

# OLD TOWN NEWS

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

POR FAVOR LLAME 248.0432 PARA OBTENER INFORMACIÓN EN ESPAÑOL.

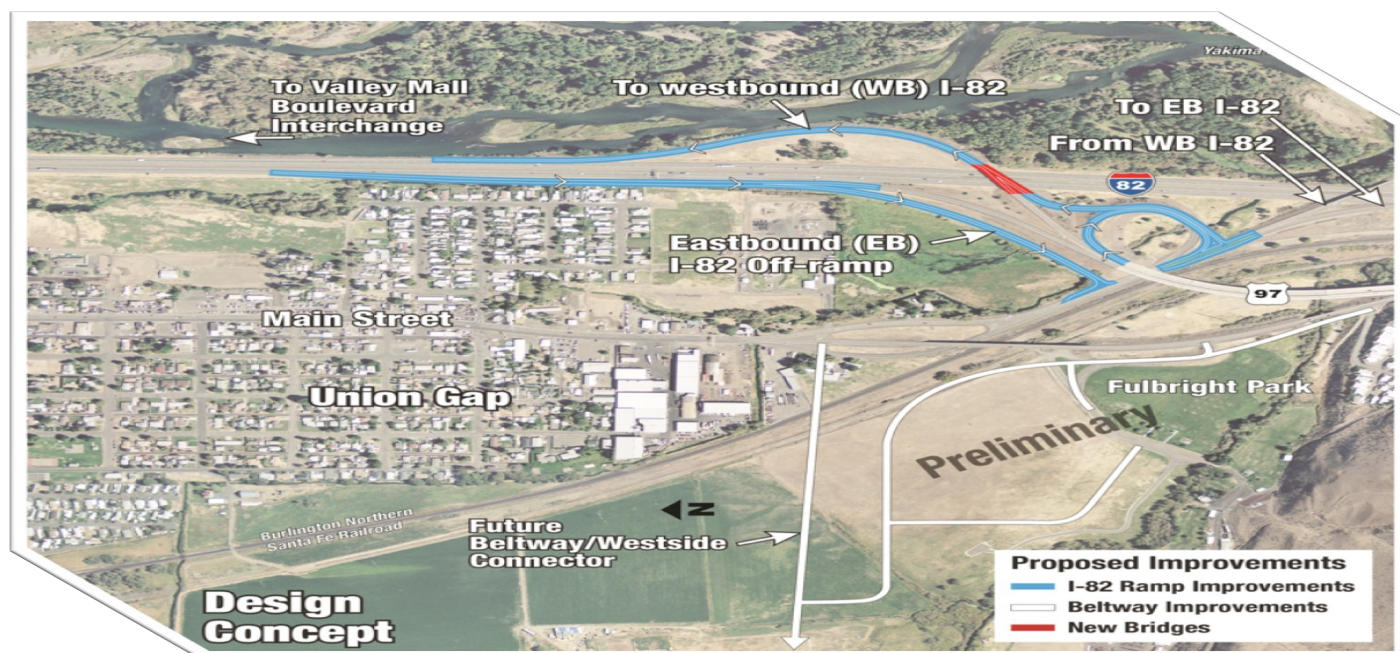
**FALL 2015**  
VOLUME 37, ISSUE 3



## STATE APPROVES INTERCHANGE IMPROVEMENTS FOR SOUTH UNION GAP

Union Gap got good news! After years of discussion, statewide listening tours, and heated negotiations, the state legislature passed the final bills that make up the new \$16 billion transportation package with a broad bipartisan vote. The package will provide over 100,000 jobs, congestion relief, and improved roadways statewide.

The Washington Department of Transportation has long planned improvements to the I-82 interchange in South Union Gap. Funding for this much needed \$35 million project was included in the package when passed into law in July.



The interchange improvements will include safety modifications and upgrades to existing ramps and the addition of two currently missing ramp movements. At present, drivers can enter the freeway eastbound or can exit the freeway from the east. The interchange improvements will allow entrance to the freeway westbound and also exiting from the west. Construction for this important project is scheduled for 2019. State Senators Curtis King and Jim Honeyford were instrumental in getting the project on the funding list, first in the Senate bill and then in the final version of the bill negotiated with the House. Please thank them the next time you see them.



## WHAT A GREAT NIGHT!

A Special **THANK YOU** to everyone who helped bring together another successful community event!

Cabela's • Dave Butler • Jacob Macias (DJ) • JCPenney • Jean's Cottage Inn • Macy's Partners in time • Mercy Movie Theaters • Miner's Drive Inn • New York Teriyaki • Old Country Buffet • Old Town Station Restaurant • Pepsi • Rainer Mini Mart • Shari's Restaurant • Skateland Fun Center • Tactical Supply • Yakima Watermill



The annual National Night Out Against Crime event was held at Loudon Park on August 4. We hope to see everyone again next year!



## PUBLIC SAFETY NEWS

Jared Hunt

Coming from a background in the Air Force, I hold honest standards and put my service before myself. I have two sons who are my biggest fans and love that their dad is becoming a police officer. I currently hold an associate's degree and plan on furthering my education while establishing a great career with the Union Gap Police Department.



Rudy Michael Jimenez is a 27 year old father and husband. He is a U.S. Veteran, joining the United States Marine Corps after high school. He enjoys spending time with family and cooking. Rudy is excited to be with the Union Gap Department and is looking forward to getting to know the Union Gap community.

### Sgt. Hector Rivera



Senior Rivera promotes Sgt. Rivera



City Manager Rod Otterness administers the oath of office to Sgt. Hector Rivera.



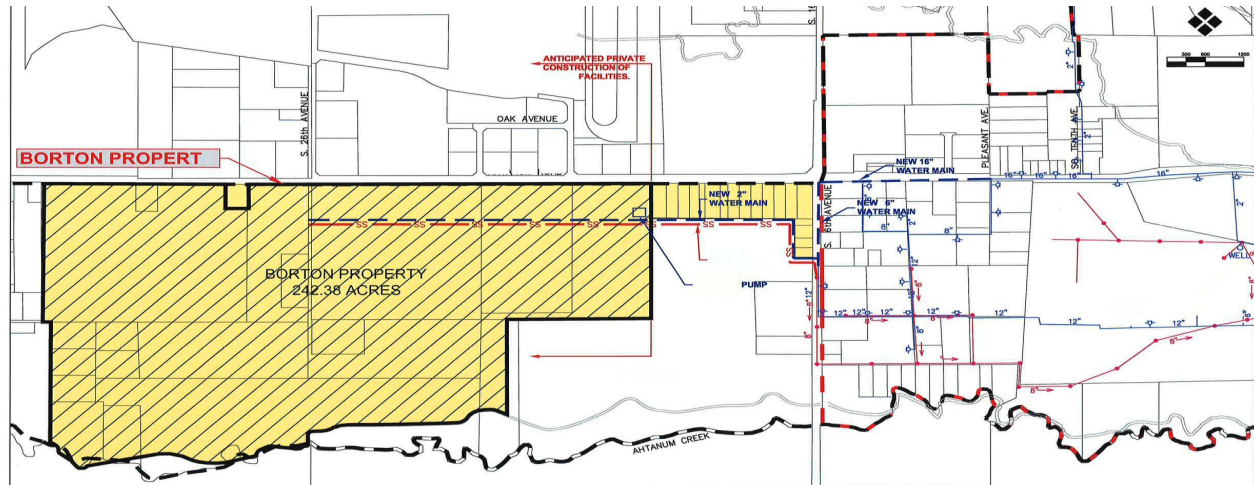
Family and friends attend Sgt. Hector Rivera's promotion ceremony on August 14 at the Activities Building

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### WELCOME!

#### Union Gap welcomes 22 new residents

The City of Union Gap will host a celebration at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, September 28, to mark the beginning of the city's service to 22 new residents who are now part of Union Gap because of a recent annexation.



**The celebration will be an open house from 5-6:00 p.m. at the City Hall Annex, 3103 Second Street. There will be free refreshments and a brief program at 5:30.** City staff will be available to answer questions and discuss services provided by the city.

The annexation began last year when a large landowner in the newly annexed area approached the city requesting city services to facilitate a new fruit packing facility. The area was already part of the city's growth management area which establishes the most appropriate provider of services for planned development in urban areas. The annexation area had been designated as part of Union Gap's future service area since the 1990s.

All residents of the City of Union Gap are welcome to attend this celebration. Please come and say hello to your new neighbors. Help us welcome them to the greatest city in all of Washington.

## CITY COUNCIL SEEKS TO BRING BACK THE LIBRARY

On August 10, the City of Union Gap City Council unanimously voted to ask the Yakima Valley Libraries to partner with the city to bring the library back to Union Gap as part of the City Center project. Yakima Valley Libraries had partnered with the city for many years before the library was closed in 2012. Funding for a library would have to be approved by the voters. A preliminary proposal for the new library is being developed. Yakima Valley Libraries would operate the library and would have to approve any proposal for funding. Watch this newsletter for more information about the return of a library to Union Gap.



## CONSTRUCTION AHEAD - SORRY FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE

The **Public Works and Community Development Department** would like to express our appreciation and thank residents and businesses for putting up with all the construction in town. We apologize for all of the construction inconveniences that have taken place this summer.

We would like to share with you what that construction is working towards: the project is a “green” project. When complete, the city will increase system reliability and reduce water losses by removing old, undersized pipes and installing new bigger ductile iron water mains, valves, fire hydrants, and water services. Replacing leaking existing water mains in the distribution system will reduce water loss thus improving the City’s water use efficiency and reducing electrical power consumption by reducing pumping demands.

The existing roadway stormwater drainage system was developed and built by WSDOT at the time of the highway construction sometime around 1950. It consists of collecting stormwater and piping it to discharge into Spring Creek to the east in several locations. The City is attempting to significantly reduce or if possible eliminate completely stormwater discharges to Spring Creek as it is a tributary to the Yakima River. Union Gap and WSDOT eliminated stormwater discharge to Spring Creek from Valley Mall Boulevard at the Interstate 82 interchange by constructing drainage swales as part of the joint improvement project completed in 2011. Union Gap is committed to improving its stormwater system and reducing untreated discharges to Spring Creek and the Yakima River.



By telling you the reason for this inconvenience, we hope you will look more charitably on the disruption of your daily lives. Thank you for your patience and understanding. We apologize again for any problems this caused you.



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT’S “CODE TALK”

Hi neighbors! It’s been a busy year for our department. As you have seen, commercial development continues to expand bringing many exciting new restaurants and business to our city. All of which make Union Gap an attractive place to live. We take great pride in careful planning of development to keep Union Gap an appealing location for businesses and residents alike. From January to August 2015, we added \$8 million in commercial and residential development and we still have another four months to go! There are many facets of our department that go into making Union Gap a desirable place to be. One area of the Public Works and Community Development Department that contributes to the betterment of our community is Code Enforcement. Or as we like to call it, “Code Education”. So be on the lookout in our next newsletter where we talk code, and how we can all make Union Gap an even more desirable place to live!



## CITY TO HOST MEETING TO DESIGN NEW SKATEPARK

The City of Union Gap has hired Grindline Skateparks, Inc. to design the city's new skatepark at Cahalan. Grindline has designed hundreds of skateparks including the park in Yakima on Fair Avenue. Grindline was selected by the city because of its success connecting local youth who have a passion for skateboarding with the city's goal of providing a safe, durable park that enhances the community. Grindline is known for its innovative custom designs and for putting skateboarders first when designing and building new parks. Cahalan Park is on the corner of East Washington Avenue and 18<sup>th</sup> Street adjacent to Martin Luther King School.



Representatives from the city and from Grindline will be hosting a meeting to design the skatepark at the **City Hall Annex, 3103 Second Street on Thursday, OCTOBER 8<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.** **Cookies and refreshments will be served to attendees at the meeting.** Skateboarders from all over are welcome to attend to give ideas for design features and to talk with Grindline about the park. The city has committed \$50,000 towards construction of the skatepark. A volunteer committee has been raising money to help fund the cost of construction. Donations are still needed and can be made payable to: Skatepark Fund, City of Union Gap, 107 West Ahtanum Road, Union Gap, WA, 98903. For more information about the skatepark or the design meeting on October 8<sup>th</sup> please contact Dennis Henne, Director of Public Works & Community Development, City of Union Gap at 225-3524.



## THE SENIOR CORNER

### Union Gap Senior Center Yard Sale / Craft Fair 2015

Vendors

**Saturday, November 7th 2015**

**9:00 AM - 5:00 PM**

**Ahtanum Youth Park-Activities Building**

**Serving homemade spaghetti, salad, hot bread**

**11:30 AM - 3:00 PM ( or until food runs out )**

**Cost: \$6.00 adults \$ 2.50 for kids 10 years and under**

Food

Contact person :  
Lydia Warehime  
509-248-2668

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

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## GENERAL INFORMATION

### WEBSITES:

~ Published on a quarterly basis to  
keep citizens informed ~

- City Business: [www.cityofuniongap.com](http://www.cityofuniongap.com)
- Union Gap Tourism: <http://visituniongap.com>
- Xpress Bill Pay: [www.xpressbillpay.com](http://www.xpressbillpay.com)

#### 107 WEST AHTANUM ROAD

City Hall	248.0432
Fire	575.6060
Newsletter	248.0432
Park Reservations	248.0432
Treasurer / Clerk	248.0432
Utility Billing: Water, Sewer & Garbage	248.0434

#### 3106 FIRST STREET

Building / Planning	575.3638
Code Enforcement	575.3638
Public Works	225.3524

#### 1800 RAINIER PLACE

Animal Control	248.0430
Crime Prevention	457.5927
Police	248.0430

#### 1000 AHTANUM ROAD

Senior Citizen Center	248.2668
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#### TOURISM & TRANSIT

Tourism Promoter	575.8770
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

*Director of Public Works &  
Community Development*  
**Dennis Henne**  
225.3524

*Director of Finance &  
Administration*  
**Karen Clifton**  
248.0432

*Police Chief*  
**Greg Cobb**  
248.0430

*City Attorney*  
**Bronson Brown**  
628.4700