

# UA*i*NSIGHT

MAY | JUNE 2020



WE ARE HERE  
FOR YOU!



## A CARING COMMUNITY IN A TIME OF NEED AND UNCERTAINTY

Communities across the country are focused on working through the COVID-19 pandemic and coming to grips with its impact on our lives, while continuing to provide critical safety and municipal services for residents.

Here at the City of Upper Arlington, our team determined early on that as we navigate the uncharted territory before us, we will do so with four primary goals to help guide our decisions:

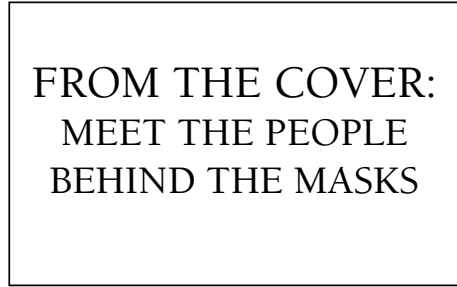
- To protect employees and their families from the spread of COVID-19.
- To continue to provide services for the residents of Upper Arlington to the greatest extent possible.
- To help educate residents and take preventive measures to minimize the spread of COVID-19.
- To support our community's at-risk populations—especially older adults and individuals with compromised health conditions.

### Service Adjustments

Beginning in mid-March, most office personnel began working remotely from their homes and a series of operational adjustments were implemented in response to the Governor's Stay at Home Order and other recommendations made by state and local health departments. As of mid-April, these adjustments are in effect through May 17 but subject to change.

Full details can be found on our COVID-19 Updates page on our website, but here's a summary of what's currently in place:

- Police, Fire and EMS services are continuing without interruption however, residents are asked to



**Clockwise from top left: Chad Ritzler, Engineering Technician – onsite at the Westmont construction project; Sergeant Heather Galli; Firefighter Edward White; Vince Iacovetta, Public Service Worker – caught filling potholes on Cranford; Sebastian French, Engineering Coordinator – onsite at the Mountview construction project; Sergeant Scott Harpster; Suzette Heltzel, Parks Service Worker – in action at Thompson Park; Firefighter James Crum; Jim Palmer, Engineering Technician, Jamie Jeffrey, Parks Maintenance Specialist – also at Thompson Park.**

not visit either fire station, and to call Police at 614-459-2800 for any non-emergency assistance requests.

- The Municipal Services Center is closed to the public (with the exception of the Police Desk). Residents are encouraged to conduct any business with the City—such as utility bill payments, building

permits/plan submittals, etc.—online.

- Building inspection protocols have been adjusted to protect our employees' health and safety. This now includes "virtual" inspections for residential projects.
- Property maintenance inspections are focused on complaints that involve a health and safety concern

for residents, such as the accumulation of trash.

- Public Service crews are focused on essential operations, such as addressing traffic signal issues, electrical repairs, sanitary sewer backups, street debris, etc.
- Solid waste services continue as normal, with some simple requests from Local Waste to residents in order to protect the health of their workers, such as bagging all trash and placing items at the curb by 7 am of your collection day since route times may vary.

### Parks & Recreation Updates

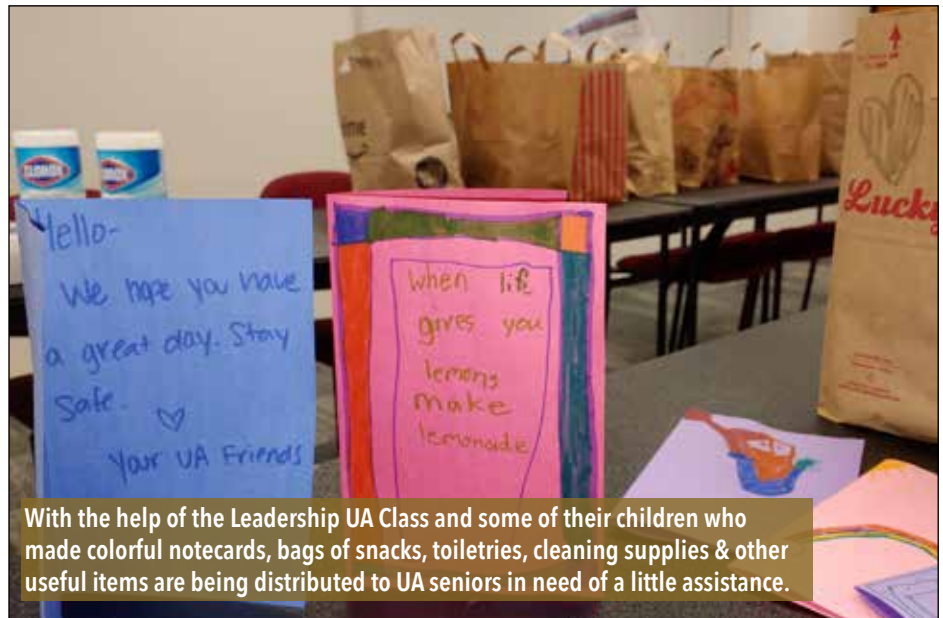
The Parks & Recreation Department has made a number of adjustments to its programming and facilities. As of mid-April, the following is in place through May 17:

- The Senior Center is closed.
- The Amelita Mirolo Barn and all reservable park shelters are closed.
- The start of the Northam Tennis Courts season is delayed. An opening date is pending.
- Park restrooms are closed.
- Park playgrounds are closed.
- The tennis and pickleball courts at Fancyburg, Thompson and Sunny 95 parks are closed.
- The roller hockey/basketball court at Sunny 95 Park is closed.
- The fitness stations at Fancyburg and Thompson parks are closed.
- Spring Fling has been cancelled.
- The 2020 Wall of Honor Ceremony is postponed until the fall. A new date is pending.
- A decision is pending relative to the opening of the parks athletic fields.

### Community Resources

An extensive COVID-19 Community Resources list is featured on the City's website. Highlights include:

- Links to public health resources and updates.
- Information about local entities that can provide financial and resource support for residents and



With the help of the Leadership UA Class and some of their children who made colorful notecards, bags of snacks, toiletries, cleaning supplies & other useful items are being distributed to UA seniors in need of a little assistance.

businesses, including the UA Community Foundation Good Neighbor Fund and the UA Neighborhood Bridges Program.

- Resources for seniors.
- Local grocery store hours, including special hours for seniors.
- Details of area restaurants offering pick-up and delivery options.
- Resources and links for businesses.

### Caring for Our Seniors

Recognizing that UA has many senior residents, as soon as COVID-19 response efforts began the City's Administration devised a plan for connecting with them to make sure they were healthy and had access to resources.

Members of the Fire Division and the Parks & Recreation Department combined databases from the CARES paramedicine program and the Senior Center, and the Community Affairs Office began an outreach effort to encourage other seniors to become part of this check-in database.

With the assistance of the UA Commission on Aging, resident volunteers – including members of City Council – and guidance from a UA resident who is a professor of social work specializing in aging, the team developed a questionnaire to help guide telephone conversations with seniors.

Approximately 1,600 households are in this database. When first contacted, the callers run through the questions to get a sense of the resident's current situation. This includes identifying if they have any immediate needs or medical issues, if they have a support network already in place, and whether they would benefit from a weekly check in.

Since this effort was initiated, approximately 220 seniors have welcomed a weekly check-in call from the team or have been referred to other programs and resources. Some needs—such as finding volunteers to pick up and deliver groceries or personal hygiene and cleaning supplies—have been routed to the UA Neighborhood Bridges Program for fulfillment.

The City encourages residents to contact us if you are a senior who is not yet on the list, or to make sure that an elderly neighbor, family member or friend is included. Call 614-583-5320 or send an email to [Cares4.seniors@uaoh.net](mailto:Cares4.seniors@uaoh.net). In both cases, please provide a few key details, such as the name, address, phone number and email of the person to be added, and if there are any known immediate needs.



## CITY MANAGER UPDATE

### Steve Schoeny Project Timing Adjustments and Budget Considerations Arise From COVID-19 Pandemic

As I write this, we are mid-way through the Ohio Governor's March 24-May 1 COVID-19 Stay at Home Order, and there are still many unknowns ahead. Will the order be extended? Will new orders and guidelines be announced? When will we start transitioning back to some semblance of normal life? When will my boys tire of playing NBA2K? What will our "new normal" look like?

These questions and more are at the top of our thoughts here at the City. It should come as no surprise that we are already making contingency plans based on different possible outcomes. And we are engaging in difficult but necessary conversations about maintaining the City's financial health.

From a financial perspective, the good news is that our organization is in a strong position. This is thanks to the leadership of City Councils past and present, and the staff at the City who are working every day to be wise stewards of the public's dollars. We have put in place and maintained fiscal and economic policies that have enabled the City to weather recessions and build an impressive "rainy day" fund when times are good.

While we have a cushion, we are changing how we do business in anticipation of lower revenue. We are only filling positions that serve critical safety needs. We have curtailed all training, and we are closely examining all construction projects to determine what can be delayed or canceled.

We have also been considering adjustments to some of the special

projects that are currently underway, three of which I'd like to highlight.

#### Lane Avenue Planning Study

Great progress has been made on the Lane Avenue Planning Study, a process that began last August. It has included a detailed review of design standards, existing conditions within the business district, a detailed traffic evaluation and two rounds of community engagement.

Our consultant team at OHM Advisors has developed draft recommendations that facilitate the continuing evolution of this vital business district that will:

- Set parameters for thoughtful, quality development that promotes gathering spaces, enhances the pedestrian experience and improves safety, while improving the look and feel of the district.
- Assure an appropriate blending between commercial activity and the surrounding residential neighborhoods.

Those recommendations were scheduled to be shared with the community and Council right about now, but in light of the pandemic we are slowing the final steps in this process. So, watch for updates in the weeks ahead.

#### Community Center Feasibility Task Force

The work of the Community Center Feasibility Task Force is also expected to undergo some scheduling changes.

Early in the year, the focus was on an extensive round of community engagement activities. This included

interviews, focus group meetings, one community meeting and more than a dozen community pop ups. A statistically valid survey was also fielded, obtaining more than 600 responses after the collection period was extended through mid-April. At this time, an online version of the survey that will be open to all residents and a series of youth surveys are on hold as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Task Force is proceeding with its next meeting, which is scheduled for 7 pm, Wednesday, May 6. The meeting will be held remotely, utilizing Zoom. Residents will be able to log into the meeting by computer or phone. Details on how to do this will be provided in the meeting agenda, which will be posted at [uacommunitycenter.com](http://uacommunitycenter.com).

At this meeting, the consultant team will provide an overview of its findings to date. The task force is expected to discuss when to complete the final components of their community engagement plans and to revisit the study timeline. This will include the timing for completing Phase 1, and when to report to City Council on its findings and recommendations.

As a reminder, a primary focus of Phase 1 has been to seek answers to three questions: What kind of community center makes sense for UA? Do we want a community center? Do we need a community center? If the answer to the last two questions is "YES," the study is expected to transition to a second phase that drills into details, such as what facilities to include, where a community center might be located, and the costs for construction, operations and ongoing maintenance.

If the consensus of the Task Force and of Council is to proceed with Phase 2 of the study, the timeline could be different than originally envisioned.

## Devon Pool Phase 3

So, another project to keep an eye on in the weeks ahead.

### Community Relations Committee

So much work has already been accomplished to prepare for the launch of a new Community Relations Committee, but the pandemic has delayed the final steps in the process.

These steps include finalizing the charge of the Committee before its official formation, as well as interviewing and selecting the seven Committee members from an impressive pool of approximately 20 candidates.

I am hopeful that we will be able to move this important work forward by the summer.

In closing, I want to thank all of my colleagues here at the City. Each and every one of them has stepped up during this unprecedented time for our community. Like you, they are facing challenges at home—keeping their kids' schoolwork on track, seeing family members or friends lose their jobs, unable to visit an elderly parent who's living in long-term care, worrying about what the future might look like. But each day they report to work, ready to keep our community safe, healthy and strong.

I hope you enjoyed the cover of this edition of *UA Insight*, and seeing some of the masked and unmasked faces of our employees who are on the frontline every day, serving UA. We will be featuring more of these fine fellows via our social media platforms in the coming weeks, I think they are pretty special, and hope you enjoy learning about them and seeing what they have been up to during the pandemic.

We are in this together. And together we will get through this. In the meantime, stay home, stay well and stay connected.

Devon Pool has been undergoing a series of improvements in recent years, to bring the community's oldest outdoor pool facility up to modern day standards. This

began in 2017 with improvements to the diving well and continued in 2018-19 with replacement of the pool house. The third phase of upgrades include replacement of the mechanical buildings, aging concrete decking and mechanical equipment, as well as installation of a new perimeter fence that matches fencing installed as part of the pool house replacement. A fourth and final phase will address the toddler pool.

Currently, the mechanical equipment is housed in two buildings that are in poor condition. Emergency repairs have been made to stabilize them, but after many years of use, they will be replaced by a single building designed to match the exterior of the pool house. Additionally, several critical pieces of the pool mechanical systems will be replaced. These items are also nearing



**The existing mechanical buildings will be replaced by one larger facility designed to complement the new pool house, pictured below.**

the end of their life expectancy, and since they are large and difficult to install, it is prudent to replace them in conjunction with the building replacement.

On April 13, City Council authorized the City Manager to enter into contract with Setterlin Building Company to complete the work. The project cost is \$1.43 million, including a 10% contingency. As of mid-April, these improvements are scheduled to begin this fall, following this year's swim season with completion by the start of next year's season.

If you have questions about this project, please contact Parks Planning & Development Manager, Jeff Anderson, at 614-583-5300.



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

While the environment in which City Council is currently conducting its meetings is certainly not “business as usual,” under Council’s leadership the work of the City is continuing. Since Spring Break, Council has been meeting virtually, using the Zoom teleconferencing technology, with meetings still livestreamed on the City’s website and on Facebook. It’s also possible for residents to log into the meetings via Zoom and to address Council on City Council Meeting agenda items as long as they have submitted a “speaker slip” email to the City Clerk a minimum of one hour prior to the meeting. Full details for accessing these meetings in this way are provided on each Meeting Agenda.

### Property Maintenance Code Amendments Address Vacant Commercial Property

At the April 13 City Council Meeting, Council voted to adopt amendments to the City’s Property Maintenance Code that address situations in which vacant property has been neglected and become a public nuisance.



**2020 CITY COUNCIL**  
(from left): Vice President Brendan King, John Kulewicz, President Kip Greenhill, Michele Hoyle, Michaela Burriss, Jim Lynch, Brian Close

The code amendments create a mechanism for the City Manager to declare vacant and neglected properties a public nuisance and to administer financial penalties for commercial property owners that fail to abate the issues within a reasonable timeframe.

The amendments include a series of safeguards designed to prevent any excessive or inequitable penalties for property owners, while providing the City with an important tool for addressing properties that are falling into disrepair and threatening the health, safety and welfare of the City. In the case of vacant commercial properties, the

nuisance provisions cannot be applied until the property has been vacant for a period of at least six months, and it is in violation of Building Code and/or Property Code requirements. In instances whereby a property owner fails to rectify the issues within a stated, reasonable timeframe, a penalty of up to \$1,000 per day could be assessed until the property is brought into compliance.

The amendments take effect May 14. For additional details, please contact our Community Development Department, at 614-583-5070.

## Have You Completed the 2020 Census for Your Household?

The U.S. Census occurs every 10 years, representing an important effort to track population changes in communities, states and across the nation. The goal is to count every person once, only once, and in the right place.

Obtaining accurate Census data is important because more than \$675 billion in federal funding is distributed annually to communities based on the most recent Census data. As we live through the unprecedented challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, we should all be more keenly aware of the value and benefits that can be realized by having our community, the region



and Ohio accurately accounted for.

As of April 13, Upper Arlington’s Census response rate was 68.3%, impressive when compared to Ohio as a whole, which stood at 52.2%. But it also

means that approximately 30% of UA households have not yet completed the Census.

If yours is one of the households yet to respond, now is the time to act, so that Census takers in the field can focus on reaching out to households in other parts of the region, a process that is scheduled to occur now through the end of July.

New in 2020, it’s possible to complete the Census online, as well as by phone and by mail. Visit [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov) for more information.

## Miller Park Playground

Last summer, after a routine inspection, approximately 60% of Miller Park's playground equipment for five-12-year-olds was removed. The playground has always been a popular choice for the community, based on its unique ravine setting and proximity to the Miller Park Library. Because of this, the Parks & Recreation Department decided to advance the replacement schedule.

In preparation for replacing the playground this year, in early March the department sought feedback from the community on what should be incorporated into the new facility. Seventy two children completed a worksheet made available at the Miller Park Library, and 152 adults completed an online survey. Here are a few key findings:

- Children ranked Climbing Play as their favorite activity. They also liked Spin Play, Rope Bridge, Rope Climbers, and Saucer Swings.
- Adults ranked Toddler Play as an important play activity, and showed a preference for a Climbing Wall as a freestanding play feature.
- Belt Swings, Toddler Swings, and a Saucer Swing were important features to adults.
- When asked to comment on the existing playground, adults liked the Slides, Bridges and Climbing elements, and indicated that more swings were needed.
- Children and adults alike expressed interest in including elements of Nature Play.

Next steps are for Staff and the selected contractor, DWA Recreation, to develop at least three design options based on the community input. These options should be complete in early May and 3D renderings of the options will be shared online. Residents will be invited to select their preferred option and provide input on the initial designs.

Staff expects to have a final design complete by June, with demolition and replacement of the existing playground scheduled to begin toward the end of August.

If you have any questions about this project, please contact Parks Planning & Development Manager, Jeff Anderson, at 614-583-5300.

## UPPER ARLINGTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

### Good Neighbor Fund

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Upper Arlington Community Foundation's Good Neighbor Fund was expanded to assist both residents and small businesses in need. A matching grant challenge of \$25,000 was met by donors eager to help, and by mid-April the Foundation had awarded \$14,000 in grants to businesses and families, with another \$12,000 in grant requests under consideration. The grants are helping to pay bills such as rent, utilities and car payments and to cover other basic needs.

We are fortunate to have the Foundation as a community partner, and we are thankful to the residents who have donated money and other resources to help their community neighbors.

## Electric Vehicle Stations

To support the expansion of electric vehicle use in our community and the region, and to enable the City to initiate a pilot program for electric vehicles within our fleet, the City is installing charging stations that are available for use by the public.

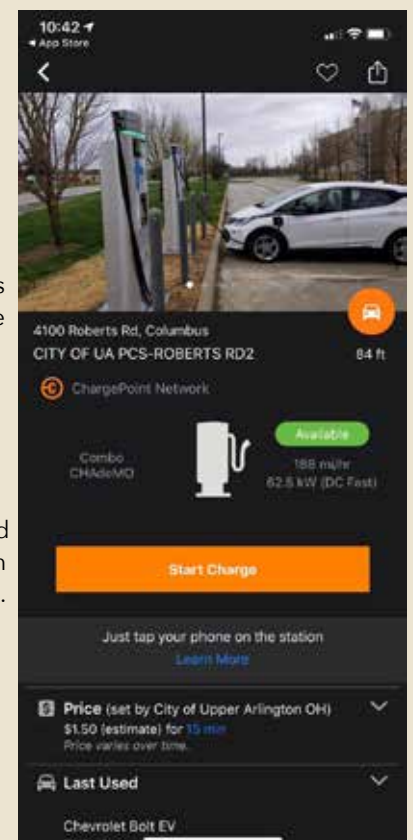
Two stations can be found at each of the following locations:

- Front parking lot at the Municipal Services Center, 3600 Tremont Road - NOTE: these stations will be operational late May.
- Two at the Public Service Center, 2800 Roberts Road - these stations are installed and operational.

To use the charging stations, motorists should have the ChargePoint app downloaded on their smartphone. They are Level 3 DC Fast Charge stations, with a 30-minute charge time.

The project cost \$377,726 (plus 10% contingency), with approximately 75% of this amount covered through \$300,000 in grant monies from American Electric Power.

If you have questions about the stations, please contact the Community Development Department, at 614-583-5070.



# NewsBITES

CITY NEWS AND USEFUL INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS

## Public Holidays

City offices are closed in observance of the following holiday:

- **Monday, May 25** - Memorial Day. Solid Waste collection is delayed by one day for all collection zones.
- **Friday, July 3** - Independence Day. Solid Waste collection is not affected.

## 2019 Tax Filing Deadlines Extended

### New Deadline: July 15

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2019 federal, state and Upper Arlington tax deadlines have been extended to July 15. Estimated payments for the first and second quarters of tax year 2020 have also been extended to July 15.

As a reminder, in UA 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 Regional Income Tax Agency (RITA) processes UA income taxes. RITA's MyAccount platform allows taxpayers to electronically file taxes, update their accounts, send and receive secure messages, make payments and more, at [www.ritaohio.com](http://www.ritaohio.com).

## City e-News

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

- **City Insight** - twice monthly e-news on City services, special projects, upcoming events & more.
- **Activity Link** - monthly programming updates from Parks & Recreation
- **Arts Link** - monthly updates on Concourse Gallery exhibits and other community arts programming
- **Sentinel** - monthly program updates from the Senior Center

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

## Home Security Alarm Permits

### POLICE 614-583-5100

Households with home security systems are required to obtain a license from the Police Division. The one-time \$50 fee is non-transferable and covers both Police and Fire services. Households are allowed up to three false alarms per calendar year—any false alarms thereafter are subject to a \$50 fine to offset the costs for emergency response.

## Grass/Weed Control Guidelines

### CODE COMPLIANCE 614-583-5070

The care and maintenance of property and landscaping benefits the entire community. City code specifies that grass must not exceed 10 inches in height and should be kept free of noxious weeds. Failure to comply will result in notice from the City to rectify the situation within five days, at which time the City will make arrangements to cut the grass/weeds at the owner's expense.

## Fire Hydrant Flushing

### NEW DATES PENDING

### FIRE DIVISION 614-583-5100

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, Spring's fire hydrant flushing has been postponed, with new dates pending. Once the program begins, flushing occurs weekdays. This is part of an annual fire hydrant maintenance program that keeps hydrants in operable condition.

Most residents will notice no difference in their water supply, but a few could experience water discoloration after flushing has taken place. 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. Some may experience staining of clothes despite these notices. Clothes should be kept damp or wet to prevent the stains from setting. "Rust-removers" or "rust fighters" are carried among cleaning products at grocery and hardware stores.

## Upper Arlington Bridges

### [www.neighborhoodbridges.org](http://www.neighborhoodbridges.org)

If you like the idea of directly helping your fellow community members when a need arises, be sure to register for updates from Upper Arlington Bridges. Visit [www.neighborhoodbridges.org](http://www.neighborhoodbridges.org) to register for email updates for the Upper Arlington program, or follow @uabridges on Facebook.

## Block Party Permits

### CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE 614-583-5040

Planning for some summer fun on your street? Be sure to allow at least one week to get your block party permit approved. There is a nonrefundable \$50 fee for block party permits. You can file your permit online at [upperarlingtonoh.gov](http://upperarlingtonoh.gov).

## Tree Damage

### PARKS & FORESTRY 614-583-5340

If a damaged tree is a threat to public safety, or obstructing the street or sidewalk, call Parks & Forestry at the

## CityINSIGHT

BI-MONTHLY NEWS FROM THE CITY OF UPPER ARLINGTON

### Production:

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[www.twitter.com/cityofua](https://www.twitter.com/cityofua)







While we aren't there just yet, children will be able to enjoy our park playgrounds again, and when they do, they will have a new one to explore at Reed Road Park.

above number during office hours. After hours situations can be reported to 614-459-2800. For immediate emergencies call 9-1-1.

Following severe weather, the City is responsible for clearing debris from street trees in the public right-of-way. Debris from private trees is the responsibility of the property owner. However, the City may clear private debris from streets or sidewalks when expedient, or take action to abate immediate hazards even if privately owned trees are involved. Emergency and storm cleanup is prioritized using several criteria, and your patience is appreciated.

Do not approach downed or damaged power lines. Call your utility company or the Fire Division non-emergency line, at 614-583-5124, for assistance.

**Finance Awards**

**FINANCE 614-583-5291**

Our Finance Department was recently notified that it is the recipient of the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 2018 Comprehensive Annual Report (CAFR), and the GFOA Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting for the 2018 Popular Annual Financial

Report (PAFR). This marks the 32nd and 14th consecutive years (respectively) the department has achieved these distinctions. Look for your copy of the 2018 PAFR in the mail later this summer.

The department also received a Certificate of Achievement from GovDeals—the site we use for auctioning used equipment—for reaching \$1 million in assets sold.

**Garage/Yard Sales**

**CODE COMPLIANCE 614-583-5070**

Residents may conduct one garage/yard sale during any six-month period not to exceed three consecutive days or two days on two consecutive weekends. Sales may be held from 8 am-8 pm, with items placed for display in a garage

or backyard. Any signage should meet a set of guidelines, available at upperarlingtonoh.gov.

**ODA to Treat UA for Gypsy Moths**

**PARKS & FORESTRY 614-583-5340**

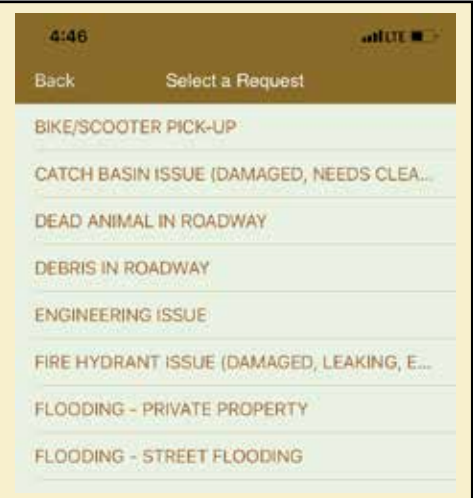
The Ohio Department of Agriculture has announced plans to treat Central Ohio, UA included, for gypsy moths, per the following schedule:

- **Early May: Gypchek** - a biological control made of a virus that weakens and kills young gypsy moth caterpillars. A second application may occur one week after the first.
- **June: Splat GM Organic** - a biodegradable lure that disrupts adult gypsy moth mating. Humans can't detect these fragrances, but by dropping Splat GM Organic over the area (at a rate of less than one cup per acre) males become confused and are less likely to find mates, reducing reproduction rates.

Both products are state-of-the-art treatment methods with no harmful collateral damage to people, property, animals or other insects such as honeybees. The products are applied by small, bright yellow airplanes that fly at relatively low heights over UA for brief periods. Visit <https://agri.ohio.gov/> for more information.

**UA Click2Fix**

Visit the AppleApp or GooglePlay store and search **UA Click2Fix** to download our new smartphone reporting app. Residents can use the app to submit requests or notify the City of issues such as potholes, street-light outages, damaged street trees, etc. You can also view the construction update map and contact staff using the app's Directory. Call Public Service at 614-583-5350 if you have any questions.



# Schools<sup>★</sup>iNSIGHT

BI-MONTHLY NEWS FROM UPPER ARLINGTON SCHOOLS

MAY | JUNE 2020



## UA Schools Teachers, Students Connecting Through Distance Teaching and Learning



Hey there! Happy Monday!  
How are you? Hope you were able to



Faced with an unprecedented extended school closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Upper Arlington Schools teachers have continued to deliver high-quality instruction and foster their relationships with students and families through distance teaching and learning.

"When we started developing our plans for distance teaching and learning, we understood that we wouldn't be able to replicate the learning experiences that happen inside our classrooms, but we are excited about what our amazing teachers are doing for students in these unique times," said Superintendent Paul Imhoff, Ed.D. "We have many tools and resources available that are not available in other communities, and it's important for us to keep that gratitude at the forefront."

Since the end of March, K-12 students have been connecting with their teachers and continuing their learning in all of subject areas, primarily through the use of school-issued iPads or home devices.

"Being a one-to-one technology district, our students have a huge

advantage when transitioning to distance learning," said Kris Pavlasek, a third grade teacher at Greensview Elementary. "They were already familiar with a variety of technology-based learning tools. I'm able to leverage the features in these tools to record myself explaining concepts, build interactive activities and provide timely feedback."

During this time of transition and uncertainty, Alice Aichele, an American History teacher at Jones Middle School, has put a priority on two things: consistency and connection. "I tried my best to keep doing things the way we did them when we were together" she said. "I tied all of our work to routines and foundational concepts that students are familiar with."

Student and staff well-being, a priority in the new Upper Arlington Schools strategic plan, has been at the heart of distance teaching and learning.

Hastings Middle School health teacher Allison Tomlin started the fourth quarter and the first day of distance learning with an entirely new group of students. Their first activity was "What's on my mind?" – which she described as a creative assignment where students shared with her what was on their minds and hearts at that time. "It was a great way for students to share a little more about themselves with me, as well as for me to gauge how everyone is doing so I can provide the support they need



during this distance learning experience," she said.

Flexibility has also been a key piece of the distance teaching and learning plan. "Our students' families have been incredibly supportive in making learning a priority at home, but we recognize and understand that our families have different life circumstances right now and we need to be flexible with our learning expectations," said Andy Hatton, Ed.D., associate superintendent of learning and leadership.

Teachers are also going beyond digital learning opportunities to get students moving and creating as well. Katie Benton, a fourth-grade teacher in the informal program at Barrington Elementary, has been sharing "try this" activities – such as how to stack rocks at a creek, how to play marbles or how to make a "trick" video for April Fool's Day. "These are not required school stuff – but fun and a way to connect," she said.

The district's youngest learners at Burbank Early Childhood School are also continuing their learning through daily instructional videos. "Our children and parents have loved the short videos that teachers are sending," said Director Kathy Lawton, Ph.D., BCBA-D. "We have received so many touching notes of appreciation from families."

Whether it's by creating silly videos, leaving voice memos as feedback on their work, or simply holding daily check-ins or class video meetings that mimic their school routine, our teachers are using every tool they have to foster the relationships they have created with their students.

"This is a really difficult time, and I have had to accept that what occurs over the next

however many weeks does not replace what would have happened in my classroom," Aichele said. "My goal is to keep a connection with students and try to be the Mrs. Aichele they have always known because any little piece of normal is helpful right now."



## SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES

Paul Imhoff, Ed.D.

### Staff, Students and Families Rise to the Challenge of Distance Teaching and Learning

The past two months have brought about an unprecedented time in our community, our state and our country as we change the way we educate our students and live our daily lives amid the COVID-19 pandemic. It hasn't been easy for any of us to make the drastic changes that are needed to prevent the spread of this virus, but I am so proud of our staff, our students and families, and our community for rising to this challenge.

A couple of weeks before Governor Mike DeWine ordered all schools closed in mid-March, we had begun working on a plan for what teaching and learning would look like for Upper Arlington teachers and students if we were faced with a school closure. We have worked closely with our dedicated staff to maintain the continuity of education in Upper Arlington and some of the essential services our schools provide – such as free lunches to school-age children in need.

The primary focus of our planning was creating a distance teaching and learning plan that would meet the needs of all of our students. We realized that this plan would not and could not replicate the experience our students have every day in our classrooms, especially in regard to the social connection and community. We encouraged our teachers and students to give themselves permission to be creative, try new things and most importantly create new ways to connect through distance teaching and learning.

With this in mind, teachers began participating in online professional development and planning sessions on distance teaching and learning on Tuesday, March 24, and distance teaching and learning for students began on Monday, March 30. Our teachers and students were excited to reconnect and learn together through this process. It is truly incredible to see how everyone has come together during this public health crisis to serve our students and support each other.

The safety and well-being of our students, our staff and our community continues to be a top priority for us. It is at the heart of our new strategic plan, and it is all the more important in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are incredibly grateful for the strong leadership and guidance from our public health and government officials at the local and state levels throughout this public health crisis, and we will continue to follow their lead on the steps we need to take.

This is a time we should be incredibly proud to be Golden Bears and to live in a community that comes together to look out for and support one another. While we still face many uncertainties, I know we will get through this together.

*Paul Imhoff, Ed.D., is superintendent of Upper Arlington Schools. If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact him at [superintendent@uaschools.org](mailto:superintendent@uaschools.org). You can follow him on Twitter at [@imhoffpaul](https://twitter.com/imhoffpaul).*

# BITES From the Apple



SCHOOLS NEWS AND USEFUL INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS

## Spring Construction Events Canceled Due to COVID-19

Because of the pandemic and a statewide order limiting the gathering of groups of people, Upper Arlington Schools has canceled the public construction events scheduled for April 26 and May 2 at three elementary schools. Those events were: the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Windermere Elementary School and a farewell open house for the current school building, and farewell open houses for the current Greensview and Wickliffe Progressive elementary schools.

Although impacted by statewide public-health guidelines to limit the spread of COVID-19, construction was continuing as of early April on the five projects underway in the first phase of the facilities master plan.

Please continue to watch [www.uaschools.org](http://www.uaschools.org) for any updates on construction and the district's COVID-19 response.

## UAHS Students Help Create Masks to Donate

A group of Upper Arlington High School students are continuing the tradition of service learning during the school closure by helping to create homemade masks to donate to Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security.

Peggy Olson, a paraprofessional at the high school, has taken the lead on the project in partnership with teacher Kim Wilson and her students. To make the masks, Olson is donating scrubs that belonged to her late husband, Dr. Kevin Olson, a longtime Upper Arlington resident. The students are then cutting and measuring the materials, and Olson



and fellow paraprofessional Pam Nahs are sewing the masks. Through this project, the students are also learning about viruses and how they spread.

"This is a wonderful way for our students to pay it forward and honor the legacy and service of Dr. Olson," Wilson said.

## Wickliffe Student Wins Contest Honoring Late Principal



The inaugural winner of the national Progressive Education Network's Collaros Love Out Loud Essay Contest is a student at Wickliffe Progressive Elementary School.

The essay contest, in honor of longtime Wickliffe Principal Chris Collaros, who passed away a year ago, invited students to share how their

progressive school experience has equipped them to spread love and ideas into their communities.

Dillon Wiles, a fifth-grade student at Wickliffe, was honored as the 2020 winner. Her essay shared her experiences with the 3 Cs of Wickliffe – community, compassion and civility – through the examples of Mr. Collaros, friendships and the Wickliffe Wolfpack, a peer collaboration program pairing general education students and students with disabilities. Her essay will be published in the May issue of the PEN America journal.

## Hastings Mathlete Qualifies for National Competition



Hastings Middle School student Kevin Wang was named one of the top middle school mathletes in Ohio at the statewide Mathcounts competition in March. The eighth-grader, who earned third place in the competition, was among the top four mathletes who would represent Ohio at the national level.

In the countdown round of the state competition, "Kevin was in the zone, often buzzing in before the question was finished being read," Hastings Middle School Mathcounts adviser Lauren Piuanno said. "We are so proud of Kevin!"

## Essential Services Continue for Families During School Closure

In addition to distance teaching and learning, UA Schools staff has continued to provide essential support services to students and families during the school closure due to COVID-19. That includes providing meals to students, offering technology support to families and ensuring that the schools remain safe and secure throughout the closure.

"When faced with the school closure, we knew we wanted to do everything we could to offer grab-and-go meals for children in our community," said Kathy Jenney, Ed.D., associate superintendent of human resources and operations. "Thanks to the hard work of our Nutritional Services staff, we have been preparing healthy lunches and breakfasts for many families."

The district's Transportation Department has been a crucial part of this service, with bus drivers delivering the grab-and-go breakfasts and lunches to families who are unable to come to the pickup sites. The meal pickups and deliveries have been designed with public-health guidance and safety as the top priorities for both staff and families.

"We've heard from many families who have been so grateful that we are able to offer this service – it's a bit of certainty for them amid a time of great uncertainty," Jenney said.

The district's transition to distance teaching and learning delivered primarily through school-issued iPads raised another issue for some students in our community – not having home WiFi access.

"In Upper Arlington Schools, we believe that All Means All," said Andy Hatton, Ed.D., associate superintendent of learning and leadership. "With our transition to distance learning, we've been reaching out to identify families without home internet access and provide support so that every student is



able to access digital learning content to challenge and support them through the school closure."

The Technology Department has also been providing support to all families in need of device repair and support.

In addition to digital learning content shared by teachers, the School-Age Child Care program staff at the elementary schools has also been

sharing home enrichment activities with families to keep children busy. "We are trying to offer support to families and maintain those connections in every possible way," Jenney said. "All of our support staff has been really missing seeing and interacting with our students each and every day."

Whenever state and local health officials say districts can welcome back students and staff, all of Upper Arlington's schools will be ready. Throughout the closure, building secretaries are ensuring that their school communities are running smoothly, and custodians are working to keep the school buildings safe, secure, clean and ready to reopen.

For updates about the COVID-19 school closure and the meal program, visit [www.uaschools.org](http://www.uaschools.org).

### UPPER ARLINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION

#### 2020 Upper Arlington Board of Education

**Front From Left:** Jenny McKenna, Carol Mohr

**Back Row:** Lori Trent, Vice President  
Scott McKenzie, President Nancy Drees



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. In the event that the COVID-19 pandemic necessitates the Board of Education conducting a regular meeting via video-conferencing, a live feed of the regular meeting will be available on the Upper Arlington Schools YouTube account. Please refer to [www.uaschools.org](http://www.uaschools.org) for the most up-to-date information.

#### **Board of Education Meetings:**

- Tuesday, May 12, 6 pm – Council Chamber
- Tuesday, June 16, 6 pm – Council Chamber
- Wednesday, June 24, 8 am – District Office, 1950 North Mallway Drive

# Library MAY | JUNE 2020 **INSIGHT**

BI-MONTHLY NEWS FROM THE UPPER ARLINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY



## 2019 Annual Report

### By the Numbers

|                                                       |           |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Cardholders                                           | 35,493    |
| Physical materials loaned                             | 1,806,892 |
| Downloadable items loaned<br>(19% increase over 2018) | 197,165   |
| Staff members                                         | 121       |
| Children's programs offered                           | 733       |
| Attendance at children's programs                     | 31,596    |
| Teen programs offered                                 | 54        |
| Attendance at teen programs                           | 2,158     |
| Adult programs offered                                | 263       |
| Attendance at adult programs                          | 8,267     |
| Passports processed<br>(16% increase over 2018)       | 2,242     |

### Notable in 2019

- We went fine-free August 1.
- The U.S. Department of State named us 2019 Passport (Public) Facility of the Year.
- We held our first passport fair.
- We developed and launched a new mobile app.
- We made facility improvements including an elevator upgrade, new carpet, and roof repairs at the Main Library.
- Our research database collection expanded with the addition of Lynda, Best library Center, Testing and Education Reference Center, NuWave Legal Documents, Reference USA, and Salem Press Reference Shelf.
- We added over 800 new items to the UA Archives ([www.uaarchives.org](http://www.uaarchives.org)),

### General Fund

|                                        |                    |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Beginning Cash Balance</b>          | <b>\$3,309,236</b> |
| <b>Cash Receipts</b>                   | <b>\$6,220,695</b> |
| Property and Other Local Taxes         | 2,791,119          |
| Public Library Fund                    | 2,712,897          |
| Other                                  | 716,679            |
| <b>Cash Disbursements</b>              | <b>\$5,713,606</b> |
| Salaries & Benefits                    | 3,965,010          |
| Materials                              | 841,356            |
| Other Expenses                         | 907,240            |
| Transfers to Building Improvement Fund | (\$300,000)        |
| <b>Ending Cash Balance</b>             | <b>\$3,516,325</b> |

- including the new Historical Arts and Culture collection
- We partnered with the UA Community Foundation to host chef and author

- Samir Nosrat. It was the most successful UA Author Series event yet.
- We worked with other Franklin County libraries to host travel expert and author Rick Steves.
  - *Library Journal* magazine again named us a 5 star library.
  - We completed donation-funded projects including the new Miller Park Library Activity Room, the Lane Road drive-up book drops, new plantings at the Main Library, and new bottle filling water fountains at all locations.

## Library Changes Programming in Response to Pandemic

The Library typically offers a wide variety of programs for all ages throughout the year. This year has brought many new challenges for all of us, and we must now consider the ramifications of offering programs during a time when "social distancing" has become a household phrase.

After discussing many ideas to help maintain social distance in enclosed spaces, we have concluded that the safest option is to suspend all live programs until the fall. At press time, staff members are looking into providing some virtual program options.

The library remains committed to promoting and fostering a love of reading in our community and we will offer a simplified Summer Reading Club in June and July.

We don't yet know what the future will hold, but we will continue to look for opportunities to offer safe pop-up and online programs. Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram, or check [ualibrary.org](http://ualibrary.org) for updated information about programs and operational changes.

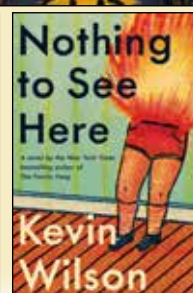
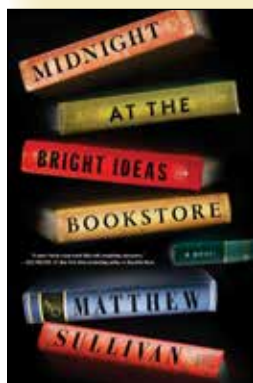
## OUR STAFF RECOMMENDS

### 10 Minutes and 38 Seconds in this Strange World

By **Elif Shafak**

The opening of "10 Minutes" is grim. It's 1990, and our heroine Leila is a prostitute stuffed in a dumpster on the outskirts of Istanbul: "She now realized with a sinking feeling that her heart had just stopped beating," Shafak writes, "and her breathing had abruptly ceased...." For 10 minutes and 38 seconds Leila thinks about and relives the last moments of her life. But what seems the most frightening to her is that her dying will mean nothing and she will have left nothing behind to be remembered by. But despite Leila's doubts, what she has left behind is something strong and powerful, a legacy of love and a group of friends who will always remember.

– *Melanie Stanley, Adult Services*



### The Other Mrs.

By **Mary Kubica**

Isolated on an island, an old house by the sea, cold winter setting, and a murder...Mary Kubica has set up another psychological mystery. Sandie and Will have moved their family of two children and niece from Chicago to Maine, hoping for an improved lifestyle. Instead they find the next door neighbor murdered which makes them the prime suspects. Using multiple characters and narratives this tense story will keep you guessing until the end.

– *Vita Marinello, Adult Services*

### Almost Amish: One Woman's Quest for a Slower, Simpler, More Sustainable Life

By **Nancy Sleeth**

A refreshing and enlightening perspective on how to un-complicate

your life. Packed full of sage advice organized into 10 broad categories such as home, money, service and family, this book provides strong arguments for why less is more in our fast-moving lives. Technology, for example, should serve as a tool, not be our master. Similarly, small and local equals saner lives. This book is a good reminder of what's really important and what's just cluttering up our daily lives.

– *Nancy Byron, Miller Park*

### Watch Hollow

By **Gregory Funaro**

Lucy and Oliver's family are desperate for work, so when a strange man offers their father a bag of gold for fixing his giant cuckoo clock in an old manor deep in the woods, their father doesn't refuse. What seems like an easy task, however, soon leads to magic, mischief, and mayhem. If the clock isn't fixed, an evil force called the Garr will overpower the house and the balance of good and evil will be thwarted. It is up to Lucy and Oliver to save the day along with a few of their magical animal friends. This chapter book is great for readers

who love mystery, secrets, and magic. Recommended for ages 11 and up.

– *Kelly Edwards, Youth Services*

### Midnight at The Bright Ideas Bookstore

By **Matthew Sullivan**

My book group recently read this compelling mystery set in a Denver bookstore. One of their regulars, or book frogs as they call them, commits suicide inside the store. Our book seller, Lydia, sets out to learn more about him and what led him to make such a final choice. Each chapter reveals a new layer in the story and just when you think you know the truth, a new detail pops up to lead you down a different path. Lydia has her own secrets which are

seamlessly woven throughout the story. Give it a try and I guarantee you won't be disappointed.

– *Kate Porter, Assistant Director*

### Nothing to See Here

By **Kevin Wilson**

Quirky and original, *Nothing to See Here* tells the story of Lillian, whose life has not turned out as she once imagined it would. While at loose ends, Lillian is asked to care for an old friend's stepchildren whose mother has died. The friend's husband is a prominent politician whose children have the remarkable and uncontrolled ability to burst into flames - a potential threat to the politician's career. Lillian finds purpose as she comes to care for the children and places their own needs above her own. At the same time, she is trying to reconnect with the old friend that caused her life to take a wrong turn. Exploring issues of class, privilege, friendship and the universal need to be loved, this is a story that is entertaining and satisfying.

– *Jennifer Faure, Marketing and Community Relations*



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# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Visit our Community Calendar at [upperarlingtonoh.gov](http://upperarlingtonoh.gov)  
Or follow us on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram for event updates

At the time of production for UA Insight (mid-April), it was not yet known if the Ohio Governor's COVID-19 Stay at Home Order—currently in place through May 1—would be extended, or what recommendations might be forthcoming relative to the easing of restrictions. To that end, the May/June Community Calendar outlines known cancellations, and an overview of events that are tentatively scheduled to occur, but are subject to postponement, adjustment or cancellation if necessary.

## CANCELLED EVENTS

**Spring Fling**  
(May 18)

## POSTPONED EVENTS

**Sandwich Stroll**  
(Was May 5)  
UA Commission on Aging | 614-583-5326  
A new date is pending.

**UACA The Walk**  
(Was April 25-May 3)  
UA Civic Association | [www.uaca.org](http://www.uaca.org)

**Wall of Honor**  
(Was May 19)  
3600 Tremont Road  
UA Historical Society | [www.uahistory.org](http://www.uahistory.org)  
To be rescheduled for the fall.

**Raise the Roof**  
(Was May 8)  
[www.uacommunityfoundation.com](http://www.uacommunityfoundation.com)  
Rescheduled for September 24.

**Memorial Day Run**  
(Was May 25)  
UA Civic Association | [www.uaca.org](http://www.uaca.org)  
To be rescheduled for the fall.

## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**Concourse Gallery**  
M-F, 8 am-5 pm, 3600 Tremont Road  
Cultural Arts Division | 614-583-5310  
**Parks & Recreation: A Golden Anniversary**  
May 18-June 26

On May 12, 1970 the UA Parks & Recreation Department was born. Take a step back in time and see how Parks & Recreation has transformed over its first 50 years. Enjoy artwork, photographs and designs that show the department's beginnings, what could have been and what our community enjoys today.

**Get Fresh UA Farmers Market**  
4-7 pm, Wednesdays starting  
May 20  
Tremont Pool Parking Lot, 2850 Tremont Rd  
UA Parks & Recreation | 614-583-5300  
The start of the season may be delayed.

**Music in the Parks**  
7-8:30 pm, Thursdays  
Sunny 95 Park  
UA Cultural Arts | 614-583-5310  
June 4 Clemens & Co.  
June 11 Appalatin  
June 18 Whirlybirds  
June 25 Honey and Blue  
July 2 Deuce 'n a Quarter

**Movies in the Parks**  
Dusk on Fridays, unless noted otherwise  
UA Parks & Recreation | 614-58-5300  
Rescheduling Hotline: 614-583-5345  
June 12 Frozen 2  
Mountview Christian Church (drive-in)  
June 26 Dolittle  
Family Camp Out, Sunny 95 Park

**Fourth of July Celebration**  
Saturday, July 4  
UA Civic Association | [www.uaca.org](http://www.uaca.org)  
Adjustments to the day's activities are likely, and will be announced as soon as they become known.