

Talking UP

News from the City of
University Place
Economic
Development Office

University Place
WASHINGTON



March 2025



Please help us spring into another year of new business openings in U.P. Make plans to attend and extend a warm welcome to:

The Seoul Kitchen
4324 Bridgeport Way W.
March 20, 11 a.m.

While you're there, grab some lunch to go for you and your co-workers!



APPLY NOW FOR EMPLOYEE TRAINING GRANTS

Clover Park Technical College's Corporate Education department is offering Job Skills Program (JSP) grants to help businesses and nonprofits offset their costs for training new or existing employees.

Work with CPTC's Corporate Education expert trainers and consultants or your

STOP SHOPLIFTERS IN THEIR TRACKS



U.P. Police Department Community Outreach Officer Cory Shears has invited a representative from the Pierce County Sheriff's Office to share important tips on loss prevention with small business owners.

This special two-hour course will be held at noon on Monday, March 24 at UPPD Headquarters, 3612 Drexler Drive W.

Every year, small businesses incur big losses due to shoplifting. According to Capital One Research:

- At least 85.5% of small businesses experience retail theft annually.
- 74.8% of brick-and-mortar small businesses say they experience customers shoplifting monthly; 52.7% report shoplifting weekly or more frequently.
- Small businesses lose an average of \$1,686 per month to retail theft.

Learn what kind of essential information UPPD needs when responding to shoplifting and get information on how to complete a shoplifting report. There will also be a question-and-answer session which can lead to important information sharing among local business owners.

Please make plans to attend and learn how to protect your business.

For easiest access to the session, go to the third floor of the parking garage

own consultants to develop a scope of work that identifies your training needs and solutions. There are also special incentives for small businesses.

Get all the details [here](#). Applications are due May 8, 2025 so don't wait.



LEAVE YOUR MARK ON PIERCE COUNTY

Local artists are invited to submit their portfolios for consideration in

Pierce County's mural program.

Those selected will help create murals that serve as neighborhood landmarks, places of community pride and graffiti deterrents in locations throughout unincorporated Pierce that are struggling with blight, vandalism and graffiti.

Get all the details [here](#). The deadline for submissions is March 31.

near the exterior elevator.



All U.P. home-based businesses are invited to attend a special reception on Tuesday, March 25 hosted by NW Medical Arts, 5350 Orchard St. W, Ste. 202.

Stop by from 5:30-7 p.m. to meet other home-based business owners and make valuable connections that will help grow your business—and theirs.

Even those who aren't home-based are encouraged to attend to learn more about what these U.P. entrepreneurs have to offer.

If you are able to attend, please RSVP to [Becky Metcalf](#) by Monday, March 17.

2024 U.P. BUSINESS LICENSE REPORT

Year-end data reveals that University Place continues to be an attractive “place” to do business.

As of Dec. 31, 2024, there were a total of 1,685 licensed businesses in U.P. Of those, 755 were storefront businesses and 930 were home-based.

During the calendar year, 394 new business licenses were issued in U.P., including 84 storefront businesses and 310 home-based.

“These new businesses bring new sales tax revenue to the City’s coffers and offer products and services that enable U.P. residents to shop local.” said Becky Metcalf, the City’s business outreach liaison. “Although each year we see some businesses close, we continue to enjoy a very stable business environment in University Place.”





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