CITY OF UNIVERSITY PLACE
HEADLINES

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 1 JANUARY 2008

A Publication of the City of University Place

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2008-2009 City Council

Following a hand recount on November 30, **Councilmember Gerald Gehring was re-elected by a 4,179 to 4,165 margin** over challenger Rose Ehart for Council Position #6. **Councilmember Debbie Klosowski won re-election by a 5,841 to 2,351 vote count** over challenger Carl Mollnow for Position #2, and **Councilmember Jean Brooks was also re-elected by a 4,158 to 4,043 margin** over challenger Denise McCluskey for Position #7.

The total vote count reflected 45 percent of all registered voters, a relatively high number of votes cast in a non-presidential election year. The City wishes to thank all those who offered to serve the community by running for City Council.

The **first regular meeting** of the 2008-2009 City Council **will be on January 7, 2008.** The City's next Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem will be elected by Council that night. Please join us at City Hall for a short agenda and an opportunity to share the evening with family and friends, or watch it later that week on UPTV.

Position #1

Linda Bird

Position #2

Debbie Klosowski

Position #3

Lorna Smith

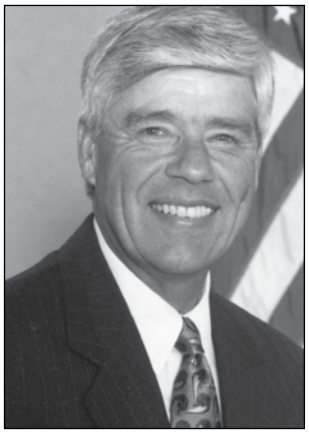
Position #4

Ken Grassi

Position #5

Stan Flemming

Position #6



Gerald K. Gehring

Position #7

Jean Brooks

COUNCIL CORNER...

University Place City Council

As your outgoing Mayor, I will now be returning to my regular seat on the Council. I want to thank everyone in the community…and my fellow City Councilmembers, and the City Committees and Commissions for their support and help during the past two years I have served as Mayor. Being a councilmember is not a "career" choice, but rather a way of giving to the community by serving in that capacity.

The Council is always listening to the citizens' concerns and I pledged to make it even more of a priority this year.

One issue we heard about during the recent campaign was that speeding is still a problem in some neighborhoods. In our last Council Meeting a portable traffic speed tracking device was added to the proposed expenditures, so we can monitor these areas better. Another lengthy discussion centered on design standards and the decision was made to solicit more public input, because the Council did not want to restrict unduly what homeowners can do with their own property. My wife, who was at the meeting, made the comment, "it sounds to me like the Council is very concerned about how the citizens of U.P. feel about issues," and I told her honestly that we have always felt that way. It is the prime concern for us and always will be.

One of my main goals when I took office as Mayor was to be able to see the Town Center move from the design and planning phase into actual construction. Although planning and design work will be ongoing, it is gratifying to see construction well underway. Phase I of the parking garage/ Transit Center is nearing completion. On top of this deck will be the new Civic Building and the new library, slated to begin construction this year. Much of Drexler Drive and Market Place is completed as well as related infrastructure improvements. All of these projects must be constructed before retail buildings can be built. I am looking forward to the opportunity to complete what we have started in the Town Center District.

It has been a wonderful opportunity to chair the City Council these past two years and to serve as your Mayor. Please feel free to contact me anytime with questions or concerns.

Gerald Gehring, Outgoing Mayor

CITY COUNCIL

Gerald Gehring.....460-2500
Stan Flemming.....460-2500
Linda Bird.....564-6305
Debbie Klosowski.....565-8466
Lorna Smith.....460-0910
Ken Grassi.....627-7196
Jean Brooks.....973-0495

MEETING CALENDAR

January 21, No Meeting
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 22 – 7 p.m.
Regular Meeting

January 29
No Meeting

February 4 – 7 p.m.
Regular Meeting

February 11 – 7 p.m.
Special Meeting

All City Council meetings are held in the Town Hall meeting room, Windmill Village, 3715 Bridgeport Way, usually at 7 p.m., (unless otherwise posted). Changes to meeting times and locations are posted at City Hall, University Place Library, and Fire District #3, or contact the City Clerk's Office for current information about meeting dates and agendas. For information on the location of other City Committee meetings, as well as current information about meeting dates and agendas, please contact the City Clerk at 253-460-2510.

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
Thursday, February 14 — 6:30 p.m.

PLANNING COMMISSION
Wednesday, February 6 – 7 p.m.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Thursday, January 17 — 7:30 a.m.

COMMUNITY ORIENTED PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
Thursday, February 7 – 6 p.m.

All meetings are open to the public.
Contact the City Clerk's Office at 460-2510 for more information.

UP for Art
Meets at City Hall
3715 Bridgeport Way W.
3rd Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

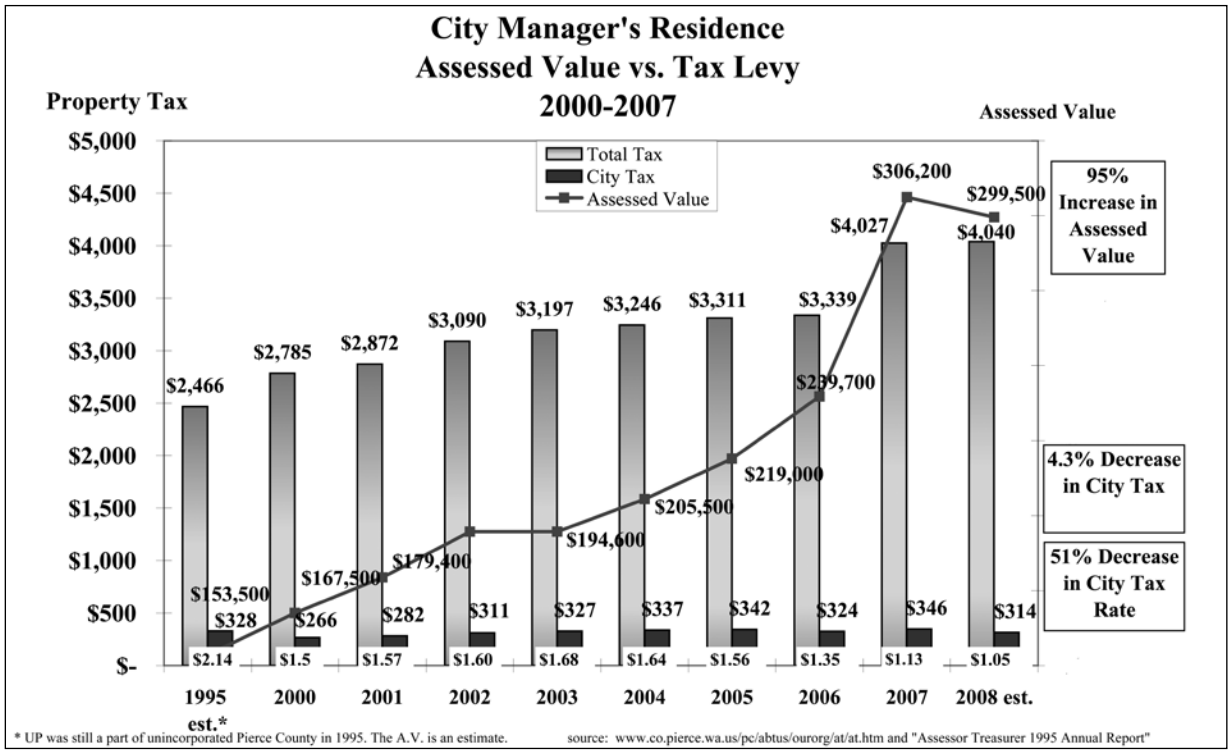
CORE
Meets at City Hall
3715 Bridgeport Way W.
1st Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

SUNDogs
Meets at U.P. Presbyterian
8101 27th Str. W.
3rd Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

City property tax "Skyrockets" down from 1995!

The City's share of the property tax on an average home has decreased $14 since we incorporated in 1995. If you are concerned about "skyrocketing" property taxes, be sure to check your tax bill to see what has actually changed.

In 1995 a typical U.P. home of $153,500 assessed value ($165,000 market value) paid a tax rate of $2.14 per thousand to Pierce County for the local or City share of the property tax for $328 that year. That same house in 2008 under the City is now assessed at $299,500 ($330,000 market value) and will pay the City of U.P. property tax of $314. **The assessed value of the property has DOUBLED in 13 years, but the City share of the Property Tax went down $14!** Hardly "skyrocketing" out of control.



Meanwhile, **the TOTAL tax on that same home has gone up from $2,466 to approximately $4,000. This is due to VOTER APPROVED TAX INCREASES for Schools, Fire, and Library**, but **NOT DUE TO ASSESSED VALUE INCREASES**.

The City Property Tax in University Place is among the lowest of any city our size in the state.

Senior Scholarship Fund

The University Place Senior Center wants you to be involved in our programs. Our NEW Senior Scholarship Fund is designed to be easy to apply for, confidential and stress free. If finances limit your ability to participate in fun and healthy activities, this program is for you.

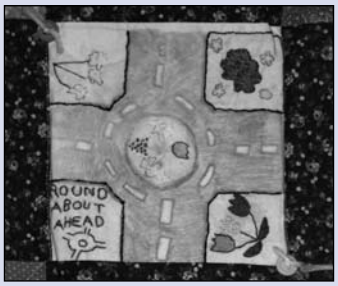
Scholarship requests can be made for day trips, overnight trips, fitness programs, computer classes, dance classes, and other programs offered through the University Place Senior Center.

Enjoying the company of others while participating in active, healthy programs is important for everyone. We want all seniors to have this opportunity!

'THANK YOU' to all of the organizations and individuals who have made the scholarship program possible. Significant donors include: Tacoma Narrows Rotary, Gary Cooper and the City of University Place. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

An application can be obtained by calling Jennifer Robinson at 564-1992.

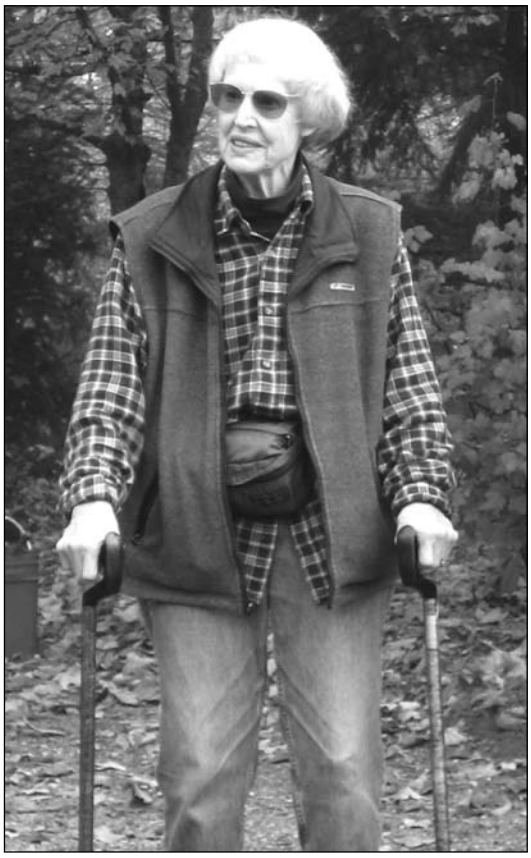
Where 'art' thou?



Where would you find the City's first roundabout immortalized in fabric?

See page 9

Gilmur's dedication inspires others at Adriana Hess Wetland Park



Local environmental activist Thelma Gilmur has played a vital role in preserving and maintaining our community's green space, creating a welcoming habitat for birds and other endangered species like the Bald Eagle who call University Place home.

Gilmur graduated from Pacific Lutheran University, earning not one but three different teaching degrees. She continued the pursuit of her life-long passion – environmental education, teaching in Girl Scouts, the Nature Conservancy and the Tahoma Audubon Society. "For many years I read environmental impact statements. Wherever the environment could be improved, I tried to help."

Thelma's genuine commitment to environmental reclamation, education and stewardship has left a lasting impression on many, inspiring citizens like Dixie Harris to take an active interest in our local environment. "Words are not adequate enough to describe Thelma. You have to feel who she is," says friend and fellow volunteer Harris.

A Day in the Park With Mother Nature

By Dixie Harris

Adriana Hess is a Wetland Park,
nestled in University Place.
Most people don't know it even exists;
it's a secluded beautiful space.

There is a quiet sense of wonder
that at first you might just miss.
There's a special feature in this park;
it's the woman who maintains it.

She lets you know immediately
this isn't just a park.
It's an educational opportunity
if you just take time to walk.

Her experience is beyond compare
as she describes each plant by name.
She continues on in any weather,
withstanding heat, the cold, and rain.

It is a wonderful sense of being
when you're with her on a walk.
She reminds us of the history
through her stories, poems, and thoughts.

There are people that can change our lives
like no others can
and you hope that you have taken time
to get the message that they send.

So when Thelma Gilmur calls your name,
make sure that you are listening.
If you just take time to understand,
volunteer opportunity is awaiting.

Some time there will come a day
when Thelma is not here
and we will miss her words of wisdom
but the answers still are clear.

For there is a park, a special park,
and when some of us are old,
we will remember why it is here
because Thelma told us so.

Dads and Daughters – Enjoy an evening just for you on February 8!

Come prepared to dance the night away at this year's **Daddy Daughter Dance on February 8 from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.**! All ages are welcome and an array of music will please all age groups and tastes. Participants will enjoy cake, cookies, punch and coffee, plus party favors, and a night of fun and entertainment that both daddy and daughter will never forget.

A photographer will be on hand taking commemorative photos for a small fee. For pre-registered guests only picture-taking will begin at 5:30 p.m., 1.5 hours prior to the start of the event; in order to obtain early entry, you must bring your registration receipt.

This year's event will be held in the Curtis High School Cafeteria, 8425 40th St. W. Signup is available online at the City's website, www.CityofUP.com, or by calling 460-2530.

"Early Bird" Registration (On or before Jan. 25)	$15 Per Couple + $5 Each Additional Child
Registration After January 25	$20 Per Couple + $5 Each Additional Child
Registration at the Door (Limited Space)	$25 Per Couple + $5 Each Additional Child

Time to volunteer? Check out www.volunteermatch.org!
Or visit the U.P. Volunteer Center at Team Insurance, 2811 Bridgeport Way W.

PARC Commission

Serious about fun and games

When it comes to fun, the University Place Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) is all business.

The commission's seven members recently completed a list of recommended Parks Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) that will utilize existing resources and a "pay as we go" approach to parks and open space improvements. Based on input from city staff and community members, the Commission put together an initial "wish list" of desired improvements and land purchases for parks that totaled $25 million. With only $1.5 million available for parks over the next five years, however, the PARC Commission had the difficult task of recommending which projects would remain on the list and which to hold off on until additional funding becomes available.

The Commission made the recommendation to allot 46 percent of the $1.5 million ($687,500) for land acquisition, which includes funds for grant matches towards the purchase of land for parks and open space. The remaining 54 percent ($812,500) will be used for improvements to existing parks and recreation facilities.

Seated (left to right): Commissioner Sue Wilhelm; Commissioner Rebecca Mordini; Recreation Specialist Marie Hopkins. Second row: Parks Maintenance Supervisor Todd Smith; Student Commissioner Ashley Knutsen; Commissioner Janette Parent; Commissioner Greg Gooch; Parks & Recreation Assistant Director Gretchen Hayes; Recreation Specialist Brittany Bibby; Recreation Specialist Jennifer Robinson. Third row: Commissioner Jim Baldes; Public Works/Parks & Recreation Director Gary Cooper; Commissioner John Heinzinger.

Among the Commission's top priorities for park improvements are:

- New park entry signs.
- New or additional and improved trails at Adriana Hess, Kobayashi, Sunset Terrace, Cirque and Homestead parks.
- Infrastructure improvements, including such enhancements for ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliance, lighting and electrical improvements, and restrooms (for Sunset Terrace and Homestead parks).
- Amenities, including new park benches, tables and garbage cans.

The Commission is still finalizing the elements of its 2008 Work Plan and hopes to have the document complete and ready for review by the middle of January.

The Parks and Recreation Commission meets on the second Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.

For more information, please contact Gary Cooper at gcooper@CityofUP.com or at 460-6494.

Free Pruning Parties offered at Curran Apple Orchard Park

Join us for free pruning parties at the Curran Orchard from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the following Saturdays: January 26, February 9, February 23, March 8, March 15 and October 4.

Free instruction by Master Gardeners and a Certified Arborist will be given. Goodies will be provided. If possible bring work gloves, loppers, hand saws and hand pruners. Some tools are available for use that day. You will be asked to help prune a tree in the orchard that day for practice.

The Orchard is located at 3920 Grandview Drive West, University Place, WA. For more information contact Marie at 460-2530, or Molly at 564-2562, CORE chairperson. You will enjoy your day in our beautiful working apple orchard!

2007 tree lighting gets a helpi

There was magic in the air at the 13th annual Holiday Tree Lighting held on Saturday, I
heart, but perhaps the best part of the tree lighting was the snow falling softly upon the illun
trees!

Before the Tree Lighting festivities officially kicked off, animal enthusiasts brought their p
a photo taken with Santa. Santa reappeared on the Fire Engine at 3 p.m. just as the snow sta
eled through Homestead Park, which was transformed into a winter wonderland complete w
There were crafts and activities for the kids, a bounce house and even some vendors with t
Hands On' Auction was in full swing inside Town Hall and brought in some needed funding
others in the year ahead.

As the day came to a close everyone gathered beneath the 40-foot tree to see it lit up for t
was decorated by Ken Grassi and members of the Public Works Crew. Councilmember Gra
ticularly special because of the snow – it was wonderful to see so many residents turn
schools sing. All in all, it was a beautiful event."

A big thank you goes out to all who helped with the Tree Lighting and to all those

Santa Paws a hit with pets!

Wagging tails, doggie treats and visits with Santa kicked off the holiday season for dozens of dog owners and their four legged friends at the first annual "Santa Paws" photo event in University Place.

Dogs in all shapes and sizes greeted each other before posing with Santa for unforgettable holiday photos along with one cat and a Vietnamese Pot Bellied Pig.

SUNDogs (Safe, Unleashed & Natural) sponsored the December 1st event as a fundraiser for the future off leash dog park. Everyone is welcome to attend SUNDogs meetings which are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7 pm at UP Presbyterian Church, 8101 27th St. West, University Place.

For more information about SUNDogs, please contact Rod Giffels at 722-1418 or rgiffels@gvakm.com or Debbie Klosowski at 565-8466.

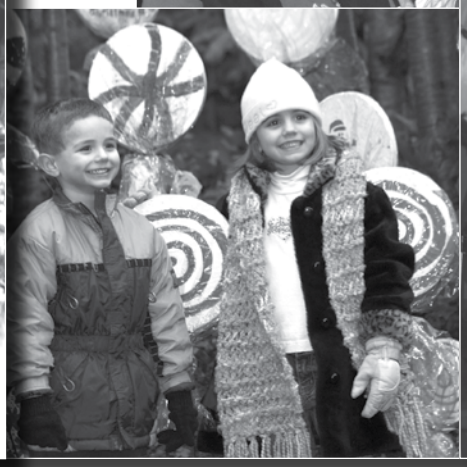
ng of snow!

December 1st at City Hall. The return of Santa and his reindeer delighted the kids and the kids at
ninated tree. Nothing makes a tree lighting complete like fresh snowflakes, holiday music and mini

pets to the first ever Santa Paws event to get
arted to fall. The "Santa Express" train trav-
vith hundreds of lights and lighted displays.
their holiday wares for sale. The 'Operation
g to allow the non-profit to continue to help

he first time this season. The 40-foot spruce
assi commented, "This year's event was par-
out and to hear the children from the local

who were able to attend.



Volunteers and guests gather for a memorable Thanksgiving Day dinner!

On Thanksgiving Day at the University Place Senior Center good company and good food were on the menu! The Volunteer Center's Second Annual Thanksgiving Dinner served more than 102 meals between noon and 2 p.m. to people who came from all over the community – not just to be served, but also to help.

One elderly lady shared that she hadn't spent time with anyone since she had lost her husband this past summer, and she was extremely appreciative of the company.

Roger Gruener, one of the sponsors, explained that "The mix was perfect, with volunteers eating with those that really didn't want to be recognized as being in need. It was community at its finest."

Thanks go to the volunteers and those that donated toward the costs. Extra special thanks to the event sponsors: U.P. Refuse, Owens Press, Inc., Mr. Rick's Catering, U.P. Fire Department, U.P. Professional Fire Fighters, IAFF 2105, the City of University Place and Superior Linen.

Wood Burning Stoves

Saving money, your health & the environment

Sitting in front of a crackling fireplace provides warmth and atmosphere during cold winter months. Yet using a wood burning fireplace or stove can harm your health, your pocketbook and the environment.

The State Department of Ecology recently indicated the greater Tacoma area, including University Place, is at risk for violating federal air pollution standards. Simply put, breathing our air is hazardous to our health.

Although several culprits are involved (including diesel fumes), smoke from wood burning fireplaces and stoves significantly reduces the quality of our air. Smoke from fireplaces and stoves produces tiny particles which are easily inhaled, often causing respiratory and cardiovascular problems. Children, older adults and people with heart and lung illnesses are especially at risk. Fortunately, several options are available to improve the air quality in our community.

Be respectful of your neighbors

Even limited exposure to smoke can harm human health, particularly children, the elderly and those with chronic conditions. It is illegal to burn during burn bans unless it is your sole source of heat; however, changing the way you heat can protect your family's health, reduce fuel costs, make your home safer and improve local air quality.

Replace old wood stoves

Using natural gas, propane, pellet stoves, fireplace inserts or electric fireplaces produce significantly less pollution than wood burning stoves or fireplaces.

In fact, one old uncertified wood stove can release as much fine particle pollution as 1,000 natural gas fireplaces or furnaces for the same heat output. Natural gas, propane and electric stoves can also be used during burn bans. Furthermore, natural gas and propane can also come in handy during power outages.

Exchange old wood stoves

Exchange old wood stoves with an EPA certified wood stove that can burn more than 60 percent cleaner than uncertified models when properly used. Qualified people can receive cash coupons for up to $750 off the price of new heating devices before February 29 by contacting the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency at 1-888-859-5799 or going online at www.pscleanair.org/woodstove.replacement.

Burn wood properly

Only use dry, untreated seasoned wood or manufactured logs (such as Presto) which produce less air pollution than wood. Materials such as cardboard, plastics, colored ink on magazines and boxes all produce harmful chemicals when burned. Learn how to burn wood efficiently and responsibly by visiting www.burningclean.com.

Before you burn, contact the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency at 1-800-552-3565 or 1-800-595-4341 to determine if a burn ban is in place. To report someone who is burning illegally call the University Place Fire Department at 564-1623.

Outdoor recreational fires

Outdoor recreational fires are only allowed using charcoal or firewood for cooking, pleasure or ceremonial purposes. It is illegal to use a burn barrel or to dispose of any materials such as garbage, building materials, rubber/plastic/petroleum products or dead animals.

Although future community discussions are needed to address wood burning within our community, we can begin to take steps now to improve our family's health, the environment and the overall well-being of our community.

For more information, please contact:

Puget Sound Clean Air Agency
www.pscleanair.org
1-800-552-3565;1-800-595-4341

U.P. Fire Department - 564-1623

American Lung Association
www.alaw.org

Local Air Quality Index
www.pscleanair.org/airq/aqi.aspx

Carbon monoxide dangers

The storm last winter taught a lesson not only to the west side but to the entire state. The lesson: Carbon Monoxide (CO) kills. We want you and your neighbors to be safe when the storms hit this winter. If your power goes out, follow these four rules of CO safety:

1. **ONLY** use a generator outdoors and far from open windows and vents.
2. **NEVER** use a generator indoors, in garages or carports.
3. **NEVER** cook inside on a charcoal or gas grill.
4. **NEVER** run your car for heat inside or near the garage. CO is an odorless, colorless, tasteless, deadly gas. Someone with CO poisoning may think they are getting ill with a headache, nausea and vomiting, weakness, fatigue and confusion. If several people in the household become ill at the same time, it may not be "just the flu." If the CO poisoning is happening while the person is sleeping, they likely will not wake. If you think it is CO poisoning, get to fresh air right away. Open wide all doors and windows and call the Washington Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222 for more help.

Please check on your family, friends and neighbors to make sure their methods for heat are not putting them at risk for CO poisoning. In cases when the power is out for days and weeks, people get desperate to stay warm and forget the importance of following safety measures, or they simply are just not aware of the dangers. For CO information in other languages, including a one page flier to print and post, go to www.wapc.org/poisons/co.htm and click on the link at the bottom of the page. Stay warm and stay safe this winter.

U.P. crime rates still low...

Community crime prevention remains a priority

University Place continues to be one of the safest places to live in our region. The people who live and work in University Place take pride in maintaining a safe and livable community.

Your University Place Police work in partnership with communities to address issues by practicing Community Oriented Policing. Neighbors in University Place have a vested interest in maintaining the quality of life in their neighborhoods – this is the reason we continue to be successful at retaining some of the lowest crime rates in our region. Reporting suspicious activity, as it is occurring, continues to be the very best way to reduce and prevent crime from happening.

Thank you for your continued efforts.

Your University Place Police Team

Monthly Crime and Incident Report

	October 2006	October 2007	2006 YTD	2007 YTD	Yearly Percentage Change
Violent (Includes Murder, Aggravated Assault, Rape and Robbery)					
Unincorporated Total	75	71	741	739	-.03%
Edgewood	0	2	6	17	183.3%
University Place	9	8	67	60	-10.4%
Violent Crimes Total	**84**	**81**	**814**	**816**	**.02%**
Property (Includes Arson, Burglary, Auto Theft and Theft)					
Unincorporated Total	1045	876	9605	9098	-5.3%
Edgewood	15	18	222	177	-20.3%
University Place	77	83	928	839	-9.6%
Property Crimes Total	**1137**	**977**	**10755**	**10114**	-6.0%
All Crimes	**1221**	**1058**	**11569**	**10930**	**-5.5%**

Where 'art' thou?

(Continued from page 3)

This quilt, which was installed above the front door in the foyer at City Hall in 1999, was designed and constructed by the members of Girl Scout Troop 166 of the Pacific Girl Scout Council with help from leaders Chris Pranz and Cindy Berger. It was presented to the City of University Place to celebrate cityhood.

Don't leave vehicles running while unattended

Your University Place police team is requesting that you NOT leave your vehicles running while unattended. We realize that when it gets cold outside, it can be very tempting to finish those last minute morning tasks while warming your car – but besides being illegal (RCW 46.61.600), this is a great way to get your car stolen. You may be thinking"That sort of thing doesn't happen in my neighborhood." It does. It happens anywhere and everywhere. This, along with theft from vehicle, is a crime of opportunity. That nice big plume of exhaust coming out the back of your car, while it is warming up, is a great signal to opportunists that figure they'd rather drive than walk.

If you are leaving your vehicles permanently outside, hence the need to warm them up, please take some time to check the potentially damaging personal information on the paperwork you keep in the glove box, consoles or under the seats. Do you keep a garage door opener in there? Please, please, please remove these valuables if you keep vehicles outside. Be mindful of what would be appealing to a thief and remove it every time you leave your vehicle.

Please remember that leaving vehicles running while unattended is illegal and carries a $124 infraction. If you leave your children in the unattended vehicle while it is running, that is a misdemeanor offense. Violators will be issued a criminal citation.

Thank you for helping us deter property crime in University Place.

Welcome new University Place businesses!

The numbers don't lie – University Place continues to be **the place for business**. Eighty five new businesses opened in the city during 2007, allowing residents to get everything from barbeque to bath remodeling right here in U.P. Each new business helps strengthen our city's tax base and our ability to continue to provide important services to our residents.

As part of their business recruitment efforts, the City's Economic Development Department staff follows up on all leads they get regarding businesses who have expressed an interest in locating in U.P. Business recruitment efforts are also being boosted by the growing interest surrounding the Town Center project and the recent survey by Seattle Business Monthly that ranked University Place 12th in its survey of 35 of the most promising cities and suburbs in the greater Seattle area in which to do business. **U.P.'s ranking was the highest of all Pierce County cities**, including Lakewood, Puyallup and Bonney Lake.

New businesses in the City of U.P.:

132 Slotcar
A New Sunrise Counseling
Abel Roofing, Inc.
Aerating Only, Inc.
Aidan Kitchen & Bath
All Caring Massage Therapy
All Mobile RV Service, Inc.
Angelo Consulting
Bennie's Southern Touch Café
Big Mike's BBQ
Boulder Park Apartments
Bush Properties
Carlins Construction, Inc.
Central Construction Fence & Deck
Chambers Bay Golf Course & Grill
Chambers Creek Foundation
Collaborative Management Solutions
CW Consulting
Debbies Kids Daycare
Decks Plus
Dreamcatcher Designs
Dunrite Auto Glass
Fashions Rekindled & Original Gifts
Golden Light Healing Arts
Hair Zone Beauty Salon
Haller Vending
Heart Strings, Inc.
Investment Centers of Puget Sound
Jencco Carwash, LLC
Jonz Catering LLC
Juvenescence MD
Kelly Consulting
Kinetic Education NW
Koehler Therapy and More!
Komplexions Facial Spa
Lomi LLC
LPSD Associates, LLC
M B Enterprise
Mercedes Nepute, LMP
Mining Silver LLC
Mommy Made It
Nail Design
Osaka Sushi Bistro
Over The Rainbow Enterprises, Inc.
Pamela Lowe Medical Transcription
Para-Med Legal Services
Photography by Ted Case
Pretty In Ink by Christy
Prints In Motion
Professionals Continuing Education
Puget Sound Consulting
Puget Sound Trader
Quickstop Mart
Rachel Cargill, LMP
Ramsett Mechanical
Reddy 2 Go #2
Renovos Global Group, LLC
Royal Coffee & Deli, Inc.
Sallie Kanofsky, M.A. LMIT
Shekina Photography
Sky Communications, Inc.
Skyway Solar LLC
SNC, Inc.
Sofia Bistro
Speech With Brooke
Stellar J Corporation
Studio Rose
Successful Business Solutions
Sure Shots Production
Surveying Services, Inc.
Sylvan Learning Center
Synergy Massage
Te's Ice Cream
The Etiquette School of Natural Refinement, LLC
Tom Dyer's Imports
USA PT, LLC
Vicky's Kids
West Coast Investment Properties
Wonderdog Productions
Zoes

Reducing business sign replacements

Since incorporation in 1995, the City Council has conducted numerous surveys, public meetings, and workshops to determine what people want their community to look like in the future. Citizens and business owners alike have a strong desire to create a more attractive community. Many feel that reducing sign clutter is an important step in reaching that goal. The City of University Place first adopted a sign code that required new signs to be smaller and shorter in January 1996. Older signs that did not meet the new standards would be allowed to remain until December 31, 2001.

Since then the sign code has undergone many amendments while many changes have taken place in the community. The last sign code amendments were adopted on May 12, 2003, relaxing sign setback standards and extending the date older signs need to meet new standards to March 4, 2009. By extending the date, the City Council gave business owners more time to recoup the expense associated with replacing their signs.

Since the first sign code adoption, more than 300 older signs that did not meet the new standards have been replaced with new signs. Signs that do not meet current standards are down from 256 in 2002 to approximately 139 signs today, evidence that the time extension provided by the City Council worked to reduce the number of non-conforming signs. The City has hired a consulting firm "Tierra Right of Way Services" to notify owners of signs that still do not meet standards and to work with them to bring their signs up to standard by March 4, 2009. For more information contact Patti Morris at (360) 461-9008.

Business License renewals

It's time to renew your 2008 Business License. Renewal letters were sent out in September. If your business did not receive a notice, please contact the Business Licensing office at 566-5656. Be sure to renew before January 30, 2008 to avoid a penalty.

License fees remain unchanged:

$25 – Home Occupation License Fee
$50 – General Business License Fee

Applications for new businesses are available online at www.CityofUP.com.

U.P. is Business-Friendly

Seattle Business Monthly evaluated the Puget Sound area cities to find the "Best Cities for Business" –

University Place was ranked among the best around!

RANK	CITY	COUNTY	ESTIMATED 2007 POPULATION	CRIMES PER THOUSAND	MEDIAN HOME PRICE	% AGE OF OPO. WITH BACHELOR'S DEGREES	5-YEAR POP GROWTH (DECLINE)	AMENITIES	WHAT WE LIKE
1	REDMOND	KING	50,680	36	$259,250	36%	10%	762	Dynamic mix of housing, office and retail development
2	KENMORE	KING	19,940	32	$413,000	27%	4%	822	Kenmore Air; planned waterfront development
3	SAMMAMISH	KING	40,260	12	$169,500	41%	16%	319	Low crime rate, high property values, well-educated population
4	MERCER ISLAND	KING	22,380	22	$905,000	38%	2%	931	Plans to create a vibrant mixed-use town center
5	NEWCASTLE	KING	9,550	34	$775,000	39%	16%	581	Plans to attract more businesses to downtown core
6	KIRKLAND	KING	47,890	42	$478,975	33%	5%	1,067	Diverse business mix: retail, hig-tech, light industrial
7	MILL CREEK	SNOHOMISH	17,620	51	$414,950	31%	46%	603	Projected population growth of 21% over 2004 levels
8	MAPLE VALLEY	KING	20,020	19	$385,750	24%	33%	82	280-acre development of the Four Corners area
9	COVINGTION	KING	17,190	33	$325,0000	20$	19$	281	20-year comp plan in development
10	BOTHELL	KING/ SNOHOMISH	32,400	32	$417,500	29%	5%	600	No City B&O tax
11	LAKE FOREST PARK	KING	12,770	27	$475,000	30%	(-1%)	802	"Livable Lake Forest Park " development plan
12	**UNIVERSITY PLACE**	**PIERCE**	**31,300**	**41**	**$353,000**	**22%**	**3%**	**668**	**Technical and business assistance for startups**
13	BAINBRIDGE ISLAND	KITSAP	23,080	24	$582,000	35%	10%	145	Comprehensive plan for growth through 2012
14	BONNEY LAKE	PIERCE	15,740	42	$299,250	13%	27%	148	No city B&O tax
15	MOUNTLAKE TERRACE	SNOHOMISH	20,810	48	$304,950	19%	2%	715	Town center development of homes, office and retail
16	SHORELINE	KING	53,190	42	$406,300	26%	0%	760	A "small-business-friendly" city
17	MUKILTEO	SNOHOMISH	19,940	45	$419,950	29%	8%	543	Gateway to the islands, with high-volume ferry runs
18	ISSAQUAH	KING	24,710	47	$496,500	34%	79%	142	Redevelopment of City Hall and town center
19	EDMONDS	SNOHOMISH	40,560	35	$411,000	24%	3%	528	No city B&O tax
20	RENTON	KING	60,290	80	$380,000	22%	12%	565	Projected population growth to double King County's rate

Sweeping the streets

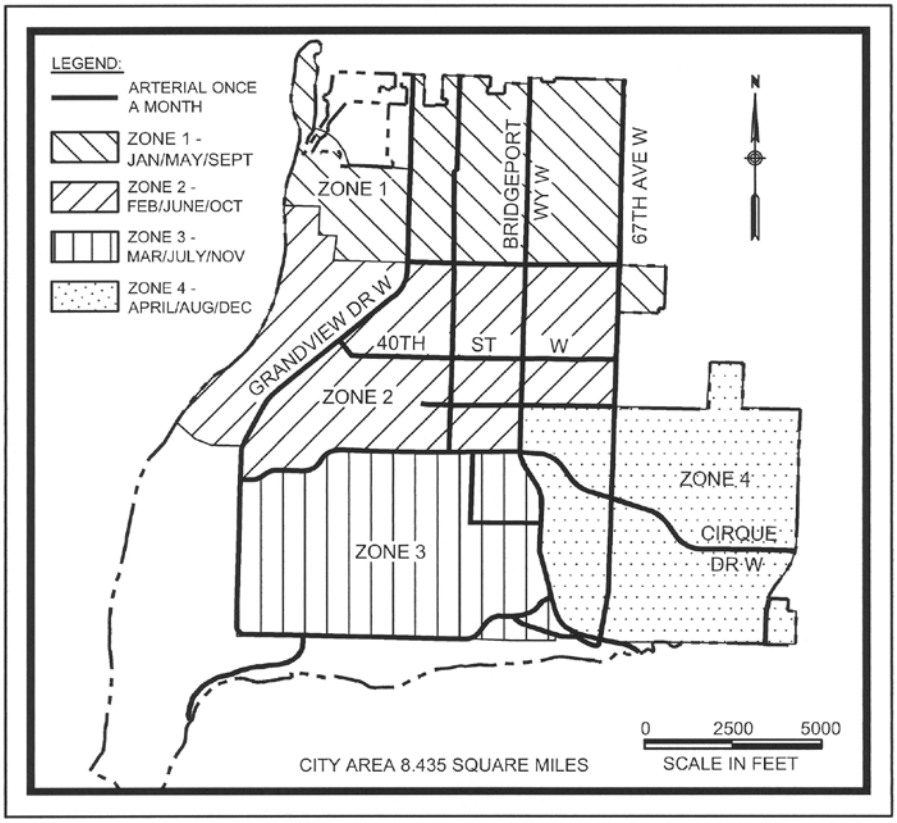
As part of the City's commitment to providing a high quality of life for U.P. residents, the Public Works Department conducts a comprehensive street sweeping program that provides on-going street cleaning to all U.P. neighborhoods.

In an effort to ensure all streets in the City are covered, the sweeping program breaks down the City's residential areas into four zones, each of which is swept three times per year. Arterial streets are swept monthly due to higher traffic volume. A systematic tracking system enables Public Works staff to record the name of each street as it is swept, when it was swept and the amount of debris collected.

Each year U.P. street sweepers cover more than 4,000 miles within our city, collecting more than 774 tons of debris. Although the City understands residents' desire for even more frequent sweepings, one of the biggest challenges facing staff is how to reduce the $20,000 annual cost for disposing of the debris collected under the current schedule.

Although Street Sweeping is one of our most costly maintenance activities, it is an essential tool in not only cleaning litter from our streets but also collecting dirt, gravel and other contaminates before they can be washed into storm drains and out into our streams, creeks and eventually Puget Sound.

For more information on our Sweeping program, contact Public Works at 460-6493.



FREQUENTLY USED NUMBERS

Police/Fire/Medical Emergencies	911
Pierce County Sheriff (24 hours, non-emergency)	798-4721
University Place Police (business)	798-4058
University Place Fire Dept. (non-emergency)	564-1623
Domestic Violence Help Line	798-4166
Animal Control/Codes Enforcement	798-3133
Tacoma Public Utilities (customer service)	502-8600
Tacoma Power Outages (24 hours)	502-8602
Water Emergency	502-8384, after 4:30 p.m. 502-8344
Washington Natural Gas Emergencies	1-888-225-5773

UPTV "UNIVERSITY PLACE" ON TV

Each month different programs about University Place air on Click! Channel 12 and Comcast Channel 21. Watch for even more new programs about U.P. in 2008. The following programs are scheduled:

- Council Corner
- Slices of Life – Holiday Tree Lighting

Visit our Website: www.CityofUP.com/uptv for a schedule of what's on the channel each week. Send program suggestions and comments to UPTV@CityofUP.com or call 460-5441.

STAFF

Bob Jean, *City Manager*	460-2500
Diana Harmon, *Executive Assistant*	460-2500
Janean Parker, *City Attorney*	460-2533
Stephen Sugg, *Deputy City Manager.*	460-5433
Pat O'Neill, *Projects Director*	460-2529
Mariza Craig, *Asst. City Mgr./Econ. Dev. Dir.*	460-5442
Lisa Petorak, *Human Resources Manager*	460-2515
Emy Genetia, *City Clerk*	460-2510
Jim Andrews, *Chief of Police*	798-3205
Jennifer Hales, *Public Safety Manager*	798-3141
David Layden, *Finance Director*	460-5401
David Swindale, *Development Svcs. Director*	460-2519
Jack Ecklund, *City Engineer*	460-5411
Gary Cooper, *Parks/Public Works Director*	460-6494
Gretchen Hayes, *Parks & Rec. Asst. Director*	460-2508

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CITY HALL

3715 Bridgeport Way West, Ste B-1, University Place, WA 98466 | Phone Number: 566-5656 | Office Hours: 8 a.m.- 5 p.m. Monday-Friday | Email: city_hall@CityofUP.com | Web Page: www.CityofUP.com