

Headlines

News from University Place City Hall



December 13, 2023

Christmas Tree Lighting Draws Huge Crowd

A little bit of rain could not deter eager holidaymakers who attended the annual Christmas Tree Lighting in Market Square on Dec. 1.

Over the course of the evening, nearly 5,000 people took in the festivities, which included pictures with Santa, Magic in the PNW characters, live reindeer, kids activities, live holiday music, food trucks and a special winter fairy on stilts (courtesy of stilt dancer Janet Rayor).

But as is always the case, the biggest oohs and aahs were saved for the countdown and lighting of the tree promptly at 6 p.m.

Thanks to all those who participated and made this year's event a perfect capstone to all the fun memories and community celebrations in U.P. during 2023.

Keep an eye out for more photos from this year's event on the **City Facebook page!**





University Place Police Blotter

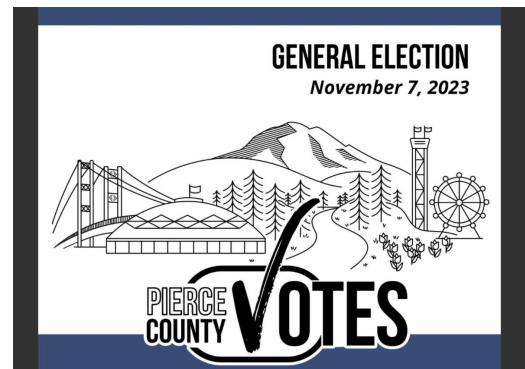
Keep yourself up-to-date with the latest public safety activity in University Place by checking out the U.P. Police Blotter! Chief Burke highlights some of the most notable incidents that the U.P. Police Department responds to. But that's not all - you can also browse through recent Calls for Service to get a better understanding of the local happenings in your area.

Don't miss out on staying informed and being part of a safer community - view the U.P. Police Blotter on the **City website** for updates!



Grassi and Boykin Elected to U.P. City Council

The results of the Nov. 5 elections have been certified, with Frank Boykin winning the Council Position 2 slot with 68 percent of the vote and Melanie J. Grassi taking Council Position 7 with 59 percent of the vote. Council Member Stan Flemming ran unopposed and was reelected to Council Position 6 with 97 percent of the vote. The newly elected members will be sworn in and begin service at the City Council meeting on Jan. 2, 2024.



In all, Pierce County Elections reports that the final election turnout was 30.36 percent with 168,324 ballots accepted and tabulated. A total of 101,133 ballots were returned to drop boxes throughout the county, with the West Pierce Fire and Rescue box being the most used, receiving 6,857 ballots.

For a complete election recap, visit the **Pierce County Elections website**.

Outgoing City Council Members Belleci and Keel Recognized at Dec. 4 Meeting

Current City Council Members Caroline Belleci and Kent Keel, both of whom chose not to seek reelection, were lauded for their many years of service to the City of University Place during the **last regular City Council meeting** of 2023.

A **special video recap** commemorated their years of dedicated service to the City Council, commissions and boards—and their attendance at lots and lots of ribbon cuttings! It also included a special shout-out to their families and friends who supported them through the years.

It was an emotional farewell for both. "This journey has been something that I never in my wildest dreams thought I would ever accomplish or do," Belleci said. "And it's been the best journey. But we need a new set of eyes and ears on this community so it is time for me to step away."



Keel, too, recounted his years of public service, starting with 10 years on the U.P. School Board before he ran for City Council. "I got the fire in my belly to be on this Council because I love this city," he said. "I am going to miss being here but it is the right thing for me to do. Twelve years is long enough. The things I wanted to do coming here, got done. Now it's time to go do something else."

Before returning to the dais for her last meeting, Belleci urged residents to become active in their local government. "I challenge our citizens to come forward and start participating, especially at our commissions where our work starts, and to participate in community outreach meetings," she said. "Make an impact."

Santa at the Station

December 12th from 5:30 - 7pm

Station 21 --- 5000 Steilacoom Blvd SW, Lakewood

December 14th from 5:30 - 7pm

Station 31 --- 3631 Drexler Drive W, University Place

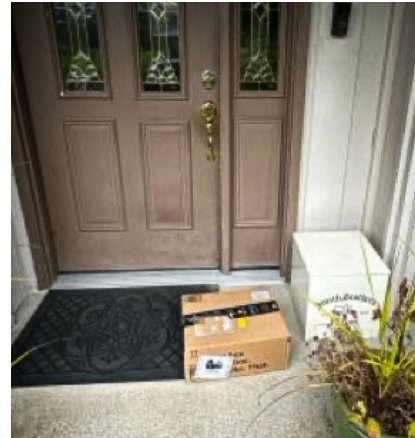
Visit www.westpierce.org/santa for details!



Don't Let Crime Spoil Your Holidays

Criminals never take a holiday, so don't let your guard down this Christmas season. Protect yourself, your packages and your home by:

- Arranging to have packages delivered while someone is home or have them delivered to a safe pick-up stop such as a store or package receiving service.
- Requiring a signature that prevents packages from being left without you taking physical possession of the items.
- Installing a home security system with cameras or a camera-enabled doorbell.
- When shopping at stores, do not leave your purse unattended in a cart. Skilled thieves can take it away in seconds.
- Never display or carry large amounts of cash. Use digital payment methods or debit/credit cards.
- When returning to your car, have your keys out. Put your phone away and pay attention to your surroundings. Keep your head on a swivel.
- Always look inside your car before getting in. Once inside, lock all doors.
- Call 911 if you spot suspicious activity in the area.





Battle of the Badges Blood Drive

University Place Police VS West Pierce Fire & Rescue
January 9, 2024 and January 10, 2024
12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

American Red Cross
4310 Bridgeport Way W
University Place, WA 98466

Schedule your appointment today!

RedCrossBlood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | Blood Donor App
Questions: Contact Larry Bleich 253-514-2832



Are You Ready for Winter?

Don't let winter rain, wind or snow storms leave you out in the cold. Emergency preparedness experts recommend you:

- Build an emergency supply kit for your car that includes things like flares, tire chains, a shovel, and warm blankets and jackets.
- Since most winter deaths related to ice and snow occur in vehicles, experts say that if you must travel in inclement weather, make sure you have a full tank of gas, cell phone and cell phone charger, water and snacks.
- Be ready at home, too, by making sure that if the power (heat) goes out, you have extra layers of clothing and blankets accessible for all members



of your household. Have dry wood handy if you have a working fireplace or a properly vented wood-burning stove.

- Have salt to melt ice on walkways, sand or kitty litter to improve traction, and snow shovels or other snow removal equipment.

For more tips on how you can stay safe and warm this winter, check out **Ready.gov**.

Santa's Helpers in Blue

Members of the University Place Police Department helped spread some holiday cheer among patrons at the Green Firs Towne Center Shopping Center on Dec. 5. Along with team members from Trader Joe's and Bober Tea, they distributed donated items from Green Firs businesses, such as bird seed, chip clips, ear plugs, coupons and Starbucks cups. Police Chief Pat Burke said shoppers seemed delighted to see the public safety team members and made a point of stopping to thank the officers for their presence.

Green Firs Property Manager Jennifer Hagge thanked the "elves" for coming out, saying in an email, "A very special shout out to our City and the police department. We are very lucky to have such a great partnership with them and for them to make the time to connect with the community at Green Firs."



Apply for the AWC Scholarship

Calling University Place student leaders! We are now accepting applications for the AWC Center for Quality Communities (CQC) scholarship.

The City of University Place will select one graduating high school student to nominate for a \$3,000 CQC scholarship. **Learn more** and submit your application to the city by Wednesday, December 27, 2023. Complete applications may be emailed to **LPetorak@cityofup.com** or mailed to:

City of University Place, Attn.: Lisa Petorak
3609 Market Place W. Suite 200
University Place, WA 98466



What's UP with Biz

As 2023 winds to a close, it is a great time to celebrate the continued growth of local businesses in University Place. The City celebrated 14 new businesses throughout the year with ribbon cutting events and welcomed more than 300 new businesses—including home-based operations—through the end of the third quarter.

These local businesses offer the products and services that residents want and need, while also contributing greatly to our local tax base. Their investment in University Place supports the City of U.P.'s efforts to maintain our outstanding quality of life.

Watch future editions of Headlines for news about more business celebrations in 2024!

Are You Enrolled in FlashVote?

FlashVote is an easy means to weigh in on key issues impacting the City of University Place. It takes less than one minute to **sign up**. Then you'll have regular opportunities to participate in anonymous one-minute surveys to make sure your voice is heard. Once enrolled, you will have access to the survey results and be able to see what your fellow community members have to say about City-related topics.



Advisory Commission Vacancies

Commissioners are residents who, through their volunteer efforts, play an integral role in the growth and development of their city. Volunteers serving on the City's Commissions apply their unique knowledge and experiences to the issues and the needs of the 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:

Park Advisory Commission Planning Commission

For information about the commission and how to apply, visit the **Park Advisory Commission** or **Planning Commission** webpage, or email **Debora Nicholas**. The recruitment will remain open until filled.

City Hall Holiday Closure

City staff will be on holiday beginning Friday, Dec. 22 at noon & City Hall will remain closed on Monday, Dec. 25 in recognition of the Christmas holiday.

Normal hours will resume on Tuesday, Dec. 26 at 9 a.m.



UNIVERSITY PLACE

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

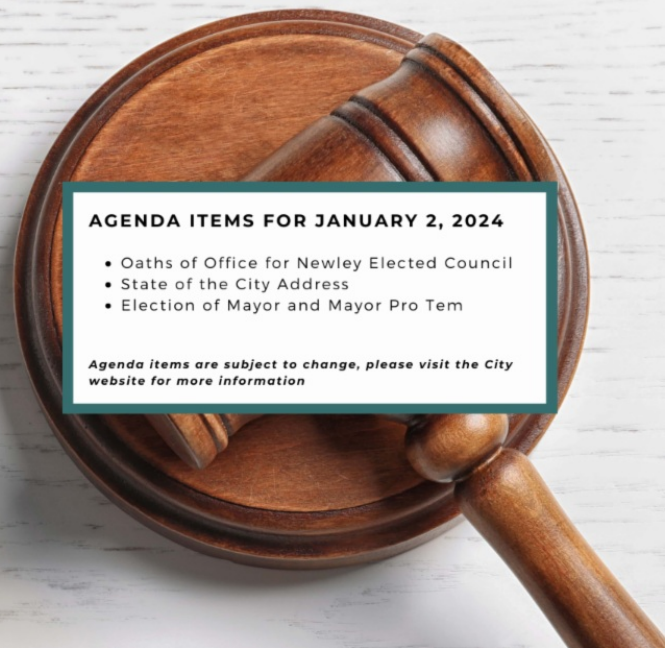
MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2023
CANCELLED

VIRTUAL: WATCH ON COMCAST
CHANNEL 21, RAINIER CONNECT
CHANNEL 12 OR LIVE ON
[YOUTUBE.COM/UNIVERSITYPLACETY](https://www.youtube.com/universityplacety)

AGENDA ITEMS FOR JANUARY 2, 2024

- Oaths of Office for Newley Elected Council
- State of the City Address
- Election of Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem

Agenda items are subject to change, please visit the City website for more information



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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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