## Headlines

News from University Place City Hall



May 17, 2023

### **Deadline for Duck Daze Parade Registration is May 25**

Community groups, school groups, scouts and local businesses that want to march in the Duck Daze parade on June 3 are reminded to pre-register with the City by May 25. Registration is required in order to participate in the parade.

The procession will begin at 10 a.m. at the corner of 29th Street and Bridgeport Way and head south on Bridgeport. It will end at the Village at Chambers Bay where the festivities will continue with food trucks, a Public Safety Special Response Unit display, music by country rocker Joel Gibson, Jr., and scores of children's attractions, including a stilt walker, face painting, games and popular costumed characters such as Elsa, Anna, Snow White and Spider Man performed by members of Magic in the Pacific Northwest. West Pierce Fire & Rescue Station #31 will also host an Open House from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. as part of the day's activities.

For complete Duck Daze details and updates, check out the **City's events** page.



#### **Public Safety Levy Passes**

Thanks to all those who voted in the special election on April 25 regarding the public safety levy. The measure passed, so UPPD personnel and City Council members are now working on next steps.

Watch future issues of Headlines to learn more about when your investment in public safety will be "hitting the streets."



#### Say it Ain't So! Police Chief Greg Premo to Retire in June

University Place will say goodbye to Police Chief Greg Premo in June when he retires from a 29-year career in public service. His departure comes just weeks after the community voted to support a public safety levy that will bring much-needed additional patrol officers to the City.

For the better part of the last 18 months, Chief Premo tirelessly drafted countless emails, attended neighborhood meetings, facilitated public safety forums and hosted monthly conversations with the community to ensure citizens had access to their Chief. He spoke over and over again about the



public safety staffing challenges U.P. faced given its last-place rank among cities in Washington State for number of officers per 1,000 residents.

In addition to his efforts to secure public support for additional patrol officers in U.P., Chief Premo also led the UPPD through the challenges of the pandemic as well as the repercussions of civil unrest that led to heightened scrutiny of police work.

Chief Premo launched his career in law enforcement with the Pierce County Sheriff's Department in 1994. He spent time in University Place early in his career as a deputy, returning in 2010 as a patrol sergeant before being named chief of police in 2019. Chief Premo also served as a

handler for K9 Ferro, served in the Marine Services Unit, the Civil Division, and was the director of public safety and the contract chief for Pacific Lutheran University before coming to University Place.

"There is simply no way to adequately thank Chief Premo for what he has done for the City of University Place," said Mayor Steve Worthington. "There are others who, knowing retirement was looming, might have decided to 'just phone it in.' Chief Premo did the exact opposite. He refused to give up the fight for more funding to secure additional public safety personnel and is leaving us in a position to enjoy greater safety and security. He has led with dignity and professionalism. I truly hope people will stop when they see him to thank him personally for all he has done for our community."

As the City works towards finding its new chief, watch for information about an opportunity to meet the candidates, tentatively scheduled for June 1.



#### **Annual Garden Tour is this Saturday and Sunday**

Don't forget to get your tickets to the U.P. Historical Society's Annual Garden Tour that will be held this weekend, May 20 and 21. Tickets are \$25 and are available at Willow Tree Gardens & Interiors as well as Chirp and Company, Morrison House Realty, Rosedale Gardens and Gardensphere.

This anxiously awaited rite of spring in U.P. allows participants to get a close-up look at five spectacular gardens in the University

SAVE THE DATE

SPRING GARDEN TOUR

MAY 20-21, 11 A.M. TO 4 P.M.

WWW.UPHISTORICALSOCIETY.ORG/GARDEN-TOUR

Place/Fircrest area. This year, as in years past, UPTV will produce a retrospective video of one of the gardens, much like this **video recap of previous years' featured gardens**.

The 2023 Garden Tour is sponsored by Karen Bellamy, Frank and Cindy Bonaro, Gray Lumber, Columbia Bank, Seattle Seahawks, Michael Morrison Sotheby's International Realty, UP Refuse and Recycling, Linda and Albert Bird, and Suburban Optical. The event is also supported by many individual donors.

For more information, visit uphistoricalsociety.org.

### What's UP with Biz? Meet U.P.'s Hidden Businesses

Tomorrow, May 18, the City's Economic Development Office will host a Home-based Business reception at Happy Duo Café from 5:15 to 6:30 p.m. This is an opportunity for the City to offer an official welcome to these businesses that comprise more than half of all businesses located in University Place but remain largely unseen by the community.



Please be sure to stop by to learn more about their products and services and support these entrepreneurs who are a vital part of our City's economy. The event is free and open to the public.



### **U.P. City Councilmember Kent Keel Will Not Seek Reelection**

After 12 years on the University Place City Council, Councilmember Kent D. Keel has announced he will not run for reelection for a fourth term this fall.

"Over the course of the last three elections, I told voters that I was committed to addressing four main issues in University Place," Keel said. "Those were increasing public safety, attracting new businesses, boosting recreational opportunities and reducing the City's debt. And I have now fulfilled all of my campaign promises to the citizens of University Place."

With the recent passage of the public safety levy, Keel said that his top priority has been addressed and citizens will soon see additional police officers on duty. Business-friendly processes have led to a record-high 1,700 licensed



businesses in the city, with new business openings occurring on a regular basis. "We are enjoying solid business and sales tax revenues that, combined with the completion of the Village at Chambers Bay, are allowing us to reduce our debts and retire bonds sooner," he said.

Keel also noted that, despite cuts to recreational programming in response to budget constraints, he has supported public-private partnerships and collaboration with neighboring cities to support recreational activities for citizens of University Place.

"It has been my solemn honor and distinct privilege to serve the citizens of University Place. Although there are several more things the City needs to accomplish, I believe it is time for others to step up and take the City to the next level," he said.

In addition to his work on the U.P. City Council, Keel has also served on the Pierce County Regional Council and the Puget Sound Regional Council. He was the board chair for Sound Transit, Pierce Transit and the National League of Cities Information Technology Committee. Keel is also the immediate past president of the Association of Washington Cities.

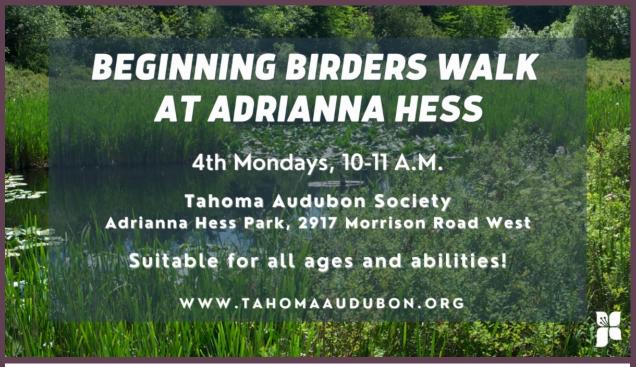
"I hope my work on these national, regional and state-wide organizations has helped to position our city as a regional leader and desirable destination for residents and businesses in Pierce County and Western Washington," Keel said. "But now it's time for me to 'pass the torch.""

#### **Cirque Park Gets Fitness Enhancements**

Thanks to funding from the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office, Cirque Park is getting some new improvements. An ADA-accessible trail around the perimeter of the park's ballfields was paved this week and offers direct access to sidewalks on Bridgeport Way. Beginning the week of May 22, park visitors will also see nine new fitness stations being installed along the path.

These enhancements are the first phase of a larger Cirque Park renovation project that includes plans for skate park repairs and a new playground.



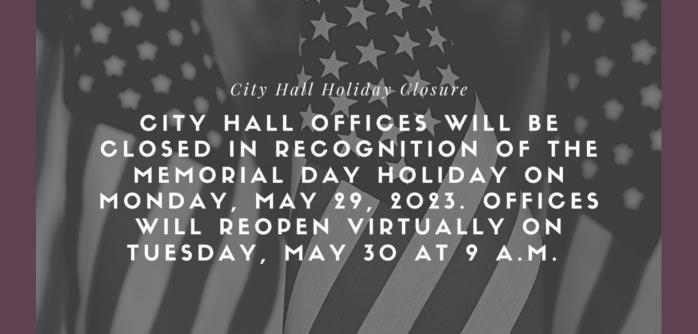


### **Work Continues on New Street Near Old City Hall Complex**

Construction is underway on a new street on the north side of Homestead Park between Bridgeport Way and Drexler Drive. To be named 37<sup>th</sup> St. Ct. W., the new roadway will include on-street parking, sidewalks, street lighting and a sewer line. When finished, it will provide much-needed access to the park and will serve as the first step in the further development of the vacant lot to the north.

As part of the construction work, new onstreet parking is also being added along Bridgeport Way along the former City Hall/Windmill Village lot. The project is funded through a \$1 million grant from the State Department of Commerce. Work is expected to be complete by the end of June.





# Follow us on your favorite social media sites!



### **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** 













City of University Place | 3609 Market Place W, Ste 200, University Place, WA 98466

Unsubscribe uppublicrelations@cityofup.com

Constant Contact Data Notice

Sent byuppublicrelations@cityofup.compowered by



Try email marketing for free today!