

# OLD TOWN NEWS

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

SPRING 2020  
VOLUME 43, ISSUE 1

UNION GAP  
1883

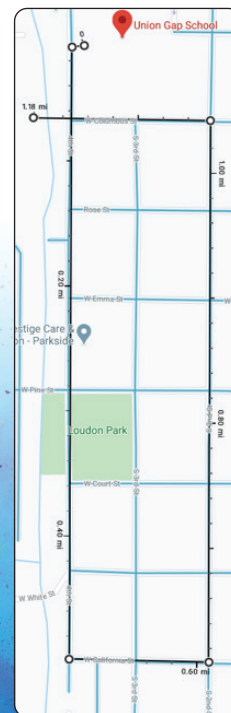


Por favor llame 248-0432 para obtener información en español

## Union Gap School Color Fun Run/Walk

May 7, 2020

Union Gap School District will be sponsoring a Color Fun Run/Walk. The map of the route is below. This activity is for Union Gap students/families to attend. We will be starting at 6:30 pm at the school, proceeding down 4<sup>th</sup> to California Street, back up 2<sup>nd</sup> Street to Columbus and end at the school football field.



Water soluble color will be “thrown” on participants throughout the route by school, fire and police personnel. The color is a powder and not liquid. The colors are made of cornstarch, baking soda, and FD&C (food safe) dyes. The majority of the “color” can be blown off clothing and then washed as normal to remove. For complete information about the color used go to <https://www.wholesalecolorpowder.com/faqs/>. If you are going to participate, consider wearing a bandana or hat as it could be a windy day and don't wear your new suede coat. The adults “throwing” the color will be wearing reflective vests. If they are stationed near your home and you would like them to “move” during the event, just politely let them know.

## FREE “Spring Clean-Up” - CITY OF UNION GAP

On Saturday, May 9, 2020, from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm, the City of Union Gap and Basin Disposal will be sponsoring the “Spring Clean-Up” program. There will be **three (3) disposal sites**, set-up throughout the City, for residents to dispose of their yard waste. The site locations are as follows:

- City Hall parking lot @ 107 West Ahtanum Road; next to the Fire Station
- Ray's Wholesale Meats parking lot @ 2112 South 3rd Avenue
- Cahalan Park parking lot @ 2100 South 18th Street

This **FREE** service is for Union Gap residents only. The disposal sites are for yard waste only; if your waste is bagged, you will be asked to remove the bags prior to dumping into the disposal containers.

The City is unable to assist in bagging yard waste. However, we would like to encourage disabled residents and senior citizens to contact us for assistance in hauling your bagged yard waste to the disposal sites. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact:

Public Works & Community Development Administration Office  
509.225.3524



## FOOD TRUCK WARS AT THE VALLEY MALL PARKING LOT!



**SAT. APRIL 4**

Come enjoy the Yakima Valley sunshine and vote for your favorite food truck during the 2nd Annual Food Truck Wars! Hosted by Skateland and the Valley Mall there'll be

local celebrity judges, live music and of course delicious food!

[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/EVENTS/475740336663605/?ACTIVE\\_TAB=ABOUT](https://www.facebook.com/events/475740336663605/?active_tab=about)

## BOOK YOUR ROOM IN UNION GAP FOR PRE-SPRING BARREL TASTING

**APRIL 18-19**

Book your room for spring barrel tasting in Union Gap! Get a sneak peek of the new vintages being offered from the many wineries open for pre-barrel tasting. Hurry as rooms are filling quickly!



[HTTPS://YAKIMAVALLEYWINECOUNTRY.COM/SPRING-BARREL-WINE-TASTING.ASP](https://yakimavalleywinecountry.com/spring-barrel-wine-tasting.asp)

## LA SALLE'S 17TH ANNUAL 6K SHAMROCK CUP RUN & WALK



**SAT. MARCH 14**

Try your luck at this 6K (3.8 mile) fun run! Check-in is at 7:30 am and the race begins at 9am. Pre-register to guarantee your tee-shirt. \$25 adults and \$20 for students.

[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/EVENTS/2590248774553679/](https://www.facebook.com/events/2590248774553679/)

## SAVE THE DATES

Union Gap has multiple events throughout the year, here are some of the highlights you should know about.

- March 4, 11, 18, 25 - Master Gardener's Spring Symposium
- March 13-15 - Central Washington Home and Garden Show
- March 14 - La Salle's 6K Shamrock Run
- March 18 - Jordan World Circus
- March 28-29 - Dozer Day
- March 31 - Nickelodeon's JoJo Siwa D.R.E.A.M. The Tour
- April 4 - Food Truck Wars
- April 18-19 - Pre-Spring Barrel Wine Tasting
- April 24-26 - Spring Barrel Wine Tasting
- April 26 - Old Steel Car Show
- May 9 - Asparafest! In Union Gap
- May-June - Asparagus Mania!

**BOOK YOUR UNION GAP HOTELS – great rates and free breakfast**

Email: [info@visituniongap.com](mailto:info@visituniongap.com)

Call: 509-575-8770

[www.visituniongap.com](http://www.visituniongap.com)

## IT'S ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR AND EARLIEST CAR SHOWS OF THE SPRING - REGISTER NOW!



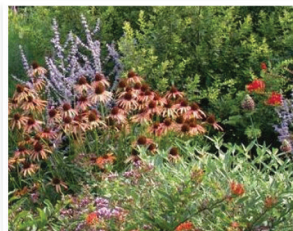
**SUN. APRIL 26**

The Old Steel Car Show is celebrating 25 years! We've had a record number of entries for 3 consecutive years. Join us for great prizes, museum activities, tours and over 250 vehicles!

**FREE TO SPECTATORS! ONLY \$15 TO PRE-REGISTER YOUR CAR!**

[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/EVENTS/1082550838753189/](https://www.facebook.com/events/1082550838753189/)

## MASTER GARDENER'S SPRING SYMPOSIUM... MARCH 4, 11, 18, 25



Yakima Master Gardeners is hosting four lectures each Wednesday in March on how to make the most of your Central WA garden. Classes are held at Pacific Northwest University-Health Sciences in Yakima, WA. Register online.

[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/EVENTS/3364169043654025/](https://www.facebook.com/events/3364169043654025/)

### #smalltowntourismchat

Join us Wednesday, March 25th with co-host @jasontravelblog for our #smalltowntourismchat on Twitter. 2:30pm PST/5:30pm EST

Jason is a travel blogger from England, and we will be posting LIVE and together from Washington State! He is our first co-host outside of North America.

Co-hosted with @jasontravelblog





# SOCCER TOURNAMENT

*ELEGANT SOCCER LEAGUE (509.728.2100) will be hosting a soccer tournament at the Youth Activities Park at 1000 Ahtanum Road on May 15-17, 2020. Please mark your calendar – Ahtanum Road will be much busier than normal, and you may want to take an alternate route, if you are not going to the park.*



## SPEED LIMITS REDUCED

Please be aware that the speed limit on Ahtanum Rd between the railroad tracks and S. 5th Avenue has been reduced to thirty (30) miles per hour and thirty five (35) miles per hour from S. 5th Avenue to east of the intersection of 16th Avenue and Ahtanum Road. For more information please visit our website at <https://uniongapwa.gov>

## Careful What You Flush!

Your wastewater discharge is collected in a lift station; the lift station is then pumped to a transfer facility. We have experiencing plugged lines in some areas – please help us avoid unnecessary wastewater discharge issues.

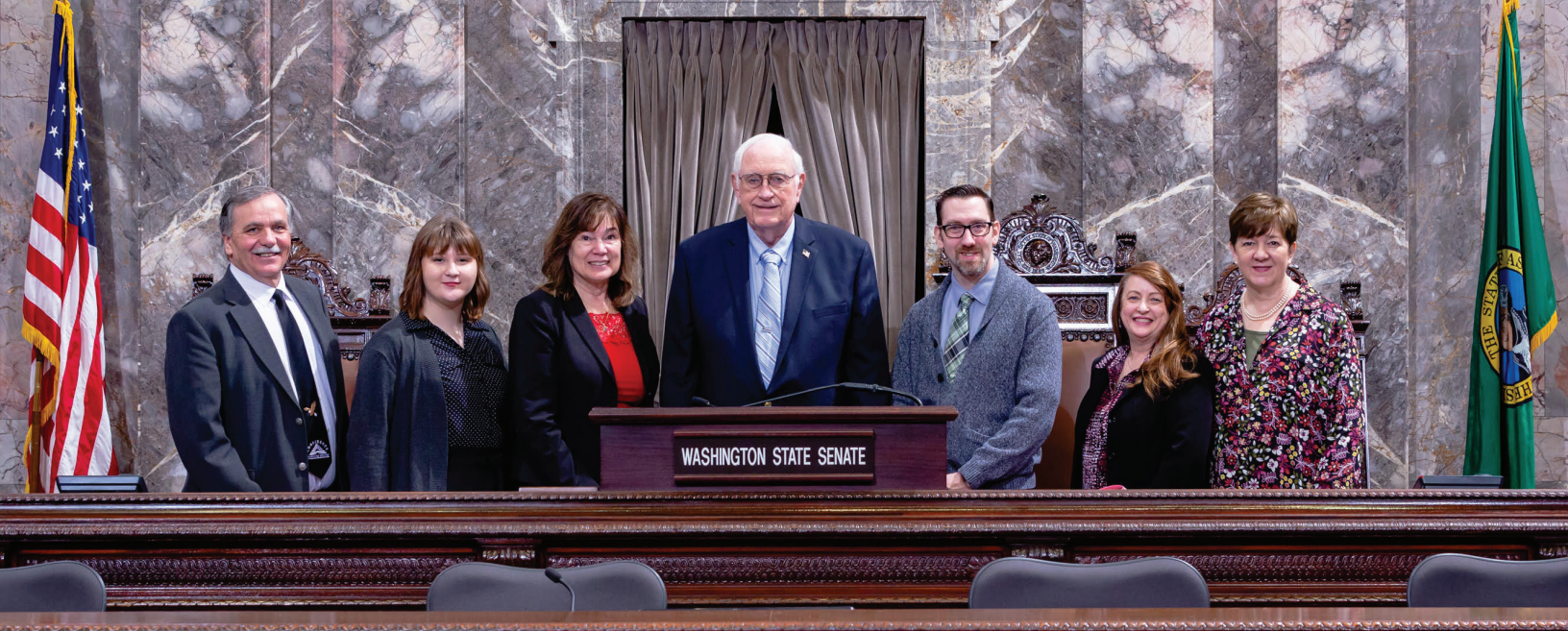
Possibly the biggest “no-no” to pour down the drains would be **used motor oil**. It is actually illegal in most municipalities, because of how much environmental damage it does and how easily it can contaminate an area’s soil and water table. If you change your own oil in your car, **NEVER** pour used motor oil down a drain in your house, garage, sewer, storm drain in the street, manhole on a sidewalk, alley, street or on the ground. The basic rule for pouring motor oil is that it cannot be poured into anything at all. Please check with a local retailer that sells oil products on ways to recycle.

**The only things you should ever flush down the toilet are: toilet paper, urine and fecal matter.** Items marketed as “disposable” are to be disposed of in the garbage can with the rest of your solid waste. Please do not flush any disposable items; this includes disposable mop pads, mop heads, diapers, facial wipes, etc. If you have any questions, please call Public Works & Community Development Department at 509.225.3524.

## KEEP YOUR STREET LIGHT WORKING

Please report any/all inoperable streetlight to the Public Works Administration Office at 225.3524. To help expedite the repair, it would be helpful to provide the address closest to the pole and the pole number if possible. Help us keep Union Gap safe and well-lit.





*"The only thing that you absolutely have to know, is the location of the library."*

- Albert Einstein

**And in Union Gap, it will be right next to the new Community Center!** Last summer, Washington State Senator Jim Honeyford decided to pay a visit to a small group of hard working local citizens who were committed to seeing a Library return to Union Gap. After hitting several fiscal dead ends, Senator Honeyford identified another funding source that seemed worth one more try. Thank you Senator Honeyford! As you now know, after much effort and a lot of paperwork, a \$2,000,000 Capital Budget Grant was awarded for the design and construction of the new Union Gap Library & Community Center to be located on the City Hall campus. After November's "Yes" Vote to a partnership with the Yakima Valley Library District to fill, run and maintain the new 21st century library, we are well on our way. When the doors of the new Library & Community Center finally open in late 2021, early 2022, it will be the epitome of a successful working relationship between dedicated citizens, city leaders and a Senator, all committed to the continued growth and success of the residents and businesses of Union Gap.

We are pleased to announce one more significant item crossed off our lengthy to-do list and that is the introduction of the Board of Directors for the new non-profit (501(c)3) known as Friends of Union Gap Library & Community Center: Mark Crouchet – Chair, Julie Schilling – Vice Chair, Terry Osman – Treasurer, Kathy Cluck – Secretary, and Resident Advisors – Helen Canatsey, Theresa Charvet, Bill Cox, Diana Cuevas (Student Representative), Maralyn Killorn, Kaitlin Cluck (Board Assistant) and Honorary Board Member #001 - Senator Jim Honeyford. For more information contact Friends of Union Gap Library & Community Center at: [friends.uglcc@gmail.com](mailto:friends.uglcc@gmail.com) and **Like us on Facebook**

## **DOXO.COM IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH THE CITY OF UNION GAP**

There is an online bill-pay website that appears to be affiliated with the City of Union Gap, **but it is not.** Doxo.com is a third-party website that allows people to pay their utility bills via their site. However, doxo.com may charge customers extra fees, and the City of Union Gap cannot control when we will receive the payments from doxo.com, possibly resulting in a late payment or service interruption if payment is not received on time.

As a reminder, the City of Union Gap offers its own online bill-pay website, [www.xpressbillpay.com](http://www.xpressbillpay.com). We strongly urge customers interested in paying their bills online to use the City's bill-pay website to ensure direct and timely payments.





## SPRING HAS OFFICIALLY SPRUNG!

While trimming trees, mowing lawns and planting flowers please be mindful of the following. While fertilizers and sprays promote healthy plants and beautiful yards they are also full of chemicals that are not only harmful to yourself; but also to the Storm Water Quality Management Program (SWQMP).

Stormwater drains need to be kept clear of lawn clippings, leaves, and garbage; by doing so you are helping to keep them clear and limiting the chances of flooding in your yards and/or home. Stormwater drains are not processed like sewer system – drain flows directly into our riverbeds and local streams without a sanitization process. By limiting the amount of fertilizer and/or the number of times you fertilize your yard, you can contribute to a safer environment for all. A great alternative to fertilizer is lawn mulch - one lawn mulching session is equivalent to one treatment of store bought fertilizer. With your help we can work together to create a healthier environment by using the above tips.

Remember, we are the solution to stormwater pollution!

Most of us have heard that you should not pour cooking Fats, Oils and Grease (F.O.G.) down the drain at one time or another, but is it true or is it just another myth?

The quick answer is that it is 'true' that you shouldn't pour grease and oils down your sinks and toilets, but why shouldn't you and what should you do to dispose of your unwanted cooking greases, fats and oils?

When F.O.G. is poured down the drain it coats your houses sewer pipes with layers of sticky grease. This can lead to expensive and repetitive plumber calls. Over time and numerous pours down the sink or toilet, layers form in and can completely plug up your pipes over time. Even though you pour it down the sink or toilet it can lead to water backing up and flowing into any downstream water fixtures in your home (eg. Bath tubs, showers, sinks etc.). Even if you do manage to get most of it down the drain and into the sewer main lines. The same process takes place there, except it is larger and can affect your neighbors' homes and businesses too.

The best way to dispose of F.O.G. is dump it in a container that can then be disposed of in the garbage. You can reuse a disposable container to pour or scrape the unwanted F.O.G. into or let it solidify after cooking and scrape it right into the garbage can.

The proper disposal of F.O.G. can save you time money and the hassle of dealing with a problem that is preventable. So take the extra steps and help keep your pipes clean!

## 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.*



CITY OF UNION GAP  
102 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

#### 102 W. AHTANUM ROAD

City Hall	248-0432
Fire	575-6060
Park Reservations	248-0432
Treasurer / Clerk	248-0432
Utility Billing	248-0434
Newsletter	248-9202

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Building / Planning	575-3638
Code Enforcement	248-0430
Public Works	225-3524

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Police	248-0430
Crime Prevention	457-5927
Animal Control	248-0430

#### 1000 AHTANUM ROAD

Senior Citizen Center	248-2668
Activities/Barn Rentals	248-0432

#### TOURISM & TRANSIT

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

### MAYOR & COUNCIL

#### COUNCIL MEMBERS

Position #1  
**John Hodkinson** ~ 424-0993

Position #2  
**James Murr** ~ 426-0838

Position #3  
**Roger Wentz** ~ 930-7023

Position #4  
**Jack Galloway** ~ 452-2966

Position #5  
**David Hansen** ~ 388-8898

Position #6  
**Julie Schilling** ~ 453-2446 Ext. 3

Position #7  
**Sandy Dailey** ~ 248-6351

#### MAYOR & DEPUTY MAYOR

Mayor  
**John Hodkinson** ~ 424-0993

Deputy Mayor  
**Roger Wentz** ~ 930-7023

### 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