

CITY OF UNIVERSITY PLACE HEADLINES

VOLUME 12 ISSUE 2

MARCH/APRIL 2013

A Publication of the City of University Place

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City Budget 101

Residents voted to create the City of University Place in 1995. They did so knowing that their local tax dollars could be used more effectively and with a greater degree of control with a local government. After incorporation, due to our small sales tax base, our City's budget substantially relied on state funding and local property taxes for City services. While funds were limited, the City's revenues were stable. The City also stretched its revenues further with successful grant applications and partnerships. The results of these investments can be seen today, with the post-incorpora-

tion acquisition and development of new park land, and construction of major road improvements, sidewalks, traffic calming devices and streetlights.

Four years after incorporation, however, voters approved a series of state-wide initiatives that resulted in the elimination of most state funding and substantially reduced the City's ability to maintain property tax revenue growth at the rate of inflation. These changes dramatically altered the City's finances and resulted in significant reductions in staffing and service levels. The City Council chose to mitigate the impact of these reductions by pursuing a strategy that encouraged new retail development, which in turn would generate new sales tax revenue.

A focus on attracting new retail development quickly showed promise. New businesses like Trader Joe's and the development of several mixed-use buildings along Bridgeport generated new revenue. The Town Center development, which was one of the products of this strategy, showed great promise with substantial developer interest. The strategy, however, was severely challenged by the "Great Recession."

Today, we continue to adjust to the "new normal" created by both the initiatives and the recession. While retaining sales taxes currently paid by our residents to other communities remains an important long-term goal, it is equally important that our residents understand their City's finances and their role in funding essential services upon which we all rely.

Continued on pages 6-7.



The photo above shows Bridgeport Way as it was prior to incorporation.

The photo to the right shows the improvements as they are today.



Spring Flower Show and Plant Sale

Saturday, Apr. 27 from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Sunday, Apr. 28 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Homestead Park at City Hall, 3715 Bridgeport Way W.



Council Corner

Without a doubt spring is the most beautiful season in University Place. Our city bursts into glorious colors welcomed after a dark cold winter. Over 70,000 daffodils brighten our streets because of your generous donations to City Beautification. (See page 10 or the City website at www.CityofUP.com for information of how you can be a part of our **Patron of Beautification Program**.)

If you're getting anxious to get your gardening gloves on, you won't want to miss our 10th annual Spring Flower Show and Plant Sale on **Apr. 27 and 28, held in Homestead Park** next to City Hall, 3715 Bridgeport Way West. This event features rhododendron and azalea cuttings on display in the City Hall Community Room from local nurseries, vendors and residents.

The plant sale will feature a wide selection of unique and hard-to-find rhododendrons, azaleas and choice companion plants, as well as "old favorites" and perennials at very reasonable prices. Specialty plant vendors from around the Puget Sound area will be selling plants especially suited for Northwest gardens. Proceeds from the plant sale will benefit the Homestead Park Rhododendron Garden.

In conjunction with the plant sale will be the third annual **Envirofair (on Saturday only)**. This sustainability-focused event will show you what steps you can take to implement sustainable environmental practices around your home, particularly in your own garden. You'll learn how to create your own worm bin, the benefits of rain gardens, and where water goes when it runs off your property and into the storm drains.

The event starts on **Saturday, Apr. 27, 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Hours on Sunday are 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.** We hope gardeners from throughout the community will share their beautiful blooms by participating in the Rhododendron/Azalea Show. Not only is it great fun, but you might just take home a ribbon! We welcome your cuttings on Friday, Apr. 26 from 2 until 6 p.m. at City Hall.

This unique sale and show is one of the largest of its kind held in the Northwest. The event also features a self-guided tour of our seven-acre Homestead Park. **Mark your calendar** and save the date, this is truly a not-to-miss springtime happening!

Ken Grassi, Mayor



Mayor Ken Grassi

CITY COUNCIL

Ken Grassi.....	253.627.7196
Denise McCluskey.....	253.460.2500
Javier Figueroa.....	253.226.3927
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Eric Choiniere.....	253.460.2500
Chris Nye.....	253.460.2500
Caroline Belleci.....	253.389.9517

PROPOSED MEETING CALENDAR

Mar. 25 – 6:30 p.m.	Special Meeting
Apr. 1 – 6:30 p.m.	Regular Meeting
Apr. 8 – 6:30 p.m.	Special Meeting
Apr. 15 – 6:30 p.m.	Regular Meeting
Apr. 22 – 6:30 p.m.	Special Meeting
May 6 – 6:30 p.m.	Regular Meeting

All City Council meetings are held in the Town Hall meeting room, Windmill Village, 3715 Bridgeport Way, usually at 6:30 p.m. (unless otherwise posted). Changes to meeting times and locations are posted at City Hall, University Place Library, Fire District #3 and at www.CityofUP.com, or contact the City Clerk's Office at 253.460.2510 for current information about meeting dates and agendas.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION

Mar. 21 & Apr. 18 – 6 p.m.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Mar. 21 & Apr. 18 – 7:30 a.m.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Mar. 20, Apr. 3 & 17 – 7 p.m.

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

Apr. 11 – 6:30 p.m.

All meetings are open to the public. Contact the City Clerk's Office at 253.460.2510 for more information.

Thank you to 2012 Baskets on Bridgeport Donors



Bob & Marie Robinson
Joyce & Colin Ehli
Beverly Petrovich
Stan & Beverly Corrington
Twenty Minute Fitness
The Spa at Pacific Wellness
Beatrice Roy
Bridgeport Vaccum
DMD Homes
Gerald & Rosalinda Urbas
Jack Ecklund & Jennifer Smith
Jim & Sandy Anderson
Susan Kohten

The Mail Room
At Your Service Plumbing
Debbie Klosowski & Peter Link
John & Faye Reese
Linda Tieman & Bill Reed
Luella Case
Marcella McPherson
Columbia Bank
Hearthside Manor
Karen & Jim Guarre
PMF Investments
Albert R. Bird, DDS
U.P. Refuse Service, Inc.

Spring Flower Show and Plant Sale



An amazing array of rhododendrons will be in bloom and their trusses on display at the Spring Flower Show and Plant Sale to be held in Homestead Park on **Saturday, Apr. 27, from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.** and on **Sunday, Apr. 28, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.** Trusses may be brought in starting Friday or no later than 9 a.m. on Saturday.

In addition to the annual rhododendron truss exhibit, this year's show will feature a photography exhibit of local photographers' works of flowers, wildlife and garden scenes. Come cast your vote for your favorite rhododendron truss and your favorite photo!

The two-day event includes 14 local independent nurseries with a huge selection of locally grown plants to replenish your gardens. Plant material includes ferns, native plants, rhododendrons, azaleas, companion deciduous and evergreen shrubs, small trees, dahlias, fuchsias, lilies, ground covers and more. Returning this year, in response to the request of attendees of past years, will be garden art. Come visit our local vendors to find just the right addition to your garden. Art mediums include metal sculpture, concrete leaves, wood sculpture, glass works, terrariums, vintage garden items, pots and more.



Joining the artists in the grassy area of Homestead Park on **SATURDAY ONLY will be an environmental fair** co-sponsored by the Pierce County Solid Waste Division and the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department Natural Yard Care Program. The Flower Show and Plant Sale is sponsored by the Friends of Homestead Park and the Peninsula Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society. Proceeds from the show and sale go to the park for improvements.

For booth space, please contact Ken Grassi at 253.278.1946 or kgrassi@CityofUP.com, or Lorna Smith at 253.460.0910 or lsmith37@yahoo.com. For photo show information, contact Chris Anderson at mistymisschristie@yahoo.com. For more info, visit the City's website at www.CityofUP.com.

SATURDAY ONLY, Apr. 27, at the Flower Show!

Come out to the second annual Envirofair on Saturday, Apr. 27 in Homestead Park. This sustainability-focused event is being held in conjunction with and on the first day of the Spring Flower Show and Plant Sale.

Envirofair exhibits will show you what steps you can take to implement sustainable environmental practices around your home, particularly in your yard and garden. You'll learn how to create your own worm bin, the benefits of rain gardens, and where water goes when it runs off your property and into the storm drains.

So as you make your way through the extraordinary truss show and plant sales, be sure to take a few moments to check out the great information tailored to meet the needs and questions of local U.P. gardeners.



West Pierce Appoints New Fire Chief

On Tuesday, Mar. 5, the West Pierce Board of Fire Commissioners announced the appointment of Jim Sharp as the next Fire Chief of West Pierce Fire & Rescue.

"We look forward to working with Jim to continue making West Pierce Fire & Rescue one of the finest fire departments in the state," said Fire Commissioner Chair Bart Dalton.

Jim was originally hired as a dispatcher in 1986 with the Lakewood Fire Department and later that same year was hired as a firefighter by the University Place Fire Department. He has been a chief officer for the past seven years and during the past year he has served as the project manager for South Sound 911, the recently formed regional 911 dispatch agency. Jim will officially begin in his new position on Mar. 16.



Local author releases University Place book

New to Arcadia Publishing's popular *Images of America* series is *University Place* by local author Arne Handeland. This pictorial history boasts more than 200 vintage images and provides readers with a unique opportunity to reconnect with the history that shaped our community.

Using the photographic archives of University Place Historical Society, University Place School District, Tacoma Public Library, and longtime residents and businesspeople of University Place, Arne Handeland, a history teacher at Curtis High School in University Place for 40-plus years, has compiled this visual history accompanied by captions to capture a snapshot view of the history of this thriving community.

Highlights of *University Place* include:

- The Early Years and Pioneers
- A University Tries, a Community Survives
- University Place School District No. 83
- Working, Eating, Playing, and Praying Together
- To Be or Not to Be . . . a City

Arne Handeland will be on hand for a book signing on Mar. 24 at 2 p.m. at the University Place branch of the Pierce County Library System.

Spring Arts & Concert Series begins

Enjoy outstanding evenings with local artists and musicians during UP for Arts second annual Spring Arts & Concerts Series. Each event pairs a visual artist with a musical group in the beautiful atrium of the University Place Civic Building, located at 3609 Market Place West.

UP for Arts, a local nonprofit 501(c)3, sponsors the events to promote local artists and provide area residents with outstanding musical and artistic offerings. Enjoy the wonderful acoustics of the stunning atrium of the U.P.

Civic Building while you sit back and immerse yourself into a magical experience. Events are slated on Fridays from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Admission is \$10.

Special thanks to our sponsors Skelley Piano and Frog n Kiwi, who will offer wine, coffee and light refreshments available for purchase.

The atrium is located at 3609 Market Place W (36th & Bridgeport) with free parking at the back of the building underneath the library. For more information, please visit www.upforart.org.

Mar. 22

Take pleasure in the sounds of the **Ivory Winds Trio** featuring Rose Johnson (flute), John Halverson (French Horn) and Robin Watson (piano).

Fine Artist Carolyn Burt, owner of the Proctor Art Gallery, is a versatile artist who has won numerous awards for her work in various media including watercolor, acrylic, ink, pastels and scratchboard.

Apr. 26

Violinist Grace Youn and fellow chamber artists **Symphony Revolution** intertwine classical music with various musical genres, resulting in a delightful evening that you won't forget.

Featured Artist Marquita Hunt will also showcase her modern, abstract works.

May 24

Enjoy jazz classics and original compositions by the **Pacific Lutheran University Regency Jazz Ensemble** featuring PLU faculty members David Deacon-Joyner on the piano; Clipper Anderson on bass, and Mark Iverston on drums.

Wildlife Photographer Rod Giffels will showcase his work focusing on wild horses and birds found throughout the Pacific Northwest and beyond.

Curran Apple Orchard Master Gardener Pruning Classes!

Learn how to prune apple trees at FREE pruning classes this spring!

Sponsored by CORE (Curran Orchard Resource Enthusiasts), these wonderful classes will demonstrate how to prune apple trees correctly along with displaying proper pruning tools. Class participants will also have hands-on opportunities to try out their new skills in future pruning parties at the Curran Apple Orchard Park, located at 3920 Grandview Drive W.



2013 Pruning Parties remaining: Mar. 23, Apr. 13 & 27

All pruning takes place on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Curran Orchard, 3920 Grandview Drive W. Master Gardeners are available at all events and instruction is provided.

For more information, please visit www.curranappleorchard.com or email apples@curranappleorchard.com.

Spring Fling with the Flying Disc Dogs!

Come out and play with your favorite four-legged friend at the Annual Spring Fling at Cirque Park on Saturday, May 11, from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Sponsored by Washington Owners of Flying Disc Dogs (WOOFD2) and SUNDOgs, this fun event offers free instruction on throwing discs along with tips and tricks to get your dog catching and retrieving.

A FREE introductory clinic will be held from 9:30–10:30 a.m. followed by the Skyhoundz Local Championship Competition from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Register on site for the training clinic from 9–9:30 a.m. with pre-registration available online starting Apr. 1 at www.woofd2.com.



People interested in competing (free safe dog disc for the first 25 registered) in the novice or expert divisions can register from 10:30–11:30 a.m. onsite. Prizes will be awarded.

For more information, visit www.woofd2.com or www.up-dogpark.com.

Parks Appreciation Day – Apr. 20

Join your neighbors and friends throughout Pierce County as we give back to the Earth on Saturday, Apr. 20 from 9 a.m. to noon!

For more information about this great event, contact the Public Works Office at 253.460.6493.



Treasures in the Park now accepting reservations

Saturday, Jun. 1 - Homestead Park, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Do your spring cleaning and bring reusable items to University Place's BIGGEST "Community Garage Sale." The annual Treasures in the Park event is coming up on Jun. 1 and you won't want to miss this opportunity to clear the closet for perhaps some summer vacation cash or spare gas money.

To participate, simply sign up as an early-bird for a 10-by-10 foot booth at \$50 until May 15. The same size booth will run \$60 if reserved from May 16 – May 31. Space is limited and on a first-come, first-serve basis, so be sure to reserve your spot today!

As in years past, Treasures runs in conjunction with the **Duck Daze Parade** and the **Fire & Police Open House**, with all events beginning at 10 a.m. Join the fun of watching the parade, then head to Homestead Park, next to City Hall, where you can find your own special "treasure" for sale. There will be bargains galore, food, and fun entertainment for the young and old as you make your way through the vendor tables. Be certain to head over to the Public Safety Building, where you can visit with local public safety personnel and enjoy a hotdog prepared by your U.P. firefighters.

For more information, call Ken Grassi at 253.627.7196 or 253.278.1946. To sign up for a booth, send in the form available at www.CityofUP.com.

Mark your calendars now for Jun. 1!



Spring Clean-Up and Canned Food Drive

The City of University Place and U.P. Refuse invite University Place residents to dispose of unwanted items at no charge at U.P. Refuse on two Saturdays in April. Residents who live north of 40th Street may drop off items on Apr. 13 and residents south of 40th Street may drop off items on Apr. 20. Residents are encouraged to bring garbage/recycling items as well as yard waste.

While dropping off your unwanted items, drop off some canned food items as well. U.P. Refuse will be collecting canned food during the Spring Clean-Up to donate to the local food bank operated by Families Unlimited Network. There is a **one visit per household limit for garbage/recycling but no limit for yard waste and canned food.**

Contact U.P. Refuse for additional details on clean-up rules or with any questions at 253.564.3212.

Spring Clean-Up Details!



Who:	U.P. Residents
What:	Waste & recycling drop off and canned food drive
When:	Saturday, Apr. 13 – residents north of 40th Street Saturday, Apr. 20 – residents south of 40th Street
Hours:	9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Cost:	FREE, with valid ID showing U.P. address
Where:	U.P. Refuse, 2815 Rochester Street West (just off 27th)

Note: No liquids, paint or hazardous material

Tahoma Audubon Society will hold Spring Open House

A Spring Open House will take place on John James Audubon's birthday, Friday, Apr. 26 from 10 a.m.–5 p.m. at the Adriana Hess Wetland Park, 2917 Morrison Road West.

A free guided plant and bird walk will start at 10:30 a.m. Audubon prints will be on display for viewing and available to purchase and the Nature Shop will be open, too! Call 253.565.9278 for questions or more information.

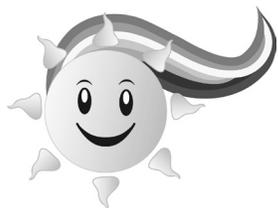
Like gardens? Save this date

Back by popular demand, the 2013 U.P. Tour of Gardens, is just that – a focus exclusively on beautiful gardens in U.P. Presented by the U.P. Historical Society, the tour will both entertain and educate the community regarding horticulture, landscaping and sustainable gardening practices.

The U.P. Tour Of Gardens will be held Saturday, Jun. 8 and Sunday, Jun. 9 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day.

Please contact Howard or Barbara Lee at 253.778.6717 or go to the UPHS webpage at www.uphistoricalsociety.org to learn about volunteer activities related to the Tour.

Thank you in advance for your volunteer time!



Mark your calendar for the University Place Festival

We send a big thank you to last year's sponsors and vendors, and are looking forward to another great year this year!

Put Saturday, Aug. 3 in your planners now – the Festival will again feature local and regional entertainment, food concessions, art and local vendors, and family activities.

If you are interested in volunteering or want more information about booth space or sponsorships, contact Denise McCluskey at 253.678.1520 or dmclcluskey@CityofUP.com.

Battle In The Orchard seeks participants!

Hope you've been practicing, it's that time of year again! Local youth between the ages of 13-21 are encouraged to enter this year's battle of the bands, Battle In The Orchard. For the past two years there has been an incredible amount of talent involved in this event and if you are musically inclined, you should definitely try your luck!

Auditions will be held in-person in June or you can enter online by emailing: kayla@battleintheorchard.com. All-genres and styles of music are welcome. The Final Round will be held on Thursday, Jun. 27 at the Curran Apple Orchard. The winner will receive bragging rights, a prize pack, and perhaps a future performance opportunity or two.

For more information and to see previous years' winners, please visit: www.battleintheorchard.com.

City Budget 101, continued

City Revenues

The City receives revenue from a variety of sources. All revenue sources are restricted by State law, and many revenue sources are restricted in how they may be expended. Most of the City's more flexible "general" revenues are derived from four primary sources: property tax, sales tax, utility tax and fees/charges.

Property Tax

Property tax is the City's largest single source of revenue. But you may be surprised to learn that, as shown to the right, the City only receives a small fraction of the property taxes paid by our businesses and residents. The City's portion of your property tax bill is about 8% – approximately \$30 a month for the average homeowner. The remaining 92% is distributed amongst the State, the County, the School District, the Fire District, the Library District and the Port of Tacoma.

You also may be surprised to learn that all of the property taxes paid to the City are dedicated to Public Safety. In 2011, the City Council adopted an ordinance dedicating 100% of property tax revenue to Public Safety so that residents can directly track the property taxes they pay and the police services they receive.

2012 Property Taxes

University Place, WA



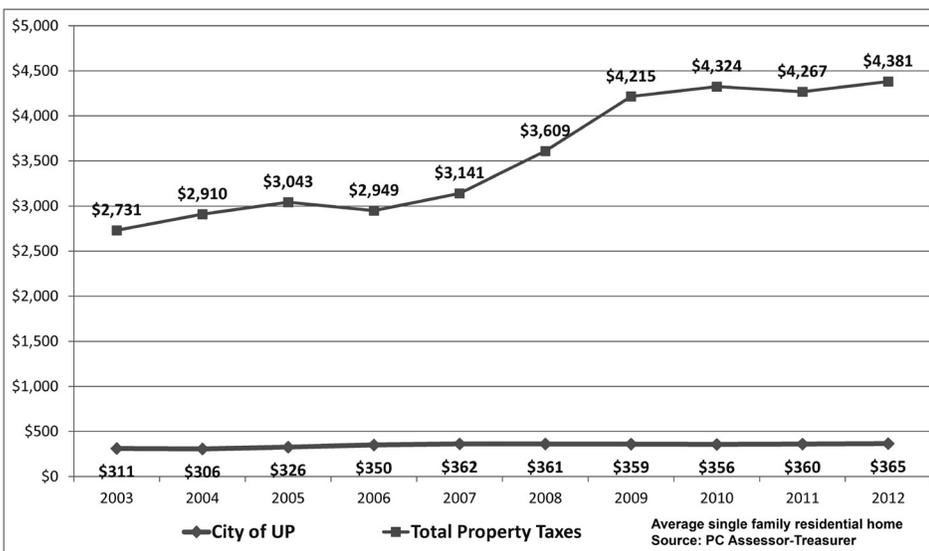
Schools, Fire, State,
County, Port, Library

City

The City of University Place receives
8¢ out of every \$1.00 paid in property tax

Source: Pierce County
Assessor-Treasurer

Average City and Total Property Taxes in University Place: 2003-2012



This limitation is best illustrated by the chart above. The amount of City property tax paid by the average homeowner has increased very slowly over the past ten years – from \$311 in 2003 to \$365 in 2012.

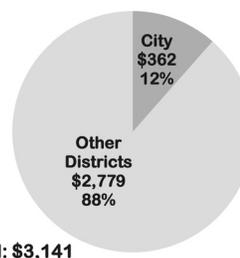
The answer provided above, however, often generates our second most common question, which is, "If the City's taxes have remained relatively constant, why has my total tax bill increased so much over the years?" The answer here is easy to explain – over the past few years, voters have approved tax increases for the school, library and the fire districts. Because the City receives such a small percentage of the total amount of property taxes paid, increases in the total amount due is impacted more significantly by the amount of property tax paid to other jurisdictions.

The City often receives questions about property tax. The most common question we have received recently is, "Why are my taxes going up even though my home's assessed value has declined?" The answer to this question is based on how tax rates are calculated in Washington State.

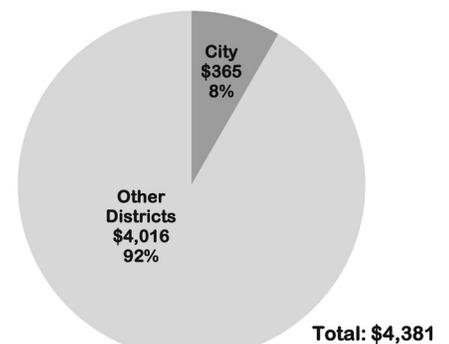
As a result of one of the initiatives mentioned above, our State limits the annual growth rate in the amount of money a city can receive from property taxes to 1% per year. In other words, if a city collected \$1.00 in total property taxes last year, the city can only collect \$1.01 in property taxes the following year. The primary exception to this rule is if voters approve a tax increase.

The result of this law is that a homeowner with a home that increases or decreases in value at the same rate of increase or decrease as the average for all homes in the city will pay 1% more in taxes each subsequent year. The actual tax rate can vary dramatically, increasing or decreasing each year so that the city's total property tax revenue increases by no more than 1% than it received the prior year.

2007: Where Your University Place Property Taxes Go



2012: Where Your University Place Property Taxes Go



Sales Tax

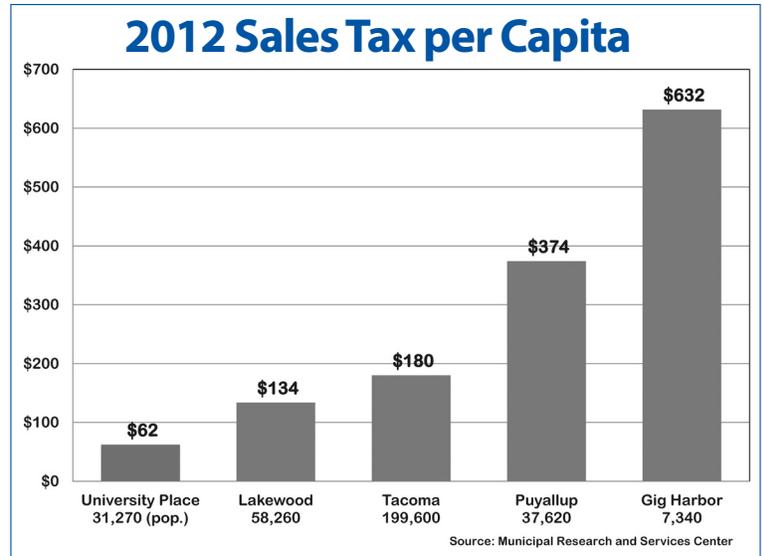
The City's sales tax rate is established by State law. The City receives less than one cent on every \$1.00 purchase. The largest recipient of sales tax is the State, which receives six and one half cents for every \$1.00 purchase. In total, the City receives less sales tax revenue than all other major Pierce County cities.

Utility Tax

About 20% of the City's operating revenue comes from utility taxes, which are part of residential and commercial utility bills. The tax is 6% on telephone, cable, cell phone, gas/electric and garbage bills. This revenue fluctuates based on utility usage. For example, when we experience a warm winter, the City generally receives less utility tax revenue due to reduced utility use.

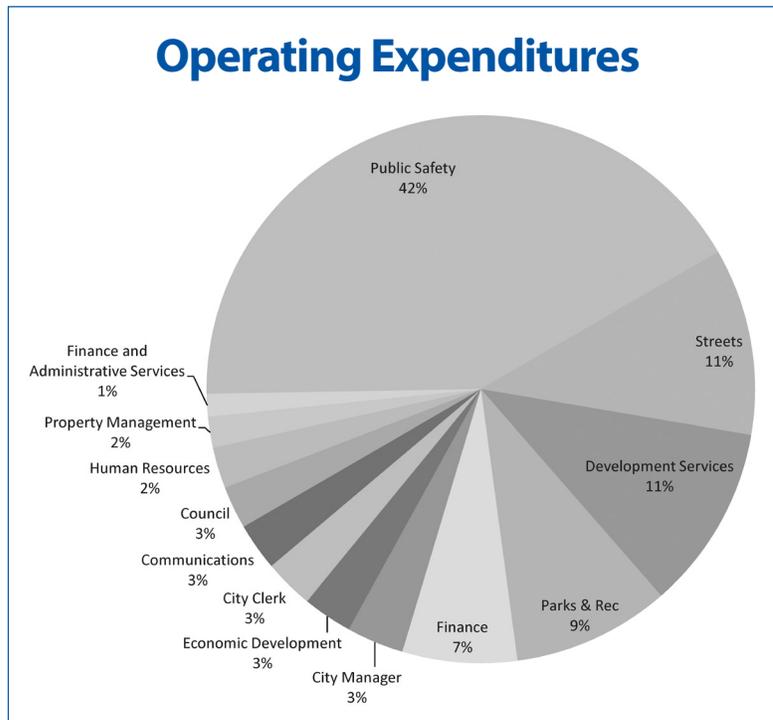
Fees and Charges

The remaining 25% to 30% of the City's operating budget comes from a variety of sources, including franchise fees, animal control, permit fees, grants, etc. Many of these revenues sources are restricted to expenditure for particular uses or utilized to provide specific services (e.g., recreation fees for recreation activities). Overall, the City receives less general revenue per capita than is received by other cities our size.



City Expenditures

It is difficult to talk about a specific City expenditure without providing an important context – namely, the source of revenue utilized to fund the expenditure. This is because the City's budget is divided into several categories based on funding source. Generally speaking, this division is not by choice, but instead results from State law or contractual limitations that require certain “dedicated revenues” to be spent on specific services, programs or projects.



For example, the money used to build sidewalks and street lights along Grandview Drive could not have been used to pay for police services. In fact, the money could not have been used to provide even ongoing maintenance for the improvements constructed. These legal or contractual restrictions often create the scenario whereby a city may have sufficient revenue to provide certain services that we might regard as less important than services for which there is inadequate funding.

About 40% of the City's expenditures are funded by dedicated revenues. The remaining 60% of the City's revenue, however, is available for general purposes and is part of the City's operating budget. Here too, however, State law plays an important role. While many of the services funded by the operating budget are discretionary, some of the City's staffing and services are required by State law.

The City is legally required to have a city council, city manager, city clerk, treasurer/finance director, city attorney and police chief. The City also is legally required to provide certain services, such as maintaining certain records, responding to public records requests, accounting for public funds, comprehensive planning and zoning, and processing permits. Cities can choose to take on additional responsibilities such as street maintenance, parks development and maintenance, recreation activities and economic development.

Curiously, police services in excess of those provided by the Police Chief are considered discretionary and are not legally mandated. Public Safety is the City's largest single expenditure – accounting for over 40% of the City's operating budget. Street maintenance, permitting and

development services, recreation, parks maintenance, and financial accounting services account for a little less than 40% of the City's operating budget. The remaining 20% of the budget covers all other services.

It is important to note that the City does not provide certain services that our residents receive from other entities, including:

- U.P. and Tacoma School Districts
- Pierce County Fire District #3
- Pierce County Sewer Utility
- Pierce County Library System
- U.P. Refuse and LeMay Refuse
- Utilities (Tacoma Public Utilities, PG&E, and various phone/cable companies)

For more information about the City's budget, please visit the City's website at www.CityofUP.com or contact Assistant City Manager Eric Faison at 253.460.5443.

Spring into safety!

As we head into spring, with dreams of sun and warmer days, we can't let our personal safety get off track. We want you to bring in spring fire-free, injury-free, and healthy. Here are a few safety reminders from West Pierce Fire & Rescue that can help you spring into safety.

"Buckle up," "4 foot 9 boost them every time," "The back seat is the best seat."

These are just a few of the slogans reminding us how important it is to be properly restrained when traveling in a motor vehicle. Seatbelts save lives and the law requires their use by all persons not covered by the state's child restraint law. Children up to their 8th birthday, unless they are 4'9" tall (whichever comes first), must ride in a child restraint. And children under the age of 13 are required to travel in the back seat where it is practical to do so.

With the advent of daylight savings time in March, this is a good time to get familiar with your smoke alarm.

Are your alarms hard wired with battery backup? What type of batteries do your alarms use (9-volt or 10-year lithium)? Have you cleaned and tested your alarm recently? Does everyone know the sound of the alarm and what to do when it sounds? We want you to know your alarm and plan and practice a home fire escape plan.

West Pierce Fire & Rescue Awarded Funding for Smoke Alarm Program

West Pierce Fire & Rescue received a grant that will fund more than 2,500 smoke alarms to be installed in residences within Lakewood and University Place. Installations will be done by appointment by West Pierce Fire & Rescue personnel.

This program funds smoke alarms with a 10-year battery. The battery will not need to be changed each year like a typical 9-volt, but will need to be tested monthly to ensure it is working properly.

Appointments can be made based on the following criteria:

- **If your smoke alarms are more than 10 years old.** However, if your home has smoke alarms that are *hard-wired* into your electrical system, we cannot replace them, as the protection you have is greater than the battery powered alarms can offer.
- **If you do not have alarms *inside and outside* each sleeping area.** We recommend a smoke alarm is in each sleeping area, as well as in the hallway outside. If you do not have alarms in both places, we can add alarms where they are needed.
- **If your smoke alarms are not working properly.** We can replace battery operated alarms that are not currently working properly. However, if you have *hard-wired* alarms, we cannot replace those with a battery operated alarm.
- **If you are not sure what kind of smoke alarms you currently have.** Please call us to make an appointment and we can assess your current alarms. We will then replace or add any alarms we can for you.

Installations are scheduled based on need and the appointment days rotate from week to week. To schedule an appointment, please contact Captain Jenny Weekes at 253.983.4574 or via email at jenny.weekes@westpierce.org.

During a power outage, be prepared in order to protect your family and home from a fire.

Have flashlights and battery powered lanterns on hand for light. 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 screen in front of the fireplace and keep all combustibles three feet away.

Be healthy, be happy.

Along with the American Heart Association, we encourage you to live better with Life's Simple 7: get active, control your cholesterol, eat better, manage your blood pressure, lose weight, reduce your blood sugar and stop smoking. We also ask you to learn the signs and symptoms of heart attack and stroke and take a CPR class.

Firefighters Reward Kids Being "Caught" with Their Helmet On

Firefighters at West Pierce Fire & Rescue will be rewarding non-motorized riders for their safety efforts with a "Safe Rider Citation" card. This program is intended to increase life safety on the streets and reduce the risk of injury. This program is provided by Safe Kids Pierce County and McDonald's restaurants statewide.

Biking is a fun way for children to be active and get outside, but can be dangerous if safety precautions are not followed. Head injury is the single most common type of injury sustained from bicycle crashes.

Riders wearing the proper safety gear and following the rules of the road will be given a Safe Rider Citation card by police officers and firefighters. These cards are good for a free Happy Meal at participating McDonald's restaurants. One citation can be redeemed per person, per visit.

For more information on this program or for information on custom-fit bicycle helmets, please contact West Pierce Fire & Rescue at 253.564.1623.



School Safety

The University Place Police Department takes the safety of our children in our schools very seriously. According to the Centers for Disease Control, about 828,000 children were hurt by school violence in 2010. Whether it be a student to student fight, domestic violence spill-over, weapon possession or even an active shooter scenario, your police department trains for and plans for a quick and effective response.

Your deputies obtain annual training in defensive tactics, firearms qualification and progressive active shooter training each year. After Columbine in 1999, we recognized that our response needed to change. No longer was 'surround and negotiate' a good tactic. A homicidal school shooter wants to negotiate nothing. The shooter will continue to kill until

he or she can be confronted and stopped. We now train to enter the building and attempt to end the threat as quickly as possible.

Our deputies train at a vacant three-story dormitory in east Pierce County each year. The deputies start in a classroom and are taught the concepts needed to respond to an active shooter in an effective manner, including with minimal resources. Students are taught patrol officer rescue tactics, basic care under fire procedures, and tactics for containing barricaded persons. Students go through varied scenarios which simulate an active shooter scene. The scenarios include tactical approaches, rifle team and shield team tactics as well as critical thinking while under live fire from Simunition. Our active shooter training has changed the mindset of our

deputies. We realize we will save the lives of children by entering the building as fast as possible to end the threat.

The safety of our children in our community is, in my opinion, one of the paramount responsibilities we have as a citizenry and certainly as a police officer. Our police department is partnering with Crime Stoppers of Tacoma-Pierce County to encourage more pro-active reporting of weapon violations and other crime. Look for more information to be coming soon. I ask all of you to report weapon possession immediately to school staff and to call 911 or Tacoma-Pierce County Crime Stoppers at 253.591.5959.

Mike Blair, University Place Police Chief



Warm weather reminder from your Public Safety Team

As the weather heats up and so do thefts from vehicles...how can you fight back?

- Always lock your vehicle.
- Please remember when you tuck that purse under the seat – someone may be watching you.
- Don't leave valuable items in your car... credit cards, checkbooks, jewelry, bank & ATM statements, wallets /purses, keys (even if they aren't for that vehicle), mail, vehicle title, garage door openers, CDs & portable CD players, cell phones and day planners.
- Report suspicious people and activity immediately to police using 911 – do not underestimate the importance of simply reporting suspicious activity.
- Install a vehicle alarm system.
- Install and USE removable stereo / electronic equipment.

C.E.R.T. (Community Emergency Response Team) University Place Sessions: Apr. 29 – May 18, 2013

West Pierce Fire & Rescue invites citizens who live or work in the University Place and Lakewood area to attend CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) classes. Aimed at preparing groups of citizens in our community to prepare for and respond to disasters, the classes will follow a model developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and be offered in cities across the United States.

The idea behind this model is to teach people in neighborhoods how to help each other in the first few minutes or hours following a disaster – before emergency responders are able to get to them to render professional help. In the classes, student will gain hands-on skills such as how to put out small fires, render first aid in a disaster situation, and perform light search and rescue.

The series of six classes will be held Apr. 29 through May 15, on Monday and Wednesday evenings for three weeks, from 6:30–9 p.m., and will culminate in a practical exercise to be held

on Saturday, May 18 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Classes will be held at Fire District locations – see location notes below for each class. Instructors will be uniformed firefighters with special experience in the particular area, or subject matter experts from other areas. The classes are free!

We will accept up to 25 students in this series of classes. There is no prerequisite, other than a desire to learn and help others. It is important that if you enroll, you be available to attend all sessions to receive the CERT certificate. To enroll, contact West Pierce Fire & Rescue at 253.983.4580 or cert@westpierce.org.

Class Schedule

Apr. 29–Disaster Preparedness (Station 32); May 1–Fire Safety (Station 21); May 6–Disaster Medical 1 (Station 32); May 8–Disaster Medical 2 (Station 32); May 13–Light Search & Rescue (Station 32); May 15–CERT Organization & CERT Psychology (Station 32); May 18–Final Exercise (Station 21).

Copper theft is on the rise – and we need your help

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.

We are asking our citizens to help us by reporting any suspicious activity at our City parks, streetlights and facilities (including poles and lines near your home) to the nearest law enforcement agency.

City crews can be easily identified by their white service trucks with the City of University Place logo



CALL 911 to report a crime in progress, or call Public Works at 253.460.6493 to report other suspicious activity.

Bootcamp for all levels!

Are you ready to get fit? This class is designed to continually “shock” the body; as research demonstrates it is the most efficient and effective way to improve your cardiovascular system, lose weight and build/tone muscle. The endless variety of exercises will ensure no two classes are the same, and every class will feel new and exciting, with the best fat burning, body sculpting exercises to help improve your fitness level, tone up and slim down. Take each class at your own pace!



Tuesdays & Thursdays 6–7 p.m.
 \$129 – eight weeks (16 classes)
 Spring Session: Apr. 2 – May 30
 No class during Spring Break – 4/16 & 18

Class location will be determined by number of participants.
 For more information or to register call the Parks & Recreation Office at 253.460.2530 or register online at www.CityofUP.com.



About our instructor:

Lori Cooney is a graduate of the National Academy of Sports Medicine. Lori has made a life of educating others. She currently teaches physical fitness as well as is a Special Education Teacher, who works with students in a multitude of situations in the University Place School District. Lori has dedicated her life to physical fitness since her time as a high school and collegiate athlete. Now that Lori has become a personal trainer, she looks forward to combining her two favorite life lessons, education and physical fitness. Lori is a highly motivated direct person who will guide you in meeting your individual physical fitness goals.

Seniors on the beach in Seaside, Oregon

Tuesday–Thursday, May 7-9 Fee: \$315 double/\$445 single



Spend two nights and three days enjoying the beauty of the ocean! Seaside and the surrounding areas offer great shops, wonderful restaurants and constant beauty. Accommodations (complete with an ocean view) will be at the Shilo Inn Resort, where you will also enjoy a delicious welcome dinner.

You will have a choice between side trips: A full day in Salem (including Camp 18, Historic Deepwood Estates & Honeywood Winery), touring Astoria (including Flavel House & Maritime Museum) or Cannon Beach & Tillamook Cheese Factory. Plan for three days packed with adventure, friends and breathtaking views of the Pacific!

Included in your trip fee: hotel stay, welcome dinner, choice of Wednesday excursion, transportation, and trip management. Registration and payment deadline is Apr. 5 (rooms may be available after this date, but not guaranteed). Full refunds on cancellations will not be provided after this date. \$100 non-refundable deposit will hold your room. Call 253.564.1992 for more info.

Coming this Spring

Learn to play Bridge – or just improve your game.



Free classes will begin in April!

Call the Senior Center for details and a schedule, 253.564.1992.

Become a Patron of Beautification

Patrons of Beautification are special residents who support beautification improvements in our community that otherwise would not be covered by the City’s limited resources. Sponsored projects include city-wide plantings of more than 75,000 flower bulbs, purchase of decorative trash receptacles and bicycle racks and purchase of lighted Christmas decorations that annually line Bridgeport Way.

You, too, can become a special Patron of Beautification. Just fill in this coupon, and mail it with your check to:

Patron of Beautification, Attn: Marian Holloway, 3715 Bridgeport Way W, University Place WA 98466.

Sponsorship Level (circle one): \$25 Petunia \$50 Geranium \$75 Violet \$100 Marigold \$250 Bulb-buster \$500 Green Thumb

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____

Please charge my () Visa () MasterCard, Card Number: _____ Exp Date: _____ CCV: _____

Name: _____ Address: _____ City: _____ Phone: _____

Authorizing Signature: _____



Spring Break Camp UPlay!

Parents, are you looking for a safe and fun environment for your school-age children during the spring break from school? Look no more! University Place Parks & Recreation is offering School's Out Camp UPlay. There's no need to stress about childcare or take unwanted time off work, we're here for you!



Camp will be held at Curtis Junior High School, with drop-off in the gym, during **the week of Apr. 15-19**. Kids grades K-5 will spend the week playing games, doing projects, sport activities, guitar hero and much, much more! Not to mention a field trip to end their week at camp!

Regular camp hours are 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. and extended hours are 7 a.m. – 6 p.m. Fees for regular hours: Residents – \$100, non-residents – \$110. Fees for extended hours: Residents – \$120, non-residents – \$130.

For more information or to register, stop in at the Recreation Office!



**Check out the
Spring & Summer 2013
Recreation Program Guide
at www.CityofUP.com to see what's
happening for the next six months!**

Coaches needed

We are looking for volunteers to coach teams in our Co-ed Leagues as well as our Boys Baseball & Girls Softball Leagues. We have teams for as young as Pre-K to 14U/7th grade. We serve between 900-1,000 in our baseball program, with around 90 teams, many of which will need coaches.

If you are interested or would like information, you can download a coach's packet at www.CityofUP.com or stop in to the Recreation Office to pick one up and fill it out.

Baseball Team Sponsors needed



U.P. Parks & Recreation is looking for sponsors for the upcoming Youth Sports season. Our Youth Baseball & Softball season is our biggest all year! With nearly 1,000 kids and 90 teams, we are looking to the community to help support each team.

Sponsorships cost \$195 for one team, \$700 for four teams, or \$1,000 for six teams. Get your business name on the back of the jerseys! For more information or to sponsor, contact the Parks & Recreation Office at 253.460.2530. Deadline to sponsor is Mar. 28.

Youth Cultural Arts

Various dance classes with six-week sessions beginning in May.

Creative Movement/pre ballet for 3-5 years old

Ballet for the beginner for 5-8 years old

Jazz for beginners for 8-12 years old

Hip Hop for beginners for 7-12 years old

Sign up today – 253.460.2530!

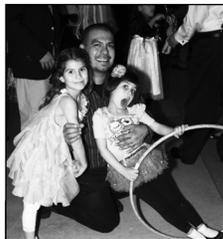
Dads & daughters danced (or sang) til they dropped!

On Feb. 9, the University Place Parks & Recreation Department hosted the 10th annual Daddy Daughter Dance at Curtis High School. This event was a HUGE success! We had record numbers pre-register as well as register at the door with a grand total of attendance for this event at 621 dads and daughters. Parks & Recreation isn't just about youth sports, dance classes, senior programs or trips. We may serve 500 in our basketball league but for one night of the year to serve well over 600 people for a two and a half hour event is incredible!

With the help of our UPYC and volunteer staff, this event has become a tradition for so many in and around our community. These dads and daughters are making memories that will truly last a lifetime...that is so important to us

and we are so happy to be a part of that experience for them.

A special thank you to Forza Coffee for their continued support of this event. Our dads have been so grateful for the coffee donated to this amazing event.



Chambers Creek Trail Open House successful

On the evening of Jan. 29, 2013, 85 people from Lakewood, Steilacoom and University Place came together for an open house about the proposed Chambers Creek Trail extension. This was the first step in developing an implementation plan for the Chambers Creek Trail – a 2013 University Place City Council goal. With support from the Pierce County Executive and a partnership with the City of Lakewood, we have been able to move forward with planning to extend the Chambers Creek Trail from the Trailhead at Chambers Bay to Kobayashi Park.

The open house was attended by several City Councilmembers, staff and members of the City's Planning Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission and several

members of the Lakewood Parks and Recreation Commission.

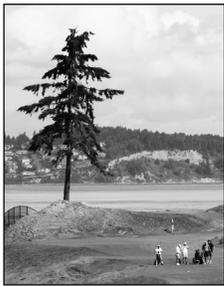
The open house was held at the Pierce County Environmental Services Building. Several stations were set up around in the large meeting room where attendees could learn about various aspects of the trails planning, design and implementation efforts. Comments, questions and concerns were solicited from the public using flip charts around the room and comment cards placed on tables.

The cities will use the questions and comments received in the development of a draft trail implementation plan. Public hearing on the draft plan will be held in University Place, Pierce County and Lakewood later this year. The cities



are seeking volunteers and partners to help in building the trail, once the plan is adopted.

Countdown: 2015 U.S. Open



In preparation for the much-anticipated 2015 U.S. Open, which will be held at Chambers Bay, we will regularly be featuring the answers to your frequently asked questions about the tournament, traffic impact, lodging, parking, volunteer opportunities, etc.

Today's question: What is the U.S. Open?

The U.S. Open is the national golf championship of the United States. It was first played in 1895 and is conducted annually in June. Winners of the U.S. Open have included some of the greatest players in golf history, such as Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus and Tiger Woods. The championship is played at a different site every year, and the courses that host the U.S. Open are among the best in the world. There have been just 50 facilities to host the U.S. Open, and most have been private clubs or high-end resorts. Only two municipally owned facilities, Bethpage in New York and Torrey Pines in California, have hosted the U.S. Open.

The U.S. Open is one of golf's four major championships, along with the Masters (played in April), British Open (July) and the PGA Championship (August). The 2015 U.S. Open at Pierce County-owned Chambers Bay, in University Place, will be the 115th playing of the national championship, and it will be the first to be conducted in the Pacific Northwest.

Questions and answers provided courtesy of Chambers Bay Golf. For more information, visit www.chambersbaygolf.com.

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
- Rainier Country

Visit our Website: www.CityofUP.com/Page49.aspx for a weekly schedule. Send program suggestions and comments to

UPTV@CityofUP.com

or call Linda Seesz, Communications/I.T. Manager, at 253.460.2537.

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