

# OLD TOWN NEWS

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



WINTER 2017/18  
VOLUME 40, ISSUE 4

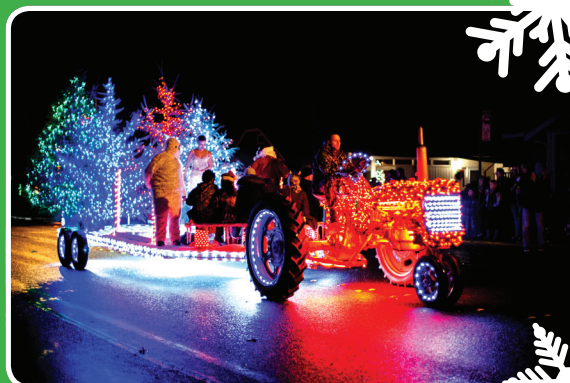
UNION GAP  
1883

Por favor llame 248-0432 para obtener información en español

14th Annual

## Old Town Lighted Christmas Parade

Union Gap, WA



**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10 AT 6PM**

The parade will begin at Peppermint Stick and follow Old Town/Main Street to the Valley Mall Parking Lot. Families can take photos of the parade entries and enjoy some hot cocoa and cookies in the Valley Mall/Sears parking lot.

**FUN FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY!!!**

## WINTER WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

We should try to conserve water year-round, but here are some ways to specifically prepare for winter-time water wasters.

**WINTERIZE YOUR PIPES:** Preventing burst pipes and leaks are your best bets when it comes to conserving water during winter. It's a good idea to make sure outdoor pipes, like the ones running to your backyard spigot are wrapped. This way, when temperatures drop below freezing, they stay warmer than the air and are less likely to develop leaks or burst.

**INSULATE HOT WATER PIPES:** Ever notice that it takes your shower longer to get hot when it's freezing out? That's because your pipes are colder. Hire a plumber to wrap your pipes in insulation, or head to your crawl space or basement to do it yourself. Not only does this help the hot water stay hot, but it helps protect these pipes from the cold, which can cause leaks.

For more ideas, please go to: [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense)



### UNION GAP TRANSIT'S BUSES AND HOLIDAY SHUTTLE ARE CONVENIENT AND FREE!

When you're visiting Union Gap from out of town, take advantage of Union Gap Transit's shuttle – it is always free! And, from Black Friday through Christmas Eve, there's a special shuttle to make your shopping easier. Let Union Gap Transit do the driving when you're visiting us!



**Black Friday  
8am to 10pm**

**Nov 24<sup>th</sup> to Dec 24<sup>th</sup>  
Friday & Saturday**

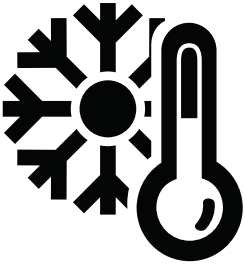
[UNIONGAPWA.GOV/TRANSIT](http://UNIONGAPWA.GOV/TRANSIT)

## STREET INTERSECTION SAFETY

Property owners are asked to please maintain vegetation that extends past their property line. This will help with vehicle and pedestrian safety as well as helping larger equipment pass thru the area in a safe and efficient manner.

## YARD WASTE PICK UP

The Public Works Department will pick up your bagged yard waste (until March 1st) weighing less than 40 lbs. Please contact the Public Works Administration Office at **225.3524** to schedule a pick up.



## SNOW REMOVAL

Resident cooperation is essential to the success of the snow removal operations. It is very important that vehicles are removed from City Right-of-Way when there is significant snowfall. With fewer cars on the streets, snow plows can do a more efficient job of clearing snow and ice.

**As a reminder, UG Ordinance No. 2850 states in part:** *Snow and Ice Obstructions - No person shall cause snow or ice to be placed in any public street, alley, sidewalk or public way; provided, that this section shall not apply to Union Gap town employees performing the regular course of their duties. Violation of this section shall be a civil non-traffic infraction with a penalty of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00).*

Please go to <https://uniongapwa.gov/public-works/street/> to review the entire Ordinance No. 2850 and Public Works "Snow Removal & Ice Control Plan".  
Thank you in advance for your cooperation.



## 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 next to your garbage container for pickup.

## UPDATED REGIONAL BELTWAY VIDEO

We have updated our video explaining the Regional Beltway project!  
You can view the video on our website or on YouTube at:

**<https://youtu.be/n1TjIIHfAfl>**



AS TEMPERATURES DECLINE - KEEP **SAFETY** ON YOUR MIND FOR YOURSELF, YOUR LOVED ONES AND YOUR PETS.

## WHO TO CALL FOR ASSISTANCE?

**EMERGENCY - 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 **509.248.0430\***

**DURING NORMAL BUSINESS HOURS:** All issues that can wait until normal business hours - dial the appropriate number listed on the back of this newsletter.

*\*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 right away, there is a good chance 911 is handling calls on their emergency lines and are unable to get to the non-emergency lines as quickly as normal.*

## SNOW AND ICE CAN BE CHALLENGING

Here are some helpful tips for our Union Gap residents & business owners

- The Union Gap Public Works Department will sand all major intersections, bridges, overpasses, and access streets to schools.
- Snow will be plowed in a manner that minimizes traffic obstructions.
- Don't throw snow from your sidewalk or driveway onto city street. Please read our Union Gap City ordinance:

**(Ord. 2072 § 1, 1998)** *No person shall cause snow or ice to be placed in any public street, alley, sidewalk or public way; provided, that this section shall not apply to Union Gap town employees performing the regular course of their duties. Violation of this section shall be a civil Infraction with a penalty of one hundred dollars.*



- Please help us by not pushing snow into a driveway, or along a parked car on the street. Our city crews work hard to keep streets passable.
- Shovel your snow to the right of your driveway into your yard and not into city street, this will avoid having snow covering your driveway from the city plow.

All calls regarding snow removal and/or ice control, other than those associated with accidents or emergencies should be directed to the Public Works Department Office **(509) 225-3524**



## WELCOME TO OUR NEW CIVIL ENGINEER

We would like to wish a warm welcome to our Civil Engineer, David Dominguez. Bringing with him, to the City of Union Gap, is a wealth of knowledge and experience. David's experience includes designing and inspecting sewer systems; domestic water systems; drainage systems and city streets; knowledge of irrigation systems including analysis of pipelines, reservoirs and pump stations; as well as experience preparing cost estimates, preparing plans and specifications for various municipal projects.

**We are glad you are here David!**

# The City of Union Gap Looking for applicants for AWC Center for Quality Communities Scholarship Fund

AWC Center for Quality Communities Scholarship funds scholarships through a statewide competitive process for students who are actively engaged in their city government and/or community and plan to attend post-secondary school in fall 2018.

Go to the City's website for more information: [www.cityofuniongap.com](http://www.cityofuniongap.com)

## CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL

Protection of our water system is priority! "Cross Connection" is when back-siphonage or back pressure conditions are created in a water line; thus causing it to enter into the water system. The City's program addresses high health hazard connections, commercial services and residential connections.

A well-maintained water system is critical in protecting the City's ever present threat of cross-connection contamination. The City's Cross-Connection Control Program is on-going with backflow inspectors working through the City's system inspecting properties. It is the property owners' responsibility to make sure their cross-connection back flow assemblies are tested and inform the tester to that it is necessary to email their final report to [jo.linder@uniongapwa.gov](mailto:jo.linder@uniongapwa.gov) or mail it to P.O. Box 3008; Union Gap, WA 98903. Doing this will ensure you will not receive a letter of non-compliance from the City. For a list of City of Union Gap approved Certified Assembly Testers, please call 509.225.3524.

The cold and snowy winter will be here before we know it, and the city of Union Gap would like to remind you that there are ways to be environmentally friendly to our rivers and streams while the temperatures are below freezing. Snowmelt and stormwater runoff in areas with salt-treated surfaces such as driveways and sidewalks can carry sodium and calcium chlorides into our waterways. The salinity present in the runoff can cause our waterways to become toxic to aquatic life.

### EASY WINTER DE-ICING TIPS:

- The most important step in de-icing is to physically remove as much snow and ice as possible before applying a de-icer.
- If you're unable to physically remove the snow, recruit the neighbor's teenager to help out.
- If you must use a de-icer, only use enough de-icer to break the ice/pavement bond, then remove the slush by shoveling.
- Kitty litter, gravel and sand don't actually melt snow and ice, but they do provide traction.

### THERE ARE SEVERAL ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY DE-ICING OPTIONS THAT CAN BE APPLIED INSTEAD OF SALT:

- **Calcium Chloride** works well at low temperature and is considered less harmful to vegetation. However, this chemical de-icer can be harmful to indoor surfaces as it is tracked in as well as to your pet's paws.
- **Calcium Magnesium Acetate (CMA)** is salt free and biodegradable. It will not harm the environment if used in moderation and is less corrosive to concrete and less harmful to vegetation than salt.
- **Propylene Glycol** is considered safer for animals than **Ethylene Glycol** and is often found in "pet friendly" deicers. However, these products are considered to be highly toxic to aquatic organisms by the EPA, so their use is not recommended.
- **Urea (NH<sub>2</sub>CO NH<sub>2</sub>)** is primarily used as a fertilizer and is also less harmful to vegetation than salt. While urea works well as a fertilizer, it only works moderately well as an ice melter.
- **Alfalfa Meal** works well by providing traction to walk on, and since it contains nitrogen like Urea it also melts ice. But like urea, it only works moderately well as an ice melter.
- **Beet Juice** when mixed with salt can be an effective de-icer, and reduces the amount of salt needed by as much as 30%. Beet juice also works to a much lower temperature than salt and has been shown to have no harmful effects to the environment.

After the snowmelt, always be sure to sweep up the excess salt or other materials from the pavement surfaces. This will prevent the material from entering our lakes and streams.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS! REMEMBER... ONLY RAIN IN OUR DRAINS.**

## CHIEF'S CORNER

The Holiday Season is a fantastic time for gatherings with family and friends; the Union Gap Police Department wants to remind you to stay vigilant about your safety and security. Each year we respond to several burglaries and car prowls directly related to the Holiday Season.



In the hustle and bustle [OF THE HOLIDAY SEASON] we sometimes forget to keep an eye on our belongings. When shopping, please remember to lock your doors and don't leave anything in plain sight. Car prowlers are looking for the easy theft. Place your recently purchased packages in the trunk or under a privacy cover in your vehicle. If you need to deposit several items in your car but want to continue shopping, please move to a different parking area. Thieves will watch the parking lots during the holidays for people putting merchandise in their trunks. If you leave the vehicle where it is and continue to shop, they will break into your trunk after you go back into the stores and steal the recently purchased items.

Christmas trees are a wonderful tradition and some want their friends and neighbors to see how beautifully they are decorated. If your tree is visible to anyone passing by, please make sure the presents under the tree cannot be seen. It is not uncommon for burglars to notice the presents under the tree and break in to steal them when the residents are not home.

If you are going to be away for the holidays' please let us know. Call the front desk and make an "Extra Patrol" request.

If you notice anything suspicious or have any questions please don't hesitate to call the Union Gap Police Department at 248-0430. Merry Christmas.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL UNION GAP PROPERTY OWNERS, BUSINESS OWNERS AND/OR RESIDENTS:

In 1996, the Regional Wellhead Protection Committee (RWPC) was formed by eight (8) water purveyors in the Upper Yakima Valley, including the City of Union Gap, under the leadership of Yakima County (YC) in response to Washington State Department of Health (DOH) wellhead protection planning requirements.

The RWPC and the City are taking a proactive approach to wellhead protection planning to ensure that each community's groundwater supplies are adequately protected from potential contamination sources on the ground surface.

The purpose of this letter is to notify you of the location of your parcel, within the City's wellhead protection area, and provide you with information on how you can help protect the City's drinking water supplies.

Wellhead protection planning includes four (4) elements, as follows:

1. Development of wellhead protection area, or areas, which may be susceptible to contamination;
2. Development of contingency planning to ensure that prompt response procedures are in place in the event a well becomes contaminated;
3. Identification of potential contamination sources, which include septic tanks, underground storage tanks, abandoned wells, and certain businesses; and
4. Coordination of management efforts to help minimize the impact of potential contamination sources, including posting of signs, distribution of literature, and public education efforts.

The RWPC and the City understand that most property owners, business owners and residents recognize the need to protect the environment in and around their property. We hope that informing you of your location within the City's wellhead protection area will result in an increase in precautions to ensure your activities do not adversely impact our drinking water supply. The following practices can greatly reduce the threat of contamination to groundwater supplies:

- Recycle all hazardous wastes used on the premises, including solvents, paints, paint thinner, printing supplies, and/or other known chemicals through Yakima County's free small quantity generator or recycling programs or other free local collection points throughout the valley. Contact YC Solid Waste Division at 509.574.2450 for locations, drop times, and materials accepted.
- Reduce the amount of hazardous waste used through waste minimization efforts. Free literature on waste minimization is available from the Department of Ecology (DOE) and Union Gap Public Works Administration at 509.225.3524.
- Conserve water whenever possible; water conservation reduces waste volumes and reduces the threat of contaminant transport.

For more information, or to view your location in the WHPA, please visit the RWPC Website at:  
<http://www.yakimacounty.us/668/City-of-Union-Gap-Wellhead-Protection-PI>

Sincerely,

CITY OF UNION GAP  
Dennis Henne, Director  
Public Works & Community Development

Notification: 4th Quarter 2017

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

PRSRRT STD  
US POSTAGE PAID  
YAKIMA, WA  
PERMIT #100

Postal Customer—ECRWSS

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### WEBSITES

Published on a quarterly basis to  
keep citizens informed

City Business: [uniongapwa.gov](http://uniongapwa.gov)  
Union Gap Tourism: [visituniongap.com](http://visituniongap.com)  
Xpress Bill Pay: [xpressbillpay.com](http://xpressbillpay.com)

### PHONE DIRECTORY

#### 107 W. AHTANUM ROAD

City Hall	248-0432
Fire	575-6060
Park Reservations	248-0432
Treasurer / Clerk	248-0432
Utility Billing	248-0432
Newsletter	248-9202

#### 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
Activities Center	575-6448
Barn Rentals	575-6448

#### TOURISM & TRANSIT

Tourism Promoter	575-8770
Union Gap Transit	574-8000
UG Transit TTY	574-8000

### 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

**Julie Schilling** ~ 453-2446

#### MAYOR / COUNCIL MEMBER

Position #7

**Roger Wentz** ~ 575-3799

### CITY STAFF

*City Manager*

**Arlene Fisher**  
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