

# Headlines

News from University Place City Hall



**April 28, 2021**

## **Voice Your Opinion on the Future of Homestead Park**

You have until this Friday, April 30 to participate in an important **survey about the future of Homestead Park**. The Parks Advisory Commission is seeking public input on plans to update the park and expand its potential uses.



Located at 3761 Bridgeport Way W., Homestead Park encompasses 5.5 acres and

includes wooded areas, walking trails, a fern grotto and a rhododendron collection. It is one of the City's most popular and well-used parks.

Given its location near the heart of the Village at Chambers Bay (formally known as Town Center) the park will remain protected and nurtured as an important element of the area's overall plan. But the Parks Advisory Commission also wants to know what the public thinks about adding facilities such as picnic shelters and restrooms, as well as hosting events in the park, including art shows, concerts, etc.

**The public is also invited to provide additional input at a virtual public meeting on April 28.** The Parks Advisory Commission will then meet on May 5 to refine its final recommendations that will be presented to the City Council on June 7.

**Join Zoom Meeting Today at 6 p.m.**

**One tap mobile: US: +12532158782,,98242042342# or +13462487799,,98242042342#**

**Meeting URL: Launch Meeting - Zoom**

**Meeting ID:** 982 4204 2342

Passcode: 918632

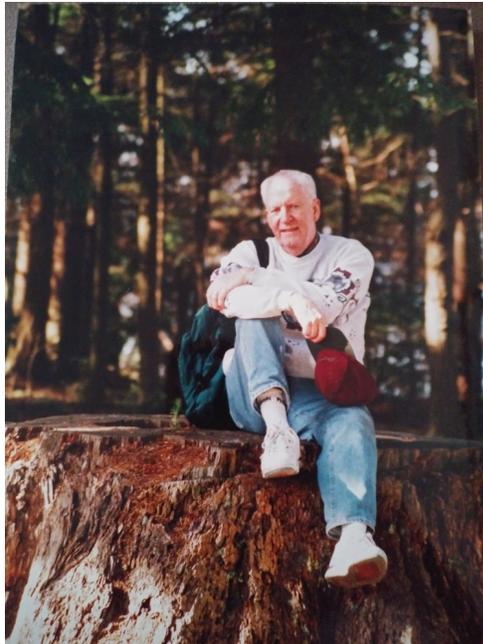
### **Join by Telephone**

For higher quality, dial a number based on your current location.

**Dial: US:** +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 669 900 6833 or +1 646 876 9923 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799

**Meeting ID:** 982 4204 2342

## **Chief's Corner: A Tribute to Don Cooper**



I am sad to report that the University Place community has lost a valued and dedicated volunteer. Don Cooper, who donated countless hours of his time to the U.P. Police Department for nearly 20 years, passed away on March 15.

Throughout his years as a volunteer, Don worked under five different police chiefs and meticulously managed the City's registered sex offenders' verification records as well as the school bus paddle violation program. As a trusted and dependable member of our public safety team, he was officially recognized by the City Council in October 2019 upon his "retirement" from his volunteer role.

But Don's generosity to University Place will continue on. His wife of 57 years, Barbara, recently contacted us to let us know that she would like to fund the purchase of a new K-9 dog and vest for service through the Pierce County Sheriff's Department, of which UPPD is a contract agency. The \$10,000 gift comes at a perfect time, given that one of the PCSD's four K-9 dogs is getting old and may likely leave active duty within the next year.

"This is exactly what Don would have wanted," Barbara said. "When I thought about his life and where his happiest volunteer place was, it was with the U.P. Police Department. He loved it."

Barbara and her family have chosen a name for the new dog: *Rainier*. Don worked on the mountain during school breaks and would go on to summit its peak three times. "He had a love affair with that mountain. In fact, I often called it the third person in our marriage," Barbara joked.

"Every once in a while we are fortunate to have someone cross our paths who leaves such a lasting impression that even when they are gone, their spirit stays with us," said Jennifer Hales, public safety administrator for the City of University Place. "There is no doubt that Don was that kind of person."

## **USGA Returns to Chambers Bay with Four-Ball**

## Tournament



The United States Golf Association has announced that it will host the 6th U.S. Amateur Four-Ball Championship at Chambers Bay from May 22-26, 2021. Four-ball is better known to some as “best ball” play.

At the U.S. Amateur Four-Ball Championship, teams of two players play their own balls and the lower score of the

side is counted for the hole. Each side will play 36 holes of stroke play to reduce the field from 128 teams (sides) to the lowest 32 for match play. Like other USGA championships, the match play draw will be seeded according to stroke-play scores. Match play will then be contested over the final three days of the competition to determine the national champion pair.

For more details, including the schedule of events, visit the **Chambers Bay website**.

## Economic Development Advisory Commission Names New Leadership

The City of U.P.’s Economic Development Advisory Commission (EDAC) has announced that Michael Gruener, production manager for U.P. Refuse and Recycling, is the group’s new chair and U.P. resident Joshua Koontz will serve as vice chair.

The EDAC is comprised of seven citizens who advocate for the implementation of the Economic Development Strategic Action Plan and serve as the “eyes and ears” for the City in the business community.

With their participation on the commission, both Gruener and Koontz say they are pleased to have the opportunity to give back to the community they call home. “University Place has supported my family’s livelihood for four generations,” Gruener said, noting that his great-grandfather started the business in 1942. “Serving in this role is an opportunity for me to give back to U.P. in a small way.”

Koontz, who also has deep ties to U.P., also hopes to help the City explore more ways to support diversity in the business community and bring new opinions and perspectives to its economic development efforts.

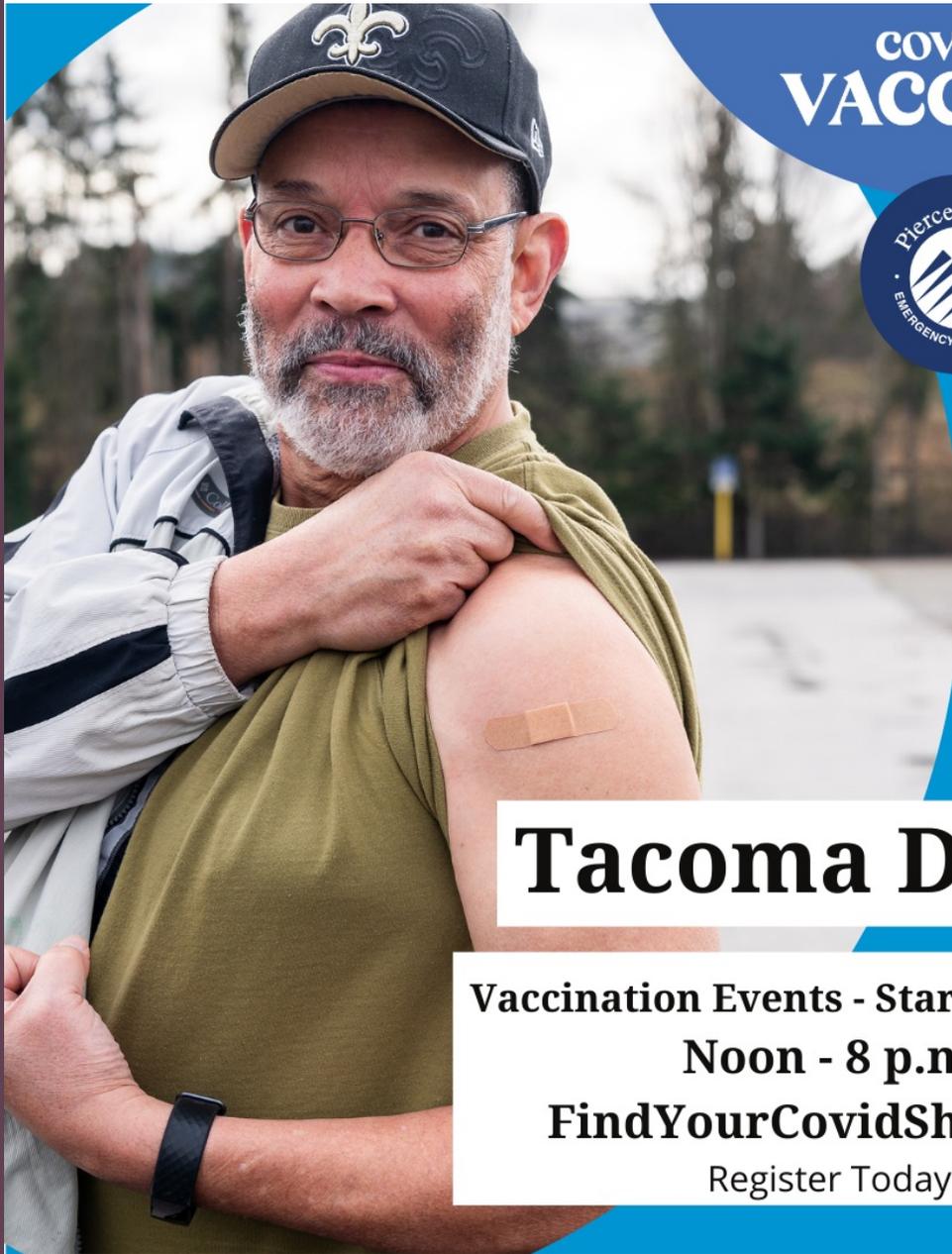
In the immediate future, however, both men agree that one of the highest priorities in the post-COVID era will be the need to remind people to support their local businesses. “The biggest challenge will be getting feet through the doors again,” Gruener said.



## COVID-19 Vaccine Availability

Beginning April 15, **everyone 16 and older is eligible** for the COVID-19 vaccine.

To find upcoming vaccine events, visit the **Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department vaccine page**.



**COVID-19  
VACCINES**



**Tacoma Dome**

**Vaccination Events - Starting April 27**  
**Noon - 8 p.m.**  
**[FindYourCovidShot.com](https://www.findyourcovidshot.com)**  
Register Today!

## Well Done, U.P.!



The City of University Place has earned **WellCity** status from the Association of Washington Cities (AWC). By successfully meeting WellCity requirements established by the AWC Employee Benefit Trust, the City will save **two percent** on all AWC Trust active medical premiums in 2022.

This marks the sixth year that U.P. has earned this designation. But what makes the 2021 WellCity status even more impressive is that the City of University Place and its employees earned this honor during a global pandemic. U.P. is one of only 105 other Trust-insured employers across the state that have been recognized for building a workplace culture where employee health is valued and supported through efforts such as wellness activities, incentives and education.

## U.P. Receives Excellence in Financial Reporting Award

The City of University Place's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2109 was awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA).

The report has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, which includes demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the report.

The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting. Its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.



Government Finance Officers Association

### Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

Presented to

#### City of University Place Washington

For its Comprehensive Annual  
Financial Report  
For the Fiscal Year Ended

December 31, 2019

*Christopher P. Morill*

Executive Director/CEO

*The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) advances excellence in government finance by providing best practices, professional development, resources, and practical research for more than 21,000 members and the communities they serve.*

## City Council to Receive 5G and Small Cell System Recommendations

At its May 3 meeting, the University Place City Council will review the Planning Commission's recommendations regarding the introduction of 5G wireless

technology across the city via Small Cell Distributed Network Systems.

Unlike macro systems that rely on tall towers, facilities on existing buildings and other structures such as water towers on private property, micro-systems (small cell) rely on small antenna located on

existing utility poles along public streets. Although macro antenna located on a few tall towers can have a range of several miles, micro antenna only range between 4,000 and 6,000 feet. Yet this tighter network can handle more signals at faster speeds. As few as 12 micro antennas can provide coverage for the entire city.



In drafting its recommendations, the Planning Commission reviewed Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulations regarding the **siting of Small Cell Distributed Network Systems**, including statutory requirements related to State and local government review of infrastructure siting applications. The Planning Commission's recommendations include these factors as well as proposed regulations regarding application and permit processing, modification of existing facilities and design standards for different types of antenna, antenna locations and ancillary equipment to protect the environment and U.P.'s community aesthetics.

The Planning Commission's recommendations can be **read in their entirety here** and are also posted on the City's **website**.

## It's Back! 2021 Garden Tour Resumes On-site Visits to Local Oases

The U.P. Historical Society will hold its popular **Garden Tours** in person on May 15 and 16. After offering virtual tours last



**University Place  
Historical Society**

year, the popular event will return to on-site visits of five stunning gardens in University Place, as well as the Curran Apple Orchard and Curran House. Tours will run from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on both days and all current state COVID protocols will be observed.

To get a sense of the beauty and creativity expressed in these hidden gems, take a look at these **videos of last year's gardens**, some of which will be open for in-person visits this year.

Early bird tickets are \$20 until May 1. After that, tickets are \$25, with proceeds benefitting the U.P. Historical Society. Download the ticket order form **here** or purchase them at Willow Tree Gardens and Interiors at 7216 27th St. W. After May 1, tickets will also be available at Chirp & Co. in Proctor and at Michael Morrison Sotheby's International Realty in Proctor and Gig Harbor.

Major sponsors of the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual U.P. Historical Society Garden Tours are Gray Lumber, Columbia Bank, Seattle Seahawks, Sotheby's International Realty, UP Refuse and Recycling, and Deric Mazzuca and April Rogalski. Additional sponsors are Suburban Opticians, Beach Tavern Inc, Hand & Stone Massage and Spa, Mr. Teller's Mail Room, Portland Avenue Nursery, Sound Community Bank, UP Family Medicine, Atkins Chiropractic, Honest Estate Sales and JY Dental Group.

## Summer Special Events

# University Place DUCK DAZE

Special events such as Duck Daze, Movie Night in the Park and Concerts in Market Square are a treasured part of summers in University Place.

Given the current status of COVID restrictions in Pierce County, which continue to fluctuate and currently stand at Phase 2, the decision has been made to cancel Duck Daze in 2021. Given the amount of planning and preparation that is necessary to hold the event, organizers determined it would be too difficult to successfully stage the celebration amid the uncertainties of state restrictions.

Given the current status of COVID restrictions in Pierce

Please continue to follow Headlines for updates on other summer special events, however. If and when the time is right, organizers hope to host other in-person, outdoor gatherings in safe and responsible ways.

... We want you on our team! ...



View current job postings 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.**



## Natural Yard Care Webinar

Free

Lush lawns nature's way. Break your lawn's addiction to chemicals, with Ladd Smith.

May 4, 7-8:30 p.m. Register: <http://bit.ly/YardCareWorkshop3>

You will learn ways to apply organic methods for great pesticide free lawns!

**Register online.**

**Questions?**

Contact Walt Burdsall at [wburdsall@tpchd.org](mailto:wburdsall@tpchd.org) or (253) 649-1851.

Sponsored by:



[www.tpchd.org](http://www.tpchd.org)

## Curbside Oversize Brush Pickup

The Oversized Brush Pickup is available to all residential customers of **University Place Refuse and Recycling**, even those without yard waste service.



**When:** May 3-14

*The pickup day for your area will be the same as your curbside recycling or yard waste pickup day during the week of May 3-14.*

**Pile Limitations:** 1 per household, no larger than 6' wide by 6' long by 6' high.

Remember, this is a one day event for each neighborhood. The Oversized Brush Pickup is only for the larger brush and limbs that do not easily fit into a regular yard waste cart. Limbs are removed by machine or pitchfork. Sweeping of small items by the customer can be expected.

**Oversized brush includes:** branches, brush, and limbs no larger than 6' in length or 4" in diameter. Please stack loose for pickup (no cans, bags, or bundles).

**Oversized brush does NOT include:** blackberry, holly, or other thorny vegetation; stumps, limbs larger than 6' or thicker than 4"; small loose items such as grass, leaves, weeds, bark, pine/fir needles, etc. No noxious weeds like scotchbroom or English ivy, etc.

If you are signed up for yard waste service, please make maximum use of your cart before placing brush in a pile. Place your oversized brush in a loose pile at the curb or within 5 feet of the drivable portion of the roadway for pickup. Make sure the pile isn't in the street or blocking access to mailboxes or fire hydrants.

## 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.

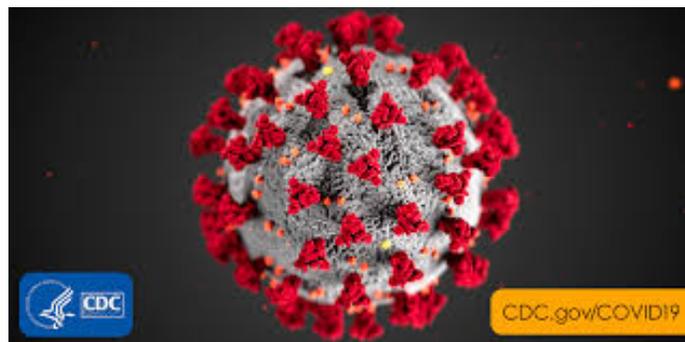


**Sign up now to take part in upcoming surveys!**

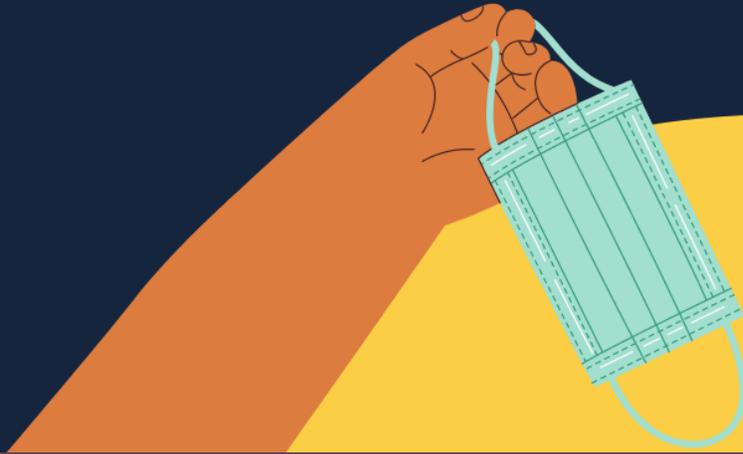
## Get the Facts: COVID Resources

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, May 3, 2021  
at 6:30 p.m.**

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



**Follow us on your favorite  
social media sites!**



**@CityofUPWA**



**UniversityPlaceTV**



**@CityofUP\_WA**



**@CityofUPWA**

**University Place City Council**



**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**

