

# UA<sup>★</sup>iNSIGHT

JANUARY | FEBRUARY 2024



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



## Northam Park Tennis & Service Building Improvements Begin Early 2024

After an extended study, community engagement and design process, plans for undertaking significant improvements to Northam Park's clay tennis courts and park service building – plus the addition of some new park facilities – are now on track to become reality.

In November, City Council gave its stamp of approval to the next phase of work at Northam Park, that will result in:

- Nine state-of-the-art Har-Tru clay tennis courts with an underground irrigation system, to continue and enhance the exceptional legacy of the Northam Tennis facility and programming;
- A service building that will include year-round restrooms that can be accessed by all park users, Northam Tennis support facilities that include kitchen amenities, shifting the tennis entrance to the south side of the courts, and storage for the athletic fields;
- The addition of six new pickleball courts – located between the tennis courts and Temont Pool – that will be the first public-dedicated pickleball courts in UA;
- Expanded greenspace, more trees, enhanced landscaping and improved pathway access from the UA Schools facilities to the immediate north down to Northam Park;
- The addition of several smaller shelter structures, including a shade structure within the Northam Tennis complex.

The project is to be undertaken by Marker Construction, at a total project cost not to exceed \$3.9 million – meeting the City's original project budget, while also expanding the facilities that will ultimately be included within the project scope, such as the addition of the

underground irrigation system for the tennis courts, the kitchen facilities, and the pickleball courts.

### Construction Schedule

Construction will commence early in 2024, beginning with demolition of the existing service building and some of the tennis courts. Northam Tennis will open for an abridged 2024 season, running from early May through late July, with demolition of the remaining courts beginning in August. The entire project is expected to be complete by the Winter of 2025.

Full details of these improvements, along with other Northam Park projects, can be found under the Parks & Recreation webpage, at [upperarlingtonoh.gov](http://upperarlingtonoh.gov). If you have questions about these improvements, please send an email to [parks@uaoh.net](mailto:parks@uaoh.net) or call 614-583-5300.

# Bob Crane Community Center Operations Focus Groups

As construction of the Bob Crane Community Center continues at an impressive clip, UA Parks & Rec is focused on making sure this exciting new facility will be all our community has hoped for when it opens mid-2025.

The department is planning a series of focus groups early in 2024, to help guide programming and operations. Most of the focus groups will be held virtually, with some in-person opportunities.

### Focus Group Topics:

- Adaptive Recreation - Youth
- Adaptive Recreation - Adult/Senior
- 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
- Businesses



- Operations (membership, hours, child watch, policies, parking)
- The sessions marked "Youth" are intended for adults who have thoughts and ideas on programs for youth. The Teens session is intended for current

middle and high school students. There's still time to register now through the end of January. The focus groups will begin in February. Use the QR code to access the Bob Crane Community Center website, and register today!

# Thompson Park Playground Design Options

### UA Parks & Rec is Seeking Feedback on Three Design Options Now Through January 7, 2024

As part of Parks & Recreation's 2024 Capital Improvement Program, the playground at Thompson Park is scheduled for replacement.

In advance of construction - which is expected to take place early in 2024 - the department has been seeking feedback from residents to help design the new equipment.

In the fall, residents - both adults and children alike - were invited to participate in some surveying activities to identify what type of playground features they wanted to see in a new playground. Using the 190 adult survey responses and 19 worksheets completed by children, the selected playground vendor has developed three design options for the new playground that are now available for community feedback.

The Thompson Park Playground project webpage - which can be found under the Parks & Recreation section



of our website, at [upperarlingtonoh.gov](http://upperarlingtonoh.gov) - features renderings of the three options as well as links to some video "fly throughs" for each design. We encourage you to take a look and to then complete our quick online survey

letting us know what you think, by the January 7 deadline.

If you have questions or comments about this improvement project, please contact the Parks & Recreation Department, at 614-583-5300 or [parks@uaoh.net](mailto:parks@uaoh.net).

## City Achieves Top Financial Ratings for Bob Crane Community Center Office Space Bond Issuance

For the 16th consecutive time, the City has achieved exceptional financial ratings from two national agencies for two bond issuances.

For an issuance of special obligation nontax revenue bonds to fund the construction of the leasable office portion of the Bob Crane Community Center, S&P Global assigned its top AAA rating and Moody's Investor Service assigned the second highest rating of Aa1. S&P Global also assigned a AAA rating for the City's other outstanding nontax revenue bonds, while Moody's Investors Service affirmed the City's AAA rating on previously issued General Obligation Bonds.

Both ratings agencies once again opined on the City's strong operating fund balance and its excellent credit profile, highlighted by a strong tax base, above average resident incomes and its ties with the Columbus metropolitan economy.

The Triple A rating is the highest that can be attained and is considered the gold standard for government entities when selling bonds to finance projects. As a result, our efforts to effectively manage the community's assets can now be further enhanced by

our ability to secure the best possible interest rates.

This accomplishment is testament to the City's commitment to responsible and transparent fiscal planning and implementation practices that have helped us maintain a strong financial position during challenging times and afforded us the flexibility to address significant issues like the Community Center and infrastructure needs.

With these ratings, the City was able to issue \$11.67 million in special nontax revenue bonds, at an interest cost of 4.79%. The 33,400 square feet of leasable office space under construction at the Community Center

will be occupied by The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center (OSUWMC). Under this 15-year lease agreement, the City will receive in excess of \$1 million per year in rental fees and more than \$175,000 per year in income tax withholdings generated by the OSUWMC's employees. This partnership will also deepen and expand the health and wellness services available at the Community Center, with OSUWMC's facility featuring The James Cancer Supportive Care Center, orthopedic physical therapy, and an integrative health clinic.



City of Upper  
Arlington

### 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.
- **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](http://upperarlingtonoh.gov) for more and to submit your nominations.

CityINSIGHT

BI-MONTHLY NEWS FROM THE CITY OF UPPER ARLINGTON

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City of  
Upper Arlington

**City of Upper Arlington**

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

### 2024-2025 City Council

The November 7 election brought with it some changes in City Council, effective in the New Year. Council President Brendan King has completed his second term on Council and was therefore not eligible for an additional term, and Michaela Burriss chose not to seek a second term. Heidi Munc and Todd Walter were selected by voters to serve their first terms on City Council.

The 2024-25 City Council is scheduled to convene for the first time beginning at 7 pm on Monday, January 8, at which time candidates will be sworn into office for their 2024-27 terms. Additionally, Council as a Whole will select who from its ranks will serve as President and Vice President. These two positions also serve as Mayor and Vice Mayor for ceremonial duties.

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

- Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
- Upper Arlington Commission on Aging



**The last Council Meeting of 2023 included recognition for outgoing Council members Michaela Burriss and Brendan King. Pictured from left: Senator Stephanie Kunze (who represented UA until the most recent redistricting), Senator Bill DeMora, outgoing Council members Michaela Burriss and Brendan King, and Representative Allison Russo.**

- 3 appointments to City Council's Rules Review Subcommittee
- 3 appointments to City Council's Financial Policies Subcommittee

Council meetings resume their typical schedule the following week, and are typically held the first, second and

third Mondays of each month. Please check the City's event calendar at [upperarlingtonoh.gov](http://upperarlingtonoh.gov) in advance of meetings, in the event of any schedule adjustments or cancellations. If you have questions, contact the City Clerk's Office, at [City.Clerk@uaoh.net](mailto:City.Clerk@uaoh.net) or 614-583-5030.

## 72% of Community Enrolled in Electric Aggregation Program

In the fall of 2023, City Council approved an Upper Arlington/SOPEC Electric Aggregation Program. Shortly thereafter, SOPEC and the City 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 were:

- Default 100% Renewable Energy at 7.203 cents per kWh
- Brown Energy step down priced at 6.823 cents per kWh
- Opt out of the program altogether

On November 21, 11,318 eligible households and businesses

(representing approximately 75% of the community) were mailed a joint notice from SOPEC and the City, detailing the terms of the program. If they did not wish to participate, these prospective customers had until December 12 (21 days) to opt out of the program. During the opt out window, the City hosted four open houses to provide assistance to residents needing help understanding Electric Aggregation and their options.

A small number of eligible customers - 347 or 3% of the community - chose to opt out of the program. As a result, approximately 72% of the community is now enrolled in the new Upper Arlington/SOPEC Electric

Aggregation Program.

These enrolled customers were scheduled to receive a communication from AEP Ohio prior to the start of the program in January 2024, notifying them that they are enrolled in the City of Upper Arlington/SOPEC Electric Aggregation Program and informing them of a seven-day window whereby they could contact AEP Ohio if they no longer wished to participate in the program.

Full details of this program and program updates can be found on our Electric Aggregation webpage, at [upperarlingtonoh.gov](http://upperarlingtonoh.gov).

**Holiday Lights Recycling Program****Available Through January 31****Public Works Division .....614-583-5350**

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

**Christmas Tree Collection****Solid Waste .....614-583-5370**

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

**Snow Removal****Public Works Division .....614-583-5350**

The City provides exceptional snow removal services, with the aim of returning normal driving conditions to all City streets within 24 hours of the end of a snowstorm. Priority is placed in the following order:



- **Arterial** - the City's main roads receive priority treatment during a storm.
- **Collector** - the next level of streets that carry a lot of traffic to main streets - these streets are plowed and salted once arterial streets are complete.
- **Residential** - all remaining streets. Plowing takes place when snowfall exceeds three inches.

To assist our crews, please do not park on the street during a snow storm.

**2024 Solid Waste Holiday Collection Delays**

Since Local Waste collection crews follow some, but not all City holiday observances, here's a rundown of the Solid Waste collection delays for 2024:

- **New Year's Day: Monday, January 1** - All zones have a one-day delay
- **Memorial Day: Monday, May 27** - All zones have a one-day delay
- **Independence Day: Thursday, July 4** - Thursday zone collected on Friday
- **Labor Day: Monday, September 2** - All zones have a one-day delay
- **Thanksgiving Day: Thursday, November 28** - Thursday zone collected on Friday
- **Christmas Day: Wednesday, December 25** - Wednesday & Thursday zones on a one-day delay
- **New Year's Day: Wednesday, January 1, 2024** - Wednesday & Thursday zones on a one-day delay

**Tri-Village Packers Food Support Program Update**

A new community partnership known as the Tri-Village Packers exceeded its goals for supporting children who are experiencing food insecurity in both Upper Arlington and Grandview Heights over the Thanksgiving holiday.

Thanks to the combined efforts of several community service groups, in collaboration with Upper Arlington and Grandview city and schools representatives, the program was able to provide five days of breakfast and lunch items, healthy snacks and grocery gift cards for 93 children.

Hot on the heels of this success, the group is already looking ahead to 2024, with plans to provide a similar program for children over Spring Break, in addition to repeating its Thanksgiving program.

To help sustain the Tri-Village Packers on an ongoing basis, support from the community will be key. To donate, visit the [uacommunityfoundation.com/donate/](https://uacommunityfoundation.com/donate/) page on the Upper Arlington Community Foundation's website, and select the Tri-Village Packers Fund from the drop-down menu.

The Tri-Village Packers partnership is 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, Grandview Heights Schools the Village of Marble Cliff, and UNITS.

Additional service groups are invited to join our efforts - just send an email to: [trivillagepackers@gmail.com](mailto:trivillagepackers@gmail.com).



## CITY MANAGER UPDATE Steve Schoeny

### Henderson Road Visioning Study

Lane Avenue and the Kingsdale commercial districts have both undergone or are coming toward the end of major redevelopment. These changes have been guided by past visioning exercises and code amendments focused on realizing the City's goals for re-energized community hubs that fulfill residents' shopping and amenity needs, provide housing alternatives, and help increase income tax revenues for the City through the inclusion of professional/medical office space.

The Henderson Road corridor at the north end of Upper Arlington, is the last of the City's significant commercial districts that is yet to redevelop.

It's been more than 20 years since the City underwent a major Master Plan update that, in turn, triggered the creation of Planned Mixed-Use Districts for the City's commercial areas, and market conditions have changed substantially. As a result, we recognize that the current vision for prospective reinvestment along Henderson Road is outdated and we need to put a fresh set of eyes on how to encourage and guide change that will benefit us all.

To that end, the City has contracted with the planning and urban design firm of MKSK to undertake a Henderson Road Visioning Study in 2024.

The primary goals for this study are to facilitate a consistent, safe and attractive corridor that maximizes economic development opportunities, enhances the district's vibrancy and walkability, and explores housing

opportunities that will make north Arlington even better.

MKSK's work will include an extensive traffic study, and detailed reviews of existing visioning documents, zoning and design standards.

As they work to create a new zoning overlay and commercial streetscape concepts for the district, they will embark on an extensive community engagement process that will enable residents, existing businesses within the district and our Columbus neighbors on the north side of Henderson Road to learn about and provide input throughout the study process.

The Henderson Road Visioning Study will likely take most of 2024 to complete. The resulting report and recommendations will be shared with City Council, for its review and consideration. Should Council accept the study, we anticipate a second phase of work will follow that will translate the vision for the corridor into zoning code amendments, setting the course for the desired outcomes.

The study is an important next step for one of our largest commercial districts, and I sincerely hope you will follow along and become involved as opportunities present themselves.

Full details of the Henderson Road Visioning Study can be found on our website, at [upperarlingtonoh.gov](http://upperarlingtonoh.gov).

## Seasonal Employment Opportunities



It may be the start of the New Year but UA's Parks & Rec is already focused on securing the many seasonal employees needed for a successful summer of youth camps, days at the pool, tennis programming and more. Opportunities exist for teens, college students and teachers looking to fill their summers with rewarding experiences and a useful paycheck, as well as for adults and recent retirees with some extra time on their hands who would like to support their community and enjoy the great outdoors.

Seasonal positions exist in the following areas:

- **Pools:** management positions, lifeguards, office support (lifeguard certification courses are provided)
- **Summer camps:** various camp leader and manager positions
- **Parks maintenance:** various three-nine month opportunities
- **Tennis:** various facility operations support positions
- **Rental facilities:** various support positions
- **Safety Town:** teachers and classroom assistants
- **Senior Center:** facility support

Check out our seasonal recruitment video on the Employment section of our website, at [upperarlingtonoh.gov](http://upperarlingtonoh.gov). To submit an application, visit [www.governmentjobs.com/careers/uaoh/seasonal](http://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/uaoh/seasonal).

# NewsBITES

CITY NEWS AND USEFUL INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS

## City Holidays

City offices are closed in observance of the following holidays:

- **Monday, January 1** - New Year's Day. All Solid Waste zones are on a one-day delay
- **Monday, February 19** - Presidents Day. No Solid Waste delays.

## Public Meetings

**CITY CLERK'S OFFICE** 614-583-5030

[upperarlingtonoh.gov/city-council-city-clerk/](http://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 *Community 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
- *Senior Center Updates* - monthly program updates from the Senior Center

Visit the *Connect* section of our website, at [upperarlingtonoh.gov](http://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>.

## 2024 Community Calendar

[upperarlingtonoh.gov](http://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. Submit your event at: <http://tinyurl.com/3yttt2a9>.

## 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. Register at [parks.uaoh.net](http://parks.uaoh.net).

## Friends of UA Parks

[friendsofuaparks.com](http://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:

- January 20 - Fancyburg Park
- February 10 - Cardiff Woods Park
- March 16 - Miller Park

## 2024 Observances & Holidays Calendar

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

Each year the City's 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.

## Community Special Event Applications

An application and permitting process is in place for community special events that require use of City property and/or City logistical and planning support. Event organizers are encouraged to start their applications early.

An online application form is to be used for all event proposals that involve use of public streets, parks or other City property. It can be accessed at <http://tinyurl.com/5n8s5f4p>.

Separate applications are available for Block Parties, Mobile Demonstrations and Car Washes.

### Application Timeline

City Staff will review event applications per the following schedule:

For Events Held:	Application Deadline	Review Date
April 1 - June 30	January 17	February 2
July 1 - September 30	April 17	May 1
October 1 - December 31	July 18	August 2
January 1, 2025 - March 31	October 18	November 6

Additionally, a Park Use Permit is required for groups wishing to hold small activities in a City park that won't disrupt typical park uses.

If you have questions, contact Parks & Recreation at 614-583-5300. For walks and runs, contact the City Manager's Office, at 614-583-5040.



## UA Parks & Rec Receive OPRA Award

**PARKS & RECREATION 614-583-5300**

UA Parks & Rec has received first place in the Ohio Parks & Recreation annual Awards of Excellence Program for capital projects up to \$1 million, for the 3132 Family Sport Court at Sunny 95 Park. This was a unique project involving a partnership with the UA Lacrosse Association, which provided more than \$420,000 in funding support. Named in honor of two former lacrosse captains who developed the same type of breast cancer, the court can be used for basketball, box lacrosse and hockey.

## Help Keep Sidewalks Clear This Winter

Navigating the community on foot can be hazardous in the winter, especially for the elderly or those with disabilities. Help keep sidewalks in front of your property or business clear of snow and ice. If you have elderly neighbors, take a few extra moments to help clear their sidewalks too.

## 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](http://www.uahistory.org). The 2024 ceremony is scheduled for Sunday, May 19.

## 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.

## Fire Hydrants in Winter

**FIRE 614-583-5100**

If you find yourself clearing snow and ice from your driveway and sidewalk this winter and you have a fire hydrant in front of your property, please take a little extra time to clear the hydrant.

## 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>.

## UA Firefighter Awards

**FIRE 614-583-5100**

Firefighter/Paramedic Scott Hillman is the 2023 recipient of the Dr. Mary E. Fontana Distinguished Service Award, in recognition of his dedication and disciplined devotion to his chosen profession. Nominated by his peers, Scott is being recognized for several reasons. He currently serves our nation as a flight medic with the U.S. Army Reserve, and in his role with UA, he has led several EMS training sessions for his colleagues.

Firefighter Anthony (Hector) Ferrero is the 2023 recipient of the



Firefighter/paramedic Scott Hillman is pictured with Dr. Mary E. Fontana, after whom his award is named.

Firefighter Award, in recognition of 29 years of exceptional service to the UA community. He frequently steps up to help mentor new firefighters, and recently worked on an F-500 fill station project to improve operational effectiveness for the division. Before joining UA, he served the nation in the U.S. Navy, as a helicopter mechanic.

Scott and Hector were formally recognized by Upper Arlington City Council at the December 4 meeting.

## Cultural Arts Performer & Vendor Opportunities

**CULTURAL ARTS 614-583-5310**

The City's Cultural Arts Division is making plans for the 2024 event season, specifically the UA Performance Series and the Labor Day Arts Festival. The call is out for the following:

- Band and performing artists applications - deadline January 12. Visit: <https://upperarlingtonoh.portal.opengov.com/categories/1074/record-types/6507>
- LDAF artist applications - deadline February 11. Visit: <https://www.zapplication.org/event-info.php?ID=12007>.

# 2024 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The City completed year 10 of its expanded 10-Year Capital Improvement Program in 2023. This massive investment in our streets, waterlines, stormwater and sewer lines, and community parks is evident throughout much of the community. But there's more work to be done, and the 2024 construction season will be another busy one. Read on for some highlights.

## Fishinger Road Phase 2

Long awaited improvements to Fishinger Road began in 2022, and are greatly enhancing this major thoroughfare. With Phase 1 complete (Mountview Rd. east to Five Points) attention is turning to Phase 2 in 2024, with the section from Mountview to Riverside Drive scheduled to receive a new waterline, sidewalks and shared-use paths, improved LED streetlights and new street trees. The project cost of \$8.3 million will be offset by up to \$5.5 million in grant monies from MORPC's attributable funds program.

## Street Reconstruction Program

Street reconstruction projects comprise full pavement replacement, new curb and gutter, and driveway approaches. The following streets will be improved, at an estimated cost of \$2 million:

- Brittany Lane - from Marlyn Drive to the cul-de-sac
- Chartwell Road - From Haymarket Court to Stonehaven Drive
- Hartsook Lane - from Patricia Drive to Lyon Drive
- Kingston Court - from Chartwell Road to the cul-de-sac
- Lynnhaven Drive - from Somerford Road to Millwood Drive
- Millwood Drive - from Lynnhaven Drive to Ardleigh Road
- Sandringham Drive - from Longeaton Drive to the cul-de-sac
- Vassar Place - From Lane Avenue to College Hill Drive
- Carriage Hill Lane - from Windham Road to Longeaton Drive - will be included if bids fall within estimates



## Street Maintenance Program

Sections of 17 streets are scheduled for street maintenance work, which comprises street resurfacing and spot curb and gutter repairs, per the following list, at an estimated cost of \$1 million:

Brandon Road, Braunton Road, Cardiff Road, Clearbrook Court, Nottingham Road, Pleasant Valley Drive, Stonehenge Court, Stoneygate Lane. Camborne Road and Mannboro Drive will also be included if bids fall within estimates.

## Waterline Replacements

Sections of three streets are scheduled to receive new, larger waterlines, at an estimated cost of \$1.5 million:

- Bramford Road - from Woodbridge Road to Lytham Road
- Overdale Drive - from Johnston Road to Donna Drive
- Walhaven Road - from Glenmere Road to Surrey Hill Place

## Kingsdale Parking Deck

A new, single-story parking deck will be installed above existing surface parking at the north end of the Giant Eagle parking lot at Kingsdale, to serve the Bob Crane Community Center and surrounding businesses. At an approximate cost of \$7.7 million, this project will expand public parking at the site by 130 spaces.

## Other Highlights

- Following detailed inspections of crosswalks, school zone markings

and curb ramps adjacent to UA Schools locations, a number of improvements will be undertaken in 2024, at an approximate cost of \$141,000.

- The access road to the Ohio Mulch facility at the Public Service Center on Roberts Road will undergo improvements that also address a flooding issue at the City's facility, at a cost of approximately \$200,000.
- Approximately 60 fire hydrants that are obsolete and can no longer be maintained, will be replaced, at an approximate cost of \$450,000.
- A shared-use path will be installed on the west side of Riverside Drive, from Lane Avenue south to Trabue Road, at an approximately cost of \$1.7 million. This project is being coordinated with a shared-use path on Trabue Road, to be installed by the Franklin County Engineer's Office, completing a connection to the Quarry Trails Metro Park.
- Continuation of the City's sidewalk maintenance program, annual bridge inspections and repairs; and sanitary sewer rehabilitation in the area of Sunset Drive, Riverside Drive and Nottingham Road.

Full project details - including an interactive GIS Story Map can be found under the **Construction Updates** page, at [upperarlingtonoh.gov](http://upperarlingtonoh.gov). As construction season gets underway, we also share project updates via social media.

# Schools<sup>★</sup>INSIGHT

BI-MONTHLY NEWS FROM UPPER ARLINGTON SCHOOLS

JANUARY | FEBRUARY 2024



## Update on Dr. Hunt's UAdventure

Even though his UAdventure has officially come to an end, Superintendent Robert Hunt, Ph.D., would say that it is really just the beginning.

Launched in the fall to coincide with his first six months as superintendent, the listening series took him to every school within the district and included opportunities to foster connections with students, staff, parents/guardians, and community members.

"This journey has been incredibly enlightening and inspiring," he said. "It is clear to me that the Upper Arlington community is deeply invested in the education of the children in this district and the success of our schools."

With every conversation along the way, Dr. Hunt has gathered invaluable feedback to inform the upcoming strategic planning process and the priorities for the district going forward.

"I am moved by the openness and honesty of everyone I have spoken with and genuinely appreciate the time they took to share their ideas, perspectives and experiences with our schools," he said.

At a community town hall in late November, he shared an initial summary of the feedback from students, staff and parents / community members on the strengths of the district and areas of opportunity. The presentation and video recording from that meeting are available at [www.uaschools.org/superintendent.aspx](http://www.uaschools.org/superintendent.aspx).

Overall, he shared five key themes that have emerged across all stakeholders: educational options and pathways; facilities, specifically the middle schools and Burbank Early Childhood School; the structure of time for students and staff; a continued focus on consistency and

continuity; and student and staff well-being, which he noted would likely be carried forward from the district's current strategic plan.

He will present a formal report to the Board of Education in February that fully analyzes and synthesizes all of the data. That report will be a launching pad for the district's strategic planning process, which will begin soon after.

Although his UAdventure has come to an end, it too will become a launching pad for continued conversations with all stakeholders.

"Our pursuit of excellence in education is an ongoing journey," he said. "I am dedicated to continuously listening, learning, and working together to make our schools even better."



## SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES

Robert Hunt, Ph.D.

### New Year Inspires a Sense of Gratitude, Excitement for What's to Come

As we celebrate the start of a new year, it is a great time to reflect on the year that is ending. For my family and me, 2023 has brought many new opportunities and new friendships.

A year ago in January, my wife and I made the decision to make this great community our home and for me to become the superintendent of Upper Arlington Schools. Six months ago, we relocated to Upper Arlington and immediately felt the sense of community that exists here by attending the best Fourth of July celebration we have ever seen.

During the winter holidays and the transition to a new year, it is also a time to reflect upon all that surrounds us every single day for which we should be thankful. Personally, I am very thankful for my family and friends. I am also thankful to live in this community, which is caring and supportive.

I am grateful for a committed staff that continues to show up every single day doing everything they can to help

and support young people. They not only share content knowledge and develop skills, but also care about the social and emotional development of our students. Regardless of position, there is a collective interest by our staff to attain our mission of challenging and supporting every student, every step of the way.

I am thankful for our Board of Education, parents and community. Throughout my UAdventure, I have engaged in a conversation about our schools with hundreds of our stakeholders. I have been in every school building and invited into community groups, forums and homes to talk about our schools. Many themes have emerged that will serve as the foundation for our plan moving forward, but one that is consistent is that everyone cares about students and takes pride in our schools.

Finally, I am thankful for the students that we have the opportunity to serve every single day. We have incredible young people come into our school buildings each day, and it is a privilege

to help them grow academically, socially and emotionally.

As I look toward 2024, I am most excited about the work we have ahead to make our schools even better for our students. My UAdventure has provided us with valuable feedback from a wide variety of stakeholders that will inform our next strategic planning process. This will shape the future of our schools and have an impact on all of our students. We look forward to launching that process following my formal report to the Board of Education in February on the data from my UAdventure.

Thank you for your continued support for our students and our staff, and I look forward to keeping you informed about what the future holds for our schools.

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

*You can email him at [superintendent@uaschools.org](mailto:superintendent@uaschools.org) and follow him on X (formerly Twitter) at [@Hunt\\_EdLeader](https://twitter.com/Hunt_EdLeader).*



## Treasurer's Notes

Andrew L. Geistfeld

In November, I presented to the Board of Education a five-year financial forecast for the district covering three years of actual data and five years of anticipated revenues and expenditures. This is a legally required document that is presented to the board for approval and then filed with the state of Ohio.

This document is updated every May and November, providing our district with an important check-in point so that we can keep a clear view on future impacts and needs.

The five year forecast reflects key changes from the May 2023 update, including an increase in investment income and an approximate \$2 million annual increase in state aid for the 2023-2024 fiscal year and beyond. The latter is a result of changes made in the Fair School Funding Plan during the state's



biennium budget process.

Even though the Fair School Funding Plan is a very small portion of our overall district budget, this still represents an increase by approximately 58 percent in our state foundation and additional state aid. Any amount of additional state funding is a positive for our school district and community.

In light of the increase in state funding, the Board of Education took action at their November meeting to replenish the budget reserve to the pre-COVID level of 25 percent, or 90 days' worth of annual expenditures. Maintaining a budget reserve of 90 days or 25 percent of annual expenditures is a long-standing, fiscally responsible practice in our district, and replenishing our reserves ultimately benefits our community by helping us protect against any unforeseen budgetary constraints or shifts in revenue in the future.

It's important to note that the new forecast reflects the typical levy cycle of a suburban school district like Upper Arlington. Due to school funding laws

in the state of Ohio, generally speaking, suburban school districts like Upper Arlington return to voters every three to four years in order to keep up with inflation and maintain the current level of school operations.

To review the new five year forecast and other financial documents, please visit our website at [www.uaschools.org/treasurer.aspx](http://www.uaschools.org/treasurer.aspx). If you have any additional questions about our district's finances, you can contact me at [treasurer@uaschools.org](mailto:treasurer@uaschools.org).

### Sign Up to Receive UA Schools e-newsletters!

Upper Arlington Schools remains committed to keeping all stakeholders informed of what is happening throughout the district and receiving and responding to feedback from stakeholders.

Community members can sign up to receive the monthly district e-newsletter that is sent to families and staff at the end of each month. Please visit [www.uaschools.org/emailsignup.aspx](http://www.uaschools.org/emailsignup.aspx) to subscribe to the e-newsletter. Current families with children in the schools and current staff members do not need to take any action, as they are automatically subscribed to these emails.

## 2024 UPPER ARLINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION

Thanks to a partnership with the City of Upper Arlington, Board of Education meetings take place in the Council Chamber of the City's Municipal Services Center, 3600 Tremont Road. In general, meetings begin at 6 pm on the second Tuesday of each month. Some exceptions apply, and last-minute scheduling changes are possible. Please refer to [www.uaschools.org](http://www.uaschools.org) for the most up-to-date information.

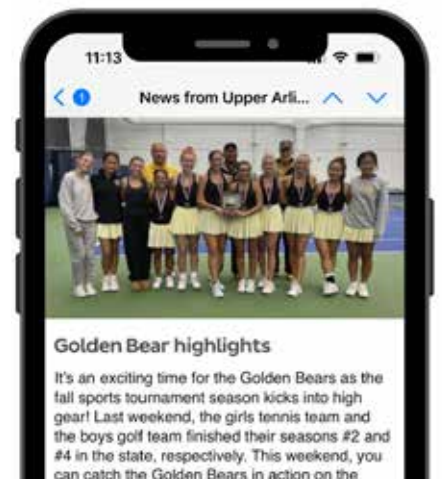
### Upcoming Board of Education Meetings:

- Thursday, January 4, 6 pm – Organizational Meeting, Council Chamber

The schedule of meetings for the 2024 calendar year, including the regular business meeting for the month of January, will be set by the Board at the January 4 organizational meeting. At this meeting, Liz George Stump will be sworn in for her first term on the Board of Education, and Lori Trent and Jenny McKenna will be sworn in for their second terms.

At the December 12 regular meeting, outgoing Vice President Nancy Drees was recognized for her 12 years of service to the Board of Education.

Please visit [www.uaschools.org/board](http://www.uaschools.org/board) to view the schedule for the 2024 calendar year following the January 4 meeting. For additional information on the members of the Board of Education and its policies, please visit [www.uaschools.org/board](http://www.uaschools.org/board).



# BITES From the Apple

SCHOOLS NEWS AND USEFUL INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS

## Kindergarten Registration Begins in February



The Upper Arlington Schools community is looking forward to welcoming the Golden Bears Class of 2037! Children who will be five years of age on or before September 30, 2024, are eligible for kindergarten during the 2024-2025 school year.

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

Before registration begins, all five elementary schools will offer kindergarten information nights to provide families with more information about the kindergarten program and registration process.

- **Barrington Elementary School** – Tuesday, January 23 at 6:30 pm.
- **Greensview Elementary School** – Thursday, February 1 at 6:30 p.m.
- **Tremont Elementary School** – Thursday, February 8 at 6:30 pm.
- **Wickliffe Progressive Elementary School** – Tuesday, February 6 at 6:30 pm.
- **Windermere Elementary School** – Thursday, February 1 at 6:30 pm.

Families interested in enrolling their child or children may do so beginning at 9 am on February 20, 2024 through an online registration form that will be available at [www.uaschools.org/kindergarten.aspx](http://www.uaschools.org/kindergarten.aspx). We strongly encourage families to complete the registration process between February 20 and March 20, 2024, for staffing and planning purposes.

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

## Girls Water Polo Wins 5th Consecutive State Title



Upper Arlington High School girls and boys water polo teams ended their seasons first and second in the state, respectively, with the girls team repeating as state champions for the fifth consecutive year.

In the state final matches on October 29 in their home pool, the Upper Arlington High School girls claimed a 12-6 victory over Cincinnati Sycamore. The boys team fell short of a state championship, with a 9-8 loss against Toledo St. Francis.

It is the girls' 21st state championship – a state record. Overall, the UAHS water polo program has an impressive 30 state championships all together.



## Hour of Code Expands Learning for Students

This fall, every elementary classroom engaged in the sixth annual Hour of Code Across UA, led by Upper Arlington High School students in partnership with the Elementary Explorations teachers.

Elementary Explorations is a district-wide program that gives K-5 students a window of time every two weeks to extend their learning through hands-on, project-based experiences involving STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics). Building on those experiences, approximately 100 UAHS computer science students led foundational computer science activities for Hour of Code in each elementary classroom over the course of two weeks.

This gave elementary students the opportunity to learn skills for their future and allowed high school students to gain experience as teachers and leaders in computer science. And it was a whole lot of fun!

## 2024 Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees to be Recognized

In January, Upper Arlington High School will celebrate the outstanding contributions of 11 former student-athletes and coaches, representing seven decades of excellence in athletics, as well as a special recognition of

former participants in the Girls Athletic Association. The Upper Arlington Hall of Fame was established in 2017 to recognize individuals who have made significant contributions as student-athletes, coaches, administrators and friends of the Golden Bear athletics program.

Included in the 2024 induction class are:

- **Bruce Blackston** (coach, boys golf; athletic director)
- **Michele DeVault** ('04, basketball)
- **Dale Keitz** ('75, football and baseball)
- **Jeff Lewis** ('70, swimming)
- **Jud Millhon** ('47, basketball, baseball and football)
- **Bill Nosker** ('37, basketball, football, golf and track & field)
- **Mike Sabo** ('84, baseball and football)
- **Laura (Burke) Sandbloom** ('06, cheer and lacrosse)
- **John Schmidt** ('39, track & field)
- **Brendan Shook** ('97, football and lacrosse)
- **Melissa (Smith) Richardson** ('90, cross country and track & field)
- **Girls Athletic Association**

The UAHS Athletic Hall of Fame induction ceremony is scheduled for January 13, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. in the UAHS Performing Arts Center. The inductees will also be recognized between the games of the girls/boys basketball

doubleheader on Friday, January 12. The first game of the doubleheader is scheduled to start at 6 p.m., with the second game scheduled to start at approximately 8 p.m.

To learn more about the inductees, please visit [www.uaschools.org](http://www.uaschools.org).

## Nominations Wanted for Educator Hall of Fame

Upper Arlington Schools, the Upper Arlington Education Foundation and the Upper Arlington Alumni Association will recognize outstanding retired educators and alumni this summer as part of the annual UA Alumni Day festivities.

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2024 Educator Hall of Fame and alumni awards. The Educator Hall of Fame recognizes the best of the best among retired teachers and administrators of all grade levels, preschool through grade 12. The alumni awards recognize outstanding, distinguished and inspirational young Golden Bear alumni as they serve, lead and succeed in their career field or their communities.

Nomination criteria and forms are available at [www.uaschools.org/EducatorHallofFame.aspx](http://www.uaschools.org/EducatorHallofFame.aspx) and [www.bearalums.com](http://www.bearalums.com).

The 2024 honorees will be recognized on July 5, 2024, during the Upper Arlington Alumni Association's Alumni Day at Upper Arlington High School.

## SchoolsINSIGHT

BI-MONTHLY NEWS FROM UPPER ARLINGTON SCHOOLS

### Production:

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



## SERVE LEAD SUCCEED... SERVE LEAD SUCCEED



*In November, nineteen Upper Arlington High School student-athletes made the commitment to continue their athletic and academic pursuits in college.*



*As part of their annual service learning project about hunger, Tremont Elementary School first-grade students collected and assembled Thanksgiving bags for After-School All-Stars.*



*With the help of UAHS broadcast students, Wickliffe Progressive Elementary School recorded an all-school music video that incorporated art, physical education and, of course, music.*



*Greensview Elementary School holds its annual Rockathon, a fourth-grade service-learning project that this year supported After-School All Stars and Bearing Hope, the nonprofit organization founded by UAHS senior Alea Ramsey.*



*Coinciding with UA Safety Week, the Upper Arlington Fire Division visited Burbank Early Childhood School in November to share fire safety lessons.*



*Upper Arlington High School football players and cheerleaders kicked off a Friday game day in October by welcoming elementary students to school with lots of high fives and hugs.*



# SERVE LEAD SUCCEED... SERVE LEAD SUCCEED



## Veterans Day Traditions

In November, Upper Arlington Schools students welcomed current and former service members for annual Veterans Day celebrations. Part of a yearlong commitment to service learning for our students and staff, these events not only are a way to celebrate Veterans in our students' families and in our community but also offer a deeply impactful learning experience for students. For eighth graders at Hastings and Jones middle schools, in particular, this learning experience allows them to expand their knowledge about the role of Veterans in American history while recognizing the commitment and sacrifice of those who have served their country. One Veteran shared that the Veterans Day celebration he attended in Upper Arlington Schools was "one of the nicest honors" of his life. "It was so nice talking to young people who have studied Veterans' issues and who appreciate the meaning behind all of it."



## 'Beartique' Free Store Meets Needs of UAHS Students



Tucked away in the administrative offices on the third floor of Upper Arlington High School is a new free store, which aims to ensure that every student has what they need to succeed.

Opened in 2023, Beartique reflects the vision of Upper Arlington High School Assistant Principal Lydia Smith-Lockwood, Ph.D., in partnership with the Upper Arlington Education Foundation, whose generous donors provided the funding for this project, and the Upper Arlington High School PTO, who have helped purchase items for the store.

Beartique has the feel of a boutique, designed to be both welcoming to students while also allowing them to discreetly obtain essentials. The shelves and drawers are stocked with clothing items, some purchased from the Bear Essentials school store; school supplies; toiletries; and more. All are available at no cost to the students.

"Beartique is a testament to our commitment to supporting all students and fostering an environment where everyone has the opportunity to thrive," said Smith-Lockwood. "Our goal was to create an environment where our students can feel welcome and comfortable amid whatever circumstances they are facing."

Students are regularly connected with Beartique as a resource through a network of teachers, school counselors and school staff members, who all work to ensure the privacy of those students. If a student is in need of an item that is not available in the store, such as a winter jacket, Smith-Lockwood's team will ensure that the student gets what they need, even taking into consideration their preferred color.

Upper Arlington Education Foundation Executive Director Alice Finley expressed her excitement about the positive impact Beartique will have on the student community. "There is no doubt that Beartique is supporting our commitment to well-being and promoting a supportive and more inclusive environment at school for our students."

## 2023-2024 SCHOOL DATES

### 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**

### Early Dismissal (K-12)

**Wednesday, January 24**

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

### Elementary Early Dismissal (K-5)

**Thursday, February 15**

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

### Presidents Day: No School for Students and Staff

**Monday, February 19**

### End of 2nd Trimester (K-5) and 3rd Quarter (6-12)

**Friday, March 8**

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

**Monday, March 11**

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

**Tuesday, March 19**

### Spring Break

**Monday, March 25 - Friday, March 29**

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

To make a donation to the Upper Arlington Education Foundation designated to the Beartique free store, please visit [www.uaeducationfoundation.com](http://www.uaeducationfoundation.com).

# Library JANUARY | FEBRUARY 2024 iNSIGHT

BI-MONTHLY NEWS FROM THE UPPER ARLINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY



## Central Ohio Libraries Welcome Author Ta-Nehisi Coates

The Upper Arlington Public Library, in partnership with Bexley Public Library, Columbus Metropolitan Library, Delaware County District Library, Grandview Heights Public Library, Granville Public Library, London Public Library, Marysville Public Library, Plain City Public Library, Southwest Public Libraries, Westerville Public Library and Worthington Libraries, will present acclaimed author Ta-Nehisi Coates at 3 pm on Sunday, February 4 at the Upper Arlington High School Performing Arts Center, 1625 Zollinger Road. Coates will appear in conversation with Sophia Fifer, president and CEO of the Columbus Metropolitan Club. Tickets for the event start at \$25 per person and are available at [ualibrary.org](http://ualibrary.org).



Ta-Nehisi Coates is an award-winning author and journalist. He is the author of the bestselling books *The Beautiful Struggle*, *We Were Eight Years in Power*, *The Water Dancer* and *Between the World and Me*, which won the National Book Award in 2015. He was a

recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship that same year.

As a journalist with a career spanning over two decades, he's written for *The Washington City Paper*, *The Village Voice*, *The New Yorker* and *The New York Times*. During his time reporting for *The Atlantic* between 2008-2018, he penned numerous articles and essays, including the National Magazine Award-winning 2012 essay "Fear of a Black President" and the influential June 2014 essay "The Case For Reparations."

Ta-Nehisi also enjoyed a successful run writing Marvel's *Black Panther* (2016-2021) and *Captain America* (2018-2021) comics series. Ta-Nehisi is currently writing the screenplays for the upcoming films *Wrong Answer*, *Superman* and the film adaptation of his first fiction novel, *The Water Dancer*. In fall 2022, he joined Howard University's faculty as a writer-in-residence and the Sterling Brown Chair in the Department of English.

## Library Offers Activities for Black History Month

February is Black History Month. Stop by our branches for programs, materials, and educational displays dedicated to the history and accomplishments of African Americans.

We're partnering with other UA organizations to present a Community Celebration on February 24 from 2-4 pm in the atrium of the Tremont Road Branch. The event will focus on the influence Black culture has had on the arts, and will feature entertainment and activities for the whole family.

In February, we kick off our new monthly film discussion series, and "Black directors" is our first theme. At the beginning of the month, visit the Adult Department or register for the discussion

event to get a list of suggested films based on the theme. Watch as many as you choose on DVD, Blu-ray, or by streaming, then return for a discussion on Wednesday, February 28 at 6:30 pm, led by Dr. Simone Drake, Hazel C. Youngberg Trustees Distinguished Professor of African American and African Studies at OSU.

The Tremont Road Branch Youth Department will again feature a "Periodic Table of Black History" interactive display highlighting Black individuals and their contributions.

Additionally, librarians can suggest Black history titles to readers of all ages. Our adult staff particularly recommend these nonfiction and fiction books:

### Nonfiction

*Opinions: A Decade of Arguments, Criticism, and Minding Other People's Business* by Roxane Gay  
*Black AF History: The Un-Whitewashed Story of America* by Michael Harriot  
*Quietly Hostile* by Samantha Irby  
*Black Friend: Essays* by Ziwe

### Fiction

*Family Lore* by Elizabeth Acevedo  
*House of Cotton* by Monica Brashears  
*All the Sinners Bleed* by S. A. Cosby  
*The Reformatory* by Tananarive Due  
*The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store* by James Mc Bride  
*Crook Manifesto* by Colson Whitehead



## A NOTE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Beth Hatch

2023 was the first year of the collection of funds from our 2022 local levy, and we immediately put the money to good use.

We hired HBM Architects and Interior Designers to lead us through a full year of a Master Facilities Plan process that included an assessment of all three of our buildings. The plan has cost estimates for repairs and renovations with a recommended timeline based on urgency and impact.

HBM led community members, staff, and partners in engagement sessions and consolidated results of our online survey.

The Library will begin renovations and major building repairs that had been deferred prior to the new levy: a new HVAC system at Lane Road and a new roof on the Tremont Branch. We're working on updating some of our outdated staff work areas, such as our facilities and technical services workrooms, and the Adult Department, which will receive a new service desk due to damage to the current one, which has been in use for decades.

While the facilities and technical services workspace is being renovated, those staff will use the vacated space that previously held the Media Department. In 2024, the Library will work with the

Board, staff and community on future projects as proposed in the facilities plan.

Another significant investment the Library has made is in our Libby eBook and audiobook collection. We're part of the Digital Downloads partnership, and anyone with a library card gets first-come, first-served access to titles purchased by Columbus Metropolitan Library. However, the UAPL now has an enhanced account and has invested a significant amount for our own collection. This means we'll purchase titles that will be available for UAPL cardholders first, just as with our physical collection.

We're so grateful to our community for trusting us with the funds needed to complete these improvements.

## Program Highlights

### Columbus Collage Collective Workshop and Material Swap

Join artist Emily Morgan for an afternoon of cutting and composing. Collage with your own materials, old books and magazines we have on hand, or a combination of the two. We'll provide tools and glue, but you're welcome to bring your own, along with any materials you'd like to swap. Let your creativity flow on Saturday, January 13 at 2 pm at the Tremont Road Branch. Open to adults and teens.

### Family Concert with ProMusica

Join us in the Friends Theater at the Tremont Road Branch on Sunday, January 28 at 3 pm for a special performance by the ProMusica Chamber Orchestra. All ages are welcome to this musical treat.

### Family Forts After Hours

Build a fort with your family at the Miller Park Branch after closing on Saturday, January 27 at 6 pm. Please bring your own building materials like blankets, sheets, etc. We'll provide flashlights and books for reading inside your fort. Registration is required and opens January 13.

### Winter Word Play

Our seven-week word game challenge for adults returns to the Miller Park Branch from January 14-March 3. Stop by each week for a new word puzzle, and turn in your entry for a chance at a small weekly prize pack.

### Garden Explorers

Young gardeners will learn about worms and gardening when the Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens presents a special storytime with their friends from the compost bin. Join us on Friday, February 2 at 10:30 am at

the Miller Park Branch. Registration is required and opens January 19.

### STEAM in the Library: The Three Little Pigs Challenge

Children ages 4+ are invited to the Lane Road Branch on Monday, February 19 at 3:30 pm to use the STEAM principles of science, technology, engineering, art, and math to build mini houses. Use blocks, sticks, LEGOS, and other materials to build your project. Will the wolf be able to knock down your house?

### Live in the Library: Angela Perley

Angela Perley will perform a concert at the Tremont Road Branch on Thursday, February 29 at 6:30 pm. Angela makes music rooted in cosmic alt-country, roadhouse rock & roll, witchy-woman psychedelia, and amplified Americana. It's Leap Day, so why not spend some of your extra 24 hours listening to great music!

# NewsBITES

## LIBRARY NEWS AND USEFUL INFORMATION

### 50 Book Challenge Returns for 2024

In 2023, we debuted our reading challenge for adults...read 50 books in one year and receive an exclusive mug. We're bringing back the fun this year with a new mug design and, of course, many new books! Beginning January 2, stop into any UAPL branch to pick up a reading log, or just keep track in your own way. After you've read 50 books, eBooks or audiobooks, bring your list into the library to receive your reward. Prizes will be ready in early spring, and will be available through the end of December 2024 or while supplies last.

### Passport Fair

Get ready for spring and summer travel! Apply for a new passport with no appointment needed at our Passport Fair on Sunday, January 7 from 9 am-Noon. Passport photos are also available. Visit [uapl.me/passport-services](http://uapl.me/passport-services) for the paperwork you'll need to bring.

### Winter Reading Program

Our Winter Reading Program continues through January 31. Track the days you read or your own reading goals, and earn weekly prizes. You'll also be entered in our grand prize drawings. Read a book, listen to an audiobook, read to a child, peruse the newspaper... all reading counts! Pick up a log at any of our branches, or download one at [ualibrary.org/winter-reading](http://ualibrary.org/winter-reading). Open to all ages!

### Take Home a Light Therapy Lamp

According to the Mayo Clinic, a light therapy lamp mimics outdoor light, which creates chemical changes in the brain that can lift mood and ease symptoms of Seasonal Affective Disorder and depression. Our circulating light therapy lamps are UV-free and simple to use. To reserve a lamp, visit our catalog at [ualibrary.org](http://ualibrary.org) and search for "light therapy lamp."

### Friends of the Library Book Sale

The Friends of the UA Library will hold a book sale from February 4-18 in the atrium of the Tremont Road Branch. The sale will feature a large selection of fiction and nonfiction books for all ages, plus DVDs, CDs, vinyl, magazines and more. A members-only presale will take place on February 4 from 11 am-1 pm. The sale opens to the public at 1 pm that day, and will close each day 15 minutes before the library closes. The final day of the sale will feature a bag sale, where shoppers can fill a paper grocery bag with books for \$5 (Friends members) or \$10 (nonmembers).

### Red Cross Blood Drives

The Red Cross will hold blood drives at the Tremont Road Branch on Friday, January 5 from 11 am-4 pm, and Wednesday, February 14 from 11 am-4 pm. Make an appointment at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) using sponsor code UAPL.

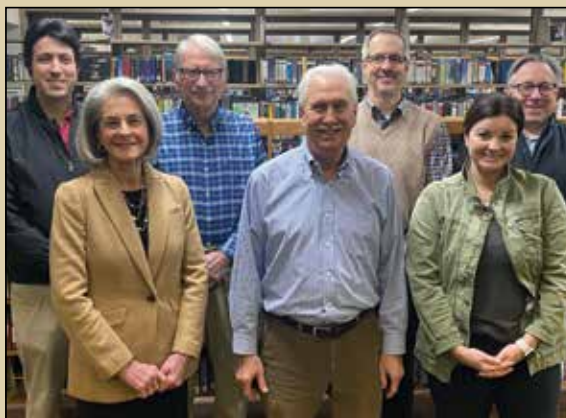
### Holiday Closings

All three UA libraries will be closed on Monday, January 1 and Monday, January 16.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### 2024 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:

- 5 pm, Tuesday, January 16
- 5 pm, Tuesday, February 20

## LibraryINSIGHT

BI-MONTHLY NEWS FROM UPPER ARLINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

#### Production:

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#### Upper Arlington Public Library

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

# MAKING MEMORIES...building connections



Visit the Youth Department in our Tremont Road Branch to add to our art wall.



Our puzzle swap was a great chance to get rid of unwanted puzzles and pick up a "new" one. Look for this program to return on April 13.



Our Media Department has been closed, but we still have one of the largest collections of DVDs and music in Central Ohio. We're also getting new titles all the time. Check out our media collection in its new home in the Adult Department.



The Columbus Zoo and Aquarium brought animal ambassadors to the atrium for a fun and educational program.



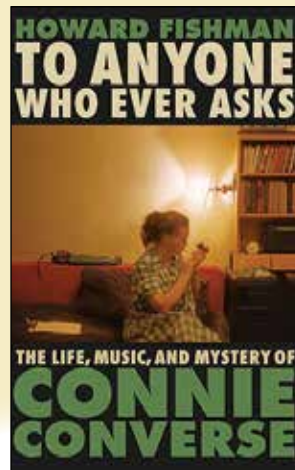
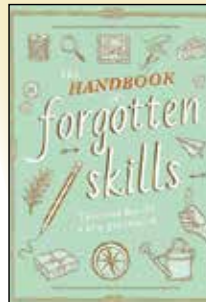
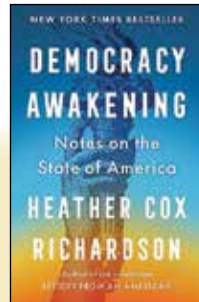
## OUR STAFF RECOMMENDS

### Democracy Awakening: Notes on the State of America

**By Heather Cox Richardson**

This book by historian Richardson presents an incisive, eye-opening summation of how democracy in the United States has reached the perilous point at which we find it today. Richardson, author of the popular newsletter *Letters from an American*, has a talent for finding the key points in the onslaught of daily news and providing vital historical perspective. Her compelling narrative traces the story of how democracy has persisted throughout the nation's history despite the many attempts to undermine it, and reminds us that the outcome rests in our hands.

– Bridie O'Shaughnessy, Miller Park Branch



### To Anyone Who Ever Asks: The Life, Music and Mystery of Connie Converse

**By Howard Fishman**

If you've never heard of Connie Converse, it's understandable - she never knew success in her life, and in 1973, she gathered her possessions and drove off, never to be heard from again. Her accomplishments, however, are remarkable - she pioneered the singer-songwriter movement long before Bob Dylan or Joni Mitchell, wrote an entire opera, contributed research and data to political science, and was a prolific cartoonist. In this book, Howard Fishman details his own story of discovering Converse, providing both a biography of her and a memoir of his own experiences peeling back the mysteries of her life and career. The book is an utterly captivating and haunting look into what it means to create, how people can disappear, and how they can be rediscovered.

– Sam Stahler, Lane Road Branch

### The Story of Gumluck the Wizard

**By Adam Rex**

Gumluck, the Little Wizard Who Lives in the Big Hill, has one dearest wish: he wants to be crowned this year's Harvest Hero. So, he uncomplainingly does magical favors for the townsfolk who do not appreciate him at all! With the help of the ghost who lives in his hair and a very opinionated talking Raven, Gumluck shows us all that believing in yourself is more important than a crown.

– Laura Griffin, Technical Services

### The Handbook of Forgotten Skills

**By Elaine Batiste**

This book offers young readers entertainment and vital life skills that seem to have been lost over the years. It covers tasks like how to sew a button, write a thank-you note, and prep a basic meal. The easy-to-follow directions,

illustrations and background knowledge might just be enough for a child to step away from their screens and learn a forgotten skill.

– Brittney Harrison, Youth Department

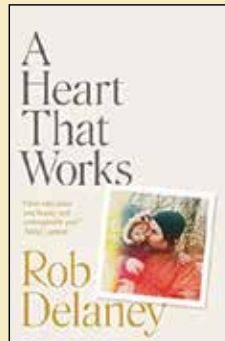
### A Heart That Works By Rob Delaney

Comedian Rob Delaney is best known for his comedy specials, funny tweets, and the TV show *Catastrope*.

This memoir focuses on his personal struggle of having a terminally ill child while balancing responsibilities for his healthy children. Fiercely funny while navigating a heavy topic, we see his resiliency, his love, and a piece of his soul left on the page. He embraces the topic of death and what it means to lose a child while showing

how not to get lost in grief. When the worst happens, commit to love.

– Aimee Cook, Miller Park Branch



### The Quiet Tenant

**By Clémence Michallon**

Aidan Thomas is a murderer, but he has kept the girl in the shed alive for five years. This is how the gripping novel *The Quiet Tenant* starts out. Aidan has just lost his wife and is forced to move from his home with his teenage daughter, Cecelia. The girl in the shed, desperate to survive, convinces Aidan to bring her with them to their new house. Shockingly, Aidan agrees and thus begins a twisty, thrilling tale of Rachel - the girl in the shed - that alternates between her, Cecelia and Emily, Aidan's new love interest. Will Rachel be able to survive another day and expose Aidan for the monster he truly is? This debut thriller is sure to keep you hooked page after page as it explores the bonds between women and how hard one will fight to stay alive.

– Lyndsie Otto, Adult Department



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# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

## Concourse Gallery

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

## Hidden Beauty in the Trees: Jane Heater

Thru January 20

Be transported away from the chaos of life into the details of nature through the photography of award winning artist Jane Heater.

## Central Ohio Libraries Author Visit - Ta-Nehisi Coates

3 pm, Sunday, February 4

UA High School [ualibrary.org](http://ualibrary.org)

Ta-Nehisi Coates, a National Book Award-winning writer and former national correspondent for *The Atlantic*, will discuss his literary career, which includes the publication of *Between the World and Me* as well as *The Water Dancer*, *The Beautiful Struggle*, *We Were Eight Years in Power*, plus many entries in Marvel's *Black Panther* and *Captain America* comics series. Tickets start at \$25.

## UA Stage - Performance of Mean Girls

5 pm, Tuesday, March 12

UA High School

UA Civic Association [www.uaca.org](http://www.uaca.org)

The Upper Arlington Civic Association invites UA residents age 50+ and



Author Ta-Nehisi Coates  
Photo Credit: Nina Subin

current 2024 members of the Upper Arlington Senior Center to dinner and an evening of musical theater. The musical production is performed by students of the Upper Arlington High School.

## Mean Girls

March 14-17

UA High School Performing Arts Center

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

The UA High School Vocal Music Program takes on another show-biz musical.



## Upper Arlington Black History Month Celebration

2-4 pm, Saturday, February 24

Tremont Library

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

Watch for additional details, as the Community Relations Committee, UA Library, UA Schools, Equal UA, and the UA Historical Society partner to present an afternoon of entertainment, kids activities, educational/historical presentations and refreshments celebrating Black History Month.

## UACA Easter Egg Hunt & Bunny Trail

10 am, Saturday, March 16

Thompson Park

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

Enjoy this free event from UACA, with support from UA Parks & Rec. Arrive by 9:45 am for a prompt start. If it rains, candy is handed out drive-thru style.