The City is currently considering the merits of joining the Sustainable Ohio Public Energy Council (SOPEC), in order to offer the community a new electric aggregation program.

Following a presentation to City Council in June, a series of community meetings were held in August, to inform residents about the program and obtain feedback.

In the month of September, the proposed program will come before Council for final review and Council direction. If approved by Council, an electric aggregation program could be available to UA households by late fall/early winter.

The City previously established its ability to act as an aggregator in 2000 - a process that required voter approval. It wasn’t until 2012 that market conditions proved favorable enough for the launch of an electric aggregation program in Upper Arlington. After two contracts, the program was suspended mid-2015 because market conditions were once again no longer favorable to a City aggregation program.

Formed in 2014, SOPEC has grown to include approximately 30 communities across Ohio, with a collective buying power representative of one of the largest customers in the State. SOPEC’s goal is to provide simple, valuable and reliable public energy programs that help communities achieve their local energy and sustainability goals.

### September Public Hearing Schedule
Council is expected to formally review and vote on the proposal this fall, per the following schedule:

- 7 pm, Monday, September 11 - Plan of Operations and Governance Public Hearing, Proposed Aggregation Program First Reading / Public Hearing
- 7 pm, Monday, September 18 - Plan of Operations and Governance Public Hearing, Proposed Aggregation Program Second Reading / Public Hearing
- 7 pm, Monday, September 25 - Proposed Aggregation Program Third Reading / Public Hearing / Council Action

All Council meetings are held at the Municipal Services Center, 3600 Tremont Road.

Visit our Electric Aggregation webpage for additional details.
Northam Park Open Space Study

After undergoing an additional study and design process for the clay tennis courts and service building at Northam Park – made necessary when 2022 renovations bids exceeded the budget by approximately 30% – UA Parks & Rec has been working to finalize designs for a reconstruction project that will be comprised of eight-to-nine clay courts (down from 12) and a reconfigured service building. This phase is to be bid out in the fall of 2023 and if bids fall within the previously approved budget of $3.9 million, construction will likely begin early in 2024.

The reduction of the Northam Tennis facility will create an approximately .44-acre area of the park that will be available, located between the courts and Tremont Pool. Recognizing that this presents an opportunity to rethink how this space could best be utilized, the department launched a study process over the summer. This process has included the identification of potential uses, ranking those uses using a set of scoring criteria, and a public engagement process to seek resident input to help identify the best option.

At press time, the results of the study were scheduled to be shared with the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board at its August 29 meeting (begins at 6:30 pm, at the Municipal Services Center, 3600 Tremont Road). A date for bringing this project back to City Council is pending.

To learn more, visit the Parks Projects section of the Parks & Recreation Department webpage, at upperarlingtonoh.gov. If you have questions or comments, please send an email to parks@uaoh.net.

ON THE COVER:

Cycle UA
Saturday, October 7
Each fall, UA Parks & Rec invites the community to grab their helmets and bikes and join with their friends and neighbors for Cycle UA, a fun ride through the community. This year’s Cycle UA is Saturday, October 7. Be sure to register by September 8 in order to receive your 2023 Cycle UA t-shirt!

parks.uaoh.net

LABOR DAY ARTS FESTIVAL

MONDAY
SEPTEMBER 4, 2023
10 AM-6 PM
NORTHAM PARK

UpperArlingtonOH.gov/LDAF
@UALaborDayArtsFestival

2022 Best in Show | Thomas Yano
Leaf Collection
Public Works Division ...............................614-583-5350

The City will provide leaf collection services late October–early December, weather permitting (the dates will be announced in September). Residents are advised to refrain from placing leaves at the curb until one week before the start of the program AND to stop at least one week before the program ends. The timeframe for collection each year does not change since the Public Works Division must fit this service in with other seasonal services.

A Leaf Collection Tracking Map is available on the Leaf Collection section of our website, so that you can follow the progress of collection crews in your area and anticipate when they are likely to be on your street.

Please follow these guidelines:
• Place loose-raked leaves close to the edge of the street in the tree lawn, not in the street.
• Leaf piles should extend no further than two-three feet behind the curb.
• Do not place grass clippings, rocks, sticks or other objects in leaf piles – please continue to use the weekly yard waste collection service to dispose of other yard waste debris.
• Keep piles away from signposts, light poles, trees and mail boxes.
• Do not block storm sewers as this can increase the chance of flooding in the event of a heavy rain.
• Parked vehicles should be at least 15 feet away from either side of leaf piles so that collection crews have safe access to the leaves with their truck and leaf machine.

Bring Us Your Pumpkins!
November 1-December 8

Don’t throw away your pumpkins, compost them! Special collection containers will be available at Fancyburg Park beginning Wednesday, November 1 through early December. Simply toss your pumpkins into the containers and they will be transported to a compost facility. Please DO NOT put any pumpkins in the lime-green food waste containers or the curbside buckets.

Solid Waste Holiday Delays
• Labor Day - Monday, September 3 - one-day delay for all collection zones
• Columbus Day - Monday, October 9 - no delays (also note, Columbus Day is NOT observed as a City holiday in Upper Arlington)
• Veterans Day - Friday, November 10 - no delays

Curbside Food Waste Composting Program Updates
Public Works Division ...............................614-583-5350

Program Extended Through December 31, 2023
Public Works is pleased to share that the curbside food waste composting pilot program has been extended through the end of the year. Watch for updates on the future of this program later in the fall.

Food Waste Collection Day Changes
Beginning the week of September 4, the food waste collection day will match participating households’ trash collection day. This includes following holiday collection days, including the upcoming September 4 Labor Day. Participants should set their food waste container at the curb by 7 am on their trash and recycling collection day, leaving plenty of room between the food waste containers and trash/recycling containers, to avoid any confusion.

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off Events

The Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO) is hosting two fall drop-off events for household hazardous waste, per the following:
• 8 am-1 pm, Saturday, September 23 - 3226 Kingston Avenue, Grove City, OH
• 8 am-2 pm, Saturday, October 7 - Westerville Service Complex, 350 Park Meadow Rd.

SWACO also contracts with Environmental Enterprises, Inc. to operate a year-round collection site, at 645 E. 8th Avenue in Columbus. Hours are:
• Wednesdays: Noon-6 pm
• Thursdays: 9 am-5 pm
• Fridays: Noon-6 pm

Visit SWACO’s website for guidelines on accepted items. Or call 614-294-1300.
FROM CHAMBERS | Highlights of City Council & Its Policy Decisions

Three Council Seats on November Ballot
Every November, U.S. citizens are afforded the opportunity to have a voice in government by participating in the electoral process at the local, state or national levels. In 2023, three Upper Arlington City Council seats are on the Tuesday, November 7 ballot.

Council President Brendan King is completing his second term on Council, and is therefore unable to run for an additional term. Council member John Kulewicz is running to serve a second term. Council member Michaela Burriss has chosen not to seek reelection. Community members Heidi Munc, Andrej Rotter and Todd Walter have all filed with the Franklin County Board of Elections as candidates for a seat on Council. Details of candidates’ community experience and goals will be provided via candidate websites, social media pages and other forums as election day approaches.

UACO Section 105.3 sets the contribution limitations in Upper Arlington. Financial contributions or in-kind contributions from an individual, corporation or organization in support of a candidate’s campaign cannot exceed $250 per calendar year. Of this, no more than $100 can be in cash.

Political Signage Guidelines
As election season approaches, the City wishes to remind residents about the proper display of political yard signs and banners. Upper Arlington City Government is non-partisan, and City Council does not endorse political candidates. The City does not regulate language on a political sign, as this would infringe upon an individual’s freedom of speech.

Below are guidelines for the display of signs or banners:
- Signs and banners must be located on the property and not in the public right-of-way.
- A maximum of five signs/banners are permitted per property.
- In addition to the five permitted signs, an additional sign/banner may be onsite for each street frontage if the property is under construction or on the market for sale or lease.
- Signs/banners should not exceed eight square feet in size per side.
- Signs should not exceed four feet in height if free-standing, and should not be attached to any roof or roof element if mounted on a building.
- Signs/banners should not be illuminated.
- Signs with changeable copy/text are not allowed.

The City may be able to ask a resident to remove signs/banners only if they exceed the size requirements, are deteriorating or have been placed in the public right-of-way. If you believe this to be the case, call Code Compliance at 614-583-5073 or use our UA Click2Fix smartphone app to report an issue.

Signs placed on private property are considered private property as well, and theft charges will be filed against individuals taking signs.

Please be mindful of the aesthetics of our neighborhoods when displaying political signs.

Leadership UA to Host Candidates & Issues Night
6-9 pm, Thursday, October 5
3600 Tremont Road
At the local level, Upper Arlington residents are being asked to vote on four candidates running for three City Council seats and six candidates vying for three spots on the School Board (see inset). To help you in your decision-making prior to heading to the ballot box, Leadership UA is once again to the rescue by hosting its Candidates & Issues Night.

Participate in an informal meet-and-greet of the candidates and learn about other issues on the ballot from 6-7 pm in the Concourse Galley. A moderated Q&A forum begins at 7 pm. You can submit questions in advance—through 3 pm, Wednesday, October 4—at leadershipua.org.

Three School Board Seats on November Ballot
On November 7, Upper Arlington voters will also be selecting candidates to fill three seats on the Upper Arlington School Board. Six community members have filed with the Franklin County Board of Elections: Incumbents Jenny McKenna and Lori Trent are seeking reelection; and community members Glen Dugger, Ruth Edmonds, Sumia Mohamed and Liz Stump are seeking election to serve their first term. Current School Board member, Nancy Drees, has chosen not to seek reelection.
2023 Fire Prevention Week
October 8-14

Cooking safety starts with YOU.
Pay attention to fire prevention.

This year’s Fire Prevention Week theme is “Cooking safety starts with YOU. Pay Attention to fire prevention.”

Cooking fires are the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries. Unattended cooking is the leading cause of cooking fires and deaths. The good news is that most cooking fires and burns can be prevented. Follow these simple tips to help make your home and family much safer:

• Stay in the kitchen when anything is on the stove.
• Keep combustible items (oven mitts, utensils, food packaging) away from the stovetop.
• Turn pot handles away from the front of the stove to prevent burns.

And of course, WORKING smoke detectors throughout the home give you the best chance of a safe escape in the event of a fire. For more fire safety tips and videos visit www.fpw.org or www.sparky.org.

Upper Arlington Community Foundation “Good Neighbor” Fund

The UA Community Foundation’s Good Neighbor Fund was established in 2017 to help residents who face a unique, unforeseen event or challenge in their lives that threatens their stability. Through one-time grants of up to $2,500, the Good Neighbor Fund provides a safety net for residents when they need it the most.

The Foundation recently announced that this fund has granted more than $100,000 to community members since its formation. Some recent examples have included:

• Covering the living expenses for a single mother to help her complete her education.
• Paying the rent and utilities for a family when the father experienced a medical emergency.
• Installing a mobility ramp for an older adult to help them stay safely in their home.
• Grocery gift cards to help several families replace spoiled food after an extended electricity outage.
• Providing Internet access for a resident, saving his job and enabling him to work from home.

Additional details of the Good Neighbor Fund and the work of the Foundation can be found at uacommunityfoundation.com. Watch for a report to the community from the Foundation as the year draws to a close.

We are starting to see real change at the site of the Bob Crane Community Center and we are excited to share updates, as we count down the days to opening the facility’s doors for the first time in 2025. If you are interested in receiving monthly e-updates on this project, visit the Connect section of our website to register.
Since its formation in 2020, the Community Relations Committee (CRC) has been mulling on how to initiate a modern-day “Welcome Wagon” for new community members. After numerous discussions on the topic, Co-Chair Jason Sayat, began exploring a “village” approach, whereby various groups in the community could play a role in this effort to maximize impact while minimizing the work required by each entity. From these discussions, the UA Welcome Series was born.

With National Welcoming Week occurring September 8-17, the launch of the UA Welcome Series during the fall months makes for great timing.

The first event in the UA Welcome Series recently took place, with Equal UA hosting a welcome booth at the August 23 Farmers Market.

Three additional programs are taking shape to take us through the rest of the year:

**UACA’s Neighbors Night Out**
5-10 pm, Saturday, September 30
Tremont Center
UA Civic Association | www.uaca.org

A UA Civic Association tradition from when the community was first developing is being taken off the shelf and reformatted for today’s residents. Neighbors Night Out promises a fun evening of food and entertainment, while also serving as a “welcome mat” for newer members of our community, so that they can meet their neighbors, and learn more about their community and how to get involved.

**UA History 101: An Introduction**
6:30 pm, Thursday, October 26
Friends Theatre, Tremont Library

Go behind the scenes to understand why certain prominent features of our community developed into what they are today. Using existing landmarks throughout our City, the UA Historical Society will explore and share insight on the stories every community member should know.

**UA Police & Community Relations Introduction for New Residents & Immigrants**
November Date/Location TBD
UA Police | upperarlingtonoh.gov

Our community relations officers in the Police Division are planning to host one of their introductory sessions, tailored to new or newer residents and immigrants. Recognizing that an unplanned encounter with a police officer can be an intimidating experience for anyone, this program will help attendees better understand the methodology and goals that guide officers in their interactions with community members.

Additional information on these programs can be found on the CRC website, at uacoommunityrelations.com. Additionally, we will be promoting each program via our City Insight eNews and on social media.

If you are a new or newer UA resident, I encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities to learn more about your hometown of choice!

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**2022 Popular Annual Financial Report**

Each year, the City’s Finance Department produces two reporting documents on all things City finances - the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report or ACFR, which goes into great detail, and the Popular Annual Financial Report or PAFR, which provides a “soup to nuts” summary. In the 2022 PAFR, you will find an accessible overview of the City’s financial position, its policies, and its commitment to providing responsive services and programs in a fiscally responsible manner. We provide details of how the City’s revenue is generated, where dollars are spent, and how the local economy impacts Upper Arlington’s overall financial status. Our PAFR documents have received an Award for Outstanding Achievement from the Government Finance Officers Association every year since 2005.

As a cost savings measure, we printed a limited number of copies of the 2022 PAFR that are available at the UA Libraries and City buildings, but you can always find the online version on our website. If you have questions, please contact the Finance Department, at 614-583-5291.
Public Holidays
City offices are closed in observance of the following holidays:
• Labor Day - Monday, September 4. Solid Waste collection is delayed by one day for all zones.

Public Meetings
CITY CLERK’S OFFICE 614-583-5030
upperarlingtonoh.gov/city-council-city-clerk/
The City has an online portal for all public meeting agendas for City Council and its Boards and Commissions. To register for meeting agenda notices, simply visit the site, create an account, and subscribe to your preferred meeting types. A full list of public meetings can also be found on our Events calendar.

City e-News
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS 614-583-5040
Get timely service news, event reminders and special project updates from the City by e-mail:
• City Insight - weekly e-news on City services, special projects & events
• Activity Link - monthly updates from Parks & Recreation
• Sentinel - monthly program updates from the Senior Center

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

Prescription Drug Take-Back Collection
10 am-2 pm, Saturday, October 28
Fire Station 72, Reed Road
Clear your medicine cabinet of old and unused prescription drugs and drop them off for safe disposal - drive-thru-style - at the fall drug take back event. The following items will be accepted:
• Any prescriptions of pills. Empty items into plastic bags for easy, anonymous disposal.
• Vape pens or other e-cigarette devices, as long as they do not have a battery or the battery has been removed in advance.

Won’t You Be Our Neighbor Podcast
You never know who might show up on our bi-weekly podcast, Won’t You Be Our Neighbor. City Manager Steve Schoeny and City Attorney Darren Shulman discuss City happenings and introduce you to various members of our community. Get started today, at https://podcasters.spotify.com/pod/show/cityofua.

Tips for Kids
• Plan your route in advance and tell your parents where you will be going.
• Wear a costume that does not block your vision.
• Trick-or-treat in a group, stay together.
• Never enter a stranger’s house.
• Look both ways before crossing the street and cross at crosswalks.
• If you are wearing dark clothing, carry a flashlight so you can be seen.
• Do not trick-or-treat at houses that have their porch light off.
• Avoid eating any candy until your parents have checked it for you.

Tips for Parents
• Be sure you know where your child will be trick-or-treating.
• Avoid costumes that are flammable or obstruct vision or movement.
• Supply your child with either light colored clothing or a flashlight.
• Check your child’s candy before they eat any. If you think anything has been tampered with, notify Police.

The City’s Pumpkin Patrol strives to keep children safe in a fun way during Beggar’s Night. Marked City trucks

The Nationwide Children’s Golf Tournament will make a welcome return to the OSU Golf Course September 21-24. General admission to the tournament is free – visit https://ncc-golf.com/ to print your complimentary tickets.
patrol neighborhoods and are available to assist young children if they become lost, scared, hurt or in need of assistance, and to pass out candy. All trucks are equipped with two-way radios to alert appropriate emergency personnel.

**Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery**
**Sunday, November 5**
As Daylight Savings Time comes to a close, clocks “fall back” one hour at 2 am on Sunday morning. This is also a good day to change the batteries in your home’s smoke alarms. This should be done at least once a year, but changing them while changing your clocks serves as a great reminder. Alarms should also be tested once a month and if an alarm chirps, warn that the battery is low, replace the battery right away.

**Sunday Swim at UAHS**
**September 9-December 12**
PARKS & RECREATION 614-583-5300
Sunday Swim lap swimming will be available at the UA High School Natatorium from 1-3 pm most Sundays beginning September 9. For details and to register, visit parks.uaoh.net

**Municipal Services Center Security Enhancements**
Public access to the Municipal Services Building, located at 3600 Tremont Road is now limited to the doors facing Tremont Road. All visitors must check in at the Police/City reception window to the right of the main doors, using a government-issued ID or equivalent. After check-in, visitors receive an adhesive visitor name tag to be worn for the duration of their visit.

**Parking Restrictions During OSU Home Football Games**
PUBLIC SERVICE 614-583-5350
To address parking, access and safety concerns, the City is restricting parking for streets in the proximity of OSU’s campus abutting North Star Road on home football games. Hours of restriction run from four hours before through four hours after each game. “No Parking” signs will be posted on the fire hydrant side of the following streets:
- Ashdowne Road;
- Berkshire, Essex, Grenoble and Barrington roads between North Star Road and Northwest Boulevard;
- Cardiff and Doone roads between North Star Road and Brandon Road;
- Beaumont Road between Grenoble Road and Lane Avenue.

**Call for Poll Workers**
vote.franklincountyohio.gov/Poll-Worker
The Franklin County Board of Elections hires approximately 5,500 community-minded individuals to help operate polling locations each election day. Training and compensation is provided. You must be a registered voter in Franklin County and available to work on election day. Efforts are made to place poll workers at convenient locations, which include public schools, township halls, libraries and churches.

**Leadership UA Update**
leadershipua.org
The popular annual Leadership UA Program will be making some adjustments for the upcoming year, with plans to move to a January-June schedule. Watch for updates on the program, including registration details, this fall.
As the school year gets underway, Superintendent Robert Hunt, Ph.D., will be building off the feedback gathered through the Listen Learn Lead process to shape his first year with the Upper Arlington Schools.

“I have always believed the best public schools are a reflection of the values and expectations of the community,” he shared. “Thanks to the vision of our Board of Education, the Listen Learn Lead process reflects a commitment to listen to our stakeholders about what’s going well and how we can continue to improve so that we are offering the excellence our community expects.”

The Listen Learn Lead sessions in the spring of 2023 gathered feedback from nearly 600 students, staff members, parents and community members. This feedback fell into several categories, including specific ways to build strong relationships with the different stakeholder groups and how to support students in developing the characteristics outlined in the district’s Profile of an Engaged Learner.

“Taking part in those sessions was a great introduction to our community,” said Hunt. “I really appreciate the candor, the kindness and the insight that came through from all of those in attendance.”

This fall, Hunt will put that feedback to work as he continues building relationships while also looking to the future.

“Our current strategic plan runs through 2024, so the next planning process isn’t too far off. This fall and winter, I will be intentional about creating opportunities to continue listening and learning with a specific focus on strategic planning and the strategic planning process.”

Those opportunities will include becoming a Bobcat, Lion, Hawk, Wolf and, of course, Golden Bear for a day as he embeds himself in each school to kick off his first school year as superintendent. This will give him an opportunity to connect with students, staff and parents/guardians and learn more about the day-to-day experience of Upper Arlington’s students.

“While I had an opportunity to visit our schools in the spring, I am truly excited to take a day at each building – to experience a school day through the eyes of our students and staff and learn about what makes each building so special,” Hunt said.

To complement his tour of schools, he will also host opportunities to engage with community members this fall. More details on the community-based sessions will be available at uaschools.org/superintendent.aspx.
Pleasant Litchford Memorial Update

Thanks to the work of a group of Upper Arlington High School students, the Ohio History Connection has awarded an official historical marker recognizing the contributions of Pleasant Litchford and the historical significance of the Litchford family cemetery site, adjacent to the current Upper Arlington High School building.

In the spring, teacher Marlene Orloff and her students helped research and write the statement of significance, making the case for a marker honoring Litchford, a master blacksmith who had been enslaved in Virginia, bought his own freedom and settled in the area that is now Upper Arlington, where he became a successful businessman. He purchased the land that is now home to the high school as well as Northam Park and Tremont Elementary School. Mr. Litchford had many contributions to the area in the 1800s, including 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.

“This was a great example of project-based learning for our students,” said Chief Academic Officer Keith Pomeroy. “Not only did they learn about an important part of our local history, but they took steps to help ensure that Pleasant Litchford’s story would be shared for generations to come.”

In the 1950s, the school district appropriated the piece of land that was home to the Litchford family cemetery in order to construct the high school building that opened in 1956. Twenty-eight bodies were removed from the site, and most were reinterred in an unmarked mass grave at Union Cemetery.

Archaeological investigations in 2020 and 2021 revealed that the exhumations were incomplete. Archaeological teams found one fully intact grave with a complete set of remains and three partially exhumed graves.

Descendants of the Litchford family are working with the district, the city and the UA Historical Society to ensure that the former cemetery site will serve as a memorial to those once laid to rest there and a place of reflection and remembrance for the community. Family members are also collaborating on the creation of informational signage that will pair with the state marker to share the Litchford story.

2023 UPPER ARLINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

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

Upcoming Board of Education Meetings:
• Tuesday, September 12, 6 pm – Council Chamber
• Tuesday, October 10, 6 pm – Council Chamber
• Tuesday, November 14, 6 pm – Council Chamber

For additional information on the members of the Board of Education and its policies, please visit www.uaschools.org/board.
As we start the year, I have been reflecting on the values of our district – Start With Heart, Strength In Team and Contagious Drive. Our values are integral in everything we do in our schools each and every day, and they are even more important as we come back together in our schools.

Since I became the superintendent of Upper Arlington Schools on July 1, I have witnessed these values firsthand, both in our schools and in the community. I have always known that Upper Arlington was a very special place, and I can’t tell you how happy my family and I are to be here. We are already so impressed with the schools and the community.

These values have also resonated with me as we prepared to welcome back our staff and our students for the start of a new school year in August.

This is an incredible time in the Upper Arlington Schools, as we continue our work to set the standard for excellence in public education. Our strategic plan is extremely focused, with just two priority areas: academic excellence - or what we call “whole learning,” and the well-being of our students and staff. Those priorities are supported by a foundation of continuous improvement and are rooted in our mission – to challenge and support every student every step of the way.

As I think about the future of our district, I believe it is incredibly important to take the time to listen and learn from all of our stakeholders to truly understand the current state of our schools and our opportunities for growth. This fall, I will be spending a full day in each school building to engage with students, staff and families and experience what it’s like to be part of each unique school. We are also planning sessions for community members to provide feedback on our schools. This is an extension of the Board of Education’s commitment to community engagement through the Listen Learn Lead process and will provide valuable feedback as we prepare to launch our district’s next strategic planning process during the 2023-2024 school year.

I want to thank you on behalf of the entire UA Schools staff. A public school is a reflection of the community, and the excellence provided in our schools is only made possible through your support. It is an honor to serve this community and spend our days helping our students learn and grow to their full potential.

Robert Hunt, Ph.D., is the superintendent of Upper Arlington Schools.
You can email him at superintendent@uaschools.org and follow him on Twitter at @Hunt_EdLeader.

Sign up to Receive UA Schools e-newsletters!
Upper Arlington Schools remains committed to keeping all stakeholders informed of what is happening throughout the district and receiving and responding to feedback from stakeholders.

New this fall, community members can sign up to receive the monthly district e-newsletter that is currently sent to families and staff at the end of each month. Please visit www.uaschools.org/emailssignup.aspx to complete an online form to subscribe to the e-newsletter. Current families with children in the schools and current staff members do not need to take any action, as they are automatically subscribed to these emails.
In the Upper Arlington Schools, we are committed to preparing the young people of this community for success, both while they’re here and in their next steps in life. An important part of that is ensuring that we have the people – teachers, bus drivers, custodians, nurses, support staff and more – to support our students in every aspect of their school experience.

This year, we are welcoming more than 50 new members of the Upper Arlington Schools team – including classroom teachers, intervention specialists, building principals and more. While they are primarily filling open and existing positions, we do have a few who are joining us due to continuing enrollment growth, particularly at the kindergarten level. This is truly exciting, because those students are coming to us at the very beginning of their Upper Arlington Schools experience.

With this trend likely to continue over the next several years, the district will continue to closely monitor our enrollment growth to efficiently plan for additional students and the additional “people” they need to support them on their academic journey.

Ohio Biennium Budget
This summer, the Ohio legislature and Gov. Mike DeWine approved the biennium budget, covering the next two fiscal years. Thanks to revisions to the Fair School Funding Plan contained in the budget, I am pleased to share that Upper Arlington Schools is projected to see an increase of approximately $2 million in state funding for the 2023-24 fiscal year and beyond. Even though the Fair School Funding Plan represents a very small portion of our overall district budget, this still represents an increase by approximately 58 percent in our state foundation and additional state aid.

Any amount of additional state funding is a positive for our school district and our community, and I am appreciative that the legislative process ultimately resulted in an increase in state funding for not only Upper Arlington but public school districts overall.

Finance Advisory Committee
Finally, I wanted to share an update on the work of the Treasurer’s Finance Advisory Committee. You may recall that this committee was re-established as a result of the Listen Learn Lead community engagement process led by the Board of Education. This committee of volunteer residents builds on our district’s long history of utilizing the expertise in our community.

The Finance Advisory Committee has met twice so far to gain an understanding of school finance and will be reviewing information in future meetings to provide feedback on the financial operations of the district. I am excited to continue this work as part of our long-standing commitment to being a good steward of our community’s investment in our schools.

For more information about our district’s finances, please visit www.uaschools.org/treasurer.aspx. If you have any additional questions about our district’s finances, you can contact me at treasurer@uaschools.org.
Staff Members Honored for Excellence, Service

Congratulations to the staff members who were honored at a staff ceremony in August!

Receiving district-level employee of the year awards were:

• District Teacher of the Year: Katie O’Keefe, school counselor, Windermere Elementary School
• Classified Employees of the Year: Lori Johnson, Transportation; Scot Hunter, Operations; Denise Mora, Nutritional Services; and Pam Thompson, Secretarial/Bookkeeping Division
• Support Staff Employee of the Year: Jennifer Barron, educational aide, Tremont Elementary School
• Dr. Homer Mincy Administrator of the Year: M. Denise Lutz, Chief Excellence and Engagement Officer

Receiving building-level teacher of the year awards were:

• Nicolette Tangi, speech language pathologist, Barrington Elementary School
• Lily Blackburn, preschool teacher, Burbank Early Childhood School
• Jana Holland, art, Greensview Elementary School
• Jenny Hamilton, speech language pathologist, Tremont Elementary School
• Abby Blake, grade 1, Wickliffe Progressive Elementary School
• Paul Crabtree, intervention specialist, Hastings Middle School
• Lindsay Michalkiewicz, intervention specialist, Jones Middle School
• Diane Kahle, computer science, Upper Arlington High School

In its third year, the Joanie Dugger Educators of the Year Fund through the Upper Arlington Education Foundation honors three educators - one from each level - who receive funding for projects of their choice. The fund was created in loving memory of Joanie Dugger, who retired as executive director of the Upper Arlington Education Foundation in 2018 after 17 years of dedication to “Enhancing What Matters Most.” The 2023 Joanie Dugger Educators of the Year recipients are: Nicolette Tangi, Barrington Elementary School; Paul Crabtree, Hastings Middle School; and Diane Kahle, Upper Arlington High School.

The Nancy Losekamp Career Development Leadership Award is also awarded to three teachers each year - one from each level - in recognition of their work to engage students in service learning. This year’s recipients are: Nicole Staker and Lydia Richlen, grade 4, Barrington Elementary School; Janice Daubenmier, grade 6, Hastings Middle School; and Dana Schoenleb, industrial technology, Upper Arlington High School.

Additionally, 31 staff members were recognized for 20 years of service to Upper Arlington Schools; one staff member, Upper Arlington High School teacher Michael Donelson, was honored for 30 years of service to the district; and Burbank Early Childhood School health aide Betty Giammar was honored for 40 years of service.

Uniquely Accomplished

• The 2023 edition of Flip the Page, which publishes the best writing from central Ohio teens, features the work of six Upper Arlington students – including UAHS senior Tori Negroni and freshman Adeline Butsko, who performed their poems along with other teens from central Ohio at the 2023 Columbus Arts Festival.
• Daniel Park, a seventh-grade student at Jones Middle School, is the winner of the 25th annual “Create a Cover Contest” by the Ohio Education Association. His work is featured on the cover of the June/July issue of Ohio Schools magazine.
• Thanks to the hard work of Class of 2023 graduate Veronica Armstrong for her senior capstone project, Upper Arlington High School was recently named a “Heart Safe School” through Project ADAM Ohio.
• Greensview Elementary School Media Specialist Jill Merkle was selected as a 2023 Apple Distinguished Educator. This program recognizes educators in K-12 and higher education who are using Apple technology to transform teaching and learning.
• The amazing readers of Windermere Elementary School are the grand prize winner of School Stars, a global contest celebrating the use of the student reading app Sora, which offers a digital catalog of age-appropriate

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ebooks and audiobooks. With this award, UA Schools will receive a $2,500 credit to expand its digital library collection for all students!

Performing Arts Highlights

- Six Upper Arlington High School students – Griffin Crowe, Joey Conroy, Abi Swart, Owen Black, Seth Lute and Addison Fransen – were selected among the best student vocalists in the state to sing in the Ohio Choral Directors Association’s High School Honor Choir at the organization’s summer conference at Capital University.

- Dr. Brandon Moss, the vocal music director at Upper Arlington High School, was named the winner of the Columbus Symphony Orchestra’s 2023 Music Educator Award in secondary education. Established in 1997, the Columbus Symphony Orchestra’s annual Music Educator Awards recognizes educators who instill and inspire a love of music in the children and adults of central Ohio. Each recipient of a CSO Music Educator Award also receives a grant to be spent at their discretion to support music education.

UA Schools Hiring Substitutes in all Areas

Upper Arlington Schools is in need of substitutes in several areas in our district, and we offer competitive pay rates. We are looking for substitutes for the following positions:

- Substitute teachers, substitute intervention specialists and substitute paraprofessionals: Apply online through the Educational Service Center of Central Ohio at www.escco.org/substitutes.

- Substitute bus drivers, cooks / cashiers, secretaries, educational aides, health aides and transportation aides: Apply online at www.applitrack.com/uaschools/onlineapp. You may apply and be considered for one or more positions.

SWACO Recycling Champion

Upper Arlington Schools has been named a School Recycling Champion by the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio. This recognition by SWACO celebrates recent work by the Upper Arlington Schools to improve on and expand the existing recycling initiatives in its schools.

With the help of SWACO grant funding, the district purchased and installed nearly 650 recycling containers for classrooms, common areas and offices for each school in the district. In addition, a districtwide “Green Team” was formed to help implement consistent recycling programs across all nine school buildings.
More than 1,500 students — elementary through high school — stayed engaged in their learning through summer programming offered by Upper Arlington Schools. This programming gave students the opportunity to grow their academic skills in math, reading or writing; explore their passions in STEM, the arts and music; earn middle school and high school credit in areas such as financial literacy, health and physical education, and math; develop lifelong skills involving studying and time management, public speaking and career development; and expand on their social and well-being skills through enrichment programs involving volunteering, happiness and gratitude, and activities to prepare for and connect with new environments in middle school and high school. Once again, due to a generous federal grant, all courses and workshops in Summer Academy 2023 were offered tuition free.
Upper Arlington Schools educators joined others from across the central Ohio area in July for the Summer Institute for Authentic Learning and Leadership, hosted at Upper Arlington High School.

Dr. Robert Hunt, the new superintendent of Upper Arlington Schools, enjoyed his first Fourth of July parade with the five members of the Board of Education.

Global education offerings returned for students this summer – with tours offering opportunities to see the world and grow their knowledge and skills. On one tour, students explored Italy, Greece and Turkey – including visits to sites such as the archaeological ruins of Delphi and Ephesus.

Secondary students dedicated a week of their summer to service through a global education opportunity with the Mariposa Foundation in Cabarete, Dominican Republic.

Start Strong, a new initiative to provide professional learning prior to the start of the school year, gave new and existing staff members an opportunity to enhance their skills.

About 30 students from the Tremont Guitar Club and Choir and the middle school orchestras kicked off the Upper Arlington Civic Association’s Party in the Park with a patriotic and fun performance.
The Upper Arlington Alumni Association and Upper Arlington Schools welcomed alumni and the community for the 2023 Upper Arlington High School Open House on July 2. The open house featured student-led tours of the high school and a ceremony honoring five alumni and three retired Upper Arlington Schools educators for their achievements, accomplishments and contributions to the district and the community. Retired educators Kay Barr, Frank Cole and Don Valentine were honored as inductees to the Educator Hall of Fame. The following graduates were recognized with alumni awards: Col. (R) Michael J. Johnson, ’83; Robert C. Young, M.D., ’57; Molly Seguin, ’07; Kathy Adams, ’93; and Mike Fitzpatrick, ’91.
Please join us at one of our upcoming community engagement sessions as we plan for improvements to our library buildings. These sessions, facilitated by staff from HBM Architects, will demonstrate ideas for what a modern library can offer and help us develop our wish list for the features that would be a good fit for this community.

Participants will be able to comment on the ideas and provide additional feedback. In-person sessions will be offered at each of our locations and an online survey will also be available for those who are unable to attend one of the scheduled sessions.

Sessions are as follows:
- 6:30 pm, Wednesday, October 18 at the Tremont Road Branch
- 7 pm, Thursday, October 19 at the Miller Park Branch
- 6:30 pm, Wednesday, October 25 at the Lane Road Branch

We’d like to hear from all of you as we develop our vision for how our facilities can better support library services in the future. All of the input gathered during this process will be compiled into a report which will be a reference point impacting our design decisions when the time comes.

The Murder Mystery Company returns to our Tremont Road Branch with another after-hours mystery for adults on Saturday, October 14.

The birds are chirping, the sun is shining, but the wedding bells aren’t ringing for this couple when a member of the wedding party is murdered! With a raging bridezilla and an unenthused groom on the scene, it may be happily never after in this nuptial nightmare. Trade clues with your guests and help the hapless couple figure out whodunnit so they can say “I do.” Costumes highly recommended! Pull out that old bridesmaid dress in the back of your closet, or wear the most ridiculous wedding attire you can come up with. We’ll have refreshments and The Daily Growler will be here, too. Doors open at 5:45 pm. Please arrive by 6:30 pm, as actors from the Murder Mystery Company will be selecting some participants to play suspects in the mystery. We can’t let anyone in after the mystery begins at 7 pm.
The Greek philosopher Heraclitus wrote that the only constant in life is change. You may be surprised to learn that in libraries, this is also true. Over the years, libraries have adopted and adapted to new technologies to serve their patrons. We made computers available for the public, and offered VHS tapes and audiobooks on cassette, followed by music CDs, DVDs, Blu-rays, and even video games.

During the pandemic, patrons adapted to digital formats and streaming services, and relied on curbside services and delivery during that time. This forever changed how patrons use our Library, and expectations for service. We continue to see use of our curbside services, and our eBook and streaming platforms have surpassed our physical audiobook, movie, and music checkouts for the first time.

This fall, we are getting ahead of anticipated changes and will move our Tremont Road Branch’s movie and music collection to the Adult Department to free up space for other uses as determined by our 10-year Master Facilities Plan. Our Media staff will be joining either the Adult Department or our Research Department. We will still have public computers, a media collection, and expert staff to help you with technology, research, and book recommendations.

In October, we’ll engage the community around new ideas for improvements to our buildings. We hope that you will be able to join us at one of our upcoming public input gathering sessions. We would like to hear from all of you as we develop our vision for how our facilities can better support library services in the future. See page 19 for details on these input opportunities.
Program Highlights

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

Loud in the Library
Experience a slice of Columbus’ vibrant local music scene on Friday, September 1 as we stay open late and transform our Tremont Road Branch’s atrium into a concert venue! The lineup features artists whose music is part of our streaming collection, Listen Columbus. Enjoy performances by Hebdo at 6 pm, Brett Burleson at 7 pm and Dave Buler and the Historians at 8 pm. Throughout the evening, we’ll have henna tattooing, button making, and a photo booth, plus food and refreshments will be available for purchase from Tortilla Food Truck. The main floor of the Tremont Road Branch will stay open, granting you access to explore the collection, venture into the children’s area, and check out items. All ages are welcome at this event.

Author Frederick Luis Aldama
Meet local award-winning author Frederick Luis Aldama at the Miller Park Branch on Saturday, September 9 at 10:30 am. He’ll read his bilingual picture book Con Papá/With Papá.

Leaping Lizards Live Reptile Show
Families can learn about the habits and care of reptiles, including a hands-on experience with live reptiles, at this program at our Lane Road Branch on Monday, September 11 at 6:30 pm. Registration is required at https://ualibrary.libnet.info/events.

Mario Kart Tournament
Start your engines and put your game face on! Ages 10-18 are invited to a Mario Kart tournament on Wednesday, September 20 from 4-5:30 pm in our Tremont Road Branch’s Friends Theater. Prove your racing skills on our large screen and you could earn fun prizes!

Birding for Every Body
Join us outside the Lane Road Branch on Saturday, October 7 at 8:30 am for a bird walk along the edges of Thompson Park. Birdability Captain Sheila M. Fagan helps you observe and identify birds by sight and sound. The event is designed to be inclusive of all people no matter what their neurodiverse or physical challenges may be. The path is paved to accommodate wheelchairs or walkers, and there are benches along the way for anyone who may want to sit and rest. The pace may seem slow to some, but it is purposeful. Bring binoculars if you have them, but they are not required.

Senior Safari with the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium
Senior citizens can see some of the Columbus Zoo animal ambassadors up close and personal on Tuesday, October 10 at 2 pm. Learn fun facts about these animals from Zoo staff. This program is designed and intended for older adults. Registration is required at https://ualibrary.libnet.info/events.

Frankenstein!
Love horror and science fiction? Disturbed by Frankenstein-esque technologies like AI and cloning? Join OSU professor Linda Mizejewsky for a haunting exploration of the Frankenstein tradition on Wednesday, October 25 at 6:30 pm in the Friends Theater at the Tremont Road Branch.

Garden Swap
Gardeners are invited to the Miller Park Branch to swap excess healthy plants, cuttings, pottery, tools, seeds and more. Make your garden even “greener” by preventing waste! Stop by anytime between 10 am-4 pm on Saturday, October 14.
Making Memories...Building Connections

Families had a dance party and played music trivia on their phones as part of Music at Miller, a partnership of the UA Parks & Recreation Department and the Library.

Kids made art out of bingo daubers and pool noodles at Dot Day.

Performance Dogs of Ohio dazzled a huge crowd with jumping, frisbee and balancing tricks.
OUR STAFF RECOMMENDS

Someone Else’s Shoes
By Jojo Moyes
Well-written with three-dimensional characters, abundant detail, and lots of humor, Someone Else’s Shoes tells the story of two women who quite literally (and of course accidentally) switch shoes at a gym in London, and the confusion and connections that ensue. It’s a story about the importance of friendships to sustain us through the hard times, and how even rivals can become close when faced with a mutual enemy. The audio version, read by Daisy Ridley, was the perfect way to enjoy this engaging book.
— Cindy Radford, Adult Department

The Adventures of Amina Al-Sirafi
By S.A. Chakraborty
When one last job that promises a fortune she can’t refuse pulls Amina Al-Sirafi – mother and notorious pirate – out of retirement, she and her crew are taken on an adventure of a lifetime. But this adventure is not all it appears to be. The Adventures of Amina Al-Sirafi, told by the quick-witted Amina herself, shows the lengths people will go to for glory or power and to protect those they love. S.A. Chakraborty has crafted an unforgettable tale and filled it with a rich cast of characters and page-turning action. If you love seafaring adventures, sword fights, and supernatural beings, this is a can’t-miss read.
— Kayla Toon, Community Relations

From Cradle to Stage: Stories of Mothers Who Rocked and Raised Rock Stars
By Ruth Reichl
Virginia Grohl interviews numerous mothers of rock stars and talks to them about what their lives were like, as well as the lives of their famous children. Virginia knows what she is talking about – she’s the mother of Dave Grohl (Foo Fighters, Nirvana). Virginia also talks about her own experiences touring with her son and the people she met along the way. A fun read and perfect for the summer!
— Pam Cole, Lane Road

Purple Lotus
By Veena Rao
Through the eyes of an immigrant woman raised in both Asia and the U.S., author Rao brings a fresh perspective on feminist issues. Raised with South Asian societal norms regarding love, family, and marriage, Tara endures many levels of abuse from childhood to her marriage. Living as a married woman in Atlanta, Georgia, Tara begins a long journey to break tradition and seek love and happiness as an independent woman. Her journey is aided in the form of women friends, and this sisterhood becomes a support system for her to change, thrive, and find a peaceful, safe life.
— Vita Marinello, Adult Department

Number One is Walking: My Life in the Movies and Other Diversions
By Steve Martin
drawings by Harry Bliss
A graphic novel for adults that tells the story of Steve Martin’s life in movies. Humorous cartoons are interspersed between stories. Learn the behind-the-scenes stories of Martin’s movies and why he stopped making them. An enjoyable, quick, interesting read!
— Tammy Slater, Miller Park

The Wager: A Tale of Shipwreck, Mutiny, and Murder
By David Grann
David Grann has written another nonfiction that reads like a fiction thriller. The Wager is well researched and well told. Grann’s vivid writing transports the reader back to the 1700s and the extreme working conditions sailors endured. The Wager has it all: Life at sea, a shipwreck, mutiny, survival, and murder. The author attempts to get to the truth after researching the various versions from the survivors. A book that is hard to put down!
— Scott Potter, Adult Department
Concourse Gallery
Walking Among Angels
September 20-November 10
Reception: Sunday, September 24 | 2-4 pm
M-F, 8 am-5 pm, 3600 Tremont Road
UA Cultural Arts | 614-583-5310

Golden Bear Bash
6-10 pm, Sunday, Sept. 3
Amelita Mirolo Barn
UA Ed. Foundation | goldenbearbash.com

Labor Day Arts Festival
10 am-6 pm, Monday, Sept. 4
Northam Park
UA Parks & Rec | 614-583-5310

UACA Golden Bear Scare
October 16-18
Elementary age kids: 6:30-7:30 pm
Middle School age: 7:30-9 pm (a bit scarier)
Smith Nature Park, Fishinger Road
UA Civic Association | www.uaca.org
Free event.

Columbus Marathon
Sunday, October 15
columbusmarathon.com
The route passes through UA.

UA Performance Series
Songwriter Social
6-9 pm, Thursday, October 19
Amelita Mirolo Barn, Sunny 95 Park
UA PARKS & REC | 614-583-5300
Featuring local singer-songwriters, great food and a taste of wine and cocktails.

UACA Labor Neighbor Day
9 am-5 pm, Monday, Sept. 4
Hastings Middle School
UA Civic Association | www.uaca.org

Prescription Drug Take-Back
10 am-2 pm, Saturday, October 28
Fire Station 72, Reed Road
Clear your medicine cabinet of old and unused prescription drugs. See pg 8 for a list of accepted items.

History Speaks: A History of Tremont Center’s Neighborhood Grocers
3 pm, Sunday, September 17
Tremont Library
UA Historical Society | uahistory.org
UA has a rich history of namesake local grocery stores.

Nationwide Children’s Golf Tournament
September 21-24
OSU Golf Course | https://ncc-golf.com/

UACA’s Neighbors Night Out
5-10 pm, Saturday, September 30
Tremont Center
UA Civic Association | www.uaca.org
New to UA? Meet your neighbors. Long time resident? Make new friends. UACA welcomes everyone in UA to an evening of food, fun and entertainment!

Fall Fest
1-5 pm, Sunday, October 1
Fancyburg Park
UA Parks & Recreation | 614-583-5300
Annual family event with a fall twist.

Cycle UA
10 am, Saturday, October 7
Begins & ends at Northam Park
UA Parks & Recreation | 614-583-5300
Join UA Parks & Rec for a 5-, 10- or 15-mile course. Register by September 9 to ensure you receive a t-shirt!

History Speaks: The Newark Earthworks
6:30 pm, Wednesday, October 11
Tremont Library
UA Historical Society | uahistory.org

Beggars Night & Pumpkin Patrol
6-8 pm, Tuesday, October 31
Throughout UA neighborhoods
UA Police & Pumpkin Patrol ensure children are safe while passing out candy.

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