

Headlines

News from University Place City Hall



January 15, 2020

Caroline Belleci Sworn in as New Mayor of U.P.

At the Jan. 6, 2020 meeting of the University Place City Council, Caroline Belleci was elected by her fellow Council members to serve as the mayor of University Place for the next two years. She will be supported by Council Member Steve Worthington as mayor pro tem. Also at the meeting, Council Member Howard Lee was elected by his peers on the Council to serve as its Finance Committee chair.



Before turning the gavel over to new Mayor Belleci, outgoing Mayor Kent Keel took a few moments to thank his fellow Council members, City staff and the residents of University Place for their support. "It was a privilege to work with you as mayor and I just want to say 'thank you' and I hope that I have proved worthy of your vote," he said.

He also shared his "**State of the City**" video which highlights many of the accomplishments of the City since its incorporation 25 years ago, as well as what the future may hold for its second 25 years.

In her first public remarks as mayor, Belleci thanked former Mayor Keel for his leadership and for demonstrating the hard work and dedication that is needed to serve in the role. "I know that this job is not an easy job," Belleci said. "And I expect the six of you (Council members) and our citizens to hold me accountable to ensure that the needs of our citizens and staff are being met over the next two years."

Belleci then announced that as one of her first initiatives she will begin holding regular public chat sessions in the Civic Building Gallery so that citizens can come forward with their questions or concerns or to learn more about the workings of their city government. The sessions will be held on the second Saturday of every month from noon to 2 p.m. and on the second Tuesday of the month from 6 to

8 p.m.

"I want the public to know that we on Council have been listening and will continue to listen over the next 25 years," she said. In addition to the new chat sessions, Mayor Belleci said she will continue to work with staff to ensure open communication between residents and City Hall.

Out with Old, in with the New

Demolition work has begun on the old Windmill Village site to prepare it for development. Plans call for the site to be the newest addition to the Village at Chambers Bay, with the potential for additional retail or professional space.

The demolition contractor hopes to have all four buildings on the site taken down by the end of this week, with clean-up and removal of the debris, concrete foundations and walkways to be complete by the first week of February.

Although the buildings that once housed U.P.'s City Hall offices are coming down, the City's Parks staff were able to remove and transplant many of the beautiful plants and shrubs that were on the Windmill Village grounds to other parks in the city. The original "donor bricks" that were created during the early days of the City's incorporation have also been saved and will be installed in Homestead Park later this spring.

As a reminder, the area around Windmill Village is considered an active work zone and the perimeter has been fenced off for safety. Please obey all posted signs.



Chief's Corner By U.P. Police Chief Greg Premo

I want to start by thanking those of you who have reached out to our department to get **the facts** about recent criminal activity in U.P. In doing so, we have been able to share the details of where and when these crimes occurred, while also reminding everyone that this current wave of activity is the exception, not the norm for our city.

Since the start of the new year, we've had two reported carjackings and an attempted armed robbery. Each of these occurred in commercial areas. They did not occur in residential neighborhoods. Although the events are similar, we do not have a solid lead on the suspects at this time. Our dedicated crime investigator, Deputy Josh Mills, is working closely with other local law enforcement teams to track down leads.



We also had an incident this week that began at a commercial establishment on 27th Street and was successfully resolved when the suspect was apprehended at his home by our officers with assistance from the Pierce County Sheriff's Department SWAT team. No one was injured during the encounter and we were able to recover firearms from the scene.

This was our second SWAT team call in less than two months. In December, UPPD responded to a domestic violence call that involved a gun in the vicinity of 56th and Orchard streets. When officers arrived on the scene, the male threatened to shoot and was seen with multiple weapons. We secured the area and the Sheriff's SWAT Team responded. Following several hours of negotiations, the suspect (with whom we have had several encounters during the past nine months) was taken into custody peacefully. Like more and more of our calls these days, there was a mental health component to this incident.

Although we may not be able to eliminate all crime or mental health issues, we continue to seek ways to prevent crime and to educate the public on **ways to stay vigilant** and protect themselves.

Our department is committed to ensuring that U.P. remains a safe and welcoming community. We constantly review our crime data and trends so that we can adjust our patrols accordingly. We also strive, both through our the City of U.P.'s **Facebook page** and that of the **Pierce County Sheriff's Department**, to keep the public updated when crime occurs in U.P.

We will be mailing a public safety newsletter in the coming weeks that will highlight some of the services we provide and offer registration information for the public safety classes we will host this spring. In addition, we will also be hosting a Public Safety forum in the near future where we can share information and get input from our residents on their ideas and concerns, while also addressing perceptions of safety in U.P.

In my next column, I will pay tribute to PCSD Deputy Cooper Dyson, who died on Dec. 21, 2019 while responding to a call to support his fellow deputies. Deputy Dyson was not assigned to UPPD but did work here fairly often covering overtime shifts. His loss has been felt deeply by all of us and I do not want to miss the opportunity to honor his service.

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PROS Plan - New Tool Captures Your Design Ideas

"The people who show up, get to make the decisions." That is a quote that rings true across many aspects of life, including the development of the U.P. Parks, Recreations, and Open Space

(PROS) plan which is well underway. And, have U.P. citizens (and a few beyond) shown up! With two open houses completed and the first public survey drawing to close, we are inspired by all the thoughts, ideas, needs, and wishes shared so far. To date, almost 900 people have taken the first survey from every neighborhood across the city. Almost half of the survey takers visit a U.P. park(s) weekly with another quarter visiting monthly. There is also a high number of citizens that travel outside of the city to visit other park spaces but, considering that Chambers Creek Regional Park is often mistaken as a U.P. park, that number is not too surprising.



Survey results indicate desired physical improvements to City parks include more or better amenities such as restrooms, picnic shelters, shade structures, better lighting, bike racks, and a community center or a facility where indoor activities can be supported. More sports courts, non-motorized trails, and access to undeveloped natural areas also had a strong showing from the community.

As we finalize the survey results and compare them against emerging national trends, we are also preparing a new tool that will allow everyone to help “program” all the potential improvements desired. Called **Maptionnaire**, it is an online map-based tool that will allow users to help “co-design” project areas and express their preference and opinions. With this tool, you will be able to zoom into any of the U.P. parks, click on an icon (such as a restroom, sports court, or picnic shelter), then drop that element into that park. Another example would be drawing a new trail connection or an outline for a new community center. All of these results will be used to help define the specific projects to be included in the next PROS plan along with a range of possibilities, e.g. Washington State Outdoor Recreation grants, to pay for them.

Our next survey called Maptionnaire is ready to capture your ideas and voice! Find it at <https://app.maptionnaire.com/en/7645/>.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact either David Swindale at 253.460.2519 or Chris Overdorf at chris.overdorf@scjalliance.com or any of your Park Advisory Commission members.

An Important Reminder to Enroll in CodeRED

With winter officially upon us and a few winter storms circling around, it's a great time to think about emergency preparedness and why it is important for you to be able to be notified of local emergencies.

CodeRED enables you to provide contact information so local



emergency response teams can reach you in the event of emergency situations or critical community alerts. If you already have a CodeRED account, did you know the program now allows you to sign up for notification from your social media accounts, such as Facebook or Twitter? Sign back in to your CodeRED account today to update your contact information as well as your notification options.

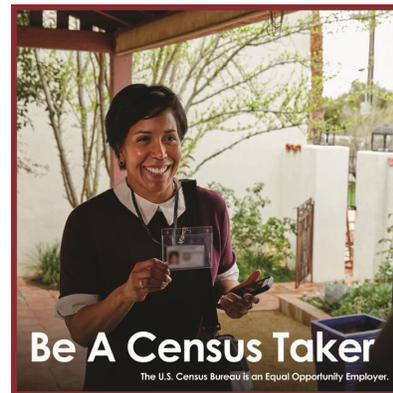
Enrollment is easy and takes just a minute or two. Visit the **CodeRED page** on the **City's website** to enroll in or **update your CodeRED account**.

Be a Census Taker

You can help your community! Apply for one of thousands of temporary #2020CensusJobs.

Census results determine the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives as well as how funds are spent on roads, schools and hospitals.

Apply online at 2020census.gov/jobs.



Upcoming Events

City Hall Holiday Closure

City Hall will be closed on Monday, January 20 in recognition of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

City Hall will reopen on Tuesday, January 21 at 9 a.m.

Curtis High ASB
SWEETHEART DANCE
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22
6:30-9 P.M.

Early Registration: \$45 per couple
At the Door: \$50 per couple
(\$5 each add'l child)

Register online at upsd83.org or
at Curtis H.S. More info? 566.5710 X2160

Jazz in the Village
Wednesdays
12:30-1:30 p.m.
Civic Building Atrium



Free Night Pruning Class
Thursday, Jan. 23, 7 to 9 p.m.



Adriana Hess Work Party
Saturday, Feb. 1, 9 a.m. to noon

**For more events and Council Meeting information
visit the Upcoming Events Calendar.**

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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**

