

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2025

The Gateway

UNIVERSAL CITY COMMUNITY MAGAZINE



Pumpkin Patch



Veterans Day Parade



Blue Santa



Tree Lighting



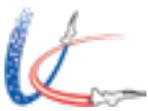
Snowfest

CoverStory

EVENT SEASON

CELEBRATING 65 YEARS | OUR VISIONARY EDC





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

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
Community Events.....	Brianne Brandenburg.....	7 2 1
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

Universal City Budget Update

**FY 2025-2026 Budget and
2025 Ad Valorem (Property) Tax Rate passed!**

**For more information,
visit www.UCTX.gov/BudgetFY2026**



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

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 25

MEETINGS

■ **October 6, 2025** 6 p.m.

Planning & Zoning Meeting

■ **October 7, 2025** 6:30 p.m.

City Council Regular Meeting

■ **October 9, 2025**..... 5 p.m.

Economic Development Corporation Meeting

October 13, 2025

CLOSED Columbus/Indigenous Peoples' Day

NOTE: Office of Personnel Management

RECOGNIZES THIS DAY AS COLUMBUS DAY

■ **October 21, 2025** 6:30 p.m.

City Council Regular Meeting

■ **October 27, 2025** 6 p.m.

Board of Adjustment Meeting

■ **October 28, 2025**..... 6 p.m.

Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting

■ **November 3, 2025** 6 p.m.

Planning & Zoning Meeting

■ **November 4, 2025**..... 6:30 p.m.

City Council Regular Meeting

November 4, 2025.....ELECTION DAY for State

November 11, 2025.....CLOSED Veterans Day

■ **November 13, 2025**.....5 p.m.

Economic Development Corporation Meeting

■ **November 18, 2025**.....6:30 p.m.

City Council Regular Meeting

■ **November 19, 2025**.....5:30 p.m.

Library Advisory Commission Meeting

■ **November 24, 2025**.....6 p.m.

Board of Adjustment Meeting

■ **November 25, 2025**.....6 p.m.

Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting

November 27-28, 2025

CLOSED Thanksgiving Holiday



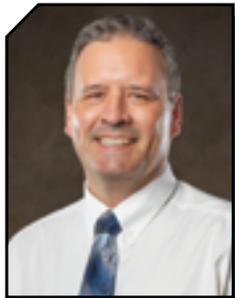
LEADERSHIP



TOM MAXWELL
MAYOR



PHIL VAUGHN
COUNCILMEMBER



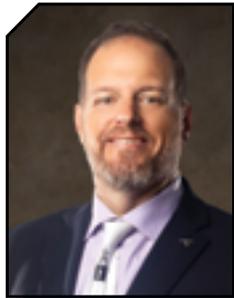
BEAR GOOLSBY
COUNCILMEMBER



LORI PUTT
COUNCILMEMBER



BERNARD RUBAL
COUNCILMEMBER



WILLIAM SHELBY
COUNCILMEMBER



CHRISTINA FITZPATRICK
MAYOR PRO TEM



KIM TURNER
CITY MANAGER

NeighborsOfNote



Kids Making a Difference

Everyone in this edition of Neighbors of Note is under the age of 18.

When the devastating 4th of July floods in Kerr County touched the hearts of millions of Texans, people wanted to know how to help.

People wanted to know how to help. Residents in Universal City were among those who rushed to help. Not seeking accolades. Just wanting to make a difference.

That local rush to help included five local youngsters; Preston Poronsky, Parker Tennis, Julia Tennis, Finely Houle, and Kirra Houle.

Their flood relief lemonade and cookie stand raised more than \$2000 and their efforts were recognized with a standing ovation at a recent City Council meeting.

A few weeks later, 17-year old Scott “Evan” Avery received a key to the

City for a project he created as an Eagle Scout for chapter 226.

Evan solved a challenge many of us face when our American flags need to be replaced properly. Evan created two boxes designed specifically to collect flags. The two boxes, located at the Universal City library and the VFW on West Aviation, were filled almost immediately.

We salute Evan, Preston, Parker, Julia, Finely and Kirra.



If you have a story about a young person in our community doing great things, share it with us. Stories@uctx.gov.

Did you know Universal City's AI BOT can answer your questions in 20 languages?



Hello!

Hola!

Witam!

Sveiki!

Use our virtual assistant to report an issue or get information!



TEXT "HELLO" TO (844) 634-8289



It's Event Season

Universal City has long been credited with having creative events that bring neighbors together year after year. Always striving to introduce new ideas for gatherings, this summer saw the introduction of a successful Wicked-themed Emerald Ball. We hope you'll join us at some of the amazing events coming up in the months ahead.

Pumpkin Patch Daily **October 3-31**

There's a reason Universal City's Parks Partners' annual Pumpkin Patch ranks at the top of Yelp's patch rankings for the entire region. Different groups work the patch helping to raise funds for various non-profits. Over the years the patch has touched thousands of lives and rescued an equal number of pets. Bring the kids out for bouncy castles and gifts on First Responder Heroes Day on October 4. If you missed having Movies in the Park this summer, this year it's Movies in the Patch on Saturday October 25. Admission, free!



UNIVERSAL CITY Pumpkin Patch

**OPEN DAILY STARTING
FRIDAY OCTOBER 3!**



Fun for the
Whole Family



Several Creative
Displays for Photos



Special Events
Every Saturday



Pet Friendly



A Fundraiser for
more than 27 Non-
Profits



Gather. Give. Grow.

**parks
PARTNERS**

2150 UNIVERSAL CITY BLVD
UNIVERSAL CITY, TX 78148

[Hours and Events Calendar](#)
www.uctx.gov/pumpkinpatch



Universal City Pumpkin Patch



UNIVERSAL CITY PUMPKIN PATCH

CoverStory

55th Annual Veterans Day Parade

November 8

As home to thousands of active duty personnel and retired veterans, the parade is a point of pride for the community and its organizers, the Greater Randolph Area Veterans Council. It begins at 10:30 a.m. at Universal City Blvd and proceeds down Pat Booker Road. Bleachers are available at Randolph Plaza 832 Pat Booker. Spectators are welcome to bring chairs or stand along the route. The event features military groups, police and fire departments, schools, local businesses, and veteran and community groups.



Blue Santa

October 13-December 2

The Blue Santa campaign officially began in Austin in 1972. Two officers used the back of their patrol car to distribute food and gifts to about 20 families. Fast forward, now Chief of Police Johnny Siemens and his staff join forces with the Universal City Citizens Police Academy Alumni/(UCCPAAA) to deliver Christmas to dozens of children and their families each holiday season. Ken Reinikka is one of the project's organizers and shared why he and the others are so passionate about the cause. "God calls us to serve and bless the underserved," he said. Open to Universal City residents only. Nominate a family in need or self-nominate.



Tree Lighting

December 2 6:30 p.m.

Universal City's annual Tree Lighting is the event of the year for many families. It delivers on its reputation of delivering a Hallmark moment as an end of the year gift to the local community. Santa Claus and the Queen of Christmas make a grand entrance and make sure it's a magical event.

Like most of the City's other events, admission is free. Generous sponsors support the evening, and vendors come through with delicious treats. City Hall 2150 Universal City Blvd.

Snowfest and Carnival

February 21 2026

1-8 p.m.

Universal City Park • 305 North Blvd.

It's Universal City's biggest event of the year and with good reason. A favorite for kids and adults, it features real snow, a snow slide and play area, carnival rides, food, games, and live entertainment. The admission includes unlimited rides. Last year San Antonio resident Gwen White saw a morning news report the

day of Snowfest. "I'd never heard of Universal City or the Snowfest. We drove for 15 minutes with no traffic and the kids had a blast. Next year we're bringing the cousins too!" she said.

Follow and like us on Facebook Universal City-Government and visit uctx.gov/events for regular updates.



Special Events at Olympia Hills

OCTOBER

Halloween at the Hills

Thursday October 30

5-9 p.m.

Entertainment
by Gary the Showman.
Costume Contest.
Kid Activities.

NOVEMBER

Moonlight & Motown

Thursday November 20th

5-9 p.m.

The Love and
Happiness Band performs
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

DECEMBER

Jingle and Mingle

Thursday December 18th

5-9 p.m.

Special Guest-
Santa Claus
6-8 p.m.





BLUE SANTA PROGRAM

NOMINATIONS DUE BY

DEC 2ND

NOMINATE YOURSELF OR
A FAMILY IN NEED

SCAN QR CODE TO LEARN MORE

2150 UNIVERSAL CITY BLVD 78148

SCAN HERE



Celebrating 65 Years of Incorporation

On September 6, 1960, the City marked the 65th anniversary of its incorporation. But the community started forming in the 1930's after Randolph Field became a major training hub for pilots. The City recently marked the anniversary with a vintage photo display and gathering at City Hall. The showcase event was a presentation on Universal City's history by leading historian Michael Hoffman.



Inside the Taj Mahal

Did you know that the movie theater inside the Taj Mahal used to run first run hit movies for decades? Many UC residents remembered seeing movies like “Back to the Future,” “Poltergeist,” and “Diary of a Wimpy Kid.” And paying 25 cent admission! The “Taj” was completed in 1931. The theater opened in 1934 at a cost of \$252,027.60. It was completed just in time for the world premiere of “I Wanted Wings” which was filmed at Randolph Field. It’s now used for special events and named the Fleenor Auditorium in honor of Brigadier General Kenneth Raymond Fleenor. Once a prisoner of war in the Viet Nam War, he continued to serve after his release. The building was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1987.





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Growing UC through the EDC

Universal City is currently in the process of mapping the City's future through a Vision 35 ten-year comprehensive plan. Our Economic Development Corporation plays a critical role in that effort, and the long-term development of our City.

We recently interviewed EDC Director Michael Cassata:

What is Universal City's Economic Development Corporation (EDC), when was it formed, and what does it do?

Formed in 1982, the Universal City EDC is composed of seven volunteer residents with business backgrounds that are dedicated to driving strategic, sustainable growth in our community.

When we see signs or social media that indicate a new business is coming to town, what role does the EDC play in closing those deals?

In certain cases, the EDC assists qualifying businesses with relocations, expansions, infrastructure needs, site redevelopment, and façade improvements. This financial incentive provides a win-win by allowing the business to make the numbers work and the City to attract key players in certain industries.

When you speak to businesses outside of Universal City do they tend to know much about the community?

Most businesses outside of Universal City have a general idea of our great location due to quick access to the

airport and major transportation corridors, such as I-35, Loop 1604 & I-10; however, our demographic profile and quality of life really sell the community as a place to be for families and businesses.

What do you think are the City's strongest selling points?

Universal City provides access to a great workforce, excellent school districts, including Northeast Lakeview College, a top-rated golf course at Olympia Hills Golf & Event Center, and a booming high-tech, science and medical-based set of industries in the Northlake Business Park, as well as a diverse housing stock ranging from starter to luxury homes.

Can a member of the public request consideration to serve on the EDC board, and what are the requirements?

Absolutely. The EDC is governed by a local board whose members are Universal City residents appointed by the Mayor and City Council. While a business background will certainly give an applicant a leg up, due consideration will be afforded to all applicants wanting to serve this great community.

Editor's Note: We'll be sharing updates on the EDC and the growth of our community in each edition of The Gateway.





UNIVERSAL CITY

FALL 2025

BULK CLEAN-UP

DATES:

OCTOBER 2 - 5

OCTOBER 9 - 12



All collections are limited to Universal City residents only. No commercial dumping permitted.

BULK ITEMS

- Dumpsters are available for Universal City residents to dispose of bulk household items. Proof of residency is required. (Drivers License or Utility Bill)
- No TVs or computer monitors accepted.
- No tires on the rim accepted.

HOURS:

8 a.m. - 5 p.m.



HAZARDOUS WASTE

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

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

LOCATION:

PUBLIC WORKS

256 KITTY HAWK



BRUSH CHIPPING

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

Call **210-658-5364** to be put on the list when your pile is ready.

 uctx.gov/cleanup

 210-658-5364



UCLibrary

Events & Programs

YOUTH PROGRAMS

STORYTIME: Read, Sing, and Learn together!

• PRE-K

Tuesdays - 10 am

Pre-K Storytime is appropriate for children ages 3-5 years old and their caregivers. Registration is not required. 10 a.m. on Tuesdays in the Meeting Room

• TODDLER

Tuesdays - 11 am

Toddler Storytime is appropriate for children aged 2-3 years old and their caregivers. Registration is not required. 11 a.m. on Tuesdays in the Meeting Room

• BABY STORYTIME

Wednesdays - 10 am

Baby Storytime is designed for our youngest library users (birth to 25 months) and their caregivers. Join us for songs, stories, and rhymes that strengthen infant-caregiver bonds and support early brain development. Registration is not required. 10 a.m. on Wednesdays in the Meeting Room

STORYTIME AT THE PATCH

Join us for Storytime at the Universal City Pumpkin Patch select Fridays in October at 10 a.m.! Enjoy holiday themed stories, songs, and dancing—no registration required.

Address: 2150 Universal City Blvd (behind the UC Fire Department)

- Friday, October 10
- Friday, October 17
- Friday, October 24
- Friday, October 31

TINKER TUESDAY

Tinker Tuesday is a fun, hands-on program for kids 6+. Explore arts & crafts, LEGOS, games, and STEM projects—come tinker, create, and play at the library! - 4 p.m. on Tuesdays in the Meeting Room

READ WITH THERAPY DOGS

Children can practice their reading skills by reading to a trained therapy dog in a quiet, relaxed setting. Reading aloud helps improve fluency, comprehension, and confidence. Each child will sign up for a specific reading time. Our furry volunteer is a great listener! Registration is required, and time slots are limited.

- PAWS to Read with Teddy: Saturday, October 4, and Saturday November 1 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Register for a

15-minute time slot by calling the library at 210-659-7048 or stopping by the Circulation Desk.

AUTUMN TEA PARTY

Children are invited to dress in their finest attire and join us for an Autumn Tea Party. Seating is limited, and registration is required. Please stop by the Circulation Desk to register in-person or call 210-659-7048.

- Saturday, October 4 at 10 a.m. – Children ages 7 and older (no caregiver)
- Saturday, October 4 at Noon – Children 3-7 with a caregiver

TWEEN/TEEN/ADULT PROGRAMS

SEWING 101

Join us every third Saturday of the month for Sewing 101! Attendees will work on a project together and learn the fundamentals of sewing. We do encourage you to bring your own materials, but we will have some on hand for your use. This class is for ages 12 and up, and for new sewers. Registration is required. Stop by the Circulation Desk or call 210-659-7048 to sign up.

- Saturday, October 18 at 11:30 a.m. in the Activity Room

Project: Poncho Halloween Costume (your choice of scarecrow, ghost, pumpkin, or skeleton)

Materials:

Adult Sizing: 2 ¼ yd of fabric; ¾ of contrast color (collar if making pumpkin or scarecrow)

Youth Sizing: 1 ½ yd of fabric; 5/8 contrast color (collar if making a pumpkin or scarecrow)

- Saturday, November 15 at 11:30 a.m. in the Activity Room

Project: Apron

Materials:

Adult Sizing: 1 ¾ yd fabric; 1 ¾ yd contrast; 4- 1(2.5cm) inch buttons

Youth sizing: 1 yd fabric; 1 yd contrast; 4- ¾(2cm) inch buttons

NOTE: If you have your own sewing machine, feel free to bring it to learn on your own machine. If not, no worries— one machine will be provided for attendees to use.

ADULT PROGRAMS

YOUNG AT HEART SENIOR GAMES (BINGO):

Open to Senior ages 60 and up only. No registration required.

- Friday, October 3 at 1 p.m. in the Meeting Room
- Friday, October 10 at 1 p.m. in the Meeting Room
- Friday, November 7 at 1 p.m. in the Meeting Room

Events & Programs

- Friday, November 14 at 1 p.m. in the Meeting Room

- Friday, November 21 at 1 p.m. in the Meeting Room

CRAFTY CREW:

Coloring, drawing, scrapbooking, crocheting, knitting, and everything in between! Bring your own craft project to work on and connect with other crafters for creative focus, inspiration, and great conversation. This program is designed for 18+ adults. No registration required.

- Wednesday, October 8 at 1 p.m. in the Meeting Room

- Wednesday, October 22 at 1 p.m. in the Activity Room

- Wednesday, November 12 at 1 p.m. in the Meeting Room

BOOK BUDDIES

Monthly book club for adults 18+. No registration required.

- Wednesday, October 15 at 2 p.m. in the Activity Room

Book Selection: Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmas

- Wednesday, November 19 at 2 p.m. in the Activity Room

Book Selection: The Gods of the Woods by Liz Moore

TASTE TABLE

Pick a recipe from this month's featured cookbook and bring your dish to share! RSVP/registration is required. Stop by the Circulation Desk for more details and select your recipe. This program is designed for adults 18+ only.

- Wednesday, November 19 at 1 p.m. in the Meeting Room

FAMILY PROGRAMS

PUZZLE PALZ

Are you ready to challenge yourself and have some fun? Join us for Puzzle Palz, a special program at UCPL designed for puzzle lovers - including puzzles, crosswords, and Sudoku! No registration required.

- Saturday, October 4 at 11 a.m. in the Meeting Room

- Saturday, October 18 at 11 a.m. in the Activity Room

- Saturday, November 1 at 11 a.m. in the Activity Room

- Saturday, November 15 at 11 a.m. in the Meeting Room

BOOK CHARACTER PUMPKIN DECORATING CONTEST:

Decorate (without carving) a pumpkin to look like a book character from one of your favorite books!

- October 7 - October 18: Drop off your decorated pumpkin to UCPL for display.

- October 21 - November 1: Vote for your favorite pumpkin!

- Week of November 4: Winners announced via social media.

Stop by the Circulation Desk or call 210-659-7048 for more information and to learn about the categories.

December 13, 2025



WREATHS across AMERICA

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.

To Make a Donation:

Scan the QR Code or Visit

www.wreathsacrossamerica.org/TX0054P



UCCommunity

Out & About

East Aviation District Market

The September East Aviation District Market had the highest number of vendors so far and it was a great day. Don't miss the final markets of the year, great opportunities for unique holiday gifts.



UCCommunity

The Emerald Ball

It was a great family event! A creative way to combine the daddy/daughter mother/son dance.



THE GATEWAY

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

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