

OLD TOWN NEWS

CITY EVENTS, CITY COUNCIL, DEPARTMENTS, COMMITTEES,
AND MUNICIPAL CODE INFORMATION

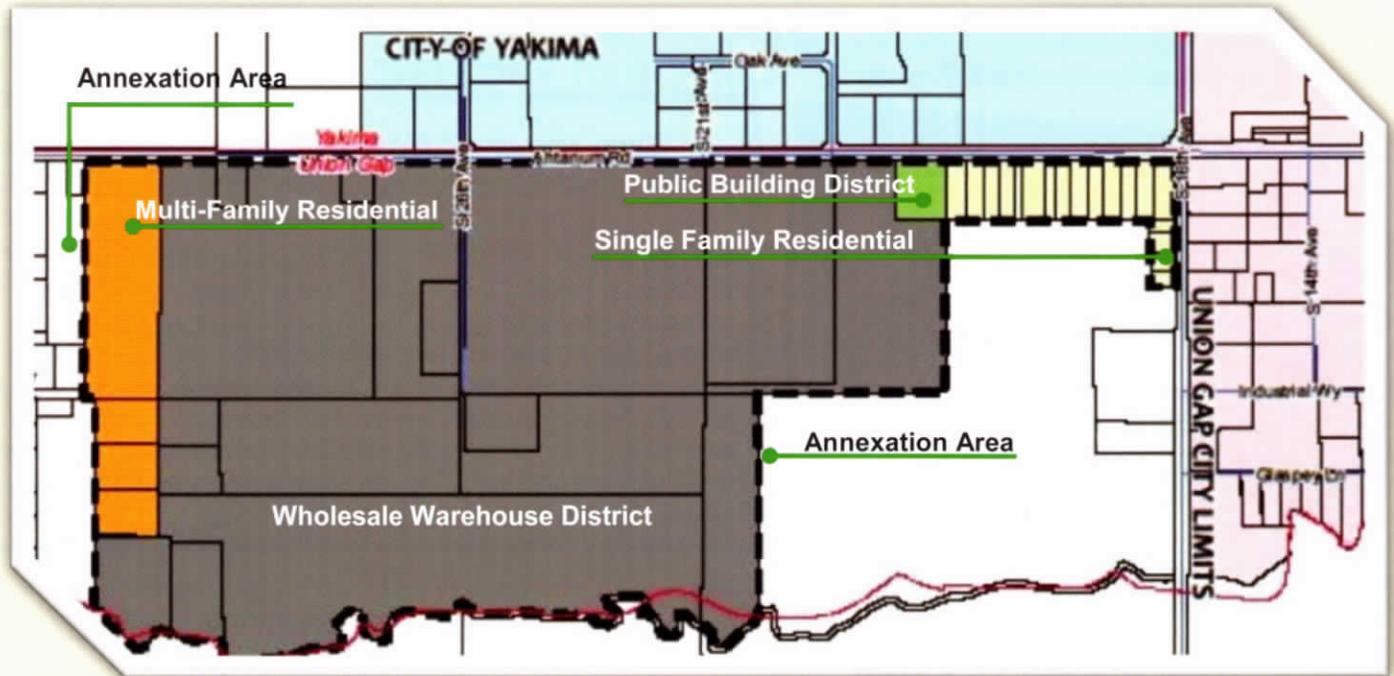
POR FAVOR LLAME 248.0432 PARA OBTENER INFORMACIÓN EN ESPAÑOL.

FALL 2014
VOLUME 36, ISSUE 3



UNION GAP MIGHT BE GETTING BIGGER

On July 28, the City Council held a public meeting and accepted the petition of Borton Fruit to begin the annexation of property the company owns into the City of Union Gap. Neighboring property is also included in this proposed annexation (see map). Additional public meetings will be held before a final decision by the City Council on whether to approve the annexation. If the annexation is approved approximately 250 acres will be added to the City of Union Gap.



MAIN STREET REVITALIZATION PROJECT

Mark your calendar and join us at the **September 8, 2014 City Council meeting at 6:00 p.m.**

The Main Street Revitalization Project Task Force will provide their recommendations for the future of downtown. Phase I of this project is already funded at a cost of \$4.8 million and is expected to begin next year.

The Task Force has been meeting for nearly a year and unveiled preliminary plans at an open house held June 16 at Spring Creek.



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

The annual National Night Out Against Crime event was held at Loudon Park on August 5. National Night Out is a community event to promote a police-community partnership to help keep the community safe.



Children and community members enjoy the fire truck spraying water on a very hot day.



Dave and Ildia Heitzman with the Union Gap Lions Club help young artists paint a mural during National Night Out.



Employees of the Union Gap Police & Fire Department participating in a dance competition with the Old Country Buffet Bee and children .

Thank you to everyone who helped bring this successful community event together!

- ◆ Carl's Jr
- ◆ Miner's Drive
- ◆ Mercy Movie Theatres
- ◆ Cascade Valley Lube
- ◆ Cascade Licensing
- ◆ Old Country Buffet
- ◆ Pepsi
- ◆ Tactical Supply
- ◆ Yo Yakima
- ◆ Peppermint Stick Drive
- ◆ Home Depot
- ◆ Union Gap Lions Club
- ◆ Macy's
- ◆ Jacob Macias
- ◆ Carey Motors
- ◆ Old Town Station Restaurant
- ◆ Jean's Cottage Inn
- ◆ JC Penney

PUBLIC SAFETY NEWS

Stace McKinley has been promoted to the rank of Sergeant in the Union Gap Police Department. Stace has been an officer with the Union Gap Police Department since 2002. If you have any questions about criminal activity in our community please stop by the Police Department at 1800 Rainier Place.



HOMEOWNER REHABILITATION LOAN PROGRAM ANNOUNCED

The HOMEowner Rehabilitation Loan Program provides a partial grant and 0% interest loans to low and moderate income homeowners for rehabilitation / repair work to remedy health, life, and safety concerns, structural defects, energy conservation and weatherization to bring the whole house to current minimum property code standards.

For more information please contact Dave Spurlock in the Community Development Department at 575-3638.

THANK YOU LEGENDS CASINO!

The City of Union Gap received a total of \$6,500 from the Yakama Nation Legends Casino Charitable Donation Committee. A \$1,500 donation to the Parks Department helped pay for craft materials and snacks for our five week Summer Youth Program; and a \$5,000 donation to the Police Department was used to purchase individual police officer video cameras to capture and preserve evidence.

*Thank you
Yakama Nation Legends Casino
for your generous donation!*



Summer Youth Program swim day!

If you have anything you would like to see in future newsletters or comments regarding these publications please contact Jo Linder, Newsletter Editor, at jlinder@cityofuniongap.com or call 225.3524.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW EMPLOYEES

Hi my name is **TERESA LOPEZ**; I am a Cashier / Receptionist at City Hall. I'm thankful for the opportunity and honored being chosen to be working alongside an amazing staff.

I grew up in the Yakima Valley and attended A.C. Davis High School and Heritage University. For the last two years I worked for Homestreet Bank as a Teller, Receptionist, new accounts and assistant to the bank manager.

I am most proud of being able to give my adopted nephew a family and supporting his dream to become a great wrestler.



In my spare time I love to travel, especially traveling for a wrestling tournament.

I enjoy watching my nephew - win or lose he is my champion!

My name is **RAY SUAREZ**; I work in the Public Works Department on the Maintenance crew.

I grew up in and graduated from Othello, Washington. I attended Yakima Valley College for two years and was previously employed with Simplot in Moxee for four years.



I am most proud of my wife, Julie and our two kids Haylee & Rylee. In my spare time I like spending time with my family and friends, vacationing, camping and four-wheeling.

PARK BOARD MEMBER NEEDED

The City is looking for interested people to serve on the Park Board. If you are interested, please send a letter of interest to: Mayor Roger Wentz; P.O. Box 3008; Union Gap, WA 98903

The Park Board advises the City Council with respect to the parks and recreational facilities and programs.

ADOPT-A-PARK PROGRAM

Do you have a green thumb, like working outdoors, care about parks and have some time to volunteer? If you answered “yes”, than **YOU** are exactly who we are looking for! On June 23, the City Council approved the Adopt-A-Park Program. Those who sign up help fix up and maintain the Youth Activities Park, Loudon Park, Fullbright Park, Cahalan Park and the historical Pioneer Graveyard. Activities include planting, watering, weeding, picking up litter, raking leaves and other projects based upon your interest and abilities. If you are interested please visit City Hall or check out the city’s website.



Rodrigo Morales and other Home Depot employees volunteer time to fix the fence at the horseshoe pit in Loudon Park.

YOU'RE INVITED!

The Yakima Third Ward Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints will be doing a service project at the historical Pioneer Graveyard on Saturday, September 13 from 8 a.m.–1 p.m. The Church has also recruited the Yakima Valley Second Branch of the Latter-Day Saints as well as Cub Scout Pack and Boy Scout Troop 131. The project will include: removal of vegetation and small trees along the graveyard’s outer circumference, removal of overgrown ivy, blackberry vines, old landscape timbers and spikes, as well as shrub bed improvement and general trash and vegetation pickup. The Union Gap Lions Club will be serving **free** hot dogs, chips and drinks at noon for all participants and attendees. **COME JOIN US!**



Hidden from view, Pioneer Graveyard turns 150 years old next year.

Take time to visit the historic Pioneer Graveyard now before the building is torn down. Pioneer Graveyard is located one block east of Main Street on Ahtanum Road.



A simulation of Pioneer Graveyard after removal of the building hiding it from view. Removal of the building will allow for visitor parking and interpretive signage.

Union Gap is working with the Yakima Valley Museum to create interpretive panels to help visitors learn the history of this early graveyard. The panels will be installed in time for a commemorative celebration to be scheduled next year during the 150th anniversary of the graveyard - watch for details in future issues of this newsletter.

FIRST BURIAL

December 18, 1865

*One dreary day when the winds swept the damp snow over the plains
and the fogs denied every cheering ray of the hidden sun,
a little band of ten or twelve persons followed this pioneer mother to her last home.*

-Description of the first burial in the Pioneer Graveyard from *History of the Pacific Northwest*, published in 1889



Priscilla Goodwin had lived only two months in Yakima City (now Union Gap) before she died in December of 1865. She had arrived in the Yakima Valley in late September, part of a wagon train led by her husband, Dr. L.H. Goodwin.

I saw a great dust on the trail leading through the Mok-see Gap from Parker Bottom. As it drew nearer, the wind, blowing the dust away, revealed a train of covered wagons, the like of which we had never seen before in Yakima. ... They inquired where they could ford the river, saying they were on their way to Puget Sound. The next day the Thorp boys and myself followed them up and found them encamped on the Kwi-wuy-chas Creek near the mouth by the Painted Rocks. They were undecided whether to attempt to cross the Cascade Range or to remain and settle in this valley. Finally they decided to remain. The emigration was led by Dr. L.H. Goodwin, a man of excellent qualities and a valuable addition to our settlement.

-A.J. Splawn, excerpts from *Ka-Mi-Akin, the Last Hero of the Yakimas*, published in 1917.



Priscilla, who was pregnant with the family’s third child, had endured the many hardships of the months-long journey across the plains in covered wagon, but she did not survive childbirth in her new home. She was the first white woman buried in the Yakima Valley and the first person to find her final resting place here in the Pioneer Graveyard.

The life of a pioneer woman was hard. Many, like Priscilla Goodwin, died in childbirth. Many newborns died shortly after birth, and many children did not live to be teenagers. The demanding and dangerous life on the frontier, coupled with sickness and lack of medical care, claimed the lives of many settlers. These losses had the greatest impact on pioneer mothers, who learned to be tough and resilient in the face of countless and unpredictable challenges. These women are the unsung heroes American westward expansion.



Look for Priscilla's headstone as you wander the graveyard. It is located near the far wall.

For more information on the Goodwin family and stories of other early settlers buried in the Pioneer Graveyard, please log on to the City of Union Gap's website and look under "Pioneer Graveyard."



You can use this QR code to access the site on your smart phone.

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR SKATEPARK

Last year a number of students from Union Gap School came to a City Council meeting and voiced their desire to have a skatepark in Union Gap. The City Council has committed \$50,000 towards this project and donations are coming in. The City received a \$7,500 grant from Tony Hawk Foundation and a \$100 donation from the Union Gap Lions Club. The total cost of the project is \$145,000.



Preliminary design of the proposed skatepark at Cahalan Park.



Union Gap Lions Club President Patsy Roy presents Deputy Mayor Dave Matson with a check to help fund a new skatepark.

P A R K S U R V E Y

We are conducting a survey about Union Gap parks. Your answers will be anonymous and confidential. Survey results will be used to help the City of Union Gap plan for the future improvements of City parks. Please attach an additional comment sheet if needed. Surveys can be: 1) Delivered to City Hall; 2) Dropped in the utility payment box on the east side of City Hall; 3) Emailed to: jlinder@cityofuniongap.com

1. How long have you lived in Union Gap?

- Don't live in Union Gap
- Less than 1 year
- 1 to 5 years
- 5 to 10 years
- More than 10 years

2. How would you rate Union Gap parks?

	Youth Activities	Cahalan	Fullbright	Loudon
Excellent				
Very Good				
Satisfactory				
Unsatisfactory				
Poor				
Don't Know				

3. What do you like best about Union Gap parks? (please be specific about which park and what)

4. What would you like to see changed or added to Union Gap parks? (please be specific)

5. Is there anything else you would like to say about Union Gap parks that we have not asked about? (please be specific)

Thank you very much - you have been very helpful.

CITY OF UNION GAP
107 W. AHTANUM ROAD
P.O. BOX 3008
UNION GAP, WA
98903-0008

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE PAID
YAKIMA, WA
PERMIT #100

Postal Customer—ECRWSS

~ Published on a quarterly basis to keep citizens informed ~

GENERAL INFORMATION

Check out our website!!

<http://www.cityofuniongap.com/>

107 WEST AHTANUM ROAD

City Hall	248.0432
Fire	452.6706
Legal	225.3522
Park Reservations	248.0432
Treasurer / Clerk	248.0432
Utilities (Water, Sewer, Garbage)	248.0434

3106 FIRST STREET

Building / Planning	575.3638
Code Enforcement	575.3638
Public Works	225.3524
Newsletter	225.3524

1800 RAINIER PLACE

Animal Control	248.0430
Crime Prevention	457.5927
Police	248.0430

1000 AHTANUM ROAD

Senior Center	248.2668
---------------	----------

TOURISM & TRANSIT

Tourism Promoter	480.7636
Union Gap Transit	574.8000
Union Gap Transit TTY	574.6926

MAYOR & COUNCIL

Council Members

Position #1
Chad Lenz ~ 965.3364

Position #2
Mark Carney ~ 969.6833

Position #3
Dan Olson ~ 453.4310

Position #4
Dave Butler ~ 452.8631

Position #5
Dave Matson ~ 453.3098

Position #6
James Murr ~ 823.4686

Mayor / Council Member

Position #7
Roger Wentz ~ 575.3799

CITY STAFF

City Manager
Rod Otterness
248.0432

*Public Works & Community
Development Director*
Dennis Henne
225.3524

*Finance & Administration
Director*
Karen Clifton
248.0432

Acting Public Safety Director
Greg Cobb
248.0430

City Attorney
Bob Noe
225.3522