

Headlines

News from University Place City Hall



November 29, 2023

U.P.'s Christmas Tree Lighting is Friday!

One of the most anticipated annual events in University Place will take place this Friday, Dec. 1 with the lighting of the community Christmas Tree in Market Square.

Doors open at 4:30 p.m. and the celebration begins at 5 p.m. when the Curtis High School drumline escorts Santa in a West Pierce Fire engine along Market Place West to the Civic Building Atrium. The Stacy Jones Band will begin live music at 5 p.m. and the festivities will continue until 7:30 p.m. with food, music and children's activities including:



- Photos with Santa in the Civic Building Atrium begin at 5 p.m. (\$6 cash only)
- Countdown to Tree Lighting at 6 p.m.
- Live reindeer from Rainier Reindeer Ranch
- Magic in the PNW characters
- Warm gatherings by Market Square's outdoor fireplace
- Stilt dancer Janet Rayor
- Face painting and more outdoor children's games and activities
- Popular food trucks including Boss Mama's Kitchen, The Corndoggery, Jack's Savory Pie Co. and Tasty's Kettle Corn

Bundle up and enjoy what promises to be another night of memorable holiday fun in University Place.



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!



City Brings Home Top Honors in Television Programming Awards

The City of U.P. Communications team of Linda Seesz and Amanda Kleber, along with Pierce County TV members Dave Kellman and Peter Gudmonson, racked up scores of awards from the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors in the Government Programming category.

They received an Award of Excellence and Award of Distinction for **this video** on the Chambers Creek Bridge project. They also took home additional Awards of Distinction for their **Duck Daze** and **Garden Tour** recap videos as well as the **2022 State of the City** video.

"Those of us in University Place always enjoy the videos this team produces because they are so well done, but it is wonderful to see their efforts recognized nationally," said

Mayor Steve Worthington. "Kudos to the team for helping us tell our stories in such a professional and compelling way."

Pictured above, left to right: Mayor Steve Worthington, David Kellman, Amanda Kleber and Linda Seesz.



What's UP with Biz?

Think outside the (gift) box this year when you are making your list and checking it twice. University Place has many businesses that offer the products and services people on your gift list would love.

Why not consider buying a gift card or gift certificate for things like:

- Art classes
- Birding supplies
- Candy or cupcakes (or both!)
- Car detailing
- Computer tune-ups
- Family pizza nights
- Golf outings
- Lattes, mochas and espresso
- Massages
- Pedicures and manicures
- Pilates classes
- Pet grooming
- Spring landscaping clean ups



These are just a few ideas. So take a look around and discover all the ways you can shop local in U.P. this holiday season.

Also, if you happen to be in the Green Firs Towne Center on Tuesday, Dec. 5 from noon to 2 p.m., stop and say hello to some of "U.P.'s Finest" public safety personnel as they visit with shop owners and customers while spreading some holiday cheer.

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!



Vision for University Place

What would you like U.P. to look like in 2044? A city's comprehensive plan is the blueprint for a community's growth and changes over a 20-year horizon. The City of University Place is in the midst of updating its Comprehensive Plan, which has a chapter on community character that discusses the vision for the City. This vision can be a guiding force as the City develops policies and regulations. The City's "Vision Statement" was last revised in 2004 and it states:



University Place is a safe, attractive city that provides a supportive environment for all citizens to work, play, obtain an education and raise families. Children

and youth are nurtured and encouraged to develop into competent, contributing citizens in a changing world. The physical and mental well-being and health of all individuals is valued. Violence is not tolerated. A cooperative community spirit and respect for each other – our commonalities and differences – foster a diverse cultural, spiritual, and ethnic life and prepare us for future challenges.



What do you like about this vision for your city? What do you dislike?

Tell the City what you think about its vision and other topics in a community survey, available in **English, Korean** and **Spanish**. The survey is open from Oct. 11 to Dec. 4. The City will also have a booth at the Christmas Tree Lighting on Dec. 1 if you'd like to talk directly to City staff.

Let your voice be heard and take the survey today.

COMMUNITY FORUM



WHAT EVERY PARENT & TEEN NEEDS TO KNOW ABOUT FENTANYL

Nov. 29, 2023
6-8 PM

Curtis High School Auditorium
8425 40th St W



DID YOU KNOW...

Fentanyl is a deadly synthetic opioid that is being pressed into fake pills or cut into heroin, cocaine, and other street drugs to drive addiction.

Illicit fentanyl is **50X more** potent than heroin.

It only takes a very small dose of fentanyl to be lethal – as little as the amount that can fit on the tip of a pencil lead (2 milligrams)

Most street pills **are** laced with fentanyl.

Please Participate in the Cirque Park Feasibility Study

The City of University Place has launched its

in-depth feasibility study to gather input on plans to revitalize Cirque Park. There will be a total of three separate surveys that the public can respond to, including a FlashVote survey that will go out in early December. There will also be a series of public meetings and presentations to community stakeholders about the project.

Sign up online to participate in the current survey and make sure that you are also **enrolled in FlashVote** so you can weigh in on the December survey.

For all the latest updates on this effort, be sure to follow the **project page** on the City's website.



35th Street Improvements Underway

Work has begun on the construction of new sidewalks, bike lanes, streetlighting and landscaping along both sides of 35th Street between 67th Avenue and Bridgeport Way. In addition, an improved crosswalk with pedestrian-actuated flashing beacons will be installed across 35th Street at Morrison Road.



The project's contractor is currently clearing vegetation to make room for the new sidewalks. This will be followed by retaining wall construction and utility relocation. The work is anticipated to be completed by early summer 2024. This project is funded through a \$2 million grant from the Federal Highway Administration.

For questions regarding the work, contact the Engineering Department at 253.460.2526.

Apply for the AWC Scholarship

The Association of Washington Cities Center for Quality Communities (CQC) provides **scholarships** to



high school seniors who are active in leadership in their city government, community, or school and plan to pursue post-secondary education.

Applications must be received by noon on Wednesday, Dec. 27 to meet the date for the City to also include consideration into the University of Washington Presidential Scholarship for students planning to attend UW. 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

The City will review all the local applications and select a nominee to forward to the Center for Quality Communities for consideration. Scholarship recipients will be notified in April 2024 by AWC.

CITY HALL CLOSURE

City Hall offices will close at noon
on Thursday, Dec. 7 for an
Employee Appreciation Event.

Offices will reopen on
Friday, Dec. 8 at 9 a.m.

DECEMBER 7

City Invests in Two New Electric Vehicles

The City of University Place recently purchased two new 2023 Ford F150 Lightning electric vehicles to replace two 2006 Ford F250 trucks with traditional internal combustion engines. The new vehicles will be used by the Public Works Department.



"The City is working toward adding electric and hybrid vehicles to our fleet when it makes sense. These are the first two trucks the City has purchased towards that goal," said Tony West, the City's Public Works Operations manager, noting that some larger trucks and equipment do not have zero-emission vehicles (ZEV) or low emission vehicle (LEV) equivalents yet. "Washington State has adopted California's 2035 ZEV vehicle mandate, and while these vehicles present somewhat of a higher initial cost, long-term savings on maintenance, fuel and to our environment will offset that."

Are You Enrolled in FlashVote?

FlashVote is an easy means to weigh in on key issues impacting the City of University Place, including updates to the City's Comprehensive Plan and improvements at Cirque Park. 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 4, 2023
AT 6:30 P.M.

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

AGENDA ITEMS

- Council Recognition
- City Commissions 2024 Work Plans
- Commission Appointments
- 2024 Legislative Agenda
- Accessory Dwelling Units

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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