

# UA<sup>★</sup>iNSIGHT

MARCH | APRIL 2025

 BOB CRANE  
COMMUNITY CENTER

## Countdown to Opening Day



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



# City<sup>★</sup>iNSIGHT

BI-MONTHLY NEWS FROM THE CITY OF UPPER ARLINGTON

MARCH | APRIL 2025



## BOB CRANE COMMUNITY CENTER

# APRIL 6 GRAND OPENING!

The excitement is building and the final details are taking shape, as the City prepares for the grand opening of the Bob Crane Community Center in early April. Read on for a summary of everything you need to know about membership, our opening schedule, and much more!

### Membership Pre-Sales BEGINS MONDAY, MARCH 10

Membership pass pre-sales for the Bob Crane Community Center begin Monday, March 10, and can be obtained in the following ways:

#### Online: at [parks.uaoh.net](https://parks.uaoh.net)

Online purchases still require an in-person visit for identification pictures and to pick up your keyfob.

#### In-Person:

- *Parks & Rec Administration Offices*, Municipal Services Center, 3600 Tremont Road (8 am-5 pm, M-F)
- *UA Senior Center*, 1945 Ridgeview Road (8 am-4 pm, M-F)
- *March 17-21*: In-person pre-sales

will only be available at the UA Senior Center. Pre-sales will still be available online.

### Bob Crane Community Center Tours & Membership Pass Sales

**MARCH 25-29**

*Tuesday-Friday Hours: 8 am-8 pm*

*Saturday Hours: 8 am-1 pm*

Visit [uacommunitycenter.com](https://uacommunitycenter.com) to register for facility tours, or stop by during the above-listed hours for more information and to purchase your membership.

### Preview the Bob Crane Community Center

**APRIL 1-3**

While the operations team completes training in advance of opening day, UA Parks & Rec has scheduled a series of preview sessions for the community to try. This includes the use of various facility amenities such as the gymnasiums, pool and exercise

floor, along with a series of drop-in demonstration classes.

#### Preview Hours:

- Tuesday April 1-Thursday, April 3, from 9 am-Noon and 3-7 pm (the Tuesday, April 1 morning session is reserved for older adults)
- Saturday, April 5, from 8 am-4 pm

Visit [uacommunitycenter.com](https://uacommunitycenter.com) for the schedule of drop-in programming.

### Bob Crane Community Center Grand Opening 4 PM, SUNDAY APRIL 6

*Facility Open Until 8 pm*

Our grand opening celebration wouldn't be complete without an official ribbon cutting ceremony! Please join with members of City Council, Staff, members of the Community Center Feasibility Task Force and various project leads for this historic event. Then, following the ceremony, we invite you to explore the Community Center to enjoy activities, refreshments, tours, and more!

## Business As Usual!

### BEGINS MONDAY, APRIL 7

**Monday-Friday Hours: 5:30 am-10 pm**

**Saturday/Sunday Hours: 8 am-8 pm**

The doors open first thing Monday, April 7 for daily operations, with all indoor Spring programs and classes moving to the Bob Crane Community Center.

## Membership Rates

- **Individual Monthly Membership (ages 3-59 years):** \$35 for Residents, \$70 for Non-Residents.
- **Senior Monthly Membership (ages 60-plus):** \$22 for Residents, \$44 for Non-Residents (SilverSneakers® and RenewActive™ accepted for qualifying older adults).
- **Monthly Rate for Each Additional Person Per Household (all ages):** \$22 for Residents, \$44 for Non-Residents.
- **Daily Admission:** \$10 for Residents, \$20 for Non-Residents (initially, Non-Residents will be limited to one daily admission).

## Work in UA? Enjoy the Resident Rate!

Anyone who works in UA qualifies for Resident status and therefore will be charged the Resident rates, along with members of their household.

## Event Center Opens in May

Don't miss your opportunity to rent our stunning new Event Center for graduation parties, weddings, wedding receptions, conferences, and more. Located on Level 5, the Event Center includes one large event space that can accommodate up to 250 guests banquet style, or can be split into three smaller spaces. Other amenities include a south-facing outdoor Skyline Balcony with incredible views, a catering kitchen, a green room/dressing room, and an art gallery, which can extend the overall event space.

Other facilities available for rental include the gymnasiums, board room, program rooms, party rooms, pool (outside regular hours), and e-sports.



For more on the Event Center and other rental opportunities, contact our Rental Coordinator, at [rentals@uaoh.net](mailto:rentals@uaoh.net), or 614-583-5330.

## Entrance Lobby

We want everyone to feel welcome at the Bob Crane Community Center, and have set aside spaces in the Lobby that can be enjoyed by members and non-members alike. This includes an indoor playground, **Core! Café**, and lobby seating areas.

## Community Center Partners

### OSU Wexner Medical Center

The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center (OSUWMC) will offer three primary services on Levels 2 & 3:

- **The James Cancer Supportive Care Center** - helping to manage the physical and emotional challenges of cancer survivors to improve quality of life.
- **Orthopedic Physical Therapy** - comprehensive rehabilitation care for all orthopedic needs, from adolescence to geriatrics.
- **Integrative Health Clinic** - dedicated to providing innovative and restorative approaches to whole-person healing.

Visit [wexnermedical.osu.edu](http://wexnermedical.osu.edu) to learn more.

## Upper Arlington Community Foundation

The Bob Crane Community Center has been made possible, in part, thanks to an \$8M capital campaign spearheaded by the Upper Arlington Community Foundation, so it's only fitting that the Foundation continues its good work in support of our community from its new base at the Community Center.

## Upper Arlington Commission on Aging

Located on Level 2, close to the 1918 Lounge, the Commission on Aging supports our community's older adults, connecting them with the services and support they need to thrive in UA.

Expanded information on the Bob Crane Community Center can be found in your copy of the **Spring/Summer Activity Guide** or scan the QR code to view the facility website. If you have any questions, contact the department, at [parks@uaoh.net](mailto:parks@uaoh.net).



## New Alarm Permit Requirement for Residents & Businesses

The City is implementing a new alarm permit requirement for all properties with burglary or fire alarm systems. Beginning February 25, 2025, the PM AM Corporation will oversee the permitting process and tracking of false alarms. This partnership will streamline operations, reduce the burden of false alarms on public safety, and ensure effective responses during actual emergencies.

### Why Do I Need an Alarm Permit?

An alarm permit helps ensure that UA's police and fire services can respond quickly and effectively in emergencies. By maintaining an up-to-date permit, property owners provide essential information, including:

- Emergency contact details

- Property specifics
- Backup contacts

This information allows public safety personnel to quickly access critical details during an emergency, ensuring faster, more accurate responses.

### Obtaining or Renewing an Alarm Permit

- **Existing Permit Holders:** If you already have an alarm permit, you must resubmit your permit filing starting February 25. There is no renewal fee.
- **New Permit Applicants:** If you have a burglary or fire alarm system but do not currently have an alarm permit, you are required to apply for one to comply with the City's ordinance.

To apply or renew your permit, residents or businesses must create an account through the False Alarm Management System Portal, which can be accessed using the QR code shown here.

If you have any questions or concerns about the City's alarm permit requirements, please contact the Police Division, at [police@uaoh.net](mailto:police@uaoh.net).



## Northwest Kiwanis Park Temporary Art Installation

This summer, the City will debut a temporary art installation at Northwest Kiwanis Park, designed by artist Marcia Armstrong. Selected through a formal process, Armstrong's artwork will be installed as part of the City's ongoing commitment to enriching the community through diverse art experiences. Following the 2019 Arts and Culture Master Plan, the Cultural Arts Division and Commission established formal policies and



processes for bringing public art to all areas of Upper Arlington. This project brings public art to the northern part of Upper Arlington, an area identified as lacking such installations.

Armstrong is a dynamic artist whose career has spanned a range of disciplines, from ceramics to interdisciplinary installations that merge art, science, and environmental studies. With a Bachelor of Fine Arts from OSU and additional studies in EcoArt and

digital media, her work emphasizes the intersection of the natural world and human experience. Her installations have been showcased in venues like the Smithsonian and Renwick Galleries and more recently in naturalized spaces such as Chadwick North Arboretum. Armstrong seeks to foster connections between people and the ecosystems that sustain them, creating works that inspire reflection and conversation.

This installation aims to inspire visitors to engage with nature and art, sparking reflection and conversation. This project will celebrate the natural beauty of the community, highlight the importance of naturalized areas in the park, and educate the public on the artist's creative process. Don't miss this exciting addition to our vibrant arts scene!

Meet the artist and learn more about the project at the upcoming Soundwaves at the Center Event on Thursday, May 1 from 6-8 pm at the Bob Crane Community Center.

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

### Council Accepting Applications for Boards & Commissions, and Master Plan Task Force

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

Several seats will be expiring on June 30, and City Council is seeking applications from residents interested in serving on the following Boards and Commissions, with an application deadline of Wednesday, April 30, 2025.

- **Civil Service Commission** – prescribes, amends, and enforces rules for the classification of positions in the civil service of the City. Civil Service Rules apply to appointments, promotions, removals, transfers, layoffs, suspensions, reductions, and reinstatements. On average, the Commission meets twice per year.
- **Community Relations Committee** – typically meets the fourth Thursday of each month, to help support UA as a welcoming community, to promote understanding and respect, foster diverse culture, and to enhance the City's vision to support respect and fairness. Members also participate in extracurricular CRC activities and community events throughout the year.
- **Cultural Arts Commission** – typically meets the first Wednesday of each month to advise and support the Cultural Arts Division Staff in their mission to provide and promote a diverse, lively, accessible arts environment that advances the cultural assets and enriches the life of the community.



2024-25 UPPER ARLINGTON CITY COUNCIL

FROM LEFT: Todd Walter, Kathy Adams, Brian Close (Vice President), Ukeme Awakessien Jeter (President), Jim Lynch, Heidi Munc, John Kulewicz

- **Master Plan Task Force** – play a key role in shaping the long-term vision for Upper Arlington. Working with consultants, City Council and City Staff, members will collaborate with stakeholders, review data and trends, and provide input on policies related to land use, parks, economy, community appearance, community facilities & services, housing, infrastructure & transportation, technology, and sustainability. The contributions of the Task Force will help ensure the plan reflects the needs and aspirations of residents, fostering a vibrant, well-planned future for the City. The Task Force will begin what is expected to be a two-year process toward the close of 2025.
- **Medical Advisory Board** – provides ongoing professional supervision, training, and support for the City's Emergency Medical Services program. The Board works in conjunction with the Fire Division and meets up to two times per year.
- **Parks & Recreation Advisory Board** – provides input for parks, recreation, cultural arts services, and facilities. The Board educates the community on services provided by the Parks & Recreation Department. The Board meets up to six times annually.

- **Tax Incentive Review Council** – meets once a year to review tax agreements and compliance for tax-exempt properties located within the City.

Public service of this nature is voluntary. To learn more about these boards and to submit an application, visit <https://onboard.upperarlingtonoh.gov/application/>.

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

## CityINSIGHT

BI-MONTHLY NEWS FROM THE CITY OF UPPER ARLINGTON

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## CITY MANAGER UPDATE

Steve Schoeny



### From Dream to Reality: It's Time to Celebrate the Opening of the Bob Crane Community Center

If you know me, you know that a majority of my waking hours of late have been singularly focused on thinking about, talking about, providing tours, and doing my best to support the teams preparing for opening day at the Bob Crane Community Center. I confess, I'm dreaming about it too!

Reaching this point follows a seven-year (some may say it's been four-five decades) needs assessment, visioning, fundraising, design and construction process. This process has been shaped by extensive community input, detailed planning, and the hard work and passion of so many people.

You have probably already seen the schedule overview on page 2. It includes opportunities for touring the facility, and testing out some of the facilities and programming prior to our official opening. I invite and encourage you to take advantage of this preview phase. You will enjoy advance access to the fitness and exercise spaces, the indoor pool and gymnasiums, and you can sample some drop-in classes and programs. This soft-opening approach will also give staff the hands-on experience they need to provide you with the best possible customer service and experiences once the Community Center is fully operational.

As April 6 approaches, Debbie McLaughlin and her team in Parks & Rec are readying to make the physical move to the facility. Their planning is detailed and thoughtful, but we all recognize that some minor adjustments might be necessary once the doors have opened for "business as usual." Please be patient and understanding during

this initial break-in period, and be sure to share your thoughts and ideas for improvement with the team.

Last but not least, please mark your calendars to join us at 4 pm on Sunday, April 6, as we recognize the efforts of all who made the Bob Crane Community Center possible, cut the ribbon, and open the doors for you to explore the facility, enjoy the evening's activities, refreshments and more!

Bringing the Upper Arlington community its first true community center has been a long time coming, but I'm confident it will be well worth the wait!

#### Northam Park Tennis and Pickleball Courts Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

**4 pm, Thursday, May 1**

A second ribbon cutting ceremony is on the horizon, as we celebrate the completion of major upgrades to the

Northam Tennis clay courts and facility, a new and much improved Northam Park service building with year-round restrooms, new shelters, AND the installation of the City's first dedicated pickleball courts.

Recognizing the increasing popularity of pickleball, an online reservation system will be implemented through [parks.uaoh.net](https://parks.uaoh.net) during the months of April-October, between the hours of 8 am-8 pm. However, if no reservations have been made for one or more of the courts, they will be available for open play. And open play is in effect on the courts for any early birds or night owls.

Plus, you can still make use of the combined pickleball/tennis courts at Fancyburg and Thompson parks. And plans are in the works to add pickleball lines to the tennis court at Sunny 95 Park later this year.



# NewsBITES

CITY NEWS AND USEFUL INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS

## Public Meetings

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

The City has an online portal for public meetings, where you can also register for meeting agenda notices. A full list of public meetings can also be found on our *Community Events* calendar.

## City e-News

**COMMUNITY AFFAIRS | 614-583-5040**

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

- *City Insight* - weekly e-news on City services, special projects & events.
- *Activity Link* - monthly news from UA Parks & Rec, including Bob Crane Community Center updates.

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

## Won't You Be Our Neighbor Podcast

City Manager Steve Schoeny and City Attorney Darren Shulman discuss City happenings and introduce you to various members of our community. Get started today, at <https://podcasters.spotify.com/pod/show/cityofua>.

## CityofUA YouTube Channel

**[youtube.com/@CityofUA](https://www.youtube.com/@CityofUA)**

Subscribe to the City's YouTube channel for convenient access to our latest service videos, highlights of community events and more.

## 2025 Wall of Honor

**3 pm, Sunday, May 18**

**[www.uahistory.org](http://www.uahistory.org)**

The City and UA Historical Society invites the community to the 2025 Wall of Honor Ceremony on Sunday, May 18. In 2025, we will honor Dr. Martin Peter & Marjorie Sayers. Visit [www.uahistory.org](http://www.uahistory.org) for more.

## Friends of UA Parks

**Saturdays, 9 am-Noon**  
**[friendsofuaparks.com](http://friendsofuaparks.com)**

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

- March 8: Miller Park
- April 19 - Northwest Kiwanis Park
- May 17 - Miller Park

## Citizen Camera Partnership

**UA POLICE | 614-583-5150**

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

## 2024 Income Tax Filings

**Deadline: Tuesday, April 15**

[www.ritaohio.com](http://www.ritaohio.com)

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

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

- W-2 Forms from all employers, and any W-2G Forms and 1099-MISC Forms.
- Federal Form 1040, Federal Schedules C, E & F, Federal forms K-1, 2106 (if applicable).

- Addresses and dates for each location in which you resided during 2022 and any previous tax year filings being submitted

The City's Finance Department is also available for in-person assistance, and taxpayers can drop off their information at convenient, secure drop boxes at either the RITA/Worthington location or the Municipal Services Center Kenny Road parking lot - please include a phone number or email address in case there are questions.

## Spring/Summer Activity Guide Registration

**UA Residents: Begins 6 am, March 12**

**Non-Residents: Begins 6 am, March 14**

**UA Parks & Rec**

[parks.uaoh.net](http://parks.uaoh.net)

UA Parks & Rec's *Spring/Summer Activity Guide* will be reaching homes by early March - filled with details of classes and programs, health & wellness activities, special events and more. View an online version of the *Activity Guide* and register for programs, at [parks.uaoh.net](http://parks.uaoh.net).

## City Receives 2024 Clean Energy Community Award

The City is the recipient of a 2024 Clean Energy Community Award from Power a Clean Future Ohio for its commitment to clean energy initiatives. This award recognizes communities that have successfully implemented a 100% clean energy program through aggregation or their own municipal utility.

In 2024, the City launched an electric aggregation program to provide stable, lower-cost electric utility services for residents and business customers, while ensuring reliable customer service, and supporting renewable energy.

Upper Arlington is one of eight communities to receive the 2024 Clean Energy Community Award, joining Bexley, Cleveland Heights, Gahanna, Garfield Heights, Lakewood, Shaker Heights, and South Euclid.



## Summer Pool & Tennis Passes

### UA Parks & Rec

[parks.uaoh.net](http://parks.uaoh.net)

Get a head start on the summer by purchasing your pool and tennis passes early. UA's three outdoor pools open for the season Memorial Day Weekend, and remain open through August 10, with back to school hours through Labor Day Weekend.

## Special Event Applications

### Deadline for Events Held July 1-Sept 30: Friday, April 18

[upperarlingtonoh.viewpointcloud.com/](http://upperarlingtonoh.viewpointcloud.com/)

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.

## Statewide Tornado Drill

### 9:50 am, Wednesday, March 19

[www.ready.ohio.gov](http://www.ready.ohio.gov)

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

## UA Officers Graduate from Leadership Academy

### UA POLICE | 614-583-5150

Lieutenants Jason Messer and Brandon Staiger recently completed the Certified Law Enforcement Executive (CLEE) program, after 14 months of intensive coursework. Co-sponsored by the Law Enforcement Foundation, Inc. and the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, CLEE is one of the most respected leadership programs for law enforcement professionals in the United States. It covers key areas such as strategic planning, ethics, community relations, and organizational risk management.

## Seasonal Job Opportunities

### UA Parks & Rec

[parks.uaoh.net](http://parks.uaoh.net)

Help UA Parks & Rec plan for a successful summer by becoming one of

our seasonal employees. 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, summer camps, parks maintenance, tennis, rental facilities, Senior Center, and Safety Town.

Check out our seasonal recruitment video on the Employment section of our website, at [upperarlingtonoh.gov](http://upperarlingtonoh.gov).

## Fire Hydrant Flushing

### April 14-May 2

### FIRE DIVISION | 614-583-5100

Fire hydrant flushing will occur week-days, April 15-May 3. It is recommended that you refrain from doing laundry on the day hydrants are flushed in your area. Before resuming laundering, partially fill washers on the cold setting until the water runs clear. Run a sample of water into a transparent container to check for settling or discoloration. Once the water is clear, the washer can be spun out to drain the tub for a normal laundry load. Turn on all faucets and allow water to run until it appears clear. Visit the *Fire Prevention* page on our website to view this year's schedule and map.

## Safety Town Registration

### June 9-13, 23-27, July 7-11, 14-18

### UA POLICE

[parks.uaoh.net](http://parks.uaoh.net)

Safety Town is a popular summer preschool program that teaches children all aspects of safety. Registration begins at 6 am, on Wednesday, March 12 for residents. The cost is \$125, and children entering kindergarten and first grade are eligible, but must be five years of age prior to September 30, 2025. Please note that classes fill quickly.

## Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery® Sunday, March 9

To kick off Daylight Savings Time, clocks "spring forward" at 2 am, Sunday

morning. The Fire Division reminds you this is a good time to change the batteries in your smoke alarms. Smoke alarms should be tested monthly and if an alarm chirps, warning the battery is low, replace the battery right away.

## Building Permit Reminders

### DEVELOPMENT

614-583-5070

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

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

## Float Builders Information

### UA CIVIC ASSOCIATION

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

If your neighborhood is planning to enter a float in the 2025 Fourth of July parade, learn the tricks of the trade from the UA Civic Association by watching their float builder video, available in early April.

## UA Parks & Rec Award

UA Parks & Rec recently received a Third Place Award from the Ohio Parks & Recreation Association for *Stories of Resilience: Black History Journey Through the Arts*, a Black History Month event held in February of 2024 that highlighted the history, struggles, and triumphs of Black Americans through visual and performing arts.

## Community Relations Committee Updates

For 2025, the Community Relations Committee (CRC) is continuing its efforts to advance UA as a welcoming community for all who live here, work here, or visit.

### CRC Welcome Series

The Welcome Series provides opportunities for new or newer residents to connect with the CRC, community groups and their neighbors, and to learn more about their hometown of choice. Some events on the horizon include:

#### Iftar Dinner

*Thursday, March 6*

*Amelita Mirolo Barn*

The CRC will host its second annual Iftar Dinner, in celebration of Ramadan. Tickets went on sale mid-February, with a limited number of spaces available on a first-come, first-served basis. Visit [uacommunityrelations.com](http://uacommunityrelations.com) for more.

#### Cherry Blossom Celebration

*5 pm, Wednesday, April 10,*

*Mallway Park*

Join CRC members and other community groups to celebrate the start of spring, enjoy the grove of cherry trees at the Mallway, and to learn about Japanese culture.

### 2025 Community Relations Innovation Grant Recipients

The CRC Innovation Small Grant Program supports community-based, innovative approaches to fulfilling the committee's mission and vision. For the 2025 grant cycle, the following groups have been awarded grants:

#### Accessibility UA - \$3,500

This new initiative takes a proactive approach for addressing a gap in UA's aspirations for being a welcoming community for all - recognizing and supporting the needs of individuals with disabilities. The Accessibility UA team will assess existing conditions, and work with disabled residents and their families to identify barriers, needs



and gaps in knowledge regarding disability inclusion. They will then develop accessibility protocols for use by community organizations and local businesses.

#### Equal UA Porch Parties - \$4,500

The inaugural Porch Parties in 2024 exceeded all hopes, with 73 households registering to host an event for their neighbors - more than double the original goal. For 2025, Equal UA hopes to support at least 100 porch parties across the community, helping to build stronger neighborhood connections.



#### UA Culture & Artisans Fair - \$3,000

*10 am-3 pm, Saturday, May 3*

*2151 Dorset Road*

St. Mark's Episcopal Church will receive a grant of \$3,000 in support of this event, now in its third year. The event supports refugee and immigrant populations in Central Ohio, while providing an opportunity for the UA community to welcome, learn from and build positive connections with the artisans and other visitors.

**For more information on the CRC, visit: [uacommunityrelations.com](http://uacommunityrelations.com)**

### Tri-Village Packers Spring Break Program

[www.trivillagepackers.com](http://www.trivillagepackers.com)

The Tri-Village Packers are continuing their efforts to support children in the UA and Grandview schools who are experiencing food insecurity over the Spring Break holiday. To help them in their efforts to provide healthy snacks, breakfast and lunch items, both financial donations and volunteers are welcome.



To volunteer, visit the Packers website and look for the link to sign up for volunteer shifts during the weeks of March 3, 10 and 17. To donate, visit the [uacommunityfoundation.com/donate/](http://uacommunityfoundation.com/donate/) page on the Upper Arlington Community Foundation's website, and select the Tri-Village Packers Fund from the drop-down menu.



**PARKS & REC**

City of Upper Arlington

### PLAY UA Financial Assistance Program

UA Parks & Rec is committed to eliminating barriers for individuals and families, so that everyone can enjoy their programs and facilities. Don't let a financially challenging situation prevent you from enjoying summer at the pool or the many programs offered each year.

Swim lesson fees are reduced by 75% for PLAY UA participants. All other programs and memberships receive a 50% discount (with the exception of day camps).

**Learn more about PLAY UA and how to qualify:**

[upperarlingtonoh.gov/play-ua/](http://upperarlingtonoh.gov/play-ua/)

# Schools<sup>★</sup>INSIGHT

BI-MONTHLY NEWS FROM UPPER ARLINGTON SCHOOLS

MARCH | APRIL 2025



## Get involved In Facilities Master Planning!

**Your voice matters in facilities master planning!** Since the fall, hundreds of students, staff members, parents/guardians and community members have lent their voices to phase two of the facilities master planning process for the aging middle schools and Burbank Early Childhood School.

“Our school facilities are a cornerstone of the Upper Arlington community, and we are so grateful for those who have come alongside us so far in this process to help shape the future of our schools,” said Superintendent Robert Hunt, Ph.D. “If you haven’t gotten involved in the process, we need to hear from you. Your perspective is critical as we determine the best path forward for our schools.”

### What’s Happened in the Assessments Phase

In the fall of 2024, Upper Arlington Schools kicked off phase two of facilities master planning, focused on the schools that were not touched in phase one – the aging middle schools and Burbank Early Childhood School. In the first part of the process, the Assessments Phase, the district has:

- Formed building teams of approximately 100 community and staff volunteers to dive deeply into the physical and educational challenges of each building and explore possible solutions.
- Invited the community to learn more and share their thoughts through two rounds of community engagement sessions in the final months of 2024.

- Commissioned a new round of professional facility assessments, updating the work done in 2015, to inform cost estimates for maintaining and repairing the buildings, as well as the development of additional options that would tackle both the physical and educational needs of the buildings.

Based on the results of the physical assessments, the estimated cost to maintain and repair the three buildings is \$103.7 million. High demand in the central Ohio market has led to a steep increase in construction costs in recent years. Several large-scale projects such as Intel, Google and Honda are contributing to shortages for labor and supplies.

**CONTINUES ON PAGE 12**

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**What's Next in the Options Phase**

The master planning process is now in the Options Phase. The community and staff volunteers on the building teams have worked together to explore possible solutions that were brought forward to the community in February at the third round of community engagement sessions. Options range from repairing and maintaining (addressing the physical needs of the buildings) to renovating or rebuilding (addressing the physical and educational needs).

Community members who were unable to attend the meeting can provide their feedback on the initial options through an online survey available at [www.uaschools.org/facilities](http://www.uaschools.org/facilities). The survey will be open through Sunday, March 9. This feedback will be used to revise the initial planning options and potentially investigate additional options.

Later in the spring, the community will have multiple opportunities to share their thoughts on the revised planning options and their estimated costs at the fourth round of community engagement sessions in May.

- **Monday, May 12 from 6:30-8 pm** in the Upper Arlington High School's Amelita Mirola Black Box Theater, 1625 Zollinger Road
- **Tuesday, May 13 from 9-10:30 am** at the Graf Center, 2020 Builders Place

An online community survey will also follow this round of meetings.

"As we move forward, I encourage all community members to engage with this process," Dr. Hunt added. "Attend meetings, ask questions and share your feedback. No decisions have been made, and this is your chance to play an active role in shaping the future of our schools."

**How to Learn More**

For information on how to get involved, and to review all of the feedback gathered so far in the process, please visit [www.uaschools.org/facilities](http://www.uaschools.org/facilities).



# Your Voice Matters

GET INVOLVED IN MASTER PLANNING!



**SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS  
ON THE INITIAL OPTIONS!**

Take the online survey now  
through Sunday, March 9

Scan the QR code  
or visit  
[www.uaschools.org/  
facilities](http://www.uaschools.org/facilities)





## SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES

Robert Hunt, Ph.D.

### Excellence & Innovation 2030 Strategic Plan Reflects Collective Vision for Future of 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.

The start of a new year is the perfect time to look ahead and focus on our shared vision for the future of education in Upper Arlington. At their January regular business meeting, the Board of Education approved the Excellence & Innovation 2030 Strategic Plan – a forward-thinking roadmap for our district that is designed to further our commitment to challenge and support every student, every step of the way.

Informed by more than 9,000 touchpoints with stakeholders and developed through extensive collaboration with staff, students and community members, this strategic plan centers on three key priorities:

**Engaged Learning:** Our students thrive when they are actively engaged in their education. This priority is rooted in our Profile of an Engaged Learner, emphasizing the creation of meaningful and challenging learning experiences that inspire curiosity, critical thinking and a love of learning. By personalizing education and fostering innovation in the classroom, we aim to prepare every student for personal success in an ever-changing world.

**Culture & Climate:** We are committed to fostering an environment that values the unique experiences and perspectives of all students, staff and families. This priority focuses on building systems and structures that amplify student and staff voices and strengthen school culture. By prioritizing authentic representation and supporting individual needs, we create a school community where everyone feels they belong and can thrive.



**Connections:** Strong relationships are the foundation of a thriving school community. This priority emphasizes the importance of those relationships with families, community members, businesses and local organizations. By working together, we can enhance opportunities for students and strengthen the connections that make our schools and community such a unique place.

Wrapped around the entire plan is our unwavering focus on **Excellence** and **Innovation**. These guiding principles are embedded in everything we do, ensuring our district remains a leader in educational excellence while embracing new ideas and practices to meet the evolving needs of our students.

The Excellence & Innovation 2030 Strategic Plan reaffirms our district's commitment to providing an exceptional education for every student. It also positions us to embrace new challenges and opportunities with confidence and purpose. I invite you to learn more about this plan by visiting our website at

[www.uaschools.org/strategicplan](http://www.uaschools.org/strategicplan).

As we embark on this exciting journey, I want to express my gratitude to everyone who contributed to this effort. Your partnership and support are the foundation of our success. Together, we will ensure that Upper Arlington Schools continues to lead the way in educational excellence and innovation.

## 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



## Kindergarten Registration Open for 2025-2026

The Upper Arlington Schools community is looking forward to welcoming the Golden Bears Class of 2038! Children who will be 5 years of age on or before September 30, 2025, are eligible for kindergarten during the 2025-2026 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.

Information about starting the registration process is available now at

[www.uaschools.org/kindergarten](http://www.uaschools.org/kindergarten). We strongly encourage families to complete the registration process by March 18 for staffing and planning purposes.

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

## Coffee & Conversation Continues This Spring

Upper Arlington Schools has launched an expanded Coffee & Conversation series for the 2024-2025 school year. These coffee chats are an opportunity for the community to learn more about the Upper Arlington Schools and to ask questions.

There has been a great response from the Upper Arlington community to these coffee chats throughout this school year. Mark your calendars to join your neighbors for the remaining Coffee & Conversation events this spring!

- **Wednesday, March 12: update on facilities master planning** – 9-10 am in the upper level meeting room at Giant Eagle Market District, 3061 Kingsdale Center
- **Wednesday, April 16: general district updates** – 6-7 pm at the UA Hub, 1950 North Mallway Drive

- **Thursday, April 24: year in review** – 9-10 am in the upper level meeting room at Giant Eagle Market District

For the full Coffee & Conversation schedule, visit [www.uaschools.org/Coffee&Conversation](http://www.uaschools.org/Coffee&Conversation).

## Student-Led Festival Celebrates Culture, Connection



Upper Arlington High School students invite you to be part of the 2025 Human Connections Festival on the evening of February 26. This multi-generational school and community celebration features a student-created interactive gallery space designed to celebrate culture, explore diverse lived experiences, learn from new perspectives and build relationships.

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

Families and community members are invited to experience the Human Connections Festival and walk the gallery space from 6-7:30 pm on February 26





at Upper Arlington High School, 1625 Zollinger Road. The festival will also be open only to UAHS students and staff during the school day. We hope you will join us as we elevate student voices and stories in a celebration of belonging!

### Nominations Wanted for Educator, Alumni Awards

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 UAHS Open House.

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2025 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](http://www.uaschools.org/EducatorHallofFame) and [www.bearalums.com](http://www.bearalums.com).

The Upper Arlington Alumni Association's annual open house at Upper Arlington High School will take place on July 3, 2025, from 12:30-3 pm. The honorees will be recognized during a ceremony starting at 2 pm.



## 2024-2025 SCHOOL DATES

**End of 3rd Quarter**  
**Friday, March 14**

**Spring Break**  
**Monday, March 17 - Friday, March 21**  
*No School for Students; Staff Report Per Schedule*

**Teacher Work Day**  
**Monday, March 24**  
*No School for Students; Staff Report Per Schedule*

**Elementary Early Dismissal (K-5)**  
**Thursday, March 27**  
*Dismissal at 11:05 am; no lunch service*

**No School for Students**  
**Friday, April 18**  
*Staff Report Per Schedule*

**Election Day**  
**Tuesday, May 6**  
*No School for Students; Staff Report Per Schedule*

**UAHS Commencement**  
**Sunday, May 25**  
*9:30 am, the Jerome Schottenstein Center*

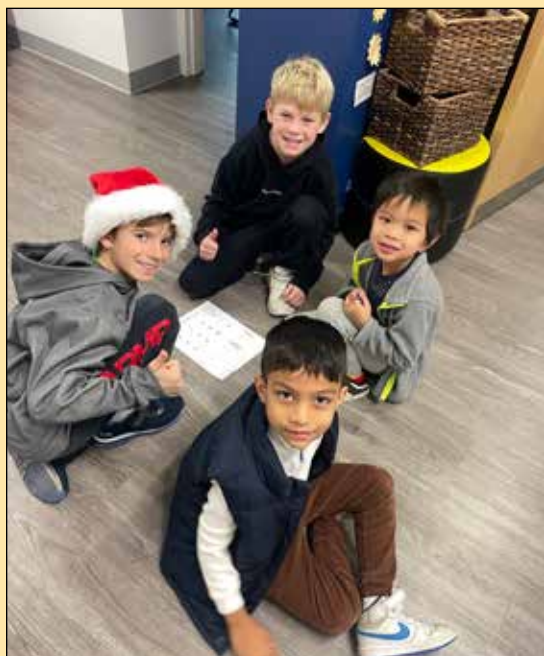
**Memorial Day**  
**Monday, May 26**  
*No School for Students and Staff*

**Last Day for Students; Early Dismissal (K-12)**  
**Thursday, May 29**  
*Dismissal at 1 pm for elementary; 1:30 pm for secondary*

**Teacher Work Day**  
**Friday, May 30**  
*Staff Report Per Schedule*

For the full 2024-2025 school year calendar, visit [www.uaschools.org/calendars](http://www.uaschools.org/calendars). To view a calendar of community events in our schools, please visit [www.uaschools.org/communitycalendar](http://www.uaschools.org/communitycalendar).

# SERVE LEAD SUCCEED... SERVE LEAD SUCCEED



*700 students + teamwork + brainpower = Tremont pride in action! Tremont Elementary School students of all ages had a great time solving a whole-school math challenge on the last day before winter break.*



*Cookies & Cram was a huge success before semester exams in December! More than 400 Upper Arlington High School students joined the National Honor Society and Link Crew for this Golden Bear tradition.*



## 2025 UAHS Athletic Hall of Fame

The Upper Arlington Athletic Hall of Fame was established in 2017 to recognize individuals who have made significant contributions as student-athletes, coaches, administrators, and friends to the tradition of Golden Bear athletics. Upper Arlington High School honored the 2025 induction class for its Athletic Hall of Fame in January. The inductees and their families were recognized during a girls and boys varsity basketball double-header at Upper Arlington High School and a ceremony the following morning in the Performing Arts Center.



Congratulations to the inductees and their families: **Juan Acevedo** ('77, soccer); **Mike Boggs** ('73, football, baseball and longtime football assistant coach); **Andy Grindley** ('07, hockey); **Mike Janowicz** ('96, lacrosse); **Kelly Harper King** ('95, cheer, gymnastics and diving); **Kate Milling Kling** ('97, swim); **Patrick Maynard** ('95, swim); **Christine Johnston Nidiffer** ('06, tennis); Friend of the Program **Dave Parsons** ('55); former coach **Bill Pfeil** (wrestling, football and baseball); **Kim Taylor** ('73, football, basketball and track); and **Nate Wilbourne** ('92, basketball).

This was the eighth full induction class and increased the number of former student-athletes, coaches, administrators and friends of the UAHS athletics program enshrined to 81.



## SERVE LEAD SUCCEED... SERVE LEAD SUCCEED



Hastings Middle School Technology & Engineering students wrapped up their semester by showcasing their impressive portfolios. Among their creations were beautifully crafted wooden charcuterie boards.



Fifth-graders at Barrington Elementary School learned from Brady Quinn of the Third and Goal Foundation as part of their Authentic Learning & Leadership project focused on veterans.



Fifth-graders extended their math learning in Windermere Elementary School's Learning Kitchen in January – scaling recipes, working with fractions and gaining lifelong skills as they prepared treats for staff at Windermere and Nationwide Children's Hospital.



The youngest Bears at Burbank Early Childhood School spread kindness this winter by creating sunshine kits for children and families in hospitals.



Eighth-grade Life Skills students at Jones Middle School showed off their talent and creativity as they held their own ultimate cake-decorating showdown in December.



Greensview Elementary School first-grade classes made a big difference through a service-learning project supporting the YMCA. Through a UA-themed bracelet sale, they raised approximately \$1,700 to purchase supplies for personal care kits, which they assembled for donation in December.

## Treasurer's Notes

**Andrew L. Geistfeld**

Being good stewards of taxpayer dollars is a core responsibility for our district, and wisely managing our resources



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

I am proud to announce that, for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, our district has once again earned a clean audit opinion and received the prestigious Auditor of State Award. This achievement reflects our ongoing dedication to sound financial practices and our commitment to the community. You can view the full audited financial report for fiscal year 2024 on our website at [www.uaschools.org/departments/treasurer/annual-audits](http://www.uaschools.org/departments/treasurer/annual-audits).

The state audit is just one way for stakeholders to stay informed about how taxpayer dollars are being used in the district. For a more detailed look at our financial picture, our 2024-2025 Financial Update will be available later this spring on our website at [www.uaschools.org/treasurer](http://www.uaschools.org/treasurer). This report

complements our annual Quality Profile, providing a deeper dive into the district's funding sources, expenditures and future fiscal considerations.

In addition to these reports, our Treasurer's Office webpage hosts other key financial documents, including monthly financial updates presented at regular Board of Education meetings and our five-year forecast. The five-year forecast is a critical planning tool that helps us project the district's financial needs over time.

Another vital resource for our long-term planning is the enrollment projection report. Prepared by an independent firm, this report analyzes factors such as real estate trends and birth data to estimate future student enrollment. By understanding potential growth, we can better plan for staffing, facilities and resources.

The latest enrollment projection, completed by Cooperative Strategies, was shared with the Board of Education approximately a year ago, and the district will again be commissioning a new enrollment study this spring. In general, we continue to see steady growth in our enrollment districtwide, with the number of K-12 students expected to increase by approximately 400 students, or 6%, by 2033-2034. The full report is available on our website at [www.uaschools.org/enrollmentdata](http://www.uaschools.org/enrollmentdata).

As our enrollment continues to grow, the district will remain focused on efficiently managing resources and planning for additional students and their academic needs.

If you have any questions about the district's finances, please feel free to contact me at [treasurer@uaschools.org](mailto:treasurer@uaschools.org).

## 2025 UPPER ARLINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION

**FROM LEFT:**  
Liz George Stump,  
Lori Trent, Vice President  
Lou Sauter, President  
Jenny McKenna 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, the meetings begin at 6 pm on the second Tuesday of each month. Some exceptions apply, and last-minute scheduling changes are possible. Please refer to [www.uaschools.org](http://www.uaschools.org) for the most up-to-date information.

### Upcoming Board of Education Meetings:

- Tuesday, March 11, 6 pm – Council Chamber
- Tuesday, April 8, 6 pm – Council Chamber
- Tuesday, May 13, 6 pm – Council Chamber

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).

# Library MARCH | APRIL 2025 iNSIGHT

BI-MONTHLY NEWS FROM THE UPPER ARLINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY



## Sustainability Fair Returns April 5

Join the Upper Arlington Public Library and Sustainable UA as we celebrate the sustainable initiatives happening in our community at the 2025 Sustainability Fair on Saturday, April 5 from 10 am-2 pm at our Tremont Road Branch. Visit with local organizations, learn about sustainable practices, recycle e-waste, donate unwanted items, and more.

At 10:15 am, Priscila Teixeira, founder and CEO of Columbus Fashion Academy, will present How Fashion Impacts Our Planet and What We Can Do About It

Kids are invited to Sustainability Storytime featuring a musician from ProMusica Chamber Orchestra, at 10:30 am in our Youth Department.

At 1 pm, Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District will present its popular Community Backyards Rebate Workshop. Find out what you can do to help protect our waterways

beginning right in your own backyard. Franklin County residents can receive a rebate to install a backyard conservation practice.

Visit the parking lot to drop off book, clothing and used bike donations, recycle your e-waste, and more. Get the full schedule of the day's events, at <http://uapl.me/SF25>.



## Spring Into Wellness at our Health Fair

Wondering what UA has to offer for family health, wellness, or aging in place? Get answers at our Health Fair on Saturday, March 8 from 10 am-2 pm at the Tremont Road Branch. The event will feature screenings, vaccinations, activities, and opportunities to chat with representatives from local organizations.

### Exhibitors

- The Be Sanctuary, wellness and healing arts community
- Exercise is Medicine
- Franklin County Office on Aging
- Franklin County Public Health, with information on maternal/infant health, nicotine cessation, safe drug disposal, Naloxone, and healthy eating
- Interprofessional Community Scholars Program
- James Care for Life
- Ohio State University Medical Center's Cancer Supportive Care

- Ohio State University Medical Center's Rehabilitation/Physical Therapy
- Our Home Senior Living/Cotter House
- OSUMC's Center for Integrative Medicine
- Upper Arlington Fire Division, Police Division, and UA CARES, a community paramedicine program
- Upper Arlington Commission on Aging (UACOA)
- Upper Arlington Community Health Action Team (UA CHAT)
- City of UA Parks & Recreation/Bob Crane Community Center
- Wexner Medical Center's Workforce Partnerships



### Screenings and Vaccinations

- Blood pressure and glucose screenings
- Fall risk screening
- Dementia risk screening
- COVID, Flu and Tdap vaccinations (bring ID and insurance card)

### Activities

- Sample fitness classes with instructors from the Bob Crane Community Center
- Sample fitness class with Exercise is Medicine
- Sample James Care for Life programs
- Soul Collage, a mindfulness art activity
- Visit with therapy dogs
- Massage by providers from OSU's Center for Integrative Medicine

## A NOTE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Beth Hatch

### 2024: A Stellar Year for Service and Innovation



Last year was one of exceptional achievements for the Upper Arlington Public Library. Through the dedicated efforts of our staff and a focus on community-first services, we've set new records in programming attendance and circulation, affirming our role as a cornerstone of education, enrichment, and connection in Upper Arlington.

#### Circulation Success Stories

Our collection continues to evolve to meet the needs of our patrons, and the results speak for themselves:

- **Adult and Juvenile Books:** Print collections are thriving, with a nearly 30% increase in circulation compared to 2019. Juvenile books saw remarkable growth, with nearly 100,000 more checkouts than in 2022 and 60,000 more than in 2016.
- **E-Circulation:** Digital resources - like Overdrive, Libby - have been a game-changer. Our \$100,000+ investment in OverDrive Advantage has provided cardholders priority access to eBooks and audiobooks, significantly reducing wait times and driving usage. Audiobooks account for 40% of our OverDrive circulation, highlighting their importance in our digital offerings.
- **Video Games:** This collection continues to grow in popularity, thanks to expanded funding and increased availability.

With certain formats like DVDs, CDs, and physical audiobooks experiencing declines, we've strategically shifted our purchasing to align with patron demand,

ensuring our resources are used on items that our users need most.

Additionally, our database usage increased by 42% compared to 2019, driven by resources like *The New York Times*, *Consumer Reports*, and *A-Z Databases*, ensuring patrons have access to valuable, reliable information.

#### Programming Milestones

Programming in 2024 was nothing short of stellar:

- **Adult Programs:** Attendance increased by 2,000 compared to 2023, with offerings tailored to varied interests and schedules.
- **Youth Programs:** We hosted the most children's and teen programs in years, with 37,600 attendees. Teen programming reached new heights, offering 100 events with 1,600 participants.

#### Strategic Investments for the Future

As part of our ongoing strategic plan, we've refined services at each location based on space and community needs, and have expanded our resources and staffing toward our outreach initiatives. We are planning for the re-opening of the Lane Road Branch late Spring 2025.

#### Looking Ahead to 2025

Our financial outlook remains steady, with estimated revenue of \$9.3 million. In addition to operating expenses, we're planning a \$1.9 million investment from the building improvement fund to support critical projects, including the Tremont Road roof replacement.

As we celebrate a remarkable 2024, we look forward to continuing our mission to serve, inspire, and innovate for the Upper Arlington community. Thank you for making the library an integral part of your lives!

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES



All meetings of the Board and its committees, with the exception of executive sessions, are open to the public. Meetings begin at 5 pm, and are held in Meeting Room B of the Tremont Road Branch.

#### Upcoming Meeting Dates:

- Tuesday, March 18
- Tuesday, April 15

#### 2024 Board of Trustees

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

# NewsBITES

## LIBRARY NEWS AND USEFUL INFORMATION

### New Discovery Pass Available

We recently added an organization to our list of Discovery Pass participants. With a new Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens pass, two adults and up to six children can visit all regular indoor and outdoor exhibitions, including the Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation Children's Garden. The pass must be used within one week of checkout. Visit the Customer Service Department at our Tremont Road Branch to see what's available.

### Friends of the Library Book Sale

The Friends of the UA Library will hold a book sale from April 6-13 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 member-only presale will take place on April 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).

### Lane Road Needs You!

We're still raising funds to enhance the children's department at our Lane Road Branch. We are hoping to purchase new mobile shelving for chapter and picture books, and new study tables and chairs. We'll also add charming reading nooks and bench seating. We appreciate donations of any size, and you can give at <https://uapl.me/GiveForLane50>.

### Red Cross Blood Drives

The American Red Cross will hold blood drives at the Tremont Road Branch on Thursday, March 27 from 11 am-4 pm, and Friday, April 4 from 11 am-4 pm. Make an appointment at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) using sponsor code **UAPL**.

### Holiday Closings

UA libraries will be closed on Easter Sunday, April 20.

## Program Highlights

### Stuffed Animal Sleepover

Bring a stuffed animal to the Tremont Road Branch for some overnight fun! Stuffedies can be dropped off in the Youth Department anytime Wednesday, March 12, and picked up Thursday, March 13. One per person, please.

### Animal Explorers

Explore the world of animals at the Miller Park Branch. Learn about cool (and weird) animals and enjoy a mix of games, art, science and open play. On Saturday, March 15 we learn about bugs. On Saturday, April 12, it's all about reptiles. Drop in anytime between 10 am-1 pm on those days. Note: No live animals will be present.

### Ask an Expert

Our Ask an Expert series for adults continues this spring at the Tremont Road Branch. On Thursday, March 20 at 1 pm, meet cybersecurity expert Daniel Maldet to answer questions about keeping safe online. On Thursday, April 10 at 1 pm, nationally renowned

horticulturalist Debra Knapke visits to talk about all things gardening, and how to keep your plants healthy and thriving. Registration is now open.

### Who Would Win?

Alligator vs. crocodile! Do you love animal battle mash-ups? Create your own animal battle book, play games, and make art of your favorite fierce (or cute) animal. Join us at the Miller Park Branch on Thursday, March 27 anytime from 11 am-3 pm.

### LIFE Magazine: A Nostalgic History

For decades, *LIFE Magazine* was a cornerstone of American news reporting and cultural sharing, producing some of the most iconic images of the 20th Century. What made *LIFE* so compelling, and who were the photographers behind some of these images? Claire Wiedman from Columbus College of Art and Design presents this nostalgic look on Friday, April 18 at 4:30 pm at the Tremont Road Branch. Registration is now open.

## Facilities Update



Here are the latest developments under our Master Facilities Plan.

- The Lane Road Branch Improvements project is well underway and remains on schedule for a late Spring 2025 completion. At press time, interior demolition has concluded and construction of the new ceiling on the first floor has begun. Soon work will start on the replacement and reconfiguration of HVAC and lighting systems throughout the building.
- Replacement of the roof at the Tremont Road Branch is a top priority for 2025 to address an increasing number of leaks and other issues. We are expecting this work to be publicly bid and construction to begin this summer. This location is expected to remain open while this work is completed.

# MAKING MEMORIES...building connections



Children painted masterpieces while listening to music.



Mack Walker led a class to show that yoga is for every body



Baby storytimes prepare our youngest patrons for their literacy journey.



State Representative and Minority Leader Allison Russo gave a preview of the Ohio General Assembly.



Our Taylor Swift Week featured bingo and a photo booth.



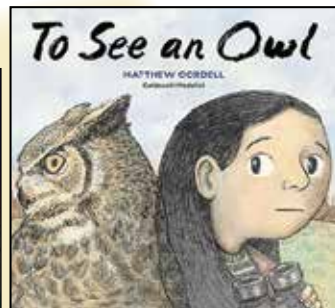
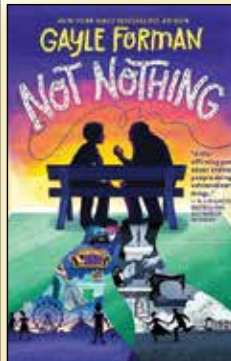
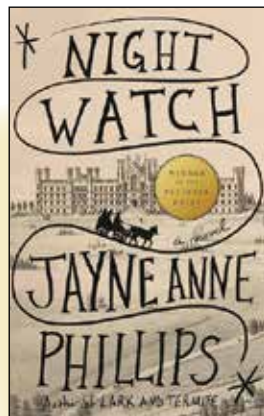
## OUR STAFF RECOMMENDS

### Not Nothing

By Gayle Forman

Sentenced to community service at the Shady Glen Retirement Home because of "the incident," Alex (age 12) meets 107-year-old Holocaust survivor Joseph Kravitz. An unlikely friendship develops when each learns the importance of connections and shared experiences. Can learning about the tragedies in Joseph's past help Alex face the challenges of his future?

– Laura, Technical Services

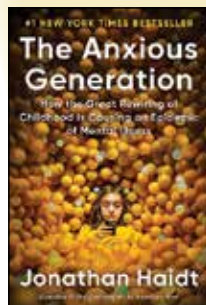


### The Last Mrs. Parrish

By Liv Constantine

Interesting plot twists abound in this book. When Amber befriends socialite and philanthropist Daphne, the wife of a rich and powerful businessman, the game begins. As Amber worms her way deeper and deeper into Daphne's life, she finds herself happier than she's ever been – and closer to her ultimate goal of stealing Daphne's luxurious life. But there are dark secrets that could upend her plans. This is a riveting read that's hard to put down. The recently released sequel, *The Next Mrs. Parrish*, is almost as good.

– Nancy, Miller Park Branch



realism twist, *The Bog Wife* is perfect for fans of odd, unsettling tales.

– Meg, Lane Road Branch

### Night Watch

By Jayne Anne Phillips

*Night Watch* tells the story of ConaLee, a 12-year-old girl, traversing the war torn Civil War landscape along with her mother, who hasn't spoken in more than a year, and a war veteran who has forced himself upon them in the absence of her father, who left for the War and has never returned. The journey begins as they make their way to the Trans-Allegheny Lunatic Asylum in West Virginia. There, where ConaLee must pretend she is her mother's maid the two get taken in by the life of the facility. They also encounter many other inhabitants, including the mysterious man that is called the Night Watch. An epic and

endearing story, that is ultimately a story of survival and love.

– Dale, Adult Department

### The Anxious Generation

By Jonathan Haidt

In this *New York Times* bestseller, Jonathan Haidt explores the

fundamental rewiring of the childhood brain with the advent of increased digital freedom paired with decreased real-world independence. The result? Children and young adults who are fearful of making mistakes, disproportionately exposed to the darker recesses of the Internet, and diagnosed at higher rates for mental health conditions. *The Anxious Generation* is a must-read for parents, educators, school administrators, counselors, and all others who want to better understand the youth mental health epidemic.

– Raechel, Adult Department

### The Bog Wife

By Kay Chronister

The Haddesley family is an isolated family that has tended to their bog for generations. In return, the land sustains them. When the bog stops upholding its end of the bargain, the current generation of Haddesley siblings are baffled as to how to continue their family's traditions. Knowing next to nothing of the outside world, each sibling navigates their uncertainty differently, at the expense of each other. An Appalachian gothic with a magical

### To See an Owl

By Matthew Cordell

Even experienced birders will tell you that owls are notoriously hard to spot. Janie loves all birds but has a special fascination with owls. She has searched for them in woods, prairies, beaches, and even a cemetery with no luck. But with the help of a new teacher and a patient mother, her persistence reaches a magical conclusion.

– Laura - Technical Services



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[upperarlingtonoh.gov](http://upperarlingtonoh.gov)



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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

## Middle School Students

March 5-28

## High School Students

April 2-May 2

## UA Quest

February 22-March 2

UA Historical Society | [uahistory.org](http://uahistory.org)

UA's favorite team-based scavenger hunt is back with new clues and challenges.

## Movie Screening: A Towering Task: The Story of the Peace Corps

1:30 pm, Sunday, March 2

Learn about the Peace Corps through a movie and conversation with Michael Roman from the National Peace Corps Association Board of Directors, and UA Mayor Ukeme Awakessien Jeter. Free event, seating is limited

## Community Relations Committee Iftar Dinner

5:45 pm, Thursday, March 6

Amelita Mirolo Barn, Sunny 95 Park

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

Join us for the Second Annual Iftar Dinner, in celebration of Ramadan. Reservation required, cost \$20.

## History Speaks: Caring & Repairing Your Historic Home

7 pm, Thursday, March 6

3600 Tremont Road

UA Historical Society | [uahistory.org](http://uahistory.org)

Columbus Landmarks shares insight on tending to an older home. Free to attend. No registration necessary.

## Spring into Wellness Health Fair

10 am-2 pm, Saturday, March 8

Tremont Library

See page 19 for event details.

## Senior Center Celebration

2-4 pm, Wednesday, March 19

1945 Ridgeview Road

UA Parks & Rec | 614-583-5320

Save the date for a celebration of the UA Senior Center, as UA Parks & Rec readies to open the Bob Crane Community Center. Free, please register in advance.

## Sustainability Fair

10 am-2 pm, Saturday, April 5

Tremont Library

See page 19 for event details.

## Bob Crane Community Center Grand Opening

4 pm, Sunday, April 6

3200 Tremont Road

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

See page 2 for details of the countdown to opening day!

## Community Relations Committee Cherry Blossom Celebration

5 pm, Monday, April 7  
Mallway Park

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

Join the CRC to celebrate the start of spring and learn about Japanese culture.

## UACA Easter Egg Hunt & Bunny Trail

10 am, Saturday, April 12

Thompson Park

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

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

## Arbor Day Ceremony

Friday, April 26

UA PARKS & REC

614-583-5300

UA celebrates Arbor Day each year with a tree planting ceremony. Check the City's Community Calendar for event details.

## UA Culture & Artisans Fair

10 am-3 pm, Saturday, May 3

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

2151 Dorset Road

Artisans from across the globe showcase and sell their handmade items. This event is part of the CRC Welcome Series.