



CITY OF UNIVERSITY PLACE

# HEADLINES

VOLUME 8 ISSUE 1

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2009

**A Publication of the City of University Place**

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## Resolve to volunteer in 2009

In these difficult economic times, everyone is being called upon to do more with less. Just as families are struggling to find ways to stretch a dollar, so, too, are many of U.P.'s community organizations as they face rising operational costs and declining contributions.

The U.P. Volunteer Center has information on scores of non-profit organizations that are looking for volunteers to assist with everything from answering phones to simple landscaping.

Julie Kerrigan, volunteer coordinator at the Center, serves as a matchmaker of sorts by pairing interested volunteers with organizations that are in need of help. She says that during the last four months of 2008, the Center had 95 volunteers sign up to help various community organizations. But the need for additional volunteers still exists – and is likely to grow.

“Right now, we have almost 25 organizations that are looking for volunteers,” Kerrigan says. They include Tahoma Audubon, which is looking for a photographer, and

the Fish Food Bank, which needs helpers to assist clients who “shop” for groceries there.

Kerrigan says there are opportunities for everyone to help, regardless of their skills or expertise. And because most organizations offer training, people shouldn't allow a fear of not knowing what to do stop them from volunteering.

See the box below for a sampling of current volunteer opportunities or visit the Center's website at [www.UPVolunteers.org](http://www.UPVolunteers.org) for more information on the wide variety of opportunities that are available. You can also call (253) 564-6737 or stop by the Center, which is located in the Team Insurance building at 2811 Bridgeport Way W., on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Kerrigan says that even though the Volunteer Center operates as a non-profit, it does not yet enjoy that official status with the IRS. So members of the Center's board of directors, which includes business leaders, citizens and representatives of the City, have applied and are in the process of becoming an official 501(c)3 non-profit. That designation will enable donors to make tax-deductible contributions to the Center and allow it to further leverage the contributions of its volunteers.

So as we begin 2009, why not put volunteering at the top of your list of New Year's resolutions.



## Volunteer Opportunities

### City of University Place Programs & Facilities

- Adopt a Street
- Adriana Hess Wetland Park
- Curran Apple Orchard
- Parks and Recreation (coaches, park cleanups)
- Senior Center

### Current Volunteer Opportunities

- Tahoma Audubon Society – TGIF in the Park
- Restoration Project at Chambers Bay Golf Course
- Chambers Creek Foundation Office Assistant
- U.P. Fish Food Bank
- Curran Apple Orchard Master Gardener Class Setup & Cleanup
- Operation Hands On

### Community Organizations

- Girl Scouts of Western Washington
- Operation Hands On Blanket Drive
- Chambers Creek Foundation
- Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration
- Chambers Creek Properties
- Earthy Conversations
- Fish Food Bank
- SPOT After School Program
- Tahoma Audubon Society
- Annual Food Drive
- Big Brothers, Big Sisters

Volunteer Orientation is every Saturday. Check out our website [www.upvolunteers.org](http://www.upvolunteers.org)

Business hours are Tuesday and Thursday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. and Saturday 12 – 4 p.m.

For more information contact Volunteer Coordinator Julie Kerrigan (253) 564-6373 or email [jkerrigan@upvolunteers.org](mailto:jkerrigan@upvolunteers.org).

**February 7  
Daddy  
Daughter  
Dance**

**April 13-24  
Spring  
Clean-up**

**May 2-3  
Flower Show  
& Plant Sale**



# COUNCIL CORNER...

We welcome the New Year, facing both with great challenges and opportunities. This year, more than ever, we will be counting on our amazing U.P. volunteers to fill in some of the gaps caused by the economic downturn in the economy.

The challenge for this year will be keeping the momentum going on projects and programs that have been built and have become such an important part of our community over the years since incorporation. Last fall our City Beautification Program hit an all-time high with participation not only by City volunteers, but also by our military personnel from Ft. Lewis. Because of our many volunteers and your generous contributions, over 10,000 daffodils and 2,500 tulips were planted as we continue to target different areas of our city with spring color.

Many of the volunteers who took part in the plantings made

the connection through the City's new Volunteer Center. If you haven't visited the Volunteer Center at Team Insurance, 2811 Bridgeport, now is a great time to stop in, have a cup of coffee and take a moment to view all of the City-wide opportunities where your talents can be utilized and appreciated.

The City currently hosts many events including the Christmas Tree Lighting, the U.P. Festival, Parks and Recreation events, Treasures in the Park, the Duck Parade, the Cider Squeeze, the Curran Orchard Summer Concerts and the Annual Flower Show and Plant Sale, just to mention a few. If you and your family have had the opportunity to take part in any of these programs or events, you know how popular and successful they have become. Essential City services must take priority in a stretched budget.

In 2009, we will be faced with the possibility of scaling back or even eliminating some of these activities. We need your help. With your input and creative suggestions, business sponsorship or service group participation, we may be able to eliminate the need to consider these cuts. Please feel free to call or email one of us or any Councilmember because, as always, we value your input and can only make a difference with your help.

As we begin a new year, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for allowing us to serve you on the City Council. Together we will work through and find positive solutions to the challenges we face, ensuring that U.P. continues to grow and remain the community that we are all proud to call home.

*Councilmembers  
Lorna Smith & Ken Grassi*



*Councilmembers  
Ken Grassi & Lorna Smith*

## CITY COUNCIL

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

## MEETING CALENDAR

- January 12 – 7 p.m.  
Special Meeting
- January 20 – 7 p.m.  
Regular Meeting
- January 26 – 7 p.m.  
Special Meeting
- February 2 – 7 p.m.  
Regular Meeting
- February 9 – 7 p.m.  
Special Meeting
- February 17 – 7 p.m.  
Regular Meeting

## Coffee and Cookies with Council

For January and February you can meet in the evening with Mayor Bird for cookies on **Tuesday, January 27** or, Mayor Pro Tem Klosowski on **Tuesday, February 24 from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. at City Hall, 3715 Bridgeport Way West.**

If you'd prefer a morning alternative, please join one of our Councilmembers on **Wednesday, January 28** or **Wednesday, February 25 from 9 – 10 a.m. at the Senior Community Center** at 2534 Grandview Drive West.

Citizens can also schedule other dates and times with City Councilmembers by calling (253) 460-2500.



### PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

- January 8 – 6:30 p.m.
- February 12 – 6:30 p.m.

### PLANNING COMMISSION

- January 7 – 7 p.m.
- January 21 – 7 p.m.
- February 4 – 7 p.m.
- February 18 – 7 p.m.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

- January 15 – 7:30 a.m.
- February 19 – 7:30 a.m.

### COMMUNITY ORIENTED PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION

- February 5 – 6 p.m.

*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.*

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

# U.P. Spring Flower Show and Plant Sale



At this time of year the average Northwest garden is bleak, disheveled and damp. While the groundhog says it's going to be awhile until spring, here in University Place volunteers are busy planning for the University Place Spring Flower Show and Plant Sale **scheduled for May 2 and 3** at Homestead Park.

This annual event is our kickoff to the spring gardening season. It will feature the sale of hundreds of unique varieties of Rhododendrons, roses, fuchsias, dahlias, and ferns. Unusual

perennials and companion plants grown by local Northwest vendors will also be available.

A highlight of the event is a spectacular Rhododendron truss display. The exhibit is one of the largest Rhododendron displays on the West Coast. Volunteers are needed to display their Rhody blooms and to help set up, take down and host the event.

For information on how you can get involved, call Linda Bird at (253) 564-6305. Also go to the University Place city website for information on how to display your Rhododendron truss in the exhibit.

If you are tired of winter and longing for spring, be sure to mark your calendar today for the University Place Spring Flower Show and Plant sale!



## Adopt an apple tree at your local orchard!

Are you searching for a great way to exercise, support your parks and enjoy delicious treats?

If so, consider adopting an apple tree at the Curran Apple Orchard Park.

For \$35, you can adopt one of several varieties of apples trees in the orchard for one harvest season. Adopters can either prune their own trees (free instruction is available) or can request that volunteers maintain the tree for them. Besides supporting one of our community's wonderful parks, adopters can also enjoy delicious apples and cider during harvest time in early Fall.

Don't delay...trees are going fast! For more information, contact the City of University Place Parks at (253) 460-2518 or go online to [www.CurranAppleOrchard.com](http://www.CurranAppleOrchard.com) or [www.CityofUP.com](http://www.CityofUP.com).



## Curran Orchard pruning classes & parties begin



Learn how to prune apple trees and practice your new skills during FREE pruning classes at the Curran Apple Orchard Park this Spring.

CORE (Curran Orchard Resource Enthusiasts) is sponsoring a FREE Master Gardener Pruning Class on **Thursday, January 29, from 7 to 9 p.m.** at the United Church, 3912 Grandview Drive W. in University Place.

New and experienced pruners are then invited to attend FREE Pruning Parties with Master Gardeners at the Curran Apple Orchard

Park (3920 Grandview Drive West) on the following Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.: February 21, March 7 & 21, April 4 & 25 and May 30. Please check in at the barn and bring work gloves, loppers, hand saws and hand pruners. Some on-site tools are available if needed.

For more information, please contact the City of University Place Parks at (253) 460-2518, or Molly Wolfe at (253) 564-2562.



**Time to volunteer? Check out [www.upvolunteers.org](http://www.upvolunteers.org)! Or visit the U.P. Volunteer Center at Team Insurance, 2811 Bridgeport Way W.**

# University Place hit by economy:

*Local businesses, families and City's budget impacted, Town Center construction continues but schedules extended.*

On October 6, 2008, I presented what I thought was a fiscally conservative proposed 2009-10 Budget. That same week our national economy then changed dramatically, evidenced by an 18 percent drop in the overall stock market. Families, businesses and investors were all hit hard. The 2007 "housing bubble" became the 2008 "economic crisis."

While the national and international government responses have been massive, nobody can be sure when the economy will begin to turn. What seemed like reasonable budget assumptions in September became dramatically different in mid-October.

We have, therefore, revised our 2009-10 revenue forecasts downward by \$2.2 million a year in lost Development Service fees and Sales Taxes. I have directed Department Managers to revise their budgets and service levels accordingly.

I had hoped that the new Town Center revenues (from its development fees and construction sales taxes) might buffer us from the immediate effects of the economic downturn, but Town Center has also been affected by the economy, still moving, but at a slower pace.

Our base revenues are flat or reduced. Property taxes are limited to a one

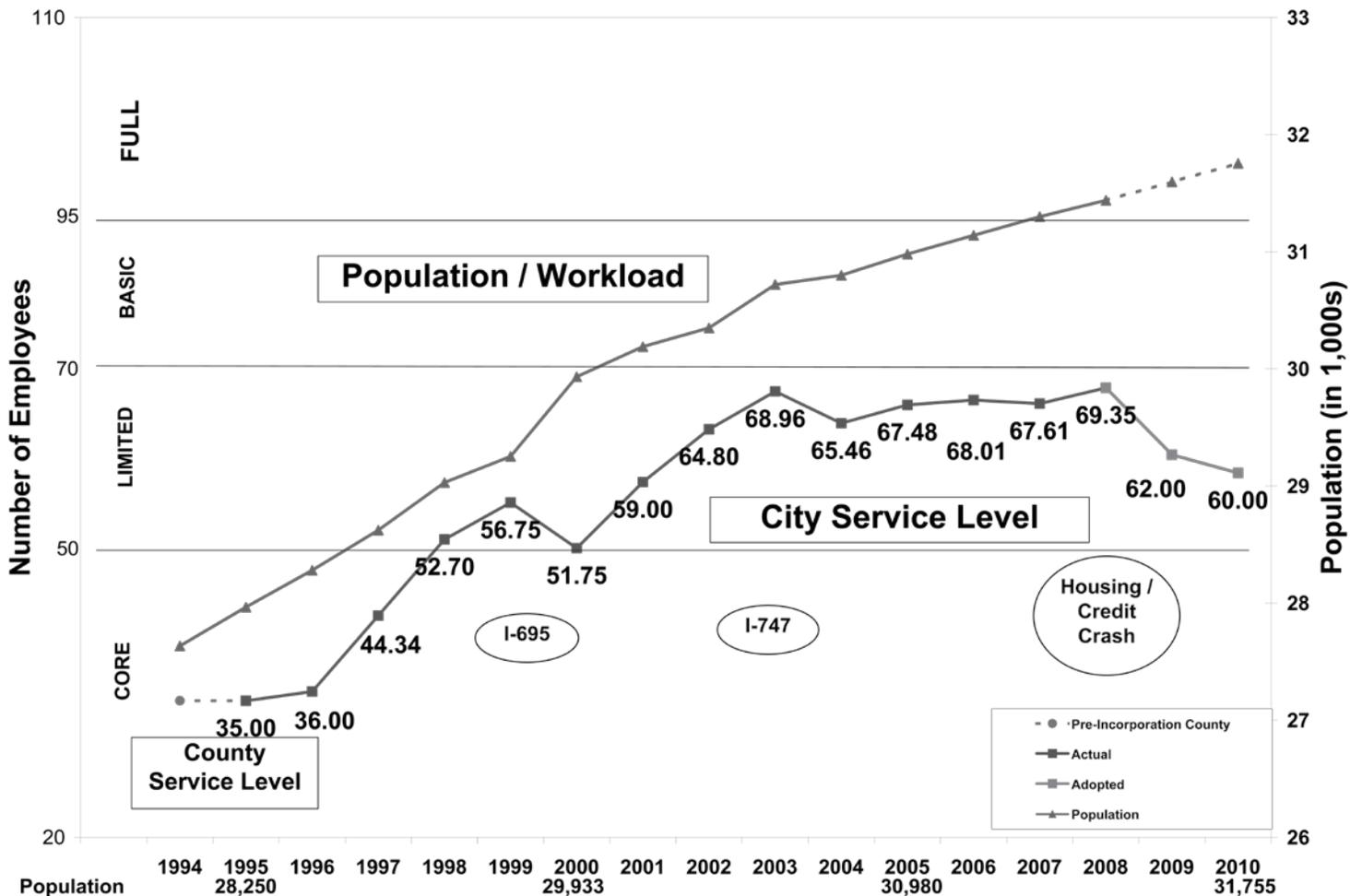
percent growth, sales taxes are essentially flat, and fee revenues are down dramatically from estimates of just a few weeks ago; only utility tax revenues are up, but still less than the rate of inflation costs. With revenues down and expenses continuing to grow, we need to cut the base budget and hold until the new revenues from Town Center and a rebounding economy can kick in.

We will need to layoff or freeze a number of City Staff positions to adjust the revised revenue estimates and maintain a balanced budget. While this will result in reduced service levels, we will still be above the "Core" level services provided by the County before incorporation of the City and above our own "Core" level of services in 2000 immediately following the I-695 cuts (after a 30 percent revenue loss).

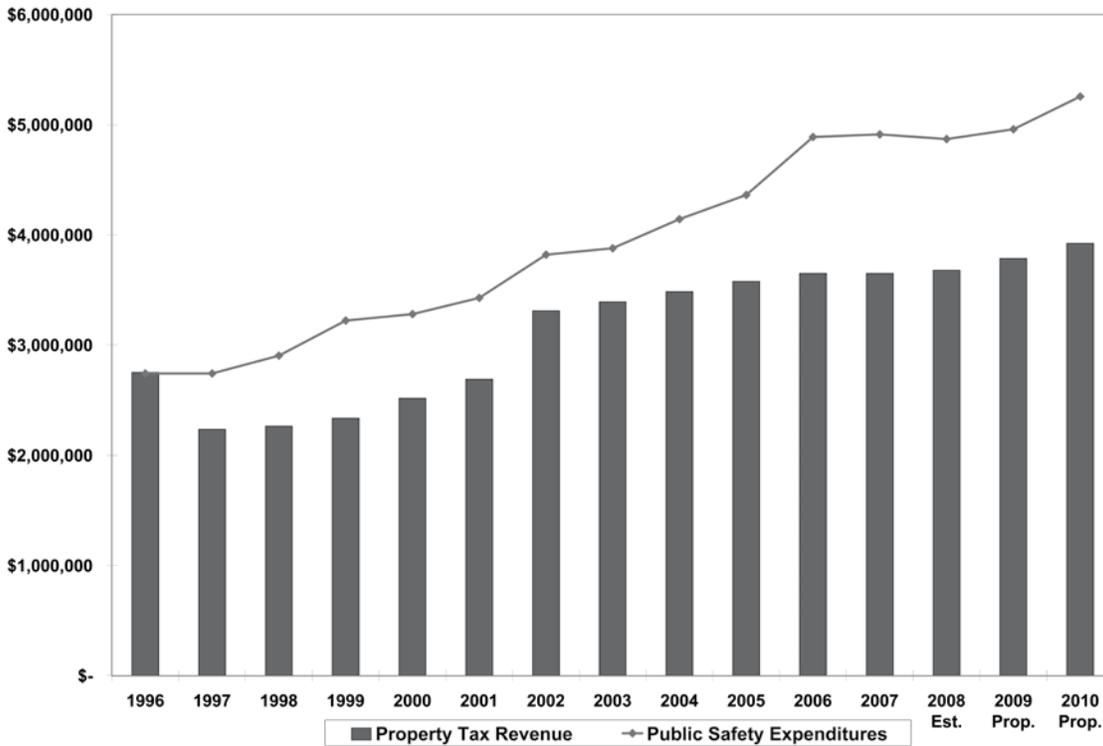
The Revised Proposed Budget for 2009-10 trims service levels to the low Limited range and defers capital improvements where possible. We will still meet all our Debt Service obligations and maintain our Strategic Reserve funds. But what was thought to be a "challenging budget" has just gotten tougher, with even more difficult choices still ahead.

*Bob Jean, City Manager*

## Historical Staffing, Service Levels and Population



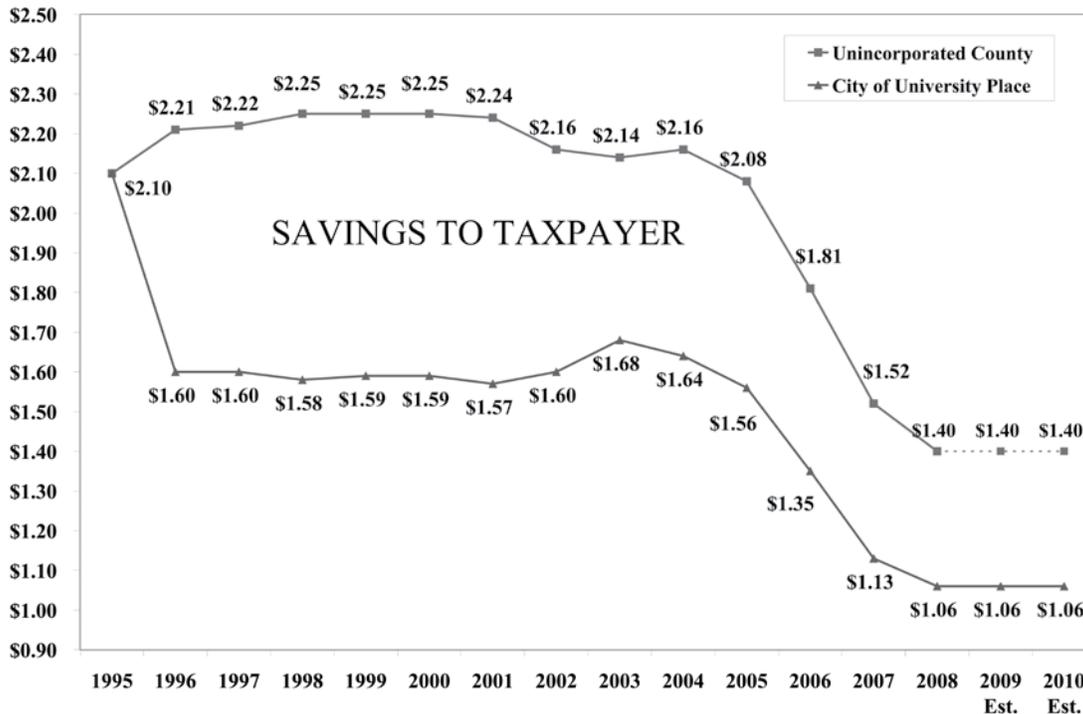
# Property Taxes vs. Public Safety Expenditures 1996-2008 Projected



## Quick Facts:

**City Property Taxes average \$26.50 a month for the average homeowner... Less than the average cell phone or cable TV bill...**

## Property Tax Rate Comparison since University Place Incorporation



*Total Property Taxes in U.P. have gone up, but due to voter-approved increases for Schools, Fire and Library...*

*City property tax on the same home is essentially the same as 10 years ago!*

# Dads and Daughters, enjoy an evening just for you!

Don't miss out on this night of magic where dads and daughters dance the night away! An array of music will please every group or taste – all ages are welcome! Participants will receive refreshments, party favors, plus a night of fun and entertainment that both dad and daughter will never forget.

A photographer will be on hand to take pictures for a small fee. Pictures are available beginning at 5 p.m., an hour and a half prior to the start of the event, for pre-registered guests only; you must bring your registration receipt for early entry.

To register, call the Parks & Recreation office at (253) 460-2530. Registrations before January 25th will receive the "early bird" discount. This is an extremely popular event – sign up early to ensure your attendance!



**Date:**  
**Time:**  
**Where:**  
"Early Bird" Registration  
(on or before Jan. 25)  
Registration at the door  
(limited space)

**Saturday, February 7, 2009**  
**6:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.**  
**Curtis High School Cafeteria, 8425 40th St. W.**  
**\$20 Per Couple plus \$5 Each Additional Child**  
  
**\$25 Per Couple plus \$5 Each Additional Child**

## Come to Camp UPLAY

*On Winter and Spring break!*

Camp UPLAY is here to save the day! With school out, children will be looking for outlets for entertainment, exercise, and social activity. Please join us for a week(s) of fun activities, games, arts and crafts, movie day and much more. Make new friends and get reacquainted with old ones. Our established day camps will give your child a safe and fun adventure with many opportunities for fun!! Camp will end each week with an exciting off-site field trip.



Register early, as spaces are limited. Don't miss out on any of these great weeks of fun!

**Mid-Winter Break:** February 16-20 at Evergreen Primary  
**Spring Break:** April 6-10 at Drum Intermediate  
**Hours & Pricing:** Regular Hours 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
\$100 Resident, \$110 Non Resident  
Extended Hours 7 a.m. – 6 p.m.  
\$125 Resident, \$135 Non Resident

*Campers will need a warm coat, tennis shoes, a sack lunch and snacks.*

To register, please mail in, walk in or fax a completed registration form to University Place Parks & Recreation, 3715 Bridgeport Way W., University Place, WA 98466; Fax (253) 460-5416; Phone (253) 460-2530.

### Hip Hop Dance

*So you think you can dance?*

Learn to Hip Hop in this fun and easy beginning class taught by Linda Brent, former Seattle Seahawks Sea Gal!

**January 21 – February 25, ages 13+, \$40**

For complete details and registration information, contact U.P. Parks & Recreation at (253) 460-2530.

## Business license renewals

It's time to renew your City Business License. Renewals were sent out in September. If your business did not receive a renewal, please contact the Business Licensing office at 566-5656. Be sure to renew before January 30, 2009 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](http://www.CityofUP.com).

## 2009 Overnight Travel Luncheon

Come and join us on **Wednesday, January 21, 2009** at the U.P. Senior Center – we'll be enjoying free pizza, entertainment by Rodeo Rog and talking about 2009 overnight travel.

Get a sneak preview of all overnight trips being offered by the U.P. Senior Center, see pictures and slide shows of past trips, and enjoy the company of seniors from the Puyallup Activity Center. **Arrive at 11:30**, lunch will be served at noon. Entertainment will begin at 12:30, following the presentation.

We hope to see you there!



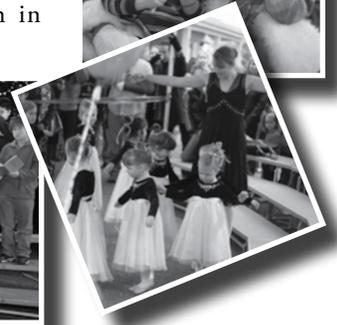
*Thank You to Our  
Flag Football & Soccer  
Coaches*

*We Appreciate You!*

# Christmas Tree Lighting enjoyed by all!

The good weather, great choirs, crafts, food, and children's activities all helped to make this year's Tree Lighting a rousing success! Those who arrived early found Christmas gifts galore at the many craft booths throughout Windmill Village. Later in the day Santa arrived by "sleigh" with a Fire Department escort and, with candy canes, delighted young visitors to Santa Land. There were lots of smiles and cheers as the 35-foot Christmas tree was counted down to "zero" and the lights lit up the clear night sky. Children and parents alike enjoyed rides through Homestead Park on the Santa Express where beautiful, moving lighted displays appeared around every turn.

When the evening ended, families went home with photos, treasures and wonderful memories of welcoming in the holiday season in University Place.



## A special thanks to our donors & volunteers

Connie Aboubakr  
C.O.R.E.

Annette Murphy

Judy Hanson

Frontier Bank

AA Adornments

Town Center Storage

Albertson's

At Your Service Plumbing

Bead Baubler Jewelery

Big Lots

Cake

Chambers Bay Grill

Mud Bay

Forza Coffee

Skullcandy

The Spa at Pacific Wellness

Trader Joe's

Starbucks

Captain Nemo's

Fred Meyer

Westside Community Bank

Museum Quality Framing

Safeway

Walmart

Kiwanis Club

Students from Pierce College

Operation Hands On

Matt & Marty Owens –

Owens Press

U.P. Refuse

Ivar's

Ken Grassi,

Grassi's Floral & Gifts

Lorna Smith

Danice Anderson

Columbia Bank

U.P. Youth Council

Wayne Wenzel

Tree Lighting Committee

Friends of Homestead Park

U.P. Lion's Club

Curtis High NJROTC

Rite Aid

Wine Bank

## Winter weather fire safety

The winter months in Western Washington can bring us a wide array of weather conditions. From high winds to snow and ice, winter storms increase the chances of home fires. The University Place Fire Department and the U.S. Fire Administration encourage you to follow these safety tips to help protect your family and home from the threat of fire during or after a winter storm.

- Have flashlights and battery powered lanterns on hand for light during a power outage. Candles pose too high a level of fire danger to be used as a light source.

- Do not use your oven or stove to heat your home. It is a fire danger and can be a source of toxic fumes.

- Do not use charcoal or gas fired grills indoors as a source of heat or for cooking.

- When using a wood burning fireplace for heat, use a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace and keep all combustibles three feet away.

- Make sure you have a smoke alarm(s) that have battery back-ups in case of power outages.

- Use generators and other fuel-powered machines outside the home in a ventilated area.

- If you suspect a gas leak, do not strike a match. Leave the area and report the leak.

- Assume that all wires on the ground are electrically charged.



## Green UP Campaign

Developing a "greener" University Place is among the 2009 priorities identified by the City Council. Although City staff are currently exploring options to present over the next few months, there are many ways that individuals can help "green up" our community:

- Find someone to share a ride with or take public transit to work, the airport, errands or entertainment.

- Wash your clothes in cold water and only run full loads.

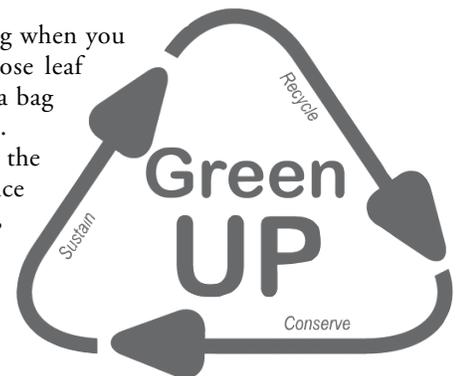
- Scrape, rather than rinse, dirty dishes and only run full loads.

- Take the one-mile challenge. If your destination is within a mile, walk there.

- Think about packaging when you shop. For example, buy loose leaf tea vs. individual bags and a bag of sugar rather than packets.

- Bring your own bags to the grocery store. Given a choice between paper and plastic, opt for paper.

- Consider organic cleaning products like vinegar, borax, or baking soda.



# It's for the birds!

tahoma  
audubon  
society



Grab your binoculars and join bird watching enthusiasts all over the United States and Canada as they celebrate the Great Backyard Bird Count during the week of February 13-16.

During the four-day event, participants count birds for as little or as long as they wish. They tally the highest number of birds of each species seen together at any one time and report their counts via an



online checklist at the Great Backyard Bird Count website ([www.birdsource.org/gbbc](http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc)).

Last year, participants reported 9.8 million plus individual bird sightings nationally representing 635 species during the four-day count.

To make the event

special for local bird watching

fans, the Tahoma Audubon Society (TAS) will hold its Eighth Annual Great Backyard Bird Count Special with four separate events at locations around the area. Master Birders will be available to help educate participants on ornithology and what to look for. There is no cost to participate, however, TAS encourages non-members to become introductory members in the organization (\$20 for families and \$15 for seniors and students).

TAS is looking for residents who may be interested in offering their yards for observation events and who would be willing to host a simple meal for participants. Please call Thelma Gilmur at (253) 564-8210 or TAS (253) 565-9278 if you would like to help or learn more about the week's events.

The Great Backyard Bird Count is a joint project of the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. It is sponsored by Wild Birds Unlimited, the National Science Foundation, Cornell Information Technologies and National Resources Conservation Service.

## Spring into action!

It might be hard to think about spring cleaning when we're in the middle of the dark and dreary days of winter, but it's not too early to mark your calendar for the dates of U.P.'s spring yard waste and oversized branch collection.

During the weeks of April 13-24, University Place Refuse and Lakewood Refuse will collect oversize brush and branches on the same days as customers' regularly scheduled recycling/yard waste pick up days. As a reminder, only branches, brush, and limbs no larger than four inches in diameter will be picked up. Please pile the materials at the curb in stacks no larger than 6-by-6-by-6 feet. No stumps

or loose yard waste such as grass clippings or leaves should be included in those piles. Please use yard waste totes for these smaller items.

If you would like more information on the kind of materials that will and will not be accepted during this spring cleanup, please contact U.P. Refuse at (253) 564-3212 or Lakewood Refuse at (253) 588-1705.



### UPTV "UNIVERSITY PLACE" ON TV

Each month different programs about University Place air on Click! Channel 12 and Comcast Channel 21. The following programs are scheduled:

- Regular Council Meetings
- Meet Your City
- Destination Recreation – Trips and Tours

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

### STAFF

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

### **City of University Place**

3715 Bridgeport Way West, Suite B-1  
University Place, WA 98466-4456

PRSRST STD  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit No. 235  
Tacoma, Washington  
ECRWSS

ECRWSS  
Postal Customer

### 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](mailto:city_hall@CityofUP.com)  
CityofUP.com | Web Page: [www.CityofUP.com](http://www.CityofUP.com)