

Headlines

News from University Place City Hall



April 22, 2020

Virtual Council Meetings

On Monday, April 20, the University Place City Council held its first virtual meeting to ensure that essential city functions continue amid **Governor Inslee's Stay Home – Stay Healthy Emergency Proclamation.**

Council members were able to be "present" by connecting from their homes and voted on the **Consent Agenda** items that had been previously studied and discussed. In addition, the meeting also allotted time for public comment and public testimony on items that were emailed to the City Clerk in advance of the meeting.

UNIVERSITY PLACE VIRTUAL
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, May 4, 2020
at 6:30 p.m.

WWW.CITYOFUP.COM

Mayor
Caroline Belleci

Mayor Pro Tem
Steve Worthington

Council Member
Javier Figueroa

Council Member
Kent Keel

Council Member Pro Tem
Howard Lee

Council Member
Denise McCluskey

Council Member
Stan Flemming

As might be expected, there were a few technical glitches that staff will iron out prior to the next virtual City Council meeting on May 4, but Monday night provided some valuable "lessons learned" for moving forward. "I think that given that this was a first real roll-out it was a big learning opportunity for all of us," said Mayor Caroline Belleci. "There were technical challenges because of the number of us on the meeting and possibly not having sufficient bandwidth, so things slowed down considerably for staff and Council. But I am grateful that Council was all in attendance and that we stuck to our 30-minute time frame for our first meeting. I'm confident the new format will get easier with each subsequent virtual meeting."

Those who wish to submit public comments for the May 4 City Council meeting need to send them to **Emy Genetia**, City Clerk at **EGenetia@CityofUP.com**. Comments received by 5:30 p.m. on May 4 will be provided to the City Council electronically for consideration at that evening's meeting. Comments received after that deadline will be provided to the City Council after the meeting. Watch the City's **website**, **Facebook**, **Twitter** and **Instagram** accounts for updates and a link to the May 4 City Council meeting, which will also air on UPTV

(Click! Channel 12 and Comcast Channel 21) as well as the City's **YouTube Channel**. Those who wish to simply listen to the meeting will be able to dial in using a provided phone number.

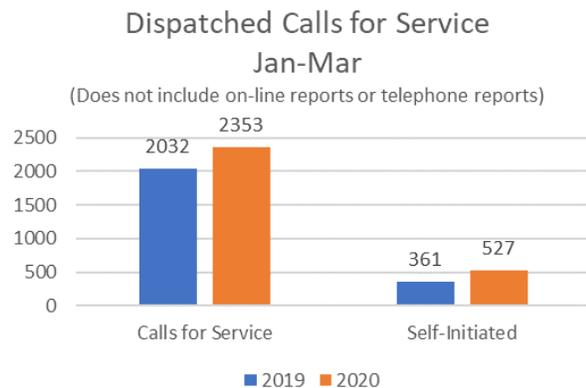
Mayor's Message

In case you missed, last week we posted a message from Mayor Caroline Belleci on the City's social media sites (**Facebook**, **Twitter** and **Instagram**). Please take a minute to listen to what she had to say:



Chief's Corner by Greg Premo

As we all know, the COVID-19 pandemic has turned our world upside down, and that has proven to be true for crime in University Place. Although the year started on record pace for police services, by March we saw a dramatic reduction in violent crimes and calls for service as the coronavirus ramped up. Of the 31 total violent crimes in the first quarter, only five occurred during March. In fact, we saw an average reduction in calls for service of 20 to 25 percent each week during the month of March.



As first responders dedicated to your safety, our officers increased their proactive work during this time, increasing their self-initiated contacts with residents and

businesses through suspicious activity contacts, speed emphasis patrols and traffic stops. These efforts resulted in 31 speeding tickets, two citations and seven warnings. In addition, our officers were able to recover stolen property from businesses and vehicle prowls and make arrests in those cases. We plan to build on these successful efforts in the coming months.

Despite the uncertainty of these times, rest assured that your police department is still on the job, responding, educating and protecting our community as we work to recover from the pandemic and return to what promises to be a new normal.

Property Crime Incidents			
Jan - Mar			
Property Crime	2019	2020	% Change
Arson	0	0	**
Vehicle Theft	14	20	43%
Burglary	44	34	-23%
Theft	43	45	5%
Vehicle Prowl	56	79	41%
Shoplifting	13	19	46%
Total	170	197	16%

Violent Crime Incidents			
Jan - Mar			
Violent Crime	2019	2020	% Change
Agg Assault	4	16	300%
Murder	0	0	**
Rape	2	7	250%
Robbery	8	8	0%
Total	14	31	121%

Help the Hungry

Amid all the challenges of the coronavirus pandemic, local organizations continue to support those in our community who are most in need. This includes the **Families Unlimited Network**, which serves as U.P.'s community food bank.



Located at 2610 Sunset Dr. W. (just north of U.P. Presbyterian Church), Families Unlimited continues to serve residents of University Place and Tacoma through its food bank. Food Bank Manager Steve King says his team is preparing food three times a week for approximately 1,800 individuals and distributing 28,000 pounds of food per month.

"We are extremely grateful for all of our partners who continue to volunteer in our food bank as well as those organizations who keep our shelves full," he said. But he also says they continue to need more help. Specifically:

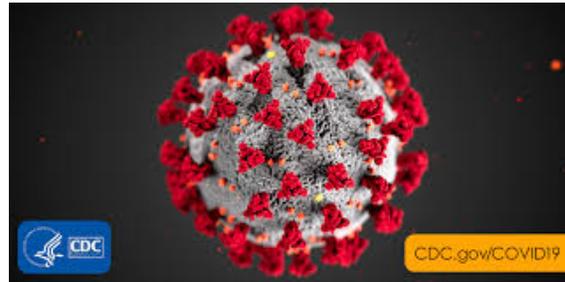
- **Donations:** Peanut butter, cereal, tuna, canned chicken, pasta sauce, spaghetti noodles, chili, canned meats, ready-to-eat soups, canned fruit, sugar, flour and macaroni and cheese. Also non-food items such as paper grocery bags, shampoo, soap, toothbrush/toothpaste, laundry and dish soap, hand sanitizer, pads/tampons. These items can be donated during their operating hours Monday through Saturday 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. or 24/7 via their on-site drop box. Perishable donations such as fresh produce or dairy items should be donated Tuesday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- **Monetary Support:** Via their **website** or choose Families Unlimited Network as your recipient on the **smile.amazon.com** site.

Families Unlimited distributes food on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:30 to

2:30 p.m. For additional information, please call 253.460.3134 during their office hours from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday.

Washington 211 COVID-19 Call Center:

Do you need information or answers to your questions and concerns about the novel coronavirus (COVID-19)? You can call 1-800-525-0127 or text 211-211 for help. You can also text the word "Coronavirus" to 211-211 to receive information and updates on your phone wherever you are. You will receive links to the latest information on COVID-19, including county-level updates, and resources for families, businesses, students, and more.



From the Washington State Department of Health

COVID-19 Resources, Information & FAQ's

- **COVID-19 Information for You and Your Family**
- **COVID-19 Information and Resources**
- **COVID-19 Resources for Businesses**
- **COVID-19 Public Safety Information**

Support Our U.P. Businesses

During this unprecedented time, all U.P. residents are encouraged to support local businesses that are still open during the COVID-19 crisis. One of those includes **Lefty's Burger Shack** at 8317 27th St. W.

This South Sound favorite offers handmade burgers and shakes, as well as its signature frings and pickle chips. Lefty's continues to stay open for to-go orders from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. seven days a week. Please consider picking up lunch or dinner to go and show your appreciation for them—and all of our other local businesses that are counting on our support now and when this crisis is over.



A Message from the Pierce County Library Executive Director

I hope you're well, and you and your family are keeping safe and healthy. We miss seeing you, and we miss being in the libraries, but we are doing our part to help reduce the spread of the novel

coronavirus (COVID-19) and complying with Gov. Inslee's **Stay Home, Stay Healthy Order**. Your health and safety, and that of our staff, continue to be our top priorities during this serious public health crisis.

One piece of good news is that libraries are much bigger than their buildings! And we're adaptable! So even with our buildings temporarily closed, we are still ready to help you learn, and keep you reading while bringing a sense of community for all of us. As you may know, reading has been proven to help reduce stress – and we all need a generous serving of stress reduction right now.

Our helpful and creative staff continue to serve our communities, answering questions and connecting people with many online resources. You may reach us by **email** or by calling 253.548.3300 and leaving a message. A library staff person will get back to you Monday through Friday between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

And while the Pierce County Library System's buildings are closed, the **online library** is always open for you. We welcome and encourage you to keep using these amazing, free Pierce County Library online services.

Georgia Lomax, Executive Director



2020 Census: Self-Response Extended

At last check, Washington is still one of the leading states in the highest cumulative total self-response rate (56.8%) for all western states, with University Place at 63.7%! Way to go, U.P.! Check out the **state and local response rates**.

The **#2020Census** only takes minutes and can help our community for the next 10 years. The self-response period has been extended to Oct. 31, but if you can do it now, please do.

Let's get University Place to 100%! Respond online today at **2020CENSUS.GOV**.



Celebrate the Outdoors Responsibly on Earth Day and Arbor Day

Today is Earth Day and on Friday we will celebrate Arbor Day. Although the COVID-19 crisis has disrupted

many of our normal activities, you can still contribute your part to these national events. Some ideas include:

- Build a compost container in your own yard to reduce waste and create organically rich fertilizer for your gardens.
- Take inventory of all your household food. Consolidate when possible (why do you have three open and half-used boxes of spaghetti?). Vow to use what you have before you buy more.
- Clean house naturally with ingredients like lemon, baking soda and salt.
- Thin your closets by going through items you no longer wear (i.e. no longer fit) and make plans to donate those items to local thrift stores when they reopen.
- Make Earth Day part of an at-home science curriculum. This tutorial provides **instructions on how to create a "Bee Condo."**
- On Arbor Day, tend to the trees in your own yard. Remove dead branches to give the living branches room to leaf out and better fight insect infestation.
- Engage students in a tree scavenger hunt in your yard. Find cones, needles, leaves and nuts and then do research to identify their unique species.

If you take a car, the park is too far!



Recreate responsibly.
Walk, ride,
roll from home.

University Place
WASHINGTON

On Earth Day and Arbor Day, everyone is encouraged to get out and enjoy the great outdoors. But during this challenging time, the **Washington State Department of Health** reminds us all to stay close to home. "The park is too far if you take your car" campaign reminds us to recreate responsibly by maintaining social distancing and only enjoy the outdoors with members of our immediate household to stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Spring is Here!

As you go about your Spring yard cleanup and setting up your flower beds and gardens, please keep in mind that excess fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides and yard debris can find their way into the nearby streets and be washed into the catch basins which directly drain into the local ponds, streams and Puget Sound. Please do your part to keep our waterways and Puget Sound healthy. Remember, **Puget Sound Starts Here.**



DUE TO COVID-19

Upcoming City events are cancelled or postponed until further notice

Including but not limited to: Jazz in the Village, Meet UP with the Mayor, Parks Appreciation Day, Concerts in the Park and Duck Daze

Follow us on your favorite social media sites!



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