

Headlines

News from University Place City Hall



September 3, 2025

Birthday Bash Was a Smash!



An estimated 6,500 people came out to Cirque Park on Aug. 23 to help the City of University Place celebrate its 30th birthday. Under brilliant blue skies they enjoyed a day full of live music and kids' attractions. The park's Skate Bowl was packed with enthusiastic fans for skate demos and contests, while the four-legged heroes of the Pierce County Sheriff's Department's K-9 unit attracted lots of curious fans. The aromas of burgers and barbeque, tacos and sweet treats filled the air but the true stars of the day were the hot air balloons that lit up the night sky for the event's Glow Show finale. For a true taste of the day, check out these photos that capture the magic and joy of this fantastic celebration.



A very special thank you to the event's "Civic Partners" Honest Home Solutions and University Place Refuse and Recycling who helped make this event one for the record books! Thanks as well to Alta Apartments, the event's "Neighborhood Supporter" and to the many other businesses and community groups that provided funds, in-kind services, or volunteered their time to help the day run smoothly, including: At Your Service Plumbing, Brassfields Salon & Spa, Chambers Bay Golf Course, Fred Meyer, Green Firs Towne Center, Mary Bridge, Merry Makers, OURCHURCH, Pierce County Library, Rotary Club of University Place-Fircrest, Starbucks, Sunset Bible Church and the University Place School District.



Oktoberfest Slated for Oct. 10

Dig out your lederhosen and get ready for another evening of fun with friends when Oktoberfest returns to Market Square on Friday, Oct. 10 from 5-9 p.m.

Adults 21 and over can enjoy seasonal brews from the E9 Brewing Co. in the beer garden, while kids can enjoy carnival games and pumpkin carving demonstrations. There will be live polka music and several food trucks. Check the **City's Events page** and future issues of Headlines for more details as they become available.

Be there, on the Square, on Oct. 10!



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!



Council Member Boykin Earns Certificate of Municipal Leadership

City Council Member Frank Boykin was recently presented with a Certificate of Municipal Leadership (CML) from the Association of Washington Cities. To earn the certification, Boykin had to complete a minimum of 30 CML credits, including training workshops in five competency areas such as budgeting and financial management; infrastructure, transportation and land use; and legal requirements, roles, responsibilities and ethics.

"I learned so much from this program," Boykin said. "In addition to the trainings, it also gave me an opportunity to interact with other elected officials from across the state and learn from their experiences. I feel this will make me a better-informed leader and advocate for the residents and businesses of University Place."



The CML program provides elected officials with the knowledge they need to effectively operate within the law so they can plan for the future, secure and manage funds, foster strong relationships, and work to build more equitable communities.

UPTV and Pierce County TV Take Home National Honors

At the annual National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA) awards ceremonies in New Orleans, UPTV took home three first place awards for the following videos:

- **Color it Up Art Contest**
- **Forever Friends**
- **UP Garden Tour - Alice's Garden**

With a number of second place and honorable mentions, the City took home a total of 14 awards this year.

PCTV, UPTV's production partner, earned the Overall Excellence (Station of the Year) award in the Government Programming category, making it the top government station in its bracket for the second year in a row. In all, PCTV took home 16 awards, including five first place honors.



Pictured left to right: Linda Seesz, Communications Manager and Amanda Kleber, Senior Communications Specialist for the City of U.P.



On Thursday, Aug. 28, Cirque Park was filled with the sounds of laughter and delight as the City of University Place, in conjunction with the University Place Parks and Recreation Foundation (UPPRF) and the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation, held the official ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Inclusive Playground at the park.

Numerous dignitaries were on hand for the event, including State Sen. T'wina Nobles, State Rep. Mari Leavitt and U.P. City Council Members Denise McCluskey, Frank Boykin and Melanie Grassi. They were joined by representatives from several of the project's donors as well as by members of the UP Parks and Rec Foundation and the City's Public Works Department, who were instrumental in bringing the project to fruition.

But the real stars of the day were the children of all abilities who wasted no time trying out the new equipment. The playground features a cushioned, rubberized surface that enables those in wheelchairs or with impaired vision to safely access the play equipment that includes ramps and accessible swings and play components that support diverse sensory needs and give every child a chance to play.



Novel Thinking and Creativity for the Digital Age

Come to the University Place Library on Saturday, Sept. 6 from 3-4 p.m. for a program that celebrates the rich creative and cultural diversity in Pierce County Communities through arts and culture experiences.

This course, presented by Blair Nishkian, local poet, writer, and illustrator, will explore rediscovering imagination and creative thinking through embracing the small, taken-for-granted details of everyday life. Join



Blair for a discussion on reframing the way we look at ordinary things, and how to train our brains on free association as an everyday habit, so we can better express ourselves in our relationships and our art. Would you like to be a happier, less self-conscious person? Would you like to be a better poet and better writer? It starts with engaging with life, good or bad or in between, and accepting what's right in front of you as real and worth admiring.

Learn more about the program on the [Pierce County Library website](#).

Is Your Pet Licensed?

It's a pet owner's worst nightmare: you come home to discover that your beloved animal is missing. You can help alleviate much of the stress of that situation, however, by ensuring that your furry friend has a City of U.P. pet license. If your pet is ever lost, the license provides the information necessary to return them to you quickly.



But it's also the law. Per City ordinance, all pets eight weeks and older are required to be licensed in the City of U.P. Simply visit the [City's website](#) for information and instructions for payment. It takes just a minute but may save hours of heartache and stress.

Pet license fees for cats and dogs include discounts for senior and disabled residents. All pets that are spayed/neutered also qualify for reduced fees. License fees fund Pierce County's Animal Control services which assist with lost or stray animals, abused animals, barking dogs and leash law violations.

Grab Coffee with a Cop on Oct. 1

Make plans to stop by the Starbucks in the Green Firs Towne Center on Wednesday, Oct. 1 from 9 to 11 a.m. and share a cup of coffee with a U.P. cop.

U.P. Police Chief Pat Burke will be joined by other members of the UPPD and they invite residents to come by to chat with them and enjoy a tasty sample or two. Bring your questions and concerns or simply stop by to thank our public safety professionals for the work they do in our community.



This event is part of the national Coffee with a Cop Day initiative which encourages police officers and community members to come together in casual, non-crisis situations to strengthen the ties that make community-based policing work.

Are You Prepared?

September is **National Preparedness Month** and a reminder that disaster preparedness starts at home with four key actions:

- Know the risks we face in the Puget

Sound region.

- Make a family emergency plan that will reduce stress and save precious time (and money) when disaster strikes.
- Build an emergency supply kit with enough food, water and medicine for at least several days. Create a to-go bag that you can quickly grab if you have to evacuate.
- Take a free online course through **FEMA's Emergency Management Institute** or a **Red Cross CPR course**.

**National
Preparedness Month**
Preparedness Starts At Home

Visit **Ready.gov** for more information and helpful tips.

What's UP with Biz?

Are you or someone you know considering opening your own business? The Washington State Department of Commerce has many **resources for budding entrepreneurs**, including specialized information for those pursuing food or creative endeavors. The department's **Small Business Startup Playbook** has numerous resources, links, and step-by-step information on business requirements in Washington to help answer many of the most frequently asked questions.

The City's Economic Development Department can also help answer questions about establishing a business in U.P. Contact **Becky Metcalf** for more information.

9/11 Remembrance Ceremony at West Pierce

West Pierce Fire & Rescue invites the community to join us on Thursday, Septem 11, at 5:30 p.m. for a memorial ceremony remembering the lives lost on September 11, 2001. Fire Chief Jim Sharp will offer remarks alongside other speakers from WPFR, local law enforcement, the City of Lakewood, and the City of University Place. The ceremony will take place outside at Reflection Park, located in front of WPFR Station 31 at 3631 Drexler Drive in University Place.

For those unable to attend, we encourage you and your families to visit Reflection Park at your own time for reflection. The park honors and lists the nearly 3,000 lives lost that day, featuring the "Weeping Wall" water memorial with 403 etched grooves representing the fallen firefighters, paramedics, and police officers. At the park's center stands a piece of steel from the World Trade Center, brought from New York to Washington by WPFR firefighters in 2012.

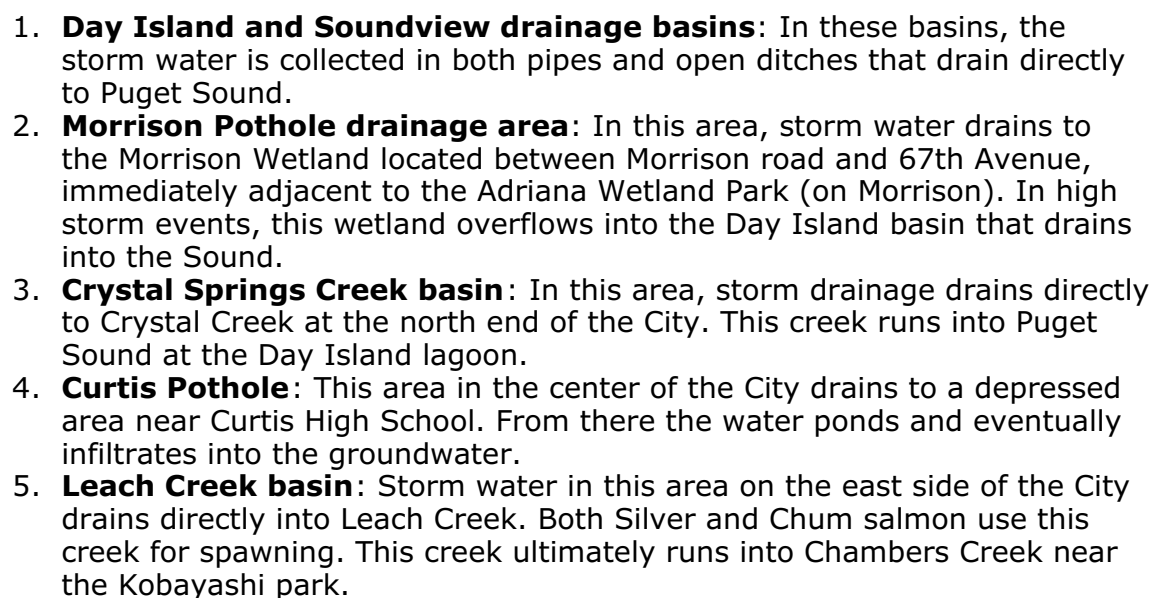
We invite our community to stand with us as we remember the victims, support their families, and honor the countless heroes whose courage continue to inspire us.



Water Ways

The City of University Place has eight stormwater basins that catch water from drains in U.P. neighborhoods. All of the water that flows into these basins eventually ends up in Puget Sound. The map below provides more details and

Remember to do your part to keep pollutants and contaminants from cars, pets and lawns from entering the storm drains. Together, we can make Puget Sound cleaner, healthier and safer for those who fish and play in its waters.



6. **Chambers Creek basin:** Storm water in this basin drains to Chambers Creek either directly into the creek or through Peach Creek. Chambers Creek supports Silver, Chum and Chinook salmon and runs into the sound at Chambers Bay.
7. **West Side basins:** Storm water in the southwest area of the City either infiltrates into the groundwater or drains directly to Puget Sound.
8. **Flett Creek basin:** Water in this area drains to the south into Lakewood and ultimately runs into Flett Creek. This creek joins into Chambers Creek near the Kobayashi park.

U.P. Refuse & Recycling Fall Clean Up

**Residents north of 40th St W.
Saturday, Oct. 4, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

**Residents south of 40th St W.
Saturday, Oct. 11, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

Dispose of and/or recycle some unwanted items
and yard waste for free!

Clean Up Rules:

- Limit: 1 load per household for all items EXCEPT for yard waste only loads
- Help us be good neighbors by securing & covering all loads
- For safety reasons, children and pets MUST remain in vehicles
- Photo I.D. will be required
- No liquids, paint, or hazardous materials (car batteries are OK)
- No loads larger than a regular pickup truck or equivalent small trailer will be allowed
- No box trucks/oversized commercial trucks will be allowed
- Dump trailers/truck beds must be offloaded by hand, unless it's a yard waste load
- No regular household garbage will be allowed
- Residential items only – NO commercial material or loads will be allowed
- The size of items cannot exceed 5' in any direction (except for appliances and furniture)
- No fuel tanks, enclosed barrels or drums of any kind. Water heaters and propane tanks are OK



Please separate items into the following categories for recycling:

- Wood items: clean, unpainted lumber, pallets, etc.
- Metal items: scrap steel, appliances, lawn mowers, barbecues, plumbing, etc.
- Yard waste: limbs, grass, leaves, other vegetation, no stumps or limbs larger than 4" in diameter
- No dirt, rocks, sod, blackberries, scotch broom or other noxious weeds
- Tires: with or without rims
- Concrete, brick, and stone
- Car batteries

Visit the **University Place Refuse and Recycling website** for more information.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, SEPT. 15, 2025 AT 6:30 P.M.

AGENDA:

- ILA with University of Washington Re: Cooperative Purchase Agreement
- Avidex AV Solution Proposal
- 27th Business District Plan (Resolution)
- Arts Advisory Commission
- LeMay Franchise

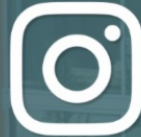


AGENDA ITEMS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE, PLEASE VISIT WWW.CITYOFUP.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION.
WATCH ON COMCAST CHANNEL 21 / 321 OR LIVE ON YOUTUBE.COM/UNIVERSITYPLACETV

STAY IN TOUCH!



@CityofUPWA



@CityofUP_WA



UniversityPlaceTV

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
Stan Flemming**



**Council Member
Melanie Grassi**



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