

Headlines

News from University Place City Hall



July 29, 2020

Free COVID-19 Testing Available in U.P. on Aug. 4

Next Tuesday, Aug. 4, **West Pierce Fire & Rescue** and the City of University Place will team up to host a **free** mobile COVID-19 testing site at the old City Hall location in Windmill Village from 9:30



a.m. to 3:30 p.m. It is expected that up to 500 tests can be conducted on a first-come, first-served basis over the six-hour period.

There will be walk-up and drive-through testing and, although appointments are not required, safety is paramount so numerous measures will be in place to ensure the tests can be completed without risk to anyone. These measures include:

- Social distancing of walk-up testers will be enforced, and each walk-up will be given a mask.
- Pierce County Emergency Management is providing self-contained trailers (for bio waste and test swabs).
- All testing personnel will be outfitted with personal protective equipment (PPE), including gloves, masks and face shields.

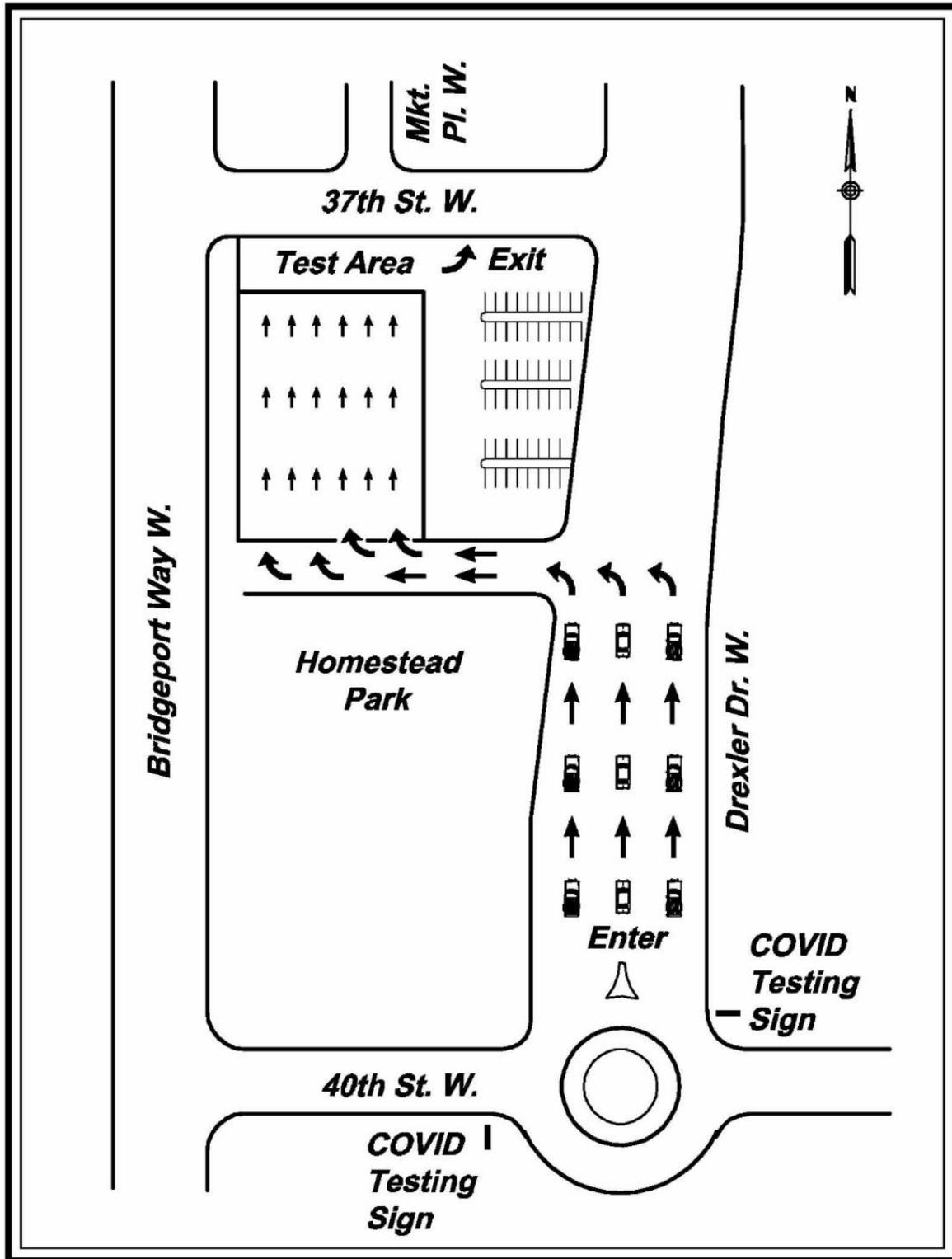
The test swabs will be taken to a local lab, with results available within five to seven days and shared with the individual. If the test was at the bequest of a person's employer, the **Tacoma Pierce County Health Department** will contact the employer to share the results with the employee.

These free tests are being offered through a partnership between the Pierce County Department of Emergency Management and with volunteers from the West Pierce Fire & Rescue that have been trained through the CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) program.

About the Testing Trailers - CARES Act funds received by Pierce County paid

for the trailers. For a list of planned mobile testing sites, visit the [Pierce County website](#).

If you plan to come to the testing site please review the [Frequently asked questions](#) and enter via the 40th Street roundabout. View the map below.



University Place Councilmember Keel Elected Vice President of Association of Washington Cities

The Association of Washington Cities (AWC) announced that University Place Councilmember Kent Keel was recently elected AWC vice president. The vice president serves on the association’s Board of Directors and executive committee and is in line to become president.



“The voice of the AWC board is clear, direct, and resolute,” said Keel. “AWC is on a great path, and I am committed to helping complete the important work we have begun.”

Keel has served on the AWC Board since 2014 and the University Place City Council since 2012.

The AWC Board of Directors is the association’s governing body. The board is comprised of 25 directors, 23 of whom are mayors or city councilmembers from Washington cities or towns, and two non-elected city officials who also serve as the president and past president of the Washington City/County Management Association.

AWC serves its members through advocacy, education, and services. Founded in 1933, AWC is a private, nonprofit, nonpartisan corporation that represents Washington's cities and towns before the state legislature, the state executive branch, and with regulatory agencies. Membership is voluntary. However, AWC consistently maintains 100 percent participation from Washington’s 281 cities and towns. AWC also provides training, data and publications, and programs such as the AWC Employee Benefit Trust, AWC Risk Management Service Agency, AWC Workers’ Comp Retro, AWC Drug and Alcohol Consortium, and AWC GIS Consortium.

For information about all new and reelected officers and directors, visit the [AWC website](#).

Chief’s Corner by U.P. Police Chief Greg Premo

At last week’s City Council meeting, I shared some updated crime statistics and want to make sure you, the public, see the same information.

Violent Crime Incidents Jan-June			
Violent Crime	2019	2020	% Change
Agg Assault	19	30	58%
Murder	0	0	**
Rape	6	8	33%
Robbery	21	16	-24%
Total	46	54	17%

Property Crime Incidents Jan-June			
Violent Crime	2019	2020	% Change
Arson	0	1	**
Vehicle Theft	25	41	64%
Burglary	78	69	-12%
Theft	88	108	23%
Vehicle Prowl	131	188	44%
Shoplifting	22	28	27%
Total	344	435	26%

Violent crime was down over the last three months, but the number of first quarter incidents was very high. That means overall our crime rate in this area increased 17 percent compared to 2019. Most of the increases were aggravated

assaults that are crimes that use a weapon and/or involve significant injury to the victim. As is often the case, most of these were not random incidents and involved participants who knew each other.

Vehicle thefts and vehicle prowls also saw major increases. We have had them in large parking areas (parks, shopping areas, apartment complexes) as well as quiet neighborhoods. But there are things you can do to help yourself—and your neighbors—from becoming victims of car prowlers and property theft:

- First, **remove** all valuables from the vehicle. Some crooks break in even when nothing is in view.
- Consider installing a vehicle alarm and using anti-theft devices on steering wheels.
- At home, make sure you have good lighting around your vehicles. Surveillance cameras can capture suspects in the act, but many systems also provide motion alerts when there is activity around your car.
- Practice awareness. Alert citizens have spotted criminal activity and quickly contacted us. Not only has this resulted in arrests, but it also sends a message to potential criminals that people are watching.



Beginning this week, you may see more bike patrols around our busy parking areas as well as additional speed enforcement patrols. And we will also be announcing plans for virtual public safety forums and information classes in the coming weeks. These events are a great way for residents to learn more about how they can work with us to keep our community safe. We hope you will consider participating in them.

Primary Election Day is Next Tuesday, Aug. 4

Just a reminder that Washingtonians are encouraged to make their vote count by participating in the state's primary elections on Tuesday, Aug. 4. This year, voters will be weighing in on Representatives to the United States Congress. The state's two U.S. Senate seats will be on the 2022 ballot and the Aug. 4 primary does not include the President/Vice President positions.

In addition to U.S. congressional seats, voters can cast their ballots for statewide executives (such as Governor), State Legislators, State Supreme Court Justices, State Superior Court Judges and local positions such as County Commissioners.

The Pierce County Auditor's Office has produced a 152-page **voters' guide** that provides profiles of the candidates as well as details on in-person voting locations and ballot drop box locations for those who do not want to mail their ballots.



Although the deadline for online and mail registrations has passed, in-person voter registration is allowed up to and on Election Day on Aug. 4.

Citizens are also reminded to respect the rights of others to support the candidates of their choice. It is illegal to remove or damage campaign signs within the City of University Place. State law (RCW 29A.84.040) makes the unauthorized removal or defacing of lawfully placed political advertising, including yard signs or billboards, a misdemeanor offense.

What's UP with Biz: Window Clings Announce Businesses that are UP and Open

The City of University Place Economic Development department has developed a signage campaign that encourages people to patronize businesses that are "UP and Open" as part of the state's Safe Start phased reopening program.

The four unique 18"-by-24" designs are large enough to be seen from the street and are free to U.P. business owners.



"We want to help our business owners and the public reconnect as we move through the phases of the Safe Start program," said Becky Metcalf, Economic Development project assistant. "Our local businesses mean so much to our community. It is our hope that people will do all they can to support them as they strive to get through this ongoing crisis."

Virtual Garden Tour Continues

The University Place Historical Society's annual Garden Tour has gone virtual this year and two new videos are out of the city's most beautiful and interesting gardens.



University Place
Historical Society

There are a total of seven video tours; here are the two newest available for viewing right now:

- **35 House:** Dani Griswold's home's open sight lines provide views of both the front and back yards where beautiful planting beds of colorful perennials provide fresh flowers for the home's guests, while the courtyard is the perfect place for entertaining.
- **Hutchison House:** Stroll through the terraced gardens of Dick and Patti Hutchison, who have filled their outdoor spaces with lush rhododendrons, shrubs and flowers, trees and perennials. With multiple seating areas for entertaining or quiet conversation, this garden is both beautiful and resourceful.

This year's Garden Tour videos were made possible thanks to the generosity of Atkins Chiropractic, Columbia Bank, Gray Lumber Company, JK Tax Service, Inc., McCabe's Automotive Specialists, Morrison House/Sotheby's International Realty, Portland Avenue Nursery, Seattle Seahawks, Sound Community Bank, Suburban

2020 Census: Non-Response Follow-Up Began Last Week in Pierce County

NRFU operations – where census workers go door-to-door to collect information from households that have not self-responded – began last week in Pierce County and a small section of southern King County.

Census workers will wear face masks and follow CDC and local health guidelines while going door-to-door. All workers will complete a virtual COVID-19 training program before beginning their work.

What to Expect

Census workers, who are hired from the local community, will visit non-responding households and interview residents to collect census information. All census workers speak English and many are bilingual. If a census worker does not speak a householder's language, they will have materials to help identify the correct language and assist the person to answer the census.

If no one is home during the visit, the census worker will leave a notice on the door with information about how to respond online, by phone or by mail.

How To Identify Workers

Census workers will have a valid government ID with their photograph, a U.S. Department of Commerce watermark and an expiration date on the badge. They will also have a census bag and an iPad or mobile phone with them.

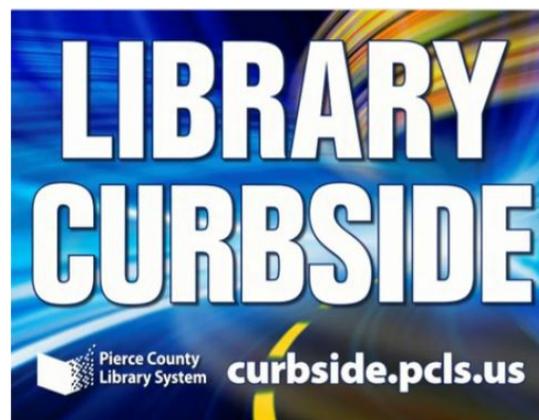
Anyone wishing to confirm a census worker's identity can call the Los Angeles Regional Census Office at 213.314.6500.



Library Curbside Service

Starting Monday, July 20, the Pierce County Library System launched curbside service at multiple locations, including its University Place Branch, which allows you to pick up books, movies, magazines and other items. People can use this fast, easy service, by reserving their items and scheduling a pick up time.

"We have missed seeing our readers and are thrilled to launch Library Curbside," said Pierce County Library Executive Director Georgia Lomax. "While checkouts of online e-books and audiobooks have soared in the past four months while the library buildings continue to be closed to help reduce the spread of COVID-19, many of us are eager to turn the paper pages of a real physical book. We are excited to offer this contactless, safe service."



For all the details, and to schedule a pick up time, visit **the Pierce County Library System's Library Curbside page.**

UNIVERSITY PLACE VIRTUAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING



Monday, Aug. 3, 2020
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

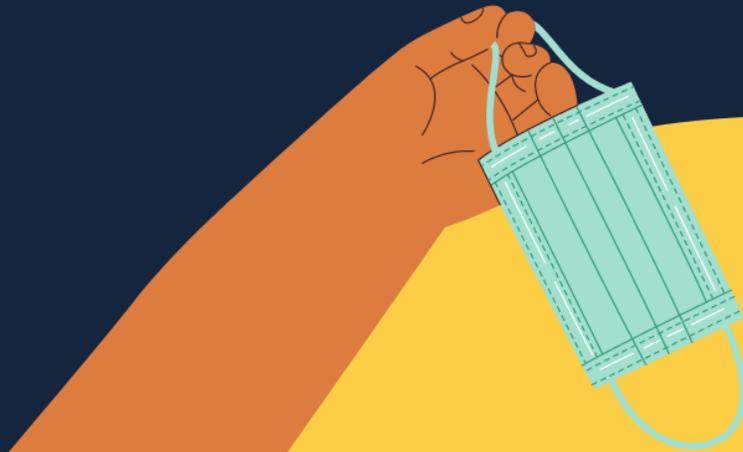


Council Member
Denise McCluskey



Council Member
Stan Flemming

Mask UP to prevent the spread of COVID-19



How is your town's count going?

2020CENSUS.GOV/RESPONSE-RATES

[VIEW THE MAP >](#)



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your future
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United States
Census
2020

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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**

