



CITY OF UNIVERSITY PLACE SPECIAL REPORT

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A City of
University Place
Publication

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General Election in November

Postmark or drop off your ballot by Nov. 7 – ballot boxes close at 8 p.m.

University Place is a Council-Manager form of government with seven City Council Members elected at-large by position. This year four of the seven positions are up for election in November. Council Members serve staggered four-year terms.

Betsy Tainer and Incumbent Javier H. Figueroa are running for Position 1, Ken Campbell and Incumbent Steve Worthington are vying for Position 3, Carl J. Mollnow and Incumbent Ken Grassi are the candidates for Position 4, and Incumbent Denise McCluskey is uncontested for Position 5.

Keep an eye out for your Voters' Pamphlet, which will mail on Oct. 12. Ballots are scheduled to mail on Oct. 20. In University Place, there is a ballot drop box open 24 hours a day, no stamp required, at West Pierce Fire & Rescue, 3631 Drexler Drive West. Ballot drop boxes close at 8 p.m. on Nov. 7. Drop your ballot early!

Make plans to attend the University Place City Council Candidate Forum on **Wednesday, Oct. 11 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.** in the **Curtis H.S. Theater/Auditorium**, 8425 40th Street West.

The forum will be hosted and moderated by the **League of Women Voters**, who will solicit written questions from the audience to ask the candidates. Please mark your calendar and come prepared with your questions.

The Candidate Forum will be taped for playback on UPTV (University Place Television), Click! Channel 12 or Comcast Channel 21. Watch for playtimes for UPTV or a link to watch the forum online at www.CityofUP.com.

U.P. Council Candidate Forum

Hosted by the
League of Women Voters

Wednesday, Oct. 11
6:30 - 8 p.m.
Curtis High School Theater

Watch for playback on UPTV
Click! Channel 12 or Comcast Channel 21

City of U.P. asks voters to weigh in on fireworks

On July 17, 2017, the University Place City Council adopted Resolution 843, which calls for an advisory proposition to be included on the November general election ballot. The proposition asks voters whether the sale, possession and discharge of consumer fireworks should be prohibited within the City of University Place. Council's passage of the resolution placing the advisory question on the ballot arises from years of debate within the community on the topic.

This conversation is not unique to our City. Many other jurisdictions have wrestled with this issue as well. Currently, the discharge of certain types of fireworks is allowed in U.P. However, the City has restricted the timeframe for their use to July 4th between 9 a.m. and midnight, and over the New Year's holiday from 6 p.m. on Dec. 31 until 1 a.m. on Jan. 1. Some of our neighboring municipalities, such as Lakewood and Gig Harbor, have placed similar restrictions on fireworks. Other neighboring municipalities, such as Tacoma, Fircrest and Steilacoom, have outlawed the possession and use of fireworks all together.

"Given the significant amount of public input we receive on the fireworks issue every year, Council has decided to seek guidance from voters through an advisory proposition," said U.P. City Manager Steve Sugg. "We encourage everyone who feels strongly about this issue to make their opinion known by participating in November's general election." Council intends to discuss the results of the election and the future of fireworks in U.P. during a study session next year. Under State law, any change that would result in the banning of fireworks could not take effect until 2019.

If you have any questions about the advisory ballot measure, please feel free to email Eric Faison at efaison@CityofUP.com.

Council Corner

I would venture to guess that most of us don't need a national poll to tell us that we are a divided nation right now. Right vs. left; red vs. blue; conservative vs. liberal.

You've heard it all, I know. Yet, when I watch video of the recovery efforts taking place in Houston and Florida right now, I seriously doubt that those who are pitching in to help—and those receiving help—are asking each other about their political affiliations.

That's because I truly believe that at the end of the day, we are all Americans. Sure, we disagree about what we think is best for our nation, but when we are tried and tested, as Hurricanes Harvey and Irma have done to us, we rise above labels to do what is right for our fellow Americans.

I know that the residents of University Place have political opinions and beliefs that span the spectrum, but when we gather as a community, at events like August's Moonlight Movie in the Park and Curran Apple Orchard Cider Squeeze, or at Duck Daze in the spring, I rarely hear people asking others about their political leanings.

Conversations tend to be about summer vacations, college applications, caring for elderly parents or about the Seahawks prospects this season.

I choose to believe that the end of the day, these are things that bind us and sustain us as a community. We will always disagree about some things. It's supposed to be that way in a democracy.

The question becomes how do we discuss things about which we disagree? Do we yell, call each other names, or worse yet, stop listening? Or do we give each side an opportunity to speak their peace, knowing that

by *Caroline Belleci*

at the end of the day, we may still disagree, but that we do so with civility.

Nearly 300 years ago Benjamin Franklin said, "Without Freedom of Thought, there can be no such thing as Wisdom; and no such thing as public Liberty, without Freedom of Speech."

In the next few weeks, citizens of University Place will have the opportunity to express their opinions on two key issues in our community: the future of land use in U.P. as outlined in the proposed Subarea Plan and the proposed fireworks advisory ballot. I know there are strong opinions on each side of these issues. I simply hope that as discussions ensue about them, we remember that by sharing and listening to the thoughts of others we can do as Ben Franklin said: gain wisdom in the practice of democracy.

So I encourage everyone to attend public meetings, read voter information pamphlets, listen, disagree, vote.

But at the end of the day, remember that we are still neighbors, people who share many of the same family challenges, the same worries for our children and the same hopes—Go Hawks!



Fall Art & Concert Series

Mark your calendars now for the last two in the exciting lineup of outstanding musical and visual artists during the Fall Art & Concert Series sponsored by UP for Arts. The events occur on two more Fridays from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the University Place Civic Building Atrium, located at 3609 Market Place W. Admission is \$15 for adults, \$5 for students, or free for UP for Arts members. For more information, please visit www.upforart.org.

Thanks to UP for Arts and Skelley Piano for sponsoring these events!

Oct. 27

The **David Deacon-Joyner Trio** (pianist David Deacon Joyner, bassist Clipper Anderson and drummer Mark Ivester) will perform American classics with a jazz twist. The Featured Artist is accomplished **fused glass creator Fred Buxton**.

Nov. 25

Pianist Wolfgang Wortberg is a soloist and chamber musician who has performed throughout Europe.

The Featured Visual Artist is **Pamela Phelps** who specializes in silver jewelry.



Help 'Make a Difference' on Oct. 28



 **Make A Difference Day**
Made possible by you and the people of **TEGNA**

Make a Difference Day is an annual national event held in the fall, on the fourth Saturday in October, where neighbors help neighbors and residents help their community by coming together to clean up city parks.

This year's event will be held on Saturday, Oct. 28, 2017 at Riconosciuto Park, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Parking will be available at Cirque Park.

This year's planned park activity will include trail improvement, cutting back blackberries and garbage cleanup. Prepare to bring your work gloves, rakes, shovels, hoes and wear your boots! This event takes place rain or shine.

More details about Make a Difference Day may be available closer to the date of the event. Please check the City's website at www.CityofUP.com or call 253.460.6493 for more information.

Stemming the Tide

Our community is facing a crisis that affects us all.

Because of insufficient mental health funding at the state and county level, local communities like University Place are being inundated with a growing number of mentally unstable people who, because of their illnesses, pose a serious threat to public safety.

Every day, my officers and our peers throughout Pierce County face the challenges of dealing with people who are threatening to harm themselves or others. Many of these people should be in mental health facilities where they could receive the expert care required to deal with their unique diagnoses. Treatment should be our first option. Lacking mental health beds, officers are forced to book offenders into jail for misdemeanor offenses.

That has made the Pierce County jail the third largest mental health facility in the county. I say "facility" loosely, however, since the jail is not equipped to treat mental health cases.

The Pierce County Sheriff's Department is currently working on a co-responder model for the county that would provide the appropriate

by Police Chief Mike Blair

resources and personnel to respond to mental health calls. This approach has been employed successfully in Tacoma and Lakewood, where officials report that it has freed up patrol resources for other calls.

Our inability to treat this mental health crisis is indeed a public safety crisis, but it is also a human crisis. These are people who are sick and who desperately need medical care, therapy and medication. It costs money to hold them in the jail. Wouldn't we better off spending that money on mental health services?

We aren't saving money by incarcerating them. If they have committed a crime, then yes, they belong in jail. But for those who only threaten but never act, incarceration is not the best answer. Perhaps it is time that we, as a community, begin to recognize that there are cost-savings in prevention instead of reaction.



University Place Fall Clean-Up – Oct. 7 & 14

The City, in conjunction with U.P. Refuse Service, is offering you an opportunity to dispose of and/or recycle some unwanted items and yard waste for free!

Residents NORTH of 40th St. W., Saturday, Oct. 7, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Residents SOUTH of 40th St. W., Saturday, Oct. 14, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

University Place Refuse and Recycling – 2815 Rochester St. W.

(1 block south of 27th St., 2 blocks east of Bridgeport Way W.)

CLEAN-UP RULES:

- Limit 1 load per household for all items. **Except: Yard waste only – no limit!**
- Help us be good neighbors by securing and covering all loads!
- For safety reasons, children and pets must remain in vehicles.
- **City of University Place residents ONLY – photo I.D. will be required.**
- No liquids, paint or hazardous materials (car batteries OK).
- No loads larger than a regular pickup truck or equivalent small trailer will be allowed.
- No regular household garbage will be allowed.
- Residential only – no commercial material or loads will be allowed.
- The size of items can't exceed 5 feet in any direction (except appliances and furniture).
- No fuel tanks, enclosed barrels or drums of any kind. Water heaters and propane tanks are OK.

PLEASE SEPARATE ITEMS INTO THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES FOR RECYCLING:

- **Wood:** clean unpainted lumber, pallets, etc.
- **Metal:** scrap steel, appliances, lawn mowers, barbecues, plumbing, etc.
- **Yard waste:** limbs, grass, leaves, other vegetation, no stumps or limbs larger than 4 inches in diameter, no dirt, rocks or sod. **NOT ACCEPTED:** blackberries, Scotch broom and other noxious weeds.
- **Tires:** with or without rims.
- **Concrete, bricks and stone.**
- **Car batteries.**
- **Electronic waste recycling:** computers, monitors, printers, TVs, laptops, cell phones, cameras, etc.

Fall for Flowers!



Avid gardeners know that for vibrant, thriving gardens in the spring, you need to "fall into action." As part of the City of U.P.'s on-going beautification efforts, residents are encouraged to participate in the annual Patrons of Beautification campaign so that volunteers can do important fall gardening and planting that will ensure a colorful spring in University Place.

Over the years, donations to Patrons of Beautification have totaled more than \$50,000 and have helped fund city-wide plantings of more than 75,000 flower bulbs that make U.P.'s roundabouts, parks and street corners come alive with color. Contributions have also funded trash receptacles and bike racks.

For those who think these efforts are "just for show," consider this impressive collection of research by the nonprofit organization Project EverGreen:

- There is a significant link between the value of a property and its proximity to parks, greenbelts and other green spaces. Studies of three neighborhoods in Boulder, Colo. indicated that property values decreased by \$4.20 for each foot away from a greenbelt.

- Studies by the University of Washington stated that drivers indicated it was easier to locate roadside businesses when they were framed by trees and vegetation.
- Greening of business districts creates a positive perception of an area, drawing customers who studies reveal would be willing to pay, on average, a 12 percent premium for goods purchased in retail establishments that are accompanied by quality landscaping.
- Trees and flowers protect our waters. The crown of a large tree is a freestanding anti-flood reservoir, in some cases intercepting so much rainfall that more than 1,500 gallons a year evaporates instead of running off into storm drains.

Patrons of Beautification take donations of any amount. In fact, just one dollar will buy two flower bulbs. If you can help with a dollar — or more — please visit the City's website, www.CityofUP.com, and download the Patrons of Beautification form to mail in your contribution.

Upcoming Events in University Place

Council Candidate Forum
Oct. 11, 6:30-8 p.m.
Curtis High School Theater

Fall Art & Concert Series
Oct. 27, 7-8:30 p.m.
Civic Building Atrium

General Election
Ballots Due Nov. 7, 8 p.m.
Drexler Drive Ballot Box

Fall Art & Concert Series
Nov. 17, 7-8:30 p.m.
Civic Building Atrium

Fall Safety Day
Oct. 21, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
West Pierce Fire Station 21

Make a Difference Day
Oct. 28, 9 a.m.-Noon
Riconosciuto Park

Great Russian Nutcracker
Nov. 9, 7 p.m.
Pantages Theatre

Christmas Tree Lighting
Dec. 1, 5-8 p.m.
Market Square

Seahawks Tailgate Party
Oct. 22, 1 p.m.
Senior Center

Pumpkin Spectacular
Oct. 28, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Senior Center

Holiday Bazaar
Nov. 16, 5-9 p.m.
Civic Building Atrium

The Nutcracker
Dec. 16 & 17 (Check Times)
Mount Tahoma Auditorium

For more information on upcoming events, visit www.CityofUP.com.

A New Direction

As of September 2017, the U.P. Press, operated by the Pierce County Community Newspaper Group, ceased production.

As it is a priority for the City to provide our residents with timely, relevant print information, the University Place City Council will be taking the time needed to explore its different available options.

If you have ideas or suggestions for print options, please share them via email to Linda Seesz at LSeesz@CityofUP.com.

We encourage you to continue to get your City news from our other communication sources:

- UPTV - Click! 12 / Comcast 21
- Website - www.CityofUP.com
- Facebook - [@CityofUPWA](https://www.facebook.com/CityofUPWA)
- Twitter - [@CityofUPWA](https://twitter.com/CityofUPWA)
- YouTube - UniversityPlaceTV

UPTV – “UNIVERSITY PLACE” ON TV

Each month different programs about University Place air on Click! Channel 12 and Comcast Channel 21. The following programs are scheduled:

- Regular Council Meetings
- Council Candidate Forum

Visit our Website: www.CityofUP.com/UPTV for a weekly schedule.

Send program suggestions and comments to UPTV@CityofUP.com

or call Linda Seesz, Communications/I.T. Manager, at 253.460.2537.

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CITY HALL

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