

# Headlines

News from University Place City Hall



September 1, 2021

## A Celebration to Remember



Market Square was full of congratulatory handshakes and smiles as the City of University Place celebrated the 25th Anniversary of its incorporation on Aug. 25 during that evening's Music on the Square event.

A big crowd of residents, business owners, City staff and City Council members were on hand and enjoyed lots of treats, ranging from beautiful shortbread cookies with the City's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary logo to free t-shirts for those who signed up to receive Headlines or FlashVote, the online survey tool the City uses to seek public input on key issues.



Mayor Caroline Belleci hosted a trivia contest on the City's history, with free U.P. stadium cushions awarded by City Council members to those giving the winning answers. "That was so much fun," Belleci said. "It was a great way to relive our City's history and fun to see how competitive people got in trying to win the prizes!"

Even those who didn't compete came away with goodies, however, including squeeze balls, anniversary pins and more. And there were additional giveaways to be had from many of the 37 area businesses that were on hand as part of a special Business Fair held in conjunction with



the event to promote local products and services.

"Events like this require lots of planning and preparation, so I want to extend a special thanks to all of our hard-working City staff who organized this fantastic evening," Belleci said. "It was truly a celebration to remember."





## Music on the Square Wraps Up Tonight

Don't miss the last concert of the Music on the Square series, when master pianist, composer and arranger Jovino Santos Neto is joined by Ben Thomas on vibraphone, Chuck Deardorf on bass, Mark Ivester on drums, and Jeff Busch on percussion to perform as the Jovino Santos Neto Quinteto. This group has recorded multiple CDs, including a Latin Grammy "Best Album" nominee.



Bringing additional spice to the evening will be the Ruca food truck, dishing out authentic Mexican cuisine. Or grab something to go from any of our other U.P. businesses to enjoy dinner and a show *al fresco*.

Summer is quickly winding down, so don't miss this last chance to move to Music on the Square.

U.P. POLICE DEPARTMENT PRESENTS

# PUBLIC SAFETY FORUM

Share your ideas and concerns about Public Safety here in University Place, plus learn about department updates from Police Chief Greg Premo.

**SEPTEMBER 30, 2021, 6 P.M.**  
**SAVE THE DATE | LOCATION T.B.D.**



## City Council to Offer First Hybrid Council Meeting on Sept. 7

On Tuesday, Sept. 7, the U.P. City Council will launch a new hybrid format for its regular meetings which will enable people to participate in person or remotely.

Councilmembers, staff, presenters and members of the public can attend the meeting in the Council Chambers or stay home and join remotely. Since April 2020, as part of their regular meetings, the City Council has regularly

accepted citizen comments virtually and through written comments. With this hybrid meeting format, these means of communicating directly with the City Council remain and the Council Chambers is now reopened for the public.

All those who attend in person will be required to wear masks, per State of Washington directives, and socially distance.

City staff are finalizing many of the technical details required to ensure proper taping and playback for all items addressed both in-person and remotely.

The Sept. 7 City Council meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. Those who wish to attend remotely can find the evening's agenda and instructions on how to join the meeting on the **City's Event Calendar** when it's available, likely by this Friday. As a reminder, those who join remotely and have questions or comments they would like the Council to address must submit those items to City Clerk **Emy Genetia** no later than 5:30 p.m. on the day of the meeting to be included in the

A graphic for the University Place Virtual City Council Meeting. It features a dark blue background with white text. At the top, it says 'UNIVERSITY PLACE VIRTUAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING' with a small logo. Below that, it says 'Tuesday, Sept. 7, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.' and 'WWW.CITYOFUP.COM'. There are two rows of portraits of council members. The top row shows Mayor Caroline Belleci and Mayor Pro Tem Steve Worthington. The bottom row shows Council Member Javier Figueroa, Council Member Kent Keel, Council Member Pro Tem Howard Lee, Council Member Denise McCluskey, and Council Member Stan Flemming.

**UNIVERSITY PLACE VIRTUAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**Tuesday, Sept. 7, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.**

[WWW.CITYOFUP.COM](http://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**

## Pierce County Council Will Hold In-District Meeting in the U.P. Council Chambers on Sept. 8



The Pierce County Council will hold its Evening District No. 4 Council Meeting on **Wednesday, Sept. 8, 2021 at 6 p.m.** in the University Place City Hall Council Chambers at 3609 Market Place West, third floor. This meeting shall be in addition to the regular 3 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 7 meeting held in the County Council Chambers.

The Pierce County Council set meetings "in-district" to afford their constituents the opportunity to attend in person more conveniently. The U.P. Council Chambers will be open to the public and residents of University Place may take this opportunity to attend.

View the Council Meeting notice and link to the agenda and packet on the [Pierce County Council Meeting Calendar Entry](#).

## What's UP with Biz?

A new business is coming to the Village at Chambers Bay. Happy Duo Café will move into the space previously occupied by Anthem Coffee. Restaurateur (and University Place resident) Derek Zhao will open a bakery and restaurant in the U.P. Civic Building, offering freshly made baked goods and other signature menu items and beverages.

Some renovations are being made to the existing space so watch for more details about a grand opening later this year.

## UP Veterans Memorial Groundbreaking

Mayor Caroline Belleci was joined on Aug. 19 by U.P. veterans and Col. D. Shane Finison, commander of the 16<sup>th</sup> Combat Air Brigade at JBLM, for a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Veterans Plaza at 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 the project complete and ready for dedication on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2021.



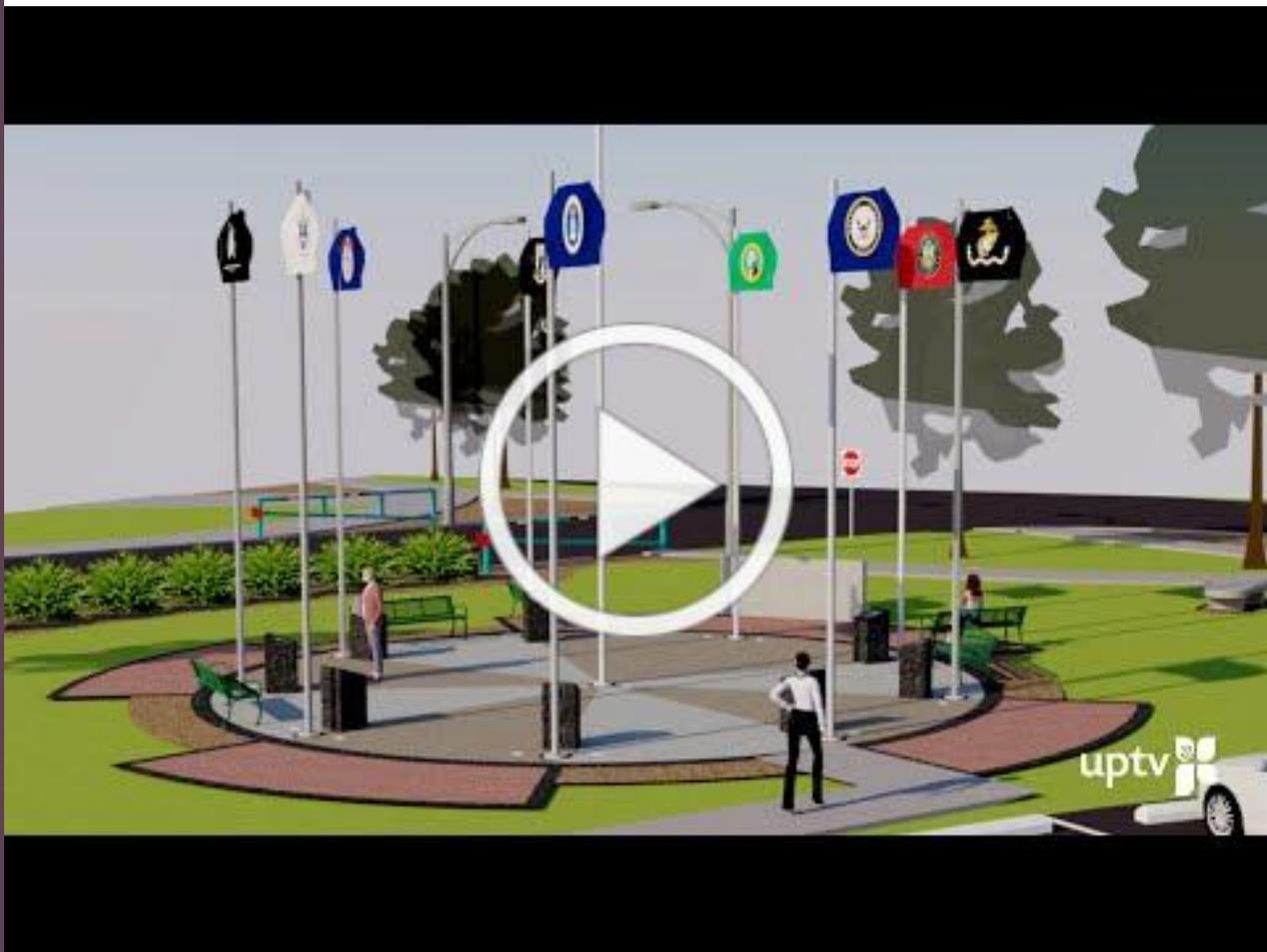
"It's nice to be recognized for your service, but a key part of us wanting to have this project is to also remember the families of all the veterans," said Bob

Schwartz, a U.P. resident and veteran who headed up the Veterans Committee. "It is tough to be a military spouse and family. This will be a place to honor their sacrifice and the memory of all the veterans and their service."

Schwartz noted the project has taken a long time to come to fruition but the Veterans Committee has now raised enough money to begin construction and make it a reality. That kind of effort and perseverance was not lost on Col. Finison.

"To have a place like this and to see that service from those all across the nation is appreciated gives us a piece of home no matter where we are," he said. "It means a lot to us to see that U.P. is honoring those who are willing to serve our nation."

Learn more about University Place Veterans Plaza and ways to contribute—including with in-kind services—on their website: [upveteransmemorial.org/](http://upveteransmemorial.org/).



## 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony

In honor of the 20th anniversary of September 11, West Pierce Fire & Rescue will hold two public ceremonies in remembrance of the 2,977 victims lost on that date in 2001. Those victims included 343 firefighters, 60 police officers and 55 military personnel.

The first ceremony will be held in conjunction with

the City of Lakewood at 12:30 p.m. at Lakewood City Hall, located at 6000 Main Street on Friday, September 10.

The second ceremony will be held at **9 a.m. at West Pierce Station 31, located at 3631 Drexler Drive W in University Place on Saturday, September 11.** This ceremony will take place in the 9/11 Reflection Park in front of the station, where a steel beam from the twin towers is on display, among other symbolic features.



These ceremonies are one small way for us to not only remember those victims in New York, at the Pentagon, and in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, but also to honor fire, police, and military first responders who serve and protect our families, our communities, and our nation, at home and abroad.

The public is invited and encouraged to attend.

## September is "Puget Sound Starts Here" Month!

### Puget Sound starts with you!

The City of University Place is working with hundreds of organizations across Puget Sound to challenge you to do at least one simple thing that helps keep the Puget Sound healthy. What will *you* do?



### What do you mean by "Puget Sound Starts Here?"

"Here" is where we live, work, and play. It's our backyard, our driveways, our neighborhoods, our homes, our businesses. It's our streams, our lakes, our Puget Sound. It's our fish, wildlife and our recreation and natural places. Puget Sound is our home.

### First, a bit about the rain.

We know it tends to rain here. Like, a lot. When it rains, water flows over hard surfaces like roofs, parking lots, driveways, streets, and lawns where the soil has been packed down. As rainwater flows towards ditches and storm drains, it picks up dog poop, lawn chemicals like fertilizer and pesticides, motor vehicle oil, and many other pollutants along the way.

### Where does the rain go next?

That polluted rainwater - also called stormwater runoff - travels **without treatment** right into our local streams, lakes and wetlands that eventually empty into the Puget Sound. That's what we mean by "Puget Sound Starts Here." Your actions - in University Place or anywhere else in Western Washington - have an impact, and we **all** have the power to help improve water quality.

### Be the solution.

There are 4.5 million people living in the Puget Sound region, if each person can make even one small change, the combined efforts can have an amazingly positive impact. Help us to keep it clean! Learn more about how you can get

involved at [www.pugetsoundstartshere.org](http://www.pugetsoundstartshere.org).

Puget Sound Starts Here (PSSH) is made up of more than 750 organizations working together to raise awareness about how our everyday actions affect Puget Sound.

Learn about the **City of University Place Stormwater Program** on the City Website.

## 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!)

## 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.

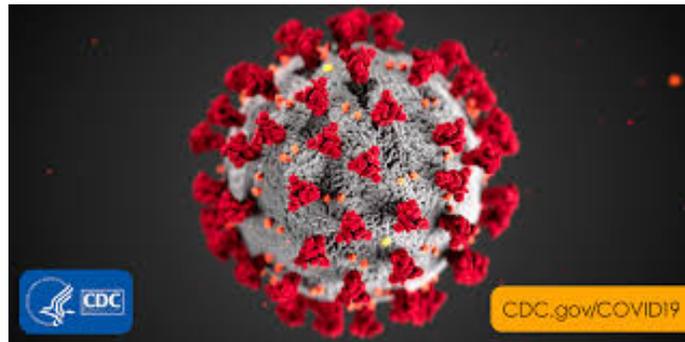


**Sign up now to take part in upcoming surveys!**

## Get the Facts: COVID Resources

As the nation and our region continue 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 Tacoma Public Utilities' contact information for payment plans or assistance.



# City Hall Holiday Closure

City Staff will be on holiday on Monday, September 6 in recognition of the Labor Day holiday. Normal hours will resume on Tuesday, September 7 at 9 a.m.

Follow us on your favorite social media sites!



@CityofUPWA



UniversityPlaceTV



@CityofUP\_WA



@CityofUPWA

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**

