Headlines

News from University Place City Hall



March 8, 2023

Revised Public Safety Levy Goes to Vote on April 25

During its regular meeting on Feb. 21, the City Council voted unanimously to place a revised Public Safety Levy on the April 25 ballot.

When the November 2022 levy measure failed by 99 votes, the City Council and the City's citizen appointed Public Safety Advisory Commission facilitated a series of community focus group listening sessions to better understand the public's concerns about the measure. It became clear that the proposal's cost was one of the stumbling blocks for voters.

As a result, the City Council reviewed other options. The measure that will appear on the April 25 special ballot reduces the number of proposed new public safety personnel, thus lowering the average property tax impact of the levy by about 14 percent.

	Existing Staffing	November 2022 Levy Proposal	Revised April 2023 Levy Proposal
Commissioned Patrol Officer	12	20 (included 2 dedicated traffic patrol officers)	19 (includes 1 dedicated traffic patrol officer)
Crime Investigator	1	2	1
School Resource Officer	1	1	1
Sergeant	1	2	2
Chief	1	1	1
Non-commissioned Crime Prevention, Education and Community Outreach Officer	0	2	1

If approved by voters on April 25, the new levy would provide dedicated public safety funding that could not be used for other purposes. This funding would support staffing levels that more accurately reflect U.P.'s growing population and calls for service.

All U.P. addresses will receive a more detailed mailing about the levy in the coming weeks.

USGA Selects Chambers Bay for Two More Amateur Championships

LIBERTY CORNER, N.J. (March 6, 2023) – The United States Golf Association (USGA) today announced that Chambers Bay, in University Place, Wash., has been selected to host the 2027 U.S. Junior Amateur and 2033 U.S. Amateur Championships. These will be the fifth and sixth USGA championships hosted by the public golf course, which is owned by Pierce County and managed by KemperSports.



"There have been several memorable moments for us already in Chambers

Bay's short history, and the property remains a favorite for players and fans alike," said Mark Hill, USGA managing director, Championships. "We're grateful for our continued partnership with Pierce County and look forward to bringing these two premier championships to such a special property."

Chambers Bay, a Robert Trent Jones Jr. design, opened in 2007 and traverses a rugged landscape along Puget Sound. The 250-acre course, built on the site of a former sand-and-gravel mining operation, is the centerpiece of a 930-acre park owned by Pierce County.

Last year, Chambers Bay hosted the U.S. Women's Amateur, which saw Saki Baba, 17, of Japan, cruise to an impressive 11-and-9 victory over 21-year-old Canadian Monet Chun in the 36-hole championship match. Chambers Bay also hosted the 2022 U.S. Amateur Four-Ball Championship, won by Florida teenagers Kiko Francisco Coelho and Leopoldo Herrera III; the 2015 U.S. Open, won by Jordan Spieth; and the 2010 U.S. Amateur, won by Peter Uihlein. Chambers Bay is the only municipal course to have hosted the U.S. Amateur.

"We are delighted to welcome the USGA back to Chambers Bay and Pierce County," said Bruce Dammeier, county executive. "Golfers from around the world have embraced the challenge and natural beauty of our championship venue, and we look forward to watching the best amateurs take it on."

Read the full USGA press release on the City website.

Young Artists Invited to Color UP!

Whether they are aspiring Picassos or Pollacks, young artists in U.P. are encouraged to submit designs that will transform bland utility boxes across the city into vibrant pieces of art.

In conjunction with the National Art Education Association's Youth Art Month, children in grades 5-12 are



invited to submit designs that reflect how U.P. encourages community pride and joy. The winning designs will be transferred to vinyl that will wrap utility boxes along Cirque Drive West between Bridgeport Way and Grandview Drive.

The contest is free and submissions are due by Friday, April 14. For complete details, including the templates that must be followed to meet the utility box dimensions, visit the **City's website**. The winning designs will be announced in May.

City Launches New Communications Tool to Keep Public Informed

Watch your mailbox later this month for the premier edition of "Between the Lines," a new communications tool from the City of University Place. This printed



newsletter will be delivered to U.P. addresses and will supplement the bi-weekly digital newsletter "Headlines" as another way to keep residents and businesses informed about news from City Hall.

The premier edition includes information on the Public Safety Levy, how the City's budget is allocated and important legislative updates.

"A top priority of the City Council continues to be creating and supporting open and transparent communications between the City and its stakeholders," said Mayor Steve Worthington. "'Between the Lines' is another way for us to reach U.P. residents and the broader community with important information from their local government."

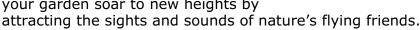


What's UP with Biz: Make Your Garden Truly Home Grown

It may not feel like it quite yet, but spring is just around the corner. The days are getting longer, the temperatures are warming and that means it's time to start tending to those outdoor gardens.

Several U.P. businesses offer a range of gardening products, from bagged mulch and potting soil to one-of-a-kind garden art and special-order plants. Whether it's Fred Meyer, Willow Tree Gardens, Waterworks Hydroponics or local yard and gardening services, make your garden truly home-grown by supporting U.P. businesses.

And don't forget about the birds! Wild Birds Unlimited has all you need to make your garden soar to new heights by





U.P. Awarded 2023 Well City Honors

In recognition of its efforts to encourage employee wellness and help reduce the cost of medical insurance premiums, the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) Employee Benefit Trust named the City of University Place as one of the state's Well Cities. The AWC Employee Benefit Trust is a local government benefit pool for cities, towns and other local government



agencies. The honor means City of U.P. employees will receive a 2 percent discount on all 2024 medical premiums, including those applied to their spouses and dependents.



An All-Inclusive Playground for Children of All **Abilities at University Place's Cirque Park**

February 24, 2023 - Vibrantly colored swings, spinners, and other play structures will populate a brand-new inclusive playground in University Place later this year, thanks to a partnership between the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation (CRSF), University Place Parks & Recreation Foundation, the City of University Place, Rotary Club of University Place-Fircrest, and other public and private partners. The playground is all-inclusive and will be available to children of all abilities located at UP's 27-acre Cirque Park. The playground's total cost is expected to be \$1,000,000 which includes: a new restroom facility with two ADA family restrooms, site development and state-of-the-art playground equipment. The new playground is expected to open in late fall 2023 or early spring 2024.



The playground has been designed by a local community team and Cunningham Recreation. It features the latest in-play equipment that encourages interactive play among children of all abilities. The playground will also feature a base of interlocking cushioned tiles, allowing wheeled devices to move smoothly in and out of the playground. Other features will offer tactile or cognitive stimulation to children with nonphysical disabilities, such as autism, speech, hearing, or intellectual disabilities.

For many years, standard playgrounds have excluded children with physical disabilities and other developmental issues. Children who use wheelchairs or have other disabilities often can't play on traditional swings or merry-go-rounds. Disabled and able-bodied children will be able to play together, many for the first time. People with disabilities are the largest minority in the U.S. and approximately 15 percent of school-age children fit in this category, including kids in UP, Pierce County, and beyond. When the City of University Place sought to improve its service to the disabled community, it found community partners in the University Place Parks & Recreation Foundation, a community-based organization, the University Place School District, its local Rotary Club of University Place-Fircrest, and business community members.

Read the full University Place Parks & Recreation Foundation (UPPRF) press release on the **City Website.**



Public Hearing: Draft 2023 Stormwater

Management Program

Review & Comment Period is Now Open

As a requirement of the National Pollution Discharge & Elimination System (NPDES), the City of University Place is required to provide a local municipal program that addresses the requirements of our NPDES Permit. Every year we provide opportunity for the public in our community to review the program and make comments, pose questions, or provide recommendations.

The DRAFT 2022 Stormwater Management Program (SWMP) Plan continues to be available for review on the **City website**, and will remain available until the Public Hearing which is scheduled to take place at the U.P. City Council Meeting of Monday, March 20.

If, after reviewing the SWMP Plan, you have questions or comments you'd like to share, email them to **Todd Smith**, NPDES Coordinator, or call him at 253.460.5432.

There will also be opportunity to make public comment at the Public Hearing portion of the City Council Meeting of March 20. Details for that meeting, including how to watch and/or provide public comment, will be available on the City website by the end of business day on Friday, March 17, 2022, on the **City Calendar**.



Natural Yard Care Webinars

Deer Resistant Drama with Karen Chapman.

Wednesday, April 12, 7-8:30 p.m. Register: bit.lv/2023vardcare1

Learn time- and taste-tested design strategies for your garden. Karen will highlight tips and tricks to help you create a beautiful fence-free garden that thrives despite deer.



That a Weed or What? with Robin Haglund.

Wednesday, April 19, 7-8:30 p.m. Register: bit.ly/2023yardcare2

Weeds-every garden has them; every gardener wants to get rid of them. Find out what makes a plant a weed. Learn to identify many common weeds, get tips to manage, celebrate, and even use them in your kitchen or home apothecary.



Water Wisdom in the Garden with Sue Goetz.

Wednesday, April 26, 7-8:30 p.m. Register: bit.ly/2023yardcare3

Every garden needs water. We can design a garden to use less of it and save more of it!! Get design tips and timely ideas for beauty and longevity.



Questions?

Contact Troy Rowan at trowan@tpchd.org or (253) 649-1839.

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