

DECEMBER 2024 / JANUARY 2025

# The Gateway

UNIVERSAL CITY COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

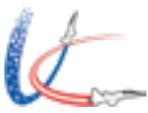
A woman with braided hair, wearing a red long-sleeved shirt, a white straw cowboy hat with a red band, and a blue bandana around her neck. She has red and white floral face paint on her cheeks and is smiling. She is holding a small American flag in her right hand and waving with her left hand. She is wearing blue jeans with a colorful patterned sash. The background is a blurred outdoor setting.

*CoverStory*

# UC VISION 35

**A GENERATIONAL GIFT**

**GRIEF TO GROWTH | SEWER SAVINGS**



# Universal City Municipal Directory

2150 Universal City Blvd. Universal City, TX 78148

Office Hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## ADMINISTRATION: 210-659-0333

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
Communications.....	Kathy Williams.....	7 0 1
Court Administrator .....	Brenda Watkins.....	7 1 5
Development Services/EDC .....	Michael Cassata.....	7 2 0
Finance.....	Christine Green.....	7 0 8
Fire Chief.....	Todd Perna.....	7 8 6
Health Official .....	Anabell 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**  
**Tom Maxwell**

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**  
**Lori Putt**

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



**Councilmember**  
**Ashton Bulman**

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

**Councilmember**  
**Bernard Rubal**

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

**Councilmember**  
**Bear Goolsby**

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

[www.UCTX.gov](http://www.UCTX.gov)



**For EMS, Police  
and Fire Emergencies  
Call 911**

DECEMBER 24/JANUARY 25

# MEETINGS

*Happy  
Holidays*

- **December 2, 2024..... 6 pm**  
*Planning & Zoning Meeting*
- **December 3, 2024.....6:30 pm**  
*City Council Regular Meeting*
- **December 12, 2024.....5 pm**  
*Economic Development Corporation Meeting*
- **December 17, 2024.....6:30 pm**  
*City Council Regular Meeting*
- **December 18, 2024.....6 pm**  
*Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting*
- **December 23, 2024.....6 pm**  
*Board of Adjustment Meeting*

**December 24-25, 2024**

**CLOSED Christmas Eve/Christmas Day**

- **January 1, 2024.....CLOSED**  
*New Year's Day*
- **January 6, 2024.....6 pm**  
*Planning & Zoning Meeting*
- **January 7, 2024.....6:30 pm**  
*City Council Regular Meeting*
- **January 9, 2024.....5 pm**  
*Economic Development Corporation Meeting*
- **January 15, 2024.....5:30 pm**  
*Library Advisory Commission Meeting*

**January 20, 2025**

**CLOSED Martin Luther King Day**

- **January 21, 2025.....6:30 pm**  
*City Council Regular Meeting*
- **January 27, 2025.....6 pm**  
*Board of Adjustment Meeting*
- **January 28, 2025.....6 pm**  
*Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting*

# Jingle & Mingle



  
OLYMPIA HILLS  
UNIVERSAL CITY, TX

FREE PICTURES WITH SANTA | DRINK SPECIALS | HOT CHOCOLATE BAR

DECEMBER 19 2024

Starting at 5 p.m.

12900 Mount Olympus Universal City, TX 78148

# Save the Date

## December 14, 2024

### National Wreaths Across America Day



## HONOR OUR LOCAL HEROES

Supported by The Friends of the UC Library

Sponsor a wreath to be placed on a veteran's grave at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.

Make a Donation:  
Scan QR Code or visit

[www.wreathscrossamerica.org/TX0054P](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/TX0054P)



## #LiveWithPurpose

## NeighborOfNote



### Going Strong at 88!

By United States retirement standards, Lorraine Schwartzbach could have fully retired. Twice. But for Miss Lorraine, as she is affectionately known, that's not in the cards right now.

Two days a week, she arrives at Universal City's 4 Kings restaurant at 3 a.m. Known for its fresh baked bread and delicious desserts, the restaurant itself is a local staple, having just celebrated its 13th anniversary.

When Miss Lorraine arrived at the restaurant one day recently, she had a surprise birthday celebration waiting for her. A week or so later, she was at a local political event.

If you ask her about fully retiring, you'll get one a version of the same message, "Not quite yet!!"



# Your Voice. Your Vision.

## UC Vision 35: Your Voice Matters!

*Editor's note: When the City ushers in a New Year in a few weeks, it'll mark the beginning of a critical project, UC Vision 35. UC Vision 35 is a ten-year Comprehensive Plan that provides a roadmap for the future of Universal City. This plan isn't about planning and zoning or who is running for office. It's about your family, your future and our goals as a community. The article was written by Gateway contributors City Manager Kim Turner, and Director of Economic Development Michael Cassata.*

In Universal City, we believe that every voice counts. As we embark on the journey of updating our Comprehensive Plan, your input will be crucial in shaping the future of our community. This plan isn't just a document; it's a vision that will guide our sustainable and organized growth, ensuring that we meet the evolving needs of our residents.

### Why a Comprehensive Plan?

The Comprehensive Plan is essential for determining how we allocate resources, fund projects, and manage land use effectively. It provides a framework within which we can identify opportunities for economic growth while also prioritizing quality-of-life issues. But the most important part? It reflects the desires and needs of our residents—you.

Our City Council plays a vital role in prioritizing strategies, but it's your insights that will inform these decisions. We know that residents often bring creative ideas to the table, ideas that can lead to innovative solutions for community challenges. Those who engage in the planning process not only gain a deeper understanding of governance but also build trust in our decision-making.

In the coming months, we invite you to participate in shaping the Comprehensive Plan through various avenues, including:

- **Public Meetings**  
Join us to discuss ideas and concerns.
- **Surveys and Questionnaires**  
Share your thoughts at your convenience.
- **Focus Groups**  
Engage in deeper conversations about specific topics.
- **Online Platforms**  
Connect and contribute digitally.
- **Collaboration Events**  
Work together with your neighbors to brainstorm solutions.



### STAY INFORMED!

To keep you updated, the City is launching a special website dedicated to the Comprehensive Plan. Here, you'll find detailed information on participation events, outcomes from meetings, and a timeline of the planning process. When the website launches, there are three ways the City can keep you informed, and we suggest you sign up for all options. Follow us on our official government Facebook page. And sign up for text alerts on our CivicAlert platform by registering at [www.uctx.gov/alerts](http://www.uctx.gov/alerts). Or, text UniversalCity to 38276.



# THE PROCESS:

6 MAJOR STEPS TO COMPLETE BETWEEN 14-18 MONTHS

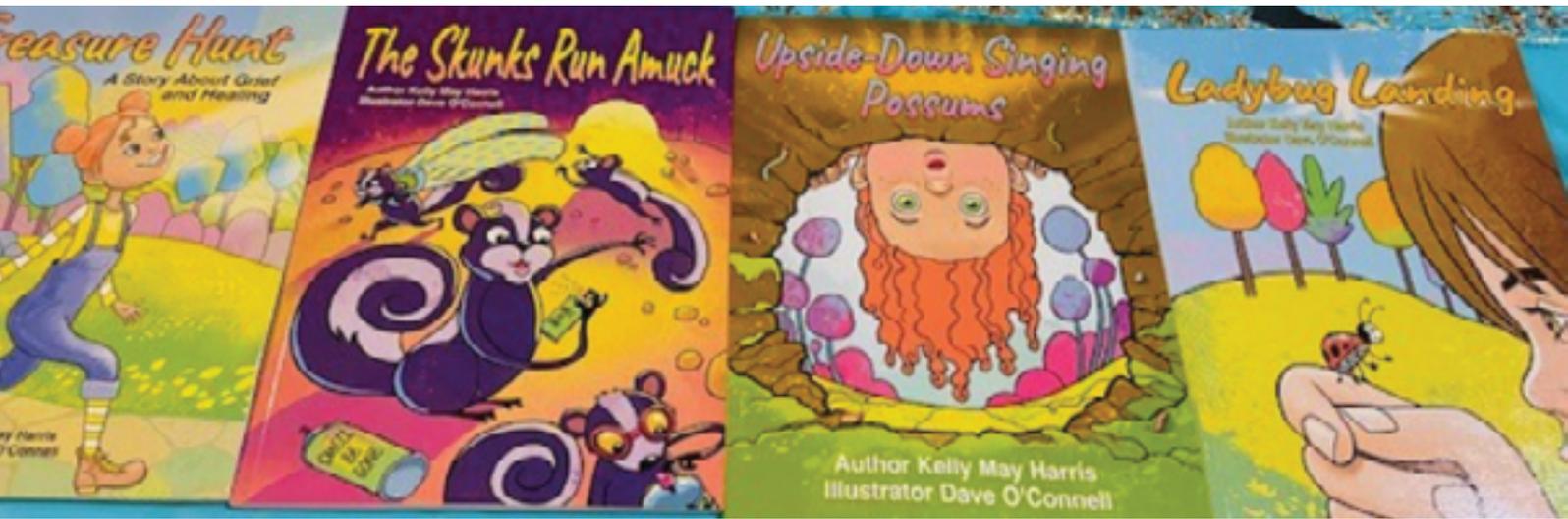


**We are here!**

**We want to hear from everyone!** — mature adults, families, young adults, and even children. Your diverse perspectives will enrich the planning process and ensure that we consider all viewpoints.

## Your Voice Matters!

Together, let's build a vision for Universal City that reflects our collective aspirations. We look forward to your input and ideas as the City embarks on this exciting journey. Your voice can inspire, connect, and lead us to a brighter future!



*“Momma I am more than my cancer.”*

— Kayla Harris

UCCommunity

# 124 Days

## The Loss of a Child

When the Harris family went to its primary care physician for routine annual physicals in April of 2021, that day permanently changed their lives.

Their 13-year-old daughter Kayla’s results revealed a diagnosis of AML. Acute Myeloid Leukemia. A blood cancer that is usually diagnosed in adults.

Kayla was admitted to the Children’s Hospital of San Antonio where she fought not only to keep her own spirits up, but she also used her fluent bilingual skills to be a cheerleader for other patients.

Mom Kelly May, dad Justin and sister Hayley were her stalwart supporters. 124 days after diagnosis, the Harris family lost its “precious spirit.” They relied on their faith to get them through. “That 124 days in the hospital He showed Himself to us in so many ways despite everything.”

## An Overcast Day in September

We learned about the Harris family's story on an overcast day in September when nearly a hundred people came out for the ribbon cutting and official grand opening of Universal City's First Baptist church's Communion Gardens. Executive Pastor Bryan Cash shared that the garden had a rough road to completion.

"We applied for a grant, and it didn't happen. So, I said O.K. Lord if you want it to happen, you're going to have to make it happen. Then we had a significant occurrence here. A beautiful girl named Kayla passed away and people began donating in her memory. So, their (the family's) deep loss became a great gain. Her mom Kelly May and sister Hayley are here today, and Hayley is going to cut the ribbon," Pastor Cash said.

Kelly and Haley stood out in bright gold t-shirts that read 'Gold for Childhood Cancer Awareness' on the front and withsmilestoshare.com on the back.

## Testimony Through Authorship

When we went to that website, we discovered mom Kelly's beautifully written and illustrated books. She is humble about the six books and on the website describes herself as Christian, wife and stay at home mom. *Ladybug Landing* was Kayla's favorite book. Her latest release, *Treasure Hunt, a Story About Grief and Healing*, is currently on sale on Amazon. Kelly May noted that Kayla drew a picture for the book *God is always Chasing After You*. "The day she drew that picture is the day she was ventilated. So, in a way, that picture became her voice."

Harris has also launched a grief support group that meets the second Tuesday of each month.

## Legacy

In addition to the books, the Harris family remembers Kayla in multiple ways. One of the most unique, painting various size rocks and leaving them at parks across the country, including one left right here in UC at Redhorse Park.

When we asked Kelly May what she asked her what she would say to someone local who finds that 'Kayla' rock, she smiled and said "Enjoy it. Hide it again so someone else can find it." 🍀

### Editor's note

We are so excited that we'll be able to bring you video versions of stories like this when our local public service channel premieres in the weeks ahead. Coming soon, UC TV. Your Stories on Demand.



**the Y**  
FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

**"BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO MOURN, FOR THEY SHALL BE COMFORTED."**  
-Matthew 5:4

**Gathering for Bereaved Parents**

No one expects to outlive their child. This is a group no one desires to be part of but will cherish once they are. Join us monthly to worship, pray, experience biblical encouragement and share hearts. You are not alone!

This group will meet monthly on the 2nd Tuesday at 6:30-8:00pm of each month starting: **October 8**

Held at the Schertz Senior Center:  
608 Schertz Parkway  
Schertz, TX 78154

For more information, please reach out to Kelly at [Kellyh15@icloud.com](mailto:Kellyh15@icloud.com) or 210-307-6515.

SCHERTZ FAMILY YMCA | 621 Westchester • 210-619-1900 • [ymcasatx.org/schertz](http://ymcasatx.org/schertz)

# Neighborhood Improvements



### **Olympia Hills 2023 Drainage Improvements**

Olympia Hills 2023 Drainage project was completed on October 1st. The project included the demolition of the pedestrian bridge between golf course holes 8 and 9, installation of 285 feet of limestone drainage channel through the fairways of holes 8 and 9 and a new steel and concrete bridge over the drainage channel for golf carts and pedestrians.

### **UC/ARPA Sanitary Sewer Rehab**

Construction for the 2024 Sanitary Sewer project began on May

25th and is expected to be completed by December. The project includes the replacement of 14,000 feet of city sanitary sewer main, rehabilitation of 50 city manholes and the replacement and reconnection of 275 sanitary sewer laterals.

### **Kitty Hawk Rd. Extension**

Construction for the Kitty Hawk Rd. Extension project started on July 8th and is expected to be completed by December. The project limits extend from Silver Springs to FM 1518. This new stretch of Kitty Hawk Rd. will help to improve response time for emergency vehicles when

servicing the newly developed area east of Cibolo Creek and FM 1518. This project also includes a new parking lot for the Universal City linear park trail system.

### **Kitty Hawk Rd. to Meadowland Sanitary Sewer Improvements**

Construction for this project started in May and is expected to be done by November. The scope of this project includes the replacement of 2,600 feet of sanitary sewer main from Kitty Hawk Rd. to Meadowland Dr.

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### **Hillview Dr. Street Improvements**

Construction began in September and is expected to be completed by December. The scope of this project includes the full reconstruction of Hillview Drive and all curbs, sidewalks and driveway approaches.

### **Universal City Thoroughfare and Roundabout**

This project had a November start date with an anticipated completion in June. It includes construction of a new roadway thoroughfare and roundabout intersection near the Walmart driveway off Kitty Hawk Rd. Also planned are water utility improvements, drainage improvements, new traffic signal, retaining walls, partial reconstruction of Walmart's parking facilities, and applying new parking stripes.

### **National Blvd. and East Langley Blvd.**

This project schedule runs from December 2024 until December of 2025. It includes the full reconstruction of both National Blvd. and East Langley Blvd. and all curbs, sidewalks and driveway approaches. You can also expect to see replacement of a section of the waterline on East Langley and storm drain improvements on National Blvd.

### **Persia Drive Drainage Improvements**

Construction for this project is expected to begin this month with a completion date of April of next year. It includes the installation of over 900 feet of storm drainpipe and nine storm drain inlets. Persia Drive will then be reconstructed in the summer of 2025 as part of an upcoming Street Bond Project.



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## PublicWorks

# New Uniforms

Universal City Public Works crews are sporting a brand new look! The updated uniforms are dark gray with a reflective stripe across the middle for better visibility and safety for workers like Jake Hull (L) and T.J. Thompson.

If you're out and about daily, you probably see how hard our Public Works crews work. When you spot them, (safely) give them a thumbs up!

## Business Insider



When Universal City invites residents to enjoy a free event like the Parks Partners Pumpkin Patch or annual Tree Lighting, it's because of our sponsors. Amazing local businesses that generously donate funds.

The title sponsor of this year's Tree Lighting is A&A Plumbing, Heating and Cooling. Like the other sponsors for the event, they step up every time.

The company, based in Schertz, was founded in 2007 by owners Delanah and Joey Suarez. When asked why the company has been so generous to Universal City, Delanah didn't hesitate.

The company, based in Schertz, was founded in 2007 by owners Delanah and Joey Suarez. Its 2000+ 5-star reviews commend the company for always going above and beyond. You'll have a chance to meet all of our generous sponsors at the Tree Lighting on December 3.

*“Joey Grew up in Universal City and feels it is important to give back to his community.”*

— Delanah Suarez

• Title Sponsor



PLUMBING  
HEATING · COOLING

# 2024 Universal City Tree Lighting

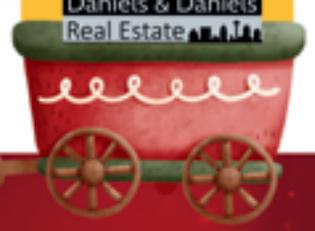
December 3, 2024 at 6 p.m.

## Thank You

## To our Sponsors!



Hillside Primary Care  
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# Reducing Your Sewer Fees

## With Sewer Averaging

Exciting news for residents: the city is geared up for our annual sewer averaging! The process, which began in November, gives residential customers the opportunity to reduce their sewer fees, potentially reducing your overall water bill.

### How does it work?

Residential sewer charges are based on the average water consumption over three billing periods beginning mid-November through mid-March. Customers tend to use significantly less water during

the winter, giving residents the best opportunity to reduce their sewer fees for the following year. During the winter averaging months, residents are encouraged to reduce their water usage and practice conservation.

The chart we've provided will help you find your winter averaging schedule. The first two digits of your utility account number is your route number.

CONTINUED on PAGE 15

AREA AND READING ROUTE # (THE FIRST TWO DIGITS OF YOUR ACCOUNT NUMBER IS YOUR ROUTE NUMBER.)	DATES FOR READING
Routes 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06 Aviation/Universal City Subdivision, Cibolo Bluffs, Golden Pond, Parkview Estates, Red Horse Ridge	November 16 - February 16
Routes 07, 08, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27 Golden Oaks, Heritage Hills, Park Olympia, Oro De Coronado, Red Horse Manor, Rose Garden, Sunrise Canyon, Orchard Park	November 23 - February 23
Routes 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 17, 18 Copano Ridge, Cimarron/Live Oak Village, Coronado, Emelia, Meadow Oaks, Springwood, Remington	December 2 - March 2
Routes 19, 20, 21 Forum Creek, Olympia	December 9 - March 9

Taxes

Bookkeeping

Audits



Armstrong,  
Vaughan  
& Associates, P.C.

941 West Byrd  
Suite 101  
Universal City, TX 78148

210.658.6229

Certified Public Accountants

info@avacpa.com

www.avacpa.com

CONTINUED from PAGE 14

If you have a water leak during the averaging period, you may appeal your newly assessed fees. Submit your request in writing along with copies of plumbing receipts to the Utility Department for consideration. Your request must be received as soon as the repairs are made, or after your first newly assessed fee which will be reflected on your April or May 2025 utility bill.

Here are some tips you can use to start saving water today!

- Repair water leaks as soon as possible! Residents can sign up for leak alerts through your online bill pay account.
- Take advantage of rebate programs!
- “Clean Up the Wash” – Receive a rebate for purchasing and installing an approved water and energy efficient washing machine.
- “Kick the Can” – Receive a rebate when you install a new low-flow toilet.
- When brushing your teeth, turn the water off until it’s time to rinse.

Consider drought-tolerant landscaping! Having lush, green grass is beautiful, but frequent watering can significantly increase your water usage. There are lots of drought tolerant plants that will save water and make your garden pop! Examples of drought tolerant plants include Texas sage, lavender, cacti, yucca, oleander, crepe myrtle, agave, and more!

Faulty toilet flappers are the most common cause of water leaks. A faulty flapper on your toilet can cost you if it’s allowed to run undetected. To check this, put a couple drops of food coloring in your toilets tank and see if the water flows into the bowl without flushing. If it does, that could indicate a leak.

Other places to look for leaks include the base of your water heater, faucets with faulty washers, and even your ice maker! If you suspect an issue underground, such as a leaky pipe or irrigation line, you may notice a patch of grass that is greener than the rest of the lawn.

Questions? please contact the Universal City Utility Department at 210-659-0333, option 2.

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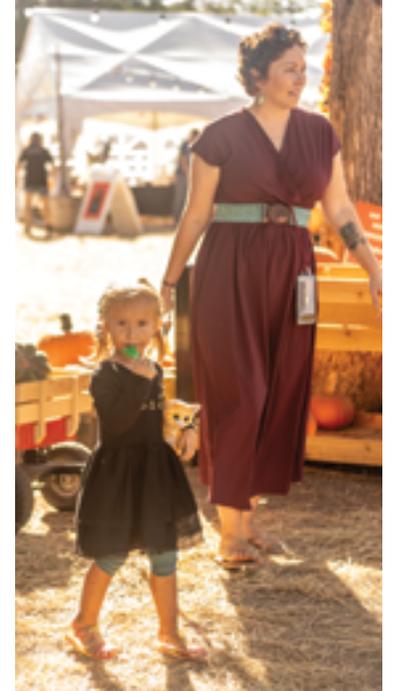
# Out & About



# 2024 Pumpkin Patch



# UCSnapshots



## CIVICREADY<sup>®</sup> IF YOU LIVE IN UNIVERSAL CITY BE PREPARED.

### CITY COUNCIL

NOTIFICATIONS OF CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS & AGENDAS

### UNIVERSAL CITY NOTIFICATIONS

SIGN UP TO RECEIVE NEWS & UPDATES FROM UNIVERSAL CITY

### PUBLIC SERVICES

INTERRUPTIONS/CHANGES TO WATER/UTILITIES, WM WASTE COLLECTIONS, ROAD CLOSURES

### EVENTS

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES & SPECIAL EVENTS

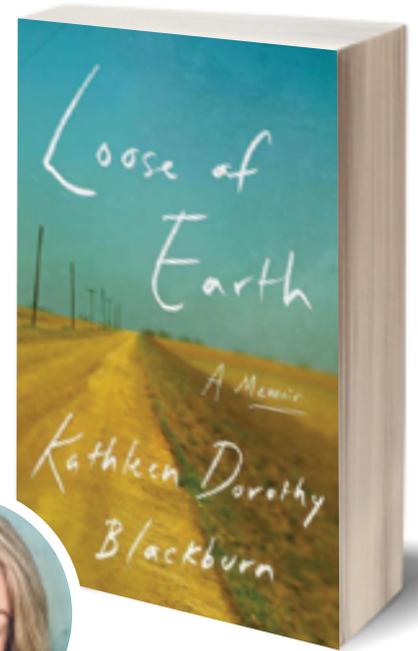


SIGN UP FOR CITY ALERTS AT [WWW.UCTX.GOV/ALERTS](http://WWW.UCTX.GOV/ALERTS)



# Honoring Our Veterans

# Local Author Event



Kathleen Dorothy Blackburn was raised in Lubbock but has deep family ties here in Universal City. She's now a published author receiving accolades for her novel *Loose of Earth*, which will be the focus of a special event at the UC Public Library December 12 at 4 p.m. Blackburn earned her Ph.D from the University of Illinois Chicago where she is part of the creative writing program.

*Loose of Earth*, her debut book, is described as "an arresting memoir of love and unbending religion, toxicity and disease, and one family's desperate wait for a miracle that never came."

Light refreshments will be provided by the Friends of the Universal City Public Library. Blackburn will be available to sign books for those who purchase one after her presentation.

# THE GATEWAY

City of Universal City  
2150 Universal City Blvd.  
Universal City, Texas 78148

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## 5 TOP REASONS WHY YOUR CHILD SHOULD SEE DR. MUELLER

1

### She is board certified!

After dental school, Dr. Mueller went to 2 more years of school where she received special training to detect early problems. She provides high quality care for children, adolescents, infants, and patients with special health care needs.

2

### She knows what to expect!

Dr. Mueller is a mom of 2 little ones and understands the obstacles you may encounter while taking care of your child's teeth. She can help you overcome these struggles and help keep your sanity and your children's mouths healthy at the same time.

3

### Keeping up with growing kids!

Teenagers should see a pediatric dentist because their teeth and bone structure are still growing and changing. Teens appreciate that Dr. Mueller talks to them and takes the time to explain things on their level.

4

### It's never too early to bring your child in for a dental check-up!

Dr. Mueller has special training to evaluate your baby's mouth and spot issues that can interfere with latching/eating, breathing, speech, and developmental issues as young as a few days old.

5

### Laser Dentistry!

Dr. Mueller uses laser dentistry on most restorative care patients.

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