



City of University Park THE ARBOR



Number 186, February 2019

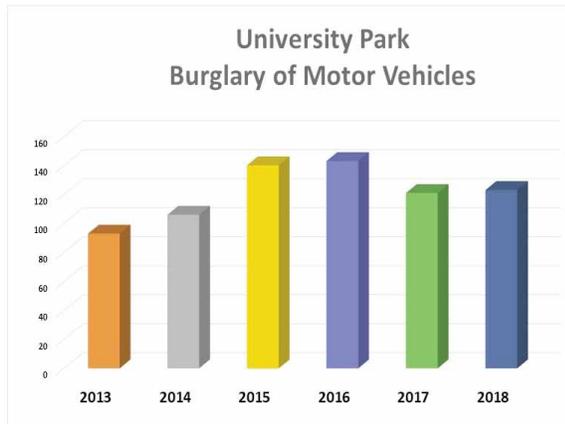
City of University Park, Texas, 3800 University Blvd., University Park, Texas 75205

www.uptexas.org

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University Park remains a very safe community

University Park remains a very safe place to live and work. Again last year, the City's most reported crime was Burglary of Motor Vehicles. Totalling 123 incidents, most items that were taken were left in plain sight. Wallets, purses, computer laptops and jewelry were common targets.



The Police Department continues to urge residents to lock their vehicles and place valuables in the trunk. It's also a good idea to keep all household doors locked, even when home.

Increase in auto thefts

Reported auto thefts rose from nine in 2017 to 40 last year. Again, owners often made things a bit easier for thieves. In more than half the cases, victims told officers they left a key fob or ignition key in the vehicle.

UPPD Community Camera program

UPPD appreciates all those who continue to quickly report suspicious activity. Residents and businesses can also bolster the department's crime fighting efforts by taking a few minutes to register their security camera systems. Because they are caught in the act of committing the crime, video surveillance is one of the best methods to catch suspects and convict them.

If your residence or business has a security camera system that meets the two requirements listed, you can help UPPD investigate and solve crimes by registering your camera system.

- Camera system records and retains video
- Exterior facing security camera system



After registering your camera, you will only be contacted by UPPD if there is a criminal incident in the vicinity of your security camera and police personnel believe viewing your video footage will assist in the investigation. At no time will UPPD have remote access to your cameras. To register your camera system, go to the City's website, then, from the police homepage, click on the Crime Prevention tab.

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CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

**Tuesday, Feb. 19
5 p.m.
City Hall
Council Chamber**

**Tuesday, March 5
5 p.m.
City Hall
Council Chamber**

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Severe Weather preparedness



In Texas, tornadoes occur most often in the spring and summer. Storms that spawn tornadoes are more likely to strike in the late afternoon and early evening hours.

Watches: The National Weather Service issues Severe Thunderstorm and Tornado Watches when severe weather conditions are favorable in or near a watch area.

Warnings: A Severe Thunderstorm Warning means that potentially damaging thunderstorms have been detected by radar or are already occurring. A Tornado Warning means that a tornado is on the ground or that there is cloud rotation.

When a Tornado Warning is issued:

- Residents should go to an interior room on the lowest floor of the home, such as a bathroom, closet or room without windows.
- Office occupants should go to an interior room or hallway on the lowest floor of the building.
- Never stay inside a car. If a building is nearby, take shelter inside. If shelter is not immediately available, leave the car and lie flat in a ditch or ravine. Never try to outrun a tornado in your car.

City's Outdoor Warning Siren system

Six pole-mounted sirens are located throughout University Park to alert those who are outside about approaching severe weather or other situations requiring immediate action. Each of the sirens produces an alert tone that maintains its decibel level in all directions. Used in combination, the sirens overlap all neighborhoods to penetrate the entire City.

University Park's outdoor warning sirens can be activated for one or more of the following conditions, or as deemed necessary by authorized individuals:

- National Weather Service issues a Tornado Warning or Severe Thunderstorm Warning with the phrase

“Destructive winds in excess of 70 mph or higher are likely with this storm” for the University Park area.

- Trained storm spotters have reported a tornado in University Park, or a neighboring city that has the potential to affect University Park.
- Reported hail of 1.25” in diameter or greater (1” may cause an activation for areas or events where large numbers of people are outside).
- Other emergencies as directed by the community’s elected officials.

When outdoor warning siren activations occur, residents outside should seek shelter immediately. Once inside, residents should monitor changing conditions by checking area TV, radio or internet. Residents may also want to consider purchasing a NOAA All Hazards Radio. This special purpose radio can be preset to activate on a county-by-county basis and is an excellent method of receiving audible alerts, especially during the overnight hours.

CODE RED | Because it’s impossible to know about potentially dangerous weather conditions around-the-clock, residents may want to sign up for Code Red Weather Warnings.



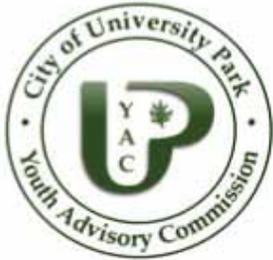
Code Red Weather Warnings are sent when the National Weather Service issues a severe thunderstorm, tornado or flash flood warning. The geographically-based Code Red System determines if your address is in the path of the storm and immediately calls with the weather information. Participants will not receive calls when severe storms are outside the path of their address.

How do residents sign up to receive Code Red Weather Warnings?

Residents can sign up, free of charge, by going to the Resident Online Center on the City’s website at uptexas.org. During the application process residents will be asked to type in needed information, including the phone number that will receive the weather warnings and the types of alerts they want to be notified about.

Youth Advisory Commission application process starts in March

University Park high school students who are interested in community service and learning about City operations may want to apply for a slot on the City's Youth Advisory Commission. Application forms will be available on the City's website beginning March 1. The City will begin reviewing applications for this 20-plus member group later that month.



While learning about local government operations, YAC members help promote the City's ongoing recycling program and other community initiatives. They also staff various annual community events. Commission members also act as an advisory group for the City on issues that could directly impact teenagers.

Following the March 31 application deadline, the City will begin interviewing applicants in April. To be eligible for consideration, students must reside in University Park and be in the 9th, 10th, 11th or 12th grade at the start of the 2019-2020 academic year. Each Commission member will be expected to attend all group meetings and actively

participate in all designated events. Community service hour credits are one of the many benefits of serving on the Commission.



Above: Some members of the 2018-19 Commission.

Safe community

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Package thefts

Residents reported 12 package thefts last year. Instead of having packages left on the front porch, residents are encouraged to use other forms of delivery. Delivery locker sites, like those offered by Amazon, FedEx and UPS are growing in popularity, and provide customers an easy, convenient, and secure delivery option.

Calls for service

In 2018 UPPD answered 24,166 calls for service. That total represents a 1.6 percent increase from the previous year.

Other 2018 crime statistics

- Robberies - 4
- Business Burglaries - 5 (44 % drop from previous year)
- Residential Burglaries - 22
- Bike Thefts - 27 (34% drop from previous year)



City news briefs

City offers year-round e-waste disposal

University Park residents can dispose of unwanted electronics free of charge at the City’s waste transfer station. The City partners with Global Assets to dispose of the items listed below in a safe and environmentally sustainable fashion. The process also ensures that all personal data contained on the disposed items is destroyed.

Disposal site location

Residents can visit the City’s waste transfer station at 2525 University Blvd. (just east of North Central Expressway)



from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. All items must be placed inside the large marked container located inside the gated facility. Before placing the items in the container, residents will be asked to verify their University Park address by showing a valid driver license, other government ID or current utility bill.

Accepted e-waste materials

- TVs, computers, laptops, monitors, printers
- Home & mobile phones
- VCRs & DVD players
- Fax machines & corded consumer electronics

Security of disposed e-waste materials

Global Assets processes e-waste materials in accordance with the strictest privacy laws and regulations, including the Federal Privacy Act, HIPAA, and state legislation. The company also meets the Department of Defense and National Security Agency requirements for purging information from computer hard drives. Global Assets is the same company that assists the City during the spring and fall recycling events.

Recurring water bill payment process

Reminder — You can now conveniently pay your monthly water bill online, and make sure that you never miss a



payment or are charged late fees and penalties. The City’s new automatic process accepts the four major credit cards (American Express, Visa, MasterCard and Discover). After signing up, each month your credit card will

be charged on the water bill’s due date.

How to sign up?

Step 1

Visit uptexas.org, click on the button that says “Pay/Sign-Up” and then click on “Utility Bill Services.” Then, select “Click Here” to access your account login.

Step 2

To access your account, type in your name and the account number, and then once you are logged in, click on the “Credit Card Enrollment” tab.

Step 3 - Fill out the requested information. If you already have an email on file with the City, it will auto populate to the email field.

Step 4

You will then be redirected to BridgePay, the City’s credit card processing company, where you will fill in your name, billing address and credit card information. Once your information is entered, you’re enrolled in auto pay!

Please note, should you ever want to, the online process includes an option to withdraw from automatic billing. Also, if you need to, you can change your credit card information by following the step above, and then re-enrolling.