Headlines

News from University Place City Hall



August 23, 2023

Miles Away but Not Forgotten

Editor's Note: Members of the University Place City Council recently sent a letter of support and encouragement to the mayor, residents and business owners of Maui and Lahaina, Hawaii as they deal with the aftermath of the wildfires that decimated their community.

To Mayor Richard T. Bissen, Jr. and the leaders of Maui County,

On behalf of the City of University Place, WA, including our residents and business owners, we extend to all the people of Maui and Lahaina our sincerest sympathy for the tragic losses you have encountered as a result of the unprecedented wildfires that devastated your beautiful island.

We have members of our community on the ground with you now, including first responders from West Pierce Fire & Rescue who are part of Washington State Task Force-1 FEMA Urban Search and Rescue. These highly trained and dedicated individuals are assisting in your recovery efforts and bring with them the heartfelt support of our community.

Amid the challenging weeks and months ahead, please know that although thousands of miles separate us, the City of University Place stands with you and supports your community and all those affected by this tragedy.

Signed,

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

If you would like to support the people of Lahaina and Maui, consider donating to established organizations such as the American Red Cross, the Hawaii Animal Rescue Foundation or the Hawaii Community Foundation.

University Place Police Blotter

Keep yourself up-to-date with the latest public safety activity in University Place by checking out the U.P. Police Blotter! Chief Burke highlights some of the most

notable incidents that the U.P. Police Department responds to. But that's not all - you can also browse through recent Calls for Service to get a better understanding of the local happenings in your area.

Don't miss out on staying informed and being part of a safer community - view the U.P. Police Blotter on the **City website** for updates!

Due to summer vacation schedules, this week's update to the Police Blotter is expected to take place on Friday, August 25, 2023.



Don't Miss the Last Two Music on the Square Concerts of 2023

The back-to-school sales say it all: summer is almost over. That means there are only two concerts left in the 2023 Music on the Square series.

Come out tonight, Aug. 23 at 6 p.m. to hear Conjunto Caribe featuring some of our area's best Latin musicians, including Grammy Award-winning vocalist Carlos Cascante and Brazilian-born singer and composer Adriana Giordana as



they cover Caribbean and South American genres, including salsa, merengue, choro and samba. Grab some dinner from the Manic Meatballs food truck or one of U.P.'s other eateries.

Then wrap up the season on Wednesday, Aug. 30 to the smooth sounds of the Stacy Jones Band. Jones is a singer, songwriter and multi-instrumentalist who has won Washington Blues Society "Best of the Blues" awards in multiple categories. Top off your summer with treats from the Tacos Mirrey food truck or grab dinner to go from another local business.

The Kona Ice truck will be onsite both nights offering shaved ice treats, so make summer last just a little longer and enjoy these *free* concerts brought to you by the City of University Place.

One Final Concert in the Park

Enjoy one last night of free music amid the cool shade of the apple trees in the Curran Apple Orchard. Be sure to pack a picnic dinner (no alcohol, however) and dine al fresco while enjoying free music courtesy of CORE (Curran Orchard Resource Enthusiasts).

On Thursday, Aug. 31, Pacific Beat Jazz Combo will hit the band shell for an evening of Jazz music.



Concerts in the Park begin at 6:30 p.m. Curran Apple Orchard is located at 3920

Grandview Drive W. in University Place. For more information, visit **www.curranappleorchard.com**.

Wildfire Prevention

The images of devastation on Maui as a result of the wildfires that swept through there a few weeks ago are a painful yet important reminder of the importance of wildfire prevention as well as preparation. Record heat has made already dry grass a deadly fuel for fire. West Pierce Fire & Rescue (WPFR) reports that to date, brush fire responses for WPFR in Lakewood, University Place and Steilacoom have increased by more than 400 percent over the same time last year.



To prevent the loss of life or property from wildfires, the **Washington State Department of Natural Resources** reminds you:

- Do not discard cigarettes or other smoking materials without ensuring they are completely extinguished.
- Do not park vehicles on dry, grassy areas, as exhaust system heat can ignite dry grass.
- Keep the lawn and vegetation around your home trimmed low to help prevent fire from reaching roof tops.
- Keep a minimum of five feet between your home and tree branches
- Limb trees at least 10 feet up to reduce the chances of fire getting to the top of the trees.
- Keep fire fuels (brush, vegetation, trees, beauty bark) at least 30 feet away from the structure.
- Be sure to regularly monitor the West Pierce Fire & Rescue Outdoor Burning webpage for updates on burn bans in University Place.

Ready.gov reminds you to have an emergency preparedness kit for yourself and your family ready to grab and go. For complete details and a checklist, visit their **Build a Kit** page. West Pierce Fire & Rescue also offers helpful tips for how to **take care of your household** for at least two weeks after a disaster, since it may be impossible for first responders to reach you before that time.

City Hall Holiday Closure

City Staff will be on holiday on Monday, September 4 in recognition of the Labor Day holiday. Normal hours will resume on Tuesday, September 5 at 9 a.m.

Community Harvest Day is Sunday, Aug. 27

Bring the family out to the Curran Apple Orchard (3920 Grandview Drive W.) this Sunday, Aug. 27 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for U.P.'s newest community event, Harvest Day. Pick your own apples from designated trees and enjoy the best in farm- (or orchard)-to-table goodness with nature's sweetest treats grown right here in U.P.

This event replaces the annual Cider Squeeze which was cancelled this year due to a lack of volunteers and an inadequate number of cider presses.



Regional "Ready, Set, Go!" Evacuation Campaign Kicks Off

With recent wildfires and corresponding smoke inundating our region on people's minds, the four Western Washington counties of King, Pierce, Snohomish and Thurston are joining forces, along with partners, to launch a regional "Ready, Set, Go!" evacuation campaign. This initiative aims to simplify evacuation messages to the public. These clear, straightforward messages are intended to save lives as people prepare to evacuate.

The risk of wildfires has spread to the west side of the Cascades, an



area that historically has not seen widespread wildfires. Once a rare occurrence,

wildfires have now become an annual threat, requiring public outreach and preparation. The "Ready, Set, Go!" evacuation campaign informs the public on how to respond to the three levels of evacuations (traditionally Levels 1, 2, and 3), and prepares them on the actions they should take at each level when alerted by authorities.

This evacuation program is also intended for an all-hazards evacuation approach with an initial emphasis on wildfires.

Residents are encouraged to participate actively by preparing their homes, accessing informational materials, and staying informed about local emergency updates. Individuals can play a vital role in enhancing the safety and preparedness of their communities.

Staying informed includes signing up for **emergency alerts**. If you live or work in Lakewood, University Place and/or Steilacoom, please sign up for emergency alerts to stay updated, as these types of incidents are dynamic and can change at a moment's notice.

For details on the key components of the campaign visit the **West Pierce Fire** & **Rescue** website.

Puget Sound Needs Us

Puget Sound Starts Here is a nonprofit campaign that includes federal, state and local governments, tribes, nonprofit organizations and businesses in a collective effort to protect the waters of Puget Sound.



September is Puget Sound Starts Here Month and a good time to remember that what we drive on land can have a significant impact on the waters of Puget Sound. Please take some time to take three small steps that will have a big impact on water quality:

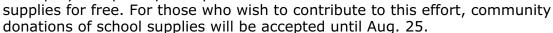
- Check your vehicles' tires: As we drive, our tires wear down, leaving tiny bits of tire behind on our roads. The chemicals in the tire bits are toxic to fish. When it rains, the runoff picks up the tire bits and carries them into storm drains and our waterways. If your tires are worn, they are a hazard to you—and water life.
- Wash wisely: When you wash your own car, the rinse water contains harmful pollutants like oil, grease, heavy metals and soaps that can flow untreated into our local waterways. Commercial car washes, both tunnels and bays, are required to treat their dirty wash water. If you can't use a commercial car wash, give your car a bath on the grass, which will soak up the wash water and prevent it from running into a storm drain.
- Don't drip and drive: Oil and other petroleum products can be toxic to people, wildlife, plants and water life. Regularly check your vehicle for leaks and get them fixed promptly so the fluids don't get washed into storm drains. When changing your motor oil, dispose of used oil by bringing it to your local auto shop for recycling. Call or visit 1-800-RECYCLE to find a location near you.

What's UP with Biz?

U.P. businesses are showing their school pride by going the extra mile to support school supply drives prior to the first day of school in U.P. on Aug. 29.

Hand & Stone Massage and Facial Spa at 3904 Bridgeport Way W. is awarding free specialty upgrades for massages or facials to those who contribute five or more school supplies to its back-toschool campaign. All supplies received will be donated to Curtis Junior High, Curtis High School and Evergreen Primary School.

The Linton Agency at 7409 27th St. W. will host a Back-to-School Supply Fair on Saturday, Aug. 26 from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Families are welcome to stop by and pick up backpacks and various school



And in more good news, on Thursday, Aug. 24 the public is invited to attend two back-to-back ribbon cuttings for new businesses in U.P. Stop by the American Red Cross at 4310 Bridgeport Way W. from 4-6 p.m. and Destiny Direct Primary Care at 4401 Bridgeport Way W. from 6-7 p.m. to welcome these new businesses to town.





University Place City Council



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