

Headlines

News from University Place City Hall



January 24, 2024

Meet Your New Council Members

At its first City Council meeting of the new year, Frank Boykin and Melanie Grassi were sworn in as the newest members of the University Place City Council. Here's just a bit more information about them and their goals for their terms in office:

Frank Boykin has served as the vice chair of the City's Planning Commission for 12 years, as treasurer of the Economic Development Corporation of Pierce County and was appointed by former governor Gary Locke to the Washington State Commission on African American Affairs. He currently works as the Program Director for the Washington Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) Business Center (under the U.S. Department of Commerce). He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration from Lincoln University in Jefferson City, MO.

Council Member Boykin wants to explore new ideas about community safety, economic vitality and community growth. He has been a resident of University Place since 2004. He and his wife Alyce have an adult daughter, Tasia. Email him at fboykin@cityofup.com.



Melanie Grassi has been active in the U.P. community since her days as a child following her father, former City Council Member and Mayor Ken Grassi, as he led and participated in various



community initiatives.

Grassi has been an active volunteer on numerous community committees and groups, having served on the Daffodil Parade Committee and for other community groups and organizations, including the Tacoma Rescue Mission Family Shelter and the Teen Challenge Women's Recovery Center. A former small business owner, Grassi currently serves as the executive director of the New School at Chambers Bay and is the executive pastor of OURCHURCH.

With her unique understanding of the city's past and a fresh vision for University Place's future, Grassi is dedicated to fostering a safe and welcoming community, as well as advocating for increasing public safety and creating new pathways for easier economic development. A University Place native for over 35 years, Melanie

is also a widowed mother to two children, Rosary and Giovanni. Email her at mgrassi@cityofup.com.

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!



And the Winner is...



The competition was heated but after a two-week battle between the U.P. Police Department and West Pierce Fire & Rescue, UPPD prevailed and took home the winning title in the University Place Battle of the Badges blood drive.

Donors were asked to cast a vote for either U.P. Police or West Pierce Fire & Rescue as part of their donation process. UPPD secured 24 votes, narrowly surpassing the 22 votes for West Pierce Fire & Rescue. In all, the Red Cross secured 47 units of blood from 46 donors (39 percent of whom were first time donors). These donations will impact more than 140 people in need of lifesaving blood transfusions.

Larry Bleich, Community Volunteer Leader for the American Red Cross - South Puget Sound and Olympics, praised all the participants.

"Congratulations to all and thank you for your time commitment and enthusiasm in supporting our drive," he said. He also extended a special thank you to Shanti Benoit-Boyce from NW Medical Arts who helped support the drive with her gift basket raffle and social media outreach.



Bleich said that although the UPPD may have won the battle, the real winner was the general population who will benefit from the much-needed blood donations.

Watch this brief video from "**Good Morning America**" and keep an eye out for one of U.P.'s own giving blood as part of the campaign.

Photos provided by the American Red Cross

Meet the Chief

For those who are interested in getting to know more about U.P. Police Chief Pat Burke, take a few minutes to watch this special video conversation with the Chief. Learn about Burke's background, his passion for law enforcement and the positions he has held during his career with the Pierce County Sheriff's Department. This includes his work on the SWAT team when he was first introduced to U.P. during National Night Out (NNO) festivities.

Hear the Chief outline his goals for public safety in U.P., including additional staffing, property crime prevention and improved traffic safety. Learn about his commitment to community engagement through initiatives such as Coffee with a Cop, NNO and other efforts to identify constituent concerns and how to best address them.



Chief Burke also talks about the best ways to connect with the UPPD and how to get the latest news on public safety in University Place. Watch "**Meet the Chief.**"



City Posts Opening for Community Outreach Officer

The City of University Place has posted a job opening for a Community Outreach Officer (COO), a position that is funded through the public safety levy that was passed in 2023.

The COO will work with businesses, residents and other City departments to develop community relationships and advise on crime prevention strategies to reduce crime and enhance the quality of life in U.P. The COO will have a limited commission from the City to enforce the municipal code and address violations primarily around parking, abandoned vehicles, noise and park rules, including homeless encampment/enforcement issues and coordinating human services and law enforcement support.

To see the complete job posting requirements (as well as postings for two additional City of U.P. openings in the Parks and Public Works departments) visit the City's **Human Resources page**. The COO posting will close on Jan. 31, 2024.



You may be the person we are looking for!

View current job opportunities at www.CityofUP.com

WE WANT YOU ON OUR TEAM!



Work Continues on 35th Street Improvements



Crews are continuing to construct new retaining walls, new sidewalks, bike lanes, street lighting and landscaping along both sides of 35th Street between 67th Avenue and Bridgeport Way. Retaining wall construction on the south side is near completion and construction on the north side wall began this week. Utility coordination is underway and the contractor is completing vegetation clearing to make room for the new sidewalks. The improvements also call for the installation of a crosswalk with pedestrian-actuated flashing beacons on 35th Street at Morrison Road. The entire project is slated to be completed this summer.

The 35th Street improvements are funded through a \$2 million grant from the Federal Highway Administration. If you have questions about the project, please contact the Engineering Department at 253.460.2526.

What's Up With Biz

Northwest Medical Arts at 5350 Orchard St. W. has launched a kindness campaign with Pierce County businesses to recognize Random Acts of Kindness Day on Feb. 17, 2024.

This Pierce County kindness campaign aims to inspire businesses and individuals alike to contribute to the well-being of the community through simple acts of kindness, from buying coffee for a stranger to sending flowers to a senior center or thanking a veteran.



"We are honored to collaborate with other local businesses who share our vision for a kinder and more connected community," said Northwest Medical Arts' Shanti Benoit. "Together, we believe that by fostering kindness, we can make a lasting impact on the lives of those around us."

Report random acts of kindness received or given by visiting nwmedicalarts.com/kindness and using the hashtag #piercecountykindness on social media by tagging @nwmedicalarts. All participants are eligible for a \$500 Spa Rejuvenation Experience from Northwest Medical Arts.

Adopt an Apple Tree

Pruning Adoptions
(\$45 available through April 1)

Prune your own tree!

Orchard Supporter Adoptions
(\$70 available through July 31)

Have volunteers prune your tree!



Curran Orchard Resource Enthusiasts (CORE) Tree Adoption Program

Adoptions valid for one season.

Receive a beautiful wooden sign
embellished with the adopter's name.

For adoption forms, visit
www.curranappleorchard.com.

Are You Enrolled in FlashVote?

FlashVote is an easy means to weigh in on key issues impacting the City of University Place. 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.



CITY HALL CLOSURE

CITY HALL OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED ON
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19 IN RECOGNITION OF
THE PRESIDENTS' DAY HOLIDAY.

CITY HALL WILL REOPEN ON TUESDAY,
FEBRUARY 20 AT 9 A.M.

UNIVERSITY PLACE

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2024
AT 6:30 P.M.

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

AGENDA ITEMS

- Commissioner Recognitions
- Cell Phone Policy
- 2024 Landscape Maintenance Services
- Street Fund Resolution
- Zoning Code Text Amendments

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

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University Place City Council



Mayor
Javier Figueroa



**Mayor Pro Tem
Ed Wood**



**Council Member
Frank Boykin**



**Council Member
Steve Worthington**



**Council Member
Denise McCluskey**



**Council Member
Stan Flemming**



**Council Member
Melanie Grassi**



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