



CITY OF | **UPPER  
ARLINGTON**

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **CITY MANAGER COLUMN**

By Virginia Barney

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## **A HAPPY 2010 TO ALL**

(Upper Arlington, Ohio) – The countdown to the start of 2010 is on. It's hard to believe we have a whole decade of the 21st Century under our belts, but here we are. The last 10 years in Upper Arlington have been busy and productive ones, and we have achieved much with and on behalf of our community.

Most notably, we are all eagerly awaiting the day we can fully enjoy a new and rejuvenated Kingsdale, something that has been on our minds for much longer than a decade. Of equal note, our fully developed and landlocked community has managed to successfully develop its first new park in many years, at Sunny 95 Park. As spring rolls around, we can all begin to enjoy the wonderful new amenities already in place and look forward to exciting new park developments such as the all season shelter house and performance stage that will be brought to life thanks to the Upper Arlington Community Foundation.

Add to these two remarkable achievements the successful opening of a new Fire Station 72 and plans for restoring the surrounding parkland, an impressive list of road and infrastructure improvements on the horizon that will continue to build upon many years of aggressive reinvestment, planning and implementation, and many other exciting opportunities for our community, and all signs indicate that Upper Arlington is on track to maintain its stature and desirability as a premier Central Ohio community that is hard to beat.

Whatever your plans are on New Year's Eve, be sure that your celebration is safe for you and your loved ones. If you are heading out to a party with friends or family members, determine in advance who will be your designated driver – someone who is willing to at best forego or at least limit any alcohol consumption to fall within safe levels for driving responsibly and under the limit – for the return home. Or consider a taxi service to get you safely to and from your destination.

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And remember, it's not just you taking responsibility for your actions that you have to consider – New Year's Eve is traditionally a night when many other celebrants have not been so cautious, and foolishly end up behind the wheel and on the roads at the end of the evening, making it one of the most dangerous nights of the year for other innocent motorists.

### **Change of Year Equals Worst of Winter Weather**

As we round the corner into the beginnings of a New Year, the winter weather is typically readying to reach its most challenging levels. This is the time of year when we can expect consistently frigid temperatures, heavy snowfalls, even ice storms.

As we head into the next several weeks of winter weather, I encourage you to do your part to help ensure our community is safe. When we are in the midst of a snowfall that obviously requires our Streets Division crews to head out with salting trucks and snowplows, please move any vehicles parked on the street to enable our equipment to pass through safely while clearing your road of snow and ice.

Plus when the snow falls, as you're out clearing your own sidewalks and driveway, do the neighborly thing by helping any elderly neighbors. And if you are part of a UA business, do your part to clear sidewalks in front of your business for the benefit of pedestrian passersby as well as prospective customers.

### **Christmas Tree Collection**

*Fridays, January 8, 15, 29, and February 5*

The City will collect live Christmas trees on the above listed dates. Please remove all decorations, and place trees (do not place in bags) at the curb with one Solid Waste Sticker affixed per tree. Trees can also be dropped off free-of-charge at the Bill Holbrook Yard Waste Compost Site, 4120 Roberts Road (call 583-5370 to confirm hours of operation).

### **Final Reminder for Community Awards Nominations**

*Deadline Friday, January 8, 2010*

Our annual State of the City Address will soon be here. As part of this important community gathering, we take time to recognize and celebrate individuals and entities in our community who have made a positive difference over the past year. I am of course referring to our Community Awards Program. Time is running out to get nominations in to us in the areas of: Business of the Year; Community Enrichment; Community Safety; Super Senior; and Youth. Visit [www.uaoh.net](http://www.uaoh.net) to learn more about our awards program and each category, as well as to download an application form.

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