

Headlines

News from University Place City Hall



May 20, 2020

Chief's Corner by Greg Premo

We knew it wouldn't last forever...

The downward trend in calls for service we experienced during the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak has started to tick upward toward normal levels. Although the majority of our calls involved property crimes, specifically vehicle prowls, we have also had many residents report that they were victims of unemployment fraud.

But our officers have also made some key arrests, including:

- A traffic stop of a suspicious vehicle with a driver armed with a stolen handgun, outstanding warrants for his arrest, and drugs in his possession. He was booked into jail.
- A burglary in progress where two armed subjects, acquaintances of the resident, forced their way into the victim's house demanding money. The K9 unit located one suspect who was booked into jail and the other suspect has been identified.
- An elderly male was arrested for indecent exposure after the victim shared the license plate of the suspect. This individual was not booked into jail due to COVID-19 booking restrictions.



The last bullet point brings up one of the challenges of the COVID-19 crisis: how do we manage our jail and prison populations? Jails are used to house persons who have committed misdemeanor offenses and those awaiting trial (for felonies or misdemeanors). Because of manpower limitations as well as the fact that our courts are hearing limited caseloads, we are arresting people, but some of these individuals will receive a summons versus being booked and processed immediately. As law enforcement professionals, this is as frustrating to us as it is to you, but it reflects the realities we are now operating under for the time being.

As always, I encourage you to reach out if you have questions or concerns. You can reach me via email or by calling 253.798.4058. I welcome the opportunity to work with you to prevent crime in U.P.

UP for Arts Donates "Forever Friends" Sculpture

The nonprofit volunteer arts group UP for Arts unveiled its newest piece of commissioned public art, a sculpture entitled "Forever Friends" by artist John Jewell. The sculpture commemorates Curran Apple Orchard's 25th anniversary as a community park.

UP for Arts President Debbie Scoles said the sculpture was inspired by

Brewster, one of two horses belonging to the Curran family, the original owners of the orchard. The young girl feeding him an apple was modeled by Annie Stafki, Jewell's granddaughter. Jewell spent months researching thoroughbred racehorses and old photos of Brewster to ensure the accuracy of the sculpture. He was assisted by equine consultant Robin Peterson and worked with Firebird Bronze Foundry to create the final artwork.

After several years of fundraising and grant writing, UP for Arts reached its \$134,000 goal to acquire the artwork, which is being donated to the City. The group would like to acknowledge all those who helped bring the project to fruition, including: Grants from the Taxpayers of WA State, the Gottfried & Mary Fuchs Foundation and the Florence B. Kilworth Foundation, Sound Community Bank, New Tacoma Cemeteries & Funeral Home, Team Insurance, GFWC Chambers Bay Women's Club, McPhee Dental Group and more than 120 individual donors.

Others providing invaluable assistance include: Model Annie Stafki, Mary Jane Dubbs, United Church of University Place, University Place Presbyterian Church, Mount Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church, Dale Kvamme, U.P. Police Chief Greg Premo and former U.P. Police Chief Mike Blair, West Pierce Fire and Rescue Chief Scott Adams along with Lance Nelson and Todd Rhody, State Sen. Steve O'Ban, State Reps. Christine Kilduff and Mari Leavitt, former State Rep. Dick Muri, the University Place Library, City of University Place, Anthem Coffee, local artists and countless volunteers. Special thanks also to Firebird Bronze Foundry, Thompson Electrical Constructors, Concrete Impressions, Inc, Campanoli Crane Service and Winsor Fireform Graphic Tiles.

Although the official dedication of "**Forever Friends**" has been delayed due to COVID-19 concerns, people can visit the sculpture which is visible from Grandview Drive near Curran Orchard's central gate.

For more information about "**Forever Friends**," including miniature bronze replicas for sale, please visit www.UPforArts.org.



What's UP with Biz? Top 10 Ways You Can Support Local Businesses

We are all anxious for life to return to "normal" – or what promises to be our new normal – when the COVID-19 crisis is over. But to do so, we need to take steps now to help the local businesses we consider a vital part of our community fabric so

they will be around when the pandemic is over.

Here are some steps you can take to help these businesses and their employees ride out the storm:

- 1. Hit the Curb:** In addition to restaurants, local essential service businesses can offer curbside pickup, including pet stores, pharmacies and grocery stores. Before you opt for mega-chain delivery, consider supporting these businesses first.
- 2. Invest Now, Enjoy Later:** This is a good time to buy gift cards that you can redeem later at restaurants, stores, hair salons, etc. Or purchase cards and donate them to those in need.
- 3. Spread the Word:** Promote your favorite restaurants by sharing their take-out or delivery services on your social media platforms.
- 4. Pick A New Date:** If you booked a facility for a special event and it was canceled because of the virus, consider rescheduling to host a post-COVID celebration.
- 5. Pay if You Can:** Many independent contractors, such as lawn service providers, cleaning services, hair stylists, etc., do not have the same safety nets that employees of larger organizations have. If you are able, consider making regular payments to them.
- 6. Tip Generously:** As generously as you can.
- 7. Book 'Em:** If you'd been planning to have some work done around the house before the pandemic hit, reach out to your contractor(s) and let them know that you still plan to have the work done. Get on their books now and let them know you still value their services.
- 8. Go Virtual:** You can still attend music, yoga and tutoring lessons as well as therapy sessions online. So keep those appointments and pay promptly. These types of activities can be a great distraction and a way to support your overall mental health during the crisis.
- 9. Share the Wealth:** Look no further than the story below about U.P.'s own Chuck Foster to see how you can share your gifts with others who need the help desperately.
- 10. Say Thanks:** When you have the opportunity to interact with these businesses, let them know what they mean to our community and that you look forward to doing business with them again in person when the time is right.



A Stellar Example of Generosity

As a long-time University Place resident, Chuck Foster has always been generous in sharing his time and talents with the community. He has served on the City's Economic Development Commission for many years but now Foster has also shared his treasure with the local community

as well.

He recently donated the entire \$1,200 from his federal stimulus relief check to local organizations and businesses. He gave \$200 each to the State of Washington, Pierce County and the City of University Place to help each of them continue to provide public services amid the COVID-19 pandemic. He also donated \$200 to the Emergency Food Network and supported two of his favorite local restaurants with \$200 donations each.



"A friend mentioned that he felt a little guilty about receiving his check and I thought, you know, I don't really need this money. I am retired and I have a stable economic situation," Foster said. "As far as I was concerned, this was just a return of my tax dollars and a chance I don't often get to control how my tax dollars get spent."

Foster's decision to give some of the relief money back to state and local government was based on the fact that the State of Washington depends heavily on its sales tax revenue. With people staying home, he considered the impact the drop in revenue has had on government employees who have been "keeping the lights on" amid the pandemic. "I thought it might be a way to help people who are trying to get their jobs done from home or elsewhere," he said.

His "good news" story has been getting quite a bit of attention lately, by his U.P. neighbors who have heard of his generosity as well as by those in U.P. City Hall and by Pierce County Executive Bruce Dammeier. Foster is a bit uncomfortable with all the attention, but he would consider it worthwhile if it inspires others to follow his lead.

"It would be nice if you could multiply the effect, but I didn't do it for those reasons," Foster says. "I don't have control over what other people do, but I hope that they will consider helping others."

Puget Sound Starts Here Month Postponed

Normally we would be celebrating Puget Sound Starts Here (PSSH) Month, but like many aspects of life right now, we are changing and adapting. Part of staying home and staying safe is staying connected and well informed about available resources and guidelines. As a way to not drown out these important messages, we will instead celebrate PSSH month in September.



Even though we will not be celebrating PSSH month during May, that does not mean we stop celebrating the joys of living in this beautiful area. Make sure to

take walks, go outside, and breathe in that fresh PNW air.

Many migratory birds like the Rufous hummingbird (*Pictured: Photo by Bryan Hanson on Unsplash*) are making their way back to the PNW this spring and summer. As you are out on walks with your dogs, pay attention to the birds you see and hear. Download a bird identification app like Merlin Bird ID and see if you can identify them. Take a photo and share it with us on our [Facebook page!](#)

And as always, don't forget your poop bags on your walks, it is your dog dooosity! Check out our [Dog Dooosity](#) music video to help you remember. We can all do our part to keep our lands and our waters clean and healthy. Remember, Puget Sound starts right here in your own front yard.

Article by [PugetSoundStartsHere.org](#)

City Council Meetings Held Virtually

This is just a reminder that the U.P. City Council is now holding its meetings virtually.

Council members are connecting from their homes and voting on Consent Agenda items that have been previously studied and discussed. In addition, the meetings also allow for public comment and public testimony on items that are emailed to the City Clerk in advance of the meeting. Those who wish to submit public comments for the

June 1 City Council meeting need to send them to [Emy Genetia, City Clerk](#). Comments received by 5:30 p.m. on the day of the meeting 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.

The May 18, 2020 City Council meeting can be viewed on the City's [YouTube channel](#), and residents are encouraged to tune in live on Monday, June 1 at 6:30 p.m. via Click! Channel 12 and Comcast Channel 21 or on the City's YouTube channel. For those who wish to listen via phone, check the [City's updated calendar](#) for a link.



Saturday Talks at the Puyallup Demo Garden to be offered online using Zoom!

Join Pierce County Master Gardeners Karlina Packard and Faith Potter for these upcoming Saturday Talks.

On May 23, the topic will be Veterbrate Pests - What's Eating My Garden? Are

you troubled by vertebrate pests (deer, rabbits, raccoons and more)? Join this Zoom talk to learn how to tell who's who and what to do!

On June 6, Pollinators & Beneficial Insects will be discussed. Find out how beneficial insects and pollinators help your garden and how to attract them.

Watch for future Saturday Zoom Talks announcements throughout the Summer!

May 23, 10 a.m. - Vertebrates: <https://wsu.zoom.us/j/97913762345>

Meeting ID: 979 1376 2345

Call in by phone option: +1 646 558 8656

June 6, 10 a.m. - Pollinators: <https://wsu.zoom.us/j/96750166347>

Meeting ID: 967 5016 6347

Call in by phone option: +1 646 558 8656

More information on upcoming Master Gardener Events and Workshops

Managing Stress During COVID-19

Everyone reacts differently to stressful situations like COVID-19. You may feel anxious, mad, sad, or overwhelmed. Find ways you and your family can reduce stress.

- Learn the common signs of stress.
- Make time to unwind and do activities you enjoy.
- Talk with family and friends by phone, text, or email.
- If you or a loved one is feeling overwhelmed, get support 24/7 by calling 1-800-985-5990 or text TalkWithUs to 66746.

Learn more about stress and coping during the COVID-19 outbreak.



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**

Pledge to Complete the 2020 Census



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



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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

