

# Headlines

News from University Place City Hall



**August 12, 2020**

## Update on CARES Funds Distribution

City staff have been working diligently to disperse the \$992,700 the City received from the State of Washington as part of the federal CARES Act. The City Council decided to divide the money into three separate funds to ensure it could reach as many members of the U.P. community as possible.



- **Business Grants:** The City's Economic Development Department distributed a total of 67 grants representing \$351,000 to city businesses and nonprofits that have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and related shutdown. Almost all of those who applied for the grants by the deadline of July 22 received their distributions by July 31. The remaining applicants should receive their grants within the next week.
- **Human Services Grants:** \$100,000 was allotted to assist qualified residents of U.P. who can demonstrate a substantial loss of income due to COVID-19. Grants of up to \$3,000 per household can be used to assist with rent, utilities and childcare.
- **City-related COVID-19 Expenses:** \$392,700 was designated to reimburse City taxpayers for expenses incurred by their City government related to COVID-19 response, including personal protective equipment for staff and the public, additional janitorial expenses and supplies, remote work technology, and a portion of salaries associated with individuals tasked with COVID-19 response efforts, including public safety personnel.

The City also teamed up with Pierce County to provide free mobile COVID-19 testing on Aug. 4 at the old Windmill Village site. The County used some of its CARES funds to purchase mobile trailers which were brought to U.P. for this testing. In all, 561 tests were conducted that day, exceeding the average of 500 tests that are usually completed at mobile sites. Thanks to excellent traffic

planning by the City's Public Works Department, there were no back-ups onto main arterials and testers who walked up were able to maintain safe physical distancing.

This event was offered through a partnership between the Pierce County Department of Emergency Management and West Pierce Fire & Rescue which provided volunteer assistance from personnel who have been trained through the **CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) program**.

Pierce County will continue to conduct free mobile testing at sites throughout the County. For more information, please visit their **website**.

## What's UP with Biz? New Multi-Family

The large construction crane behind the Green Firs Towne Center that is visible from Bridgeport Way West is another sign that University Place is continuing to build its future, even amid the COVID-19 pandemic.



The Larson Apartments is U.P.'s latest commercial building project. Located on Larson Lane, the new construction will offer 80 apartment homes over six stories and will also feature a roof-top deck. Foundation and utility work are wrapping up, with current plans calling for the project to be completed by June 2021.

For information on all of the commercial projects taking place across University Place, visit the City's **Commercial Projects webpage**.

# THE POOP PROBLEM

**Dog poop spreads diseases to people and pets.**

**Rain washes poop down ditches and drains and into waterways.**



**When high levels of fecal bacteria are detected, shellfish beds are closed to harvesting and waterways are unsafe for swimming or fishing.**

# THE POOP SOLUTION

**Scoop the poop, bag it and put it in the trash!**



**At home, scoop at least weekly if not daily, especially before it rains, this prevents pathogens from being tracked indoors on paws, shoes and files.**

**Puget Sound  
Starts Here.org**

**On walks, bring extra bags, scoop every time and carry it to the trash! Be prepared. Always keep bags and a flashlight on your leash.**



**Experts agree, the trash is the safest place to dispose of pet waste!  
Healthy Families. Healthy Pets. Clean Yards.**

**University Place  
WASHINGTON**

## Tour a Secret Garden

Summer is winding down, but the U.P. Historical Society still has a few more gardens to share as part of their 2020 Virtual Garden Tour. This week, escape



**University Place  
Historical Society**

into the **"Secret Garden" of Evonne and Sam Ryken**, where a curving switchback trail transports you to a secluded getaway that explodes with color and leafy vegetation. The garden's beds showcase blooming rhodies and lush hostas, statuesque irises and climbing vines on custom-built arbors. Whether attracting bumble bees or bunnies, plants in the garden bloom year-round, creating a serene oasis that has been likened to heaven on earth!

The Ryken's garden is another stop on this year's U.P. Historical Society's Virtual Garden Tour, which is free to the public to view on UPTV thanks to financial support from 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 Opticians and U.P. Refuse & Recycling.

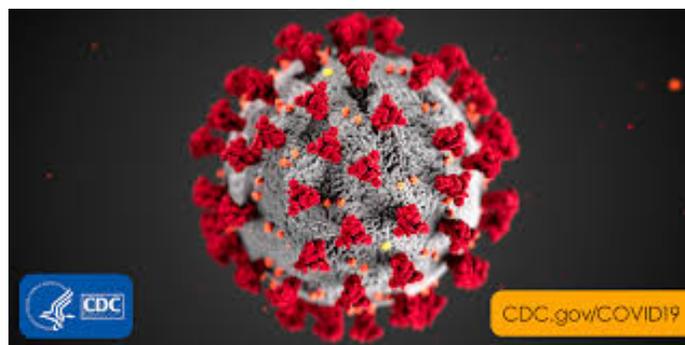
Be sure to check the next issue of Headlines for the final garden to be featured in this virtual version of a cherished U.P. tradition.



## 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



## How Can You Verify That Someone Is a Census Taker?

If someone visits your home this year to collect information for the 2020 Census, check to make sure they have a valid ID badge with their photograph, a U.S. Department of Commerce watermark, and an expiration date. Census takers may also carry Census Bureau bags and other equipment with the Census Bureau logo.

If you still have questions about their identity, you can contact your regional census center to speak with a Census Bureau representative.



### What To Expect

Census takers will wear masks and follow local public health guidelines when they visit your home. All census takers complete a virtual COVID-19 training on social distancing and other health and safety protocols before beginning their work in neighborhoods.

Census takers are hired from your area, and their goal is to help you and everyone in your home be counted in the 2020 Census. If the census taker who visits your home does not speak your language, **you may request a return visit from a census taker who does speak your language.**

If no one is home when the census taker visits, the census taker will leave a notice of their visit with information about how to respond **online**, by **phone** or by **mail**.

If you respond online or by phone today, a census taker is less likely to have to visit your home to collect your response.

Please complete your form online, by phone, or by mail today. Visit **[my2020census.gov](https://my2020census.gov)** to begin.

# UNIVERSITY PLACE VIRTUAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING



Monday, Aug. 17, 2020  
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

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT  
RESCHEDULED TO OCT. 6, 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**

