Headlines

News from University Place City Hall



November 15, 2023

Light UP your Holidays

Mark your calendars today for Friday, Dec. 1 when the City of University Place will celebrate the lighting of the Christmas Tree in Market Square with food, music, children's activities and much, much more.

The fun will begin at 5 p.m. with holiday music by the Stacy Jones Band who will welcome Santa to U.P. for the festivities. The man in red will be available for pictures in the beautifully



decorated Civic Building Atrium from 5-7:30 p.m. and will take a brief break to help us flip the switch to light the tree at 6 p.m.

Before and after the lighting ceremony, Market Square will be bustling with family-friendly attractions, including:

- Live reindeer from Rainier Reindeer Ranch
- Magic in the PNW live character performers
- Warm gatherings by Market Square's outdoor fireplace
- Stilt dancer Janet Rayor
- Outdoor children's games and activities (bundle up!)
- Popular food trucks including Boss Mama's Kitchen, The Corndoggery, Jack's Savory Pie Co. and Tasty's Kettle Corn

When the festivities end at 7:30 p.m., be sure to warm up with additional bites and cocktails from U.P.'s many eateries. Don't miss this beloved holiday tradition in University Place. Visit the City website at www.CityofUP.com for updates about this year's event! See you on Dec. 1!



Friday, December 1, 2023

Market Square 3609 Market Place West

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!



Please Participate in the Cirque Park Feasibility Study

The City of University Place has launched its in-depth feasibility study to gather input on plans to revitalize Cirque Park. There will be a total of three separate surveys that the public can respond to, including a FlashVote survey that will go out in early December. There will also be a series of public meetings and presentations to community stakeholders about the project.

Sign up online to participate in the current survey and make sure that you are also



enrolled in FlashVote so you can weigh in on the December survey.

For all the latest updates on this effort, be sure to follow the **project page** on the City's website.

Relive the Fun of Oktoberfest 2023

Take two minutes to relive the food, drink, music, dancing and smiles of this year's Oktoberfest in Market Square in this special video recap below. Get a glimpse of the pumpkin carving, children's activities and crazy costumes that made this the most well-attended Oktoberfest yet. Thanks again to all those who came out to celebrate. Only 11 months until we do it again!



Comprehensive Plan Updates: Planning for Growth



How would you like to see University Place evolve in the coming years? A city's Comprehensive Plan is the blueprint for a community's growth and changes. The City of UP is in the midst of updating its Comprehensive Plan, which will address

specific topics such as housing, transportation, utilities, open space, and several others.

Comprehensive Plans need to align with state and federal laws. In recent years, the Washington State Legislature passed several significant housing and land use bills that will impact University Place. Here is a brief summary of new state laws and what they mean for University Place:

- Starting in 2025, lots in residential areas will be allowed to have two housing units on them (duplexes) instead of only one single family house (unless zoning units allow for higher density). Lots will be allowed to have four housing units if at least one of those units is affordable (again unless zoning units allow for higher density). For details, look up the law **E2SHB** 1110.
- Starting in 2025, single family homes in residential areas (that meet a minimum lot size) will be allowed to have up to two accessory dwelling units (ADUs). ADUs are small, self-contained residential units located on the same lot as an existing single-family home. For details, look up the law **EHB 1337**.
- Under the state's Growth Management Act, University Place is required to plan for 5,620 new housing units by 2044.

While the City has to comply with state laws, it has some flexibility about how it plans for housing and UP wants to hear from you. For example, what types of services and amenities should UP locate new housing near? Or, what kinds of housing (in addition to single family houses and duplexes) should UP explore? Tell the City what you think about growth, housing, and other topics in a community survey, which is open from October 11 to December 4 and is available in English, Spanish and Korean. The University Place Planning Commission and City Council will take public feedback into account as it shapes the new Comprehensive Plan throughout 2044.

Let your voice be heard and take the survey today.



Scholarship Opportunity for U.P. High School Seniors

The Association of Washington Cities Center for Quality Communities (CQC)



provides **scholarships** to high school seniors who are active in leadership in their city government, community, or school and plan to pursue post-secondary education.

Applications must be received by noon on Wednesday, Dec. 27 to meet the date for the City to also include consideration into the University of Washington Presidential Scholarship for students planning to attend UW. Complete applications may be emailed to **LPetorak@CityofUP.com**, or mailed to:

City of University Place, Attn.: Lisa Petorak 3609 Market Place W. Suite 200 University Place, WA 98466

The City will review all the local applications and select a nominee to forward to the Center for Quality Communities for consideration. Scholarship recipients will be notified in April 2024 by AWC.

How to Keep Children Safe from Sexual Predators

On Nov. 9, a group of concerned citizens joined U.P. Police Chief Pat Burke and Pierce County Detective Sergeant Lynelle Anderson for a "Conversation with the Chief" about the dangers to children from sexual predators.

Det. Sgt. Anderson shared alarming statistics that debunk the misconception that sexual abuse is often the result of "stranger danger," noting that

- More than 90 percent of abusers are people children know, love and trust
- Upwards of 40 percent of victims are abused by a family member.
- Half are abused by someone outside of the family whom they know and trust.

Anderson said evidence that a child has been sexually abused is not always obvious, and many children do not report that they have been abused. She urged anyone who suspects the sexual abuse of a child, either by someone they know or by a stranger, to immediately report their concerns to the Washington State Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting hotline at 800.562.5624, 866.END-HARM or TTY 800.624.6186. Reports can also be made **online** or by calling 911 or South Sound 911's 24-Hour Non-Emergency Line at 253.287.4455.

"It was great to see the participants engaged and asking good questions," Burke said. "I think everyone came away feeling that it was time well-spent in protection of our children. Lynelle will be retiring in January but given how well this session went, we plan to pull her out of retirement for future events."



FlashVote is an easy means to weigh in on key issues impacting the City of University Place, including updates to the City's Comprehensive Plan and improvements at Cirque Park. It takes less than one minute to **sign up**. Then you'll have regular opportunities to



participate in anonymous one-minute surveys to make sure your voice is heard. Once enrolled, you will have access to the survey results and be able to see what your fellow community members have to say about City-related topics.

A Day to Honor Our Veterans

No amount of wind or rain could dampen the spirits of those who gathered at the Veterans Plaza last Saturday, November 11 at Cirque Park to honor our veterans.

The University Place Pack 148 led the pledge of allegiance, followed by a soulful national anthem performed by Sergeant Tricia Scheer, 133rd Washington National Guard. The ceremony continued with heartfelt



speeches from Mayor Steve Worthington, Lieutenant Colonel Nick Holten, 1-229th Attack Battalion Commander, Dr. Mari Leavitt, Washington State House Representative 28th Legislative District, with Invocation and Benediction from Captain Daren Armstrong, Deputy Brigade Chaplain, 16th Combat Aviation Brigade, culminated in a solemn laying of the wreath.

The haunting notes of Taps played by Staff Sergeant Matthew Rodriguez, US Army I Corps Band, and the stirring rendition of Amazing Grace by Robert Wallace of the Clan Gordon Pipe Band added to the dignity and solemnity of the occasion. A big thank you to Entertainment Masters who provided the sound system and music for the event and to the University Place Veterans Plaza 501c3 non-profit whose dedication to honoring our heroes is truly inspiring and we can't thank them enough for their hard work. The ceremony was a beautiful tribute to those who serve and have served our nation and a reminder of the sacrifices they made for us.

Hear about the history, creation and symbolism behind the Veterans Plaza where the Ceremony was held in this short documentary, "In Their Honor."

For more photos from this year's event, visit the City's Facebook Page.





What's UP with Biz?

Small Business Saturday is Nov. 25 and a great time to get gifts or gift cards for

products and services from any of U.P.'s many small businesses. The Small Business Saturday Consumer Insights Survey commissioned by American Express revealed that U.S. consumers who shopped at independent retailers and restaurants on the Saturday after Thanksgiving in 2022 spent an estimated \$17.9 billion.

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American Express also reports that approximately 67 cents of every dollar

spent at a small business remains in the local community and every dollar spent at small businesses creates an additional 50 cents in local business activity as a result of employee spending and businesses.

When you shop local, you invest in your community.





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













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Unsubscribe uppublicrelations@cityofup.com

