Headlines

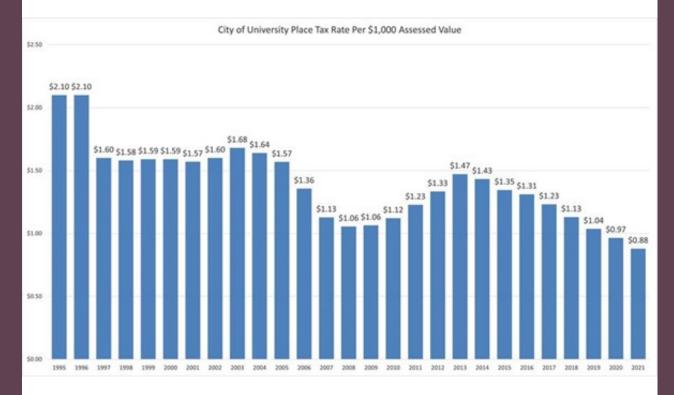
News from University Place City Hall



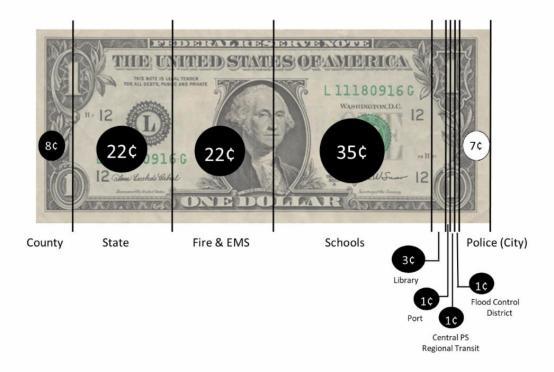
June 23, 2021

Update on Taxes in U.P.

Next month, the County will mail out new property tax information. You might not notice, but in the details, you'll find that your City of University Place property tax rate is the lowest that it's ever been!



The reason why you might not notice the decline in the City's property tax rate is because the portion of your property tax bill that goes to the City is a small portion of the total bill – only 6.6%.



Note that all of the property taxes paid to the City are dedicated to the City's police and public safety expenses.

City Property Taxes

So, you might ask, with the City's property tax rate decreasing, but the assessed value of your home increasing, what does this mean for the actual amount of property tax that you will pay this year? The answer to this question is a bit more complicated because of how property taxes are computed in Washington State. The chart below illustrates the effect of the recent increase in assessed value on the amount a U.P. homeowner with an average home value will pay in City property taxes.

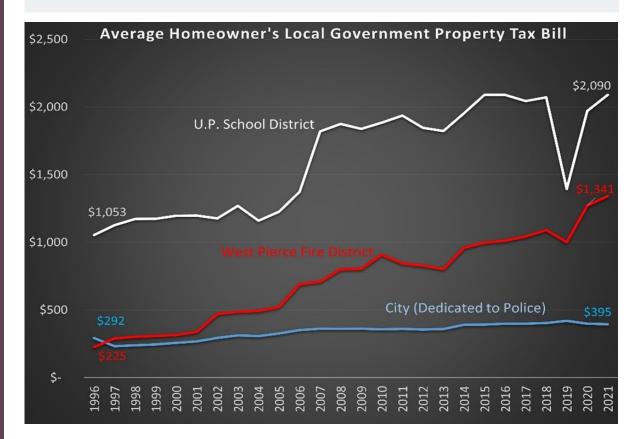
	2020	2021
Average Assessed Value on U.P. Home	\$412,504	\$448,612
% Increase in Average Assessed Value		8.75%
City Property Tax Rate	\$0.97/\$1,000 AV	\$0.88/\$1,000 AV
City Property Tax on Average U.P. Home	\$400	\$395
% Increase (Decrease) in City Property Tax Bill		(-1.34%)

You'll note that the average U.P. home value increased by 8.75%, but the City tax on the average home actually decreased by 1.34%! As a result, if your home's assessed value increased by the same percentage or less than the average home in U.P., the amount you will pay the City in 2021 will actually decrease. If the value of your home increased by more than 10%, you may see a slight increase in your City property tax bill.

Property Taxes Paid to Other Jurisdictions

As for your total property tax bill, similar to your City property tax, your total tax will vary depending on the percentage increase in your home's value. Most will see a modest increase in taxes. For the average home, this means an increase of 3.86%.

This increase in the average total property tax bill is due to tax increases by jurisdictions other than the City. The chart below shows a comparison of the average property tax bill paid to local jurisdictions since incorporation. The City's property tax on an average home has increased on average by only 1.23% a year for the past 25 years – substantially less than the rate of inflation and substantially less than other jurisdictions to whom you pay taxes.



If you have questions about the City's property tax or other taxes, please feel free to email Assistant City Manager **Eric Faison** or call him at 253.460.5443.

Chief's Corner

U.P. Police Chief Greg Premo is away this week but wants to remind everyone that the U.P. Police Department will reopen to walk-in traffic beginning Monday, July 12. The front desk will be staffed from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (closed for lunch from 11 a.m. to noon), with staff on hand to address questions and concerns related to public safety, including gun permits, how to obtain copies of a police report or to report a non-life threatening crime. Open dialogue between police and the public is important, so feel free to stop by

and share what's on your mind, or to just say hello.



Questions and Answers about Fireworks in U.P.

At this time of year, the U.P. Police Department is flooded with questions about fireworks. Please take a minute to review these frequently asked questions before purchasing fireworks or calling in a complaint or reporting an incident:



KNOW WHAT'S LEGAL IN UNIVERSITY PLACE

Stay Safe & Legal this Fourth of July

Q: Are fireworks legal to discharge in University Place?

A: Yes, but only on July 4 between the hours of 9 a.m. and midnight. You must be 16 years of age or older, or under the direct supervision of an adult.

Q: What fireworks are legal for discharge in U.P.?

A: Legal fireworks in University Place include fountains, cones, novelties, smokes and sparklers/morning glories. Get more information on the **City's website**.

Q: Can I purchase fireworks in University Place?

A: There are no authorized vendors selling fireworks in University Place this year. Residents will have to venture to Lakewood or unincorporated Pierce County to purchase legal fireworks. Please be sure you are only purchasing the items mentioned above that are legal for discharge in U.P. on the Fourth of July.

Q: I can hear/see illegal fireworks going on near my home. What should I do?

A: If you can determine an address where illegal fireworks are being discharged or where fireworks are being discharged outside of the legal hours on the Fourth of July, you can call the 24-hour non-emergency line at 253.287.4455 or 800.562.9800. If there is an immediate threat to life or safety, dial 911.

Q: I can hear illegal fireworks going off, but I have no idea where they are coming from. Can I still call these numbers?

A: You can call those numbers and report the activity but responding officers will have greater difficulty addressing the issue. In addition to fireworks calls coming in on the Fourth of July, officers see an increase in reported life/safety issues that

often occur on alcohol-infused holidays. These calls are in addition to the routine calls UPPD handles. In 2019 and 2020 respectively, calls to UPPD on July 4 were 218 percent and 169 percent above the daily average of dispatched calls in the City.

Q: When I dial those numbers the phone rings and rings and no one picks up. What should I do?

A: You should continue to call. South Sound 911 serves all unincorporated Pierce County and every incorporated City within the County, including University Place. The Fourth of July presents the highest call volume for 911 across Pierce County each year.

Q: My pets really suffer every year during the Fourth of July. What can I do to help them?

A: Experts recommend you keep your dog away from fireworks. Also, make sure your pet is **licensed** and microchipped so that if they run off, they can be found and returned easily. For more tips on how to keep your dog calm during fireworks, visit the **American Kennel Club**.

Q: I have PTSD and fireworks noise is really upsetting to me. What can I do?

A: There are some useful suggestions on how to plan ahead for potential fireworks noise in your neighborhood. Check out **Tips for Coping with Fireworks When You Have PTSD**.

Q: Are there other sources of fireworks information and safety tips I can reference?

A: Check out this 2019 UP Responds video from UPTV.



City Council Approves Housing Action Toolkit

At its meeting on **June 21**, the U.P. City Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendations presented in the Housing Action Toolkit. Drafted by the Planning Commission and the City's Community and Economic Development Department, the Toolkit outlines possible actions the City can consider as it plans for the next 20 years of growth, especially with regard to future construction of additional affordable and market-rate housing throughout the City.

Adoption of the Toolkit will not result in any Comprehensive Plan policy or development regulation changes at this time, but its elements and objectives will help support the implementation of growth and housing strategies to meet requirements of the State's Growth Management Act.

Community outreach has been a key part of the Toolkit's development. Since the process began, the Planning Commission, with staff support from the Community and Economic Development Department, has hosted two stakeholder workshops, conducted an on-line survey, created a webpage devoted just to the Toolkit including links to the actual documents, and provided bi-weekly updates on the project status through Headlines.

U.P. City Hall Offices Reopening on July 6

City of University Place offices will begin to offer in-person hours beginning Tuesday, July 6. City Hall hours will be from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily, pursuant to U.S. Centers for Disease Control, Washington State Health Department and Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department directives. We welcome inperson visits, but recommend scheduling an appointment when



possible. All unvaccinated visitors are required to wear a mask.

The Community and Economic Development Department will be open to assist with permitting needs. Those who wish to stop by are encouraged to call 253.460.5442 or **email** in advance to set up a time.

A Message from West Pierce Fire & Rescue

It's HOT outside and we are in for even warmer temps this weekend. Be sure to remember:

- Stay hydrated, even when you're inside.
- Keep cool in the air conditioning.
- If you don't have air conditioning, go to public places, such as movie theaters or libraries. (Please be



- mindful of COVID-19 restrictions.)
- Check in on family, friends and neighbors to see how they're managing the heat.
- When outside riding a bike, scooter, skateboard, etc., always wear a helmet. Helmets drastically reduce the chance for a brain injury and keep riders safer. Dressing to be seen and following the rules of the road also apply when enjoying these kinds of sports.
- When on or near the water, wear a life jacket.
- Our waters are cold and do not warm up as they do in other parts of the country. Even strong swimmers struggle when water temperatures stay cold as hypothermia can set in very quickly. Take breaks, know your limits and know the water you're entering.

Do you need a helmet or life jacket? Call us! We offer custom-fitted helmets for \$7-10 and life jackets for \$14. Helmet and life jacket fittings are available for all ages and are completed by appointment. Appointments can be made by calling 253.564.1623 or visiting us **online.**

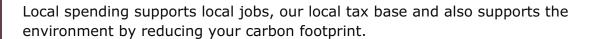
What's UP with Biz?

As the State of Washington begins to reopen, this is a reminder that U.P.'s small businesses are eager to see you! Please make a point of patronizing our restaurants, retailers and service professionals.

Grab a cup of coffee or an ice cream cone. Shop for a new bike or get dinner out. Show your pets some love or love yourself by taking a fitness class. Visit your personal banker again or yes...make that long overdue appointment for a dental checkup!

University Place is home to more than 1,800 small businesses and when you patronize them you help our entire community, since it is estimated that for every \$100 you

spend at locally-owned businesses, \$68 stays in the community.



University Place is UP and Open! Your local business owners hope to see you soon.



Don't Forget to Register Your Neighborhood for National Night Out

National Night Out will return to U.P. on Tuesday, Aug. 3 and your public safety personnel want to include your

neighborhood celebration as one of their stops on their community tours that evening.

Whether you're planning a casual potluck or full-on barbeque extravaganza, if you want members of the UPPD, West Pierce Fire & Rescue and City Council members to stop by your celebration, be sure to register by Friday, July 23 by



emailing **Jennifer Hales**, the City's Public Safety Administrator.

The caravan visits will begin at 5:30 p.m. to ensure there is time to visit as many neighborhoods as possible. "To say that we are looking forward to getting back out to see folks again would be an understatement," said Hales. "National Night Out is one of the best nights of the year in U.P. and we never cease to be amazed by the hospitality—and amazing food—we are treated to along the way!"

So make plans to come out and show the power of neighborhood pride and police-community partnerships in U.P.

Show Your Pet Some Love: Get them Licensed

With restrictions from the pandemic now lifting, the City of University Place will resume in-person animal licensing requests beginning July 5, 2021. In addition, you can now register new pets and pay for license renewals **online**.

Licensed and tagged pets have a much greater chance of being returned to their owners if they get lost. Animals without tags may end up at the Humane Society of Tacoma and Pierce County animal shelter, which can be very traumatic for the animal and very expensive for the owner since it can cost close to \$100 to reclaim an animal.



In addition, having unlicensed pets may result in a \$246 citation by Pierce County Animal Control. Yet the cost of an animal license is only \$23 for dogs and \$13.80 for cats (fees are significantly higher if the animal is not spayed or neutered.) Special rates are available for therapy dogs and to senior citizen pet owners. "Since animal control officers and veterinarians are generally the only ones who have the technology to read imbedded microchips, owners should not rely on them to help bring home animals found by a passerby," said Leslie Wheeler, U.P. Police Dept. Office Manager.

For more information or to answer questions, call 253.798.4251 or email **PetLicense**. If your pet goes missing, call U.P. Animal Control at 253.798.7387 or the Pierce County Humane Society at 253.383.2733 and "press 1". Found pets

are also listed on the Humane Society for Tacoma & Pierce County website.

Upcoming Summer Events



This year's Movie in the Park will take place on Saturday, Aug. 7 at Cirque Park in University Place!

Bring your family and friends to join "Moana" on her quest to restore the heart of Te Fiti! The event begins at 7:30 p.m. and the movie will begin at dusk.



Music on the Square is back this summer season with the first performance taking place on Wednesday, Aug. 4. Enjoy live blues and roots rock music by Mark Hurwitz and Gin Creek, delicious burgers from Boss Mama's Kitchen, the summer sun and more!

Performances for Aug. 11, 18, 25 and Sept. 1 will be announced soon! Visit the **City Website** or the **City Facebook Page** for more information as it becomes available.

Do Your Part and Get the Shot



What do I need to know about each kind of vaccine?

Vaccines provide excellent protection against severe illness or death from COVID-19. That means a vaccine is your best chance of returning to normal life.

Each is a little different, but your best choice is the vaccine that's available to you now.

- Pfizer:
 - Authorized for people 12 years or older.
 - Requires 2 doses at least 21 days apart.
- Moderna:
 - Authorized for people 18 years or older.
 - Requires 2 doses at least 28 days apart.
- Johnson & Johnson:
 - Authorized for people 18 years or older.
 - Requires 1 dose.

Find your vaccine at **tpchd.org/vaxtothefuture**!

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.

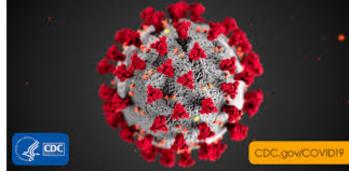


Sign up now to take part in upcoming surveys!

The best way to survey and engage citizens

Get the Facts: COVID Resources

As the nation and our region continue 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 Tacoma Public Utilities' contact information for payment plans or assistance.



UNIVERSITY PLACE VIRTUAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, July 6, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

WWW.CITYOFUP.COM





Mayor Pro Tem Steve Worthington







Howard Lee





Denise McCluskey



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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











