Headlines

News from University Place City Hall



December 7, 2022

Merry & Bright

A winter chill filled the air and holiday fun was everywhere at the annual lighting of the City's Christmas Tree in Market Square on Friday, Dec. 2.

The evening featured live holiday music, children's activities, an elf on stilts and lots of holiday treats. But as is always the case, the man of the hour was Old Saint Nick, who arrived in a West Pierce Fire & Rescue truck and was on hand to lead the countdown to lighting the tree.

Thanks to all those who help organize this wonderful holiday tradition in U.P. and for all those who come out to make it a true community celebration.







Kent Keel Elected to the National League of Cities Board of Directors

Kent Keel, Councilmember of University Place, WA, was elected to the **National** League of Cities (NLC) Board of Directors by NLC's membership at the organization's 2022 City Summit in Kansas City, MO. Keel was elected to a one-year term and will provide strategic direction and guidance for NLC's federal advocacy, governance and membership activities as chair of its Information Technology and Communication (ITC) committee. NLC is the largest and most representative organization for cities, their elected leaders and municipal staff, and advocates for city priorities in Washington by building strong federallocal partnerships.

"I hope to bring the experience I've gained as an international award-winning technology professional, as well as what I've learned as a member of the U.P. City Council and other regional and



state organizations, to this national role," Keel said. "At the same time, I hope to gain from the experiences of others and bring that knowledge back to U.P. so we can continue to answer to the needs of our community."

As a member of the board, Keel will meet in March, June and November to guide NLC's strategic direction. Board members are selected by a 15-member nominating committee and are confirmed by a vote from NLC's membership at the organization's annual business meeting.

"The National League of Cities Board of Directors is critical in guiding our organization's priorities and policies," said National League of Cities (NLC) President Victoria Woodards, mayor of Tacoma, Washington. "NLC's Board is made of a group of incredible and diverse leaders, and I look forward to working closely together with them to advance priorities for cities, towns and villages

across the country."

More than 3,000 mayors, councilmembers and other delegates from nearly every state and the District of Columbia convened in Kansas City for City Summit. Local leaders are on the frontlines of the nation's most pressing challenges and are working hard to pioneer innovative solutions that move our cities, towns, and villages forward.

University Place City Councilmember Kent Keel (left) was joined by Tacoma Mayor Victoria Woodards (center) and University Place City Councilmember Javier Figueroa (right) at the National League of Cities 2022 City Summit in Kansas City, MO. During the meeting, Keel was elected to the NCL board of directors and Woodards was elected the organization's president. This is the first time in 40 years that a representative of a Washington city has held the important position of National League of Cities president.

Public Safety Levy Defeated by 99 Votes

Thanks to all those who voted in the Nov. 8 election on Proposition 1, better known as the proposed public safety levy for University Place. The proposition was defeated 6,893 to 6,794 (50.36 percent to 49.64 percent).

Public safety remains Council's number one priority. With a 99 vote difference in the levy results, the City Council has directed staff to get more information. In January we anticipate having a number of community meetings. In the meantime, we also would appreciate any thoughts you'd like to share. Please submit any comments or ideas to **UPPublicSafety@CityofUP.com**. If you'd like to participate in a focus group, email that desire to **UPPublicSafety@CityofUP.com**.

U.P. Recognized with National Telecommunications Awards

The City of U.P. earned several honors during the annual National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors conference. Linda Seesz, Communications Manager, Amanda Kleber, Communications Specialist and Dave Kellman, PCTV Video Production Specialist, were recognized for their work in producing three videos that won Awards of Distinction.



The winning productions were:

- **JBLM Christmas Shopping Spree** (Edited Community Event and Military categories)
- Mayor Belleci Welcomes Players to 2021 USGA Four Ball Championship (Sports Programming category)
- **Do Your Part. Get the Shot** (Public Health—COVID short)

The team also earned Awards of Honor for three additional videos:

- Music on the Square and 25th Birthday Celebration (Edited Community Event Coverage)
- Open for Business, Episode 2 (Profile of a Business)
- U.P. Garden Tour Peterson Property (Community Awareness)
- Click on each video above to watch the award winners again and next time you see the crew out shooting video, be sure to thank them for making U.P. shine.



We are gathering input from the community to help inform the future of the Northeast Business District! Scan the QR code, or click on this image to take a short six-question survey and tell us what you would like to see! Visit www.CityofUP.com for more information.

Winter Wonderland

With winter upon us, don't wonder about how U.P. Public Works staff will handle forecasted snowfalls. Know the facts with this quick refresher on snow removal in U.P.:

If and when snow is predicted or does begin to blanket the roads, the Public Works department will be ready with either a liquid anti-icing agent or sand for arterial and secondary arterial streets. Those who do not need to venture out are encouraged to stay off the streets so



that plows and anti-ice trucks can operate without hinderance.

Crews will focus on arterial and secondary arterial streets in accordance with the priorities identified in the **Snow Route map**.

For updates on closings, cancellations and other-weather related news, visit the City's website or check its Facebook and Twitter accounts. For information on power outages, view the Tacoma Power Outage Map on the TPU website.

What's UP with Biz?

A new episode of U.P.'s "Open for Business" videos is now available. This installment highlights several new businesses in the city, including:

• The Linton Agency (7409 27th St. W.), which offers customized business, auto, home, renters, life and even pet insurance. The agency, owned and operated by U.P. resident Elisa Linton, is committed to supporting local residents, with special discounts for first responders, teachers and members of the military. It has also been an enthusiastic supporter of community events, including sponsoring back-to-school backpacks and Thanksgiving dinners for those in need.

- Fox Medical Center and My Own Gym (4620 Bridgeport Way W.) have partnered to provide medical care and medical weight loss in one convenient location. Through a combination of primary care and personal training and nutrition guidance, these businesses offer simplified, patient-centered primary care and fitness and weight training to help their clients achieve integrated health and wellness.
- Blue Mountain Behavioral Health (6711 Regents Blvd.) provides mental health counseling to adults, children, families and couples. U.P. native Laura Ibarra is a licensed marriage and family therapist, mental health, and master addiction counselor. She helps clients with PTSD, addiction disorders, anxiety and depression and has special expertise in addressing dual diagnoses.



CITY COUNCIL MFFTING

DECEMBER 19, 2022 CANCELLED

VIRTUAL: WATCH ON COMCAST CHANNEL 21, RAINIER CONNECT CHANNEL 12 OR LIVE ON YOUTUBE.COM/UNIVERSITYPLACETY



West Pierce Fire & Rescue Holiday Safety

Between cold weather and the holiday season, winter can be a dangerous time of year in terms of home fires. According to the **U.S. Fire Administration**, the top three days of the year for fires started by candles are Christmas Day, New Year's Eve, and New Year's Day. Consider using flameless, battery-operated candles, which can look, smell and feel like a real candle. These battery-operated candles can also be very helpful during a power outage.

Other things to consider this time of year are:

- Only use decorations that are not flammable.
- Check holiday lights each year for frayed wires or excessive wear.
- Don't link more than three strands of holiday lights.
- Never leave a burning candle unattended. Consider using batteryoperated, flameless candles.
- Keep your live Christmas tree away from heat sources and room exits.
- Water your live Christmas tree daily to keep it from becoming dry.

There is one very important item that needs to be checked off every holiday todo list: *having a fire escape plan and practicing it*. Be prepared before a fire starts.

- Make a plan. Talk about what you should do if a fire occurs. Include what
 each person will need to do to get out safely. Help everyone understand
 that fire is fast and smoke is a poison that kills.
- Think about the needs of each person in the home. If someone uses a cane or wheelchair, decide who will help him or her get out. If someone uses a hearing aid or eyeglasses, be sure that these items are kept next to the bed.
- Make sure that you have a working smoke alarm on every level of your home. Put alarms inside and outside all sleeping areas. Test your smoke alarms regularly to make sure they work. Make sure that everyone can hear the smoke alarm sound. Without a smoke alarm, you may not wake up, and the poisonous smoke can kill you in your sleep. Visit our website for more information on our Smoke Alarm Program.
- Find two ways out of every room. Knowing two exits is important in case one is blocked or dangerous to use. Know how to open doors and windows that lead outside.
- Know where to meet outside your home. If the smoke alarm sounds, go outside. Call 911 from the outside meeting place, which is a safe distance from the home.
- Practice your plan. Everyone should be included. Walk through the steps that you will take if the smoke alarm sounds. Make sure that everyone knows what to do to get out safely.

For more information about fire escape planning, please visit the West Pierce Fire & Rescue.





Shop Smart this Holiday Season

Criminals never take a holiday. Stay safe when Christmas shopping by following these tips from the UPPD:

- Never display or carry large amounts of cash. Use checks, debit or credit cards.
- Use crossbody purses when possible. Keep wallets, cash, and credit cards in an inside pocket.



- Wrap a rubber band around your wallet to make it more difficult for pickpockets to grab it.
- Do not leave your purse unattended in a cart while shopping. Skilled thieves can take it away in seconds.
- Teach your children to ask a store clerk for help if they get separated from you and have a plan for what to do if you become separated.
- When returning to your car, put your phone away and pay attention to your surroundings. Keep your head on a swivel.
- Have your keys out and ready before you go to the parking lot.
- Always look inside your car before getting in. Once inside, lock all doors.
- Call 911 if you spot suspicious activity in the area.

City Hall Holiday Closures

CITY HALL WILL BE ON HOLIDAY BEGINNING ON FRIDAY, DEC. 23 AT NOON AND WILL REOPEN ON TUESDAY, DEC. 27 AT 9 A.M., FOR THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY.

CITY HALL OFFICES WILL ALSO BE CLOSED ON DEC. 30 AT 3 P.M., AND WILL REOPEN ON TUESDAY, JAN. 3 AT 9 A.M., FOR THE NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY.

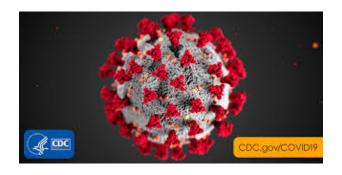


COVID-19 Resources

Looking for specific information related to the COVID-19 pandemic?

Here's a list of official sources of information on which you can rely:

U.S. Centers for Disease Control– Pandemic facts and information **Governor's Office** – Details about efforts and legislation specific to Washington



Washington State Department of Health – Updated statistics and testing data

Tacoma-Pierce County Department of Health – Testing sites, vaccine info **Pierce County** – Resources for rent, utilities, mortgages, and much more **City of University Place** – Pandemic resource updates specific to U.P.



University Place City Council



Mayor **Steve Worthington**



Mayor Pro Tem Javier Figueroa



Council Member Kent Keel



Council Member Edward Wood



Council Member Denise McCluskey



Council Member Stan Flemming



Council Member Caroline Belleci













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