of e-devices must yield to pedestrians, and should only walk through crowded areas and over park bridges.
- Lights must be used before dawn or after dusk.
- All motorcycles, including e-dirt bikes, are prohibited.

Implementation Schedule

As the year comes to a close, our initial implementation is focused on establishing a schedule for e-device safety classes. Please watch for details

CONTINUES ON PAGE 7

CITY MANAGER UPDATE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

of this in the Winter edition of the Parks & Recreation Department's *Activity Guide* catalog, and via other City communications channels. We have a webpage dedicated to this issue, which can be accessed by using the QR code provided below, or by visiting the *Safe UA* section under the Police Division, at upperarlingtonoh.gov.

Program registration will begin January 1, 2027, with active police officer enforcement set to begin March 1.

Getting to this point has required a significant effort from City Staff and City Council, with support and input from the UA Schools and UA Library, while also factoring in the extensive input we have all received from the community. My sincere thanks to all involved in the development of this program.

We are hopeful that this approach will accomplish our primary goals for enhancing safety in our public spaces for everyone, educating our youth and their parents on the dangers of e-devices if they are not operated properly, and providing the appropriate framework for enforcement by our police officers.

We will of course be monitoring the implementation process for any unintended consequences and we will continue to welcome your feedback.

One final note on e-motorcycles. Nothing in this legislation applies to electric motorcycles. Under Ohio-law, electrically powered motorcycles are motorcycles. Anyone riding an electric motorcycle without valid plates and drivers license will be stopped and fined. If appropriate, we will also impound the motorcycle.



Fancyburg Park Master Plan Update



As progress continues toward implementation of the Fancyburg Park Master Plan, the City's consultant team has been finalizing its detailed designs for the new playground area which will complement the adjacent nature play area.

The design—which was shared with the community in October—is reflective of the extensive community input obtained throughout the master planning process, which included a desire for:

- A natural look that fits in with the park's trees and landscaping, with plenty of shade.
- Equipment durability, with a strong preference for a steel structure.
- A variety of play features offering many engagement and play opportunities for different age groups, including swings, climbing structures, slides, and themed interactive activities.
- An emphasis on safety and accessibility, with a variety of inclusive play features.

Residents were asked to provide feedback on the preferred design before final adjustments are made. At press time, approximately 100 residents had responded. Some examples of the

feedback received to date include:

- Continued/expanded emphasis on shade and the preservation of existing shade trees.
- Additional enhancements and play features for the toddler area.
- Expand the number of standard swings while retaining the accessible swing options.
- Several suggestions for addressing some safety and access concerns.
- Considering options for partial barriers or landscaping to help define the playground space and provide clear entry/exit points.
- The inclusion of benches around the perimeter of the playground.

The online version of this edition of *UA Insight* will be available by the third week of October, when it's still possible to weigh in on the playground designs by our October 25 survey deadline. Just scan the QR code provided here, or visit the Park Projects "*Ready for a Change*" section on our website, at upperarlingtonoh.gov.



Construction for the Fancyburg Park upgrades is scheduled to begin in the Spring of 2027, and is expected to take approximately two years to complete.

NewsBITES

CITY NEWS AND USEFUL INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS

Public Holidays

City offices are closed in observance of the following holidays:

- **Wednesday, November 11** – Veterans Day. Trash and recycling collection is not affected.
- **Thursday, November 26** – Thanksgiving Day. Thursday's trash and recycling collection zone will receive service on Friday.
- **Friday, December 25** – Trash and recycling collection is not affected.
- **Friday, January 1** – New Year's Day. Trash and recycling collection is not affected.

Bob Crane Community Center Holiday Hours

- **Veterans Day** – Tuesday, November 11: 5:30 am-10 pm
- **Thanksgiving** – Thursday, November 27: closed
- **Christmas Eve** – Thursday, December 24: 5:30 am-2 pm
- **Christmas Day** – Friday, December 25: closed
- **New Year's Eve** – Thursday, December 31: 5:30 am-2 pm
- **New Year's Day** – Friday, January 1: closed.

2027 Observances Calendar uacommunityrelations.com

Each year the UA Community Relations Committee provides an observances calendar on its section of the City's website detailing 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.

Register for Alerts & Notifications From the City upperarlingtonoh.gov

Make sure you are registered to receive important, timely updates from the City

when it matters most. When you register, you can choose to receive updates via phone message, text or email on areas that include Emergency Updates, City News, Parks & Recreation Updates, and Public Service Updates. You can find the registration portal under the "How Do I..." section of our website, at upperarlingtonoh.gov.

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.

Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery[®] Sunday, November 1

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

City Flags and Old Street Signs Available for Purchase upperarlingtonoh.gov



City flags and old street signs are available for purchase via our online shop. The flags cost \$55 and make a great holiday gift or welcome gift for new homeowners. Street signs, which cost \$30, come available as they are switched out with new signs. Visit our upperarlingtonoh.gov and look for the "How Do I?" section in the top menu bar.

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>.

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 2027 events, the deadlines are as follows:

- **Events held April 1-June 30:** January 15
- **Events held July 1-September 30:** April 16
- **Events held October 1-December 31:** July 16
- **Events held January 1-March 31, 2028:** October 15

The online Activity/Event Application can be accessed at upperarlingtonoh.gov, under the "How Do I?" section.

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.

- **November 14** – Smith Nature Park
- **December 5** – Thompson Park

UA CARES Helpdesk

10 am-Noon, 1st & 3rd Wednesdays

Bob Crane Community Center

Level 1 Public Safety Office

Our UA CARES Social Worker holds regular Helpdesk Office Hours for community members, to help connect them with a variety of resources and services. Upcoming dates:

- **November 4, 18**
- **December 2, 16**

2027 Community Calendar

upperarlingtonoh.gov

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 2027. Use the QR code to submit your event details.



2027 Leadership UA Program

It's time for aspiring community leaders to submit their applications in for the 2027 Leadership UA Program. With more than 500 alums, Leadership Upper Arlington—a program of the Upper Arlington Community Foundation—engages and inspires current and emerging leaders to take an active, effective role in their community. Leadership UA creates connections, motivates change, and



fosters philanthropy to strengthen our community. Participants gain impactful insights to build their personal and professional leadership skills, build confidence and growth through networking and education, increase their civic community involvement, and become difference makers.

Applicants must be at least 18 years old and either live or work in Upper Arlington. Scan the QR code for program details and application dates. Questions? Email Molly Seguin at the Upper Arlington Community Foundation: molly@uacommunityfoundation.com.

Election Signs Collection

November 4-20

3600 Tremont Road

The City will host a recycling collection site for election signs at the Municipal Services Center through Friday, November 20, located by the Police Bay at the south end of the building. Please separate the signs from their metal stakes and place items in the appropriate, marked collection bins:

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

2027 Wall of Honor Nominations

Nomination Deadline: December 4

www.uahistory.org

Each May, a new bronze plaque is added to the limestone wall of the Municipal Services Center Plaza to honor a deceased UA resident who had a positive impact on the community and beyond through their professional,

philanthropic, volunteer or public service. Nominations are being accepted for the 2027 Wall of Honor, a partnership of the UA Historical Society and the City. Nomination forms are available at www.uahistory.org, and at the Tremont Library.

UA Historical Society Holiday Ornament

www.uahistory.org



The Historical Society's ninth annual holiday ornament celebrates the UA tradition of claiming a parade spectator spot days or weeks before the "Best Day in UA" Fourth of July Parade. The ornaments cost \$23 including tax, and can be ordered on the Society's website.

Firefighters for Kids Toy Drive

Station 72, Reed Road

Station 71, Arlington Avenue

Help the UA Fire Division make the Christmas holidays memorable for Central Ohio kids in need, by participating in this year's Toy Drive. Drop off toys any time in November thru early December at either fire station location. Watch for the annual Drive-Thru event at Station 72 in early December.

2027 Trash & Recycling Holiday Collection Delays

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

- **New Year's Day:** Friday, January 1 - **No delays**
- **Memorial Day:** Monday, May 31 - **All zones have a one-day delay**
- **Independence Day:** Sunday, July 4 - **No delays**
- **Labor Day:** Monday, September 6 - **All zones have a one-day delay**
- **Thanksgiving:** Thursday, November 25 - **Thursday zone collected Friday**
- **Christmas Day:** Saturday, December 25 - **No delays**
- **New Year's Day:** Saturday, January 1, 2028 - **No delays**

Leaf Collection

Public Works Division | 614-583-5350

The City is providing leaf collection services through early December. A Tracking Map is available on the **Leaf Collection** section of our website, where you can follow the progress of crews and anticipate when they are likely to be on your



Please follow these guidelines:

- Place loose-raked leaves close to the edge of the street in the tree lawn, **not in the street.**
- Leaf piles should extend no further than two-three feet behind the curb.
- Do not place grass clippings, rocks, sticks or other objects in leaf piles.
- Keep piles away from signposts, light poles, trees and mail boxes.
- Do not block storm sewers as this can increase the chance of flooding in the event of a heavy rain.
- Parked vehicles should be at least 15 feet away from leaf piles so that collection crews have safe access.
- **The last day to rake leaves is Sunday, December 6.**
- Once the program has ended, place leaves in approved biodegradable bags or trash cans marked as "Yard Waste" and put them out for collection on your regular collection day.

Alternatives for Managing Leaves

- **Try Mulching** – it's a great way to dispose of leaves without raking. When leaves begin to fall, mow your lawn as if it were any other day. Depending on the volume of leaves, it might take more than one pass to get the shreds to the desired size. Leave the shredded leaf bits in the grass, they will filter through the grass and decompose, acting as natural fertilizer and weed control. Mulch on a weekly basis to prevent the accumulation of too many leaves.
- **Insulate Your Landscaping** – if you have landscaped beds, let leaves lie where they fall or mulch them before putting them in your flower beds. This provides a layer of insulation for your plants and a winter habitat and food source for insect species and other wildlife that benefit the environment. It's a cost-effective way to add nutrients to the soil and reduce erosion, while providing a sponge like layer that improves the soil's water holding capacity.
- **Compost Leaves** – turn leaves into compost, which in turn provides nutrients and improves soil

structure and comes in handy when installing new plants in your garden. Shredding leaves with a string trimmer or leaf shredder first can speed up the process and reduce volume. Then once shredded, add them to your compost pile or place them in a few plastic bags (moisten leaf bags to help the process along) and let them sit for about six months. By the spring, you'll have "garden gold" to further enrich your landscape.

Bring Us Your Pumpkins!

October 31-December 7

Fancyburg Park

Toss your pumpkins into the containers and they will be transported to a compost facility. **DO NOT** put pumpkins in your curbside food waste containers or the food waste drop-off bins at the Municipal Services Center, Sunny 95 Park, or Fancyburg Park.



Holiday Lights Recycling Program

Available Through January 31

Municipal Services Center, 3600 Tremont Road

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

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

Christmas Tree Collection

Yard Waste | 614-583-5370

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

E-Waste & Battery Collection

Public Service Center, 4100 Roberts Road

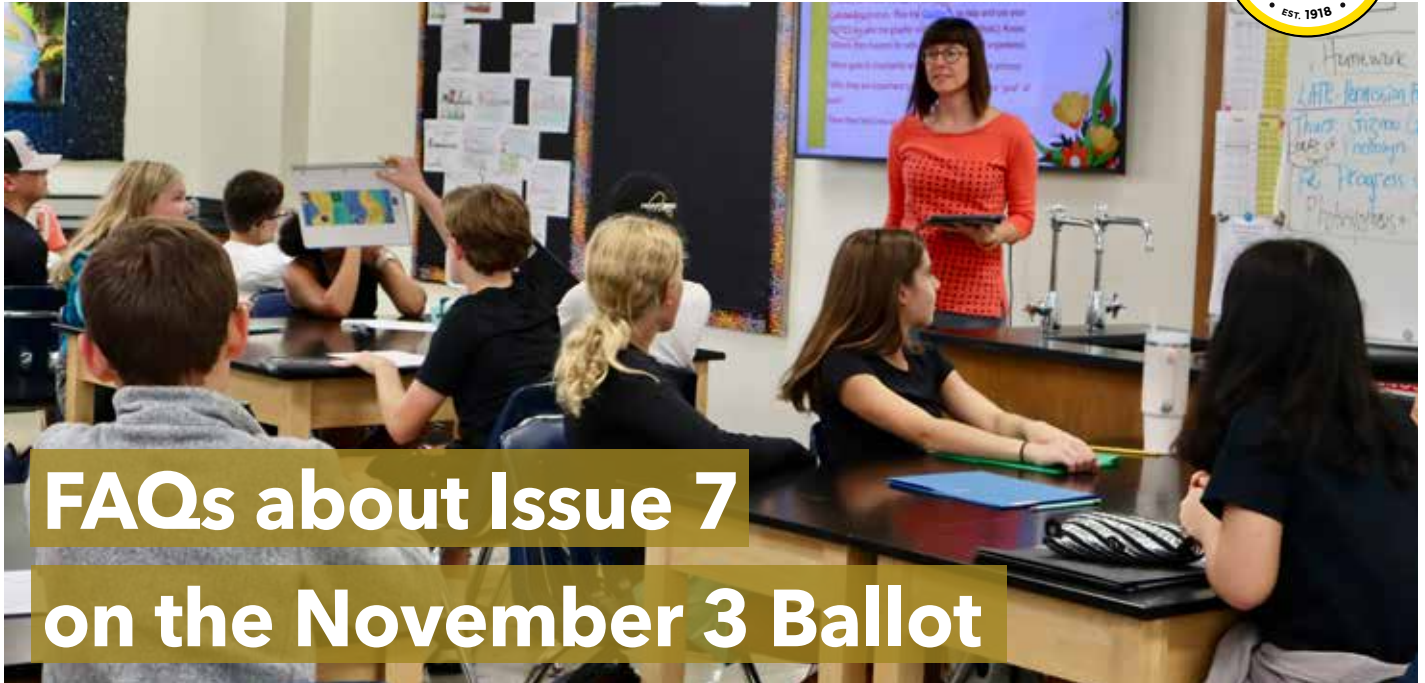
The City collects and recycles electronic waste, such as old cell phones, computers and small appliances, as well as single-use and rechargeable batteries. Drop-off is available 7 am-4 pm, Monday-Friday, at the Public Service Center.

An E-Waste collection container is also available at the Tremont Library. **PLEASE NOTE:** The Tremont Library collection is for small household electronics only (no batteries please).

Schools[★]iNSIGHT

BI-MONTHLY NEWS FROM UPPER ARLINGTON SCHOOLS

NOVEMBER | DECEMBER 2026



After engaging the community through an extensive master planning process and extending the timing of an operating levy by an additional year, the Board of Education will return to voters on the November 3, 2026 ballot with a request for a combined operating levy and bond issue.

The \$273.5 million bond issue would fund the second phase of the master plan, while the 4.9-mill operating levy would provide funding to maintain the district's current educational programs, services and daily operations. The ballot issue for the bond will be listed at 4.84 mills; however, it would be collected at a rate of an estimated 2.25 mills above current collections. Combined, the measures would result in an estimated increase of approximately \$1,250 per year (or \$105 per month) for a home with an appraised value of \$500,000 according to the Franklin County Auditor.

The role of the school district in this ballot request is to provide factual information so that community members

may make an informed decision on November 3. Below are answers to some of the questions frequently asked by community members. For more FAQs and more information on Issue 7, please visit www.uaschools.org/Issue7.

What will Issue 7 fund?

Issue 7 would maintain the district's current educational programming and operations while also funding the second phase of the community-developed master plan for the aging middle schools and Burbank Early Childhood School. The plan calls for:

- Rebuilding Hastings Middle School on the current stadium site.
- Retaining and renovating the original 1923 three-story portion of Jones Middle School while constructing new learning spaces around it.
- Rebuilding and expanding Burbank Early Childhood School to address programmatic and community demand.

- Installing synthetic turf athletic fields at both middle schools to expedite the return to play at Hastings and create a durable surface at Jones for both middle schools to use during construction.
- Providing temporary learning spaces for Jones Middle School students during construction, including modular classrooms for grade 6 outside Tremont Elementary School and a third-floor addition at Upper Arlington High School for grades 7-8 that can support future district needs.

The third-floor addition at Upper Arlington High School, above the district offices and music classrooms, would be a permanent asset for the district – for approximately the same cost as temporary modular classrooms for these grade levels. This addition is possible because the infrastructure was

CONTINUES ON PAGE 12

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put in place during construction of the high school in the event that an addition would be needed in the future.

Why are the operating levy and bond issue combined?

The simple answer is that they work hand in hand. If the issues were separated and the bond issue were to pass but the operating levy were to fail, the district would not have the operating funding needed to maintain the current level of educational programming and daily operations. In other words, new facilities would be built while the district is cutting back on programming.

On the other hand, if the operating levy were to pass but the bond issue were to fail, the district would have to use operating funding to address urgent building needs at the aging middle schools and Burbank Early Childhood School. The needs exist now, and an investment would have to be made, which would impact the district's ability to maintain current programming and operations.

Why do suburban school districts keep asking for operating levies?

In UA, approximately 96 percent of district revenues are fixed, with little or no room for growth. A major factor in this is House Bill 920, a state law passed in the 1970s that ensures voted operating levies do not grow as property values increase. As property values increase, the millage collected for each voted operating levy is reduced to ensure the district's funding from the operating levy remains flat. Generally speaking, the only way school districts see an increase in property tax revenue is when voters approve a new operating levy.

Upper Arlington Schools last passed an operating levy in fall 2022 to support daily operations, with a commitment to return to voters in three years. The district has successfully stretched that levy an additional year, but as expected, expenditures are now outpacing revenue, largely due to inflation. As a

result, the district is returning to the ballot this fall to request the operating funding needed to maintain current programming and operations.

Why is there no "zero-cost" option?

Hastings, Jones and Burbank have been very well maintained, which has extended the life of the building systems beyond what is typically expected. However, the building systems – plumbing, electrical, mechanical – are now simply nearing the end of useful life. According to third-party physical assessments conducted in the fall of 2024, it would cost an estimated \$124.8 million to repair and maintain all three schools to keep them safe, dry and secure for students and staff.

Has the district paid off the bond that refunded repairs at Jones and Hastings in 1997?

Yes, the bond that funded that last major round of repairs to Jones and Hastings has been paid completely.

If Issue 7 passes, what happens next?

If Upper Arlington voters approve the combined ballot issue on November 3, the school district would immediately begin a design phase for the middle schools and Burbank Early Childhood School. The design phase would involve any community members, staff members, parents/guardians and students who wish to participate. Construction would then follow after the conclusion of the design phase, beginning in the late spring/summer of 2028.

A new Burbank Early Childhood School would open to students in late summer/early fall 2029. A new Hastings would open to students in fall of 2030, and the renovated and rebuilt Jones would be completed in the winter of 2030/2031.

**What part of Jones would be saved, and what part would be demolished?**

If Issue 7 passes, the original 1923 building of Jones will be saved and renovated. This is the three-story part of the building that houses the current main entrance and faces the Mallway. The rest of the building would be demolished and rebuilt. This allows for the most historic part of the building to be retained and renovated for office space, while students will have all new and updated learning spaces. Retaining the original part of the school will also inform the exterior design of the new parts of the building, ensuring it is in keeping with the look of the historic district.

What happens if Issue 7 fails?

If Issue 7 fails, the district would not have the operating funds needed to maintain current programming. This means programming, class sizes and staffing would need to be re-evaluated.

Additionally, the district would need to address the urgent repair needs at Hastings, Jones and Burbank. Without the bond issue, these repairs would be funded from the operating budget, further reducing funds available for programming and staffing.



SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES

Robert Hunt, Ph.D.

Five-Star Results Reflect Continued Progress Across Upper Arlington Schools

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

There is much to celebrate in the 2025-2026 annual state report card, released by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce in September. The results provide encouraging evidence of the work happening across Upper Arlington Schools, while also giving us important information to help guide our work moving forward.

Among the highlights:

- Upper Arlington Schools earned the highest overall rating of five stars for the fifth consecutive year. We are one of just 61 districts among more than 600 in Ohio to achieve this distinction.
- We earned five stars for the fifth consecutive year in Achievement, Progress, Gap Closing and Graduation.
- Our overall Performance Index score increased for the fifth consecutive year.

We are proud of these achievements, but the state report card is just one snapshot of the work taking place across our schools. We will continue to analyze the data to celebrate our successes and identify areas for improvement, while also looking at a broad range of indicators related to student achievement, growth and well-being.

Our focus is on helping young people become the best they can be, and that

commitment is reflected in how we allocate our resources. In 2024-2025, 77% of our district budget went directly to supporting students in our classrooms – the highest percentage among Ohio's more than 600 school districts. That also means we had the lowest percentage, 23%, dedicated to non-classroom expenses, including administrative costs.

Strategic Plan Update

The results we see in our schools and the way we allocate our resources are grounded in a shared focus on student success. Our Excellence & Innovation 2030 Strategic Plan helps guide that work and keep us focused on what matters most for students.

This school year, we continue advancing the goals of our strategic plan, with a focus on engaging learning, a strong culture and climate, and meaningful connections across our community.

- **Engaged Learning:** We are continuing our curriculum review work, expanding from mathematics to science this year. We also continue to explore AI and emerging technologies and STEAM, while fully implementing advanced math learning opportunities for qualifying students in grades 4-7 in response to new state requirements.

- **Culture & Climate:** Amplify, our district-level student voice committee for grades 6-12, will continue to help shape the student experience. We are also beginning a three-year partnership with The JED Foundation focused on strengthening our systems, supports and resources related to student mental health and suicide prevention.
- **Connections:** We are continuing to strengthen two-way communication with families, staff and community members through initiatives such as Coffee & Conversation and Golden Bear U, which launches later this school year. Upcoming Coffee & Conversation dates are available at www.uaschools.org/CoffeeConversation.

We have important work ahead, and our strategic plan will continue to guide that work as we focus on creating meaningful learning experiences and supporting every student along the way.

SchoolsINSIGHT

BI-MONTHLY NEWS FROM UPPER ARLINGTON SCHOOLS

Production:

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Chief Communications Officer
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ktruett@uaschools.org



Upper Arlington Schools

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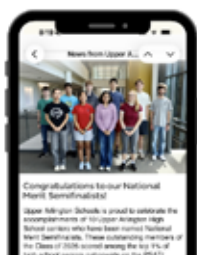
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Stay connected
with our schools!

Residents and friends of our schools
can subscribe to our monthly
district e-newsletter.

www.uaschools.org/community/e-newsletter

SCAN HERE!



SERVE LEAD SUCCEED... SERVE LEAD SUCCEED



In September, the Upper Arlington High School student body heard from best-selling author Damon West as part of Fostering a Conversation, a student-led initiative in partnership with UA Schools, the Upper Arlington Education Foundation and the UA Community Foundation.



Amplify is back for year 2! This year, our district-level student voice committee is exploring the issues and experiences that matter most to students across Upper Arlington Schools.



Our youngest Golden Bears put kindness into action with their Coins for Cancer fundraiser – adding to their three-year total of over \$10,600 raised to support childhood cancer research.



Upper Arlington High School students dove into the Building with AI: Student Design Challenge in September. Students identified real-world problems and used AI tools to build working prototypes.

Hope Garden Dedication

There are many places at Upper Arlington High School where students learn, compete, create and connect. Now, there is also a place dedicated to remembering. The Hope Garden, located just south of Marv Moorehead Stadium, was dedicated on September 4 in a gathering of family, friends, students, staff and community members. The garden was inspired by the life of Sam Short, a member of the Class of 2024 who passed away in April of his senior year. Sam's parents, Mike and Tori Short, envisioned a place that would honor their son while also remembering other Upper Arlington students who passed away during their time in Upper Arlington Schools. Plaques throughout the garden carry the names of those students.



Golden Bear Reflections: Tom Lombardi, UAHS Class of 2006

Twenty years ago, Tom Lombardi was a student walking the halls of Upper Arlington High School. Today, he leads that same school as its principal – a full-circle journey he describes as the honor of a lifetime.

Lombardi, a member of the Upper Arlington High School Class of 2006, looks back on his K-12 experience with gratitude for the teachers, opportunities and activities that helped shape who he is today.

"I had such a good experience, really K-12, in Upper Arlington with all the educators that I came into contact with," Lombardi said. "I wanted to be able to give that back to the community and to other kids."

As a student, Lombardi was involved in a variety of activities, including student council, athletics and Kickin' It Live. He said those experiences, along

with what he learned in the classroom, gave him opportunities to grow in many different areas.

"I received incredible lessons and lifelong opportunities in many, many different areas – in the classroom and outside of the classroom, athletics, clubs," he said. "I think that kind of well-roundedness really made me who I am today."

Lombardi's path to becoming an educator began during his senior year at UAHS. In an English class with Dameion Wagner, students completed an assignment exploring potential careers. At the time, Lombardi wasn't sure what he wanted to do.

"Through that assignment and exploring the careers, I realized that education is what I wanted to do," he said.



He went on to Ohio University, graduating in 2010 with an integrated social studies degree and plans to become a social studies teacher. When teaching jobs were difficult to find at that time, particularly for social studies teachers, Lombardi took a different path for a few years. But his goal remained the same.

"I knew I wanted to be an educator," he said. "That's where my heart was and that's where my passion was."

Along the way, Lombardi worked in different roles and met people who made a lasting impact on him personally and professionally. Eventually, that journey brought him back to Upper Arlington.

Today, as the new principal of Upper Arlington High School, he has the opportunity to lead the school that helped shape his own educational experience.

"To think just a short 20 years ago I was a kid in the halls, and now I get to lead the building, the teachers and really the community at the high school level is really the honor of a lifetime," Lombardi said.

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, November 10** – 6 pm, Council Chamber
- **Tuesday, December 8** – 6 pm, Council Chamber

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

BITES From the Apple

SCHOOLS NEWS AND USEFUL INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS



10 Students Named National Merit Semifinalists

Ten Upper Arlington High School students have qualified as Semifinalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program, giving them the opportunity to compete for 6,930 scholarships worth nearly \$26 million.

These outstanding members of the Class of 2027 scored among the top 1% of high school seniors nationwide on the PSAT/NMSQT, earning the opportunity to compete for nearly \$26 million in scholarships.

Congratulations to Upper Arlington High School's National Merit Semifinalists: **Phineas Chapman, Casey Chaudhari, Cole Harris, Riley Jones, Nancy Li, Evan Reinhardt, Colson Smith, Charlie Stought, Shreya Trikha and Angela Wei.**

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

UAHS Musicians Selected for OMEA Honors

Congratulations to 16 Upper Arlington High School students who have been selected for the 2026 Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA) All-State Ensembles. This highly selective recognition is awarded to students from across Ohio through a competitive audition process.

- All-State Band: **Loretta Donahue**
- All-State Choir: **Martin Cabrera, Jaxson Hall, Melanie Klapper, Cameron Krisiewicz, Miles Prince, Claire Richey and Koby Watts**
- All-State Jazz Band: **David Narcelles**
- All-State Orchestra: **Ethan Anderson, Andre Olate and Angela Wei**; alternates: **Casey Chaudhari,**

Drake Dutton, Joonyoung Park and Jintao Wu

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

Seventeen UAHS orchestra students – **Ethan Anderson, Casey Chaudhari, Drake Dutton, Erika Hartley, Serena Huang, Ayano Kusaka, Lyra Lewis, Avery Meier, Andre Olate, Joonyoung Park, Esme Reaves, Evan Reinhardt, Ashton Saling, Jacob Stross, Dean Tyler, Angela Wei and Jintao Wu** – have been selected for the 2026 OMEA Regional Orchestra, showcasing the depth of musical talent in our school community. They will perform at the OMEA South-Central Regional Orchestra showcase at 3 p.m. on Sunday, November 22 in the Upper Arlington High School Performing Arts Center.

Students Named Finalists in NPR Podcast Challenge

Abigail Stettler and Zoey Nolan started with a simple question – what might you want to be when you grow up? – and turned it into a podcast that is now a finalist in NPR's national Student Podcast Challenge.

The Careers Kids Consider was created as part of a fifth-grade class project led by their teacher,





Cat Rinko-Gay, last year at Barrington Elementary School. Abigail and Zoey, now sixth graders at Jones Middle School, went on to interview family members and educators from Barrington Elementary School.

"I wanted something that left the listener thinking, and this gave children access to a whole podcast just about what they can be one day," Abigail said.

For Abigail and Zoey, a class assignment became an opportunity to share their curiosity with a national audience.

"I couldn't be happier to know that one little school project can go places and really, really help people," Zoey said.

Plans Approved for Former Litchford Cemetery Site

The Franklin County Probate Court has approved plans developed by Upper Arlington Schools in collaboration with descendants of Pleasant Litchford for the disposition of human remains found at the site of the former Litchford Family Cemetery, which sits just to the south of Upper Arlington High School.

In the 1950s, dozens of bodies were exhumed from the Litchford Family Cemetery and moved to other locations. However, in 2020 archaeologists discovered that the grave of a young girl had been missed, leaving her buried at the high school site for nearly 60 years after the rest of the cemetery had been relocated. Archaeologists also found bones and bone fragments belonging to three other individuals. Despite extensive DNA work, all of the

individuals remain unidentified.

Since that time the school district has been working with Litchford family descendants, the City of Upper Arlington and the Upper Arlington Historical Society to learn more about the young girl and to honor the life and legacy of Pleasant Litchford, who became one of the largest landowners in the area after being enslaved in Virginia in the 1800s. (To learn more about Pleasant Litchford, please visit www.uaschools.org/litchford.)

Because the remains are unidentified, the school district and the Litchford descendant family members feel it would be most respectful to return the girl's remains to the site selected as her final resting place by her loved ones at the time of her death, which is now the Pleasant Litchford Memorial Garden.

The partial sets of remains will be re-interred at Union Cemetery, as the rest of those individuals' remains were moved there in the 1950s.

A state historical marker and informational signage will be installed in the Pleasant Litchford Memorial Garden in the coming months, with plans for a public dedication ceremony in the spring or summer of 2027.

Tri-Village Packers Food Support for Children

Upper Arlington Schools is partnering with the Tri-Village Packers for their Thanksgiving break and winter break food distribution programs. The Tri-Village Packers will distribute grocery items for the children of families in the Upper Arlington school district for the days out of school over Thanksgiving break (November 25-29) and winter break (December 21-January 1). The food will be provided at no cost for children who would benefit from the support.

To sign up to receive food for Thanksgiving and/or winter breaks, please scan the QR code and complete the form by the end of the day on Monday, October 26, 2026. The school district will keep the information you provide in the form confidential unless you request otherwise.



Sparkling Moments That Matter: Middle School Mentor Program

For many students, the transition to middle school brings excitement – along with some nerves. New buildings, new classes and new classmates can feel overwhelming. At Jones and Hastings middle schools, seventh- and eighth-grade mentors are helping sixth-graders find their way.

“The purpose of the mentor program is for our 7th and 8th graders to be leaders and to basically welcome our 6th graders and our new students,” said Tina Farbizo, Hastings Middle School school counselor and mentor coordinator.

The program begins with a special sixth-grade day, when mentors return to school to help incoming students get comfortable before the full student body arrives. They lead games, help students learn their way around the building and answer questions – including how to open those sometimes-tricky lockers.

For sixth grader Sawyer Rule, that practical support made a difference immediately.

“Something my mentor has already helped me with is probably the most important thing – it’s opening my locker,” Sawyer said.



But the program is about more than finding classrooms.

“Most of all, the mentor program is to help the kids, the new sixth graders, just have somebody they can rely on when they need to talk to somebody,” said Brad Barwick, Jones Middle School mentor coordinator.

For the mentors, the experience is an opportunity to lead while drawing on their own memories of being new to middle school.

Roan Doyle, a Jones mentor, remembers how much it meant to feel welcomed as a sixth grader.

“I wanted to be a mentor because the feeling that I got being a sixth grader – just being welcomed and included – really made me want to do the same to younger students,” Roan said.

Ella Vescelius, a Hastings mentor, remembers being nervous about getting lost when she was a sixth grader. Now, she takes pride in giving thorough building tours to help new students feel more confident. “I know how nerve-racking it was for me,” Ella said.

That support can quickly turn nerves into a sense of belonging. Sixth grader Charlotte Doyle was initially worried about meeting new people and not knowing anyone in her classes. Her experience with the mentor program changed that.

“But then you can get to meet new people and it’s not scary,” Charlotte said.

Farbizo said some students arrive on sixth-grade day visibly overwhelmed, but mentors are ready to step in and reassure them: “You know what? I got you.”

The result is exactly what the program hopes to create: students who leave feeling connected, confident and ready to come back.

“We hear from parents, especially, saying they can’t wait to come back to school tomorrow,” Farbizo said, “because they saw a connection, they felt a connection.”

And for the mentors, the work continues throughout the year. As Roan put it, “I’m excited to see how they grow throughout the year.”



Treasurer's Notes

Andrew L. Geistfeld

This fall, we have been having a lot of conversations with residents about Issue 7, the combined operating levy and bond issue



on the November 3 ballot. The district's financial forecast, formerly known as the five year forecast, offers important context for why Upper Arlington Schools is returning to voters this year.

In August, I presented the new financial forecast to the Board of Education. Like all public school districts in Ohio, we are legally required to submit this document to the state twice a year, with a new forecast issued by the end of August and an update in February. The forecast offers insight on the district's financial health, past, present and future – looking at four years of historical data and four years of projections. This is a crucial tool to help us assess potential financial impacts on the district and future needs.

In this case, the new forecast offers a clear picture of why UA Schools is returning to voters this fall for operating funding. After stretching the last operating levy for an extra year, expenditures are now outpacing revenue. This reflects the typical levy cycle for a suburban school district, due to a state law known as House Bill 920. Passed in the 1970s, House Bill 920 prevents voted operating levies from generating more revenue for a school district when property values increase.

How does that work? This summer, all Franklin County homeowners received a new appraisal estimate reflecting the 2027 calendar year property revaluation by the Franklin County Auditor's Office. These updates to appraised property values are completed every three years, based on state law, to reflect changes in the real-estate market. The appraised

value may be different than what you could actually sell your home for, but it is used to calculate property taxes.

Because of House Bill 920, as property values increase, the millage collected for each voted operating levy is reduced to ensure the district's funding from the operating levy remains flat. So, even though the value of individual properties may have increased, the school district generally receives about the same total amount of money from that levy.

That's an important point when we talk about school funding and inflation. The cost of operating a school district increases over time due to inflation, but an existing operating levy does not automatically generate more revenue to keep up with those increasing costs.

For suburban school districts like Upper Arlington, new operating revenue generally requires voter approval of a new operating levy. That's why suburban school districts like Upper Arlington return to voters every three to four years to ask for additional operating funding.

Over the past few years, we have continued to build on our commitment to seeking cost savings and efficiencies wherever possible. This is why we have been able to stretch the last operating levy, approved by voters in 2022, longer than we initially expected.

So what you will see on the ballot on November 3 is a combined operating levy and bond issue. The bond issue would raise \$273.5 million to fund the second phase of the master plan – reflecting the work that thousands of community members took part in over the past two years to develop a plan to address the needs of the aging middle schools and Burbank Early Childhood School. The ballot issue for the bond will be listed at 4.84 mills; however, it would be collected at a rate of an estimated 2.25 mills above current collections. The 4.9-mill operating levy would allow the district to continue to fund the current level of academic programming and daily operations for our district. Combined, these issues would add approximately \$1,250 a year (or \$105

per month) in property taxes to a home valued at \$500,000 by the Franklin County Auditor.

You can review the new financial forecast at www.uaschools.org/treasurer. You can also learn more about Issue 7 at www.uaschools.org/Issue7. As always, if you have any questions about our finances or Issue 7, you can contact me, at treasurer@uaschools.org.

2026-2027 SCHOOL DATES

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

Tuesday, November 3

No School for Students; Staff Report Per Schedule

Wednesday, November 25

Thanksgiving Break

Thursday, November 26 and Friday, November 27

End of 2nd Quarter and 1st Semester

Friday, December 18

Winter Break

Monday, December 21 - Friday, January 1

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

Monday, January 4

Martin Luther King Jr. Day: No School for Students and Staff

Monday, January 18

Early Dismissal (K-12)

Wednesday, January 27

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

For the full 2026-2027 calendar, visit www.uaschools.org/calendars. For a calendar of community events in our schools, visit www.uaschools.org/communitycalendar.

Library NOVEMBER | DECEMBER 2026 iNSIGHT

BI-MONTHLY NEWS FROM THE UPPER ARLINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY



Miller Park Branch Closed in November

Our Miller Park Branch will be closed from October 31-November 29 for a facility refresh.

The project includes a flexible layout with new shelving and furniture. The back of the building will be more open to accommodate youth programming, while the front will be made comfortable and functional for adults. We'll also give greater prominence to our popular materials and Quick Pick collection.

As part of this refresh, Miller Park will no longer offer DVDs and Blu-rays. However, movie collections remain available through the library by requesting them from other UAPL branches or through the Central Library Consortium.

During the one-month closure, Miller Park staff and programs will be relocated to our other locations. Most youth programs will move to the Lane Road Branch, while most adult programs will be at Tremont Road. For up-to-date information on program locations, visit our Programs & Events Calendar at ualibrary.libnet.info/events.



NewsBITES

LIBRARY NEWS AND USEFUL INFORMATION

Library to End Hoopla Digital Service in January

As we plan the 2027 budget, we're also taking a close look at how we invest in the digital resources our community uses most. Beginning in January, the UAPL will no longer offer Hoopla Digital. This service operates on a cost-per-circulation model, and the cost has continued to increase. Instead, we'll redirect those funds toward expanding our audiobook collection on the Libby app. Libby has a larger user base among our patrons, and provides access to a more robust catalog. By making this change, we can put more of our digital-content dollars toward a resource that serves more of our community and provides greater access to the titles patrons want.

Bins of Kindness Donation Drive Returns

Visit any UAPL branch from December 1-10 to add an item to our Bins of Kindness. We're collecting new toys for Franklin County Children's Services Holiday Wish program, supplies for Pets Without Parents, and shelf-stable food for the Tri-Village Lions new Little Free Pantry. Look for the specially marked bins at each building.

Winter Wonderland

Our annual Winter Wonderland program returns Saturday, December 5 from 10 am-1 pm at the Tremont Road Branch. The day will include winter crafts, balloon twisting, face painting, life-size Candyland, and two shows by Mr. E at 10:30 am. and Noon. We'll also

have a cozy quiet reading room for folks who need a break from the crowd.

Red Cross Blood Drives

The American Red Cross will hold blood drives at the Tremont Road Branch on Friday, November 27, Friday, December 11, and Friday, December 18 from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Make an appointment at www.redcrossblood.org using sponsor code UAPL.

Friends of the Library Book Sale

The Friends of the UAPL will hold a book sale from November 8-15 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. The members-only presale will take place on November 8 from 11 am-1 pm. The sale opens to the public at 1 pm that day, and will close each day 15 minutes before the library closes.

CONTINUES ON PAGE 21



A NOTE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Beth Pfahler

Taking Care of Our Libraries: Building for Today and Tomorrow

As we approach the end of another year, we have a lot to be thankful for at the Upper Arlington Public Library, including the opportunity to invest in the buildings and services that serve our community every day.

Thanks to the generous support of UA voters and the passage of our operating levy in 2022, we've been able to address a number of significant building needs that had accumulated over the years. We've replaced HVAC systems and other mechanical equipment at all three library locations, addressed repairs and maintenance that had been deferred because of budget constraints, and continued to make thoughtful improvements to ensure our buildings remain safe, comfortable and welcoming.

A New Roof at Tremont

The long-awaited roof replacement at the Tremont Road Branch is still underway this fall and is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

The final day of the sale will feature the popular bag sale, where shoppers can fill a paper grocery bag with books for \$5 (Friends members) or \$10 (nonmembers).

Holiday Closings

All UAPL branches will be closed on Wednesday, November 11; Thursday, November 26; Thursday, December 24 and Friday, December 25; Thursday, December 31 and Friday, January 1.

The project, estimated and budgeted at approximately \$1 million, represents one of the final – and most significant – building repairs remaining on our list.

While the work has caused some disruption, we appreciate the community's patience as we complete this important investment. Our goal is to enter 2027 with a new roof that will protect the Tremont building and its collections for many years to come.

Planning for the Future at Tremont

We are also nearing the end of the first phase of our work with HBM Architects and Interior Designers on the future renovation of the Tremont Road Branch.

Over the past several months, we have been listening carefully to the community. The response to our space-planning survey has been tremendous, and the feedback we've received will help shape the recommendations for the building. HBM is expected to present a final proposal to the Library Board and the community by the end of the year.

For the most current information about construction, closures, and library projects, please visit ualibrary.org.

Looking Ahead with Gratitude

The holiday season is a natural time to reflect on what we value and what we are grateful for. At the UAPL, we're grateful for a community that supports having vibrant, well-maintained public spaces where people can learn, connect, explore and simply spend time.

If you're looking for a way to help your library and community this holiday season – perhaps on Giving Tuesday on December 1 – consider making a monetary donation at <https://uapl.me/givetoUAPL>. Contributions can help us enhance our spaces, collections and services in the years ahead, creating experiences that will delight generations of Upper Arlington residents.

Thank you for your continued support, patience and partnership as we care for our libraries today and build for tomorrow.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Front Row From Left:

John Yesso, Aparna Dial,
Alice Finley.

Back Row: David Wiseley,
Peter Hahn (President),
Matthew Courser (Vice
President), Brad Pettit.



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, November 17
- Tuesday, December 15

MAKING MEMORIES...building connections

The StoryWalk book at Fancyburg Park playground this fall is *Gather Grateful* by Megan Litwin. Look for a new mail-themed book in December with a special opportunity for children to receive a personal letter in the mail from the Library!



Our Pumpkin STEAM program featured fun activities like an engineering challenge, pumpkin art, and a pumpkin volcano.



Katie was judged the best of the worst at our Bad Art Day program, and received a fine trophy for her efforts!

OUR STAFF RECOMMENDS

Visit uapl.me/staffpicks for more suggestions

Dungeon Crawler Carl

By Matt Dinniman

This book has been all the buzz, and after hearing “weird and hilarious” from a dozen people, I read it. They were right. Think *The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy* meets *Christopher Moore*: completely ridiculous, wildly creative, surprisingly heartfelt, and very funny. The basic premise – the world ends, Carl and his cat Princess Donut are thrown into an intergalactic dungeon-crawling competition, and the entire universe is watching. What could possibly go wrong? I especially recommend the audiobook, narrated by Jeff Hays, who makes the already-hilarious characters even better. Unfortunately, the audiobook is exclusive through Audible (Amazon), so public libraries can’t purchase it.

– Beth, Director

The Things She’s Seen

By Ambelin Kwaymullina

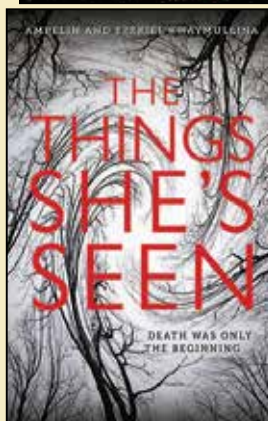
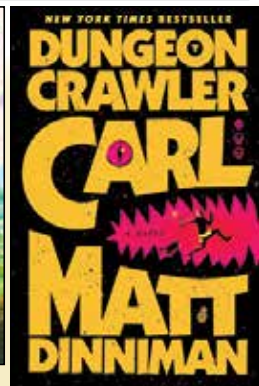
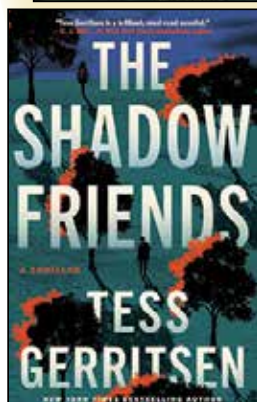
In this Australian import, we meet Beth, an Aboriginal girl who has recently died but cannot “move on” without making sure her bereft father will be okay. Hopeful that his new detective assignment will help him, Beth and her father unravel a small town conspiracy theory that centers around a fire and a mysterious teenager named Isobel Catching. Kwaymullina does an excellent job weaving Aboriginal mythology and mystery to a YA audience. Our Teen Book Club read this book and enjoyed it.

– Maddie, Youth Department

The Rosie Project

By Graeme Simsion

Can logic be applied to love? Can a



checklist of specific traits yield a perfect mate? Genetics Professor Don Tillman doesn't see why not. He sets out to find his ideal woman using a multi-page questionnaire intended to weed out smokers, vegetarians and those who aren't punctual – among other things. This is a fast, lighthearted read that will have you chuckling and smiling as Don's plan strays far off course and his horizons are broadened beyond what his orderly, logical mindset and lifestyle once allowed.

– Nancy, Miller Park Branch

Under Story

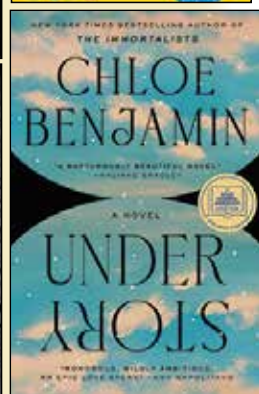
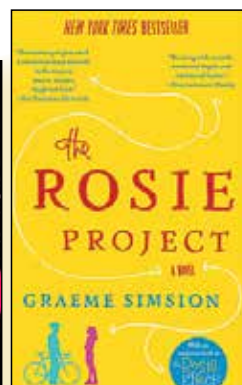
By Chloe Benjamin

At the edge of the world, biologist Laurel Salter is hiding from everything she's ever known. For 10 hours a day, six days per week, she works as a dishwasher at McMurdo Station, an isolated research base in Antarctica. She tells no one that before she arrived, she was a renowned

young scientist with a promising career and a family. But even in this remote

outpost, Laurel can't escape her past. When a strange light appears across the ice – and draws a group of physicists to McMurdo – her former husband, Eli, won't be far behind.

– Sue, Technical Services



The Shadow Friends

By Tess Gerritsen

This is the third and newest of Tess Gerritsen's *Martini Club* thrillers. The 60+ retired CIA operatives are thrown into another international intrigue. A renowned disease expert and Russian defector dies mysteriously during a global affairs

conference being held in their town of Purity, Maine. One of the ex-operatives (Ingrid) sees links to a disastrous operation that almost killed her three decades ago during the Cold War era. Off they go across the world to stop a network of assassins intent on finishing that job (with a little romance included). If you like thrillers, this one is for you – Gerritsen keeps the story constantly moving. You'll finish it in one sitting!

– Donna, Lane Road

Bravepaw and the Heartstone of Alluria

By Lili Wilkinson

Titch is nobody special. She is the smallest mouse in her family and lives in a peaceful little village where nothing ever happens. But she dreams of epic adventures like those in the legend of the gallant hero, Bravepaw. When dire trouble comes to the Plateau, can Titch complete a quest to take the Heartstone to the heart of Alluria?

– Laura, Technical Services



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Concourse Gallery

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

Keith D. Buswell

December 2-January 29

Community Gallery

Bob Crane Community Center, Level 5
Cultural Arts Division | 614-583-5310

Lizzi Aronhalt

Thru November 13

Ann Corley Silverman

November 18-January 29

Santa's Mailbox

November 14-December 11

Bob Crane Community Center
3200 Tremont Road

Boys and girls who place a letter in Santa's special mailbox receive a letter from Santa. To guarantee delivery, include child's full name, address and an un-affixed postage stamp. One child's letter per envelope please!

Chase Columbus Turkey Trot

9 am, Thursday, November 26
Begins at Shops on Lane Avenue
www.columbusturkeytrot.com

This annual event brings together thousands of runners and walkers for a 2.6 mile or five mile course, and all in support of the Easter Seals of Central & Southeast Ohio.

Winter Festival

6-8:30 pm, Friday, December 5

Mallway Business District
UA Parks & Recreation

Join UA Parks & Rec for an evening of carols, cookie decorating, ice sculpting, horse-drawn carriage rides, visits with Santa, and the traditional tree lighting ceremony.

Breakfast & Brunch With Santa

Saturday, December 6

Amelita Mirolo Barn, Sunny 95 Park
Registration Opens 6 am November 5 for Residents and BCCC members; and at Noon for Non-Residents

UA Parks & Recreation | parks.uaoh.net

Enjoy a delicious breakfast/brunch buffet with Santa. Visit with Santa for pictures and discuss your Christmas wishes.

UACA Christmas in the Park

Noon-4 pm & 5-9 pm, Sunday, December 6

6-9 pm, Monday-Thursday, December 7-10

Thompson Park

Registration opens early November
UA Civic Association | www.uaca.org

Registered families enjoy crafts and snacks in the north shelter house before enjoying a personalized visit with Santa. You must be a current UACA member to be able to register for this free event.

