

Headlines

News from University Place City Hall



February 20, 2019

Weathering the Storm

Life is returning to normal after our record-breaking snowstorm last week. But U.P.'s Public Works crews' work is not done. Following days and nights of running the City's three snowplows around the clock (in two 12-hour shifts) to keep arterials clear of snow and slush, staff are now busy clearing catch basin grates to prevent localized flooding now that the snow is melting.



"We appreciate the patience and understanding exhibited by our residents during this epic snowstorm," said City Manager Steve Sugg. "I think most people understand that given the magnitude of this winter storm, it will take a little while before things return to normal."

Sugg reiterates that because of the City's limited resources, including supplies that are budgeted for and purchased based on historic weather trends, the City's initial main focus was concentrated on ensuring that arterials and major roadways were cleared first, especially to facilitate access for emergency vehicles. "I am extremely proud of our Public Works staff who started treating streets with anti-icing agent two days before the snow arrived and then hit the streets at 2 p.m. on Friday and worked non-stop until 1 a.m. on Wednesday," Sugg said.

As is always the case after a major event like this, Sugg says City staff will conduct an extensive review of its planning, preparation and response to this snowstorm. "We will continue to look for ways to improve the services we provide to our citizens," he said. "But as I watched people come together to help shovel driveways and sidewalks, and to make sure that their elderly neighbors and those with special needs were OK, I was reminded that we must encourage people to be personally prepared for emergencies and be willing to do our part as individuals to support our community in times like these."

Clean and Green

If all of our recent snow has you dreaming of spring—and spring cleaning—remember that when it comes to disposing of hazardous household chemicals, please take the extra steps to ensure you don't contaminate our water sources.



Improper use and disposal of household hazardous materials, including oven cleaners, paints, paint removers, pesticides, swimming pool chemicals and drain cleaners, contain toxic chemicals that can contaminate nearby surface and groundwater. Never put these chemicals in your household trash because they will ultimately end up in the landfill.

The Pierce County website has a **list of products** that can be accepted at its Household Hazardous Waste drop-off centers at the Tacoma Transfer Center (3510 S Mullen St., Tacoma) and the Hidden Valley Transfer Center (17925 Meridian E., Puyallup). You can also call the Hazardous Waste Hotline at 800.287.6429 for more information.

And don't forget to think about using eco-friendly cleaning products, many of which can be made simply from ingredients you have around the house, including lemon juice, vinegar, borax and baking soda. You can also check out the **Washington State Department of Ecology website** for more information.

Look for Legitimate Sources for Crime Reporting

At the Feb. 19 meeting of the University Place City Council, U.P. Police Chief Mike Blair provided a Public Safety Report that included important information about the impacts of social media on perceptions—and misinformation—about crime and public safety.



"Social media has no vetting method," Blair said. "It is a tool for friendship, not for crime reporting." To drive home that point, Blair cited three major incidents in 2018 where social media distorted perceptions of crime in University Place. Those included a potential threat posted on social media by a U.P. student; how the Next Door app allows unverified facts about crime to fuel the rumor mill and stoke fear; and a recent news story about U.P.'s safety ranking among other cities in Washington.

Blair noted that the story was based on data provided by a conglomerate of alarm companies, *not law enforcement agencies*. "When we applied our data to the very same information they cited, we rank in the top third of the safest cities in the state," Blair said. It is a perfect example of how information can be distorted if not presented with adequate background and context.

"That is why I always encourage people to come to us directly if they have questions or concerns," Blair said. "I'm happy to talk to you on the phone or in person or to neighborhood groups. We just want people to get their information from us directly and to understand that not every incident is hashtag-worthy."

Advisory Commission Vacancies

Applications are currently being accepted from citizens interested in serving on the following City of University Place advisory commissions:

- Economic Development Advisory Commission
- Park Advisory Commission

One position is available on each commission. Positions are open until filled. Commissioners are citizens who, through their volunteer efforts, play an integral role in the growth and development of their City. Citizens serving on the City's Commissions apply their unique knowledge and experiences to the issues and the needs of their city and then create ideas, identify resources, and make recommendations toward fulfilling the Council's Vision.

Forms are available on the City's website on the **Committees, Commission and Partners** page, and at City Hall. For more information, contact the City Clerk's office at 253.566.5656.



Curtis High ASB
SWEETHEART DANCE
SATURDAY, MARCH 16
6:30-9 P.M.

Early Registration: \$45 per couple
At the Door: \$50 per couple
(\$5 each add'l child)

Register online at upsd83.org or
at Curtis H.S. More info? 566.5710 X2160

Spring Art & Concert Series - Feb. 22

Extraordinary classical and bluegrass music paired with outstanding award winning artists are in store for audiences at UP for Arts Spring 2019 Art & Concert Series.

All events occur on Friday nights from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the University Place Civic/Library Atrium located at 3609 Market Square (36th and Bridgeport). Each performance pairs performing artists with visual artists. Free parking is available

underneath the library.

Friday, Feb. 22

- Pacific Northwest Chamber Ensemble featuring Carson Farley, Ian McKnight and Clement Reid performing a refreshing mix of Classical and Blue Grass Music.

Admission is \$15 for adults, \$5 for students and free for UP for Arts members. Tickets available at the door. For more info, visit www.upforarts.org.

Located next to the atrium, Anthem Coffee will have extended hours on concert nights! Enjoy coffee, tea, wine, beer, appetizers and light menu items. Visit myanthemcoffee.com to see the full menu!

Special thanks to Skelley Piano, Symphony Tacoma and UP for Arts for sponsoring the 2019 Spring Concert Series! (Pictured Left to Right: Ian McKnight, Carson Farley and Clement Reid)



Curran Apple Orchard Pruning Parties Begin Saturday, Feb. 23!

Learn how to prune apple trees and help take care of a unique apple orchard park in University Place!

Everyone is invited to attend FREE Pruning Parties at the Curran Orchard located at 3920 Grandview Drive W on the following Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.:

Feb. 23
March 9 and 23
April 6 and 27



Trained volunteers and Master Gardeners will be on hand to provide guidance. Wear old clothes, rain gear and bring loppers, hand pruners and saws if available. Help is also needed hauling branches to the dumpsters. Great for community service hours! Refreshments provided. Tree adoptions are also available on the Curran Apple Orchard Website.

Students under 18 should visit the CORE website to obtain a parent consent form to bring to the orchard before volunteering.

CORE meets the first Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at the University Place City Hall complex. For more information and to confirm meeting locations, visit www.curranappleorchard.com or email apples@curranappleorchard.com. Everyone is welcome to attend!

Bridal Showcase Returns to the Environmental Services Building on March 3

So you said yes, but don't know where to begin planning one of the most memorable days of your life? Don't stress. The Bridal Showcase at the Environmental Services Building will connect you with up to 20 different vendors Sunday, March 3 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Admission is free.

Brides- and grooms-to-be, the wedding party, family and friends are invited to experience the majestic views of the Puget Sound from Chambers Creek Regional Park, located at 9850 64th St. W. in University Place.

Meet the area's premier wedding professionals and have your wedding planned in one day. Attendees will be greeted by a variety of vendors including entertainment by Music De-Lite DJ/MC Service, photographers Lauren Bentley and Matthew Ellis will be showcasing their work, preferred caterers X-Group Catering, Jonz Catering and Snuffin's will have tasty samples along with Celebrity Cake Studio. And local salon & spa Brassfield's will have hair stylists on site creating their favorite bridal looks.

Other bridal show highlights include complimentary mimosas for guests 21 and up from our beverage partner and showcase vendor, KemperSports, along with a chance to win prizes.

New this year is THE CAVE: Beers & Brats! We'll be streaming live sports while featured vendors such as MANDustrial, a salon geared for men, will provide complimentary ear and neck line-ups, and Men's Wearhouse will be on hand to take measurements.

This free event is open to the public. For a full list of activities and exhibitors visit www.piercecountywa.org/esbbridal.

To learn more about the Environmental Services Building call 253.798.4141 or email pceventrental@piercecountywa.gov.

MEDIA CONTACTS:

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**For upcoming events and Council Meeting information
visit the Upcoming Events Calendar.**

University Place City Council



Mayor Kent Keel



Mayor Pro Tem Caroline Belleci



**Council Member
Javier Figueroa**



**Council Member
Steve
Worthington**



**Council Member
Ken Grassi**



**Council Member
Denise
McCluskey**



**Council Member
Chris Nye**

