

OLD TOWN NEWS

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

FALL 2023
VOLUME 46, ISSUE 3

UNION GAP
1883



Por favor llame 248-0432 para obtener información en español

BUDGET SEASON

Budget season is upon us! City staff actually starts the budget process in July each year. A draft budget reaches City Council in October in time for the mandatory public hearings that are held. The initial drafted budget is presented in early October. During the months of October and November, staff provides information about their departments and continues to report on and update the council as their budgets are brought to completion.

Council held a budget retreat earlier in the year to discuss options to fill an expected deficit in the 2024 budget. The items that were considered include a 10% utility tax, a utility penalty fee of \$10, and impact fees for new building/development. Staff also compiled comparables for fees for business licensing, non-sufficient funds and for park use. Minimal increases to those fees were approved for 2024.

You are always welcome to attend city council meetings. We will include you on our "Agenda" list if you are interested in receiving our council meeting agendas.

To do so, contact Karen Clifton @ karen.clifton@uniongapwa.gov or at City Hall @ (509) 248-0432.

UNION GAP LIBRARY & COMMUNITY CENTER



The new **Union Gap Library and Community Center** is moving right along! The walls are up and plumbing, mechanical, and electrical rough-in are in full swing. The roof was installed, and things will be really starting to take shape. As construction continues to progress, we expect to have the project complete this coming spring!

RETIREMENTS

Join us in congratulating Officer Dunsmore in his recent retirement on August 14th. Officer Dunsmore served as a patrol officer in Union Gap for the last seven years. Prior to working for Union Gap, Officer Dunsmore served 25.5 years for the Toppenish Police Department as a patrol officer, school resource officer, and detective.

We want to thank you for your service and wish you well in your future endeavors.



Join us in congratulating Sgt. Vanicek on his retirement after 25 years with the department.

We want to thank you for your service and wish you well in your future endeavors.

RECOGNITION OF YEARS OF SERVICE

We would like to express our appreciation to Officer Turley for 20 years of service with the Union Gap Police Department. To have an employee that has been dedicated to us for 20 years is a great asset.

Thank you for your hard work and service to this community.



Congratulations to a couple of our front office crew, our Clerk/Receptionist Nerediht Chavez and Clerk/Receptionist Val Martinez. They have just completed five years of service with the city.

Keep up the good work!



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2023

A great turnout and lots of fun was had at the Annual National Night out at Loudan Park in Union Gap.





YAKIMA VALLEY LOCAL CRIME LAB IS NOW OPEN FOR BUSINESS

INVESTIGATIVE LAB OFFERS TIMELY LEADS TO PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

The official launch of the Yakima Valley Local Crime Lab was celebrated on Thursday, August 3rd. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held with its Law Enforcement Operations Board, YVCOG, and invited federal, state, and regional officials. Casework commenced in August for NIBIN entry of test fires and evidence cartridge cases, cell phone forensics, and intelligence analysis in support of participating law enforcement agencies.

The lab is fully staffed and led by Laboratory Manager Kathy Geil. She is a 21-year veteran forensic scientist, who worked 13 years at the Washington State Patrol Crime Laboratory, and most recently supervised the NIBIN unit at the Las Vegas Metro Forensic Laboratory. Her expertise includes crime scene, blood stain pattern analysis, microanalysis, and firearm and toolmark examinations. Her emphasis and passion is to better her community by using an applied science to aid investigations.

The lab is equipped and ready to accept evidence for processing. The next phase will include Rapid Hit DNA technology, which is slated to ramp up in the coming months.

Rapid DNA technology will allow our local crime lab to process submitted DNA samples in under two hours. The timeliness of this technology will better determine which samples need further examination at the WSP Crime Lab, and the investigative leads generated by Rapid can be used to exonerate the innocent and to allow detectives to focus on the appropriate individuals.

LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY PLAN

Have you noticed the “translate” tool on the city website? If you are an individual with limited English proficiency, this is the tool for you. Go to the city website @ www.uniongapwa.gov. Click on the orange “translate” button in the upper right-hand corner of the home page. It will give you the option to click on an American or Spanish flag. If you press on the Spanish flag, the text on our website will turn to Spanish. Staff continues to work on this project because the documents that have been downloaded on our website are not able to be translated with the tool but that will be done in the coming months.

City council recently approved a Language Access Plan. The plan addresses how city staff will respond to requests made by individuals with limited English proficiency. The city has been working to identify vital documents that need to be translated into Spanish. Staff will be working on that task in the coming months so you may see more translated information coming out of our office in the future. The city acknowledges the need to provide our limited English-speaking residents with access to vital records and programs.

WATER ORDINANCE

Please do not park on your water meters. It makes it difficult to read or turn off the meter in an emergency. It's against city ordinance for individuals to get into the water meter box for any reason. Do not turn off or turn on the water meter for any reason, please call city hall for assistance.

JOBS ALERTS

The City of Union Gap is hiring, please check our website for more information.

JOIN OUR COMMITTEES

The City of Union Gap is always looking for citizens to join our committees. Please visit our city website for an application.

POLITICAL SIGNS

Political signs. Please be aware of the rules related to posting political signs. Regulations can be found in section 8.16.020 of the Union Gap Municipal Code on the city website at www.uniongapwa.gov.

DOES YOUR WATER HAVE AN ODOR?

On occasion the City receives calls from customers stating their water has a "rotten egg" odor. Water that smells of rotten eggs, is likely attributed to the presence of hydrogen sulfide; although particularly unpleasant to smell, it is perfectly safe to drink.

Hydrogen sulfide gas (H₂S) can give water a "rotten egg" taste or odor. This gas can occur in wells anywhere and be: Naturally occurring - a result of decay and chemical reactions with soil and rocks. The City uses a well that will produce an odor. However, monthly the City takes numerous samples throughout our entire water system and all of our samples return from the lab satisfactorily.

When it comes to showering in water that smells like sulfur, it's generally considered safe. The water is still safe to drink and use for other household purposes, and the smell is not harmful to your skin or hair. However, the smell can be quite unappealing, and it may make you want to avoid using it.

RESERVOIR CLEANING

The City's reservoir will undergo a cleaning and inspection during the month of October. There is a good chance there will not be any change in appearance or taste. However, please have a pitcher of water available for drinking. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call 509.225.3524

BE PRO ACTIVE!

It is never too early to begin preparing for the colder season that is approaching. It is much more pleasant to winterize your water lines, pipes, windows, outdoor pet areas - NOW than it is when temperatures are freezing. Think about how you can avoid issues you may have experienced during previous winters and take action now!!

FREE OF CHARGE!

Washington Recycles at 1-800-RECYCLE.WA.GOV or 1.800.732.9253 is both a hotline and an online tool that connects you, or your business, to recycling services across Washington State. This tool can help you find where, in your community, you can recycle everything from used appliances, old computers, monitors, electronics, TV's, and/or leftover paint! Please contact www.1-800-RECYCLE.WA.GOV or call 1.800.732.9253 - this is a free service!



WASHINGTON STATE
UNIVERSITY

MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM



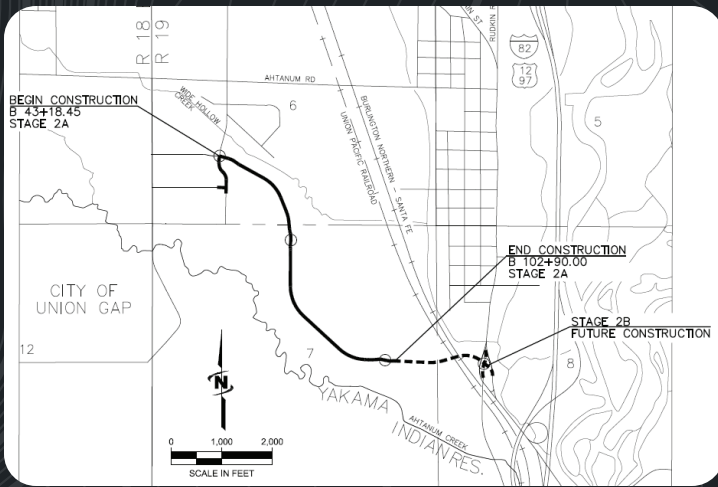
The WSU Master Gardeners of Yakima County have been busy this summer with their 4 gardens throughout the county. Their feature Demonstration Garden is located in Union Gap at the Ahtanum Youth Park. Master Gardeners teach free gardening classes every other week in this garden from May through September. The garden is always open to the public during park hours.

What to expect from fiber internet construction



ziplyTM
fiber

The City has been informed that Zipl Fiber is expanding their fiber network in Union Gap. As a resident, you could receive a construction notice on your door. You also might see signs and markings on your street and Zipl Fiber crews working in your neighborhood. There also might be temporary street closures, detours or on-street parking limitations. Crews are expected to communicate these changes with you before work begins.

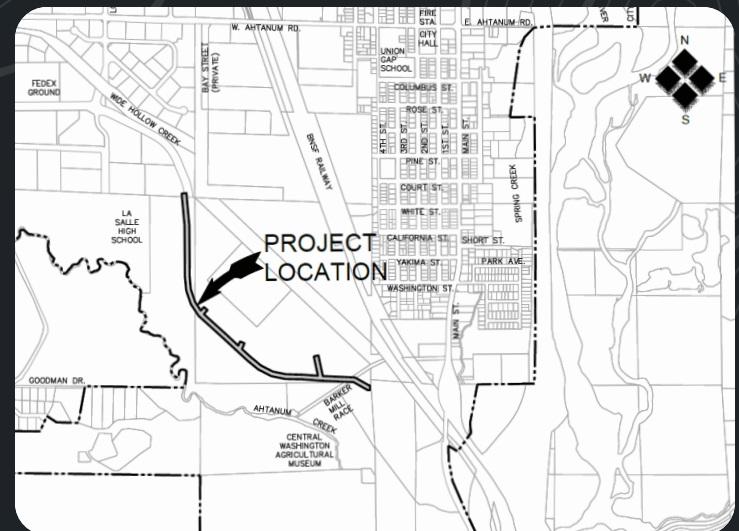


REGIONAL BELTWAY AREA UTILITIES EXTENSION

Approximately 5,300 LF of sanitary sewer pipe was recently constructed just ahead of the Regional Beltway Connector Stage 2A roadway project. The City's contractor, TTC Construction, Inc., has demobilized from the project site. All required testing on the sanitary sewer main has been completed and submitted for review and approval for final acceptance of the project.

REGIONAL BELTWAY CONNECTOR STAGE 2A

The City's contractor, Interwest Construction, Inc., has fully mobilized to the project site. All temporary sediment and erosion control BMPs are in place. The contractor has started the roadway subgrade stabilization process on the north end of the project and is moving south with clearing and grubbing, preparation of the roadway subgrade and construction of the drainage swales.



CONCEPTUAL VIDEO



To watch a short conceptual video of the project go to:
<https://youtu.be/n1TjIIHfAfl?si=Ofq4qqfuf7HccJ80>

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
Union Gap Tourism: visituniongap.com
Xpress Bill Pay: 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 |

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

| | |
|------------------|----------|
| 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
Greg Sewell ~ 952-9733

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
Sharon Bounds
494-6562

*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
Jessica Foltz