

# Headlines

News from University Place City Hall



**May 11, 2022**

**Correction: Daffodil Queen Photo and Reference**

## **Duck Daze Parade Registrations Due by May 20**

Next Friday, May 20 is the deadline to register to participate in the Duck Daze parade on June 4. If your organization, school group, scout troop or business wants to march, you must complete the **registration form**.



The parade kicks off at 10 a.m. at 29th Street and Bridgeport Way W. The route continues down Bridgeport Way past the Civic Building before turning left onto 37th Street where it will finish at the West Pierce Fire Station where the firefighters will be having their annual Open House.

After the parade, Mark Hurwitz & Gin Creek, one of our popular bands who perform at U.P.'s summer Music on the Square series, will be playing from noon to 2 p.m. in Market Square. Invite your friends and family to join you in U.P. and make a day of it, enjoying community spirit, great shopping, restaurants and live music.



## City Council Recognizes U.P.'s Champions and Superstars



The May 2 meeting of the U.P. City Council saw the Council Chambers packed with an overflow crowd as City leaders honored some local all-stars.

The first to be recognized was Deputy J Sousley who is retiring from the U.P. Police Department and Pierce County Sheriff's Department after 28 years of

service. In addition to garnering numerous local and state awards, Deputy Sousley is a beloved member of the U.P. community who often represented the UPPD at community events. In accepting the award from Mayor Steve Worthington, Deputy Sousley gave special thanks to his wife, noting that the spouses of those who serve are "often overlooked."

Following Deputy Sousley's presentation, Mayor Pro Tem Javier Figueroa recognized the players and coaches of the Curtis High School boys varsity basketball team for winning the 2022 Washington State Class 4A boys state championship title by defeating Mount Si High School in a thrilling 52-49 overtime victory. The last time CHS won a state championship in boys basketball was in 2013. Council Member Kent Keel then recognized the CHS boys swim team, which set new Washington state 4A records in the 200 and 400 freestyle relays, finished its season with an undefeated 10-0 record and went on to win the state's 4A Swim and Dive championship. Council Member Denise McCluskey then recognized the CHS girls swim team for its second-place finish in the state's 4A Swim and Dive championship. Council Member Ed Wood was next, recognizing the CHS girls wrestling team for its third-place finish in the 4A girls wrestling team championship, with special congratulations to Clarissa Wangen who won the Washington State Girls Wrestling Championship as the first CHS Girls Wrestling Champion. Then Council Member Caroline Belleci took the mic to congratulate the CHS girls volleyball team for their outstanding showing at state, taking second place in the 4A girls volleyball championship.

Closing out the evening's accolades, Council Member Stan Flemming recognized Clara Blakeslee, a CHS senior who was named Queen of the Daffodil Festival from among 23 princesses representing Pierce County schools and communities. With his own daughter Claire having been Queen 10 years ago (the last time a CHS princess was named Queen), Flemming commended Blakeslee for the academic excellence, community service and leadership she has demonstrated that helped her earn the honor.





## Nancy Pelosi Visits U.P. to Discuss Infrastructure Improvements

Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi was in University Place last week to tout local investment from the \$550 billion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Funds from the program will be used to replace the century-old Chambers Creek Reservoir dam and the Chambers Creek Road bridge.

The project, which will help improve salmon runs that are crucial to the Puyallup and Nisqually tribes' cultures and economies, also involves improvements to the Chambers Bay shoreline.



U.P. Mayor Steve Worthington, Council Member Kent Keel and various City staff were on hand for the event that was hosted by U.S. House Rep. Marilyn Strickland (WA-10). They were joined by U.S. Rep. Derek Kilmer (WA-6), representatives of the Puyallup and Nisqually Tribes and other local and regional leaders.

"This project is in our City and strengthens our local environment. We very much appreciated Rep. Strickland's invitation to attend this event with our peers from Dupont, Lakewood, Steilacoom and Tacoma," said Worthington. "This is an opportunity for us to continue to make much-needed infrastructure improvements, while also building upon the natural beauty and bounty of Chambers Creek."

## U.P. Comes Alive with Flowers

You know summer is on its way when members of the U.P. Public Works department begin installing hanging baskets on the light poles around town. This year, in addition to being financially supported by community donations, the baskets that are located in the Village at Chambers Bay are courtesy of the City of U.P. and several local businesses, including the developer of the Latitude 47 Building, Western Properties (which represents several westside business owners) and DMCI/Dobler Management Company of Market Place Flats.

Please be sure to give our Public Works teams plenty of leeway as they install these baskets, which can be heavy and cumbersome.



## What's UP with Biz?

Last week, U.P. welcomed another new business to town with the grand opening of the Baner and Baner Law Firm at 4007 Bridgeport Way W.

The firm specializes in the areas of family law, immigration law, personal injury and debt collections. Check out a few of these photos from the event.



## Join Conversations on Improving Public Safety

With a force of just 16 commissioned officers, the U.P. Police Department has an officer-to-resident ratio of 0.45 per 1,000 citizens. This places University Place last out of 218 jurisdictions in the state of Washington on this metric. The state officer-to-citizen average is 1.46.

Due to staffing concerns raised by Chief Premo and residents, the City Council has made increasing public safety its number one goal for the 2023-2024 biennium. The City Council has dedicated all property taxes paid to the City and a substantial portion of the City's utility tax revenue to public safety. However, even with this substantial dedication, projections reveal that the City's existing police staffing level is unsustainable. Maintaining our existing police staffing and adding additional staffing to address both population growth and response times will require additional revenue.



In March, the City commissioned a statistically accurate survey of residents. When asked about priorities, public safety outpaced all other local concerns. There was specific emphasis on preventing property crimes and increasing police presence and response. When survey participants were presented with the possibility of a public safety levy that could provide additional funding for seven new City law enforcement personnel, including patrol officers, detectives, and a specialist to address nuisances and crime prevention, a clear majority of respondents supported the idea.

Public safety funding is a critical and complex topic. That is why the UPPD will be hosting a series of community forums later this spring and summer to answer questions, dispel rumors and misinformation, and present the hard facts related to public safety. Watch Headlines and the City of U.P. Facebook page for more details on the dates, times and locations of these sessions and please make plans to attend and contribute to the discussion.

*City Hall Holiday Closure*

**CITY HALL OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED IN RECOGNITION OF THE MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY ON MONDAY, MAY 30, 2022. OFFICES WILL REOPEN VIRTUALLY ON TUESDAY, MAY 31 AT 9 A.M.**

## Ride with ORCA to U.P. Special Events

Pierce Trips, a carpooling, public transit and telework resource, has provided the City of University Place with 100 ORCA regional transit cards to help those with limited incomes or transportation options get to and from special events in University Place at no cost.

**ARRIVE BY BUS TO CITY OF UNIVERSITY PLACE EVENTS**

Request your ORCA card [HERE](#)

Those who are interested in obtaining an ORCA card will be asked to complete the **online form** and indicate which special events they wish to attend.

The passes will be issued on a first-come, first-serve basis. Please share this news with any elderly or isolated neighbors who may enjoy the opportunity to participate in U.P.'s community-building events.

## Stamp Out Hunger on May 14

When you put out your mail for pickup on Saturday, May 14, please leave an item or two of non-perishable food for your carrier to pick up as part of the the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) annual Stamp Out Hunger® food drive.

For 30 years, postal carriers have conducted this nationwide food drive to support local food banks in their communities. In addition to collecting food items, you may also make a donation directly to the event by visiting the **campaign's website**.



PUT YOUR NON-PERISHABLE DONATION IN A BAG BY YOUR MAILBOX. WE'LL DELIVER IT TO A LOCAL FOOD BANK.



## UNIVERSITY PLACE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MAY 16, 2022  
AT 6:30 P.M.

VIRTUAL: WATCH ON COMCAST  
CHANNEL 21, RAINIER CONNECT  
CHANNEL 12 OR LIVE ON  
YOUTUBE.COM/UNIVERSITYPLACETV



### AGENDA ITEMS:

- Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Proclamation
- 28th District Legislative Update
- Study Session: Fireworks Ordinance

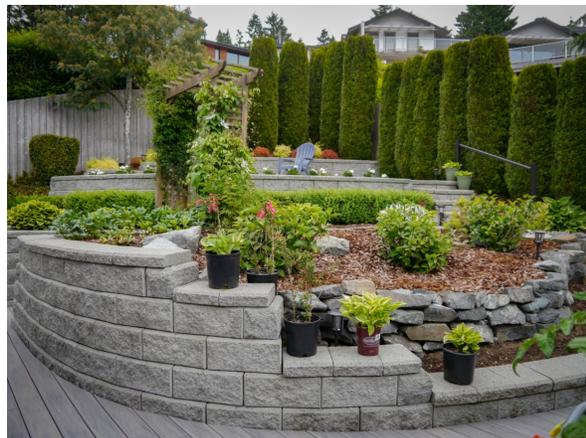
Agenda Items are subject to change, please visit the City website for more information.

## U.P. Spring Garden Tour is This Weekend

Tickets are still available for the annual U.P. Historical Society's Garden Tour which will be held this Saturday and Sunday, May 14 and May 15. The event will showcase five local gardens as well as the Curran House community museum and orchards.

This year's tour stops will be:

- Howard Dempsey's garden features a gargoyle bridge that leads to a mix of herbs, shrubs, wisteria, dogwoods and azaleas (among others) set amid the backdrop of



the Salish Sea and Olympic Mountains.

- Check out the fairy garden, koi pond and Chardonnay vineyard in Ruthann Reim's garden while enjoying a variety of plantings that celebrate the land and all it sustains.
- Mary and Woody Woodard's garden is a 35-year treasure above Chambers Creek that blooms at all times with native plants and trees.
- See the amazing changes that have occurred in Patti and Dick Hutchinson's garden since it was first featured on the Garden Tour in 2013.
- Visit the 2-acre whimsical garden of U.P. Mayor Steve Worthington and his wife, Jill. Be sure to check out the waterfall pond and recirculating stream garden.

And if you need a little inspiration to get excited about this year's event, be sure to check out the **gorgeous videos** from previous garden tours.

You can purchase \$25 tickets for the Garden Tour from Willow Tree Gardens and Interiors in U.P., Chirp & Co., and Gardensphere in the Proctor District, and at Michael Morrison Sotheby's International Realty offices in Proctor and Gig Harbor.

Proceeds from the event support the efforts of the U.P. Historical Society. Major sponsors of this year's Garden Tour include Gray Lumber, Columbia Bank, Seattle Seahawks, Michael Morrison Sotheby's International Realty, U.P. Refuse and Recycling, Karen Bellamy, and Frank and Cindy Bonaro. Other sponsors include, Suburban Optical, Atkins Chiropractic, The 35 House Vacation Rental, New Tacoma Cemeteries, Funeral Home and Crematory.

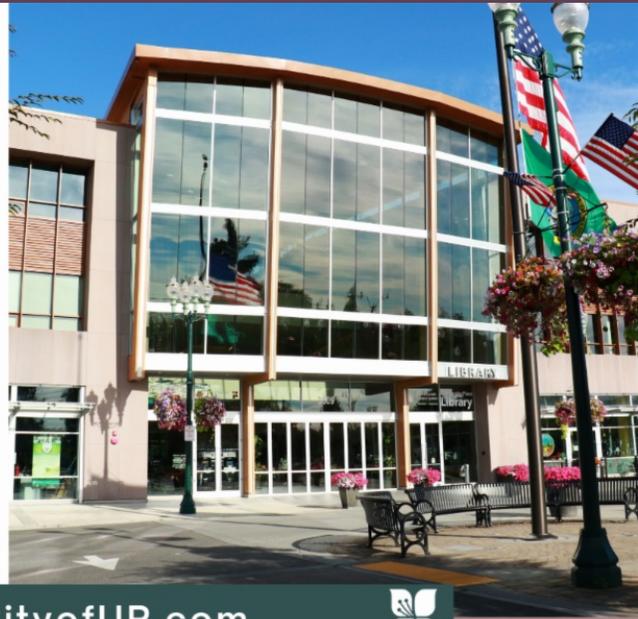
## COMMISSIONS VACANCIES

[View open positions on the city website!](#)

*Commissioners are citizens that, through their volunteer efforts, play an integral role in the growth and development of their City.*

*Citizens serving on the City's Commissions apply their unique knowledge and experiences to the issues and the needs of their City.*

*They function as a focus group from within the community and create ideas to assist the City Council in shaping legislative policy.*



[www.CityofUP.com](http://www.CityofUP.com)





*The best way to survey and engage citizens*

## Sign Up Today!

Accessible via your smart device or computer, FlashVote surveys come out intermittently, no more than once a month, and are only 3-5 questions.

They take just a few minutes of your time and provide the City with a clear message of how our U.P. community feels about the given topic.

Visit the [FlashVote site](#) to sign up!



## COVID-19 Resources

Looking for specific information related to the COVID-19 pandemic?

Here's a list of official sources of information on which you can rely:

### **U.S. Centers for Disease Control**

– Pandemic facts and information

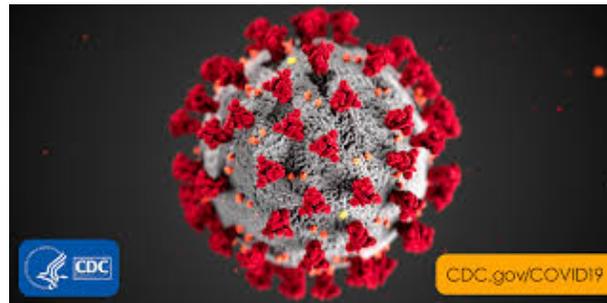
**Governor's Office** – Details about efforts and legislation specific to Washington

**Washington State Department of Health** – Updated statistics and testing data

**Tacoma-Pierce County Department of Health** – Testing sites, vaccine info

**Pierce County** – Resources for rent, utilities, mortgages, and much more

**City of University Place** – Pandemic resource updates specific to U.P.



## Follow us on your favorite social media sites!



@CityofUPWA



UniversityPlaceTV



@CityofUP\_WA



@CityofUPWA

**University Place City Council**



**Mayor  
Steve Worthington**



**Mayor Pro Tem  
Javier Figueroa**



**Council Member  
Kent Keel**



**Council Member  
Edward Wood**



**Council Member  
Denise McCluskey**



**Council Member  
Stan Flemming**



**Council Member  
Caroline Belleci**



City of University Place | 3609 Market Place W, Ste 200, University Place, WA 98466

[Unsubscribe uppublicrelations@cityofup.com](mailto:uppublicrelations@cityofup.com)

[Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by uppublicrelations@cityofup.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!