

Headlines

News from University Place City Hall



March 6, 2024

U.P. Again Earns WellCity Honors

University Place employees have again earned the 2024 WellCity distinction from the Association of Washington Cities Employee Benefit Trust, a government benefit pool for cities, towns and other local governments.



U.P. joined 117 other cities across Washington that have made an outstanding commitment to employee wellness. In recognition of U.P.'s efforts to encourage and support employee health, they and every 2024 WellCity recipient will receive a 2 percent premium discount on their AWC Employee Benefit Trust active medical premiums in 2025. This marks the 10th year in a row that U.P. has been recognized for meeting the AWC Employee Benefit Trust's stringent WellCity standards.

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

The City of University Place invites students in grades 5-12 to participate in the 2024 "Color It UP" art contest. As was done

last year, winning designs will be converted into vinyl wrappings that cover utility boxes around the city. Last year's work can be seen on boxes along Cirque Drive between Bridgeport and Grandview.

Entries can be submitted by individuals or teams and should reflect community pride or happiness. The art must be designed in such a way that it will cover all four sides of the utility boxes. For complete contest rules and design specifications, visit the **Color it UP Art Contest page**.



The contest began Feb. 21 and the deadline for submissions is May 5. Get started now and be a part of the beautification of U.P.!

Princess Lilly Celebrated at U.P. Council Meeting



Congratulations to the amazing Lillian Ecklund for being crowned this year's Curtis High School Daffodil Princess! Mayor Figueroa's proclamation at the Council meeting recognized her many outstanding achievements. Princess Lilly was joined by her father, Jack Ecklund, and Daffodil Coordinator Garnett in the celebration. True royalty in our midst!

Pictured from left to right: Daffodil Coordinator Dana Garnett, Council Members Steve Worthington, Stan Flemming and Melanie Grassi, Daffodil Princess Lillian Ecklund, Lilly's father and the City's Director of Public Works Jack Ecklund, Mayor Javier Figueroa, Council Members Frank Boykin, Denise McCluskey and Mayor Pro Tem Ed Wood.

The Name Change Is Official!

In a historic vote, the members of the Tahoma Audubon Society have voted to change the name to Tahoma Bird Alliance. **The votes tallied were 87% in favor of the name change!** We are thrilled to have had such a high voter turnout

and such an overwhelming affirmation for Tahoma Bird Alliance. We will be changing our branding over the next few months.

Stuart Earley, Executive Director of Tahoma Bird Alliance, says "The old name no longer reflected our values, and created barriers to parts of our community. We want to have a welcoming, inclusive, accessible and inspirational organization that brings all of our communities together to help protect birds and nature."



We are proud to be joining a growing number of chapters changing to the Bird Alliance name including Vashon Island, Golden Gate, Southern Wisconsin, Chicago, Detroit, Portland (now Bird Alliance of Oregon) and others.

What's Next?

This organization has been making a difference in local bird habitat and conservation efforts for over 50 years and we are excited to be continuing that important work. We have just begun a multi-year program to increase tree canopy and bird habitat in the greater Tacoma area called 10,000 Trees for Tacoma. We have a new bird and nature walk program for people of all physical and developmental abilities called Birdability®, and we are in the process of developing a new education program for elementary aged school children. We are continuing our partnerships with the local library systems and have new offerings coming soon!

Stay tuned for new branding and new opportunities to get involved at www.tahomabirdalliance.org



PARKS APPRECIATION DAY

AT THE CURRAN APPLE ORCHARD

**SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2024
9 A.M. TO NOON**



What's UP With Biz

Home-based business owners as well as those who own brick-and-mortar businesses are encouraged to attend the Spring 2024 Home-Based Business Reception on Tuesday, March 12 from

5:30–7 p.m. at NW Medical Arts (5350 Orchard St. W., Ste. 202).

This is a great opportunity for local business owners to network and learn more about how to support each other.

And check out the **ribbon cutting celebration** for the new Tasting Room at Chambers Bay Distillery in Town Center. The venue serves craft cocktails and snacks including flatbreads and charcuterie in a casual setting that includes bar seats, tables and couches. (Also pictured below.)



We're Hiring!

Want to join the green team that keeps our city looking fabulous? The City is hiring for a Landscape Maintenance Tech and Seasonal Maintenance workers! Don't leaf this opportunity behind - apply before March 15 for the landscaping role or until filled for seasonal positions.

Visit our **employment page** today!



**You may be the person we are
looking for!**

**View current job opportunities
at www.CityofUP.com**

WE WANT YOU ON OUR TEAM!



Improving Pierce Transit: Your Ride, Your Way

There are a lot of changes coming to Pierce Transit's services at the end of March. Bus routes and how customers ride them are being adjusted based on community input and to make the most of available resources. There are also some exciting new ways to get from Point A to Point B across Pierce County.

Feedback gathered during a public engagement campaign Pierce Transit conducted last Fall showed that the community prioritized more frequent bus service, and more expanded hours of service. Pierce Transit is beginning to implement those changes in March.

On March 31, Pierce Transit will make schedule improvements to almost all of its local routes. The schedule changes will support easier transfers between routes, and boost on-time performance, vastly improving the transit experience for riders making connections.



There will be three additional elements to the March 31 service changes:

- Launching a Runner on-demand service zone in Gig Harbor, which will provide a new transit option in areas that are difficult to safely serve with a bus, plus extended hours and connections to other transit services.
- Retiring three low-performing routes (and a portion of one other route) and transitioning those riders to Runner zones. As of March 3, these Runner zones will entirely encompass the areas of the retiring routes, plus offer on-demand, curb-to-curb, accessible rides with longer hours of service.
- Using the savings associated with retiring these routes to add Stream Community Line, a high-capacity transit service between Spanaway and downtown Tacoma that will provide frequent, rapid and convenient morning and afternoon service with fewer stops and a faster trip.

Check **PierceTransit.org** in the coming weeks to see specific schedule changes and find out more!

UNIVERSITY PLACE

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2024
AT 6:30 P.M.

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

AGENDA ITEMS

- Vision Subcommittee Resolution Repeal (C)
- PH: SWM Plan Update (A)
- 2025-2026 Council Goals List/Ideas (S)
- Law Enforcement Interlocal Agreement (S#1)
- Public Works Facility Paving Project Bid Award (C)

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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