

Headlines

News from University Place City Hall



October 21, 2020

Chief's Corner

Earlier this year, the Pierce County Council ordered a review of the criminal justice system here in Pierce County and on Sept. 16 the report was presented to the County Council. The review examined the percentages of arrests, bookings and court charging data based on the race of the defendant, as well as policies and practices around many of the police reform topics currently being discussed. The report included recommendations on each of those topics. I encourage you to take a look at the full document [here](#).



You will see that many of the items around police reform are already in place here in Pierce County and at UPPD. It also identifies areas for improvement and further discussion. I believe there is still a long way to go in educating our communities on what policing is all about. Some people will look at the arrest data and draw immediate conclusions about police operations, the officers and their intentions. But I caution that it is hard to draw any quick conclusions for such a complex issue.

Here at UPPD, we value community engagement and education. Each year we host free classes for citizens that focus on personal safety and crime prevention. We also host a Citizen's Academy with classes discussing police training and tactics, and police operations here at UPPD. The pandemic has limited our ability to do these classes in person, but we decided we still needed to provide something. So last week we started a "virtual" citizen's academy. This academy is focused on many police reform topics. For those who were unable to attend, we will have recorded presentations available for the entire community to view at the conclusion of the six-week session.

We are looking forward to hosting some upcoming forums on Public Safety in U.P. at the start of the new year. I hope you will plan to join us. As citizens, you have

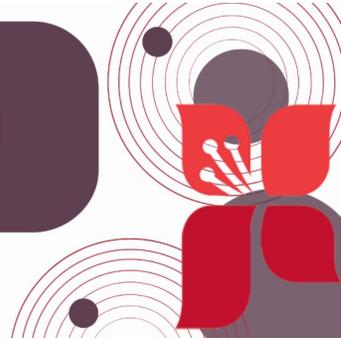
some important decisions to make about the future of policing in your city and you should be fully informed before doing so. Please watch for more information as we get closer to January. In the meantime, as always please feel free to reach out to me with any questions at greg.premo@piercecountywa.gov.

Pierce County Sheriff Candidates Forum with Mayor Belleci

On Tuesday, Oct. 20, University Place Mayor Caroline Belleci held a Meet UP with the Mayor featuring three candidates for the Pierce County Sheriff position. The Mayor held a nearly two-hour conversation with candidates Ed Troyer, Cyndie Fajardo and Janice Bridges (write-in candidate).

AN INFORMAL, DROP-IN, MEET-UP
WITH MAYOR CAROLINE BELLECI

MEET UP WITH
THE MAYOR



Each of the candidates was invited to provide a brief introduction and biography and were then asked to respond to a number of other questions, including their top objectives if elected, and the role of policing in Pierce County and the Sheriff Department's contract communities, including University Place. Hear what they had to say on a variety of topics, including protests, legislative issues, mental health and modern policing, and hiring and staffing levels.

The public can view the entire forum beginning today on U.P.'s **YouTube channel** as well as on UPTV.



Halloween Safety

The **Tacoma-Pierce County Department of Health** has put together a family-friendly flyer for how to celebrate Halloween safely this year. Among the recommendations:

- Hide treats around your house. Then have kids hunt for them, rather than going door to door.
- If you do decide to trick or treat, do so from a distance, whether collecting or handing out goodies. Avoid trunk-or-treating, where kids get candy from people in cars in a parking lot.
- Deliver candy via a candy chute (a long PVC tube on an angle to slide candy through) or a festive basket on your porch where you can offer candy safely from six feet away.
- Costume masks do not substitute for protective face coverings made of two layers of cloth. Make sure costumes don't interfere with the ability to see and walk safely.
- Drivers should slow down and walkers (parents and children) should wear reflective materials so they are seen by motorists. Don't zig-zag across streets.
- Keep costume parades small and outdoors. Stay six feet apart.
- Attend or host an outdoor costume party. Wear a mask and maintain distance and limit the number of guests to five or fewer guests from outside your home.
- Only go on hayrides with people from your household and avoid indoor haunted houses (especially where people are screaming!).

The department sums it up simply: *Be a superhero this year: Practice physical distancing, wash or sanitize your hands, wear your mask—and stay home when you're sick!*

Healthy Holidays

Enjoy a safe Halloween

Make Halloween as fun and scary as you want. But the fear factor shouldn't include COVID-19. We can all help to limit the spread.

Remember to:



Stay 6 feet from people you don't live with.



Wear a face covering if older than age 2.



Wash your hands often.



Use plenty of hand sanitizer.

If you hand out candy:



Use individually wrapped treat bags and place treats on a table.



Use decorations to mark spots 6 feet apart for people to wait.

Not scary: Activities online or at home with people you live with.



Scavenger hunt at home.



Decorate pumpkins or face coverings.



Online costume or pumpkin carving contest.



Watch Halloween movies.

Scary: Activities with people you don't live with.



Door-to-door or indoor trick-or-treating.



Trunk-or-treating.



Halloween gatherings.



Indoor haunted houses.

Learn how to keep your Halloween activities safe at tpchd.org/coronavirus.

What's UP with Biz News from the Economic Development Department

Did you know:

- The City of University Place has received an additional \$496,350 from the Washington State Department of Commerce as

part of its federal CARES Act allocation. These additional funds will be used to provide more support to U.P. businesses for their COVID recovery efforts. Businesses can apply for grants up to \$10,000. The goal is to distribute the grant funds by Nov. 20.

- In addition to adhering to strict cleaning protocols, Bishops Cut and Color in the Village at Chambers Bay is closed to walk-ins on Mondays so it can offer Monday appointments to vulnerable individuals.
- See's Candies will open a shop in the Green Firs Towne Center for the holidays. The seasonal opening is scheduled for the week of Nov. 9.



Please continue to support our local businesses, especially during the holiday season, since this time of year generates the lion's share of annual sales for many small businesses.

Public Invited to Comment on 2021-22 Budget

The City Council is in the midst of reviewing the City of University Place proposed 2021-22 biennial budget. This is a status quo budget that assumes a continuation of the 2020 levels of service to the community with a modest level of inflation.

Council Members held a study session on the two year \$68.4 million budget (\$52.6M Operating, \$10.8M Capital and \$5.0M Internal Service) during their meeting on Oct. 5 and conducted a public hearing on the document at their regularly scheduled meeting on Oct. 19. The Council will hold another study session and public hearing on the budget on Nov. 2, with a final public hearing planned for Nov. 16. If there are no major revisions that night, the budget may be voted on that evening.

Residents are encouraged to review the **draft document**. Although lengthy (221 pages), it provides a comprehensive overview of:

- The budget process
- Revenue assumptions
- Ending fund balances
- Operating and Capital budgets
- Departmental specifics
- Fund level budgets
- Historical tax rates

"The City's budget is meant to reflect the priorities of our citizens, especially in terms of our investments in public works, public safety, parks and more," said Leslie Blaisdell, the City's Finance director. "The public hearings are just that: an opportunity for Council members to hear from constituents and get their feedback on the proposed budget."

Due to COVID restrictions, this year's public hearings are being conducted using remote technology, but people can also send their comments, questions or concerns to the **City Clerk** by no later than 5 p.m. on the night of the hearing.

New Forever Friends Sculpture Vandalized



U.P.'s newest piece of public art, a sculpture entitled "Forever Friends" by artist John Jewell, has been vandalized. The bronze sculpture was inspired by Brewster, one of two horses belonging to the Curran family, original owners of the Curran Apple Orchard, and features a young girl feeding him an apple. Vandals recently pried off the apple from the young girl's hands.

The sculpture was donated to the City of University Place in May following a multi-year fundraising campaign to cover the \$134,000 cost of acquiring the artwork. UP for Arts planned to officially dedicate the sculpture to commemorate Curran Apple Orchard's 25th anniversary as a community park once COVID-19 restrictions were lifted.

For those who worked so hard to bring the project to fruition, the loss of the apple is more than a theft. "It is an affront to what our community stands for," UP for Arts member Bunny Nance said. "Forever Friends' really struck a chord with our community. We've had countless comments from people who have embraced this sculpture as well as what it represents."

According to U.P. Police Chief Greg Premo, vandalism that results in damage in excess of \$750 is considered a Class C felony; if the damage reaches \$5,000 it is a Class B felony. The public is encouraged to report tips about this damage anonymously to the U.P. Police Department by calling 253.798.4058. If no one answers, feel free to leave a message. In addition, UP for Arts urges those in possession of the apple to return it to the organization by mailing it to P.O. Box 65145, University Place, WA 98464.

COVID-19 Mobile Testing in U.P. on Oct 30

There will be a FREE COVID-19 Mobile Testing event on Friday, October 30 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The event

will be located in the vacant lot across from Station 31 at 3631 Drexler Drive W in University Place.

Visit the **Tacoma Pierce County Health Department website** to learn more about the event.



Advisory Commission Vacancies

Commissioners are citizens that, through their volunteer efforts, play an integral role in the growth and development of their City. Citizens serving on the City's Commissions apply their unique knowledge and experiences to the issues and the needs of their City. They function as a focus group from within the community and create ideas to assist the City Council in shaping legislative policy.

Applications are currently being accepted from City residents interested in serving on the following Commissions:

- Economic Development Advisory Commission
- Park Advisory Commission

The vacancies will remain open until filled. Forms are available online at **Committees, Commissions, and Partners**. For more information email DNicholas@CityofUP.com.

Election day is Nov. 3.

Know the registration deadlines for this year's election!

Online: Oct. 26

By mail: Received by Oct. 26

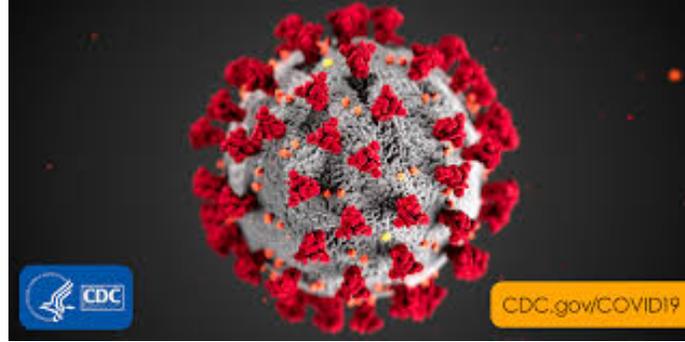
In person: Nov. 3



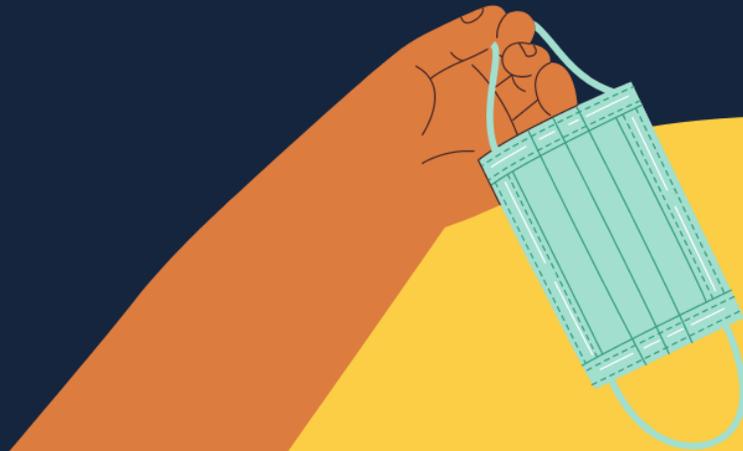
Get the Facts: COVID Resources

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:

- 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 public utilities' contact information for payment plans or assistance.



Mask UP to prevent the spread of COVID-19



JOIN US FOR THE 24TH ANNUAL

FALL SAFETY DAY

at West Pierce Fire & Rescue

Saturday, October 24th, 10 am - 1 pm
Station 21 -- 5000 Steilacoom Blvd SW, Lakewood

Join us for our DRIVE THROUGH event!
Each vehicle will be loaded with
one pumpkin per child and go home
with a bag of goodies.



Questions?
please call 253.564.1623
or visit www.westpierce.org/fallsafetyday

The school district does not sponsor this event/activity/offer and assumes no responsibility for it. In consideration for the privilege to distribute these materials, the school district shall be held harmless from any cause of action filed in any court or administrative tribunal arising out of the distribution of these materials, including all costs, attorney's fees and judgments or awards.



City Hall Holiday Closure

City Staff will be on holiday on Wednesday, November 11 in recognition of the Veterans Day Holiday. Normal hours will resume virtually on Thursday, November 12 at 9 a.m.

UNIVERSITY PLACE VIRTUAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, Nov. 2, 2020
at 6:30 p.m.

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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**

