

Headlines

News from University Place City Hall



February 7, 2024

City Receives Award of Excellence in Financial Reporting

For the 26th straight year, the City of University Place has earned the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Award of Excellence for meeting high standards in financial reporting, transparency, and accountability for its 2022 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR). Criteria include demonstrating a clear understanding of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), providing comprehensive financial information, and maintaining effective communication.

"Preparing the ACFR is a team effort," said Leslie Blaisdell, the City's Finance Director and Risk Manager. "I want to extend my appreciation to City staff from all departments who assist in its preparation, especially Finance Operations Manager Grace Oh and Finance Analyst Jennifer Robinson. They are unsung heroes whose hard work and dedication every day are reflected in this award."



Government Finance Officers Association

Certificate of
Achievement
for Excellence
in Financial
Reporting

Presented to

City of University Place
Washington

For its Annual Comprehensive
Financial Report
For the Fiscal Year Ended

December 31, 2022

Christopher P. Morill
Executive Director/CEO

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!



Put the Freeze on Broken Pipes

Old Man Winter isn't done with us yet, so local public safety officials remind homeowners to make sure they know how to prevent burst pipes in freezing temperatures. During our region's last cold snap, West Pierce Fire & Rescue responded to numerous calls due to burst water pipes.



Take these precautions now to prevent damage:

- Insulate exposed pipes in your home's crawl space and attic. Use heat tape or heat cables approved by an independent testing organization.
- Seal air leaks around electrical wiring, dryer vents and pipes with caulk or insulation.
- Disconnect garden hoses and put insulators around outside faucets.
- Let warm water drip overnight, preferably from a faucet on an outside wall.
- Keep your thermostat at the same temperature day and night.
- Open cabinet doors to allow heat to reach un-insulated pipes under sinks and appliances near exterior walls.
- Check your main water valve to see if it has rusted open or doesn't close all the way. If so, replace it.
- If the worst occurs and your pipes do burst, be sure that everyone in your household knows how to shut off the water supply to the house to minimize more damage.
- If your house is on a slab, the shut-off valve is likely outside near the water meter. If you have a basement, the shut-off valve is usually near the water heater or in a basement wall.
- To shut off water, turn the handle clockwise until the valve is completely closed. Don't turn it back on until you have confirmed it's safe.
- Keep in mind that cracked water pipes may pollute your home's water supply. Check with authorities to make sure it's safe before drinking.

Former Commissioners Honored by Council



At the U.P. Council Meeting of Monday, Feb. 5, 2024, the City Council recognized several departing Commissioners for the outstanding contributions they supplied while serving in their roles. The work of these persons contributed to significant City efforts as they served as key contributors and valued advisers to the City Council.

Thank you to the following persons for their hard work, time and efforts on behalf of University Place.

Planning Commissioners: Anthony Paulson, 12 years; Chuck Foster, 4 years (an additional 8 years on the Economic Development Commission); and Frank Boykin, 12 years.

Park Advisory Commissioners: Halley Knigge, 3 years; Ian Ainoa, 3 years; Julie Finnegan, 11 years; and Stacey McClain, 5 years.

First photo, from left to right: Council Members Grassi, Flemming, Worthington and Boykin, Anthony Paulson, Chuck Foster, Mayor Figueroa, Council Members Wood and McCluskey.

Second photo, from left to right: Council Members Grassi, Flemming, Worthington and Boykin, Halley Knigge, Julie Finnegan, Mayor Figueroa, Council Members Wood and McCluskey. (Not pictured Ian Ainoa and Stacey McClain.)

Curran Apple Orchard 2024 Winter Events!

Learn a new skill and help take care of a unique apple orchard park in University Place at FREE pruning parties sponsored by CORE (Curran Orchard Resource Enthusiasts)! Volunteers are needed to help prune and haul branches to dumpsters...no experience needed! Free instruction available!



Pruning Parties are scheduled for the following Saturdays from 10 a.m.–1 p.m.:

- February 3 and 17
- March 2 and 16

Trained volunteers and Master Gardeners will be on hand at official Pruning Party dates to provide guidance. Wear old clothes and bring loppers, hand pruners and saws if available. Some tools are available to borrow at the barn.

On remaining Saturdays in February and March, CORE volunteers will be available in the barn to coordinate volunteers and offer tree information.

Help is also needed hauling branches to the dumpsters. Great for community service hours! (Students – please bring parent permission forms which are available at www.curranappleorchard.com).

CORE meets the first Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. on the second floor of University Place City Hall, 3609 Market Place W. Free parking is available underneath the library.

For more information and to confirm meeting locations, visit www.curranappleorchard.com or email curranappleorchard@gmail.com. Everyone is welcome to attend!

CERT Training Registration Now Open

West Pierce Fire & Rescue (WPFR) invites community members who live or work in Lakewood, University Place and Steilacoom to attend the next session of CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) classes. The training will be held March 5-23, 2024 and registration is now open.

Aimed at preparing groups in the community to prepare for and respond to disasters, these CERT classes follow a model developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and are offered in cities across the United States. The idea behind this model is to teach people in neighborhoods how to help each other in the first few minutes or hours following a disaster – before emergency responders are able to render professional help. In the classes, students will gain hands-on skills, such as how to put out small fires, render first aid in a disaster situation, perform light search and rescue and much more.



The series of six classes will be held two nights per week (Tuesday and Thursday) for three weeks, from 6 – 9 p.m., and will culminate in a practical exercise to be held on a Saturday from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Classes are held at WPFR stations and instructors are personnel with special experience in the particular area, or subject matter experts from other areas. To visit the class schedule, please **click here**.

Participants must be at least 18 years old. Participants who are at least 14 years old may attend with a parent also registered or at least 16 years old with a parent's permission. The classes are free! For more information or how to register, please visit our **website**.

What's UP With Biz

One of U.P.'s newest businesses celebrated its ribbon cutting on Feb 1. Triumph Dental at 2607 Bridgeport Way W. is owned by Cheiryl Legaspi and offers a full range of services, including general, cosmetic and restorative dentistry for children and adults.



Before opening her new office in U.P., Dr. Legaspi and her husband, Dr. Xander Legaspi, owner of Triumph Physical Therapy at 3560 Bridgeport Way W., have hosted a number of free dental and physical therapy clinics for the U.P. community. In all, they estimate they have provided more than \$800,000 in free services to those who need basic dental and rehabilitation care.

University Place is grateful for the contributions of the Legaspis and all our local businesses who continue to demonstrate their commitment to our community and the people who call U.P. home.

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

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2024
AT 6:30 P.M.**

VIRTUAL: WATCH ON COMCAST
CHANNEL 21, RAINIER CONNECT
CHANNEL 12 OR LIVE ON
[YOUTUBE.COM/UNIVERSITYPLACETY](https://www.youtube.com/universityplacety)

AGENDA ITEMS

- American Red Cross Month Proclamation
- Business Recruitment Incentive Repeal
- State Building Code Amendments
- Donation & Sponsorship Policy
- ARPA Sewer Expansion Projects

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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