

U*A*INSIGHT

NOVEMBER | DECEMBER 2023



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



Bob Crane Community Center Focus Groups

Construction is well under way for the Bob Crane Community Center, with a target opening date in the Spring or early Summer of 2025.

From the initial exploration of the feasibility for an Upper Arlington community center through to the detailed design process undertaken over the past year, community input has been critical to the success of this project. And true to the spirit of keeping residents involved, as the City's Parks & Recreation Department transitions to the final planning stages for this exciting new facility, additional opportunities for community input are on the horizon.

In 2024, the department will host a series of focus groups to learn how residents plan to make use of the Community Center, to help guide programming and operations.

Most of these focus groups will be held virtually, with some in-person opportunities, based on the topics and targeted participant groups.

Focus Group Topics:

- Adaptive Recreation - Youth
- Adaptive Recreation - Adult
- Aquatics - All ages
- Arts, Music, Dance - Youth
- Arts, Music, Dance - Adult/Senior
- Education & Enrichment - Youth
- Education & Enrichment - Adult/Senior
- Fitness & Wellness - Youth
- Fitness & Wellness - Adult/Senior
- Sports - Youth
- Sports - Adult/Senior
- Teens (in addition to meeting at UA Middle & High Schools)
- Community Center Operations (membership, hours, child watch, policies, parking)



The sessions marked "Youth" are intended for adults' participation relative to thoughts and ideas on programs for youth. The "Teens" session is intended for current middle and high school students.

Residents are encouraged to sign-up to participate in these focus groups now through January 2024. The group discussions will begin in February and everyone registered will be contacted in advance of these sessions. Use the QR code to access the Bob Crane Community Center website, and register today!



Community Center Parking

We have recently heard from a number of residents with questions about parking for the Community Center. The overall Kingsdale redevelopment project will feature 757 parking spaces. This includes 559 spaces in the apartment building parking garage, of which a minimum of 200 spaces will be available for use by Community Center patrons, along with 12 ADA spaces and 37 spaces for use by individuals with limited mobility.

Additionally, the City has plans to construct a parking deck over existing 150 shared surface parking spaces in the Giant Eagle parking lot, adding another 100 spaces to the site. Pending a successful bid process and Council approval, this parking deck will be constructed in 2024.

Electric Aggregation Update

Following an extensive review and community engagement process earlier this year to explore the merits of offering the community a new electric aggregation program, City Council unanimously approved moving forward with this initiative at its September 25 meeting.

Primary goals for the program are to facilitate stable and lower cost electric utility services for residents and business customers, to ensure the provision of reliable and first-rate customer service, and to support renewable energy with a brown energy option for customers.

To facilitate this new program, the City is joining the Sustainable Ohio Public Energy Council (SOPEC). Formed in 2014, SOPEC serves approximately 30 communities across Ohio, with a collective buying power representative of one of the largest customers in the

State. SOPEC's goal is to provide simple, valuable and reliable public energy programs that help communities achieve their local energy and sustainability goals.

Next Steps

Following adoption, SOPEC and the City have reviewed market rates and terms from AEP Energy bids and locked in pricing starting in January of 2024 through June of 2025. The three options for eligible households and businesses are:

- Default 100% Renewable Energy at 7.203 cents per kWh
- Brown Energy step down priced at 6.903 cents per kWh
- Opt out of the program altogether

As a reminder, the AEP Ohio standard service offer rate is currently 10.910 cents per kWh.

Households and businesses that are eligible to participate in the program will receive a joint notice from SOPEC and the City toward the end of this year, detailing the terms of the program. If they do not wish to participate, these prospective customers will have 21 days to opt out of the program. The City also plans to proactively share updates with the community and to host some information sessions to address any questions or concerns.

Full details of this program and program updates can be found on our Electric Aggregation webpage, which can be accessed using this QR code.



Northam Park Improvements

The City's Parks & Recreation Department has finalized designs and initiated the construction bid process for Northam Tennis improvements, to be comprised of eight-to-nine clay courts (down from 12) and a reconfigured service building.

Reducing the Northam Tennis facility creates space in the park that could be re-purposed. Over the summer, the department undertook a study process to consider potential uses, with residents invited to provide input along the way.

At an August 29 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) Meeting, Staff presented an overview of the study, along with recommendations for how to reuse this space once it is no longer part of the Northam Tennis complex.

- Staff presented two options:
- Construct six pickleball courts, allowing for additional green space with a pathway and small shelter or trellis between the courts and Tremont Pool, additional green space and a second small shelter

or trellis to the south of the courts, and a shade structure within the Northam Tennis complex.

- Construct asphalt tennis courts to provide Council the option to support limiting the number of uses at Northam Park, with a focus on pursuing dedicated pickleball courts at Thompson and/or Fancyburg parks at a future date.

A majority of PRAB members reacted positively, with the board voting 6-1 to endorse the Staff recommendation of pickleball in the new space with an alternate of asphalt tennis.

As a result, the bid package for the Northam Tennis and shelter improvements includes several bid alternates for consideration:

- Construct an additional clay tennis court for a total of nine courts.
- Construct six pickleball courts, improved pathway access and additional green space.

- Construct a shelter within the tennis complex.
- Construct two small shelter/trellis structures in the green space area.

A public bid for construction of the Northam Tennis and Service Building project - including the above mentioned add alternates - was scheduled to be open from late September through October 23.

Assuming the bid process generates favorable bids, a contractor recommendation is expected to go before City Council for its consideration at its November 13 and 20 meetings, with a vote anticipated on November 20. All three Council Meetings will begin at 7 pm, at 3600 Tremont Road.

If the Northam Tennis Service Building project and any of the above add alternates are approved by Council, construction is expected to begin early in 2024, with an anticipated completion by the Winter of 2025.

Recycle Political Signs

November 3-13

Municipal Services Center
3600 Tremont Road

The UA community loves its election signs, and this year is no different, in the lead up to the November 7 election. Once the excitement of Election Day is behind us, the question of what to do with all those yard signs will inevitably spring to mind.

To help the community properly recycle these signs, the City will set up a collection box by the Police bay at the Municipal Services Center, 3600 Tremont Road. Just drop your signs off by the November 13 deadline, and our Public Works team will deliver all signs to the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO) collection location.

And remember, please keep signs out of the public right-of-way, and only five signs are permitted per yard.

Rotary Peace Poles

The City of Upper Arlington and Upper Arlington Schools were proud to partner with the Upper Arlington and Tri-Village Rotary Clubs for the installation of two Peace Poles - at the Municipal Services Center and at the UA High School. Installed in mid-September, the Rotary Peace Poles spread the message of peace in multiple languages and are part of a global network of peace poles that reflect humankind's deepest hopes for peace as a guiding inspiration and a base necessity for human health, education and economic prosperity.



2023 COMMUNITY AWARDS

Nomination Deadline: Friday, January 19

Each year, we seek nominations of individuals and groups that have helped make our community better in some way, through our annual Community Awards Program. Now is the time to submit your nominations for the following categories:

- **Business** - recognizes a business that is actively involved in the community or brings other significant benefits through its presence in UA. This could be by utilizing environmentally friendly business practices, through support and participation in community service projects, by providing financial or in-kind support for various causes, or as a leader in workplace diversity.
- **Community Enrichment** - presented to an individual or group that has spearheaded or is involved in a project that supports quality of life through the arts, education, recreation, cultural diversity or enhancement of the natural environment.
- **Community Relations** - presented to an individual or group actively involved in programming that increases a sense of belonging for community members, enhances knowledge, understanding and appreciation of diversity within UA, raises awareness of or improves the overall health and safety of the community, or for a significant one-time act to help others in the community.
- **Senior** - awarded to an individual who is actively involved in their community through volunteer service.
- **Youth** - presented to a youth individual or group actively involved in volunteer service, or the participation in and development of programs to benefit others.

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



FROM CHAMBERS | Highlights of City Council & Its Policy Decisions

Council Approves Amendments to Under Speed Vehicle Legislation

In 2019, City Council passed legislation concerning under speed vehicles, including golf carts. As a result, these vehicles must meet various Ohio Department of Public Safety standards – such as having working lights, seatbelts, adequate brakes, windshields and rear view mirrors. The vehicles must be titled and registered in compliance with Ohio Revised Code, must be inspected and approved for use on public streets by an authorized law enforcement agency (UA Police can provide this service), and can only be used on streets with speed limits of 25 mph or under.

A five-day exemption period was included in the legislation to accommodate golf cart rentals over the Fourth of July holiday. This exemption waived the title and inspection requirements, and loosened some safety equipment requirements, while making clear that responsible operation of these vehicles should still be a priority, and that certain traffic and safety violations would be acted upon by police officers if witnessed over the holiday period.

Fast forward to 2023 and the City Administration felt it was appropriate



FROM LEFT: Michaela Burriss, Jim Lynch, Brendan King (President), Kathy Adams, Brian Close (Vice President), John Kulewicz, Ukeme Awakessien Jeter

to revisit the exemption now that the Police Division had been monitoring the legislation in action for several years. From the data and anecdotal evidence, it was clear that an increased safety risk to the public exists by allowing rented golf carts on public streets. As a result, the City Attorney recently recommended some amendments to Ordinance 41-2019 - repealing the five-day exemption period in order to address these safety concerns.

The resulting legislation, Ordinance 49-2023, was passed by Council at its October 9 meeting.

With this change about to take effect, here's a summary of the Police Division's planned approach to golf cart enforcement moving forward:

- Licensed and inspected golf carts are always legal on UA streets, consistent with City Code.
- Golf carts or any other under speed vehicles are not allowed on paths in public parks or on park fields.

Families and organizations that choose to rent non-street legal golf carts over the Fourth of July holiday period should be aware that any non-street legal golf cart is subject to being stopped, impounded and the driver ticketed if it is being driven on an open public road. This excludes the use of golf carts in the Fourth of July Parade and on any streets that are closed for a block party.

City Council and School Board Election Reminder

This November, UA residents are being asked to vote on four candidates running for three City Council seats and six candidates vying for three spots on the School Board.

Council President Brendan King is completing his second term on Council, and is therefore unable to run for an additional term. Council member John Kulewicz is running to serve a second term. Council member Michaela Burriss has chosen not to seek reelection. Community members Heidi Munc, Andrej Rotter and Todd Walter are all

seeking a seat on Council.

Six community members are seeking seats on the School Board: Incumbents Jenny McKenna and Lori Trent are seeking reelection; and community members Glen Dugger, Ruth Edmonds, Sumia Mohamed and Liz Stump are seeking election to serve their first term. Current School Board member, Nancy Drees, is not seeking reelection.

Leadership UA hosted a Candidates Night in October. A video recording

of the moderated forum is available at upperarlingtonoh.gov/leadership-ua-candidates-night/. Additionally, details of candidates' community experience and goals are being provided via candidate websites and social media pages.

If you see Council Members King and Burriss, or School Board Member Drees out in the community, please be sure to thank them for their service to UA.

2024 Community Relations Innovation Small Grant Program

Applications Accepted: November 1-December 15, 2023

Upper Arlington is a community that values diversity, welcomes everyone and desires to ensure that anyone who lives, works or visits UA feels included and at home. To build on those qualities, the City created the Community Relations Committee in 2020. Comprised of nine community volunteers, the CRC's purpose is to "promote understanding, mutual respect and a sense of belonging among all residents to affirm the value of each individual and foster a culture of shared community."

Fostering a welcoming community requires involvement from community members and organizations. To that end, in 2022 and with guidance from the Community Relations Committee, the City established the Community Relations Innovation Small Grant Program to support community-based, innovative approaches to fulfilling the CRC's Purpose, Mission and Vision.

For the 2023 grant cycle, five entities received grants:

- St. Mark's Episcopal Church received \$1,000 for its Culture & Artisans Fair.
- The Upper Arlington Civic Association received \$5,000 for its

new Neighbors Night Out event, which included a new resident welcoming component

- The UA High School received \$500 for its hUmAn Connection Festival.
- Rainbow UA received \$2,500 for its UA Pride event.
- The UA Historical Society received \$3,000 for its History Speaks speaker series, which included a presentation on James Preston Poindexter, a conductor on the Underground Railroad.

As 2023 draws to a close, the City has begun accepting applications for the 2024 grant cycle. This program is designed to create opportunity spaces for new initiatives, as well as enhancements to existing community programs and events and will provide grants of \$1,000 - \$5,000 to organizations seeking funding for projects that will achieve one or more of the following goals:

1. **INFORMATION:** Increase knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of diversity within UA and throughout Central Ohio.



2. **INVITING:** Increase the number, type, and quality of positive interactions by non-residents with the UA community.
3. **INCLUSION:** Increase the sense of belonging and inclusion of all UA citizens with special focus on non-majority residents and those without pre-existing connections to UA.

Applications will be accepted through Friday, December 15, 2023. Successful applicants will be announced at the January 25, 2024 Community Relations Committee Meeting.

Learn more and apply at uacommunityrelations.com.

Tri-Village Packers Thanksgiving Food Support Program

The newly-formed Tri-Village Packers group is planning its inaugural food support program for the Thanksgiving holiday for children in Upper Arlington and Grandview Heights who are experiencing food insecurity.

Each donation of \$25 will provide five days of breakfast and lunch items, and healthy snacks for one child enrolled in the program.

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

The Tri-Village Packers is a partnership currently spearheaded by the Tri-Village Lions Club, the Kiwanis Club of Northwest Columbus, the Tri-Village Rotary Club, the Upper Arlington Rotary Club, the Upper Arlington Community Foundation, the City of Upper Arlington, Upper Arlington Schools, the City of Grandview Heights and Grandview



Heights Schools. Additional service groups are invited to join our efforts - just send an email to: community.affairs@uaoh.net.



CITY MANAGER UPDATE Steve Schoeny

Mid-Budget Review Process

In the fall of each odd-numbered year, the Administration and City Council revisit and revise our plans for the second half of the City's two-year budget, in preparation for the New Year. While much of the detailed work already took place last fall when we first developed our 2023-2024 Municipal Program of Services budgeting document, it's appropriate for us to revisit this document halfway through implementation to make sure our plans are on track and that we continue to operate within our means.

At a high level, the City's budget is reflective of Council's policy setting role, a role that is based on and reflects our community's values and aspirations. As we remain committed to providing a broad-based, high level of services to our community members, as we continue to reinvest in our 10-Year Capital Improvement Program relative to streets, sidewalks, waterlines, sewers,

parks and other public infrastructure, and as we continue to work toward completion of the Bob Crane Community Center, it's clear we are advancing our community's values and aspirations.

The City's financial position remains strong despite recent inflationary and supply chain challenges. This is the result of 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; and the cumulative effect of a proactive economic development program, which is diversifying and strengthening the business community.

Dates for the budget hearings are as follows (meetings begin at 7 pm):

- **Monday, November 13 City Council Meeting** - first budget discussion (Capital Improvement Program)
- **Monday, November 20 City Council Meeting** - second budget discussion (Operating, Capital Equipment, Schedule of Fees)
- **Monday, December 4 City Council Meeting** - third budget discussion (open items)
- **Monday, December 11 City Council Meeting** - Council vote

For additional budget process details, contact our Finance Director, Brent Lewis, at 614-583-5288.

Holiday Fire Safety

As we head into the fall and winter months, Upper Arlington residents will be celebrating several holidays. Those holidays often combine decorations and candles with large family gatherings, cooking, etc. The Upper Arlington 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 stovetop.
- Make sure holiday lights are used per the manufacturer's 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 (see a video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bSP03BE74WA>).
- **ABOVE ALL:** Ensure all smoke detectors are in place and working properly.

For more fire safety tips see the National Fire Protection Association's website at <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Teaching-tools/Safety-tips-sheets> or use the QR code below on your smartphone.



CityINSIGHT

BI-MONTHLY NEWS FROM THE CITY OF UPPER ARLINGTON

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NewsBITES

CITY NEWS AND USEFUL INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS

City Holidays

City offices are closed in observance of the following holidays:

- **Friday, November 10** - Veterans Day. Solid Waste service is not affected.
- **Thursday, November 23** - Thanksgiving Day. Thursday's Solid Waste collection zone will receive service on Friday.
- **Monday, December 25** - Christmas Day. All Solid Waste zones are on a one-day delay.
- **Monday, January 1** - New Year's Day. All Solid Waste zones are on a one-day delay

Public Meetings

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE 614-583-5030

upperarlingtonoh.gov/city-council-city-clerk/
The City has an online portal for all public meeting agendas for City Council and its Boards and Commissions. To register for meeting agenda notices, simply visit the site, create an account, and subscribe to your preferred meeting types. A full list of public meetings can also be found on our Events calendar.

City e-News

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS 614-583-5040

Get timely service news, event reminders and special project updates from the City by e-mail:

- **City Insight** - weekly e-news on City services, special projects & events
- **Activity Link** - monthly updates from Parks & Recreation
- **Sentinel** - monthly program updates from the Senior Center

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

Won't You Be Our Neighbor Podcast

You never know who might show up on our bi-weekly podcast, *Won't You Be Our*

Neighbor. 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>.

Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery*

Sunday, November 5

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.

Sunday Swim at UAHS

PARKS & RECREATION 614-583-5300

Sunday Swim lap swimming is available at the UA High School Natatorium from 1-3 pm most Sundays over the Winter. For details and to register, visit parks.uaoh.net.

Parking Restrictions During OSU Home Football Games

PUBLIC SERVICE 614-583-5350

To address parking, access and safety concerns, the City restricts parking for streets in the proximity of OSU's campus abutting North Star Road on home football games. Hours of restriction run from four hours before through four hours after each game. "No Parking" signs are posted on the fire hydrant side of the following streets:

- Ashdowne Road;
- Berkshire, Essex, Grenoble and Barrington roads between North Star Road and Northwest Boulevard;

- Cardiff and Doone roads between North Star Road and Brandon Road;
- Beaumont Road between Grenoble Road and Lane Avenue.

Friends of UA Parks

friendsofuaparks.com

The Friends of Upper Arlington Parks coordinate monthly gatherings from 9 am-Noon on Saturday mornings, helping clear invasive species from UA parks and to assist with tree planting efforts. All tools are provided, wear long pants and closed-toe shoes. Upcoming dates include:

- November 11 - Fancyburg Park
- December 9 - Thompson Park
- January 20 - Fancyburg Park

Leadership UA Update

leadershipua.org

The popular annual Leadership UA Program is making some adjustments for the upcoming year, with plans to move to a January-June schedule. Watch for updates on the program, including registration details in the weeks ahead.

2024 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 and scheduling permits. Now is the time to send us details of qualifying community events for 2024. Visit our **Events** section, at upperarlingtonoh.gov, where you will find submission details.

2024 Observances & Holidays Calendar

uacommentrelations.com

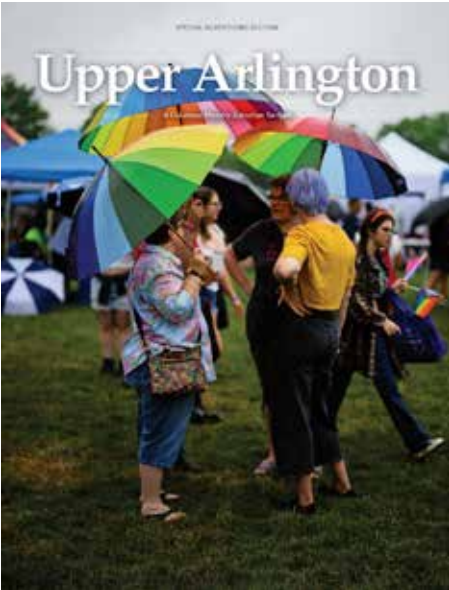
Each year the Upper Arlington Community Relations Committee provides an observances calendar on its website that details notable national and religious holidays and observances, as a useful reference tool for the community when planning special events or public meetings. Just look for the calendar under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

2024 Wall of Honor Nominations

Nomination Deadline: January 12, 2024
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 2024 Wall of Honor, a partnership of the UA Historical Society and the City's Parks & Recreation Department. Nomination forms are available at www.uahistory.org. The 2024 induction ceremony is scheduled for Sunday, May 19.

UA Featured in November Columbus Monthly Magazine



The Upper Arlington community is being showcased to the Central Ohio region in November, thanks to *Columbus Monthly Magazine*. If you aren't a subscriber, we will have copies of the special section available at City buildings and Library branches. You can also visit www.columbusmonthly.com/ to learn more.



The UA Civic Association's inaugural Neighbors Night Out event welcomed new and existing residents to the Littleton's Market Plaza at Tremont Center for an evening of food, fun and live music. This event was also part of the Community Relations Committee's UA Welcome Series, and a recipient of a Community Relations Innovation Small Grant,

Citizen Camera Partnership POLICE 614-583-5150

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

Visit the **Police** section of the City's website to register.

Firefighters for Kids Toy Drive Station 71, Arlington Avenue Station 72, Reed Road FIRE 614-583-5100

Help the UA Fire Division make the Christmas holidays memorable for Central Ohio kids in need, by dropping off new toys at either firehouse.

UA Historic District Recognized by APA Ohio DEVELOPMENT 614-583-5070

The City's Historic District, including the Mallway Business District, received a 2023 Great Places in Ohio Award from the American Planning Association Ohio. The district was recognized as a place that grounds the UA community in its past while providing a welcoming place that connects today's community, with timeless designs that can bring people together in community and celebration.

CALEA Police Feedback Portal POLICE 614-583-5150

The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) now provides an online feedback portal for the public to provide comments about UA Police, as part of their national accreditation compliance program. The feedback goes directly to CALEA, who will send a copy to the Chief of Police. Any comments received will be reviewed by CALEA Assessors as part of the next on-site assessment in 2024. The portal can be accessed at <https://cimrs2.calea.org/419>.

Schools[★]INSIGHT

BI-MONTHLY NEWS FROM UPPER ARLINGTON SCHOOLS

NOVEMBER | DECEMBER 2023



Dr. Hunt's "UAdventure"

Where in the World is Dr. Robert Hunt?

This fall, you could find the new superintendent of the Upper Arlington Schools traveling all around Upper Arlington – from school to school – for his “UAdventure” series. He’s spending a full day in each building to get to know each unique school community and hear from students, staff members and parents/guardians about what they value in their school and what they’d like to see improve.

“As the new superintendent, I believe it’s important to build relationships in our schools and our community,” Dr. Hunt shared. “I knew that in Upper Arlington I needed to do something a little different – something that left me with a deep impression of our school communities. By embedding myself in each school, I am able to listen to our students, staff and families and really learn what it means to be part of that

school community.”

From September to October, Dr. Hunt could be found sitting on the carpet for morning meetings and read-alouds at the elementary level, singing (somewhat reluctantly) in music classes or jumping into the day’s activity in PE classes, and serving lunch with a smile in the cafeteria. Most importantly, drawing inspiration from the Board of Education’s Listen Learn Lead community engagement process, Dr. Hunt spent a significant amount of time on each visit meeting with students, staff members and parents/guardians – likely numbering in the thousands in total.

In just three visits as of the end of September, he had already gathered feedback from more than 400 students, staff members and parents/guardians in the district. And, as of press time, he had six more school visits to go, including

Burbank Early Childhood School, plus opportunities to meet with the UA Online Academy and other departments that serve the school district.

“What has really stood out to me so far is that the people are what makes our schools so special, and that has been a common thread as I go from school to school,” Dr. Hunt shared. “While academics are at the core of what we do, the relationships that make our school communities so unique are really at the heart of it all for so many people.”

Woven into the

“UAdventure” series are opportunities to meet with another group of important stakeholders – community members. During the month of October, Dr. Hunt is hosting two community Coffee & Conversation events at the Kingsdale Market District, on October 24 and 26, as an extension of the “UAdventure” series.

Following the conclusion of his UAdventure travels, Dr. Hunt will share a summary of what he has learned to date at a community town hall meeting on November 29 at 6:00 p.m. at Upper Arlington High School, 1625 Zollinger Road. He will also prepare and present a report for the Board of Education identifying the key themes that will help inform the district’s next strategic

CONTINUES ON PAGE 12



SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES

Robert Hunt, Ph.D.

Five-Star Rating From State is Only Part of the Picture for Our District

In September, the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) officially released the 2022-2023 annual school report cards. I'm pleased to share that Upper Arlington Schools is one of just eight districts in the state to earn a five-star overall rating as well as earning five stars in each of the five separate components on the report card: achievement, progress, gap closing, graduation and early literacy.

Our school district has been – and will continue to be – committed to the development of the whole child. So while this is a well-deserved recognition, we keep in mind that this is just one data point we review in our pursuit of challenging and supporting every student, every step of the way.

This is the second year that ODE has given schools and districts star ratings, on a scale of one to five, for the five components and the first year for the overall star rating. As you may recall, our district also received five stars on all five components last year. Earning a five-

star rating in each of these categories for two years in a row is notable, particularly in the area of growth, which, due to the way it is calculated, is difficult to achieve year after year.

The state report card is just one of the many data points we review to monitor the success of our students and academic programs. We will also continue to evaluate all of the other data available to us regarding our students' growth, achievement and well-being. You can read more about that in our annual accountability report, the Quality Profile, on our website at www.uaschools.org/qualityprofile.aspx.

Strategic Planning Update

This fall, we are beginning discussions regarding strategic planning for our district and thinking about what will come next. An important starting point for these conversations will be the feedback we have gathered through my UAdventure series this fall and through the Board of Education's Listen Learn Lead community

engagement process over the past two years.

The goal is to begin work on the next strategic plan in earnest in the new year, and we will share more updates on this in the coming months.

Equity Partnership Update

We have been working with Insight Education Group over the past few months to conduct an equity audit of the district. The audit will incorporate information from surveys and focus groups conducted this fall, as well as qualitative and quantitative district data, to help identify ways to ensure that district policies and practices are equitable for all students.

Insight Education plans to have an audit summary report to share with the district this winter.

Robert Hunt, Ph.D., is the superintendent of Upper Arlington Schools.

You can email him at superintendent@uaschools.org and follow him on Twitter at [@Hunt_EdLeader](https://twitter.com/Hunt_EdLeader).

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

planning process in 2024.

"My UAdventure has been a unique and unforgettable experience, and I appreciate everyone who has taken the time to sit down with me to share their thoughts," Dr. Hunt shared. "This is just the start of an ongoing conversation that I hope to continue to have with many more people in the coming months and years ahead."



Treasurer's Notes

Andrew L. Geistfeld

In August, all Franklin County homeowners received a new appraisal estimate from the county auditor. While the average increase in property values in Upper Arlington is 26 percent, that doesn't mean homeowners will be paying 26 percent more in property taxes – or that UA Schools will be receiving 26 percent more in property tax revenue.

As you may recall, a state law known as House Bill 920 ensures that voted operating levies do not grow as property values increase. In fact, as property values increase, tax rates, on average, actually decrease for homeowners. This means the district will get about the



same amount of money from a voted operating or permanent improvement levy even once the new valuations go into effect.

An exception to this is something called inside millage, a fixed amount that is legally provided for by the Ohio Constitution and is not related to tax issues approved by voters. Inside millage does grow with property values, and because of that, Upper Arlington Schools will receive an additional \$2.1 million per calendar year beginning in 2024. For context, that amounts to less than 2 percent of the district's total revenue.

To make the issue even more complicated, while the district receives about the same total amount on voted operating and permanent improvement levies, costs don't always stay the same for individual property owners.

This is due to a process known as "equalization," which redistributes how that levy cost impacts each property. For instance, if your home value increased by more than the UA average of 26 percent, your share of the voted tax issues is likely to increase a bit. If your home value increased by less than 26 percent, your share of the voted tax issues is likely to decrease a bit.

Property taxes in Ohio are a complicated issue, and it's natural to be concerned when you see a significant increase in your home valuation. The auditor's office is a great resource for questions about the reappraisal. You can also reach out to my office for questions related to school tax issues.

You can learn more about school finances on our website, www.uaschools.org/treasurer.aspx. While you're there, be sure to check out the 2022-2023 Financial Update, which is our annual financial accountability report to the community. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at treasurer@uaschools.org.

2023 UPPER ARLINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION

FROM LEFT: Vice President Nancy Drees, President Lori Trent, Jenny McKenna, Lou Sauter and Nidhi Satiani



Thanks to a partnership with the City of Upper Arlington, Board of Education meetings take place in the Council Chamber of the City's Municipal Services Center, 3600 Tremont Road. In general, 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 14, 6 pm – Council Chamber
- Tuesday, December 12, 6 pm – Council Chamber

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:

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Upper Arlington Schools

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BITES From the Apple

SCHOOLS NEWS AND USEFUL INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS



Nine Seniors Named National Merit Semifinalists

Nine Upper Arlington High School students have qualified as Semifinalists in the 69th annual National Merit Scholarship Program, giving them the opportunity to compete for more than 7,100 National Merit college scholarships worth nearly \$28 million.

These academically talented members of the UAHS Class of 2024 are among approximately 16,000 high school seniors nationwide to qualify as Semifinalists based on their scores on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).

The Semifinalists represent the highest scores on the PSAT/NMSQT and approximately one percent of high school seniors nationwide.

The Upper Arlington students named National Merit Scholarship Program Semifinalists are:

- **Noe Beaudoin**
- **Thomas Chapman**
- **Ashley He**
- **Wendy Jiang**
- **Ezra Liu**
- **Seth Lute**
- **Sebastien Nyiri**
- **Cynthia Song**
- **Kevin Wang**

Beginning in February, the National Merit Scholarship program expects to notify about 15,000 Semifinalists that they advanced to Finalist status after fulfilling several requirements, including having a record of a high academic achievement in grades nine through

12 and earning a high score on the SAT or ACT. Approximately half of the Finalists will be awarded National Merit Scholarships and the Merit Scholar title.

Nine Students Selected for All-State Ensembles

Nine Upper Arlington High School students have been selected among the best of the best in the performing arts in the state of Ohio for the Ohio All-State Ensembles for 2024.

- All-State Choir: senior **Owen Black**, sophomore **Griffin Crowe**, junior **Kate Hauswirth**, junior **Marley Nemeth** and senior **Abigail Swart**, with senior **Seth Lute** as an alternate
- All-State Orchestra: seniors **Wendy Jiang** and **Will Robertson**, and sophomore **Charles Cheng**

Additionally, the three students selected for All-State Orchestra will also be performing with 14 additional Upper Arlington High School students for the Ohio Music Education Association's South-Central All-Region Orchestra. Joining them from UAHS will be: freshman Angela Wei, junior Alexandra



Reaves, freshman Jintao Wu, junior Ava Kang, senior Thomas Chapman, sophomore Masao Tamiya, senior Jachin Ocacio, sophomore Emily Lin, senior Emma Braum, junior Macie Zhong, senior Matthew Lederer, sophomore Crystal Cao, senior Sally Oh, and freshman Nathaniel Reaves.

Uniquely Accomplished

- Senior **Thomas McMahon** set a new cross country record in the 5K for Upper Arlington High School on September 2, toppling the 21-year-old record set by Robert Sturges with a time of 15:38.13. A week later, he broke the record again with a time of 15:05.6.
- Five Upper Arlington High School juniors – **Isabel Balderaz, MaKaylah Perry, Brooke Vaughan, Corina Villena-Aldama** and **Keita Watson** – have been selected as College Board National Recognition Program honorees. This program honors academic excellence, using multiple measures, for students of underrepresented populations. Students are considered for these awards based on academic achievements in school and outstanding performance on the PSAT/NMSQT, PSAT 10, and/or at least two Advanced Placement exams.

Cash sales now accepted at UAHS athletic events

Upper Arlington High School is now accepting cash sales at school athletic events, in compliance with a new state requirement. Please note that cash is not accepted as a payment for tickets or concessions at OHSAA playoff games.

Tickets are available for cash purchase for \$10. Online sales of tickets and season passes will continue to be available at www.uaschools.org/Tickets1.aspx for a discounted rate.

In addition to payment via credit/debit card or mobile wallet such as Apple Pay or Google Pay, cash will be accepted for concessions purchases at UAHS home athletic events. The athletic boosters, who run the concessions for athletic events, ask that spectators paying with cash provide the exact dollar amount for payment, as no coins will be accepted or returned as change. Please note that cash will not be accepted as a payment for concessions at OHSAA playoff games.

For more information, please visit www.uaschools.org/Tickets1.aspx.

Sculpture Dedicated in Memory of Graduate

A new sculpture outside the Upper Arlington High School natatorium, on the south end of the building, celebrates the life and memory of Emily Reardon, an Upper Arlington High School Class of 2019 graduate who passed away in



2023-2024 SCHOOL DATES

End of First Trimester (K-5)
Monday, November 6

General Election Day: No School for Students; Staff Report Per Schedule
Tuesday, November 7

Thanksgiving Break
Wednesday, November 22 - Friday, November 24

End of 2nd Quarter and 1st Semester (Grades 6-12)
Thursday, December 21

Winter Break
Friday, December 22 - Tuesday, January 2

No School for Students; Staff Report Per Schedule
Wednesday, January 3

Martin Luther King Jr. Day: No School for Students and Staff
Monday, January 15

For the full 2023-2024 school year calendar, please visit our website at www.uaschools.org/calendars.aspx. To view a calendar of community events in our schools, please visit www.uaschools.org/communitycalendar.aspx.

May of 2020. Emily's gifts, her parents recalled, were kindness and love, and the sculpture – titled "Kindness Takes Flight" – reflects those gifts.

The sculpture was funded by generous donors to the Upper Arlington Education Foundation. In addition, a scholarship fund in Emily's memory supports a graduating senior each spring who demonstrates these attributes of loving kindness.

SERVE LEAD SUCCEED... SERVE LEAD SUCCEED



Start With Hello Week

All K-12 school buildings in the Upper Arlington Schools celebrated Start With Hello Week during the week of September 18, with activities that support well-being and help students make new connections and strengthen their sense of belonging in our schools. Students and staff started with hello by engaging in conversation with new peers and one another, practicing gratitude for the people and things that make them happy, creating a kindness/caring tree and giving compliments or writing notes to uplift others. Through activities like these, students were able to make new social connections, practice engaging in conversation with one another and celebrate the things that make them feel connected to their school and community. To see a video of Start With Hello activities across the district, visit www.youtube.com/UpperArlingtonSchools_OH.



SERVE LEAD SUCCEED... SERVE LEAD SUCCEED



Upper Arlington High School celebrated homecoming in September. Pictured from left to right are the members of the Homecoming Court: Drew Alaudini, Ryan Hastings, Quinn Buttermore, Ali Abubakr, Jessica Cook, Quinn Crotty, Allie Gomez, Ashley He and Yifan Zhou. Not pictured: Joey Conroy.



Hastings Middle School students were wowed and inspired by Spot, the robotic dog, from Boston Dynamics and all the possibilities in the fields of robotics and STEM.



Jones Middle School kicked off a year of service learning, with the theme of "You Belong Here," with a day full of activities including a presentation and breakout sessions with the Special Olympics.



Elementary Explorations is back! This districtwide program gives K-5 students a window of time every two weeks to extend their learning through hands-on, project-based experiences.



Kindergarten students at Barrington Elementary School went on a bear hunt to explore their school – and find all the bears that teachers had hidden!



Windermere Elementary School celebrated Windermere Way Day in August – with team activities and lessons focused on being respectful, responsible and ready to learn.

Community Coming Together Again to Reimagine Beloved Wickliffe Playground

For more than three decades, the Wickliffe castle playground has inspired imaginative play for the children of Wickliffe Progressive Elementary School and also the entire Upper Arlington community. Such memories were made possible thanks to a true community effort to fundraise for the castle playground and then build it over five days in the spring of 1990.

"I was in fifth grade when we built it, and I remember it as my all-time favorite experience that I was part of in my 13 years with UA Schools," shared Wickliffe alumnus Carrie Zartman Herkins. "My husband and I were lucky enough to remain in UA, and our boys grew up just two doors down from 'mom's playground.' There have been many full circle moments watching them play here, and I get misty just thinking about the fact that my youngest (a current fifth-grader) will likely be the last class to go all the way through Wickliffe with the playground."

After decades of love and use by the Upper Arlington community, the Wickliffe castle playground is indeed reaching the end of its useful lifespan. So, in the same community spirit that drove the creation of the castle playground, a group of volunteers – parents, students, alumni and staff members – have come together to create a new, iconic and inclusive playground space. Known as Wickliffe Woods, the conceptual playground design developed by Learning Landscapes incorporates elements of nature-based play, STEM and environmental learning that will continue to inspire the imaginations of children in this community for decades to come.

"The concept for Wickliffe Woods truly reflects the heart and vision of the students, staff, families and community members actively engaged in the design process last year," said Wickliffe Principal Angela Evans. "This



is more than just a playground – we are creating a space for our school and the entire Upper Arlington community that reflects our educational values and is an inclusive gathering place that will support children and their well-being for generations to come."

Volunteers are currently working with manufacturers to solidify equipment and a final price tag for the project. They anticipate needing to raise at least \$600,000 to achieve the collective vision for Wickliffe Woods. The Upper Arlington school district, consistent with its past support for school playground projects, will cover the costs of removal of the castle structure, site preparations for installation, landscaping, and future maintenance.

This fall, the entire Wickliffe community will be coming together for this project with a fun run. The goal is to raise \$40,000, including a fundraising match from the Wickliffe PTO.

"As we embark on our fundraising campaign, the Wickliffe Woods team is thrilled to honor such a UA treasure," said Susanne Wolf, parent volunteer. "Our efforts are both playground building and community building."



If you are interested in learning more about the Wickliffe Woods project or in making a financial contribution, please visit www.wickliffeplayground.com or email wickliffewoods@gmail.com.



Library NOVEMBER | DECEMBER 2023 iNSIGHT

BI-MONTHLY NEWS FROM THE UPPER ARLINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY



Visit our Winter Wonderland

Our annual winter party returns Saturday, December 9 from 10 am-2 pm. Join us as we turn our Tremont Road Branch into a Winter Wonderland full of activities for the whole family. This year's event may be our biggest one yet. It will feature exciting new activities, including iceless ice skating and floor curling. We'll also have a DJ, face painting, a caricaturist, balloon animal making, cookie decorating, kids' crafts, and a snow globe photo booth. Hot chocolate and cider will be available for purchase.

Please note that Santa won't be at this event, but you can register to meet Santa when he visits the Miller Park Branch on Thursday, December 7 from 4-6 pm. Go to our program calendar at ualibrary.libnet.info/events to pick your time slot and sign up.



Winter Reading Program Begins December 1

Readers of all ages are invited to warm up with a good book this season during our annual Winter Reading Program.

From December 1-January 31, stop by any UAPL branch to pick up a reading log. There are two ways to participate: read for seven days and track your time on a coloring sheet, or set seven personal reading goals and check them off on a written log. Pick up a new sheet each week!

Once you've finished a sheet, come back to choose a prize from our prize chest. Sample prizes include shaker eggs, stickers, stress balls, and slap bracelets, plus items for adults, too!

You can also visit ualibrary.org/winterreadingclub to enter our grand prize drawing. One drawing entry per participant per week, max of eight entries. Grand prizes include a stuffed penguin, LEGOs, a Don't Break the Ice game, and many others. Adults - we've got grand prizes you'll love, too, including a light therapy lamp, a Blue Jackets Family 4 Pack, a tea gift basket, and an ice skating gift certificate.

Learn more at ualibrary.org/winterreadingclub.



Sustainable Holidays Series

This series explores how to participate in holiday traditions in more sustainable ways.



Sustainable Holidays: Conscious Gift Giving

Thursday, November 30 at 6:30 pm

We'll explore environmentally and socially conscious ways to participate in holiday gift giving traditions. We'll cover DIY gifting, second-hand and ethically produced gifts, and how to discuss gift giving with your loved ones.

Sustainable Holidays: Deck the Halls with Zero-Waste

Saturday, December 2 at 2 pm

Enjoy a short presentation on earth-friendly alternatives to traditional holiday decor and gift wrap. Then make your own gift wrap from recycled materials.

Sustainable Holidays: Avoiding Festive Food Waste

Thursday, December 7 at 6:30 pm

Learn how to limit your food waste during the holidays with food storage and creative food preservation and use ideas.



A NOTE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Beth Hatch

As we come to the end of 2023, there is so much we at the UAPL are thankful for.

We are incredibly thankful to our community. This was the first year of our levy collection, and the additional funds from our local community are already being put to good use. We hired HBM Architects and Interior Designers to create a comprehensive 10-year Master Facilities Plan. The plan includes a timeline and cost estimates for repairs and renovations to all three of our locations. Thank you to those who participated in our facilities survey and our community engagement sessions.

Your input helped us with the vision for the future, and the generous support for the Library with our levy will allow us to see these projects and renovations to fruition. We were also able to make necessary salary adjustments to keep us competitive in the marketplace.

We are thankful for our volunteers and our donors who gave their time and financial support. As of this writing, our volunteers have given 2,835 hours to help shelve books, assist with our summer reading program, deliver books to homebound patrons, and so much more. We have received over \$2,300 in donations to the Library, which will be used for special projects.

We are thankful to our Friends of the Library, who have raised over \$60,000 so far this year. They have supported the Library's reading programs, staff appreciation, and purchases like new storytime rugs.

Finally, we are so thankful for our

staff. The staff are what make the Library a great place to work and visit. Every day they go above and beyond to serve you, whether it's finding your next great read or film to watch, guiding you to information or research, or entertaining families at our thousands of programs.

In October, we celebrated staff at our Staff Development Day with our annual "You Make a Difference" awards for staff who have gone above and beyond to deliver great service to patrons and staff. Congratulations to this year's winners: Naome A. (Tremont Road), Laura B. (Tremont Road), Dale R. (Tremont Road), Ray S. (Tremont Road), and Maklayne V. (Miller Park).

There are so many ways to share thanks this holiday season, whether it's a donation to the Library, volunteering, or sharing your great experiences here. If you want to recognize a staff member who has gone above and beyond for you, please email director@ualibrary.org.

Program Highlights

Check out our *Library Link* program guide for the complete list of programs. Pick one up at any UAPL branch or download at ualibrary.org.

CHA Animal Shelter Visit

Come to the Miller Park Branch on Saturday, November 18 from 10 am-Noon to make crafts and chat with representatives from CHA Animal Shelter. Learn about animal adoption and the local shelter. Adoptable animals may be onsite based on availability.

Dinosaur Party

Children of all ages will have a dino-riffic time on Tuesday, November 28 from 3:30-5 pm at the Lane Road Branch. We'll have crafts, games, and activities, including a dinosaur fossil dig.

Preserving Family Photos

You've inherited a box full of family photos, what do you do with them now? Find out at the Tremont Road Branch on Saturday, November 18 at 10:30 am. Local History and Genealogy Librarian Julie Callahan will cover how to store them properly and some of the methods to digitize them.

Winter Tissue Paper Art

Children ages 3 and up can make some winter-themed tissue paper art projects at the Lane Road Branch on Tuesday, December 12 at 4 pm.

Take Apart Tech

Families are invited to unleash their inner engineers and take apart technology to learn how it operates. Join us at the Tremont Road Branch on Tuesday, December 5 from 4-5:30 pm. Devices

like old phones and computer parts - and the tools to dismantle them - will be provided.

Home for the Holidays

Bring the family to the Miller Park Branch on Thursday, December 7 from 4-6 pm for our annual Home for the Holidays celebration. Register your family to visit with Santa during the event by visiting our program calendar at ualibrary.org. We'll also have face painting, take-home crafts, and cookies.

Light-Up Cards

Get ready for the holiday season with your own light-up greeting cards! With guidance from our staff, you'll learn to make simple circuits to create up to five cards. Join us at the Tremont Road Branch on Wednesday, December 13 from 4-5:30 pm. For ages 10-18.

Media Collection to Move

With the rising popularity of streaming services, we've seen a decrease in the use of our media collection. We circulate 60% fewer DVDs, Blu-rays and CDs than we did a few years ago, while our streaming collection has increased over 100%. So, plan to reduce the size of our media collection and relocate it to the Adult Department. Computer workstations will also move to Adult. In early 2024, staff from the Media Department will transfer to either the Adult or Research Department. The area will be re purposed as staff workspace during our lower level renovation, and when renovations are complete, the area will be configured for services that are in demand. A note for DVD fans: our discards are being given to the Friends of the Library, who are selling them for \$1 in their book store. While our older collection is being reduced, we'll continue to purchase copies of the hottest new releases.

Changes to Kanopy Streaming Service

Effective November 1, Kanopy is changing how viewers access content. Instead of receiving 10 play credits, you'll now receive 30

tickets per month. When you select a title to watch, you'll see a pop-up window indicating how many tickets that selection costs. Some content can be watched without using tickets, and Kids Kanopy is not included. See our media staff for assistance.

Friends of the Library Book Sale

The Friends of the UA Library will hold a book sale November 5-19 in the atrium of the Tremont Road Branch. The sale will feature fiction and nonfiction books for all ages, plus DVDs, CDs, vinyl, magazines and more. A members-only presale will take place November 5 from 11 am-1 pm. The sale opens to the public at 1 pm that day, and will close each day 15 minutes before the library closes. The final day will feature a bag sale, where shoppers can fill a paper grocery bag with books for \$5 (Friends members) or \$10 (nonmembers).

Avenue of Trees

We're looking for five local nonprofit organizations to participate in our Avenue of Trees holiday display at our Tremont Road Branch. Read and submit the application at <http://bit.ly/AvenueofTrees> to be considered for this year's display. Deadline for forms is Monday, November 6. Five organizations will be selected and notified on November 7, with trees ready for decorating on November 20. Contact Christine Minx at cminx@ualibrary.org with questions.

ly/AvenueofTrees to be considered for this year's display. Deadline for forms is Monday, November 6. Five organizations will be selected and notified on November 7, with trees ready for decorating on November 20. Contact Christine Minx at cminx@ualibrary.org with questions.

Toy Drive for Holiday Wish

Help make a local child's holiday brighter by donating to our toy drive to benefit Franklin County Children's Services' Holiday Wish program. Stop by any branch November 20-December 4 to pick a gift tag, then purchase the item and bring it to us unwrapped by 7:30 pm Wednesday, December 6. You can also make monetary donations for gifts for older children at the FCCS Holiday Wish website.

Holiday Closings

All three UA libraries will close at 5 pm Wednesday, November 22 and remain closed on Thanksgiving Day, November 23. We'll be closed December 23-25 for Christmas. Finally, we'll be closed on both Sunday, December 31 and Monday, January 1 for New Year's.

Last Chance for 50 Book Challenge Mugs

Are you participating in our 50 Book Challenge this year? Be sure to stop by a UAPL branch when you've read 50 books to get your free mug. Stay tuned for information on a mug party early in 2024 to celebrate a year of reading and to get ready for the next challenge.

Winter Greeting Card Exchange

Our Miller Park Branch is sponsoring its annual greeting card exchange. It's a great way to reduce waste and share holiday spirit! Take or leave a card anytime from Thanksgiving-New Year's.

NewsBITES

LIBRARY NEWS AND USEFUL INFORMATION

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

2023 Board of Trustees

From Left: Stephen Flynn, Sue Ralph, William Shkurti, John Yesso, Vice President Kevin Fix, Kate Hare, President Peter Hahn



All meetings of the Board and its committees, with the exception of executive sessions, are open to the public. Meetings are held in Meeting Room B of the Tremont Road Branch.

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

- No November Meeting
- 5 pm, Tuesday, December 15

MAKING MEMORIES...building connections

Kids used chalk to decorate the sidewalk in front of the Tremont Road Branch.



Girls from Girls on the Run Central Ohio donated money from a bake sale to the Lane Road Branch. We used the funds to buy books about empowering girls.

We celebrated local music and our Listen Columbus collection with the Loud in the Library event. Families enjoyed music and activities at this after hours party.



OUR STAFF RECOMMENDS

Word Freak: Heartbreak, Triumph, Genius, and Obsession in the World of Competitive Scrabble Players

By **Stefan Fatsis**

In a world today where Wordle, Spelling Bee, and other online word games are in fashion, I will always have a place in my heart for Scrabble. This book is for both the living room player and the serious competitor. In a Gonzo-like journalistic way, the author immersed himself in the world of competitive Scrabble for this book. Word Freak is both a history of the board game and a psychological insight into the players that obsess over new and obscure words, game strategy, and tournament play.

— *Tedd Maxwell, Lane Road*

The Light Between Oceans

By **M.L. Stedman**

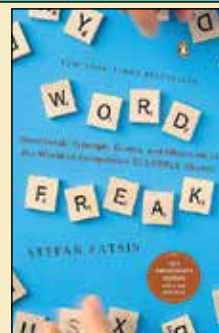
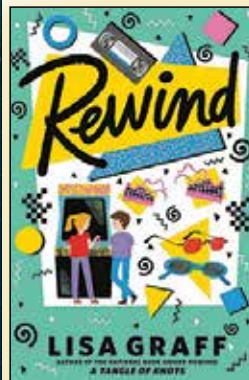
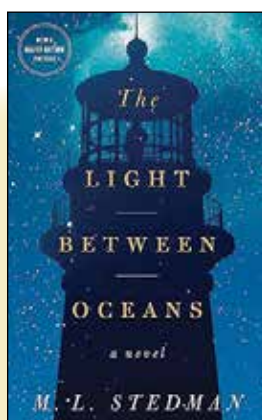
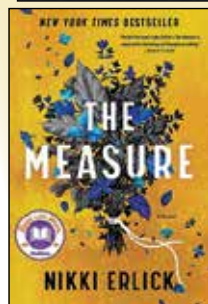
Life as a lighthouse keeper can be very lonely, yet Tom manages to find a wife willing to live on a small, isolated Australian island with him and start a family. At least that was the plan. But after two miscarriages and a stillbirth, his heartbroken wife hears a baby's cry in the distance. When she discovers a boat washed up on the shoreline with a dead man and a living baby, things get complicated. This book presented a very intense quandary that was gripping throughout. A definite page turner!

— *Nancy Byron, Miller Park*

Zero Days

By **Ruth Ware**

Ruth Ware is back with a new novel that is quite a departure from her normal fare. Jack and Gabe are penetration specialists - people pay them to break into buildings and hack past their technological defenses - all in order to improve their security. Jack comes home after an exhausting job to find her beloved husband, Gabe, murdered. With the police suspecting Jack, she does



the only thing she can and flees. Thus begins a tale of Jack on the run, racing against the clock - and the police - to find out who killed Gabe, all the while making sure she doesn't take the fall for a crime she definitely didn't commit. Just as thrilling and twisty as her previous novels, Ruth Ware has done it again with an explosive novel that will leave you guessing as to who-dun-it - and why.

— *Lyndsie Otto, Adult Dept.*

Ducks: Two Years in the Oil Sands

By **Kate Beaton**

What are the impacts of moving away from your home to take a faraway job in an unfamiliar field? This graphic novel covers a period in Beaton's life when she left her home in Nova Scotia to work in the oil sands of Alberta. As a young adult, Beaton wanted to make enough money to pay off her student loans, and heard that there was money to be made

there. Beaton lived in labor camps, experiencing some very dark times but also learning a lot about her fellow workers. She also learns that what others think about the oil sands is not the whole story, and she was motivated to tell it in this adult graphic novel.

— *Pam Cole, Lane Road*

The Measure

By **Nikki Erlick**

What would you do if one day a box mysteriously arrived containing a string claiming to predict the length of your life? Would a short string make you reevaluate your life choices? Would a long string make you reckless? Follow eight ordinary people as their lives

intersect around the consequences of this extraordinary occurrence.

— *Laura Griffin, Technical Services*

Rewind

By **Lisa Graff**

McKinley is a tween living in nowhere Pennsylvania. As if the town isn't boring enough, school has been rough and her relationship with her dad continues to grow in complication. The one thing McKinley is looking forward to is the annual Time Hop Party where everyone dresses up in a specific genre. This year's theme, 1993, has spoken to McKinley, and she is ready to show off her own handmade outfit. The only issue? She time travels to actual 1993 and doesn't know how to get back. Will she find a way home or be trapped forever? This time travel story premise is classic; but going to the 1990s is a hilarious look back for parents and feels fresh and new to tweens. It is a great crossover and celebration of adolescence, fashion, humor, and discovering your place.

— *Brittany Harrison, Youth Dept.*



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Concourse Gallery

The Artist's Process

November 15-January 26, 2024

M-F, 8 am-5 pm, 3600 Tremont Road

UA Cultural Arts | 614-583-5310

Journey through the mind of an artist. Miriam Baranov, Anita Dawson, Steven Elbert and Hiroshi Hayakawa join together for this one-of-a-kind art exhibit that demonstrates the power of the creative process to inspire and transform.

Santa's Mailbox

November 15-December 13

Municipal Services Center Kenny Road parking lot, 3600 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 23

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 for a good cause. Registration open through November 23.

UACA Holiday House Decorating Contest

Nominations Open: November 27-December 8

www.uaca.org

Decorate your home for the holidays and enter this fun annual contest. Judging categories include "Clark Griswald," "Best Front Door Display," "Neat as a Pin," "Inside Out," "Best Overall" and "Anything Goes." Judging takes place mid-December, with winners receiving yard signs soon after.

Community Relations Committee UA Welcome Series

Police & Community Relations
Presentation

6 pm, Thursday, November 30

3600 Tremont Road

uacommunityrelations.com

The UA Police Division will provide an informative presentation on community policing, tailored to new and immigrant residents. Gain a greater understanding of the work of our safety officers, as they support our residents and visitors to our community. Free event.

Winter Festival

6-8:30 pm, Friday, December 1

Mallway Business District

UA Parks & Recreation

Activities include carriage rides, visits with Santa, live reindeer, ice carving and the traditional tree lighting ceremony.

Breakfast & Brunch With Santa

Saturday, December 2

Amelita Mirolo Barn, Sunny 95 Park

Registration Opens 6 am November 1

UA Parks & Recreation | parks.uaoh.net

Children can visit with Santa for pictures and to share their holiday wishes, as well as enjoy a delicious breakfast/brunch buffet. Various times available, register at parks.uaoh.net beginning November 1.

UACA Christmas in the Park

Noon-9 pm, Sunday, December 3

6-9 pm, Monday-Thursday,

December 4-7

Thompson Park

Registration opens 6 am, November 9

UA Civic Association | www.uaca.org

Registered families will enjoy crafts and snacks in the north shelter house before taking a horse drawn carriage ride to the south shelter where they will have a personalized visit with Santa. You must be a current UACA member to be able to register for this event.