

OLD TOWN NEWS

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

POR FAVOR LLAME 248.0432 PARA OBTENER INFORMACIÓN EN ESPAÑOL.

WINTER 2014
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11th ANNUAL OLD TOWN CHRISTMAS PARADE

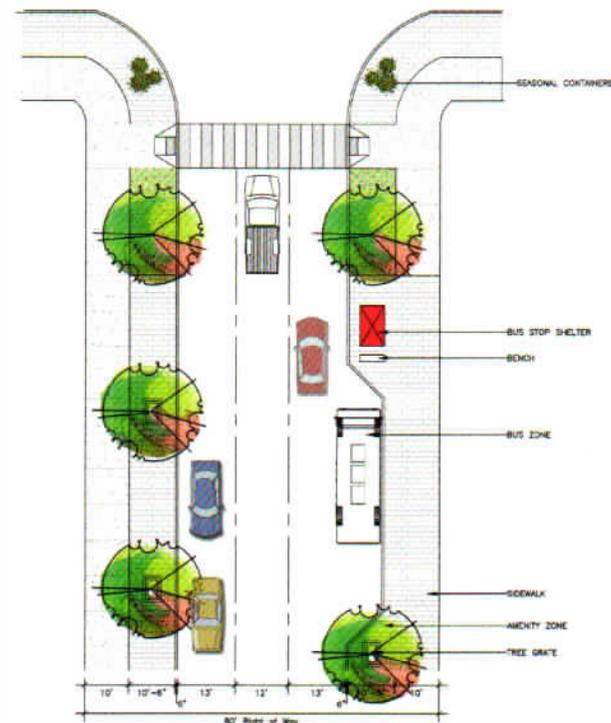
*DRUM ROLL PLEASE....*The Union Gap Christmas Parade Committee proudly announces Carrie Greenough (Owner of *The Cloverleaf*) as this year's Grand Marshal for the parade!!

Don't miss it!! The City's 11th annual Christmas Parade will be **Sunday, December 14th beginning at 6:00 p.m.** The parade starts at Main Street / Yakima Street (by Peppermint Stick) and proceeds north on Main. Registration forms and additional information are available at City Hall. The Union Gap Christmas Parade Committee wish everyone "Happy Holidays" and look forward to continued growth of the festival in years to come! For more information call 509.248.0432.



MAIN STREET REVITALIZATION PROJECT

On September 8, 2014 City Council adopted the Main Street Revitalization Project Task Force's recommendations. Their vision is to maintain a small town feel that integrates the city's value as an asset in the region; create a pedestrian friendly, walkable, accessible and safe corridor with space for community events; and celebrate the historic character of Spring Creek Homestead, Pioneer Graveyard, and the Railroad.



Recommendations included revisions to the traffic lanes to provide one lane in each direction with a center turn lane throughout the corridor; elimination of on-street parallel parking; provide bus pull out locations for Transit Service and provide wider sidewalks. Included in the recommendation is the need to:

Identify the Civic Core as the hub of the corridor with enhanced lighting, site furnishings, street trees, art and/or special paving materials; provide pedestrian and street level light fixtures that reflect the design of the historic railroad; select site furnishings that are durable, vandal resistant, and easy to maintain; incorporate elements from the Cemetery in the site furnishings and lighting, such as the wrought iron ornamentation; include complete street components such as bike racks, energy efficient lighting, spaces for social/ cultural events, enhance areas for transit riders, wider sidewalks and pedestrian furnishings; integrate different types of street trees to provide a variety of seasonal color and increased species diversity.

Phase I of this project is already funded at a cost of \$4.8 million and is expected to begin next year.

PIONEER GRAVEYARD INTERPRETIVE SITE

On Saturday, September 13, 2014 the Yakima Second and Third Wards of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints came together to clean-up the graveyard.



*Headstone repair by Mayor Roger Wentz,
PW Maintenance Ron Phillips and
Boy / Cub Scouts*

Pioneer Graveyard is located one block east of Main Street on Ahtanum Road. The building that once stood outside the graveyard has been demolished. Stop by and see the improvement the clean-up and demolition has made.



Many volunteers help during the clean-up project

Union Gap is working with the Yakima Valley Museum to create interpretive panels to help visitors learn the history of this early graveyard. Panel installation will be completed in time for a commemorative celebration.



Pioneer Graveyard 150th Anniversary Celebration

June 19, 2015 @ 7:00 p.m.

Celebrated as part of Old Town Days

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

NEW AGREEMENT WITH YYSA

The City and Yakima Youth Soccer Association (YYSA) have entered into an agreement for office rental at the Youth Activities Park. YYSA's office will relocate to the Youth Activities Park and continue to run business as usual from that location. The City and YYSA also entered into a longer term *Facility Use Agreement* for the use of the soccer fields - plus YYSA has agreed to provide field enhancements.

The City of Union Gap is accepting applications for six \$1,250 scholarships available through a statewide competitive process through the *AWC Center for Quality Communities Scholarship* fund.

Eligibility: Students involved (or have been) with a city government or community / school leadership activity; will graduate from high school, complete home school or receive a GED in spring/summer 2015; a Washington state resident; and plan to continue education in the 2015-2016 academic year at an accredited college, community college or trade school on a half-time or more basis.

Please submit your completed application and materials by February 25, 2015 to the City of Union Gap - Attention Karen Clifton. For more information, check the Center for Quality Communities website at cfqc.org.

This



Kids enjoying a game of soccer

is

a

win-win

for

everyone!



SENIOR CENTER NEWS

All Senior Citizens (60+) are welcome at the Union Gap Senior Center. The center is located at 1000 Ahtanum Road at the Youth Activities Park - parking is free and all activities are held at this building.

There are so many things to do - to name a few there is penny bingo, poker, pinochle, jigsaw puzzles, games, an exercise program, a pool table, darts, and a large library. The center even has books, games, wheel chairs, walkers and canes to loan out. Lunch is served daily by People for People Meals on Wheels; the cost is \$2.50 or donations are welcome.

The annual Christmas party that everyone looks forward to year after year is scheduled for Wednesday, December 17, 2014 - hope to see you there! There will be food and a gift give-away ~ no one goes home empty handed.

A great group of employees from the Costco Calling Center have adopted the seniors. Those interested or in need should fill out a wish list and those employees will try to fill all the wishes and more.

If you have any question please contact Lydia Warehime Senior Center Liaison, at 509.248.2668 Monday through Friday from 8 am to 3 pm.

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 509.225.3524.

BURLINGTON'S GRAND OPENING

Welcome to Union Gap Burlington! A grand opening was held on November 8, 2014 - Union Gap Police and Fire Departments had a great time interacting with the kids - even Sparky the fire dog was there! Burlington employees formed a line and helped load a truck with a generous donation of clothing for St. Vincent de Paul.

Top Right: Officer Robby Matus fingerprinted the kids.

Center Right: Firefighters Tyler Quantrell & Kyle Buchanan watch as Sparky enjoys a photo op with the kids.

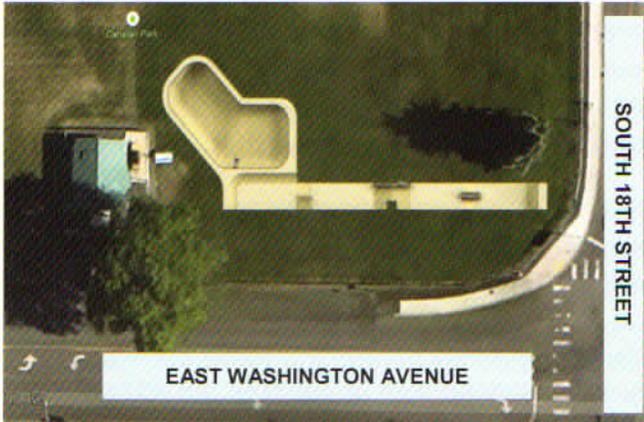
Bottom Right: Firefighter Tyler Quantrell mans the public education table.

Below: Burlington employees load clothing donations into St. Vincent de Paul's truck while customers wait in line to enter the store.



DONATIONS NEEDED FOR SKATEPARK

Students from Union Gap School voiced their desire to have a skatepark in Union Gap. The City Council has committed \$50,000 towards this project; the City received a \$7,500 grant from Tony Hawk Foundation and donations are coming in. Cahalan Park (South 18th Street and East Mead Avenue) is the proposed location for the skatepark - the total cost of the project is \$145,000.



Preliminary design of the proposed skatepark at Cahalan Park

To donate, please send your check to:

City of Union Gap
107 W. Ahtanum Road
P.O. Box 3008
Union Gap, WA 98903



As temperatures decline - keep **SAFETY** on your mind for yourself, your loved ones and your pets.

CHRISTMAS TREE PICKUP

During the first week of January, Basin Disposal will collect one Christmas tree per residence at no additional charge to you. Please place your tree beside your garbage container for pick up.



YARD WASTE PICK UP

The Public Works Department will pick up your bagged yard waste, weighing less than 40 lbs, until March 1, 2015. Please contact the Public Works Administration office to schedule a pick up.

WHO TO CALL FOR ASSISTANCE?

24 hours a day / 7 days a week

All **life threatening** emergencies - dial 911

After normal business hours, week-ends and holidays

All non-life threatening emergencies (i.e. water line breaks / sewer back-ups) - dial 248.0430

All other issues that can wait until normal business hours - dial the appropriate number during regular business hours.

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After normal business hours, week-ends, and holidays the Police Department transfers their business line to SUNCOMM Communications - the 911 call center for Yakima County and dispatch for the Union Gap and Yakima Police Departments.

If you do not get an answer when you call, there is a good chance 911 is handling calls on their emergency lines and are unable to get to the non-emergency lines.

As you celebrate, the City of Union Gap

wishes you and your family a safe and joyous

holiday season and a Happy New Year!

SEWER RATE INCREASE

Beginning January 1, 2015, utility customers will notice an increase in sewer rates. The City of Union Gap tries to hold utility rate increases to 2% per year to keep up with inflation.

This coming year, as part of its partnership with Terrace Heights Sewer District, and the City of Yakima, the City will increase sewer costs by 15.4%. The increase will allow more funding to be set aside for capital needs for future maintenance and upgrades at the Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The Plant is located along I-82 south of K-Mart, treated wastewater from the plant discharges directly into the Yakima River, so it's important to keep it operating efficiently.



The sewer for a residential customer will go up by \$5.54 per month. Water and Garbage rates will go up by 2%. Even with the increase, Union Gap will still have lower utility rates than most cities in Yakima County. Your council members are working for you!

PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING DRILL

On November 18, 2014 the Union Gap Police and Fire Departments were part of a "Active Shooter Response Drill" which was meant to build on lessons learned from previous drills around the county.



Acting Public Safety Director Greg Cobb and other participants during the "Active Shooter Response Drill"

and the Valley Mall were part of this event.

The drill was a big success and validated the tactics and techniques used to respond to these unfortunate incidents.

In addition to the Union Gap Fire and Police Departments - eight other law enforcement agencies, four other Fire Departments, two hospitals, two communication centers

FIRE NEWS

On November 24, 2014 the City entered into an agreement with the City of Yakima for Fire Protection Services.

Contracting with the City of Yakima for fire protection services will result in an increased level of service to City of Union Gap residents while at the same time reducing the City of Union Gap's costs.

The impact this transition will have on Union Gap citizens is minimal and will occur without any interruption of services to our citizens.



The Fire Departments' newest rig

POLICE NEWS

The Police Department has a long running partnership with the Washington State Traffic Safety Commission and has received funding in the amount of \$6,500 for overtime reimbursement related to high visibility enforcement patrols. The first ever statewide distracted driving extra enforcement campaign will have law enforcement officers out searching for unbuckled drivers and distracted drivers as part of the annual "Click it or Ticket" patrols.

Please contact Acting Public Safety Director Greg Cobb if you have any questions.



Officer Alba Levesque helping to keep the city safe

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

GENERAL INFORMATION

~ *Published on a quarterly basis to
keep citizens informed* ~

Check out our website!!
www.cityofuniongap.com

Pay Utility Bills Online @
www.xpressbillpay.com

107 WEST AHTANUM ROAD

City Hall	248.0432
Fire	452.6706
Park Reservations	248.0432
Treasurer / Clerk	248.0432
Utilities (<i>Water, Sewer, Garbage</i>)	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
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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