Headlines

News from University Place City Hall



September 9, 2020

Chief's Corner - Trouble with Traffic

The most common citizen complaints we get at the University Place Police Department are always about traffic. Although speeding tops the list, we also hear about parking, red light and stop sign violations, distracted driving complaints, loud mufflers, etc.

Traffic safety is a critical part of every law enforcement agency's commitment to community safety. But keep in mind that in U.P., our active Patrol operations are responsible for responding to 911 calls while also providing proactive patrols and a police presence in the community. We also need adequate resources to support our Investigations unit so that we can continue to identify suspects, follow-up on leads, present cases for prosecution, etc.



But we have limited resources to accomplish these important tasks. Our patrol officers will address traffic issues as time allows, but we cannot dedicate officers for traffic response only.

Since we do not have dedicated traffic officers, we occasionally conduct speed/traffic emphasis patrols on overtime. We recently ran a traffic emphasis patrol where over the course of 10

JP Traffic Emphasis S	stats
Speed	30
Equipment	2
Other	21
Warnings	37
Traffic Related Arrests	1

three-hour shifts over six weeks, we had an officer dedicated to traffic enforcement. These shifts allowed the assigned officers to focus on traffic issues and not get pulled away to address other routine calls for service. They were, however, available to help with emergency calls as needed.

But a few periodic dedicated shifts are no substitute for earmarked traffic officers. Our ability to enforce existing traffic laws has a widespread impact on our city. It

is critical to ensuring everyone—vehicles, pedestrians and bicyclists—can be safe and enjoy the high quality of life we pride ourselves on in U.P.

We are exploring other speed reducing ideas such as school zone speed cameras to help support a community culture of safe driving in our city and will continue to schedule emphasis patrols from time to time. But to really make a sustained impact on traffic issues in our city, it will take dedicated staff.

I'll be talking about that more in the weeks to come. Stay tuned...and stay safe.

Public Safety Academy Goes Virtual

U.P.'s popular Public Safety Academy is taking on a new format to adjust to our COVID-19 restrictions. On Thursday evenings from Oct. 8 through Nov. 5, classes will be offered virtually, via Microsoft Teams. Attendees can watch from 6 to 8 p.m., while learning from their own homes and posing questions to the presenters through the Teams chat box.



Because the sessions will be recorded, all of the videos will be available for viewing by the entire community after the Academy ends in November. View the entire class line-up here.

As is always the case, participation in the U.P. Public Safety Academy is FREE, but due to the limitations of technology and to provide maximum opportunities for real-time Q&A, class size will be limited. Registration for the entire series is required. Reserve your spot now by calling 253.798.3141 or e-mailing **JHales@CityofUP.com**.



National Night Out is Oct. 6

Celebrate safely and maintain social distancing! We'll miss you this year! Share photos of how you're celebrating this year's National Night Out Against Crime and use the hashtag #WeAreUP!

Get One Last Glimpse of this Year's Garden Tour Stops

In case you missed them earlier, here is your last chance to view the **seven magical gardens** that were a part of this year's virtual Garden Tour organized



by the U.P. Historical Society. These virtual tours offer stunning ground and aerial views of each garden, as well as interviews with their owners and Pierce County Master Gardener Alice Dionne. From highly sculpted to informal by design, these gardens feature a variety of flora, water features, terracing and even a fairy or two.

Special thanks to each of our Garden Tour hosts who so graciously allowed us to sneak a peek at these magnificent spaces:

- U.P. Historical Society's Curran Apple Orchard
- Dick and Patti Hutchison's Terraced Gardens
- Carole Henderson's Japanese Garden
- Linda Bird's Fairy Garden
- Dani Griswold's 35 House
- Evonne and Sam Ryken's "Secret Garden"
- Howard Dempsey's Memory Lane North

The response to this year's free virtual tours has been outstanding. Thank you again to the generous sponsors who made it possible: Atkins Chiropractic, Columbia Bank, Gray Lumber Company, JK Tax Service, Inc., McCabe's Automotive Specialists, Morrison House/Sotheby's International Realty, Portland Avenue Nursery, Seattle Seahawks, Sound Community Bank, Suburban Opticians and U.P. Refuse & Recycling.



Economic Development Commission Vacancy

Just a reminder that the City of University Place Economic Development Advisory Commission (EDAC) has a vacant position and a volunteer is needed to fill the spot.

The Economic Development Advisory Commission is comprised of seven citizens that advocate for the implementation of the Economic Development Strategic Action Plan as adopted by the City Council. It serves as a sounding board for various business community interests, and as the "eyes and ears" for the City in the business community.

The Commission also occasionally participates in community outreach efforts to share information on economic development initiatives that impact the University Place community.

Visit the EDAC webpage for more information and to apply or email CityClerk@CityofUP.com. The vacancy will remain open until filled.

UPTV Brings Home More Awards

The City of U.P. received two Awards of Distinction from the National Association of Telecommunications Officers



and Advisors (NATOA) during its 35th Annual Government Programming Awards (GPA) online event.

UPTV was recognized in the Public Affairs category for the "State of the City" video which was hosted by 2018-2019 Mayor Kent Keel and highlighted the City's accomplishments in 2019, while "University Place Imagine2045" was recognized in the Interview/Talk Show category. UPTV also received an Award of Honor in the Edited Community Event Coverage category for "National Night Out."

In all, Washington stations took home a total of 24 Awards of Excellence, 31 Awards of Distinction and 12 Awards of Honor. Pierce County TV won the Overall Excellence award—the highest national honor—for organizations with operating budgets from \$500,000 to \$1 million.

"Pierce County TV provides most of our video support and expertise and we could not be prouder of them," said Linda Seesz, Communications and IT manager for the City of University Place. "They have been in the running for this award in previous years but this year they finally got their well-deserved moment in the spotlight. Our only regret is that we could not be together to celebrate with them."

The NATOA program honors excellence in broadcast, cable, multimedia and electronic programming produced by local government agencies. This year NATOA received more than 550 entries submitted by local governments across the country, covering everything from videography, social media, community

events, public affairs, election coverage and more.

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:

- CDC.gov/COVIDI9
- The U.S. Centers for Disease Control offers the latest facts and information about COVIII
 - 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.



2020 Census: Nonresponse Followup

As part of its Nonresponse Followup Operation (NRFU), the U.S. Census Bureau is visiting every household that has not already responded to the 2020 Census to ensure a complete and accurate count.

Census takers are scheduled to visit the nonresponding household between **August 11** –

September 30, 2020 to ask a few questions and will enter the answers on their secure Census Bureau smart phone. If a family member is not home when the census taker visits, they will leave a notice of their visit with information about how to respond online or by phone. As necessary, they will make additional visits to collect responses from the household.

Census takers will follow social distancing protocols and all applicable state and local requirements with regard to health and safety.



Until September 30, 2020, households can continue to **respond online or by phone at 844-330-2020**.

The NRFU operation was originally scheduled for May 13 through July 31, 2020 but has been adjusted in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Natural Yard Care Webinars

Small yards, abundant gardens, with Sue Goetz

Sept. 23, 6:30-8:30 p.m. https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86857399450

You will learn about pocket gardens, containers, micro gardening and more!

- · Beautiful flowers on balconies, patios and small yards.
- · Grow flowers, herbs, vegetables, and even fruit!
- · Design tips to get you started and renovate your yard.
- · Composting and watering techniques.

Low maintenance landscapes, with Bill Peregerine

Sept. 30, 6:30-8:30 p.m. https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83685976657

Reduce labor and your landscape more! Learn how to:

- · Put the right plant in the right place.
- · Group plants by their watering needs.
- Reduce fertilizer use.
- Lower your water bill.
- Take advantage of nature's free plant food.

Work less, better looking yard, with Ladd Smith

Oct. 7, 6:30-8:30 p.m. https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88280680799

You will learn how to:

- Select plants for an environmentally friendly, low-maintenance landscape.
- · Prepare soil and choose eco-friendly products.
- · Maintain and improve landscape health
- · Choose the least toxic methods to manage pests and disease.

Free

Questions?

Contact Walt Burdsall at wbursdall@tphd.org or (253) 798-4708.

Sponsored by:







www.tpchd.org

UNIVERSITY PLACE VIRTUAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, Sept. 21, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

WWW.CITYOFUP.COM





Mayor Pro Tem Steve Worthington











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University Place City Council



Mayor Caroline Belleci



Mayor Pro Tem Steve Worthington



Council Member Javier Figueroa



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