

APRIL/MAY 2024

The Gateway

UNIVERSAL CITY COMMUNITY MAGAZINE



NORTHVIEW *Splashpad*

FAVORITE UC SUMMER COOL SPOT REOPENS
SEE DETAILS PAGES 12-13

Taxes Bookkeeping Audits



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VOTE ELECTION 2024

MAY ELECTIONS

In May each year, Universal City residents have an opportunity to vote for candidates vying for a position on City Council.

On Saturday, May 4th, 2024, Universal City voters will determine representation for Mayor and three Council seats.

The candidates are listed in the order which they will appear on the ballot:

	Mayor:	
	Tom Maxwell	
	Councilmember(s):	
	Bernard Rubal Richard Edwards	
	Lori Putt Phil Vaughan*	
	Paul Najarian* Nick Ferguson	
	(* incumbent)	

The three Council candidates and candidate for Mayor receiving the greatest number of votes will be elected for the 2024-2026 term of office. Universal City Councilmembers represent the entire City; all six candidates will appear on the same ballot item. Voters may vote for up to three candidates.

Early Voting: Monday, April 22nd through Monday, April 30th
Election Day: Saturday, May 4th

If you are not currently registered to vote, the last day to register is Thursday, April 4th, 2024. For more information about voter registration, visit the Secretary of State's voting resource at VoteTexas.gov or call 800-252-VOTE.

Notice to Voters Registered in Bexar County

Bexar County elections function under Vote Centers. Vote Centers allow Guadalupe County residents to vote at any polling location in Guadalupe County during Early Voting and on Election Day. Bexar County Early Voting and Election Day locations in Universal City will be posted on the City website and on City Hall bulletin boards. For a complete list of polling locations for voters registered in Bexar County, visit: <http://elections.bexar.org/>

Notice to Voters Registered in Guadalupe County

Guadalupe County will also be using Vote Centers in the May 2024 Election. Vote centers..." with "Vote Centers allow Guadalupe County residents to vote at any polling location in Guadalupe County during Early Voting and on Election Day. Guadalupe County Early Voting and Election Day locations in Universal City will be posted on the City website and on City Hall bulletin boards. For a complete list of polling locations for voters registered in Guadalupe County, visit: <https://www.co.guadalupe.tx.us/elections/>

Universal City Municipal Directory

2150 Universal City Blvd.
Universal City, TX 78148
Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Administration - The following can be reached by dialing 210.659.0333, and then entering the extension number listed:

Building Official	Jaclyn Redmon	7 2 4
City Clerk	Maribel Garcia	7 4 8
City Manager	Kim Turner	7 0 5
Code Compliance Officer	7 2 5
Court Administrator	Brenda Watkins	7 1 5
Community Relations	Regina Carmona	7 2 1
Development Services/EDC	Michael Cassata	7 2 0
Finance	Christine Green	7 0 8
Fire Chief	Todd Perna	7 8 6
Health Official	Anabel Maldonado	7 2 7
Permit/Zoning	Linda Iglehart	7 2 3
Police Chief	Johnny Siemens	7 5 5
Stormwater Inspector	Wes Keller	7 2 2
Water Billing	7 1 0

Departments

Animal Care & Control	210-659-0333	EXT. 700
Fire Department	210-659-0333	EXT. 250
Golf Course	210-659-0333	EXT. 653
Library	210-659-0333	EXT. 048
Parks/Pavilion Rental	210-659-0333	EXT. 364
Police Department	210-659-0333	EXT. 353
Public Works	210-659-0333	EXT. 364

City Council

Mayor

John Williams
mayor@uctx.gov
210-659-0333 Ext 737

Councilmember

Christina Fitzpatrick
Council1@uctx.gov
210-659-0333 Ext 734

Councilmember

Phil Vaughan
Council4@uctx.gov
210-619-0731

Councilmember

Paul Najarian
Council6@uctx.gov
210-659-0333 Ext 732

Councilmember

Ashton Bulman
Council5@uctx.gov
210-659-0333 Ext 733

Councilmember

Bear Goolsby
Council2@uctx.gov
210-659-0333 Ext 735

Councilmember

Steven Buck
Council3@uctx.gov
210-659-0333 Ext 736

www.UCTX.gov

For EMS, Police and Fire Emergencies
ALWAYS Call 911

Get notified of emergencies affecting the City or your neighborhood! Sign up for Blackboard Connect free of charge, www.UCTX.Gov/Connect. Choose how you get notified: text, landline, cellphone, or email. All information is kept confidential. Get Connected, Stay Informed — Blackboard Connect.

UNIVERSAL CITY MEETINGS

APRIL/MAY 2024

Meetings:

- April 11, 2024** 5:00pm
Economic Development Corporation Meeting
- April 16, 2024** 6:30pm
City Council Regular Meeting
- April 22, 2024** 6:00pm
Board of Adjustment Meeting
- April 23, 2024** 6:00pm
Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
- May 6, 2024** 6:00pm
Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting
- May 7, 2024** 6:30pm
City Council Regular Meeting
- May 9, 2024** 5:00pm
Economic Development Corporation Meeting
- May 14, 2024** 6:30pm
City Council Special Meeting: Canvassing May 2024 Election
- May 15, 2024** 6:00pm
Library Advisory Commission
- May 20, 2024** 6:00pm
Board of Adjustment Meeting
- May 21, 2024** TBA
Special Joint Meeting of the EDC and City Council; City Council Regular Meeting
- May 27, 2024**
Offices Closed for Memorial Day
- May 28, 2024** 6:00pm
Park and Recreation Commission Meeting



MAY 2024 UNIFORM ELECTION DATES:

Last Day to Register to Vote in May 2024 Election:
April 4, 2024

Early Voting for May 2024 Uniform Election:
April 22-25, 2024.
April 26, 2024 FOR GUADALUPE COUNTY ONLY.
BEXAR COUNTY OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED.
April 27-30, 2024.

Election Day for May 2024 Uniform Election:
May 4, 2024 7am-7pm

More election information can be found on the UCTX.gov website under the City Clerk tab.

Parks Partners' Designer Purse Bingo Delivers Glamour and Goodwill



On March 2nd, Parks Partners hosted the much-anticipated Designer Purse Bingo event, drawing in a modest crowd of 190 residents eager to try their luck at winning luxurious handbags. The event's popularity was evident, with tickets selling out three weeks in advance, showcasing the enduring community interest in supporting local initiatives.

Local business sponsors, led by Walmart as the naming sponsor, played a pivotal role in enabling Parks Partners to offer an impressive array of designer purses as prizes. Additionally, contributions from residents and businesses alike added to the excitement with door prizes and raffles, each valued at over \$700, tucked neatly into brand-new designer bags.

Parks Partners' commitment to enhancing Universal City's parks and recreational facilities is noteworthy, as demonstrated through their history of successful fundraisers. Projects such as the Aina B. Blake Dog Park, shade coverings for playgrounds, security lighting, and benches in park areas stand as testaments to their dedication to community improvement.



Events like Designer Purse Bingo, Casino Night, Wine on the Vine, and the beloved Universal City Pumpkin Patch serve not only as fundraising opportunities but also as moments of community bonding and engagement. Through initiatives like these, Parks Partners continues to foster a sense of unity and pride among Universal City residents, ensuring that the parks and recreational facilities remain inviting spaces for all to enjoy.



MORE PHOTOS ON PAGES 6-7

"We are so moved by the response and support for our events. None of this would be possible without the support of the community, both businesses and residents, and we can't wait to do more!"

– Lori Putt, Parks Partners President

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BUILDING STRONGER

MAY IS BUILDING SAFETY MONTH

Get your construction hat ready because Universal City is revving up for its annual Building Safety Month campaign! Presented by the International Code Council and its esteemed partners, this worldwide initiative shines a spotlight on the importance of building codes for providing a strong and resilient community.

With themes emphasizing the vital importance of up-to-date building codes, we're ensuring that Universal

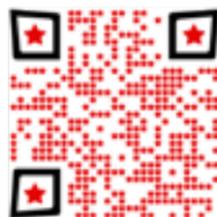
City stands strong in the face of any challenge. As the threat of natural disasters looms larger, building safety becomes paramount. Mitigating disaster risks through rigorous adherence to codes isn't just smart – it's essential for safeguarding lives and property.

Join the Universal City Development Services' community events for an opportunity to chat with City experts and local builders about fortifying your home sweet home. Your family's safety is our priority!

**Saturday, May 11th • 10 AM:
Aging in Place**

**Monday, May 13th • 6 PM
Homeowner Basics**

**LET'S BUILD A
SAFER TOMORROW TOGETHER!**



FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT JACLYN REDMON AT THE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT: 210-659-0333 EXT. 724.

ATTENTION 12-14 YEAR OLDS!

Universal City

Camp:
JUNE 3-7

Graduation:
JUNE 8

LUNCH IS
PROVIDED!

8 am - 1 pm

Join the Universal City Police & Fire Departments for a hands-on, interactive camp for aspiring first responders! Learn first-aid, fire safety, crime prevention, and experience first responder life!

To sign up, email Christina Fitzpatrick at UCHeroCamp@gmail.com

CHECK OUT
THE FUN FROM
2023!

RESIDENTIAL BRUSH COLLECTION

As the vibrant blooms of spring begin to grace neighborhoods, it's time to prepare for the seasonal task of residential brush collection.

**Next WM Brush Collection
April 22, 2024**

TO ENSURE YOU DO NOT MISS THE TRUCK WHEN IT COMES TO YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD, PLEASE REVIEW THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES.

VERY IMPORTANT!

All brush for collection must be at the curb by Monday at 7AM of the scheduled pickup week.

To ensure you do not miss the truck when it comes to your neighborhood, please review the following guidelines. Residents may begin placing brush at the curb for pickup on the Wednesday prior to collection date. Example: For the Monday, April 22nd collection, residents may begin placing brush curbside as early as Wednesday, April 17th.

Waste Management will begin collecting brush on Monday and work their way through the City collecting brush during the week. Once the collection truck leaves your area, it will not return so please have all brush curbside by the Monday scheduled to ensure you do not miss the collection.

In the event that WM does not collect all your bags/brush, they will return. Quite often, the collection trucks fill up and they will have to return with an empty one to continue the route.

Please review the following procedures to prepare your brush for pickup. If brush is not bagged and bundled properly, WM will not collect it.

Brush collection is limited to 6 cubic yards in total including both bags of leaves and bundles of limbs.

Branches and limbs must be cut to 4ft. in length, no thicker than 6in. in diameter and bundled. Loose branches will not be picked up. WM workers lift branches into the trucks by hand. If they are not cut properly, they will not be able to collect.



Trees trimmed by a tree service company will not be picked up. Before hiring a company, ensure they will remove the brush at completion of the job.

Leaves should be bagged and weigh no more than thirty-five (35) pounds per bag. Trash bags should only contain leaves, grass clippings, and other similar materials. Rocks, gravel, and soil should not be placed in trash bags. Small trimmings and grass clippings can also go in the twice weekly trash carts year-round.

For additional brush collection services, please visit www.UCTX.gov/WasteServices.

Reminder: UC Public Works provides a free brush chipping service during the Spring Clean Up dates, April 11-14 & April 18-21. An appointment is required.



DATES:

APRIL 11-14
APRIL 18-21

HOURS:

8AM-5PM

LOCATION:

PUBLIC WORKS
256 KITTY HAWK

www.UCTX.gov

210-658-5364



BULK ITEMS

Dumpsters are available for Universal City residents to dispose of bulk household items. Proof of residency is required. No commercial dumping permitted. No TVs or computer monitors accepted.



HAZARDOUS WASTE

Hazardous materials can be dropped off any day of the clean-up. Motor oil is not accepted.

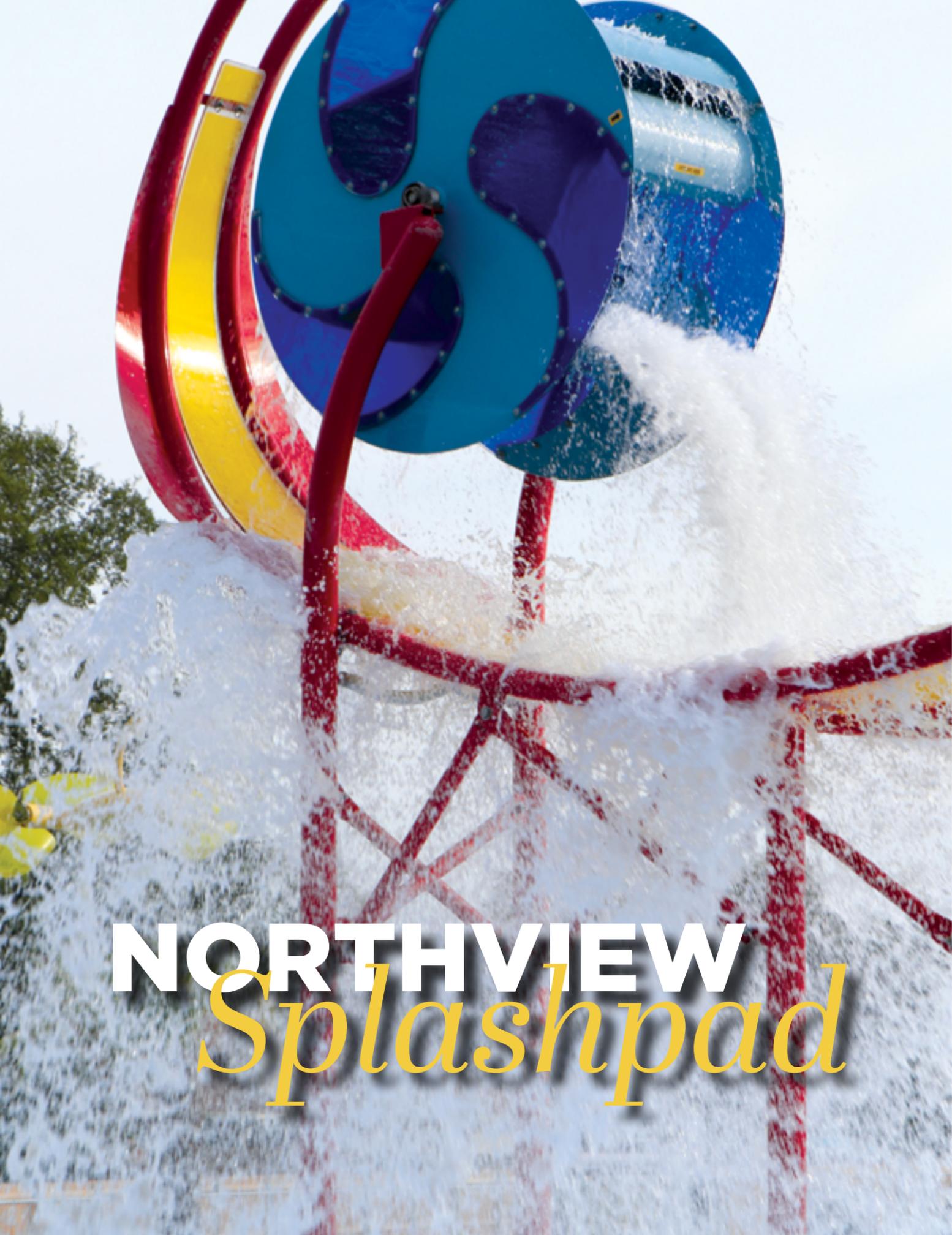
Please visit www.UCTX.gov for complete list of accepted items.



BRUSH CHIPPING

Public Works will not accept brush. 30 mins of free chipping service is available by appointment during the clean-up dates.

Call 210-658-5364 by APRIL 18th to make an appointment.



NORTHVIEW *Splashpad*

SUMMER FUN

A Summer Oasis

Get ready to make a splash this summer as Universal City opens the Northview Splashpad. Cool off and have fun from 10 am to 8 pm daily throughout the season.

Universal City is proud to feature the Northview Splashpad at the Northview Park located at 100 Randolph Plaza. The Splashpad is 4,000 sq. ft. with 16 water features grouped into three levels; Toddler Bay, Family Bay, and Teen Bay.

Designed with our youngest guests in mind, Toddler Bay offers gentle ground sprays and low-flow water features, including a friendly frog, playful turtle, and

whimsical butterfly. The highlight of the Family Bay is the 23 ft. tall spider which features four different water effects.

For those seeking a bit more excitement, Teen Bay offers the SuperWave, Luna Cannons, and Helio Ball. The SuperWave, with its 15-gallon reservoirs, promises an exhilarating experience for teens.

At Northview Splashpad, we prioritize environmental sustainability. Our timed system and full recirculation system ensure efficient water usage and conservation.

When visiting the Splashpad, please following the posted rules and guidelines:

Health & Sanitation:

- Swim diapers are required for babies and toddlers.
- Change soiled diapers immediately. Changing diapers within 6 feet of the Splashpad is prohibited.
- Use of the Splashpad if ill with diarrhea or a contagious disease is prohibited.
- Do not drink from the water features.
- No food or beverages allowed within 6 feet of the Splashpad.

Safety:

- No glass containers, alcohol, tobacco (including vaping), or sharp objects.
- No pets allowed.
- No skateboards, scooters, bicycles, roller blades, or motorized vehicles.
- Do not use during bad weather or lighting.

Play Activity:

- To activate the Splashpad, apply pressure to the button on top of activator post.
- No running or rough playing in the Splashpad area.
- No climbing on the Splashpad features or equipment.



Whether you visit the splashpad for a sprinkle or a soak, it will be the place to go for summer fun in the Universal City area. Pavilions are available for party reservations. Visit www.UCTX.gov/parks for more information and FAQs on the Northview Splashpad.



UC COMMUNITY *Together We Can*

Be a Part of Your Community

Discover new opportunities to make a difference in Universal City at the Volunteer Fair! Whether you are passionate about events, supporting local nonprofits, or shaping the future on City boards and commissions, there is a place for you.

Sunday, May 5, 2024
2:00-4:00 pm
Olympia Hills Event Center

Enjoy light refreshments and explore how you can lend your skills, time, and heart to causes that matter.

**Let's build a stronger,
more vibrant community together!**

- Friends of the UC Library
- Homes for the Homeless Pets
- Olympia Hills Golf Course
- Universal City Animal Shelter
- Universal City Events
- Universal City Public Library
- Universal City Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association

Universal City Boards and Commissions

- Animal Care and Control Advisory Board
- Board of Adjustment/Appeals
- City Council
- Economic Development Corporation
- Parks and Recreation Commission
- Planning and Zoning Commission
- Library Advisory Commission



EVENTS CALENDAR

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN
YOUR COMMUNITY

Cheers to Thursdays

OLYMPIA HILLS HAPPY HOUR

Every Thursday, our community comes alive with the perfect blend of live music, delicious bites, and refreshing drinks. Picture this: a lively atmosphere, toe-tapping tunes, and the aroma of scrumptious food filling the air. It's the ideal setting to unwind, mingle, and make lasting memories. Best of all, admission is free, and everyone is welcome! See you at Olympia Hills for the happiest hours in town!

- April 18th** **Gary Garcia**
- April – 25th** **Fiesta Community Happy Hour**
(Outside Patio)
- May 2nd** **Chris Cruz**
- May 9th** **Dennis Dietz**
- May 16th** **Zach Carney**
- May 23rd** **Chris Cruz**
- May 30th** **Luau Community Happy Hour**
(Outside Patio)

Let's turn Thursdays into the highlight of your week!

Olympia Hills Golf Course and Event Center
12900 Mount Olympus
5pm-8pm



Lady Whistledown & Universal City Public Library
cordially invite you to

TASTE TABLE SPECIAL EVENT

BRIDGERTON TEA PARTY

WEDNESDAY MAY 15, 2024

TAKE YOUR PLACE IN SOCIETY
& BE CROWNED THE NEXT DIAMOND OF
THE SEASON WITH YOUR BRIDGERTON
RECIPE SELECTION FOR THIS MONTH'S
TASTE TABLE COOKBOOK SELECTION.

1:00PM
UNIVERSAL CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY
MEETING ROOM

RSVP REQUIRED.
SELECT YOUR RECIPE AT THE CIRCULATION DESK.
PERIOD COSTUME ENCOURAGED.




UNIVERSAL CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY

SPECIAL PROGRAMS



Financial Planning Made Easy Thursday, April 11 @ 11:30 AM

These seminars will focus on providing individual and family financial education to create goals and strategies to achieve those goals. Free and open to the public. *Seminars conducted by a licensed Financial Services Professional.

For more information on all library programs, please visit our website at uctx.gov/library or follow us on Facebook & Instagram.

CALENDAR

FEB/MAR 24 YOUTH PROGRAMS

PAWS to Read: Read with Teddy
The Reading Education Assistance Dogs (R.E.A.D.) program uses therapy dogs as reading companions for children. These dogs serve as non-judgmental, attentive listeners, helping to alleviate the fear associated with reading aloud. Registration required. Visit www.UCTX.gov/library to register.
Saturday, April 6 @ 10:00 AM
Saturday, May 4 @ 10:00 AM

STORYTIME: Read, Sing, and Learn together!
Pre-school (ages 3-5):
Tuesdays @ 10:00am, Meeting Room
Toddlers (ages 2-3):
Tuesdays @ 11:00am, Meeting Room
Babies (ages 0-24 months):
Wednesdays @ 10:00am, Meeting Room

EXPLORATORIUM
Tuesdays @ 4:00 PM
Various STEAM projects and other cool activities such as crafting, building, and games. Each week is something a little different. Ages 6 and up.

FAMILY PROGRAMS
Puzzle Palz
All ages are welcome to join and solve all sorts of puzzles, from traditional to Sudoku, crossword, and more. Bring your own puzzles or work on group projects with others.
Saturday, April 6 @ 11:00 AM
Saturday, May 4 @ 11:00 AM

ADULT PROGRAMS (18 AND UP):

Crafty Crew
Bring your own personal crafty project to work on and meet with other crafters for some personal creative focus, great conversation. You will find attendees enjoying their crochet, embroidery, adult coloring, card making, and more.
Wednesday, April 10 @ 1:00 PM
Wednesday, May 8 @ 1:00 PM

Young @ Hearts Bingo (Senior Programs)
Open to Seniors ages 60 and up only.
Friday, April 5 @ 1:00 PM
Friday, April 12 @ 1:00 PM
Friday, May 10 @ 1:00 PM
Friday, May 31 @ 1:00 PM

Book Buddies Book Club
3rd Wednesday of the month @ 2:00pm in the Activity Room
Wednesday, April 17: The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hill by Robert Dugoni
Wednesday, May 15: Killers of the Flower Moon by David Crane

Taste Table Club:
Wednesday, March 20 @ 1:00pm
Wednesday, May 15 @ 1:00 PM

Taste Table Special Event: Bridgerton Tea Party
Love to make and taste new recipes? Select a recipe from this month's selected cookbook to bring for all to try. Best recipe wins a gift card to H-E-B! Registration is required and spots are limited. Sign-up at the circulation desk.

Scan the QR code to access the Library website, social media, programs, and catalog.

uctx.gov/library



EXPLORATORIUM

building, crafting, booking, gaming, & experimenting

designed for kids 6+

Tuesdays @ 4pm

[@universalcitypl](https://www.instagram.com/universalcitypl)

Weekly Story Times

Sing, Read, and Learn Together

Preschool (ages 3-5)
Tuesdays @ 10am

Toddlers (ages 2-3)
Tuesdays @ 11am

Babies (0-24 months)
Wednesdays @ 10am in the Meeting Room

[@universalcitypl](https://www.instagram.com/universalcitypl)

CRIME PREVENTION



REDUCE VEHICLE BREAK-INS

Breaking into vehicles has become organized and systematized by criminals. These loose organizations flood into an area, hit as many vehicles as possible, then quickly move on into the next neighborhood or city. Unfortunately, lack of awareness by vehicle owners is their predominant means of success.

Many news stories lately have had discussions on whether to lock or unlock the vehicle doors. Whichever method you choose, there remain further steps that can be taken to reduce the likelihood of being burglarized. If you choose to lock your vehicle's doors, consider tapered interior door lock buttons, and activate vehicle's alarm system. Though not foolproof, such devices can act as strong deterrents.

To reduce the likelihood that your vehicle is burglarized, following some simple rules will drastically make a difference:

- Park in heavily traveled and lighted areas when away from home.
- At home, park the vehicle in your driveway near a light source. In apartment complexes, park as close as possible to the apartment and under or near a light.

Don't leave any valuables in sight; better yet, remove valuables. Ultimately, the intent of the criminals is to search the vehicles for valuables. Specific items of value are as follows:

GUNS AND RIFLES

Trucks and larger vehicles tend to be a target for thieves looking for guns and rifles. They also know when it is hunting season and take advantage of that.

ELECTRONICS, ESPECIALLY LAPTOPS AND CELLPHONES

If you frequently commute with a laptop or tablet, set a reminder to take them inside the house each evening.

ANY ITEM WITH YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, DATE OF BIRTH, OR SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

Proof of car insurance and registration of vehicles can be accessed via websites and mobile apps. Keep your original documents safe inside the house.

KEYS LEFT IN THE CAR OR SPARE KEYS HID IN THE CAR

Don't hide them in the vehicle - they can easily be found. When your vehicle is in for service or repairs, remove all valuables and leave only the ignition key for the attendant. The trunk IS NOT a safe place to store valuables. Most vehicles have access to the trunk from the driver's compartment. So, if they can get in your car they can get into your trunk.

WALLETS, PURSES, CREDIT/DEBIT CARDS, CASH, CHECKBOOKS, AND PURCHASE RECEIPTS

The most effective means to thwart vehicle burglaries is an empty vehicle.

Protect yourself, your valuables, and your automobile.

Resolute in action. Gentle in nature.

- Wills, Trusts & Estate Planning
- Medical & Financial Powers of Attorney
- Probate & Trust Administration
- Business Formation
- Real Estate Drafting
- Probate, Business & Real Estate Litigation



Jason W. Barger • Attorney at Law

433 Kitty Hawk Rd., Suite 227 • Universal City, TX 78148

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THE GATEWAY

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Universal City, Texas 78148

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Searching for a **Pediatric Dentist** you can trust?

Come see **Dr. Christina Mueller** at Olympia Hills Junior Pediatric Dental! Keeping your child's smile healthy from their first breath to their first day at college. Dr. Mueller and her team love to meet new patients and create lifelong friendships! Our goal is to make your child's dental visit fun!

Dr. Mueller is a Board-Certified Pediatric Dentist specializing in treating all your child's dental needs. Conveniently located in Live Oak, Tx Call to schedule an appointment for your child today!

**OLYMPIA HILLS**
FAMILY DENTAL

8056 Shin Oak Drive, Live Oak, TX 78233 • (210) 658-3131