

# Headlines

*News from University Place City Hall*



**November 27, 2024**

## **Let the Countdown Begin!**

It's only 10 days until Market Square becomes a hub of holiday excitement as the community comes together to light the University Place Christmas Tree on Friday, Dec. 6.

The fun begins at 4:30 p.m. and will include some of the area's favorite food trucks, including Jack's Savory Pies, Corndoggery, Boss Mama's Kitchen, Funnel of Love, Tasty Z's Kettle Corn and Honeycomb Raw Honey.



Keep an eye out for Frosty the Snowman and Santa's reindeer as well as costumed characters from Magic in the PNW. The Curtis Senior High School drumline and cheer team will be on hand to get the crowd excited for the big man's (a.k.a. Santa's!) arrival via a West Pierce Fire & Rescue engine at 5 p.m. Santa will smile for pictures in the Civic Building Atrium from 5-7 p.m.

There will be plenty of fun outside in Market Square, too, including kids' games and activities. The Stacy Jones Band will provide live music from 5-7 p.m. while stilt walker/artist Janet Rayor makes her rounds among the crowds gathered near the outdoor fireplace.

Start the season off right in Market Square and create magical memories right here in U.P.—memories that will last long after Santa has returned to the North Pole.





## 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!



## Lunch with the Chief

On Wednesday, Dec. 11, make plans to have lunch at noon in the City Council Chambers with U.P. Police Chief Pat Burke and other members of the UPPD leadership team.

Take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about how 2023 levy funds are being put to work right now to fulfill the commitments made to the City's residents and businesses during the levy campaign.

A light lunch will be provided, so if you plan to attend, please RSVP to [uppublicsafety@cityofup.com](mailto:uppublicsafety@cityofup.com).



## Job Openings at City of U.P.

Job Openings at City of U.P. Qualified applicants are encouraged to apply for two open administrative positions with the City of University Place:

- **Finance Analyst:** Perform a variety of complex paraprofessional level accounting duties and special projects in finance, payroll, employee benefits, and purchasing. Application window closes on Friday, Dec. 6 at 4 p.m.
- **Human Resources Analyst:** Assist in training and development, employee and labor relations, recruitment, benefits administration, classification and compensation, and performance management. Application window closes on Wednesday, Dec. 4 at 4 p.m.



You may be the person we are looking for!

View current job opportunities at [www.CityofUP.com](http://www.CityofUP.com)

**WE WANT YOU ON OUR TEAM!**



For complete position descriptions and qualifications, visit the **City's Human Resources page**.

## Battle of the Badges Returns in January

West Pierce Fire & Rescue is out for blood...literally.

After losing to the U.P. Police Department in last year's "Battle of the Badges" blood drive, the firefighters are ready to take the title back. You can help them do so—or help UPPD maintain their bragging rights—by donating blood on Jan. 7 and 8 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at West Pierce Fire & Rescue Station 31 (3631 Drexler Dr. W.) Regardless of which side you're on, the good news is that either way, those in desperate need of blood will be the winners.



Make an appointment online at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or call 800.733.2767.

Show our heroes that you're a hero, too. Give blood.

*Photo provided by the American Red Cross.*

## Update on Storm Drainage and Surface Water Management Fees

The City of University Place has performed a capital and operational needs assessment of its surface water management system and developed a 20-year financial model that includes a recalculation of annual storm drainage and surface water management fees as well as a new "System Development Charge" to account for inflation. The last inflation adjustment occurred in 2005.

As a result, the City Council voted in 2023 to institute new storm drainage and surface water management fees beginning in 2025. The new residential rates will be:

- Residential (per single unit): \$254.80
- Duplex per duplex unit: \$328.70
- Duplex/Condo: \$164.34

Beginning Jan. 1, 2025, new storm water management fees will be assessed on any new or redevelopment permits. The City's newly updated National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II permit requires the City to encourage the use of Low-Impact Drainage Techniques in managing storm water from new development. The new storm drainage and surface water management fees will help pay for the projected capital and operational costs associated with the surface water management.

View all the changes in **Ordinance 772** [here](#), including fee schedules through 2027. For additional information, please contact Jordan Martin at [jmartin@cityofup.com](mailto:jmartin@cityofup.com) or 253.460.5417 for additional information.

## What's UP with Biz?

U.P.'s Trader Joe's at 3800 Bridgeport Way W. in the Green Firs Towne Center is turning 20! The public is invited to stop by from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 6 to enjoy an array of anniversary festivities.

U.P. Mayor Javier Figueroa will offer brief remarks at 10 a.m. to recognize Trader Joe's contributions to the community and to thank them for investing in University Place. They have been an integral part of our local economy for two decades.



## Celebrating a Century!

Ruth Challender, a resident of U.P.'s Community Connection Place, celebrated her 100th birthday surrounded by loving family and friends, including her great-great-granddaughter! She received a special birthday serenade as well as a Certificate of

Recognition from the City of University Place that was presented to her by City Council Member Melanie Grassi.

"What a joy it was to celebrate this occasion with Ruth and her family," Grassi said. "Her smile radiated throughout the room and brought joy to everyone there. What an inspiration she is!"

Watch a short recap reel on **Instagram!**



## City Council Members Attend National League of Cities



Pictured left to right: City Council Members Frank Boykin, Denise McCluskey, Mayor Javier Figueroa and Council Member Steve Worthington at the annual National League of Cities Conference that took place on November 13-17, 2024 in Tampa, Florida.

## Attention High School Seniors: Don't Miss this Scholarship Opportunity

High school seniors who are active in leadership in their city government, community or school are encouraged to apply

for the Association of Washington Cities Center for Quality Communities (CQC) 2025 scholarships.

CQC will award up to three \$3,000 scholarships to students who plan to pursue post-secondary education at an accredited college or trade school at least half-time in the 2025-26 academic year. The City of University Place can nominate one graduating high school senior. To be eligible, applicants must be Washington state residents and reside in University Place.



Get the **application and details here**. The deadline for submissions is 4 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 30 and must include a letter of recommendation from a nonrelative. Winners will be notified next spring. Completed application packets should be submitted to Lisa Petorak, director of Administrative Services for the City of U.P. (3609 Market Place W., University Place, WA 98466-4488).

## New Trees Planned for 35th Street

As part of the work to prepare for Phase 2 of the City's 35th Street improvements, the project contractor has begun removing trees from the City's right-of-way along 35th Street West from Bridgeport Way West to Grandview Drive West.



Prior to their removal, an arborist carefully assessed the trees and determined that several showed signs of poor health or stem decay mostly due to tree topping by the utility companies. Some of these trees pose safety concerns and need to be removed to allow for the planned improvements.

When construction is complete next summer, the City will plant 90 new trees in the construction area, ensuring a greener, shadier and healthier streetscape that will also provide safer pedestrian access along this corridor for years to come.

The new trees will complement the project's other improvements, including new six-foot-wide ADA compliant sidewalks, five-foot-wide bike lanes on both sides of the street and new streetlights.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Kyle Mauren at 253.460.2531 or [kmauren@cityofup.com](mailto:kmauren@cityofup.com).

UNIVERSITY PLACE REFUSE & RECYCLING PRESENTS

# THANKS GIVING

*Dinner*

THURSDAY  
NOVEMBER 28TH, 2024  
11:00AM TO 1:00PM

CURTIS JUNIOR HIGH CAFETERIA

3725 GRANDVIEW DR. W

150 MEALS PREPARED BY CHEF DEREK BRAY

SIT-DOWN STYLE, FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED

PIES AND SPARKLING CIDER SUPPLIED BY DMAC ENTERPRISES

HOT BEVERAGES SUPPLIED BY OURCHURCH

QUESTIONS? EMAIL NICOLE JOVICH JOHNSON AT  
NICKIBELLEJOJO@GMAIL.COM OR CALL 206-240-7173

## Please Complete Hazard Mitigation Survey by Nov. 30

Residents of Lakewood, University Place and Steilacoom are asked to complete a **short, seven-question survey** to assess community concerns about hazards in the area.

The information gathered will be used to update West Pierce Fire & Rescue's Emergency Management Coalition

Hazard Mitigation Plans in partnership with the Pierce County Department of Emergency Management.

Pre-disaster planning helps reduce or eliminate loss of life and property damage as a result of disasters and is also a prerequisite for certain kinds of disaster assistance funding.

Take a minute to share your thoughts so our communities can prepare for whatever emergencies await.



## Hazard Mitigation Plan 2025 - 2030

## Celebrating 30 Years: The Journey to Our Museum

In 1999, interested citizens wanted to begin to preserve the history of University Place and thus began the journey. Over the years we have worked on the concept of a museum in the city. We now have



## University Place Historical Society

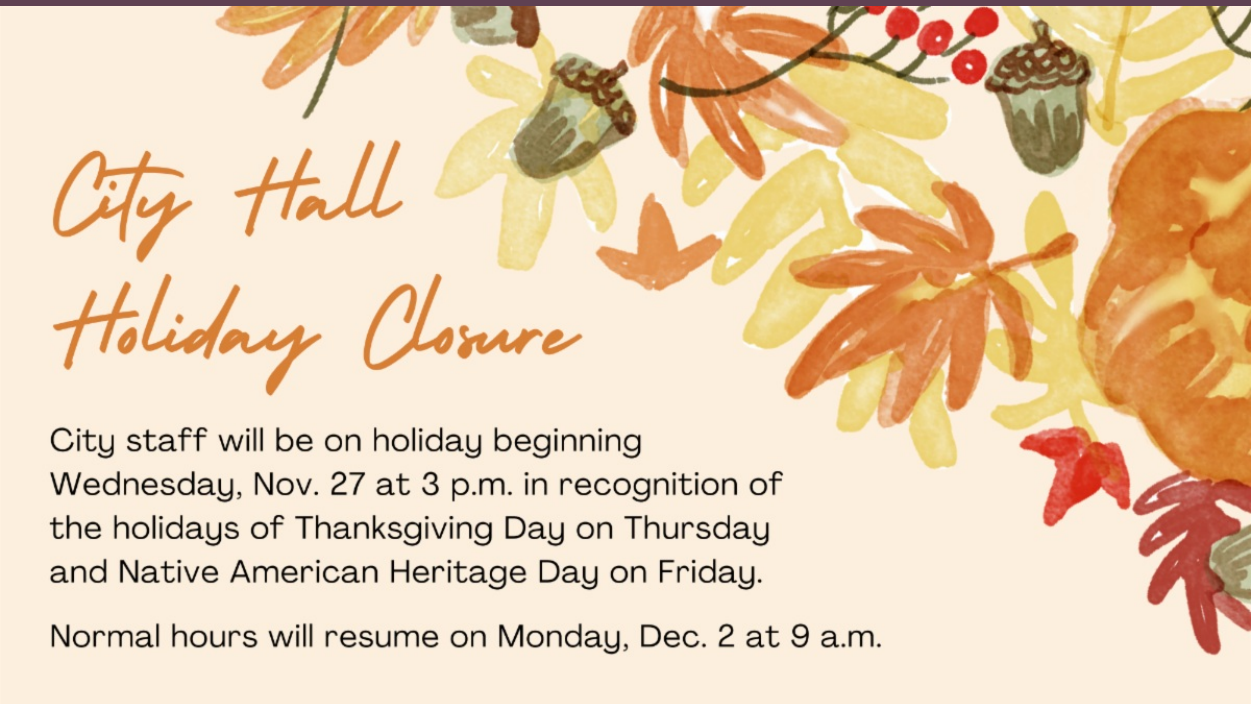
a site that has its own historical history, the Curran Orchard. In this coming year, we are excited to share the celebration of the 30-year incorporation of University Place and the opening of the U.P. museum.

We welcome individuals interested in being involved with the history of this great area and being an integral part of the process. If interested, please visit our website as noted below.

Our next general meeting that is open to the public is Dec. 9 at the large meeting room in the U.P. branch of the Pierce County Library. The meeting will feature a guest speaker from the Steilacoom Historical Society.

Stay tuned for further information in future U.P. newsletters. Check out our website for general information on our club and events at **[UPHistoricalsociety.org](http://UPHistoricalsociety.org)** or visit us on **Facebook**.

*Article submitted by the U.P. Historical Society.*



## City Hall Holiday Closure

City staff will be on holiday beginning Wednesday, Nov. 27 at 3 p.m. in recognition of the holidays of Thanksgiving Day on Thursday and Native American Heritage Day on Friday.

Normal hours will resume on Monday, Dec. 2 at 9 a.m.

# CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2024 AT 6:30 P.M.

## AGENDA ITEMS

- ARPA Fund Reallocation/Reappropriation
- 2024 Third Quarter Financial Report
- Trader Joe's Anniversary Recognition
- 12/16 Regular Meeting Cancellation
- Commission Appointments
- Critical Insight PSA Amendment
- 57th Sewer Line Extension Project Bid Award
- CM Employment Agreement Amendment
- 2025-2026 Biennial Budget Adoption
- Comprehensive Plan Adoption
- Commissions Preliminary Work Plans - PC/EDAC
- Hazard Mitigation Plan Update



AGENDA ITEMS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE, PLEASE VISIT [WWW.CITYOFUP.COM](http://WWW.CITYOFUP.COM) FOR MORE INFORMATION.  
WATCH ON COMCAST CHANNEL 21, LIGHTCURVE CHANNEL 12 OR LIVE ON [YOUTUBE.COM/UNIVERSITYPLACETV](http://YOUTUBE.COM/UNIVERSITYPLACETV)

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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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