

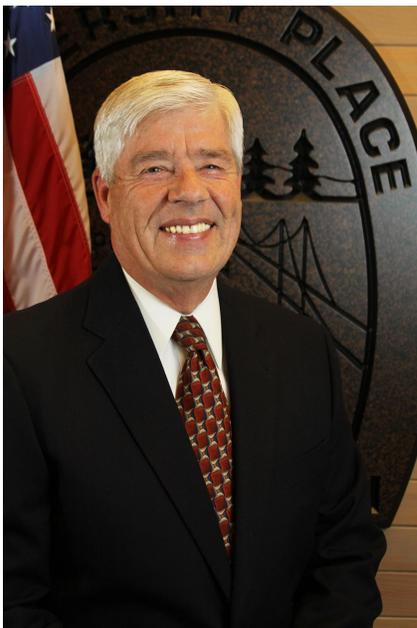
Headlines

News from University Place City Hall



June 9, 2021

Remembering Gerald Gehring



The City of University Place has lost another of its pioneering leaders with the passing of former Mayor and City Council Member Gerald Gehring, who died on June 4 after a two-year battle with cancer. The City of University Place flag will fly at half-staff in his honor from June 9 to 11.

Gerald was elected to the University Place City Council for several terms beginning in 1998 and concluding in 2011. He served as the City's Mayor from 2006-2008 and was actively involved in plans to develop Town Center (now known as the Village at Chambers Bay) and with Pierce County's efforts to build Chambers Bay Golf Course within the city limits. His many other contributions to U.P. and Pierce County include serving on the Finance Committee for seven years and acting as a City Council liaison to the Planning and Parks & Recreation commissions. He also led the Pierce County Mayors and Executive group in 2007. A

little known fact for some is that he also played as the Piping Major in the Tacoma Scots Bagpipe Band.

Gerald's son Gunnar Gehring said although most people might not know it, his father touched their lives in some way, whether through his public service or his work at the company he founded, Puget Paving and Construction, Inc. "It would be difficult to travel anywhere in Pierce County and not be within a half-mile of something Gerald paved," he said.

Gerald is survived by his wife Rebecca Gehring and his daughters Gretchen Seamons, and Paula Riordan, his three sons, Jacob, Gunnar and Stefan Gehring, and by 20 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild. Funeral Services are tentatively planned for Saturday, June 19, at 11 a.m. The funeral will also be livestreamed. The location and livestream link will be added to this article on the City's website as they become available.

Chief's Corner: We NEED you!!

Are you interested in a law enforcement career? Do you know someone you think would make a good officer who you can encourage to apply? Law enforcement agencies around the country, including here in Pierce County, are struggling to meet their staffing needs because of a significant lack of applicants.

I know it's a tough sell right now. Negative attention on our profession has impacted interest in serving as a law enforcement officer and many who had considered this as a career path have steered away. But I think everyone would agree, we will always need police officers—and we need them more than ever now.



This is a job that demands a lot from those who choose to take it on. You are asked to deal with a myriad of issues from investigating property crimes to dealing with domestic disputes. You talk with people in emotional crisis and respond to traffic accidents. One minute you may be talking with a young person at the scene of an incident that is very positive and then get whisked away to deal with a tragic death or abuse call. It can be emotionally and physically challenging, but I also believe it would be hard to find a career that is more rewarding.

There is no one characteristic that makes someone a good police officer. Lots of different people can do this job as long as they share our common commitment to the same mission and core values: Respect, Responsibility, Integrity, Courage and Compassion.

If you are interested at all in becoming a law enforcement officer or know someone you think would be a good candidate, feel free to check out these resources: **Pierce County Sheriff Hiring Website** and **University Place PD Hiring and Training video presentation**.

Thank you, and as always, stay safe.

Housing Action Plan Gets a New Name: Housing Action Toolkit

During the City Council meeting on June 7, members reviewed the proposed **Housing Action Plan** which was prepared by the Planning Commission and the City's Planning and Development Services department. Because the plan itself will not result in any Comprehensive Plan policy or development regulation changes at this time, Mayor Caroline Belleci suggested changing its title to the Housing Action Toolkit. Doing so, she noted, better reflects the fact that the document offers recommendations and possible actions that the City can consider as it plans for the next 20 years of growth, especially with regard to future construction of additional affordable and market-rate housing throughout the city.

The Council also supported the Planning Commission's request to prioritize the actions to be considered and to note that they will be taken only if directed by

the City Council.

The City Council will review the document and recommendations prior to a final vote for adoption at its regularly scheduled meeting on June 21 at 6:30 p.m.

Enjoy This Video Tour of a Beautiful U.P. Garden

In May, the University Place Historical Society resumed its annual Garden Tours in person. Last year, virtual video tours of the gardens were offered, but this year participants were again able to see some of these hidden gems in person.

New on this year's tour was Linda Peterson's ever-expanding garden. First featured on the Garden Tour three years ago, Linda has made tremendous progress in that short time. Today, her property includes habitats created through natural plantings that attract lady bugs and other predator bugs that combat slugs and aphids.

With an Italian prune orchard, red raspberries and marionberries, Linda's garden feeds the body and soul. Its combination of native and natural plantings, with additional features that include a pond and an outdoor fireplace, makes the garden a place that inspires both creativity and relaxation. Discover it for yourself [here](#).



What's UP With Biz

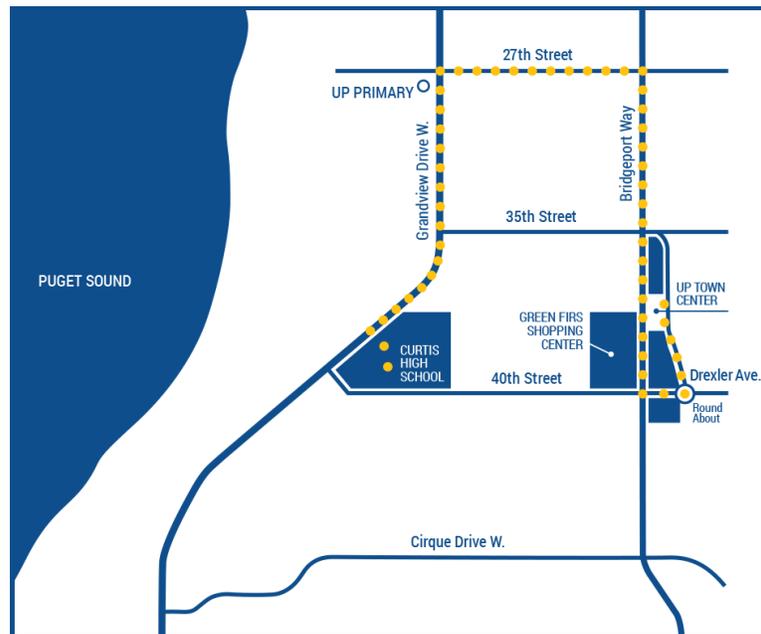
Businesses throughout University Place are encouraged to help congratulate the

members of Curtis High School's Class of 2021 with special offers and discounts. Several businesses in the Village at Chambers Bay will be participating in the graduation parade and offering the graduates some extras to mark their accomplishments.

As U.P.'s only high school, Curtis is an integral part of our community so everyone, residents and business owners alike, is encouraged to let these young people know that we are proud of them and wish them well!

Cheer on the Class of 2021 this Saturday!

Please make time this Saturday morning, June 12, to show your support and congratulations to the Class of 2021 graduates of Curtis High School. After receiving their diplomas, Curtis High seniors will be invited to drive a route through the community from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Members of the University Place City Council will be on hand and encourage the public to join them as they "Line the Route" and cheer on the graduates as they close one chapter in their lives and begin the next.



For complete details on the route, visit the U.P. School District's Facebook page. Then be sure to find a safe location along the route, wear Royal Blue and White to show your Viking Pride and "make some noise" for the Class of 2021! Take a look at this **brief video** of last year's parade and get inspired on how to make this a special and memorable end to their CHS careers.



Light UP Safely on the 4th

With the Fourth of July just around the corner, this is a reminder that the City of University Place has a fireworks ordinance that specifies the type of fireworks that are legal within the City's boundaries and when they can be used.



KNOW WHAT'S LEGAL IN UNIVERSITY PLACE

Stay Safe & Legal this Fourth of July

Specifically:

- Fireworks can only be discharged from 9 a.m. to midnight on July 4.
- The only legal fireworks for discharge in U.P. are:
 - Sparklers: Handheld sticks with a coating of pyrotechnic material that creates sparks when lit. Morning Glory sparklers are a larger thin cardboard tube filled with powder.
 - Fountains: Ground devices that emit showers of sparks several feet in the air.
 - Cones: A type of fountain in the shape of a cone.
 - Smokes: Items, including smoke balls and aerial items, that produce smoke instead of light or noise. These items are generally used during the daytime.
 - Novelties: Snakes and poppers that often shoot white smoke or multi-colored parachutes.
- Fireworks must be purchased, possessed and discharged by persons 16 years of age or older. Children under 16 must be under direct adult supervision.
- Violations of the University Place fireworks law are infractions and could lead to a \$250 fine, plus fees, costs and assessments.

"We want to continue to remind people that fireworks purchased in other places may not be legal in University Place," said Jennifer Hales, public safety administrator for the City of University Place. "We did not receive any permit requests for fireworks sales in University Place this year. So residents should be very careful when purchasing fireworks at vendors located outside of University Place to ensure they are buying fireworks that are legal to discharge in U.P."



National Night Out is Back!



After taking last year off because of the pandemic, National Night Out will return to University Place on Tuesday, Aug. 3.

Residents are encouraged to turn on their outside lights, lock their doors and step outside to join neighbors in the fight against crime. Host a potluck, grill some burgers, or simply hold a BYOB happy hour. The idea is to come together as a community to

strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships. Take a look at this **brief video by the National Night Out organization** to see the excitement this event generates across the country.

To allow more time for the caravan of U.P. Police, West Pierce Fire & Rescue and City officials to visit as many neighborhoods as possible, this year's NNO will not

include a kick-off event prior to the festivities.

Neighborhoods who wish to be visited by the caravan must register by Friday, July 23 by emailing **Jennifer Hales**, the City's Public Safety administrator.

U.P. Veterans Plaza Moving Forward

During its regular meeting on June 7, the U.P. City Council voted to approve moving the site of the proposed University Place Veterans Plaza project from its original planned location at Bridgeport Way and Cirque Drive to the small knoll at the entrance to Cirque Park.

The University Place Veterans Plaza Committee has been working on this project for more than 12 years and has been actively raising funds to support it. Their goal is to have all the funds on hand before initiating construction.

Given that University Place is home to a large number of veterans, including more than half of the current City Council members, the Council not only approved the relocation of the site to Cirque Park but also voted to contribute up to \$40,000 towards the construction costs. The Veterans Committee, headed by Bob Schwartz, has raised \$53,000 to date and will contribute the remainder of the funds needed and provide project management to construct the plaza. Construction on the 40-foot diameter plaza is expected to take about two months. The goal is to have the project ready for a ribbon cutting on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2021.

To contribute to this memorial to U.P.'s veterans, including in-kind contributions of labor and services such as concrete finishing, electrical work and masonry, please **[click here](#)**.

Do Your Part and Get the Shot



What do I need to know about each kind of vaccine?

Vaccines provide excellent protection against severe illness or death from COVID-19. That means a vaccine is your best chance of returning to normal life.

Each is a little different, but your best choice is the vaccine that's available to you now.

- Pfizer:
 - Authorized for people 12 years or older.
 - Requires 2 doses at least 21 days apart.
- Moderna:
 - Authorized for people 18 years or older.
 - Requires 2 doses at least 28 days apart.
- Johnson & Johnson:
 - Authorized for people 18 years or older.
 - Requires 1 dose.



Find your vaccine at [tpchd.org/vaxtothefuture!](https://tpchd.org/vaxtothefuture)



**You may be the person we
are looking for!**

**View current job
opportunities at
www.CityofUP.com**

WE WANT YOU ON OUR TEAM!



Visit the [Job Opportunities](#) page on the [City Website](#) for job description and details!

Pierce County Master Gardeners Present Our Summer Workshop: From the Ground and Up

It is with much excitement that we welcome you to the 6th year of the From the Ground and Up gardening workshop! This year's event includes two Keynote Speakers. You can choose from 10 online classes in two breakout sessions that reflect your own unique interests. We hope this workshop inspires you in your gardening endeavors.

On Saturday, June 19, following an engaging keynote presentation by Richie Steffen, Executive Director for the Elizabeth C. Miller Botanic Garden, you will be able to attend interactive classes taught by expert instructors. The workshop will conclude with our second keynote speaker, Susie Egan, Landscape Designer, Cottage Lake Gardens, providing information on shade gardening.

From the Ground and Up workshop is produced and presented by the WSU Pierce County Master Gardeners, in conjunction with the City of Tacoma and Pierce County.

Please join us at the 2021 From the Ground and Up workshop and share your passion as we launch a new gardening season!



CITY HALL HOLIDAY CLOSURE

City staff will be on holiday on Monday, July 5 in recognition of the Fourth of July holiday. Normal hours will resume virtually on Tuesday, July 6 at 9 a.m

Flashvote

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

Surveys 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!

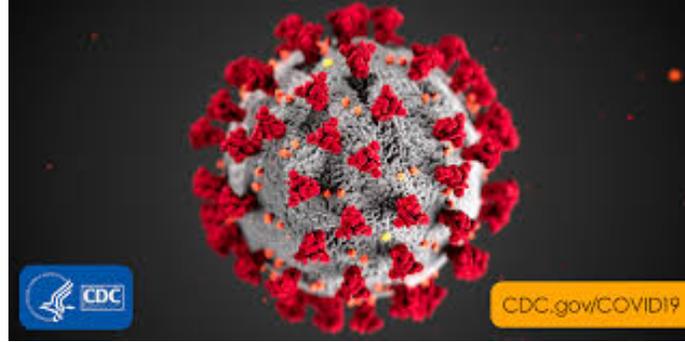
Get the Facts: COVID Resources

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:

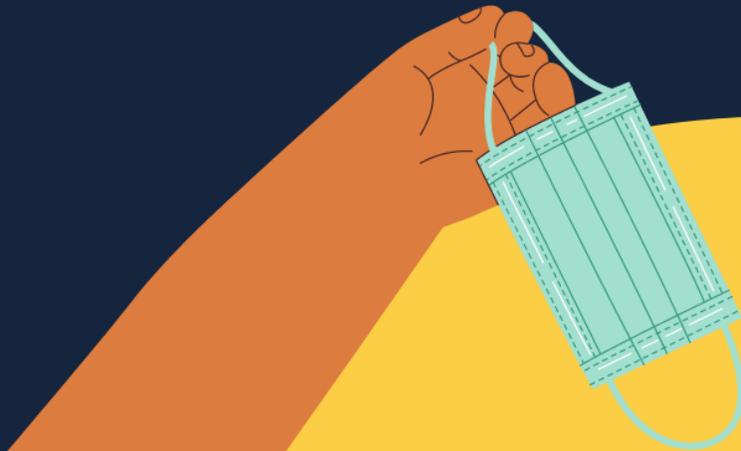
- The **U.S. Centers for**

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, June 21, 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**

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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**

