## Headlines

## News from University Place City Hall



## March 22, 2023

## **Just the Facts: Revised Public Safety Measure**

The University Place City Council has voted to put a revised public safety levy measure on a special April 25 ballot. The revised proposal includes reductions in the proposed staffing additions and is approximately 14 percent less expensive than the November ballot proposal that failed by 99 votes.

The revised levy proposal would provide funding for eight additional patrol and traffic officers, and a specialist to address homelessness,



parks safety and crime prevention. University Place currently has 16 police officers, which means there are only two officers on patrol at any given time. The City ranks last in Washington State out of 218 agencies for officers per 1,000 residents.

The measure that will appear on the April 25 ballot will cost \$0.35 per \$1,000 in assessed value, or \$35/year for every \$100,000 in assessed value. Based on 2023 assessed values, the average homeowner's total tax would increase from \$7,096 to \$7,324, an approximate 3 percent increase or \$19 per month.

Since 2017, the City of U.P. has seen:

- Violent crime increase by 14 percent
- Property crime increase by 36 percent
- Vehicle thefts increase by 396 percent

UPPD has also seen an increase in calls that require a two-officer response. These include calls in which a life is threatened, reports of domestic violence, and in-progress burglaries. Since the Department's current staffing only allows for two officers on duty at any given time, this means there are no other officers available to cover other incidents.

The City will dedicate all property tax revenue that it receives from this levy to public safety, without reducing funds that are currently dedicated to public safety expenses.

If you have questions or would like to provide feedback, make plans to attend

the public safety conversations that are being held to share information on crime statistics and ways to help make U.P. neighborhoods safer. UPPD Police Chief Greg Premo will host sessions twice daily at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. in U.P. City Council Chambers (3609 Market Place W.) on the following dates:

- March 22
- April 13
- May 24

If you are unable to attend any of these sessions, please email **UPPublicSafety@CityofUP.com** with your questions or concerns.



## Parks Appreciation Day will be Saturday, April 22 at Paradise Pond Park

Year after year, U.P. residents turn out to help the City's Public Works staff make upgrades to U.P. parks as part of global Earth Day efforts. This year, volunteers are asked to help out at Paradise Pond Park (67th Avenue West, just north of 35th Street) with spreading wood chips on the trails, picking up trash and minor brush clearing.



The clean-up will run from 9 a.m. until noon, rain or shine.

Once again, University Place Refuse and Recycling will be the event's cosponsor, providing coffee, donuts, water and t-shirts for the volunteers. Participants are invited to bring their own tools and gloves. U.P. Parks will provide additional rakes and shovels for those who do not have their own.

This is a great opportunity for students and others to accumulate community service hours. For more information or questions, please contact **Tony West**, Parks Maintenance Supervisor, at 253.460.6493.

# WASHINGTON AUTO THEFTS ARE UP. LET'S DRIVE THEM DOWN.

45,033 vehicles were reported stolen in Washington in 2022. That's 45% higher than in 2021. You can help keep your car safe:



## What's UP with Biz

The Washington State Department of Commerce will be awarding grants to businesses in hospitality and lodging that suffered a 25 percent or more loss in gross receipts or sales between 2019 and 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and related public health and safety measures.

Eligible businesses include:

Restaurants, food stands, trucks



- and carts.
- Caterers, bars, saloons, lounges and taverns.
- Snack and non-alcoholic beverage bars.
- Licensed alcohol producers where the public may taste, sample or purchase products.
- Hotels and motels (except casinos), and inns, and bed & breakfast establishments that have at least five private lodging rooms or onsite sales of food and beverage that account for at least 25 percent of gross receipts or sales.
- Bakeries, brewpubs, tasting rooms, taprooms, breweries, microbreweries, wineries and distilleries if onsite sales to the public comprise at least 25 percent of gross receipts or sales.

To view additional eligibility requirements, **click here** or email **info@wahospitalitygrants.com**. The application portal will close on April 6, 2023 at 5 p.m. PT.

## Don't Get Hooked by Vishing!

We received a call from a sharp-witted resident who shared that someone had called claiming to be from the City asking about their Medicare information. While their caller ID said "City of University Place," and it was indeed the front desk number, the resident became suspicious and called City Hall directly.

Her suspicion paid off, as this was in fact a scam (a vishing attack using a spoofed number) and not the City calling. City Hall and City Staff will never call and request



personal information such as that related to Medicare. If you receive a call from City Hall and are suspicious, always err on the side of caution and give us a call to confirm.

To learn more about vishing or caller ID spoofing, and how you can protect yourself against attempted scams, visit: https://www.fcc.gov/spoofing.



## **Curbside Bulky Waste Pickup**

This program allows residential customers of University Place Refuse the opportunity to schedule a curbside pickup of of up to 5 large items, such as: furniture, appliances, mattresses, barbeque, etc. This is free of charge. Residents will be able to take advantage of this one time per calendar year.

UNIVERSITY PLACE
REFUSE AND RECYCLING

How it works: U.P. Residents will call our office at 253.564.3212 to schedule a pickup. To be eligible, the customer must have an account with us that must be in "good standing." The customer service

representative will lead them through a series of statements and questions. They will need to identify the number of items. and specify what the items are. We will determine whether the items are eligible for pickup or not. If the items are eligible, the customer will be given a pickup date and asked that the items be placed out for pickup by 7:00 a.m. Items can't be out any earlier than 5:00 p.m. the day before pickup is scheduled. A crew from University Place Refuse will come and pick them up. It's that easy!

PLEASE NOTE: When you call to schedule, please identify ALL of your items at that time. There will be no changing or adding of items once the pickup has been scheduled.

This program has become extremely popular, and spots fill up quickly. We are only booking for the current AND following month's spots. i.e. in April, we will only be booking pickups in April and May. In May, we will only be booking pickups in May and June.

For more details visit www.UPRefuse.com.

## **University Place Spring Clean-Up & Canned Food Drive**

Residents NORTH of 40th St W. Saturday, April 1 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Residents SOUTH of 40th St W. Saturday, April 8 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Dispose of and/or recycle some unwanted items and yard waste for FREE!





Limit: 1 load per household for all items EXCEPT for yard waste only loads. Help us be good neighbors by securing & covering all loads! For safety reasons, children and pets MUST remain in vehicles. Photo I.D. will be required.

- No liquids, paint, or hazardous materials (car batteries are OK)
- No loads larger than a regular pickup truck or equivalent small trailer will be allowed
- No regular household garbage will be allowed
- Residential items only NO commercial material or loads will be allowed
- The size of items cannot exceed 5' in any direction (except for appliances and furniture)
- No fuel tanks, enclosed barrels or rums of any kind. Water heaters and

propane tanks are OK

Please separate items into the following categories for recycling:

- Wood items: clean, unpainted lumber, pallets, etc.
- Metal items: scrap steel, appliances, lawn mowers, barbecues, plumbing, etc.
- Yard waste: limbs, grass, leaves, other vegetation, no stumps or limbs larger than 4" in diameter
- No DIRT, ROCKS, SOD, BLACKBERRIES, SCOTCHBROOM, or OTHER NOXIOUS WEEDS
- Tires: with or without rims
- Concrete, brick, and stone
- Car batteries

For more information visit www.UPRefuse.com.



## **Natural Yard Care Webinars**

### Deer Resistant Drama with Karen Chapman.

Wednesday, April 12, 7-8:30 p.m. Register: bit.ly/2023yardcare1

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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www.tpchd.org

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## **University Place City Council**



Mayor Steve Worthington



**Mayor Pro Tem Javier Figueroa** 



Council Member Kent Keel



Council Member Edward Wood





















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