

# OLD TOWN NEWS

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

**SPRING 2021**  
VOLUME 44, ISSUE 1

**UNION GAP**  
1883



Por favor llame 248-0432 para obtener información en español



## CELEBRATING 30 YEARS WITH THE CITY OF UNION GAP

*Three employees are in celebration as dedicated employees to the City of Union Gap.*



**KAREN CLIFTON**  
Finance Director

*She began her career in March of 1991.*



**JO LINDER**  
Administrative Secretary  
Public Works Department

*She began her career May of 1991.*



**CHRIS DAHL**  
Public Works Department

*Began his career part-time in 1990 and was  
hired full-time in February of 1991.*



# Congratulations to Jean's Cottage Inn for 75 years on Main Street in Union Gap!

The City of Union Gap would like to thank Jean's Cottage Inn for their decades of serving delicious food to consumers throughout the Yakima Valley and beyond. We regularly hear of customers talking about how they love Jean's Cottage Inn and they're impressed that they still cook their food the 'old-fashioned' way.

**CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR MILESTONE ANNIVERSARY!**

## FREE "Spring Clean-Up" - CITY OF UNION GAP

On Saturday, May 8, 2021, 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 **four (4) disposal sites**, set-up throughout the City, for residents to dispose of their yard waste. The site locations are as follows:

- Fire Station parking lot @ 107 West Ahtanum Road
- Ray's Wholesale Meats parking lot @ 2112 South 3rd Avenue
- Cahalan Park parking lot @ 2100 South 18th Street
- Loudon Park parking area @ 3607 4th 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**



## 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!



## STREET LIGHT OUTAGES

Help us keep Union Gap well lit and safe for everyone! Please report any, and all inoperable streetlights to the Public Works Administration Office. To help expedite the repair, please provide the address closest to the pole and the pole number (*the metal yellow-orange tag*).



## Shoreline Master Program

The Washington State Shoreline Management Act requires local governments to periodically review their Shoreline Master Programs (SMP) and, if necessary, revise their master programs to:

- Assure that the new SMP complies with applicable state law and guidelines in effect at the time of review; and
- Assure consistency of the SMP with the local government's comprehensive plan and development regulations adopted under chapter 36.70A RCW, and other local requirements.

The Yakima Valley Conference of Government (YVCOG) is working with the City of Union Gap on updating its Shoreline Master Program.

**Shoreline Master Programs (SMPs)** are local land-use policies and regulations that guide use of Washington shorelines. SMPs apply to both public and private uses for Washington's more than 28,000 miles of lake, stream, wetland, and marine shorelines. They protect natural resources for future generations, provide for public access to public waters and shores, and plan for water-dependent uses.

For updates please visit our website at [www.uniongapwa.gov](http://www.uniongapwa.gov)

# Spring in the Yakima Valley...

There is nothing quite as exciting especially after months of Covid confinement. Trees and flowers are getting ready to bloom. Bees are busy buzzing from orchards to gardens to fields. But they're not the only ones busy behind the scenes making things happen. The **Friends of Union Gap Library & Community Center** (UGL&CC) are busy too! And the news is exciting.

With ground breaking now anticipated for late spring 2021, fund raising is #1 on the list of priorities. The initial \$2,000,000 grant combined with an additional financial commitment from the City of Union Gap, along with the Voter approved partnership with Yakima Valley Libraries, is building and filling a beautiful complex but the finishing touches is where the Friends come in: And you can help! Items like the Commercial Kitchen in the Community Center, the Paved Courtyard for additional useable outdoor space, and the Childrens' Reading Wall in the Library, will help create a welcoming and productive environment that will be the UGL&CC. In anticipation of that exciting ribbon cutting sometime in late 2022, The Friends of UGL&CC would like to recognize the following fundraising projects and partners. First, BIG Thank You to these generous Donor Partners:

**GOLD: Apple King and Washington Fruit & Produce**  
**SILVER: Burrows Tractor and Valley Septic**

We are so excited to introduce our new website: ***friendsofuglcc.org*** Check it out! A special thanks for the generous donation of time, expertise and creative insight to our Web Developer Aaron Ahlberg. You can see the floor plan, follow upcoming events and even securely donate on line. You will also find links to our **Facebook** page as well as **Amazon Smiles** and **Fred Meyer Community Rewards**. If you shop on Amazon or at Fred Meyer, use the link and sign up today. These companies will donate a percentage of sales to your favorite non-profit (UGL&CC). This is one of the easiest ways to partner with us and have a company donate based on your customer loyalty.

**LEGACY BRICKS** – Paving the way to the future! This fun project will secure you a space in the Courtyard. Through June 30 for \$75 (July 1 - \$100) you can have a Legacy Brick custom engraved and show your support for the Union Gap Library & Community Center. There are a limited number of Legacy Bricks and they're going fast!

Order forms are online at ***friendsofuglcc.org*** and at the following partner locations:

**Old Town Station \* Jean's Cottage Inn \* Peppermint Stick Drive In**  
**First Baptist Church \* Heritage Bank**

Finally, a HUGE Thank You to **Valley Mall** for hosting the Friends of UGL&CC's Forth Fabulous Book Sale on March 6th! With over 3000 books and DVDs, CDs, Tapes, sheet music and other collectibles we were able to set up in the Center Court, and with respect for Covid Guidelines, make a lot of bargain book hunters very happy.

Thanks to all the hardworking Volunteers, our Co-Chairs Maralyn Killorn and Helen Canatsey, and **Meredith Furniture, Valley Septic, and KIT Radio** for helping us get the word out.

Follow us on FB and our Website ***friendsofuglcc.org*** for information on upcoming events and building progress!

Donations accepted at **Heritage Bank Drive Thru**  
By mail: **Friends of UGL&CC** / PO Box 3132 / Union Gap 98903

# 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.

## Why Can't I Flush Prescription Drugs?

It may seem like a safe and easy way to dispose of expired prescriptions, but prescription drugs should not be flushed for a completely different reason than everything else on this list. While waste water is treated, prescription drugs add chemicals to the water that are not removed during the waste water treatment process. Prescription drugs can be taken to the Yakima County Sheriff's Department, or the pharmacy that filled the prescription, for disposal.

Also, Washington State is working on a state-wide method of medication disposal; the following website is a great tool to help locate safe disposal sites around the state. <https://www.takebackyourmeds.org/> Please call **1-800-732-9253** for medicine return locations or other questions.

## 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

PRSR 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 Hodgkinson** ~ 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 Hodgkinson** ~ 424-0993

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

### CITY STAFF

*City Manager*  
**Arlene Fisher**  
249-9201

*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