

# Headlines

News from University Place City Hall



**March 17, 2021**

## **City of University Place Honors Former Mayor Lorna Smith**

Flags in front of the University Place Municipal Building flew at half-staff earlier this week to honor former U.P. Mayor Lorna Smith who passed away on March 13.

Smith spent more than 15 years in service to the City of U.P., both as an advocate for its incorporation and later as a City Council Member, Mayor Pro Tem and Mayor from 2000 to 2002. She was a tireless public servant, who in addition to her work with University Place also represented the City on several regional organizations, including the Pierce County Regional Council, Pierce County Cities and Towns, the State Route 16 Corridor Study and the Association of Washington Cities, to name just a few.



"Lorna had a vision—a vision for what she believed University Place could be if it were in charge of its own destiny—but she also possessed the willpower and work ethic to make it happen," said Caroline Belleci, mayor of University Place. "She inspired me to volunteer and to get involved in city government. I am personally forever grateful to Lorna for that, and I know she inspired many others as well."

According to her granddaughter Elena Anderson, Smith was a native of Eugene, Ore., and never finished high school. Yet she went on to become a successful businesswoman and community activist in addition to her roles as a wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. "She would always tell us that you have to have goals," recalled Anderson. "And you have to be involved in the community and help others."

Lorna Smith is survived by her husband of 43 years, Elmer Smith, three

daughters, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Graveside services will be held at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, March 23 at **New Tacoma Cemetery**, 9212 Chambers Creek Road W., University Place.

## Chief's Corner

Many thanks to the citizens who joined me on March 4 for the first of our "Conversations with the Chief." I appreciate the level of engagement they demonstrated and their desire to get information first-hand, as opposed to through the grapevine.

These virtual conversations are an opportunity for us to explore topics related to policing in greater detail. On March 4, we looked at use of force and answered questions from participants regarding:

- When is use of force appropriate?
- Racial disparities in use of force
- The use of body cameras
- The impact of home video surveillance camera footage
- U.P. arrest figures versus neighboring communities

This was also a great opportunity to remind folks that many of these issues were covered by outside experts in even greater detail during our **fall Public Safety Academy classes**. We will host another virtual Academy beginning on Wednesday, April 14 and encourage all University Place residents and business owners to enroll. Keep an eye out for more details and registration information soon.

Our goal is to continue to keep the lines of communication and education open and to make sure everyone has an opportunity to ask questions and have their voice be heard. I thank everyone for their input and dedication to keeping our community as safe and welcoming as it can be.

## VIRTUAL PUBLIC SAFETY ACADEMY

Begins in April!  
Email [UPPublicSafety@CityofUP.com](mailto:UPPublicSafety@CityofUP.com)  
for more details.



Hosted by the  
University Place  
Police Department



## What's UP with Biz!

**LakiKid** is a U.P.-based e-commerce company that provides an online support network for parents of children with special learning needs such as autism, ADHD and Sensory Processing Disorder. It offers monthly video educational blogs and a Sensory Adventure Club which provides children with fun games and activities that meet their physical fitness needs. LakiKid also has an online store with products such as toys to help with fine motor skills, and weighted blankets and stuffed animals designed to reduce anxiety.



According to the company's co-founder, Jason Hsieh, these items are used in more than 300 locations across the country, including NBA arenas, football and baseball stadiums, aquariums and zoos as part of KultureCity's Sensory Inclusive Initiative program. KultureCity is a nonprofit organization, dedicated to building acceptance and inclusion for all people with autism. "We believe that every kid is different and beautiful in their own way," Hsieh says. "And everyone deserves a chance to learn and become their fullest self in this wonderful life."

In just four short years, LakiKid has helped more than 20,000 children and their parents. U.P. is proud to have LakiKid in our community!

## Give it a Shot: An Important Reminder about COVID Vaccines

Reference **the Phase Finder tool** for details on who qualifies for each phase of the vaccination roll-out and how to make an appointment for your injection.

Don't wait. ***Vaccination is the best way to bring about the end to the pandemic.***



## Keep Coyotes at Bay

The good news is that spring has sprung. The bad news is that means the City is getting more reports of coyote sightings in University Place neighborhoods. Although coyotes are common in urban areas, especially as their natural habitats are encroached upon by development, their presence can be unsettling.

Here are some key points to avoid attracting coyotes to your neighborhood and

what to do if you spy one:

- Don't create a coyote all-you-can-eat buffet. Never feed them intentionally and avoid inadvertent feeding by securing all trash and compost in tightly closed containers. Pick up fallen fruit under trees and shrubs.
- Bird feeders can be a neon sign for coyotes. Although coyotes' primary diet consists of rodents, rabbits and birds, consider that mice are attracted to waste seed cast to the ground by birds. If coyotes know mice are feeding, they are likely to join in the feast as well.
- Keep small dogs and cats inside during non-daylight hours. Not only may they be prey to a hungry coyote, but they may carry diseases or parasites that, although rarely a risk to humans, could be a risk to domestic dogs. Make sure dogs are vaccinated for canine distemper to prevent them from contracting the disease from coyotes.
- Keep small dogs and cats inside during non-daylight hours. Not only may they be prey, to a hungry coyote, but they may carry diseases or parasites that although rarely a risk to humans, could be a risk to domestic dogs. Make sure dogs are vaccinated for canine distemper to prevent them from contracting the disease from coyotes.
- Although coyotes tend to avoid humans, if you or your children encounter one, don't run. Put your arms above your head to look as large as possible, throw objects in its direction or clap your hands, and shout in an authoritative voice. Coyotes are naturally timid so you want to leave them with a negative association of humans.
- If you spot a coyote or suspect you've lost a pet to a coyote, notify your neighbors. Once a coyote finds easy prey it will continually hunt in the area.



Residents who encounter dangerous wildlife are urged to contact Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) at 877.933.9847 or call 911. Keep in mind that live trapping is not successful with coyotes. For a list of licensed wildlife control operators or trappers, visit the **WDFW website**.

## **U.P. Hosted a COVID-19 Mobile Vaccine Site**

On Wednesday, March 16, 2021 the City of U.P. hosted a Mobile Vaccine Site where 436 doses of the COVID Vaccine were distributed. Pierce County, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, medical volunteers, U.P. Police, West Pierce Fire & Rescue and City staff all helped make the operation run smoothly and efficiently!

Visit **TPCHD.org** for more upcoming community vaccine dates and locations.



## City of U.P. Developing Housing Action Plan

The City of University Place is developing a Housing Action Plan (HAP) that will encourage future construction of additional affordable and market-rate housing throughout the city. The HAP will offer recommendations and possible actions that the City can consider as it plans for the next 20 years of growth. The HAP process itself will not result in any Comprehensive Plan policy or development regulation changes at this time.



This effort fulfills the requirements of a 2019 Washington State Department of Commerce \$5 million grant to support activities that increase residential building capacity and streamline development by:

- Quantifying existing and projected housing needs for all income levels, including extremely low-income and cost-burdened households.
- Developing strategies to increase the supply and type of housing.
- Analyzing population and employment trends.
- Strategizing ways to minimize displacement of low-income residents due to redevelopment.
- Reviewing and evaluating current success in attaining planned housing types and units, achievement of goals and policies, and implementation of the schedule of programs and actions.
- Inviting participation and input from community members, community groups, local builders and realtors, nonprofit housing advocates and area religious groups.

Visit the **HAP page on the City's website** to view documents such as the draft Housing Action Plan, information on housing affordability in University Place and the HAP project schedule.

The City plans to have the HAP ready for adoption no later than May 31, 2021.

# NOW HIRING!



The City of University Place is hiring  
Temporary Seasonal Maintenance Workers

VIEW THESE AND OTHER JOB OPPORTUNITIES AT [WWW.CITYOFUP.COM](http://WWW.CITYOFUP.COM)

*Visit the **Job Opportunities** page on the City Website for job description and details! Applications are open until filled, with next review on Friday, March 26, 2021 at 4 p.m.*

U.P. Refuse & Recycling's

## FREE Spring Clean-UP

April 3 from 8am-4pm  
for UP residents living  
NORTH of 40th

April 10 from 8am-4pm  
for UP residents living  
SOUTH of 40th

Dispose of and/or recycle some unwanted items and yard waste for free!  
Residents of U.P. may bring their items to U.P. Refuse, 2815 Rochester St W.  
Limit 1 load per household, except for yard waste which is unlimited.

Complete details can be found at [www.uprefuse.com](http://www.uprefuse.com)

### Flashvote

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

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

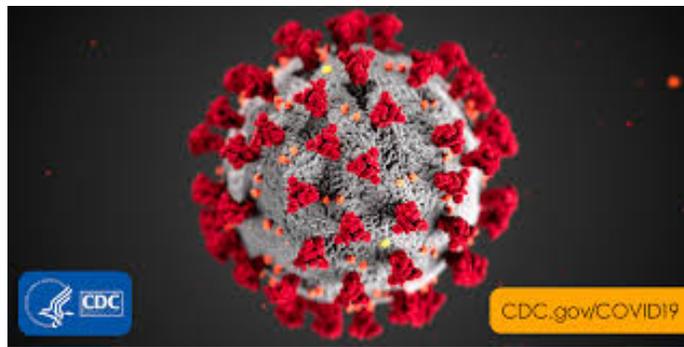


*The best way to survey and engage citizens*

Sign up now to take part in upcoming surveys!

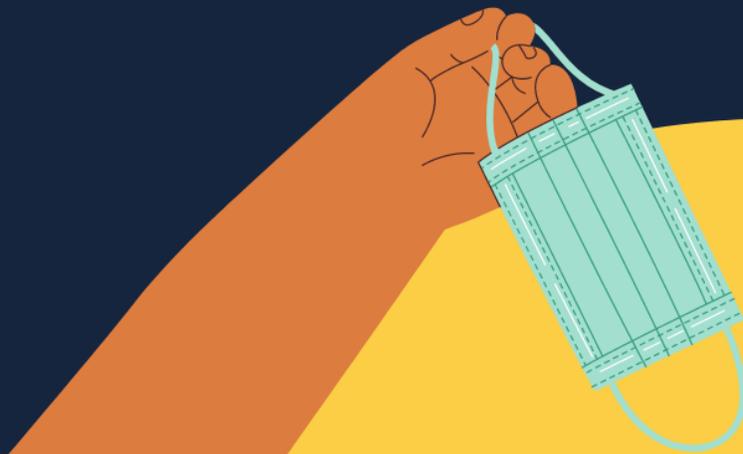
### Get the Facts: COVID Resources

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



- The **U.S. Centers for Disease Control** offers the latest facts and information about COVID-19, including information on travel and return to school or work.
- The **Governor's Office** provides details about on-going response efforts throughout the State of Washington, including the state's Risk Assessment Dashboard.
- The **Washington State Department of Health** provides updated statistics on the occurrence of COVID-19 across the state, as well as testing data.
- The **Tacoma-Pierce County Department of Health** and **Pierce County Government** provide important local information on testing sites, phased re-opening status and CARES Act funding to support recovery efforts.
- The City of University Place's dedicated **COVID-19 info page** includes valuable information on resources for businesses and residents, such as local school meal sites and public utilities' contact information for payment plans or assistance.

## Mask UP to prevent the spread of COVID-19

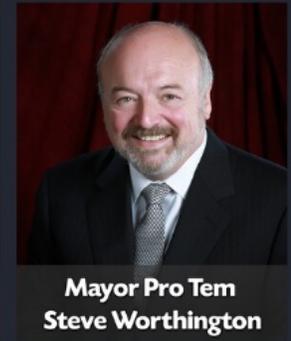


# UNIVERSITY PLACE VIRTUAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING



**Monday, April 5, 2021  
at 6:30 p.m.**

**[WWW.CITYOFUP.COM](http://WWW.CITYOFUP.COM)**





SOUTH SOUND  911

**NON-EMERGENCY LINES**  
**253-287-4455**  
**800-562-9800**



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**Mayor Caroline Belleci**



**Mayor Pro Tem  
Steve Worthington**



**Council Member  
Javier Figueroa**



**Council Member  
Kent Keel**



**Council Member  
Ken Grassi**



**Council Member Pro Tem  
Howard Lee**



**Council Member  
Denise McCluskey**



**Council Member  
Stan Flemming**

