

Headlines

News from University Place City Hall



January 10, 2024

U.P. Begins 2024 with Javier Figueroa as Mayor

During its first meeting of the new year on Jan. 2, 2024, the University Place City Council elected Council Member Javier Figueroa to serve as U.P.'s mayor and Council Member Ed Wood to serve as mayor pro tem for the next two years, through the end of 2025. This change in leadership is standard practice in U.P., where the City Council elects these positions on a two-year cycle.



The Jan. 2 meeting also included the swearing in of the City Council's two newest members. Pierce County District Court Judge Karl Williams gave the oath of office to Frank Boykin who was elected to Position 2 in November 2023, while Pierce County Superior Court Judge Grant Blinn gave the oath of office to Melanie Grassi who won Position 7 in the November election.



Figueroa was the City's mayor pro tem in 2022 and 2023 and served as the City's mayor in 2016 and 2017. He has been a member of the University Place City Council since 2010 and serves on numerous regional organizations, including the executive boards of the Pierce County Regional Council and the Puget Sound Regional Council.

Wood was elected to the U.P. City Council in 2021, beginning his term of service early in November 2021. He has served the last two years as the City's Finance Committee chair and serves on several other regional organizations. He has also served on the Public Safety Advisory Commission since 2010, serving as co-chair

beginning in 2017, and serving as its chair in 2020 to 2021.

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!



2023 State of the City Video

Before turning the gavel over to the City's new Mayor Javier Figueroa and resuming his role as a City Council Member, outgoing Mayor Steve Worthington shared a State of the City video presentation at the Jan. 2 City Council meeting that highlighted many of the City's major accomplishments in 2023.

These included a recap of the successful public safety ballot measure and the introduction of the City's new Chief of Police, Pat Burke. The video also covered new investment and business openings in U.P. during 2023 as well as major Public Works projects such as improvements to Chambers Creek Road, the opening of the new 37th Street Court between Drexler Drive and Bridgeport Way, and Cirque Park upgrades.

And as a final reminder of what a special place University Place is, the video features a look back at some of the year's spectacular community events, including Duck Daze, Music on the Square, Movie in the Park, Oktoberfest and the annual Christmas Tree Lighting.

Watch the entire four-minute video **here** or view it along with Mayor Worthington's final remarks as a part of the **January 2, 2024 Council Meeting video** at the eight-minute mark.



Relive the Magic of the Season

Were you part of the huge crowd that attended this year's annual Christmas Tree Lighting in Market Square? If you want to relive the magic—or missed the event and want a taste of the fun—be sure to check this special highlight video. Then mark your 2024 calendar for the first Friday in December (Dec. 6) so you can be there to experience the fun and festivities in person.



Power Outage Preparedness: Tips for Winter Weather

Power outages, particularly during extreme cold or winter weather, pose significant challenges. Here's a concise guide, based on recommendations from **Ready.gov**, to prepare you and your family:

Plan for Neighbors

- Develop a plan to check on neighbors, especially those vulnerable like the elderly or disabled, during extreme weather. A solid communication plan is key.

Involve Kids

- Educate children on emergency preparedness for power outages. They can help with tasks like checking flashlight batteries, collecting blankets and stocking up on non-perishable food.

Save Cell Phone Battery

- Dim your cell phone screen's brightness to conserve battery life during outages.

General Tips

- Keep freezers and refrigerators closed to preserve food.
- Use generators only outdoors and away from windows to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Avoid using gas stoves for heating to prevent fire risks.
- Unplug appliances to protect against electrical surges.
- Plan for alternative power sources for essential medical devices.

Food and Medication Safety

- Store food and medications safely. A fridge keeps food cold for about 4 hours, a full freezer for 48 hours. Discard food above 40 degrees for over two hours. Consult your healthcare provider(s) about medication storage during outages.

Generator Safety

- Operate generators outdoors only, far from windows. Be sure to have a carbon monoxide detector installed (with a battery backup). Let generators cool before refueling and adhere to the manufacturer's instructions.

Post-Outage Actions

- After power restoration, check food and medications. Discard anything suspect to avoid contamination.

Effective preparation and knowledge are vital for dealing with power outages. By following these streamlined tips, your family can stay safe and minimize the outage's impact. Preparation before winter weather is crucial.

Visit **Ready.gov** for more preparedness information.



12 WAYS TO PREPARE



Sign up
for Alerts
and Warnings



Make a Plan



Save for a
Rainy Day



Practice
Emergency
Drills



Test Family
Communication
Plan



Safeguard
Documents



Plan with
Neighbors



Make Your
Home
Safer



Know
Evacuation
Routes



Assemble or
Update
Supplies



Get Involved in
Your Community



Document and
Insure Property

Beginning Birding Walk

Tahoma Audubon Society invites you to a Beginning Birding Walk!

The event takes place on Saturday, January 13 from 9-10 a.m. at Paradise Pond Park, 3124 67th Avenue West. All ages welcome! (Meet in the parking lot.)

Additional walks will be held each month at Paradise Pond Park, stay tuned for future dates! Guided monthly bird walks are also held at Adriana Hess Wetland Park, 3124 67th Avenue West, on the 4th Monday of every month from 10-11 a.m.



What's UP with Biz

As you kick off 2024, why not resolve to patronize one U.P. business a month that you have never used before? You will:

- Keep dollars in the local economy
- Create local jobs and support entrepreneurs
- Enjoy personal service
- Find unique products
- Reduce your carbon footprint
- Support businesses that support our local community teams, groups and organizations.

Resolve to shop local in 2024. You will be pleasantly surprised about what you can get close to home!

Stay Safe, Stay Home

If the forecast calls for snow, ice or strong winds, residents that don't have to go out are encouraged to stay off the streets so that plows and anti-ice trucks can operate without hindrance. Crews will focus on arterial and secondary arterial streets in accordance with the priorities set in the **Snow Route map**.

For the latest updates on closings, cancellations and other weather-related news, visit the City's **website** or check our **Facebook**, **Twitter** and **Instagram** accounts. For information on how to prepare for weather related events, visit **Ready.gov**.



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.



Curran Apple Orchard Tree Adoptions!

Curran Apple Orchard Tree Adoptions are now available! Adoptions are a great way for individuals, families and friends to help support this wonderful park and enjoy delicious apples in the Fall!

There are two types of adoptions: **Pruning** (\$45 through April 1) and **Orchard Supporter/Gifts** (\$70 through July 31).

Pruning Adoptions require people to



prune, thin, weed, pick up windfalls and harvest their apples (approximately six visits to orchard per year). Free pruning instruction is available at pruning parties.

Orchard Supporter/Gift Adoptions are a perfect choice for people who want to support the orchard but are unable to prune. Trained volunteers will prune; however, adopters are responsible for weeding, picking up windfalls and harvesting.

All tree adopters will also have an opportunity to participate in a Cider Squeeze later this year. Adoptions are good for one harvest season (January through October). Volunteers are also needed at pruning parties and other events throughout the year.

For more info on adoptions and orchard events, please visit www.curranappleorchard.com or email curranappleorchard@gmail.com.

City Hall Holiday Closure

CITY HALL OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED
ON MONDAY, JANUARY 15 IN
RECOGNITION OF THE MARTIN
LUTHER KING JR. HOLIDAY.

CITY HALL WILL REOPEN ON
TUESDAY, JANUARY 16 AT 9 A.M.

UNIVERSITY PLACE

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2024
AT 6:30 P.M.

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

AGENDA ITEMS

- ROW Vacation Crest Builders/Boiter
- Sponsorship and Donation Policy
- Zoning Code Text Amendments

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

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University Place City Council



**Mayor
Javier Figueroa**



**Mayor Pro Tem
Ed Wood**



**Council Member
Frank Boykin**



**Council Member
Steve Worthington**



**Council Member
Denise McCluskey**

**Council Member
Sten Flemming**

**Council Member
Melanie Grassi**



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