

Headlines

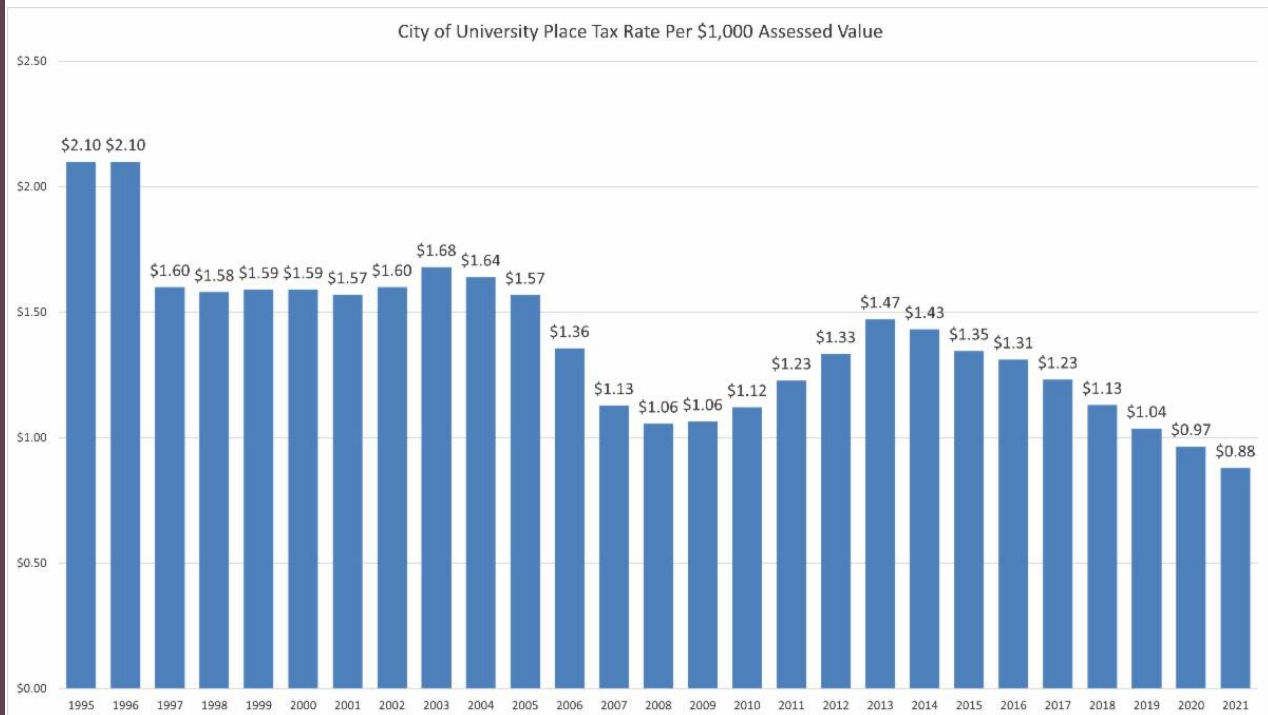
News from University Place City Hall



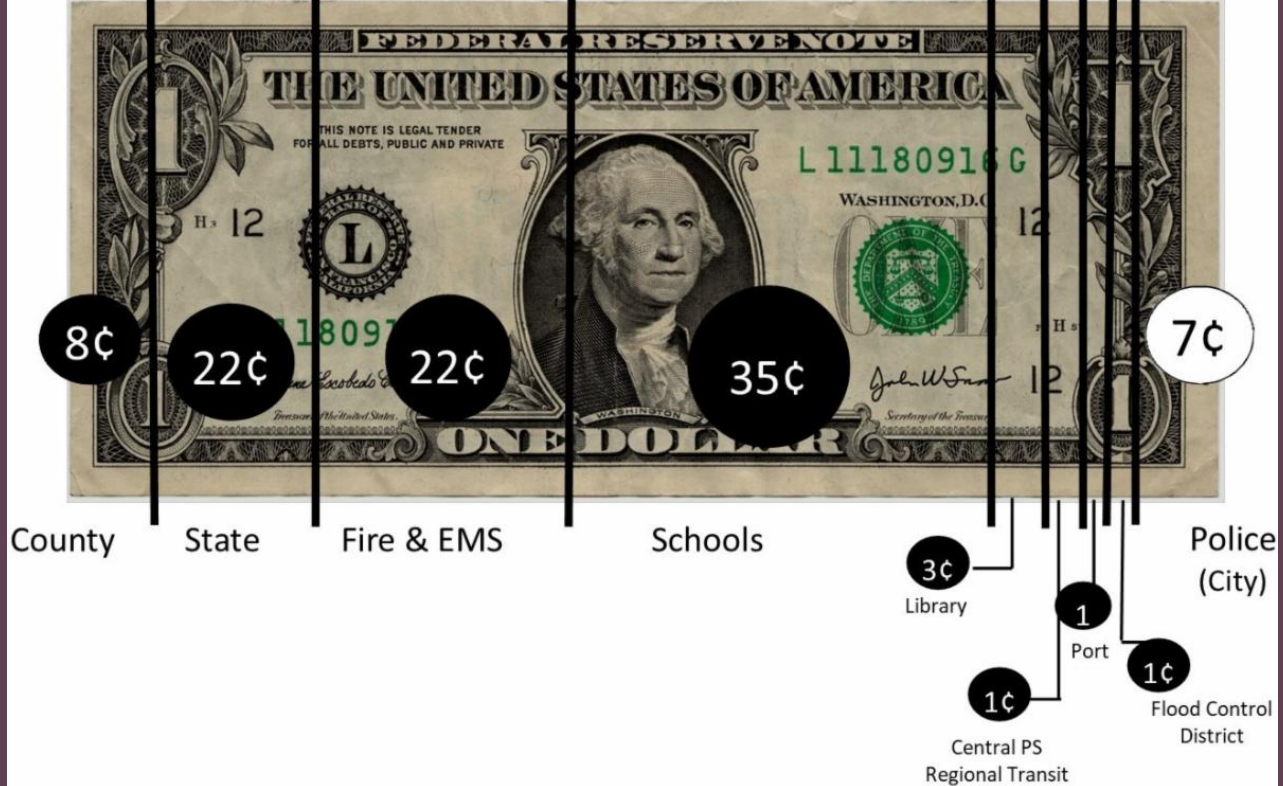
February 17, 2021

Update on Taxes in U.P.

Later this month, the County will mail out new property tax information. You might not notice, but in the details, you'll find that your City of University Place property tax rate is the lowest that it's ever been!



The reason why you might not notice the decline in the City's property tax rate is because the portion of your property bill that goes to the City is a small portion of the total bill – only 6.6%.



Note that all of the property taxes paid to the City are dedicated to the City's police and public safety expenses.

City Property Taxes

So, you might ask, with the City's property tax rate decreasing, but the assessed value of your home increasing, what does this mean for the actual amount of property tax that you will pay this year. The answer to this question is a little bit more complicated because of how property taxes are computed in Washington State. The chart below illustrates the effect of the recent increase in assessed value on the amount a U.P. homeowner with an average home value will pay in City property taxes.

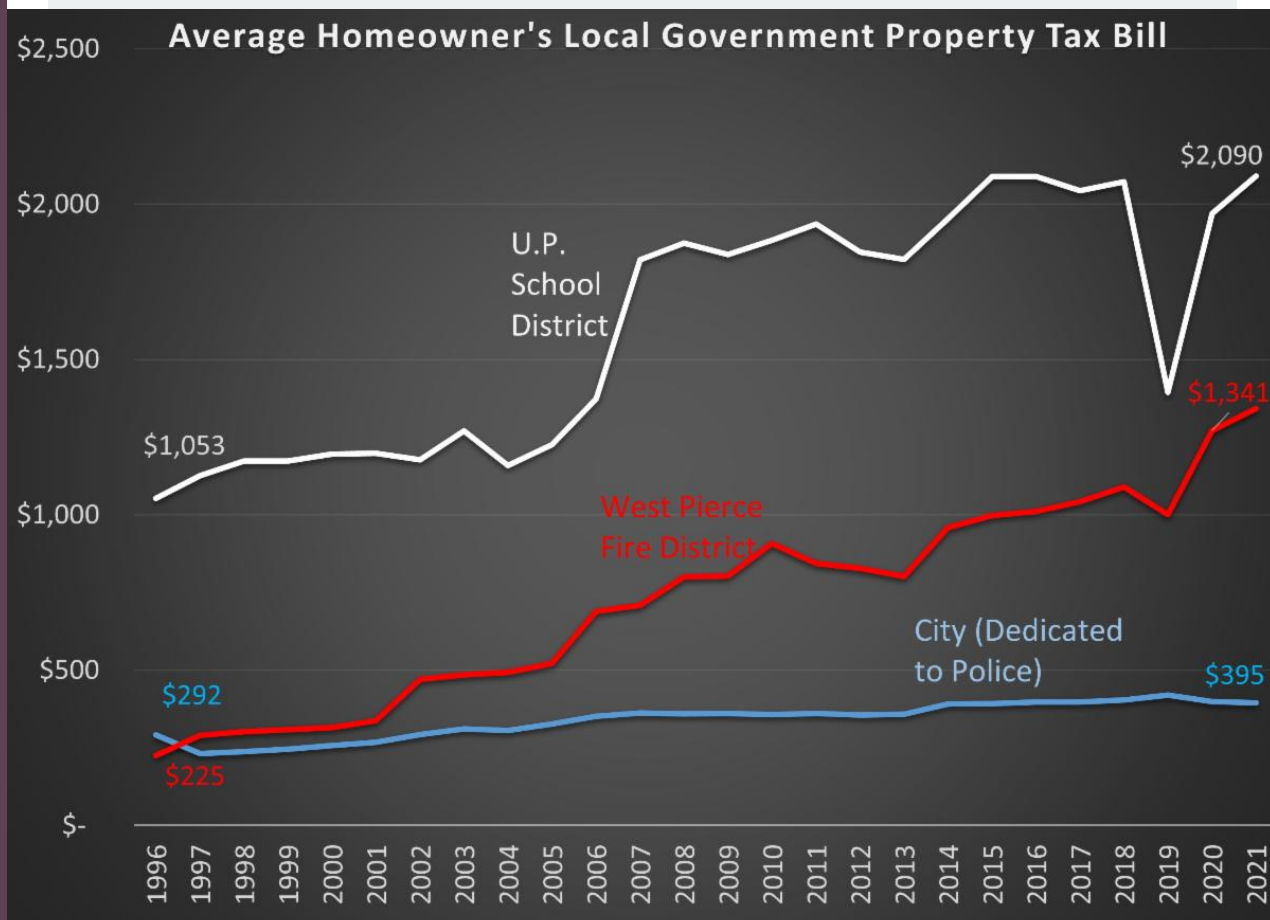
	2020	2021
Average Assessed Value on U.P. Home	\$412,504	\$448,612
% Increase in Average Assessed Value		8.75%
City Property Tax Rate	\$0.97/\$1,000 AV	\$0.88/\$1,000 AV
City Property Tax on Average U.P. Home	\$400	\$395
% Increase (Decrease) in City Property Tax Bill		(-1.34%)

You'll note that the average U.P. home value increased by 8.75%, but the City tax on the average home actually decreased by 1.34%! As a result, if your home's assessed value increased by the same percentage or less than the average home in U.P., the amount you will pay the City in 2021 will actually decrease. If the value of your home increased by more than 10%, you may see a slight increase in your City property tax bill.

Property Taxes Paid to Other Jurisdictions

As for your total tax property tax bill, similar to your City property tax, your total tax will vary depending on the percentage increase in your home's value. Most will see a modest increase in taxes. For the average home, this means an increase of 3.86%.

This increase in the average total property tax bill is due to tax increases by jurisdictions other than the City. The chart below shows a comparison of the average property tax bill paid to local jurisdictions since incorporation. The City's property tax on an average home has increased on average by only 1.23% a year for the past 25 years – substantially less than the rate of inflation and substantially less than other jurisdictions to whom you pay taxes.



Other Tax and Fee Changes

The City also instituted a couple of other changes to City taxes and fees for 2021. Specifically, the City Council recently approved a decrease in the Transportation Benefit District fee, which is included on your vehicle license tab renewal. This fee was reduced from \$35 a year to \$10 a year, for the next five years. The City Council also approved a 6% utility tax on Tacoma Public Utilities and Pierce County Sewers operations in the City, matching the tax rate paid by private sector utility providers in the City; 3% of the tax will begin in April 2021, with the other half of the tax being implemented in April 2022. While this tax is on the utility providers, the utilities have the right to pass along the tax to their customers.

We estimate that the net effect of the decrease in property taxes and the decrease in the vehicle license fee, when combined with the utility tax, will mean that the average homeowner with two vehicles will pay the City only \$1.02 more per month in 2021 than 2020.

If you have questions about the City's property tax or other taxes, please feel free to email Assistant City Manager **Eric Faison** or call him at 253.460.5443.

Chief's Corner

I want to thank all of you who were able to join me on Feb. 4 for our virtual 2021 U.P. Public Safety Forum. We were able to spend almost two hours together going over 2020 crime stats, calls for service data, and staffing information for the Police Department. We also covered several topics around police reform—ideas that are being talked about locally and nationally.

If you were not able to join us and are interested in reviewing the information that was shared, I created a recap of the presentation and placed it on our **website**.



Also, during the forum I shared information about our upcoming series of discussions called "Conversations with the Chief." Each of these virtual meetings will be dedicated to a single topic where we can dive-in and share, listen and learn from each other with the goal of making U.P. a safer community for everyone. For our first Conversation with the Chief, we will be discussing the topic of social justice and criminal justice in U.P. Our meeting will be Thursday, March 4, at 6 p.m. If you would like to join us just email **UPPublicSafety@cityofup.com** and we will send you a Teams invite. We also encourage you to send us your thoughts and questions for upcoming Conversations with the Chief. In the future I hope to cover topics around police staffing, traffic concerns, property crimes and more.

Until then, be sure to watch future Chief's Corner messages for information on our next Citizen's Academy scheduled to begin in April. And as always, stay safe.

VIRTUAL PUBLIC SAFETY ACADEMY

Begins in April!
Email **UPPublicSafety@CityofUP.com**
for more details.



Hosted by the
University Place
Police Department



Give it a Shot: An Important Reminder about COVID Vaccines

Reference **the Phase Finder tool** for details on who qualifies for each phase of the vaccination roll-out and how to make an appointment for your injection.

Don't wait. ***Vaccination is the best way to bring about the end to the pandemic.***



Public Works Department Works Hard During Recent Snowfall

Long before the first flakes fell, the City of U.P.'s Public Works crews were busy preparing for the area's recent snow. "We started preparations three days prior to the impending snow event by treating the roads with salt brine/anti-icing liquid," said Gary Cooper, director of Public Works, Parks & Facilities for the City.



With the pre-snow preparations complete, the City had crews on hand early Friday evening, beginning at 7 p.m. when the snow started falling. They plowed streets and deployed additional salt to U.P.'s arterial streets, working around the clock. "We finally parked the last plow at 4 a.m. Monday morning," Cooper said.

In total, the department logged more than 310 manhours, deployed 170 tons of sand and 7,500 gallons of anti-icing liquid. Cooper says the crews are now busy cleaning and performing maintenance on the equipment used. They are making preparations to replenish stockpiles and supplies so they will be ready for the next weather event.

City Prepares for 5G and Small Cell Distributed Network Systems

Small Cell Facility Options



Hollow Power Pole
Full Concealment



Freestanding
Small Cell
Full Concealment



Wood Power Pole
Installation on Top
of Pole



Wood Power Pole
Installation in
Communication
Space



Strand Mount
Attachment
to Wires

The University Place City Council has directed the Planning Commission to make recommendations regarding the roll out of 5G wireless technology in the form of Small Cell Distributed Network Systems. The City already has regulations for Macro Wireless Facilities, those typically located on tall cell phone towers.

Unlike macro systems that rely on tall towers, facilities on existing buildings and other structures such as water towers on private property, micro-systems (small cell) rely on small antenna located on existing utility poles along public streets. Although macro antenna located on a few tall towers can have a range of several miles, micro antenna only range between 4,000 and 6,000 feet. Yet this tighter network can handle more signals at faster speeds. As few as 12 micro antenna can provide coverage for the entire city.

In 2014 the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) developed regulations regarding the **siting of Small Cell Distributed Network Systems**. It includes statutory requirements related to State and local government review of infrastructure siting applications, while recognizing potential impacts to the environment, historic properties and aesthetics.

The City's Planning Commission is currently reviewing these statutory requirements and best practices to protect the environment and U.P.'s community aesthetics. Proposed regulations include application and permit processing, modification of existing facilities and design standards for different types of antenna, antenna locations and ancillary equipment.

For more information, please contact Planning and Development Services Director **David Swindale**. Proposed draft regulations will be posted on the City's Website soon.

**The City of University Place is Seeking Applicants
for AWC Center for Quality Communities
Scholarship**

University Place is now accepting applications for the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) Center for Quality Communities scholarship. The scholarship is available through a statewide competitive process for students who are actively engaged in their city government and/or community and plan to attend post-secondary school in fall 2021.

To be eligible, a student must be a Washington resident who will graduate from high school, complete home schooling, or receive a GED in spring/summer 2021. The student must plan to continue their education at an accredited college or trade school in the 2021-2022 academic year on at least a half-time basis and must have a history of involvement with a city government or with a community/school leadership activity.

Information and application materials can be obtained on the **City Website** or **cfqc.org**. Completed applications are due no later than Friday, February 26. Submit completed materials to:

City of University Place
Attention: Lisa Petorak
3609 Market Place W. Suite 200
University Place, WA 98466
LPetorak@CityofUP.com

AWC's Center for Quality Communities promotes municipal leadership development and civic engagement. The Center's goal is to develop a broad public understanding of the important role cities and towns play in Washington. The Center is a 501(c)(3).

NOW HIRING!



**The City of University Place is hiring
Temporary Seasonal Maintenance Workers**

VIEW THESE AND OTHER JOB OPPORTUNITIES AT WWW.CITYOFUP.COM

Visit the [Job Opportunities](#) page on the City Website for job description and details! Applications close on Friday, Feb. 26, 2021 at 4 p.m.

Advisory Commission Vacancies

Commissioners are citizens that, 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. They function as a focus group from within the community and create ideas to assist the City Council in shaping legislative policy.

Applications are currently being accepted from City residents interested in serving on the following Commissions:

Park Advisory Commission
Planning Commission

Vacancies are open until filled. Applications are available on the **City's webpage Committees, Commissions, and Partners**. For more information email **DNicholas@CityofUP.com**.

Flashvote

Have you signed up for FlashVote? It's not too late!

Survey's take less than a minute and give participants an opportunity to weigh in on issues within our local community.

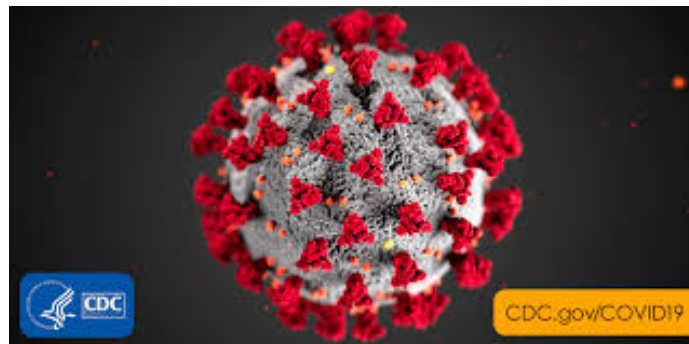


Sign up now to take part in upcoming surveys!

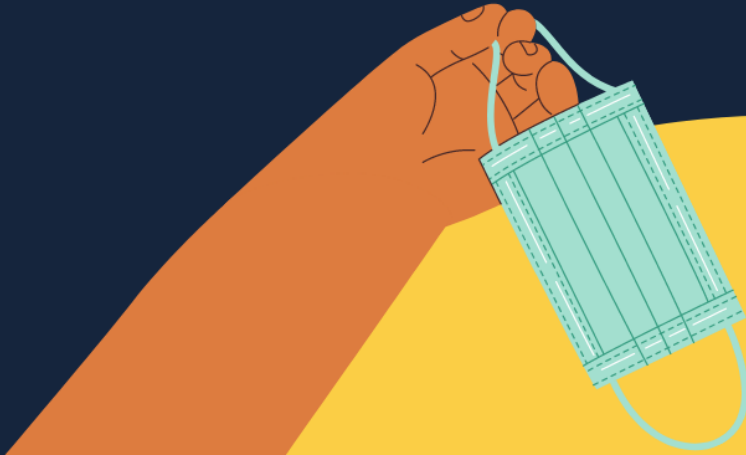
Get the Facts: COVID Resources

As the nation and our region continues to battle the COVID-19 outbreak, be sure to stay informed with accurate information from these official sources:

- The **U.S. Centers for Disease Control** offers the latest facts and information about COVID-19, including information on travel and return to school or work.
- The **Governor's Office** provides details about on-going response efforts throughout the State of Washington, including the state's Risk Assessment Dashboard.
- The **Washington State Department of Health** provides updated statistics on the occurrence of COVID-19 across the state, as well as testing data.
- The **Tacoma-Pierce County Department of Health** and **Pierce County Government** provide important local information on testing sites, phased re-opening status and CARES Act funding to support recovery efforts.
- The City of University Place's dedicated **COVID-19 info page** includes valuable information on resources for businesses and residents, such as local school meal sites and public utilities' contact information for payment plans or assistance.



**Mask UP to prevent the
spread of COVID-19**



UNIVERSITY PLACE VIRTUAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING



**Monday, March 1, 2021
at 6:30 p.m.**

WWW.CITYOFUP.COM



**Mayor
Caroline Belleci**



**Mayor Pro Tem
Steve Worthington**



**Council Member
Javier Figueroa**



**Council Member
Kent Keel**



**Council Member Pro Tem
Howard Lee**



**Council Member
Denise McCluskey**



**Council Member
Stan Flemming**



NON-EMERGENCY LINES

253-287-4455
800-562-9800



University Place City Council



Mayor Caroline Belleci



**Mayor Pro Tem
Steve Worthington**



**Council Member
Javier Figueroa**



**Council Member
Kent Keel**



**Council Member
Ken Grassi**



**Council Member Pro Tem
Howard Lee**



**Council Member
Denise McCluskey**



**Council Member
Stan Flemming**

