# Headlines

News from University Place City Hall



December 2, 2020



This edition's "What's UP with Biz!" invites you to join us and local businesses on Friday, Dec. 11 from 4-8 p.m. at the Village at Chambers Bay for a socially-distanced "Reverse Parade"!

Amid the glow from the festive lights of the University Place Christmas tree, there will be special holiday displays in front of the businesses that people can enjoy as they drive by while staying safe in their own cars. Santa and his elves will be on hand, as will some favorite Disney and Marvel characters as well. Some businesses may also offer goodie bags to share safely with those who attend.

If you plan to drive by, consider getting in on the cheer by adding some holiday decorations to your own car and perhaps bring a toy (or toys) to donate to the annual Toys for Tots campaign.

Holiday CheerUP was organized by Dawn Morris, owner of Bishops Cut and Color, and Theresa Fouquette, owner of Bliss Ice Cream, who wanted to help bring some holiday cheer and joy to the community despite the challenges of COVID-19. "Dawn and Theresa have led the effort, but they have been supported by many other business owners who brought ideas to the table. It truly has been a collaborative effort," said Becky Metcalf, project assistant in the City's Economic Development Department.

Be sure to watch for updates and more information about the event on the **City's Facebook page**.

# **OURChurch Uses City's CARES Grant to Feed Families at Thanksgiving**







Volunteers from the OURChurch congregation in University Place used \$9,000 in CARES grant funds from the City of University Place to feed 150 families (representing about 750 people) in need this Thanksgiving.

Working with Safeway to purchase the meal items, approximately 80 volunteers from the church packaged and delivered turkeys, stuffing, rolls and much more to families who were identified by counselors at U.P.'s four primary schools as being at risk this holiday season. Safeway added a free pie to every order as well.

"Some of these families never thought they'd be in the place they are in now," said Melanie Grassi-Wood, executive pastor of OURChurch. She delivered a meal to one multi-generational family whose grandmother was in active treatment for cancer, which made going to the grocery store impossible. "They said thank you, but thank you isn't enough because of what this means to us."

Grassi-Wood said feeding families at Thanksgiving was a natural extension of the congregation's food pantry, which they opened just as the pandemic was ramping up. "We have people visit us every day in need of help and we also have people dropping off food every day," she said. "We are honored to help our community. We love this city. And we are so grateful for the City's partnership with us to help make this happen."

# **Tune in to Watch Santa Light the Christmas Tree in Market Square**

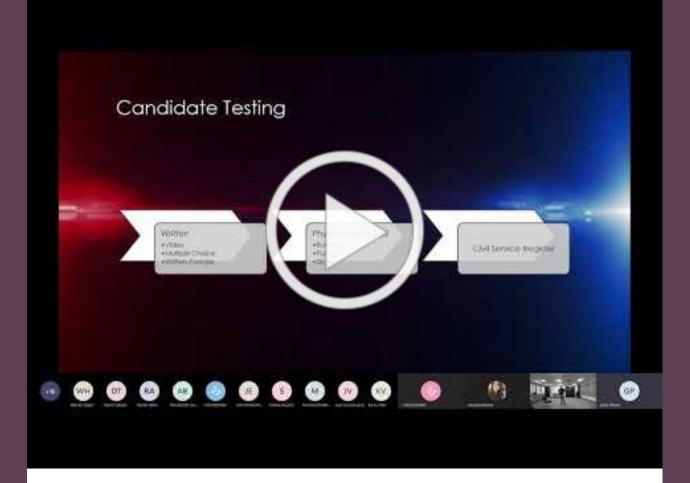


Time and time again during 2020, Americans have had to find new—and safe—ways to celebrate cherished traditions. And the annual lighting of the City of U.P.'s Christmas Tree in Market Square is no exception.

This popular event regularly draws large crowds who come out to partake in holiday cheer, including visits with Santa, hot chocolate and holiday-inspired live entertainment.

Although COVID-19 has made gathering together for this event impossible this year, Mayor Caroline Belleci and the other members of the City Council decided to create a special "virtual" tree lighting. Complete with Santa arriving on a West Pierce Fire truck and the much anticipated countdown to flipping the switch, this short video is a reminder that nothing, not even a pandemic, can dampen the holiday and community spirit of University Place.

## **Public Safety Academy Class Videos Now Online**



Those who were unable to attend the U.P. Police Department's Virtual Public Safety Academy this fall can now view the videos from the five-week event online. New videos are posted regularly, with two currently available. They include the presentations as well as all of the questions and answers that were covered in each session.

The first session, **Hiring Process & Basic Law Enforcement Academy Overview**, was instructed by Deputy Alex Richards from the Pierce County Sheriff's Department. Deputy Richards serves as the department's Training Coordinator.

#### The presentation covered:

- Recruitment and hiring processes and standards
- Background process (investigation, oral board, polygraph, medical, psych eval, etc.)
- New hire onboarding and orientation process
- Overview of Law Enforcement Academy

Look for links to the other sessions in upcoming editions of the Headlines or subscribe to the **City's YouTube channel** to be notified of new videos as they are released.

### City Biennial Budget Vote Slated for Dec. 7

The City Council will vote on the proposed two-year \$69.5 million budget (\$53.9M Operating, \$10.8M Capital and \$4.8M Internal Service) at its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, Dec. 7.

This is a status quo budget that assumes a continuation of the 2020 levels of service to the community with a modest level of inflation. The public was invited to share their thoughts on the budget during three virtual public hearings on Oct. 19, Nov. 2 and Nov. 16, but no comments were received.

Viewers can view the City Council's meeting and votes via the YouTube link which will be made available on the calendar entry on the **City Website** for the Dec. 7 meeting by this Friday.

## **Cirque Drive Construction Update**



#### Write a Letter to Santa

Santa is coming to town!
However, due to current
COVID-19 restrictions, he
won't be able to visit our
stations this year. He is
looking forward to hearing
from each child and told us
he plans to take the letters
submitted back to the North
Pole with him and personally
answer as many as he can.





#### Parents/Guardians:

- **Please visit www.westpierce.org/santa** to submit your child's letter to Santa by December 16th. This way he can respond prior to the big night.
- Please submit a separate entry per child, as Santa will respond to each child individually.

Looking for a template for your letter to Santa? There is one available on the webpage!

This program is made possible by West Pierce CARES, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization operated by the employees of West Pierce Fire & Rescue. The programs run by West Pierce CARES support those in the Lakewood, University Place and Steilacoom communities and is funded solely through grants and donations. No taxpayer dollars are utilized.

### Free Mobile COVID-19 Testing in U.P.



On December 19 and 29, **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 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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.

Come prepared: To make the process go faster, please fill out each of these forms for each individual being tested in advance, print them and bring them with you to the testing site:

#### Contact form Test form

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

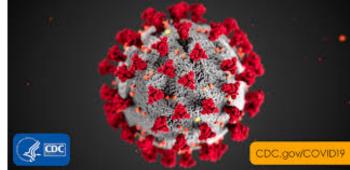
contact the employer to share the results with the employee.

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

For more information about the upcoming free testing sites county-wide, visit the **Pierce County Website**.

#### **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.



# UNIVERSITY PLACE VIRTUAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, Dec. 7, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

WWW.CITYOFUP.COM





**Mayor Pro Tem Steve Worthington** 







Howard Lee





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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** 



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