Headlines

News from University Place City Hall



November 4, 2020

Chief's Corner

This week I want to share examples of great police work. One was the result of assistance from an alert citizen, and the other by an alert officer conducting proactive patrols.

A few weeks ago, a resident spotted a mail thief in the early morning hours. They provided a great description of the vehicle and driver, as well as the last known direction of travel, to 911. With only two officers on patrol, pursuing these calls can be a little bit of a cat-and-mouse game with so many side streets and a suspect on the move, but one of our officers was able to locate the vehicle and make a stop. They



recovered mail and other property stolen from numerous U.P. residents.

Then just last week, one of your daytime officers was patrolling the Fred Meyer parking lot and noticed some suspicious activity when a female reached into the open window of a truck to open the door. The alarm sounded. The officer approached to investigate. This turned out to be a truck that had just been stolen from another county and inside were several stolen credit cards and IDs.

Property crimes like these are the biggest challenge we face in U.P. Thankfully, violent crime rates are below most comparable jurisdictions but vehicle prowls, vehicle thefts and general thefts are high. Because our citizens are aware of this and do a great job of keeping an eye on suspicious activity, I could share several more examples of citizens taking action to help fight crime.

But the challenge continues to be how to ensure we have officers readily available when people call. With only two officers per shift, this can be difficult. We also need enough officers to provide proactive patrolling. Police are not like the fire department; we don't wait for the calls to come to us. A key component to community safety is proactive patrolling, which impacts criminal behavior and

traffic safety.

I am continually impressed with what we can accomplish as a City in providing police services. We have great citizen involvement and support, and a group of committed officers.

Feeding the Body and Soul

The federal CARES Act funds that the University Place City Council approved to support human services needs in University Place is making a real difference in the lives of residents who have incurred COVID-related financial hardships.

Families Unlimited Network (FUN) has been deploying CARES-funded rent, utility and childcare assistance to U.P. residents. "Our City government has no Human Services Division, so without Jim Lineweaver, FUN's executive director, we would be scrambling to get these funds to our residents who need them," said Jennifer Hales, the City's Public Safety administrator. "He has been tremendous." In a short period of time he has distributed all of the monies to residents that need it. In October City Council approved an additional round of Human Services CARES funding.

U.P. residents who have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic can apply for grants of up to \$10,000, more than triple the amount originally planned. FUN, a registered 501(c)(3) organization that has been serving residents of University Place since 2003, is screening qualified applicants over the phone and then scheduling in-person meetings for additional documentation. Interested families can call Families Unlimited Network at 253.460.3134 to begin the application screening process.

In addition to the great work that FUN has been doing, Melanie Grassi-Wood of OUR Church reports that in the last three weeks her organization, with the help of Council designated CARES funds, has:

- Distributed more than 3,000 boxes of fresh groceries provided by Farmers to Families, through the USDA.
- Fed 16,380 residents.
- Provided Evergreen Primary and U.P. Primary school counselors with boxes of groceries for their school families.
- Rented a refrigerated truck to safely store the boxes of fresh groceries until they were all distributed.
- Rented a forklift to move the pallets of boxes off the semi into the line for distribution.
- Been approved for another CARES funding installment to provide additional USDA fresh food distributions.

2020 Natural Yard Care Workshops went Virtual

2020 Natural Yard Care Workshops are now available on our **City's YouTube channel** if you didn't get an opportunity to attend!

We decided to host our workshops

on a virtual platform, which proved to be a very popular way to participate from the comfort of people's homes. There were three separate workshops led by amazing and entertaining speakers. The recordings are linked on our **Stormwater**Management webpage within the City of University Place website.



Keep Catch Basins Clear this Fall



What's UP with Biz: Win a Bike, Help Save a Life

Several Village at Chambers Bay businesses have teamed up to support efforts to stop human trafficking by contributing



CUTS / COLOR

prizes to a special raffle to support Adorned in Grace, a local organization that helps sex trafficking victims and raises awareness of sex trafficking in the community.

The grand prize is a State bicycle valued at \$570, with other prizes from Urban

Float, Bliss, Pure Barre, Naturepedic Organic Mattress and Anthem Coffee. Tickets are \$5 and will go on sale on Nov. 11 at Bishops Cut/Color (3633 Market Place W.) and at Adorned in Grace's ministry office at 3104 S Union Ave. in Tacoma. The winning ticket will be drawn at noon on Dec. 12. This is a great way to support an important cause and our local businesses at the same time.

What's UP with Biz: U.P. Eateries to Participate in Pierce County Restaurant Rally

Beginning on Nov. 8 and continuing through Nov. 19 (except for Fridays and Saturdays), several U.P. restaurants will be participating in the Pierce County Restaurant Rally, a collaborative effort to save restaurant jobs in Pierce County.

During the promotion, diners simply dine at or order a takeout meal from a participating restaurant. They will automatically receive 30 percent off their bill, before tax. The discount



excludes alcohol and orders via third-party delivery services. The program is funded by Pierce County through the allocation of \$7.5 million in federal CARES Act funds.

Restaurants had to apply to be part of the program and will be compensated for 50 percent of gross sales, excluding alcohol and sales through third-party delivery services. Participating U.P. restaurants include Applebee's, Cheers UP, Chili Thai, Round Table Pizza, Sapporo and U.P. Station Bar & Grill. The list continues to grow, however, so be sure to check out

www.piercecountyrestaurantrally.com for the latest updates.

2021-22 Budget Opportunities for Public Comment

Don't miss your chance to comment on the City's proposed 2021-22 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.

The City Council held its first public hearings on the two-year \$68.4 million budget (\$52.6M Operating, \$10.8M Capital and \$5.0M Internal Service) at their regularly scheduled meetings on Oct. 19 and Nov. 2. The final public hearing is planned for Nov. 16, with the Council's vote on the budget scheduled for Dec. 7.

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. Be sure to weigh in and share your thoughts.

Comprehensive Plan and Development Regulation Amendments

The City Council of the City of University Place will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, December 7, 2020, as part of its regular meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m., to consider proposed amendments to UPMC Title 16 that will serve to implement the University Place Regional Growth Center Subarea Plan. The proposed amendments are posted on the City's webpage at **www.CityofUP.com**.

Pursuant to Governor Inslee's Proclamation 20-25.7 Safe Start – Stay Healthy issued on May 31, 2020 and Proclamation 20-28.11 – Open Public Meetings Act, the public hearing will be held virtually due to health concerns from COVID-19. Members of the public can participate in public testimony for this Public Hearing by the following methods. Written testimony will be accepted via email. Comments should be sent to Emy Genetia, City Clerk at **EGenetia@CityofUP.com**. Comments received up to one hour (i.e., 5:30 p.m.) before the meeting will be provided to the City Council electronically. Subject to technological limitations, the Council will also accept telephonic/remote testimony. Direction to access the meeting will be available on the December 7, 2020 agenda.

For further information, please contact David Swindale, Planning and Development Director, at 253.460.2519, or **DSwindale@CityofUP.com**.

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**.

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.



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. 16, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

WWW.CITYOFUP.COM





Mayor Pro Tem Steve Worthington











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