

Headlines

News from University Place City Hall



December 12, 2018

A Grand Time was had by All

The crowd who turned out for U.P.'s annual Christmas tree lighting on Dec. 7 would most certainly agree: it is the most wonderful time of the year in our city.

Amid carols, a dancing elf, seasonal treats like hot chocolate floats, kettle corn and cookies, free games and prizes for kids, and even a touch of snow, participants experienced the true sense of community that University Place offers. Friends and neighbors greeted each other as the children waited patiently for Santa to arrive by fire engine to kick the festivities into high gear. But as always, the lighting of the tree in Market Square elicited the evening's most "oohs," "aahs," cheers and selfies.

Organizers of the event say many thanks are owed to the local businesses and volunteers who help make this annual event an eagerly awaited holiday tradition. "This year we had a huge turn out and the weather was great," said Marian Holloway, executive assistant to City Manager Steve Sugg. "A lot of coordination is required to make sure everything falls into place, but when we see the reactions of children and adults alike, it is a reminder that it is always worth it."

Be sure to check out the City of U.P.'s Facebook page for lots of pictures that capture the energy and joy of the event.





U.P. Police Make Quick Arrest in Credit Card Fraud Case

In September, U.P. Police Chief Mike Blair introduced to the City Council the City's new dedicated crimes investigator, Deputy Josh Mills. At the time, Mills told the Council that in his new position, he would be able to pursue cases that might have gone by the wayside because of staffing limitations. "But now we can hold people accountable so that bad guys know that U.P. isn't the place to play around," Mills said at the time.

He fulfilled that promise last week when he displayed gift cards totaling more than \$14,000 that had been purchased with credit cards stolen from just two cars at Chambers Bay Regional Park.

Mills explained that the car prowlers broke car windows and took whatever they could easily grab—usually purses, wallets, etc. They used stolen credit cards to purchase gift cards, usually in amounts of \$100 to \$200. Mills says that it probably took the thieves less than 30 minutes to complete their crime spree, especially since they used the stolen cards to purchase the gift cards from local stores.

But thanks to cell phone video shot by an eye witness in the Chambers Bay parking lot, Mills and officers from the U.P. Police Department were waiting for the suspects when they returned to Chambers Bay to find more victims.

"We say it again and again, but it always bears repeating: never leave valuable items in clear view in your car, especially in public places like parks and trails where you will be gone for a while," said Chief Blair. "If you plan to leave your car for a walk or a run be sure to safely secure purses and wallets, **prior** to leaving your home for the parks or trails so thieves cannot spy on you and watch where you hide items in your car."

Blair also says it is important to evaluate places in your car that are harder to "smash and grab." Some of the first places thieves will look are under the seats, in the glove box and the center console. "Bring what is minimally necessary and hide those minimal items shrewdly before leaving home – every time," Blair added. "Take a few minutes today to inventory the items you leave consistently in your vehicle and remove any items of value every time you leave your vehicle."

Both Blair and Mills expressed their gratitude to the citizen who caught and shared the video of the thieves in action. That video provided the license plate number of the suspects' vehicle, which made tracing their steps much easier.

"This case exemplifies the best and worst of society: an alert resident who took the time to act and thieves who prey on easy targets," Mills said. "But hopefully we've sent another message that U.P. is watching. We don't mess around."

WE NEED YOUR HELP

COPPER THEFT IS ON THE RISE

The significant rise in the price of copper has resulted in a direct increase in the number of copper thefts from City parks, streetlights and facilities. Not only has theft increased but the thieves are being increasingly bold in their actions.

Behavior recognition is EVERYONE's responsibility. If you see something - say something. If a 'speedy' response will change the outcome dial 911. For ALL other suspicious circumstances or when you get that uneasy feeling about something that doesn't feel or look right - please call the 24-hour non-emergency line at 253.798.4721.



Last Weekend for WTA Volunteer Work Parties

Join the Washington State Trails Association for one of many work parties taking place on the Chambers Creek Canyon trail system this season. This is the next step in creating a great urban hiking opportunity shared between the cities of Lakewood, University Place and Pierce County.

This is the next of many work parties on the Chambers Creek Canyon trail system. When completed, a series of trails will traverse the length of the canyon. We are working on realigning the trail on the Lakewood side of the canyon. In several places the trail drops steeply and then climbs back up regaining the lost elevation. We will rebuild the trail to keep it on a constant grade and improve the hiking experience.



Sign up for the trail work parties for the dates listed below:

Friday, Dec. 14, Saturday, Dec. 15, Sunday, Dec. 16

We'll have fun, work hard and make a difference! No experience is necessary.

About the Chambers Creek Canyon

Chambers Creek Canyon is a deeply incised, forested stream corridor between Lakewood and University Place in the South Puget Sound region. Consisting of 204 acres along a 2.5-mile section of Chambers Creek, the site engulfs trail users in a forested canopy of mature douglas-fir, western hemlock, and western red cedar. With its thick native understory and the sound of Chambers Creek flowing through the canyon, it creates a unique back country experience in the middle of a dense urban setting.

Mind your Motor Oil

When it comes to protecting our waters, the old adage "oil and water do not mix" is absolutely true.

One pint of motor oil can create an oil slick the size of a football field. One quart of motor oil can pollute 250,000 gallons of water. Oil that leaks from our cars onto roads and driveways is washed into storm drains and can find its way to our groundwater, rivers, streams and eventually to Puget Sound, where it is toxic to humans, animals, sea life and plants.



Every year Americans spill 180 million gallons of used oil each year into our nation's waters. In fact, used motor oil is the largest single source of oil pollution in our nation's waterways.[1]

Please ensure you dispose of used oil properly. Do not put used oil in your trash. Many service stations and repair shops will accept used oil and oil filters. The Tacoma Transfer Center (3510 S. Mullen St.) also accepts household hazardous waste. The center is open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and drop-off is free.

Also remember to service your vehicles regularly and have any oil or fluid leaks addressed quickly. Doing so is good for your vehicle as well as our local waters.

[1]

<http://www.montgomeryswcd.org/Attachment%20Files/Fact%20Sheets/Motor%20Oil%20Pollution.pdf>

2019 Tree Adoptions Available at the Curran Apple Orchard

Applications for the 2019 Adopt An Apple Tree program at the Curran Apple

Orchard Park in University Place are now available. Tree adoptions are a great gift as well as giving people a wonderful way to support a community park and a chance to enjoy delicious apples in the Fall!



People who are interested in adopting an apple tree have two options:

- Pruning Adoption (available from December through April)
- Orchard Supporter Adoption which is available all year

Pruning Adoptions are available for \$45 and are reserved for people who commit to prune, thin, harvest and clean up windfalls from their tree according to orchard guidelines. Free pruning classes and trained volunteers are available to help and provide guidance.

Orchard Supporter Adoptions are available for \$70 and are perfect for people who want to support the orchard and enjoy the harvest but are unable to participate in tree care. Trained volunteers will take care of the trees for people choosing this option.

All tree adopters are entitled to the harvest from their trees in the Fall. Adopter names will appear on their trees. While people who adopted trees in 2018 have first priority for the 2019 season, there are usually ample trees to choose from with the majority of trees being Gravenstein, Golden Delicious and MacIntosh.

The Curran Apple Orchard Park is a seven-acre working apple orchard with more than 250 apple trees located at 3920 Grandview Drive in University Place. CORE (Curran Orchard Volunteer Enthusiasts) is a volunteer group which sponsors the Adopt A Tree program, pruning parties, summer concerts and the annual Cider Squeeze.

Everyone is welcome to attend CORE meetings which occur on the first Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at the U.P. City Hall Complex, 3715 Bridgeport Way W in University Place.

For more information and to download a Tree Adoption application, visit www.curranappleorchard.com.

Happy Holidays from City Hall

We'd like to extend a big thank you to all of our Headlines readers for following along with City Hall news and updates!

The next edition of Headlines will be delivered to your e-mail boxes on January 9, 2019. We hope you have a wonderful holiday season and a happy new year!

City Hall Holiday Closures

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED ON TUESDAY, DEC. 25 AND WILL CLOSE AT NOON ON MONDAY, DEC. 24. CITY HALL WILL REOPEN ON WEDNESDAY, DEC. 26 AT 9 A.M.

NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY

CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED ON TUESDAY, JAN. 1 AND WILL CLOSE AT 3 P.M. ON MONDAY, DEC. 31. CITY HALL WILL REOPEN ON WEDNESDAY, JAN. 2 AT 9 A.M.

Upcoming Events in University Place



Holiday Gala & Auction
Dec. 14, 6:30-9 p.m.
Civic Building Atrium
UPforArts.org



Santa Photos
Dec. 22, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
(Break at 12:30).
Civic Building Atrium

For upcoming events and Council Meeting information

visit the Upcoming Events Calendar.

University Place City Council



Mayor Kent Keel



Mayor Pro Tem Caroline Belleci



**Council Member
Javier Figueroa**



**Council Member
Steve
Worthington**



**Council Member
Ken Grassi**



**Council Member
Denise
McCluskey**



**Council Member
Chris Nye**

