

Your Business is Our Business

Talking UP

Economic Development
UPdates

University Place
WASHINGTON



September 2020

Creative Solutions to Challenging Times



The COVID-19 pandemic has forced us to rethink our traditions and habits, everything from how we worship to how we shop and stay in shape.

For businesses in University Place, the challenges have led to a spate of creative solutions that demonstrate the “can do” attitude of local entrepreneurs—and their patrons.

Did you know:

- Pure Barre in the Village at Chambers Bay is offering live stream classes on Zoom, private sessions, small in-studio classes, pop up outdoor/weekend classes and closed Facebook group page classes. They also fog the studio once a day with hospital-grade disinfectant to clean air and surfaces and allow 30 minutes between classes for additional cleaning.
- Sapporo and Maria's restaurants in Green Fir Towne Center have outdoor seating.
- Orange Theory has temporarily leased a few of the vacant spaces next to their suite in the Village at Chambers Bay to allow for the social distancing required for gym spaces.
- Green Firs' Trader Joe's has installed a shaded and dry tented waiting line area.
- Bliss Creamery in the Village at Chambers Bay has been serving ice cream outside of their space while the weather has been nice and takes orders of prepacked pints of its signature ice cream.

- Mud Bay at Green Firs has a welcome station outside of their entrance complete with sanitizing equipment and customers can call the store to place an order and request curbside pickup.
- Pensee Nails in the Village at Chambers Bay offers each of its clients a complimentary kit with a disposable face mask and a hand sanitizer pack and has also installed sneeze guards to minimize contact and to allow social distancing.
- The Green Firs Safeway is launching a 'Drive Up & Go' initiative with branded signs at their parking lot entrance.

These businesses are working hard to serve you safely, so please continue to support them and the vital contributions they make to our community. And if your business has made changes to accommodate commerce during this time, let us know!

There is Still Time to Apply for Pierce County Assistance Programs

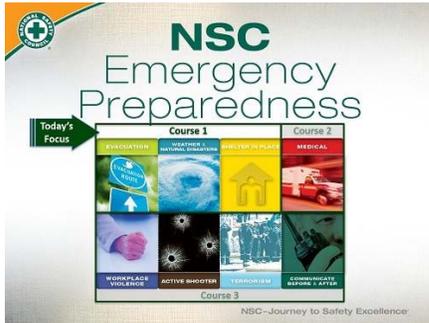
Pierce County has updated the terms and extended the application deadlines for several of its COVID-19 recovery programs. Be sure to act quickly to take advantage of this valuable economic assistance for your business. The deadline for this round of funding is Oct. 2.



- **Pierce County COVID-19 Commercial Rent and Mortgage Payment Assistance Program:** The Pierce County Council and Executive passed an ordinance to protect jobs threatened by the COVID-19 pandemic by providing limited aid to businesses in the form of commercial rent and mortgage payment assistance.
- **Emergency Small Business Relief Loan Program:** Pierce County small businesses that have experienced significant economic injury as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic may apply for this loan program if they meet the criteria. **UPDATES:** Loan amount increased to \$5,000 for micro businesses and loan recipients may now apply for loan forgiveness.
- **Reimbursement of Expenses Related to COVID-19 Safety Practices:** Many businesses and organizations in Pierce County have incurred costs as they make changes to reopen consistent with the Governor's Safe Start Plan. To protect the public and provide support to impacted organizations, Pierce County has created a grant program that may help offset some of these costs. **UPDATES:** Grant maximums increased for companies with more than 20 Employees.
- **Pierce County CARES:** Pierce County is offering **FREE** Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to businesses physically located in Pierce County to help them comply with COVID-19 worksite-specific safety practices in order to protect employees and customers.

For complete details on each of these programs, visit the [Pierce County Economic Development website](#).

September is National Emergency Preparedness Month: Are You Ready



Are your employees prepared to face an unexpected emergency in the workplace such as a natural disaster, heart attack, active shooter or terrorist event?

The National Safety Council offers an online Emergency Preparedness Certificate Program to help your employees know how to respond in the event of an emergency.

The course consists of eight modules:

- Evacuation
- Weather & Natural Disasters
- Shelter in Place Emergencies
- First Aid, CPR & AED
- Workplace Violence
- Active Shooter
- Terrorism Emergencies
- Communication Before and After Emergencies

The NSC online emergency preparedness program can be taken at a time and pace that is most convenient for employees. It takes approximately eight hours to complete. Once your employees have completed the program, they will receive a certificate of completion in Emergency Preparedness.

The certification program costs for \$99.95 for NSC members and \$125 for nonmembers. All components of the program must be completed to receive a certificate. Certificates are valid for two years and can be renewed.

Economic Development Advisory Commission Vacancy

Would you like to help foster additional economic development in University Place? If the answer is “yes,” then please



consider volunteering to serve on the Economic Development Advisory Commission.

That's what Ron Kent did a few years ago. After many years of coaching little league, he was returning equipment to City Hall when his eye caught a recruitment flyer for the EDAC. "I thought, 'Why not,'" he recalls. "If I hadn't said yes to coaching 10 years earlier I would have missed so much. I can't say the EDAC compares to the emotional journey I enjoyed with the kids, but working with other passionate members of the EDAC has its own rewards. Being able to shape policy and influence the business landscape may be my small legacy and gift to the community."

If you, like Ron Kent, want to contribute to the community please consider applying for the open EDAC position. You can get a better sense of what the group does by attending its virtual meeting on Sept. 24. Contact [Becky Metcalf](#) for the Teams link to the meeting.

Visit the [EDAC webpage](#) for more information and to apply or email cityclerk@CityofUP.com. The vacancy will remain open until filled.

Get Your Free Sign of the Times



Don't forget that free "We're UP & Open" window cling signs are available to City businesses to display in their windows to remind the public that they have reopened safely.

- The 18" x 24" window clings signs are available in four unique designs and can be obtained by emailing [Becky Metcalf](#) in the City's Economic Development Department.

Don't miss this chance to let the public know that you are UP and Open and are anxious for their business!

