# Headlines

## News from University Place City Hall



### **September 29, 2021**

### University Place mourns the passing of former Mayor and Council Member Ken Grassi

The City of University Place lost one of its founding fathers this week when Council Member and former Mayor Ken Grassi passed away on Sept. 26.

In addition to owning and operating the popular Grassi's Ristorante on Bridgeport Way for many years, Grassi was one of the earliest proponents of U.P.'s incorporation. He served as the Council Member representing Position #4 since the City's inception in 1995, but that was only a fraction of his service to U.P. Over the course of the next 25 years, Grassi also served two terms each as Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem in addition to serving on the City's Finance, Communications, and Legislative and Intergovernmental committees as well as the Town Center Steering Committee.



He also volunteered his time to serve as the City's representative to the Pierce Transit Board, the Puget Sound Regional Council and the Pierce County Regional Council, as well as the Pierce County Mayors and Executive committee.

But his true passion was in beautification projects, where he led efforts to literally plant thousands of daffodils and add hanging flower baskets to U.P.'s streetscape. "Ken Grassi was a pillar of our community. He was well known and loved for his genial manner and commitment to not just talking about making U.P. a wonderful place to live, but for working hard and literally getting his hands dirty to make it happen," said Mayor Caroline Belleci. "His passing is a loss for our City, and for me personally. Ken was truly a wonderful human being. I will miss his smile, his gentle demeaner, and his undying passion for U.P."

Belleci's comments were echoed by U.P. City Council Member Stan Flemming, a longtime friend of Grassi's. "Ken's heart and soul was for our city. The beautification efforts we see are all directly because of him, including the **daffodils and hanging baskets on Bridgeport**," Flemming said. "Ken's passion was that he wanted the city to be a place where people really wanted to be, and this was epitomized in everything that he did. He was one of the major pillars of our community."

In honor of Ken Grassi's enduring commitment to public service and the people of University Place, flags at City Hall will fly at half-staff through Thursday, Sept. 30. Details on funeral services, which the family has indicated the public is welcome and encouraged to attend, are pending and will be posted at **CityofUP.com** when they are available.

### **Chief's Corner**

I want to share an experience one of our officers had recently. He was on routine patrol one morning when he came across a disabled vehicle in the roadway. He stopped to see if he could help. The driver said she was trying to get her son to school.

The officer offered to drop her son off at school, but said he understood that the boy might be embarrassed if he was dropped off by a police car. But the woman assured the officer her son would love it. She explained that her son really likes police and firefighters, and one day would like to be a firefighter.



As they drove, the officer could see the boy's face glowing with excitement. When they arrived at the school, the boy gave the officer a high-five and said he couldn't wait to tell his friends about the special ride to school.

The officer drove mom home and then returned to his other duties. As I learned of this encounter, I was left with several emotions. First, I was very proud of the officer for taking the initiative to make contact and offer assistance. Second, I was reminded of why I gravitated towards law enforcement as a career long ago. I remember an interaction I had with a police officer when I was young that stayed with me for years. I wanted to serve my community and try to make a similar positive impact on others like that officer did for me. Finally, I felt encouraged. Amid the negative news today about police, it can be easy to forget that we serve an integral part in maintaining a safe community and interact with the public more than any other government service.

But our work isn't always pleasant. Some of our duties are ugly and difficult. Officers don't always encounter people who are willing to cooperate. Ours is a dangerous and difficult job at times, but we need more people to step forward and face the challenges of a career in law enforcement and remember the core reason we are here: to serve, protect and seek justice for all.

I hope you will be able to join me for our **Public Safety Forum on Thursday, Sept. 30, at 6 p.m. in the City Council Chambers** to learn about UPPD, public safety in U.P., and share ideas on how we can work together to make sure our community remains safe and welcoming.

Stay Safe.

**U.P. POLICE DEPARTMENT PRESENTS** 

PUBLIC SAFETY FORUM

Share your ideas and concerns about
Public Safety here in University Place,
plus learn about department updates from
Police Chief Greg Premo. The forum will be in
person at U.P. City Hall or available to stream
live on YouTube.com/UniversityPlaceTV

SEPTEMBER 30, 2021, 6 - 8 P.M. U.P. CITY HALL - COUNCIL CHAMBERS 3609 MARKET PLACE WEST, SUITE 300 & STREAMED LIVE ON YOUTUBE



### **NATOA Awards for UPTV**

UPTV took home numerous honors from the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA) Government Programming Awards on Sept. 23, including an Award of Excellence, three Awards of Distinction and six Awards of Honor. This marks U.P.'s best showing since the City began entering the awards competition in 2007.



The **#WeAreUP** video, which celebrated the City's spirit and promoted community solidarity amid the COVID pandemic, took first place in the Award of Excellence in the "Best Use of Video on Social Media" category as well as an Award of Honor in the "PSA COVID" category.

The other videos garnering awards in various categories were:

### Award of Distinction (2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Place):

- U.P. Historical Society Profile of a Person, Business or Organization
- University Place 25 Year Promotion of City/County
- U.P. Garden Tour, Memory Lane North Documentary/Event Coverage

#### Award of Honor:

- Curtis H.S. 2020 Grad Community Tour – Edited Community Event Coverage
- Virtual Public Safety Academy
   Use of Force Public Education
- Cirque Drive Construction
  Update Community Awareness
- The Bird Property, U.P. Garden
   Tour Partnership Production
- U.P. Virtual Garden Tour

**Series** – Public Information Series

"I am so proud of the City's Communications department's 'dynamic duo' of Linda Seesz and Amanda Kleber who continue to make us proud at these national awards," said Mayor Caroline Belleci. "Their vision, combined with the expertise of the Pierce County TV (PCTV) production team, allows us to tell our City's important stories through inspiring and informative videos like these award winners."

#### Watch our first place winner below!

(Pictured above and below: Linda Seesz and Amanda Kleber; Dave Kellman of PCTV)





### **Work With Us!**

If you or someone you know is looking for a great Place to work, one that is close to home, offers great benefits, modern facilities and continuing opportunities for career growth, be sure to **check** 

out available positions with the City of University Place and the Pierce County Sheriff's Department.

With less than 60 employees, the City of U.P. is a small but mighty organization, one that enables its employees to enjoy the camaraderie of a tight team while providing top-notch public services to more than 31,500 residents and businesses in University Place.



### What's UP with Biz?

Please come out and welcome two businesses to U.P.

Second Born Maternity and PopUp Kids Consign and Shop at 7530 28 <sup>th</sup> St. W. Suites A and B will celebrate a double ribbon cutting on Friday, Oct. 1 from 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Check out their large selection of gently worn maternity and children's clothing. You can save money and the environment by recycling and reusing while also supporting two local businesses.





## **2021 University Place Fall Clean-UP and CANNED FOOD DRIVE!**

#### When:

Residents NORTH of 40th St W. Saturday, Oct. 2 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Residents SOUTH of 40th St W. Saturday, Oct. 9 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Dispose of and/or recycle some unwanted items and yard waste for FREE!

#### **CLEAN-UP RULES:**

- LIMIT: 1 load per household for all items EXCEPT for yard waste only loads
- Help us be good neighbors by securing & covering all loads
- For safety reasons, children and pets MUST remain in vehicles
- Photo I.D. WILL BE REQUIRED
- No liquids, paint, or hazardous materials (car batteries are OK)
- No loads larger than a regular pickup truck or equivalent small trailer will be allowed
- No regular household garbage will be allowed
- Residential items only NO commercial material or loads will be allowed
- The size of items cannot exceed 5' in any direction (except for appliances and furniture)
- No fuel tanks, enclosed barrels or drums of any kind. Water heaters and propane tanks are OK

### PLEASE SEPARATE ITEMS INTO THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES FOR RECYCLING:

- Wood items: clean, unpainted lumber, pallets, etc.
- Metal items: scrap steel, appliances, lawn mowers, barbecues, plumbing, etc.
- Yard waste: limbs, grass, leaves, other vegetation, no stumps or limbs larger than 4" in diameter
  - No DIRT, ROCKS, SOD, BLACKBERRIES, SCOTCHBROOM, or OTHER NOXIOUS WEEDS
- Tires: with or without rims
- Concrete, brick, and stone
- Car batteries

Disposal takes place at University Place Refuse & Recycling located at 2815 Rochester Street West. For more information, visit **www.UPRefuse.com**.

### **Advisory Commission Vacancies**

Commissioners are citizens that, through their volunteer efforts, play an integral role in the growth and development of their City. Citizens serving on the City's Commissions apply their unique knowledge and experiences to the issues and the needs of their City. They function as a focus group from within the community and create ideas to assist the City Council in shaping legislative policy.

Applications are currently being accepted from City residents interested in serving on the following Commissions:

## Economic Development Advisory Commission Park Advisory Commission Public Safety Advisory Commission

Applications must be received by 4 p.m. on November 1, 2021. For information about each commission and how to apply, visit the **City's Commissions and Partners** webpage or email **dnicholas@cityofup.com**.



## "Puget Sound Starts Here" Month - Tire Maintenance

Car tires have many chemicals that help protect them from damage. As we drive, the tires wear down, leaving tiny bits of tire behind on our roads. The chemicals in the tire bits are toxic to fish. When it rains, the runoff picks up the tire bits and carries them down storm drains and into our waterways.



Scientists **recently discovered** that an ingredient in tires called 6PPD-Q, used to preserve tire rubber, reacts with ozone in the air, transforming it into a new chemical that's highly toxic to Coho salmon.

Taking care of your tires is the best thing drivers can do to reduce wear and prevent tire pollution. Bonus: proper tire maintenance will extend the life of your tires and save you money.

- Keep tires properly inflated so that they will wear down more slowly. Check your tire pressure once per month, either with your own pressure gauge or at a gas station air pump. You can find the recommended tire pressure in your owner's manual, stamped on the tire itself, or on a sticker inside the driver's side door.
- Get your tire alignment checked and rotate tires according to the manufacturer's instructions. Proper alignment and regular rotation prevent uneven wear on your tires, reducing the amount of tire particles that wear off as you drive.

GENERAL ELECTION NOVEMBER 2, 2021





### Jazz in the Village

Shake up your lunchtime routine and add some music to your day when Jazz in the Village returns to the Civic Building Atrium each Wednesday in October and on Wednesday, Nov. 3 from 12:30-1:30 p.m.

The series will kick off on Oct. 6 with Maia Santell and House Blend. The rest of the series will feature:



- Oct. 13 Eugene Bien (piano) with Joey Jewell performing a mix of jazz and
- Oct. 20 Eugene Bien (piano) with Darelle Holden performing a mix of jazz and Big Band
- Oct. 27 Eugene Bien (piano) with Susan Tuzzelino performing jazz standards
- Nov. 3 Eugene Bien (piano) with Tim Cox performing a mix of folk and pop hits

Be sure to invite your co-workers and friends to grab some lunch from a local eatery and join you for these free one-hour concerts. You won't want lunch hour to end, but you're sure to have a little more pep in your step when you do go back to work!

# UNIVERSITY PLACE HYBRID CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, Oct. 4, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

### WWW.CITYOFUP.COM





Mayor Pro Tem **Steve Worthington** 



**Javier Figueroa** 



Council Member Pro Tem

**Howard Lee** 



**Council Member Denise McCluskey** 



Stan Flemming

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### **Do Your Part and Get the Shot**



## What do I need to know about each kind of vaccine?

Vaccines provide excellent protection against severe illness or death from COVID-19. That means a vaccine is your best chance of returning to normal life.

Each is a little different, but your best choice is the vaccine that's available to you now.

- Pfizer:
  - Authorized for people 12 years or older.
  - Requires 2 doses at least 21 days apart.
- Moderna:
  - Authorized for people 18 years or older.
  - Requires 2 doses at least 28 days apart.
- Johnson & Johnson:
  - Authorized for people 18 years or older.
  - Requires 1 dose.

Find your vaccine at **tpchd.org/vaxtothefuture**!



### **Flashvote**

Have you signed up for FlashVote? It's not too late!

Surveys take less than a minute and give participants an opportunity to weigh in on issues within our local community.



Sign up now to take part in upcoming surveys!

### **Get the Facts: COVID Resources**

As the nation and our region continue to battle the COVID-19 outbreak, be sure to stay informed with accurate information from these official sources:

- CDC.gov/COVID19
- The U.S. Centers for Disease Control offers the latest facts and
  - information about COVID-19, including information on travel and return to school or work.
- The **Governor's Office** provides details about on-going response efforts throughout the State of Washington, including the State's Risk Assessment Dashboard.
- The Washington State Department of Health provides updated statistics on the occurrence of COVID-19 across the State, as well as testing data.

- The Tacoma-Pierce County Department of Health and Pierce County **Government** provide important local information on testing sites, phased re-opening status and CARES Act funding to support recovery efforts.
- The City of University Place's dedicated **COVID-19 info page** includes valuable information on resources for businesses and residents, such as local school meal sites and Tacoma Public Utilities' contact information for payment plans or assistance.



### **University Place City Council**



**Mayor Caroline Belleci** 



**Mayor Pro Tem Steve Worthington** 



**Council Member Javier Figueroa** 



**Council Member Kent Keel** 



@CityofUPWA

**Council Member Ken Grassi** 



**Council Member Pro Tem Howard Lee** 



**Council Member Denise McCluskey** 



**Council Member Stan Flemming** 











