

UAⁱNSIGHT

JANUARY | FEBRUARY 2021



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



Task Force Supports Pursuit of UA Community Center at Kingsdale

After a process lasting approximately 18 months, the work of the Community Center Feasibility Task Force is concluding, with next steps for this important community issue now in the hands of City Council.

On December 9, the Task Force met to receive reports from its three subcommittees and to consider a draft Resolution outlining its recommendations to Council. Members of the Task Force were unanimous in their support of the Resolution.

At a Special City Council Meeting held December 16, Task Force Co-Chairs Margie Pizzuti and Nick Lashutka – and Subcommittee Chairs Supen Bowe (Community Engagement), Greg Comfort (Facilities) and Matt Rule (Finance) – provided an extensive overview of the study process, their findings and recommendations.

Survey Highlights

The results from a second statistically valid survey were shared at both the

December Task Force and City Council meetings. Much of the results affirmed previous findings from numerous community engagement activities and the first survey, while also gauging resident sentiment on the options that had been under development during Phase II of the study process. Some survey highlights include:

- Awareness of the study process was high, at 70.5%
- There is strong support for the City constructing a community center, at 75.1%



“Massing and stacking” diagrams created for the Task Force show how the various desired programming elements could be incorporated into a community center at Kingsdale, with aquatics on the ground level, fitness facilities and gymnasiums on levels 2 & 3, running/walking track on level 4, senior space, shared programming space and outdoor patio on level 5, with office space on levels 6 & 7.

- There is strong support for including Senior Center programming & facilities, at 69.6%
- The former Macy's site at Kingsdale is the preferred location, at 74.8%
- There is support for including office space to offset operating & maintenance costs, at 68.3%

When asked if they would support a community center issue on the ballot:

- 74.55% supported the City issuing up to \$55 million in bonds - without raising taxes - to construct a community center.
- 63.7% supported a 30-year, 1/2 mill property tax increase to construct a community center.

The Task Force Recommendations

The Task Force recommendations that were shared with City Council include:

- It is feasible for the City to construct, operate and maintain a community center.
- The facility should include program space for seniors and replace the current Senior Center.
- The community center should be more than just a recreational facility, serving as a central gathering place for the whole community.
- The former Macy's site at Kingsdale is the preferred location.
- Expected to cost approximately \$54 million to construct, this can be funded without an increase in taxes by using a combination of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) funds, excess City funds, community center office lease revenues and hotel/motel taxes, along with private donations.
- A business model should be pursued based on competitive market rate memberships and usage fees, with a goal of achieving a minimum cost recovery level of 85%.
- Membership and usage fees should be tiered, with options to accommodate senior residents and the operating budget should include a scholarship fund to assist residents

Gymnasiums & running track



Outdoor patio



Multi-use room



Senior program



Lobby



facing financial barriers to participation.

- Existing Senior Center and Recreation program funds should be redirected to support the community center.
- The community center business model should include significant annual contributions to a fund for future capital expenditures, such as maintenance and equipment replacement.

Work is underway to prepare a final report on the work of the Community Center Feasibility Task Force. This will be presented to Council at a Special City Council Meeting scheduled for Monday, January 11, beginning at 7:30 pm.

At this meeting, Council will also consider a Resolution to take this issue to a vote of the people on May 4, 2021.

The entire Task Force report and accompanying appendices will be made available at uacommunitycenter.com, along with a full record of the study process, meeting videos, presentations and more. We encourage you to become informed on this important community issue as we move toward asking Upper Arlington residents to vote on this issue.

Miller Park Playground



The new Miller Park playground is complete and open for business. Our thanks to the residents that participated in the design process, we hope the end results meet or exceed your expectations!



CITY MANAGER UPDATE

Steve Schoeny

This is not a Drill

For years, our community has wrestled with two questions: When will something be done with the former Macy's site at Kingsdale and when will UA have a community center? The answers to these questions are now "Probably, very soon."

We have been managing two processes that became intertwined through the Fall and early Winter. First, we started a process in mid-2019 to study the feasibility of building a community center in UA. Second, in August of 2020, Kroger selected Continental Real Estate to purchase the former Macy's site and we have been working with Continental since then on a development agreement to support their redevelopment of the six-acre site.

The end result of these two processes is that we have a plan to redevelop the Macy's property with a mix of apartments, offices, restaurants, senior living and, if approved by the voters, a 96,000 square foot multi-generational community center. Because of the interplay between the private redevelopment and the community center, our plans build and operate this community center without raising taxes.

In January, City Council will be considering legislation to put these plans into action, giving the voters of Upper Arlington the opportunity to decide on May 4, 2021 whether or not we will build a community center at Kingsdale. Ladies and gentlemen, this is not a drill. This is not a mirage. This is no longer in the study phase. In May, you will have the opportunity to directly vote on a generational decision for our community.

Over the coming months, we will be working hard to educate everyone about the issues involved in this decision so that you can be informed when you cast your ballot. Our process to this point has been focused on engagement, transparency and rigorous analysis. We know that UA residents demand those things, and we will try to deliver them in the educational materials that we provide and in how we respond to your questions and feedback.

Community Center Feasibility Task Force

We would not be to this point without the work of the 16 residents who volunteered to serve on the Community Center Feasibility Task Force. They led an extensive study process that was open and transparent, and did their utmost to engage with residents, with impressive results. On December 16 the Task Force reported recommendations to City Council that demonstrated a commitment to due diligence, as they worked through issues of programming, location, construction costs and funding mechanisms, and developed a sustainable business model.

On January 11 at a Special Meeting, City Council will receive the full report from the Task Force and focus their attention on the question of taking the community center issue to voters in May. That full report will be available at uacommunitycenter.com, along with a record of the entire study process. I encourage you to dive into the details so that you have a full understanding of what is proposed.

Kingsdale Mixed-Use Project

Regarding the Kingsdale Mixed-Use project proposed by Continental, a Preliminary Development Plan has been

approved by the Board of Zoning and Planning (BZAP), and City Council has authorized a Development Agreement with Continental that has received the unanimous support of the Upper Arlington School Board. In January and February, we expect Continental to be back in front of BZAP requesting further approvals for the first two buildings on the site.

One of the positive outcomes of this process is that some underlying traffic concerns in surrounding neighborhoods have come to the surface. We are working hard with the Wakefield Forest neighborhood to the east of Kingsdale to address concerns about speed and cut through traffic. We are also continuing to make sure that the rest of our infrastructure, roads, sewers and waterlines can support the development. At this point, we are confident they can, with some relatively minor improvements. Beyond our physical infrastructure, we have also looked at the impact on our police and fire resources, and both chiefs are confident their teams can handle the new development without missing a beat.

The details associated with these two issues are extensive, and far more than I can summarize in this update to the community. We actually have so much information on these projects that one of my biggest worries is overwhelming you. Please take the time to review the updates that we share with you. When we put out information, we are always going to point you to places where you can take a "deep dive" into these issues. And if you have ways that you want us to reach out to you and other members of the community, let us know. I encourage you to visit our website or to contact my office if you wish to know more.

First 2021 Utility Invoice**Finance****614-583-5291**

The first of two semi-annual utility invoices from the City for 2021 will be mailed to UA households by the end of January. These invoices include the Solid Waste fee, the Stormwater Utility fee, and in some cases a Neighborhood Lighting Utility fee. For details, visit upperarlingtonoh.gov.

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

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

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

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

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

To assist our crews, please do not park on the street.

Dan Ralley to Leave UA for Position at Hilliard

I want to take a moment to thank Dan Ralley for his service to Upper Arlington. Dan has been the Assistant City Manager for six years. He has been a force behind countless initiatives to improve our community, such as our highly successful solid waste program, the transition of our 911 dispatching services to the Northwest Regional Emergency Communications Center in Dublin, expansion of our Capital Improvement Program and most recently supporting the Community Center Feasibility Task Force study process.

Dan stepped up when my predecessor, Ted Staton, fell ill, and he has been an amazing partner for me. Dan has taken a similar position in the City of Hilliard, but he and his kids plan to remain as residents of Upper Arlington. When you see Dan, I hope that you will join me in thanking him and wishing him well.

**Food Waste Composting Program Expanded****Public Works Division614-583-5350**

The City's food waste composting program now features three locations, making it more convenient for residents to join in our efforts to divert food scraps from the landfill and put them to good use as compost. Just collect your food scraps in a lidded container of your choice, then bring it to one of the drop-off locations, where you will find clearly marked, lime-green containers:

- **Municipal Services Center, 3600 Tremont Road** - at the south end of the building by the Police entrance
- **Amelita Mirolo Barn, 4395 Carriage Lane** - next to the front plaza and building entrance
- **Fancyburg Park, 3375 Kioka Avenue** - in the parking lot off Kioka Avenue

UA Part of SWACO Study on Food Waste Diversion Activities**www.savemorethanfood.org**

The Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO) has received a \$60,000 grant from the US EPA in support of its efforts to reduce food waste in the Columbus region. The grant is being used in a partnership effort with The Ohio State University and the City of Upper Arlington to determine if an awareness campaign, "Save More Than Food," has a measurable impact on residents' views and behaviors regarding food waste. SWACO will be working with the City to share campaign information with residents during the study period, while OSU's research team conducts surveys and a waste audit to see if these efforts increase participation in the City's food waste composting program. It is hoped that the study will help inform efforts to improve the sustainability of our food system and support SWACO's goal of cutting food waste in half in the region by the year 2030.

Holiday Lights Recycling Available Through January 31**Public Works Division614-583-5350**

Following the holidays, the City is offering a holiday light recycling program. Bins are available by the food composting containers at the Municipal Services



Center, 3600 Tremont Road. This environmentally friendly program offers residents an alternative to sending strands of holiday lights to the landfill. Lights only please, no bags or other material.

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

Change in Leadership

With the start of the New Year, Council will see a shift in its leadership. The current Vice President of Council, Brendan King, will assume the role of President, with current President, Kip Greenhill, stepping into the role of Vice President.

President Greenhill is beginning the fourth and final year of his second term on Council. Through much of his time on Council, he has played a prominent leadership role, first as Vice President from 2016-2017, before being selected by his fellow Council members to serve as President in 2018. This transition back to Vice President enables him to provide support to Council President King in his new role, ensuring a continuity in leadership for the City's policy setting body.

2021-2022 Budget

At its final regular meeting of the year on December 14, City Council voted unanimously to adopt the 2021-2022 Municipal Services Program, setting forth the City's budget for the next two years.

Despite the challenges of 2020 resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic the City's fiscal position remains strong, with income tax revenues continuing to trend upward, and serving as a positive source of support for many major operations and projects.

That said, the City remains mindful of the challenges presented by the current environment and the unknowns that lie ahead. Just as we adjusted 2020 expenditures in response to the pandemic, our new budget reflects conservative revenue projections and flexibility.

Revenue Highlights

- Though the pandemic is expected to have an impact on income tax receipts in 2021, the City is projecting increases of 2%, or receipts totaling \$30.9 million. Of this, approximately \$8.7 million will be dedicated to capital improvements.
- Property tax revenues are estimated



2021 CITY COUNCIL
(from left): President Brendan King, John Kulewicz, Vice President Kip Greenhill, Michele Hoyle, Michaela Burriss, Jim Lynch, Brian Close

to increase by 10% in 2021, following Franklin County's triennial valuation update.

Expenditure Highlights

- The 2021 operating budget represents a moderate increase of 3% from 2020 expenditures (not including appropriations made possible by the receipt of \$3.7 million in federal Cares Act monies).
- The Police Division will be investing in body worn cameras for its officers, in keeping with national trends and to serve as a protective measure for both officers and residents.
- With the rollout of body worn cameras, combined with a new records management system, Police will

expand a part-time position to a fulltime Records Specialist in order to manage the increase in workload.

- Some structural adjustments will be made within Parks Maintenance to enhance efforts to attract and retain quality employees and provide a consistently high level of service.
- Thanks to the findings from the 2020 Performance Audit - which for the most part affirmed that purchasing, fleet maintenance and information technology practices are on track - some vehicle leases will transition to purchases as a cost savings measure.
- The pandemic shone a light on community mental health, with residents dealing with issues of loneliness

In early November, members of Council and the Administration gathered with representatives from the developer team at Crawford Hoying and the Towneplace Suites Hotel to celebrate its completion.





In mid November, members of City Council – along with former Council Member Carolyn Casper – and the City Administration gathered for a brief ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the completion of the Mountview Road Improvements Project, which includes a new sidewalk on the west side of the street.

and uncertainty. Resources will be committed to better understanding community mental health issues and how best to provide an appropriate safety net for residents to help guide them to the resources they need.

As City Council and the Administration consider projects arising from the 2021-2022 budget, their decisions will be guided by the goals, objectives and implementation strategies of the City's Master Plan, which serves as the principal guiding document for preserving and enhancing the community's make-up and quality of life. Priorities will be placed on the following areas:

- Continued support of the 10-Year Capital improvement Program to maintain and improve streets, underground infrastructure, parks and other public spaces.
- Support of smart growth initiatives that enhance the vibrancy of commercial districts while preserving the community's residential nature.
- Prioritizing a shift to environmentally- and sustainability-appropriate practices, with a goal of achieving zero-waste, zero-pollution and zero-emissions by 2030.
- Exploration of opportunities for realizing operating efficiencies through collaborations, shared services and partnerships.

The entire budget document can be viewed on the Finance Department section of our website, at upperarlingtonoh.gov. If you have questions, contact Finance, at 614-583-5291.

Stanford Road Sidewalk Assessment

In recent years, great progress has been made installing sidewalks where previously there were none, providing important and safe connections for pedestrians, both within neighborhoods and to community destinations. As evidenced by the recent addition of the new sidewalk

along Mountview Road, Council remains committed to supporting expansion of the community's sidewalk network along connectors and arterials as road improvements are scheduled, while also providing incentives for residents to pursue sidewalks in their neighborhoods.

Stanford Road residents can look forward to installation of a new sidewalk in 2021, after completing a resident-initiated Sidewalk Assessment, for the section between Northwest Boulevard and Andover Road.

In accordance with the Sidewalk Incentive Policy passed by Council in 2019, by securing more than 60% support from the affected property owners, this assessment met the threshold for 50% of costs to be covered by the City.

Residents living on streets without sidewalks are encouraged to consider the assessment process, and are notified of this opportunity by our Engineering Division in advance of scheduled road construction, since combining this work with City improvements can realize significant cost savings. Plus, by meeting or exceeding the 60% threshold, the return on investment can be maximized.

For details on the Sidewalk Assessment process, contact our Engineering Division, at 614-583-5360.

Love LOCAL Direct Mail Campaign

We know it will be especially challenging for our local businesses once the holidays are behind us, so the City is doing its part to help by developing the Love LOCAL Direct Mail Campaign in partnership with Valpak.

Look for your Love LOCAL coupon mailer, scheduled to reach all UA homes shortly before Valentine's Day. Then let's all do our part to show our support for the shops, restaurants and services that support and enrich our lives!

Love  LOCAL

City of Upper Arlington



NewsBITES

CITY NEWS AND USEFUL INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS

Public Holidays

City offices are closed in observance of the following holidays:

- **Friday, January 1, 2021** - New Year's Day. Solid Waste service is not affected.
- **Monday, February 15** - Presidents' Day. Solid Waste service is not affected.

Public Meetings

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE 614-583-5030

A full list of public meetings can be found on our **Events** calendar, at upperarlingtonoh.gov. Highlights of upcoming Council agendas are shared on Facebook, with meetings live-streamed. Follow @CityofUA for updates!

City e-News

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

- **City Insight** - weekly e-news on City services, special projects & events
- **Activity Link** - monthly programming updates from Parks & Recreation

- **Arts Link** - monthly art updates
- **Sentinel** - monthly program updates from the Senior Center

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

SCRAM! Wildlife Control

www.SCRAM!Wildlife.org

The City contracts with SCRAM! Wildlife Control, a division of the Ohio Wildlife Center, to provide wildlife management services to residents and businesses at a discounted rate. Full details can be found at www.SCRAMwildlife.org. The City has an **Animal Control** guidelines page under the **Resources** section of its website, at upperarlingtonoh.gov.

Target Speed Enforcement Area on Mountview Road

POLICE 614-583-5150

The City recently studied the speeding behavior on Mountview Road between Fishingier and McCoy roads. Approximately 2,400 vehicles use this

section daily, with 15% of northbound drivers averaging 15 mph over the 25 mph limit and 15% of southbound drivers averaging 11 mph over. As a result, over the next few months, the Police Division is highlighting this section of Mountview as a Target Enforcement Area, to encourage better driving practices and improve safety for the neighborhood, with a policy of strict enforcement. We encourage motorists to please watch out for all pedestrians and cyclists, observe the speed limit and practice safe driving habits-regardless of where you are driving.

2021 Community Calendar

upperarlingtonoh.gov

As a service to the community, the City provides an online Community Calendar of special events on its website. These event listings are oftentimes promoted by the City via other means, as space and scheduling permits. Now is the time to send us details of qualifying community events for 2021. Visit our **Events** section, at upperarlingtonoh.gov, where you will find submission details.

Volunteer With Friends of UA Parks

www.friendsofuaparks.com

The Friends of Upper Arlington Parks is comprised of a group of volunteers that gather monthly in our community's parks to clear natural areas of invasive species such as honeysuckle, buckthorn and garlic mustard. These non-native plants are aggressive in their growth, displacing native trees and shrubs. If left to spread, they interfere with the natural succession of native species.

The group meets monthly on Saturday mornings at different park locations, typically from 9 am-Noon. Their work includes cutting the branches of invasive shrubs with pruning saws and dragging them to a pile for City crews to chip into

mulch. They also paint the cut stumps with herbicide to prevent re-growth, and pick up any trash they come across while working. Once the spread of these invasives has been effectively controlled, the group returns to plant native trees and shrubs.

Upcoming dates and locations are as follows:

- January 9 - Miller Park
- February 13 - Smith Nature Park
- March 13 - Smith Nature Park

Visit www.friendsofuaparks.com or find them on Facebook (@friendsofuaparks) to learn more and get involved.



Friends of upper arlington Parks

Snow Angels

FIRE 614-583-5123

Each winter, the City's CARES Program and UA Commission on Aging partner on the Snow Angels program, matching volunteers to elderly neighbors who need help with snow shoveling. We encourage individuals, families and/or groups of neighbors to "adopt" a senior during the season and help them with this winter chore.

Winter Activity Guide

PARKS & RECREATION 614-583-5300

The *Winter Activity Guide* is your guide to the many events, programs and recreational opportunities offered by the Parks & Recreation Department. An online version of the guide and program registration can be found at parks.uaoh.net.

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.

Seasonal Positions with UA

It's never too early to think about your plans for the summer. Consider becoming a member of the Parks & Recreation team by applying for lifeguard or other seasonal positions with the City. Visit www.governmentjobs.com/careers/uaoh to see what's available and apply today!

Help Keep Sidewalks Clear This Winter

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



Fire Hydrants in Winter

FIRE 614-583-5100

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

2020 Income Tax Filings

Deadline: Thursday, April 15

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. As an extra service for RITA taxpayers, RITA provides onsite municipal income

tax return assistance each spring free of charge at its various locations. Agents can answer questions, take payments and assist with RITA municipal income tax preparation.

Parks & Recreation OPRA Awards

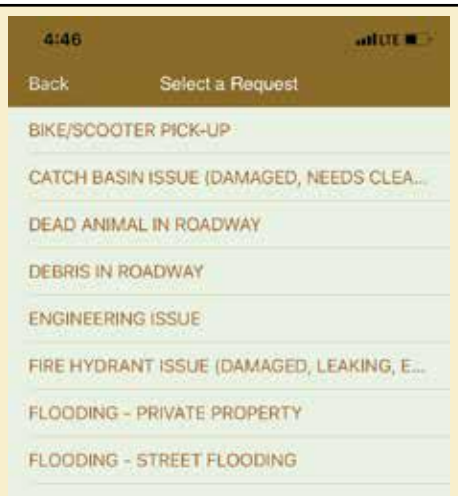
PARKS & RECREATION 614-583-5300

Our Parks & Recreation Department was recently notified of two awards from the Ohio Parks & Recreation Association tied to its 2020 programming activities during the pandemic:

- 2nd Place in the Health & Wellness category for senior outreach activities.
- 2nd Place in the Historical & Cultural Arts category for the department's alternate Labor Day Arts Festival activities.

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.



Backyard Flooding Can Lead to Water in Basements

One of the effects of climate change in our part of the world has been an increase in the occurrence of significant rain events, with homeowners experiencing flooding issues, including backups in basements. Understanding the differences between the sanitary sewer and stormwater systems and how to maximize their integrity and efficiency can go a long way in reducing your risk of experiencing flooding issues and the damage they can cause.

The sanitary sewer system is comprised of underground pipes that carry sewage and grey water from various home or business plumbing components to a wastewater treatment plant, where it is filtered, treated and discharged. Sanitary sewers are typically located in yards.

The stormwater system collects rainwater runoff from rooftops, streets, yards and parking lots and discharges it to local rivers and streams. This system is primarily located under city streets - with some areas using ditches and streams for water runoff - and it's typical for storm sewers running from homes to be under front yards in close proximity to the street.

Grading for the drainage of rainwater typically has the front half of the property draining to the road and the back half of the property draining towards the rear so that backyard rain water drains along the rear property line until it reaches a road and enters the City owned storm sewer.

Over time, property owners may have installed landscaping or built fences and other structures that prevent water from traveling unobstructed along the rear of the property, which can lead to ponding during heavier rain events.

When water ponds over rear yard sanitary sewers, the rainwater may enter the sanitary sewer. Since sanitary sewers are only intended to accommodate the flow of sewage and greywater from inside a home or business, the addition of rainwater into the system can ex-

ceed their capacity. Additionally, when the sanitary sewer is in the rear yard, the private sanitary laterals running from your home to the sewer are also located in the rear yard. If these laterals become compromised by the growth of tree roots, it becomes more likely that rainwater will enter the lateral. In both instances, the result can be a backup of water from the sanitary line into the basement.

BELOW: Examples of structures and landscaping adjustments that can impact grading and the proper flow of rainwater from backyards to storm sewers.



Flowpath for rear yard flood routing.

What Can You Do to Help?

If pooling of water occurs in your backyard following a rain event, options for restoring an appropriate flow route off your property and into the stormwater system include landscaping adjustments or removal, modifying your fencing or grading the area. The installation of a French Drain may also solve the issue, after first coordinating with the City's Engineering Division - and by using an experienced contractor - to make sure the issue is sufficiently addressed.

If you have questions, please contact our Engineering Division, at 614-583-5360.

CityiNSIGHT

BI-MONTHLY NEWS FROM THE CITY OF UPPER ARLINGTON

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www.facebook.com/CityofUA
www.twitter.com/cityofua



BUILDING BLOCKS

Aldi Grocery Store at Kingsdale



In November, the Board of Zoning and Planning approved a proposed Development Plan from Aldi Inc. for an 18,000 square foot Aldi Grocery Store at 3280 Tremont Road, replacing the former Barnes & Noble near Kingsdale Shopping Center. A timeline for construction is not yet known.

Kingsdale Mixed-Use Project

In October, Continental Real Estate, Inc.'s plans for a mixed-use redevelopment project at the site of the former Macy's at Kingsdale progressed received approval from the Board of Zoning and Planning for its Preliminary Development Plan. The proposal places an emphasis on alternate housing options, reflective of current development

trends and to complement the existing retail/restaurant and office space at Kingsdale and would be comprised of:

- A six-story building with 104 senior housing units and ground floor restaurant.
- A seven-story building with 383 apartments, two amenity courtyards and a parking garage, fronted by eight, two-story townhomes
- A third building location is currently serving as a placeholder for a prospective community center with office space above.

In November, City Council authorized a Development Agreement with Continental that has received the support of the Upper Arlington School Board. Under this agreement, the use of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) will enable the City to issue bonds for public improvements that will be repaid by the new property taxes generated from the site's increased value once the development is complete. By the Schools agreeing to participate in the TIF, all of the new taxes will be dedicated to these improvements - representing a critical component of the funding mechanism for a community center, along with other public improvements such as addressing access, traffic considerations and parking needs. The Schools will continue to receive their share of property taxes generated by the site's current value, and any new taxes from future School levies.

Full details of this project can be found under the **Community Projects** section of our website, at upperarlingtonoh.gov.

2020 Community Awards

Nomination Deadline: Monday, January 11, 2021

Each January, residents are invited to join with City and community leaders at our annual State of the City Address, for a recap of accomplishments from the past 12 months and a look ahead to a new year of exciting projects. While this year's event is going virtual due to COVID-19, the 2021 Address is scheduled for the evening of Monday, January 25.

An integral part of the event is our Community Awards program. Each year, we seek nominations of the many worthy individuals and groups that have helped make our community better in some way. Now is the time to submit your nominations for the following categories:

- **Business** - Involved in community service projects, provides financial or in-kind support for various



causes, or brings other significant benefits to the community.

- **Community Enrichment** - Individual or group involved in programs to enhance the City's quality of life, in areas that include the arts,

education, recreation, cultural diversity and the natural environment.

- **Community Safety** - Individual or group involved in activities to raise awareness of or improve the overall health and safety of our community.
- **Senior** - Individual actively involved in the community through volunteer service, taking a leadership or participatory role in community programs.
- **Youth Award** - Youth individual or group involved in volunteer service or community programs to benefit others and setting a positive example to fellow UA youth.

Details and nomination forms can be found at upperarlingtonoh.gov. Then, mark your calendars for our virtual 2021 State of the City Address on Monday, January 25.

Schools[★]iNSIGHT

BI-MONTHLY NEWS FROM UPPER ARLINGTON SCHOOLS

JANUARY | FEBRUARY 2021



Learning Model Updates

As students and families adapted to a return to distance learning in December, the Upper Arlington Schools staff members were looking ahead to resuming in-person hybrid learning with an “enhanced” schedule that will give students more structured, teacher-guided instruction each week.

In late November, the Board of Education voted to move all K-12 students in the school-based pathway to enhanced distance learning between Thanksgiving and winter breaks. The decision was based upon many factors, including local and county-wide health data. In addition, the Board considered the best way to provide educational continuity during a time of significant staffing concerns and a growing number of students and staff out of school due to COVID-19 related isolation and quarantine.

“Our hope is to welcome students back into our buildings in our hybrid learning model in January,” Superintendent Paul Imhoff, Ed.D., said, “and our goal is to have all students back in school full time as soon as it is safe to do so.”

In November, the Board also approved an “enhanced” hybrid learning schedule that ensures all students have three full days of structured and teacher-guided learning every week when they return to in-person learning.

“Even during this most unusual school year, our district remains rooted in our strategic plan,” Imhoff said. “One of the core values in the plan is continuous improvement, and our hybrid learning model is no exception.”

This fall, students in the hybrid schedule were divided into two groups to allow for safe physical distancing. One group attended on Mondays, Tuesdays and every other Wednesday. The other group attended every other Wednesday, Thursdays and Fridays. During their days out of school, students engaged in independent remote learning.

The enhanced hybrid schedule will have all students in a distance learning model every Wednesday. All students in a class will be engaged with their teacher and one another on these days. This provides students more contact time with their teacher and gives them

a chance to connect virtually with all of their classmates.

This school year, families also had the option of enrolling their students in the UA Online Academy, the district’s online-only learning option. Approximately 800 students have opted for the Online Academy for the remainder of the school year.

“We are also focused on continuous improvement for our students in the Online Academy,” said Chief Academic Officer Keith Pomeroy. “As we prepare the start of the second semester in January, we are also looking at ways to enhance the Online Academy learning experience.”

As 2020 comes to an end, the district is continuing to carefully monitor health data and regularly meet with the Medical Advisory Team, a group of local experts in public health, contagious disease and child psychology, to help guide future decisions regarding learning models.

For updates and more information about our current learning mode and health data, please visit www.uaschools.org/UArestart.aspx.



SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES

Paul Imhoff, Ed.D.

Well-being of Students, Staff Even More Important This School Year

As 2020 comes to a close, we can safely say that this is a year unlike any other we have experienced before. Our Upper Arlington Schools staff, students and families are continuing to show flexibility as we face new challenges in this pandemic.

I am truly amazed by everything the families in our community - parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, and other friends and loved ones - are doing to support the students they love. And I continue to be in awe of our incredible staff as they rise to the challenge of different models for teaching, learning and operating the vital services for the students in our school district.

Each and every day, our teachers are finding new ways to connect with students and provide high-quality instruction. Still, we know that during these difficult times, students are likely to need even more support.

Along with a focus on continuous improvement, our strategic plan has two goals: whole learning and student and staff well-being. Our mission is to challenge and support every student, every step of the way. Ensuring that our students feel that support and are finding balance and belonging in this unusual school year is our top priority.

It's important for all students, parents and guardians, and grandparents to remember that our school staff is here to support our students every day - no matter what learning model we are in at the time. If you or someone you know is struggling, please do not hesitate to reach out to a teacher, counselor or principal. Our staff can help you connect with additional support - be it on a small scale or something to meet a more significant need.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, we have expanded our Medical Advisory Team of public health and infectious disease experts to include someone whose very focus is the well-being of school-age children. I am pleased to welcome Dr. John Ackerman, a child clinical psychologist and the Suicide Prevention Coordinator for the Center for Suicide Prevention and Research at Nationwide Children's Hospital. We are grateful for the expert insight of all of these volunteers - and for Dr. Ackerman's guidance as a mental health expert - as we look at all of the data and information we have available to determine the learning mode for our schools.

I am also excited to bring Matthew Boaz on board as our new executive

director of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). Our DEI commitment is a crucial part of our well-being goal and ensuring that every student feels welcomed, celebrated and supported in our schools.

As we enter a new year, I am hopeful that we will be able to welcome our students back into our buildings for in-person hybrid learning, and our goal remains having our students in school full time as soon as it is safe to do so.

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

District Welcomes New DEI Executive Director

Upper Arlington Schools welcomed Matt Boaz in December as the new executive director of diversity, equity and inclusion. Mr. Boaz has extensive experience in the DEI field over the past 20 years in a variety of public agencies and educational institutions.

"We are incredibly excited to have Mr. Boaz on our team as a leader and mentor on all aspects of diversity, equity and inclusion in our schools," said Kathy Jenney, Ed.D., associate superintendent of human resources and operations. "We believe DEI is an essential element of student and staff well-being. The district and the Board of Education are committed to ensuring our schools are places where every student is welcomed, respected, celebrated and supported while receiving the highest quality education."

Mr. Boaz comes to Upper Arlington from the city of Toledo, where he served as the director of diversity and inclusion. Prior to that, he was the chief diversity officer at Wright State University. He has also worked with the University of Cincinnati and Miami University during his career.

Mr. Boaz has a bachelor's degree in ethnic studies/interpersonal and public communication and a master's degree in public administration, both from Bowling Green State University. He served in the U.S. Navy during the Desert Shield and Desert Storm campaigns.



BITES From the Apple



SCHOOLS NEWS AND USEFUL INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS



Kindergarten Registration Begins in February

The Upper Arlington Schools community is looking forward to welcoming the Golden Bears Class of 2034! Children who will be 5 years of age on or before September 30, 2021, are eligible for kindergarten during the 2021-2022 school year.

New for the 2021-2022 school year, the district is pleased to offer a full-day kindergarten program for UA families. Full-day kindergarten in Upper Arlington Schools will give our younger learners more opportunities to learn and grow socially, emotionally and academically.

Before registration begins, all five elementary schools will offer virtual kindergarten information nights to provide families with more information about the kindergarten program and registration process. Zoom links for these information sessions will be posted at www.uaschools.org/kindergarten.aspx in advance of the dates.

- **Barrington Elementary School** – Thursday, January 21 at 6:30 p.m.
- **Greensview Elementary School** – Thursday, January 28 at 6:30 p.m.
- **Tremont Elementary School** – Wednesday, January 27 at 6:30 p.m.
- **Wickliffe Progressive Elementary School** – Thursday, February 4 at 6:30 p.m.

- **Windermere Elementary School** – Tuesday, January 26 at 6:30 p.m.

Families interested in enrolling their child or children may do so beginning Monday, February 8 through an online registration form that will be available at www.uaschools.org/kindergarten.aspx. For more information on kindergarten registration and a map of the elementary attendance areas, please visit our website.

Veterans Day Tributes Re-created Virtually

Upper Arlington Schools students and staff found creative ways to continue Veterans Day traditions this November to ensure the safety of our honored Veterans as well as students and staff.

Eighth-grade students at Hastings Middle School created a video version of their traditional Veterans Day program, with student tributes, artwork and a physically distanced video “clap-out” of students and staff members saluting veterans. Eighth-grade students at Jones Middle School and in the UA Online Academy connected with veterans virtually to learn about their experiences and thank them for their service.

In addition, eighth-grade orchestra and choir students created memorable video musical tributes while following all

of the necessary safety precautions. For the combined middle school choirs, their virtual performance of Stand With the Brave was “a true community project,” music teacher David Monseur shared. “Six hundred vocal music students at Hastings and Jones learned, rehearsed and recorded their voices while creating accompanying visual designs.” He praised the collaboration and creativity of the vocal music staff for making this possible.

Wickliffe Progressive Elementary School teacher Melissa Szabak and her fourth-grade math students also adapted their annual Honor Flight service-learning project for the times. They created a virtual walking tour of the war memorials in Washington, D.C., to share with veterans to honor their service.

BECS Registration Now Open – and Space Is Limited!



Burbank Early Childhood School (BECS) is our highly quality, tuition based childcare for children ages 2 to 5. BECS is accepting registrations for summer 2021 as well as the 2021-2022 school year for children ages 2 to 5.

For more information, please visit www.uaschools.org/burbank or call 614-487-5155.

Update on the Research into the Litchford Cemetery Site

Upper Arlington Schools is continuing to work with descendants of Pleasant Litchford and other community volunteers to determine the next steps for honoring the history of the Litchford family cemetery site adjacent to the current Upper Arlington High School building. This includes the possibility of additional archaeological work on the site and the creation of a formal memorial near the site of the cemetery.

Pleasant Litchford was a master blacksmith who had been enslaved in Virginia. After buying his own freedom and settling in the area that is now



Upper Arlington, he built a successful business and purchased the land that is now home to the high school as well as Northam Park and Tremont Elementary School. Among Mr. Litchford's many contributions to the area were establishing a school for African-American children and being a founding member of the historic Second Baptist Church, which provided an important voice in the anti-slavery movement.

Following his death in 1879, Mr. Litchford's land was divided up between his heirs. Decades later, in the 1950s, the school district acquired the piece of land that was home to the cemetery in order to build a high school. Approximately 30 bodies were exhumed and moved to other cemeteries in the area.

While the Litchford family's story remains well-known in the history of central Ohio's Black community, it had long ago been left out of Upper Arlington's history in our schools and community. When local authors Diane Kelly Runyon and Kim Shoemaker Starr released their book, *Secrets Under the Parking Lot*, in early 2017, many residents were unaware of the Litchfords and their contributions to the area.

The book raised concerns that some of those laid to rest in the Litchford cemetery may have been left behind. The goal of the archaeological investigation in July and August of this year was to identify if any graves still remained and if any artifacts, such as headstones, from this important time in our history could be found.

In late August, an archaeological team found one fully intact grave with a complete set of remains, along with two partially exhumed graves and three fully exhumed graves. The archaeological team carefully removed the remains, which are being safely held in its lab while the district works with descendants of the Litchford family and families who may have had ancestors buried at the site to determine how to properly honor those individuals and to commemorate the site.

A memorial near the site of the cemetery is just one of the projects planned. There will also be historical displays in the new high school, which is under construction north of the cemetery site, on the corner of Brandon and Zollinger roads. In addition, the district has worked with the authors and a team of volunteers to create historical timelines to support an expanded history curriculum.

2020-21 SCHOOL DATES

Winter Break

Wednesday, December 23 - Friday, January 1

No School for Students ; staff report per schedule

Monday, January 4

No school for students and staff:

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Monday, January 18

No school for students and staff:

Presidents' Day

Monday, February 15

End of second trimester (kindergarten-grade 5) and third quarter (grades 6-12)

Friday, March 12

Spring Break

Monday, March 16-Friday, March 19

No school for students; staff report per schedule

Monday, March 22

For the full school year calendar, please visit:
www.uaschools.org/calendars.aspx

Alumni Association Helping Deliver Unopened Letters to Students 60 Years Later

Did you graduate from Upper Arlington High School in 1964 or 1965? Did you have Mrs. McKinney in seventh grade?

A retired seventh grade teacher at Jones, Mary McKinney is now 84 years old and lives in Athens, Georgia.

During the 1959-1960 school year, students in her language arts class were assigned a project to write a letter to themselves, seal it in an envelope and address it to their home address so she could mail the letters in 10 years.

After a decade passed, she wasn't able to achieve delivery to 22 students, and - all these years later - she has kept those unopened letters.

One of Mrs. McKinney's students, Rodger Curnow, who lives in California, reached out to the Upper Arlington Alumni Association (UAAA) to ask for help. She had passed along the letters to him to deliver when they met up last summer at Teton National Park, where she gives historical talks.

"When we find someone on the list, I'm sending letters out Priority Mail," Mr. Curnow said. "I told my wife that, after 60

years of Mrs. McKinney trying, I would certainly feel bad if something I did goofed it up now."

As of mid-November, the UAAA has found 10 recipients and has heard back from a few of them who shared the message they sent to themselves.

"My letter arrived today," Joan Throop Resler shared. "It is funny, but I always wondered if it would come. Gave up since we moved right after school ended in '65. Then my parents moved again two years later."

George V (Val) Leshy received his letter as promised, 10 years after he was in Mrs. McKinney's class - and he has kept his letter all these years. "I have told so many people about this over the years,"



Mr. Leshy shared. "I was also so surprised when I received my letter back 10 years later."

Mrs. McKinney recalled of her students: "They all took the letter-writing very seriously - thinking to introduce their 13-year-old selves to their grown-up selves." She added that she is "grateful beyond words" that Mr. Curnow agreed to help. "It is he who thought of contacting the school, and I am so glad he did."

The Upper Arlington Alumni Association and the Upper Arlington Education Foundation share resources and work closely together to support current students and keep alumni connected.

If you would like more information about the Mrs. McKinney Project, please email Alice Finley at Alice@UAEducationFoundation.com. The UAAA also maintains an updated list of the students whose letters need to be delivered on BearAlums.com.



Treasurer's Notes

Andrew L. Geistfeld

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

The new five-year forecast reflects two notable financial impacts on our district – decreases in revenue, most notably from state sources, and the Board of Education's decision to postpone plans for an operating levy.

First, let's take a look at the decreases in revenue. You may recall that back in May of 2020 the district received word of a reduction in funding from the state of Ohio for the 2019-2020 school year. This amounted to a 15 percent reduction in state funding, and it is just one of the areas where the district is seeing revenue reductions due to the pandemic. Based on the current economic conditions, we anticipate that the state funding reduction will remain in place for the next five years.



As a result of the pandemic and the economic situation, the Board of Education also made the decision in June to postpone plans for a needed operating levy. This meant that we had to take necessary steps to maintain district operations and be responsible stewards of our residents' investment in our schools. So the Board of Education called on the district to implement a budget reduction plan and dip into the budget reserve fund in order to stabilize the budget.

The district has a long-standing practice of maintaining a conservative budget reserve to help stabilize the budget in the event of a future crisis, and the board felt that the economic challenges presented by the pandemic met the standards for tapping into this reserve.

We've also taken steps to reduce expenditures, and I'm pleased to share that the district has achieved a total of \$4.6 million in cost savings. We've done this primarily through a hiring freeze on new positions for the next three years. There are two exceptions: our planned implementation of districtwide all-day kindergarten beginning in the fall of 2021 and the recent hiring of an executive director for diversity, equity and inclusion.

Going forward, we will continue to seek savings that preserve the overall student experience while also responsibly planning for growing enrollment in the coming years.

I invite you to review the new five-year forecast at www.uaschools.org/treasurer.aspx. If you have questions, contact me at treasurer@uaschools.org.

UPPER ARLINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION

2020 Upper Arlington Board of Education

From Left: Lori Trent, Jenny McKenna, Vice President Scott McKenzie, Carol Mohr and 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 for the most up-to-date information.

Board of Education Meetings:

- Tuesday, January 12, 6 pm – Council Chamber

The schedule of meetings for the 2021 calendar year will be set by the board at the January 12 meeting. Please visit www.uaschools.org/board to view the schedule for the 2021 calendar year following the January meeting. For additional information on the members of the Board of Education and its policies, please visit the website listed above.

SchoolsINSIGHT

BI-MONTHLY NEWS FROM UPPER ARLINGTON SCHOOLS

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www.twitter.com/imhoffpaul

SERVE LEAD SUCCEED... SERVE LEAD SUCCEED



Hastings Middle School closed their virtual Veterans Day program with a modified "clap-out."



Jones Middle School eighth-graders chatted with veterans via Zoom to learn about their experiences for Veterans Day.



Orchestra students from Hastings and Jones middle schools and the UA Online Academy shared virtual performances for Veterans Day.



Our elementary schools were creative with their harvest celebrations this fall - which included some pumpkin fun for K-1 students at Wickliffe Progressive Elementary School.



Students at Tremont Elementary School enjoy music classes during hybrid learning with physical distancing and other safety protocols in place.

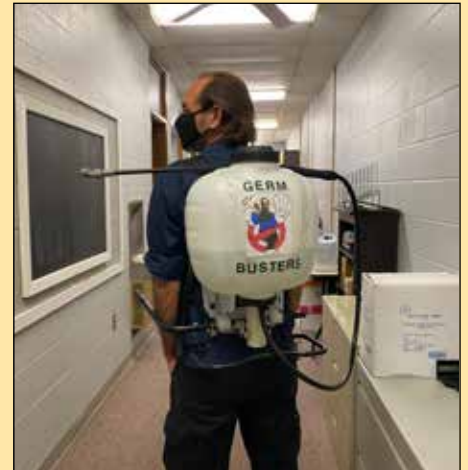


Jones Middle School students and staff continued their tradition of filling Thanksgiving meal bags for After-School All-Stars – 85 bags in all!

SERVE LEAD SUCCEED... SERVE LEAD SUCCEED



The Nutritional Services staff at all of our schools are continuing to serve free meals, thanks to a USDA grant, to students whether they're learning in school or remotely.



Staff and students appreciate all of the "germ-busting" school custodians every day – including on October 31!



Barrington Elementary School renovation project



Inside the new Upper Arlington High School

Building Our Future: Construction Update

Construction is progressing quickly on the three remaining projects in the facilities master plan - the new Upper Arlington High School, the new Windermere, and the renovation project at Barrington. These projects remain on budget and on schedule, and we look forward to the completion of these projects for the start of the 2021-2022 school year. For a full update on these projects, and for more photos, please visit our website, www.uaschools.org/facilities.



The new Windermere Elementary School

Library JANUARY | FEBRUARY 2021 iNSIGHT

BI-MONTHLY NEWS FROM THE UPPER ARLINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY



Libraries Partner On One Book-One Community Initiative

The UA Library is pleased to join eight other central Ohio library systems in a partnership to promote a community reading of *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You* by Ibram X. Kendi and Jason Reynolds as part of a "Let's Talk About Race: One Book-One Community" initiative.

The community read kicked off on November 9 and continues through January 24 when the libraries will host author Jason Reynolds in an online virtual discussion of the book at 4 pm. Registration for this free virtual event begins January 4. Visit www.ualibrary.org for a link to the registration form.

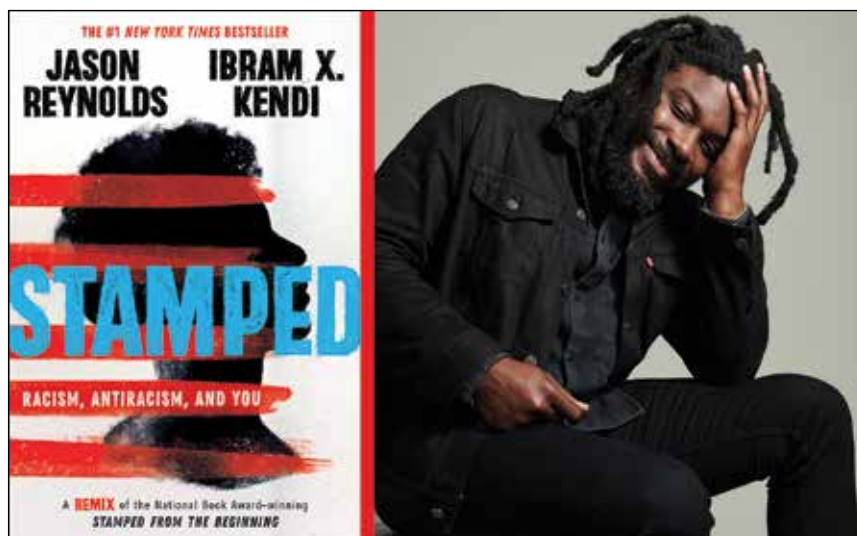
You can reserve a print, electronic or audiobook copy of the book at <http://catalog.ualibrary.org>.

About the Book

Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You is an amazingly timely and stunningly accessible manifesto by bestselling author Jason Reynolds. While written for young people, this nonfiction remix of *Stamped from the Beginning* by Ibram X. Kendi is a timely read for people of all ages. It's packed with relevant information to help promote dialogue and bridge the differences that divide us.

About Jason Reynolds

Jason Reynolds writes novels and poetry for young adult and middle-grade audiences, including *Ghost*, a National Book Award Finalist for Young People's Literature. Born in Washington, DC and raised in neighboring Oxon Hill, Maryland, Reynolds found inspiration in rap to begin writing poetry at nine years old.



He published several poetry collections before his first novel, *When I Was The Greatest*, debuted in 2014. He won the Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe Award for New Talent for this first work of prose and seven more novels followed in the next four years, including *As Brave As You* (2016), winner of the 2016 Kirkus Prize, the 2017 NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literary Work for Youth/Teen, and the 2017 Schneider Family Book Award. He is also the author of the Marvel Comics YA novel *Miles Morales: Spider-Man*.

About This Partnership

A discussion that began in July 2020 of how to work together to increase community understanding and promote constructive dialogue on the topic of race in America resulted in this One Book-One Community program, which encourages friends, families and neighbors to share their personal experience while reading the same

book. Participating libraries are Bexley Public Library, Columbus Metropolitan Library, Grandview Heights Public Library, London Public Library, Plain City Public Library, Southwest Public Libraries, Upper Arlington Public Library, Westerville Public Library and Worthington Libraries.

Library iNSIGHT

BI-MONTHLY NEWS FROM UPPER ARLINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

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A NOTE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Beth Hatch

Through months of the pandemic, from the heat of summer into the bitterest cold of winter, the Library staff strive to serve the community. We offer drive-up pickup, take item requests online and over the phone, provide online and over-the-phone technology and research assistance, online programming and more.

Earlier this year, the Library was awarded a \$75,000 Federal Coronavirus Relief Fund Grant under the CARES Act. This grant allowed us to purchase personal protective equipment, thermometers, plexiglass barriers, additional cleaning supplies, and bins to quarantine returned library materials. All this helped us provide safer service for our patrons and to protect our staff.

In September, we opened our atrium at the Main Library, and patrons' joy at being back in the building was palpable. Staff lovingly created book displays for browsing, showcased new books and items, and created take-home crafts for children.

However, in November, the Public Health Advisory Level in Franklin County reached a critical level 4, and a stay-at-home advisory was issued. In order to maintain the safety of staff and patrons, the Library has changed service models by closing the atrium and moving to curbside pickup only at the Main Library. The Lane Road Library continues to offer walk-up pickup service.

We evaluate and adjust our services regularly for safety and efficiency, and are working on a plan to provide service at Miller Park in 2021. But the only way the Library can open more hours, extend service, and provide more programming is with a full staff. We are down 17% of our staff due to retirements, those who did not return after furlough, and other factors.

Unfortunately, the Library has halted any additional hiring due to the impact that COVID-19 has had on Ohio's economy, and therefore, our funding. The 2021 projected revenue from the State of Ohio in the Public Library Fund (1.7% of the State's General Revenue) is estimated to decrease by at least 11%, which equates to a roughly \$500,000 revenue reduction for the UA Library.

Although the Library has a modest amount of reserves, we will not be able to hire any other than essential

staff, extend service hours, make costly improvements, or provide additional services unless State revenue recovers and the Public Library Fund stays at 1.7%.

Despite our financial losses, the Library will continue to serve and remain vigilant and cautious as it pertains to our financial picture as well as staff and community safety. Our staff will continue to provide excellent service by cross-training staff in all departments and locations as needed.

We've heard from many of you that the Library continues to be an important part of your life and your community, and that we're needed as much as ever. If you wish to show your support, you can become a library advocate, share how the Library has impacted your life, donate, or volunteer. Learn more by visiting <https://www.ualibrary.org/support>.



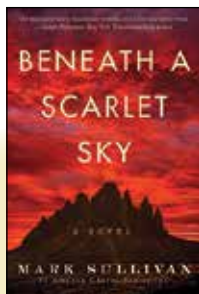
OUR STAFF RECOMMENDS

This is How it Always Is

By Laurie Frankel

Rosie, a doctor, and her husband, Penn, a writer, are parents to five boys. Rosie would be the first to admit, she was hoping for a girl. And her wish comes true, but not in the traditional way. Her youngest son, Claude, feels more comfortable wearing dresses and hanging out with girls. Rosie and Penn are very supportive of Claude's decision, but realize the road to happiness will not be easy. Since the author is raising a transgender child, this fictional novel feels authentic.

— Kris Stahler, Adult Services



Beneath a Scarlet Sky

By Mark T. Sullivan

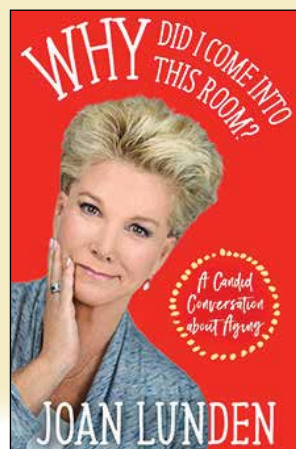
A gripping, true story of a family in World War II Italy who, despite being vehemently opposed to the Nazi agenda, decides the best way to protect their oldest son, Pino, is to have him enlist in Hitler's army. For his own -- and his brother's -- protection, they do not tell their younger son that Pino is quietly working to help Jews escape into Switzerland and, later, collecting inside intel as the chauffeur for one of Hitler's top generals. A serious rift opens up between the two siblings. The story is part adventure, part drama, and all engaging. While based on fact, the book had to be classified as historic fiction because so many people directly involved in the story died before some of the dialogue and details in the book could be confirmed. A definite page-turner told from a unique perspective in war-ravished Italy.

— Nancy Byron, Miller Park

The Magic Fish

By Trung Le Nguyen

The Magic Fish is a young adult graphic novel about fairy tales and identity. Tiến



is attempting to come out as gay to his mother but he does not know the Vietnamese words to say it. His mother is dealing with the loss of her own mother back in Vietnam. Tiến and his mother attempt to understand each other through Vietnamese fairy tales. This graphic novel weaves intergenerational ideas of immigration, imagination, and queerness through beautifully illustrated stories.

— Emma Root, Lane Road

Why Did I Come into This Room?: A Candid Conversation about Aging

By Joan Lunden
In her most candid and revealing book yet, acclaimed broadcast journalist and Baby Boomer Joan Lunden delves into the various phases of aging that leave many feeling uncomfortable, confused, and on edge. In her hilarious book, Lunden takes the dull and depressing

out of aging, replacing it with wit and humor. Whether you're in your 40s, 50s, 60s, or more, this book is full of helpful information to embrace—or at least prepare for—the inevitable.

In a society where youth is revered and aging feared, *Why Did I Come into This Room?* is the long-awaited tell-it-like-it-is guide for women of all ages. As Lunden says, "Aging ain't for sissies... you better be prepared."

— Melanie Stanley, Adult Services

Untamed

By Glennon Doyle

Untamed is an intimate memoir and a wake-up call for women to look at ourselves, trust ourselves, honor our bodies, make peace with anger, and recognize our truest instincts.

Doyle discovers a family is not its structure, but the ability to bring everything you have

to the table, while engaging all family members to do the same. A complete "wholeness," that is family. Does a good mother slowly die for her child or does she teach them how to live fully? How can you navigate divorce and form a new family, or do you sink into a depression of "it will never happen!" Doyle insists: "The braver we are, the luckier we get."

— Vita Marinello, Adult Services

The Last Mirror on the Left

By Lamar Giles

A new adventure for the Legendary Alston Boys of Logan County! Cousins Otto and Sheed are back, and this time they must travel to a parallel world to help Missus Nedraw of the Rorrim Mirror Emporium capture an escaped fugitive. The boys quickly find out that all is not what it seems, including who the real villain is in the story. Full of adventure, fantasy, and lots of quirky characters, this sequel is just as good as the first book. If you haven't read *The Last Day-of-Summer* yet, check it out first! (Suggested for grades 3-5)

— Sue Emrick, Lane Road

Top Five Reasons to Love Your Library

February is Library Lovers' Month, a month-long celebration of recognizing the value libraries bring to their communities. Our staff is working hard to provide a variety of services even during the pandemic. Here are the top 5 reasons to love your library.

Access to Materials

Though service looks different, you can still get books, audiobooks, DVDs, CDs and more from the library. At press time, we're offering walk-up and drive-up pickup options.

Bundles

Our youth librarians love to create book bundles just for your child. Simply tell us their age and interests, and we'll put

together the perfect bundle of items that they will be sure to enjoy. Not sure what to watch next? Call our Media Department, choose a genre, and receive a bundle of five movies or TV shows just for you.

YouTube Playlists

Youth librarians upload weekly videos to bring the fun home with storytimes, rhymes, songs, and crafts. Our media staff creates instructional videos featuring a variety of technology tips and tutorials. Check them out at www.youtube.com/UAPublicLibrary.

Virtual Programs

Though we can't currently gather as we have in the past, we've created virtual

programs for adults and children. Offerings have included trivia nights, home scavenger hunts, ESOL classes, and a digital puzzle collection. Keep up with the latest offerings at <https://ualibrary.libnet.info/events>.

Recommendations

Not sure what to read, learn, or watch next? We can help! Call our Adult, Youth or Media Departments for suggestions. We can even put it on hold for you.

For more information, programs, or updates on what services we are currently offering, visit www.ualibrary.org, call 614-486-9621 or follow us on social media.

NewsBITES

LIBRARY NEWS AND USEFUL INFORMATION

Keep Up with Current Services

As you know, we've frequently changed how we operate in response to the latest pandemic developments, including closing the atrium when Franklin County went to level 4 in the Ohio Public Health Advisory System. On December 8, we switched to curbside pickup only at the Main Library. We apologize for any confusion our changes have caused and hope you understand that they are always done with patron and staff safety in mind. For the most up-to-date info on our current services, please check our website at www.ualibrary.org or follow us on Facebook.

Winter Reading Club

There's still time for you and your family to participate in this year's Winter Reading Club. Stop by the Main or Lane Road Library to pick up a scratch-off log, or download a version without the scratch-off stickers at www.ualibrary.org/winterreadingclub. Earn chances in prize drawings by completing reading

challenges, like "Recommend a book to a friend" and "Read an award-winner." The program ends January 30.

Be Your Best Self Book Club

We've joined the Tri-Village Chamber Partnership and the Grandview Heights Public Library to present a virtual book discussion of *Retrofit: Playbook for Modern Moms*. Author Marti Beldsoe Post will lead the discussion on Zoom on Thursday, January 21 from 5:30-7 p.m. Register by visiting <https://business.chamberpartnership.org/events>. Reserve a copy of the book by visiting our catalog at <http://catalog.ualibrary.org>.

New StoryWalk at Fancyburg Park

If you can find a nice winter day, visit the playground at Fancyburg Park to read our latest StoryWalk installation, *Bear Can't Sleep*.

Wi-Fi Enhancements

Since the early days of the pandemic, some patrons have visited our parking lots to use our Wi-Fi signal to stay connected. We've expanded these outdoor Wi-Fi services at all three locations, with a goal of providing reliable service in our parking lots and outdoor seating areas. You can count on our signal if you need it!

Circulating Hotspots

Wi-Fi hotspots for check out are coming in January. These will offer unlimited LTE data service for up to 10 connected devices. At press time, we're determining circulation policies and borrowing locations, but visit our website soon for details.

Be the First to Read Your Favorites

Reserve your favorite author's next published book by signing up for automatic holds. Choose from 69 popular authors and your hold will automatically be placed on the title when we order it. Grab your Upper Arlington Library card and visit <http://authors.clcOhio.org> to get started.



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COMMUNITY SNAPSHOTS



As a fun distraction from the ongoing pandemic, the UA Senior Center held a Pictures in the Parks contest, with gift cards awarded to the winners courtesy of the Sanctuary at Tuttle Crossing. The first place entry was this stunning fall shot at Fancyburg Park, taken by Amy Colgan. Watch for and enjoy other contest entries via UA Parks & Recreation's Facebook page.

The City's annual leaf collection program got a boost in efficiency and greatly reduced the physical strain on our crews, thanks to new automated machinery.



UACA's Christmas in the Park may have been canceled, but that didn't stop Santa from his annual visit to UA. With help from the City's Police and Fire divisions, and a festive crew, a small parade made its way through UA on December 13 to help everyone get into the spirit of the season.

