

# Headlines

*News from University Place City Hall*



**February 21, 2024**

## **Council Members Boykin and Grassi Attend City Action Days**

U.P.'s newest City Council Members recently joined local leaders from around the state at the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) Action Days on the campus of St. Martin's University in Lacey.

Council Members Melanie Grassi and Frank Boykin attended the two-day event which gave them the opportunity to meet with State legislators, communicate legislative priorities and meet with other elected colleagues.

For Boykin, the event was a great way to make new acquaintances and start building new relationships with leaders from around the state. "It was also helpful to learn more about different bills that were being debated during the legislative session, especially those that align with U.P.'s priorities such as affordable housing and public safety," he said.

"I jam-packed those two days with meetings with our state representatives and senator," said Grassi. "It was really encouraging to spend time with newly elected and longtime elected officials, to ask questions and learn from their wisdom. Together, we can make all of our cities better."



## **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!



## U.P. Seeks Young Artists to Color it UP Again

Last year, the City of University Place invited young artists to help transform bland utility boxes into vibrant pieces of art. The result was colorful additions to the U.P. landscape along Cirque Drive between Bridgeport and Grandview. The artwork has received lots of “thumbs up” from the community so Public Works wants to add vinyl wrapping to additional utility boxes around town.



The City is again calling on young artists to share their talents and create designs for these new vinyl wrappings. Students in grades 5-12 are encouraged to participate in the 2024 Color UP art contest. Entries should reflect community pride or happiness and be created to cover all sides of the utility boxes. Art can be created by individuals or teams. The contest begins today, Feb. 21, and the deadline for submittals is May 5. Get the submission form and complete contest details on the [City website](#).

## West Pierce Fire & Rescue Urges Proper Disposal of Lithium Batteries

As lithium-ion batteries have become more popular in items ranging from smart phones to laptops, power tools and even luggage, the proper disposal of lithium-ion batteries has become a matter of public safety.



These batteries, unlike traditional alkaline batteries, have high energy density that can make them prone to combustion or explosion when they are damaged. They can produce enough heat to ignite nearby materials.

Improper disposal of lithium-ion batteries has resulted in fires in U.P. Refuse and Recycling trucks. Thanks to the quick response from West Pierce Fire & Rescue, these fires were quickly extinguished but could have been catastrophic and potentially life-threatening for the truck drivers. This is an issue affecting communities across the world, with many examples of large fires occurring due to mishandled lithium-ion batteries.

***Lithium-ion batteries should never be put in household trash or recycling.*** Please set these batteries aside and dispose of them correctly at the City of Tacoma Solid Waste Center at 3510 S. Mullen Street. Visit the **Solid Waste Center** website, the **Washington Department of Ecology's battery stewardship program** or **batteryfiresafety.org** for more details and safety notes on how to properly store lithium-ion batteries.

## 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

On Feb. 12, U.P. Mayor Javier Figueroa presented to Northwest Medical Arts a Certificate of Recognition for their contributions to the community by "promoting and organizing Random Acts of Kindness Week" activities in U.P.

Pictured (left to right): Mayor Javier Figueroa, Heather Grods and Shanti Benoit Boyce (owners of Northwest Medical Arts), Council Member Melanie Grassi, Amy Flippo (owner of Harbornest in Gig Harbor), Holly Shaw and Brandi Nix (owner of Artful Beauty Studio in University Place). Artful Beauty and Harbornest have worked closely with Northwest Medical Arts to reach out to the community.



# 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](http://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.



## UNIVERSITY PLACE

# CITY COUNCIL MEETING

**MONDAY, MARCH 4, 2024  
AT 6:30 P.M.**

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

### AGENDA ITEMS

- Zoning Code Text Amendments
- Donation & Sponsorship Policy
- Cirque Park Feasibility Report
- Vision Subcommittee Resolution Repeal
- Surface Water Management Update
- Amendment to the NE Business District Residential Target Area (Multifamily Tax Exemption)

*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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