



FEBRUARY 2023
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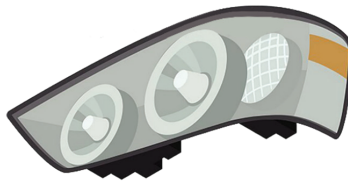


THE UNIVERSITY PARK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

UP to DATE

Operation Headlight

Six-Week Summary



It's been a very busy, but productive, six weeks since we launched the installation of the three new gate access systems (cameras, swing gate operators, barrier arms and Henley's Watchman system) in University Park as well as the training for, and affixing of, headlight decals to the vehicles in each neighborhood.

So how did we do? "The proof is in the pudding," and the results speak for themselves.

- ✓ Gates change-out (three locations)

COMPLETED ON SCHEDULE...AND ON BUDGET!

- ✓ Neighborhood decal installation training — **COMPLETED!**
- ✓ Decal affixed to headlights in Phase 1 — **COMPLETED!**
- ✓ Chairs "took the lead" & organized on-site decal installation!
- ✓ Fifteen resident volunteers assisted PBM with decal installation in neighborhoods outside of their own neighborhood!
- ✓ **Estimated cost for "Operation Headlight" — ON BUDGET!**

See the updated schedule for "Operation Headlight" on page 2

continued on page 2




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STOP ... DO NOT REMOVE YOUR BARCODE decal from your vehicle! The RFID decal will not open any University Park gates until mid-April. If you have already done this, you will not get a new barcode decal and you must enter the front gate in the visitor lane. You will also not be able to enter or exit at the back gate.

Operation Headlight

Summary (continued from page 1)

<u>Dates</u>	<u>"Operation Headlight" Activity</u>	<u>Participant(s)</u>
Jan 30 - Feb 3	Phase 1 final week	Neighborhoods in Group 3
Feb 6 - Feb 17 	No decal installations Accept request forms	Admin catch-up Lot owners with additional vehicles & long-term tenants
Feb 20 - Mar 3	Phase 2 begins	Lot owners not completed in Phase 1, lot owners needing additional decals & long-term tenants
Mar 4 - Mar 10 	No decal installations Accept request forms	Admin catch-up
Mar 13 - Mar 24	Phase 3 begins	PBM staff, vendors & any other decals not yet installed
Mar 27 - Mar 31 	No decal installations Accept request forms	Admin catch-up
Apr 3 -	All RFID decal installations resume at The Community Center	



March 11 - 12, 2023

23rd Annual Show

Art in the Park 2023 is shaping up with high expectations! The number of new residents who are artists and the number of long-term residents who have just recently burst into the UP art scene promise new, exciting looks and styles at Art in the Park. Just two years ago when 30-some artists entered the show, 62 artists will be showing their talent and creativity this year!

The show will again be held in the Lakeside Room at the Country Club.

Last year 900 visitors—including 300 from outside the Park—attended the show.

As traditionally, there will be an artist-invitation-only reception and dinner on Friday, March 10. Then we open to University Park and the public Saturday and Sunday, March 11-12, at 10:00 am.

Art in the Park is an annual exhibit of fine art, from photography and sculpture to paintings and mixed media. Three professional artists - painters Leslie Butterfield and Colleen Cassidy and

photographer Eric Austen - will serve as judges to select the cash awards for individual works. And, as before, each visitor can vote for the highly sought after People's Choice Award.

Much of the art and many prints and greeting cards of the art will be available for sale. Mark your calendar for another stellar Art in the Park!

PONDS COMMITTEE

Did you know that the “rat bait stations” many of us in UP have alongside our homes are killing more than just rats?. We are losing innocent predators like Eagles, Hawks, Bob Cats, Owls, Raccoons and Vultures after they eat a rat that ate from the bait stations. The rat ingests an anticoagulant in the stations which is transmitted to consuming predators and the predators end up internally bleeding to death. [CLICK here www.raptorsarethesolution.org](http://www.raptorsarethesolution.org)

Many of the pest control companies recommend the posting of bait stations containing anticoagulants. And they are effective in killing the rats. But then the rat becomes a toxic food for the predators.

Unlike the rats up north who desire to come into homes to seek food, our “Palm Rats” or “Fruit Rats” in Florida have plenty of food from the “palm nuts” hanging on our palms. The palm rats generally come into our attics, not our houses. They find the attics a safe place to give birth to their young. It is dry and there are no intruders in the attics. Once the newborn leaves the attic, they return later to the same attic to give birth to their kids. A continuous cycle.

There are alternatives to posting rat bait stations outside our homes to keep the critters out of our attics. The first consideration is plugging in rodent repellent light bulbs in the attic. They will scare away not only rats, but bats, raccoons, and squirrels. The high frequency sound from the lights, which we cannot hear, is quite offensive to the rodents, so they don't come in the attic. All of our UP homes have at least one light fixture in the attic. Consider the purchase of Pic Rodent Repellent lamps online and installing them in your attic. The larger homes may need to post two lamps in the attic. Another alternative is an ultrasonic pest repellent generator also available online. The savings from avoiding the cost of servicing the bait stations will pay for the lights/frequency generators!

The other more expensive alternative is to provide “exclusions” so the rodents cannot get in. There are many wildlife services that can provide screens to prevent critters from getting in the attic.





FEBRUARY 5-17, 2023

Ending Child Hunger, One Backpack AT A Time!

Manatee County is home to approximately 3,500 homeless people—many are children. University Park has been supporting F.E.L.T. annually for over 10 years. It was the original backpack program in Manatee County and serves the most vulnerable children in our community—those who are homeless.

Each child and their family in the F.E.L.T. program is prequalified to receive a weekend distribution of food supplied in backpacks. The program continues to grow serving more children across more schools who need this help.

UP resident donations allow F.E.L.T. to buy food at bulk price and feed 1,415 empty little tummies *each week* in 54 Manatee County schools.

Three Ways To Donate!

1

**Make a check payable to:
The Flanzer Trust
(F.E.L.T./University Park
in the memo line)**

Your donation will be matched
1:1 up to \$500.

Mail or drop check at the
University Park Community Center
8301 The Park Boulevard,
University Park, FL 34201
(before the gatehouse)
or at the
University Park Country Club
Administration Office

2

**Join the
Outreach Committee
February 10 + 17 at
the Varsity Club Happy Hour**

Bring Cash for a 50/50 Raffle!
Purchase \$20 Tickets for
the Booze+Backpack+Dinner Raffle
valued at \$500!

RAFFLE TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW!

To Purchase, email:
maryhohler@gmail.com
or
paula.lapierre@gmail.com

3

**Donate on
The Flanzer Trust Website**

<https://donate.flanzertrust.org/>
Choose 'Feeding Empty Little Tummies'
as your charity & in 'donor note' include a
reference to University Park

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE F.E.L.T. CHARITY

www.feltinc.org 941.896.7870

Feeding Empty Little Tummies Inc. is a 501c3 non-profit, recognized by the Irs. Tax ID: 45-2898383

Living Behind the Gates

If you see something say something!

There has been much attention given recently to our new gate operators with their bright LED barrier arms and our RFID tags. But what does it really mean to live in a gated community like University Park?

Our main entrance is more imposing than others in that it is an 'attended' gate, 24/7. Gate activity, front rear and at Henley, is under video surveillance. Our Gatehouse personnel provide access control, a sense of privacy and they ensure that only authorized visitors and commercial vehicles are granted entry to our community. The Gatehouse is 'home base' for the Roving Patrol that operates Monday-Friday from 7 am to 11 pm and also Thursday through Saturday 11 pm to 7 am. Finally, the community's perimeter footprint provides a sense of boundary although much of the perimeter is not fenced.

Although UP's gated community qualities provide an invaluable first line of defense, they could also lull residents into a sense of complacency. It is important to recognize that University Park provides access control, not security. As always, if something affects your personal security including that of your family, your home, your vehicles or if you see something suspicious, say something-- do not hesitate to contact the Manatee County Sheriff's Office, 911 for emergencies. At home, use your security system if one is installed; keep your doors and windows locked unless in use and your garage doors closed. If you must leave a car in the driveway overnight, it should of course be locked.

With everyone's participation, University Park will continue to be our safe, beautiful place to call home!

Toilet "Trash" Talk

Some items should just not be flushed down your toilet

IT'S NOT A TRASH CAN!

Toilets are a modern-day plumbing convenience that takes care of human waste, but they're not so great at disposing of other items. Flushing certain household products, instead of tossing them in the trash can clog drainpipes, causes backup and overflow of sewage and contaminate the water systems or even cause environmental damage.



10 everyday items you should never flush down your toilet.

1. **"Flushable Wipes"**. These do not go down the toilet despite what it says on the package as they do not break down quickly and can get stuck in drains and cause clogs.
2. **Paper Towels and Tissues**. If you're out of toilet paper, paper towels and facial tissues are not a substitute since these products were designed to absorb water, not dissolve in it. They'll likely block up your pipes.
3. **Cotton Balls, Rounds & Swabs**. Although they might seem small enough to flush, they do not break down in water and tend to build up inside pipelines.
4. **Feminine Products-tampons, sanitary pads, etc.** are designed to absorb liquid and will expand to several times larger than their original size and easily block pipes.
5. **Dental floss**. Usually made of Nylon or Teflon, it does not dissolve in water and can wrap around other products and create large clumps that can clog pipes.
6. **Adhesive Bandages**. Some are made of non-biodegradable plastic which can pollute water systems and the sticky adhesive can also adhere to other items.
7. **Medications and Other Household Materials**. To help prevent water pollution, never flush hazard household material or your medicines unless they are on the FDA Flush List.
8. **Cigarette Butts**. Dumping these in the toilet can introduce potentially harmful chemicals into the water system and harm wildlife.
9. **Fats, Oils, or Grease**. As a rule, you should not flush food down the toilet ever as it can be especially harmful for drains. Although these ingredients might start in liquid form, they can solidify and attach to the interior lining of your pipes which will block normal items from passing through.
10. **Kitty Litter**. This waste, despite ad claims, should never be flushed down the toilet as it will expand as it absorbs moisture and inevitably block the plumbing.

You can find more about each of these "do not flush trash" items in the FDA publication "American Water" or from your friendly local plumber.

Beware and Be Wary

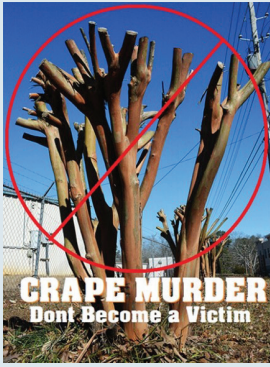
Alert to Use of Nextdoor Website and its App

It has come to our attention that after a two-year hiatus Nextdoor is back sending letters to University Park residents in St. James and Warwick by USPS to sign up for their site. Therefore, we are reissuing below the article that we sent to the entire community in the July 2021 issue of UP to Date. The same alerts and cautions apply today.

A good number of University Park residents use the Nextdoor website or its App. Nextdoor is a hyperlocal social networking service for neighborhoods that launched in 2011 and has increased its presence exponentially throughout the US and in 10 other countries. Their business strategy is to connect neighborhoods and facilitate interchange and connectivity between residents. It has many good platforms for users and normally is beneficial.

We ask all of you who use this networking service to double check the privacy details when you log-in to Nextdoor's website or use the app and do not use University Park with your name. We have discovered we now have at least 12 areas near us including—Palm Aire, Cooper Creek, Colonial Park even up to State Road 64--claiming that their posts are emanating from University Park. An example of social media shaming. If you would like to read a profile of Nextdoor check Wikipedia so you know why you must be so careful how you use its website and app.

Again, be aware of the privacy settings, make sure that you do not allow your name to be used, and if you use the app, please don't use a connection to University Park.



It's Murder! Crape murder ...

Florida's worst gardening crime

Indiscriminate pruning of crape myrtle trees - shortening trees and turning beautiful trunks into thick ugly stubs with gnarled knobby "knuckles". Soon the new growth produces a thicket of long, whiplike branch sprouts from each knuckle that are too weak to support the flowers and hang straight down like cooked spaghetti. The truth is that we rarely kill them with bad pruning practices - we just make them really UGLY.

Crape myrtles bloom on new wood but the fallacy is that they must be brutally cut back to produce more blooms. Not so. Topping or severely pruning the tree is the fastest way to ruin the tree. You get more blooms without over pruning.

If you cut off branches larger than your pinkie finger or a pencil, you cause scarring of branches that look like big fists. These cuts produce skinny, weak branches that are just sad looking. Another side effect of over pruning is the sprouting of whips at the bottom of the tree because it is trying to survive the damage that has just been caused. Some tree "experts" insist that you will get twice as many blooms from this kind of pruning, and it is just not true.

Why do people commit crape murder?

- They bought a tree that outgrew its space too fast.
- They think it makes the tree bloom more heavily.
- They see their neighbors do it and think it's the right thing to do.

How to repair crape murder:

- Each cut trunk will send out lots of new shoots. Choose the 3 best shoots that grow up and out on each trunk. These will be the new trunks. Cut off the rest of the new shoots.
- For the next 2 years, remove any additional shoots that sprout from the cut ends. And remove any side branches that grow from the saved shoots.
- At the third year, the tree shall have recovered and have many more branches and blooms.
- If your crape myrtle is already too big, just dig it up and move it to a roomier location. These transplant well.
- Prune in late winter - February is a good time. Remove suckers from the base, remove crossing branches and any branches growing toward the middle of the tree.



THE GALLERY AT UP

The Gallery at UP invites you to stop by the Community Center and see what the artists have created for the SKY gallery!! Now through April 2023.

Women's Club Holiday Gift-giving

The University Park Women's Club gathered to share holiday spirit on December 13th at the Lakewood Ranch Country Club. More than 160 members shared a special meal and contributed to a 'giving' event.

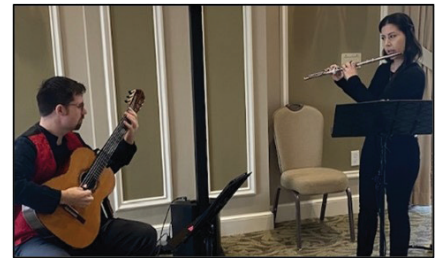
Kayla Terrel, Development Director from HOPE Family Services was presented a special gift for the holiday season. As an Outreach project of the Women's Club, Outreach Co-Chair, Marilyn Huebner presented Ms. Terrel with a check for \$3,000!



Pictured above are the gracious models: Janie Bush, Carol Shabe, Sharon Davis, Hannah Miller, Eve Pollock, Pamela Reilly, Amy Gay, Lynda Morrison, Suzanne Van Gundy, Jen Bauer & event coordinator, Gwen Murphy

Following the opening remarks from President Karen Vereb, the membership was 'teased' for the upcoming 'Fashion is Art' event by Gwen Murphy, the event coordinator. On February 8th, attendees will experience the fashions by Darci boutique and Hearts Desire both located in Sarasota. This annual event is promised to be an amazing day of shopping, lunch and laughs. Additionally, our own Jeanie Blazey (UPWC member) will be featuring her artwork.

The holiday spirit was brought to life by an award-winning flute and guitar



ensemble, GSDUO. GSDUO formed in 2010 and have delighted audiences around the world with a diverse repertoire of classical, jazz, Latin American, and popular music. Flutist, Angela Galestro, and guitarist, Jonathan Smith, performed a special collection of holiday melodies to celebrate the event! For more information about GSDUO, visit their website [here](#).



With the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, the table centerpieces, remind us to stay calm and enjoy the 'present' as it is a 'gift'. As Eleanor Roosevelt once said, "Tomorrow is a mystery. Today is a gift. That's why we call it The Present". Each one of the gnomes found a forever home with a UPWC member in attendance.

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2023 Comcast Contract Task Force Update

In 2015, UPCA signed, at the time, an exceptional “bulk contract” with Comcast on behalf all University Park homeowners.

Bulk telecommunications services are exactly what they sound like! A bulk agreement is a contract between a homeowner’s association and a vendor for providing internet and/or cable services to all residents within the community. And it comes with great benefits for the community such as lower resident costs, customized guaranteed service performance, white glove customer service and consistent and transparent service with predictable annual increases.

The first bulk Comcast Contract team consisted of resident volunteers along with the representative for the developer who then signed the contract on behalf of UPCA. And since that contract expires at the end of this year the necessary fact-finding has begun in earnest so there is no disruption of service come next January. The 2023 Comcast Contract Task Force (CCTF) consists of UPCA Board Director Lars Lundholm, Kris Pizzi and James Pearson. Their first step was to set goals and objectives with the priority to secure the best internet service available for the entire community—homeowners, association, and the Country Club. By locking in the best internet and WI-FI capability, the rest of the package will fall into place—TV channels, streaming services etc.

During the initial “fact finding” meetings, 3 distinct alternatives were identified:

1. Continue with Comcast since they own the infrastructure (Fiber-optic cables) and renegotiate another bulk contract.
2. Change to another telecommunication company that offers faster internet capacity but at a competitive price.
3. Walk away from a bulk contract and negotiate individual solutions for specific resident user needs.

Here’s the CCTF’s Action Plan.

- Continue to update our community as more information is received;
- Field a resident survey to obtain input on the service Comcast has provided the past 7 years;
- Meet with communities that have recently left Comcast and “vet” their replacement communications company;
- Start initial talks with our Comcast Account Manager;
- And, have a proposal ready to present to The Board in April or early May with final negotiations completed with the selected company by October.

PBM MAIN

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Park Boulevard Management Offices
are located in the
UPCAI Community Center
just before the gatehouse at
8301 The Park Boulevard.
Their hours of operation are:
8:30 am -5:00 pm

UPCAI Board of Directors

Tom Christopher

Board President
2022 - 2023

Bill Lockhorn

Board Vice President
2022 - 2023

Peggy Lowndes

Board Director
2022 - 2023

Peter Conway

Board Secretary
2022 - 2024

Pat Thompson

Board Treasurer
2022 - 2024

Janette Gatesy

Board Director
2022 - 2024

Lars Lundholm

Board Director
2022 - 2024

SAVE THE DATE

Most committees are
currently meeting online via Zoom.
Watch your emails for the
Zoom information for each meeting.

Architecture & Landscape Committee

Fridays at 10:00 am

Chair Council

Second Monday each month
4:00 pm
In Person at The Lakeside Room
and via Zoom

Finance Committee

Once per quarter
day subject to change
3:30 pm

Ponds Committee

First Thursday every other month
2:00 pm

UPCAI Board of Directors

Third Thursday each month
10:00 am

Infrastructure Committee

Second Thursday each month
2:00 pm

UP to Date

Can be found on the UPCA website
<https://upcai-fl.com/lifestyle/>.
To send comments, ask questions or
add suggestions for articles,
contact Jennifer Everingham at
jeveringham@upcai-fl.com

UPCAI Website

<https://www.upcai-fl.com>

dwellingLIVE

<https://community.dwellinglive.com/universitypark.aspx>