

# OLD TOWN NEWS

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

Spring 2025  
VOLUME 47, ISSUE 1

UNION GAP  
1883



Por favor llame 248-0432 para obtener información en español



## MASTER GARDENERS (WSU YAKIMA COUNTY)

WSU Master Gardeners have a Demonstration Garden and a Heirloom Garden at the Ahtanum Youth Activities Park. Both are teaching gardens with classes held during the spring, summer, and fall seasons. WSU Master Gardeners have a greenhouse, which allows members to propagate plants from seed or cuttings to be sold at the annual plant sale (open to the public) in order to raise income to support the program.

For further information about the WSU Master Gardeners program, please go to:  
<https://extension.wsu.edu/yakima/mg-home/educational-outreach/our-gardens/>

## AG MUSEUM ANNUAL SEASON OPENING



Please join us  
for the Season Opening of the  
**CENTRAL WASHINGTON  
AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM**  
APRIL 5TH FROM 10AM – 4PM

**FREE ADMISSION!**

**DONATIONS** are always  
gratefully accepted!

This is a walking tour - Please wear comfortable shoes. We have 15+ acres and all exhibits will be open! **PLEASE NOTE:** The Drive-thru route will be **CLOSED** for this event for the safety of families.

This event includes our **SMART PHONE GUIDED TOUR!** Each family can pick up a free tour card upon entry. Use your mobile device to access information on 33 stations throughout the museum.

Don't miss out on the **FREE** horse-drawn wagon rides hosted by the Horse<sup>~n~</sup>Harness Club from 1-3 pm! Experience the thrill of riding through the grounds in style!

Plan to visit the art gallery in the silo. See horse related artifacts and photographs in the horse & buggy building. The model train in the railcar will be operating. View the Young's Cabin, Amos Cabin, Visitor Center, Magness Tool Room, Keys Homestead, Farm Wife Life Display, Milk House, and Lindeman Building.

Watch demonstrations in the Olde Yakima Letterpress building, the blacksmith shop, and apple packing line, and view activities in Building #1 and Building #17.

**COME AND HELP US CELEBRATE AND KICK OFF THE 2025 SEASON!**

# COMING SOON

It's important that the city makes every effort to work with our citizens to "ease the process" of our applications.

The City of Union Gap is currently working on "ONLINE" submittable forms. In the future, you will be able to log on to the city website and submit applications for Building Permits, Land Use, Dog Licenses, etc. We hope to have it operational this spring.

Please be patient while we work through this process.

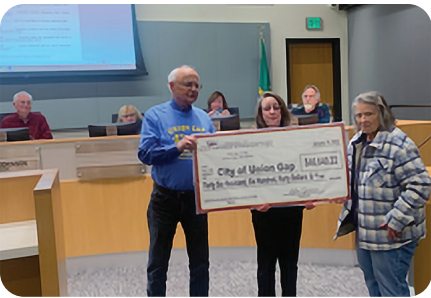
# WE ARE LOOKING FOR YOU!

Are you interested in serving your community? If you are a resident of Union Gap, there are ways within the city to serve your community. We currently have five (5) openings on our Parks Board and two (2) openings on our Planning Commission.

For further information about applying, you can access our city website @ Committees/Commissions/Boards | City of Union Gap or contact Lynette Bisconer @ 509-248-0432.

## HAVE YOU VISITED UNION GAP'S NEW LIBRARY?

Chilly days offer an ideal setting for igniting the imagination with a good book. In the spirit of the season, they have curated a list of winter-themed books for fireside lounging. So, grab a cup of hot cocoa, your slippers and blanket, and unwind with a fresh read. Located at 108 West Ahtanum Road, Suite B. For more information visit <https://www.yvl.org/branch/union-gap-library/>



## PARTNERSHIP

Thanks to the Friends of the Union Gap Library & Community Center for donating funds towards the new Community Center. We appreciate your partnership.

## CITY OF UNION GAP STATEMENT ON LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT INVOLVEMENT IN IMMIGRATION ISSUES

Recently, President Trump signed an Executive Order "Protecting the American People Against Invasion." The order authorizes the Attorney General, in coordination with the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Homeland Security to take all appropriate action to prioritize the prosecution of criminal offenses related to the unauthorized entry or continued unauthorized presence of aliens in the United States.

Reports have been circulating about recent targeted law enforcement efforts by ICE in the Yakima Valley.

This is to inform the residents of Union Gap that enforcement efforts by ICE are independent from the City Police Department. There is no prior notification given by ICE to the city, and there is no involvement from our local Police Department in their efforts.

The role of the Union Gap Police Department is to serve and protect and to provide professional police services in partnership with the community to enhance the safety and quality of life to the citizens we serve.

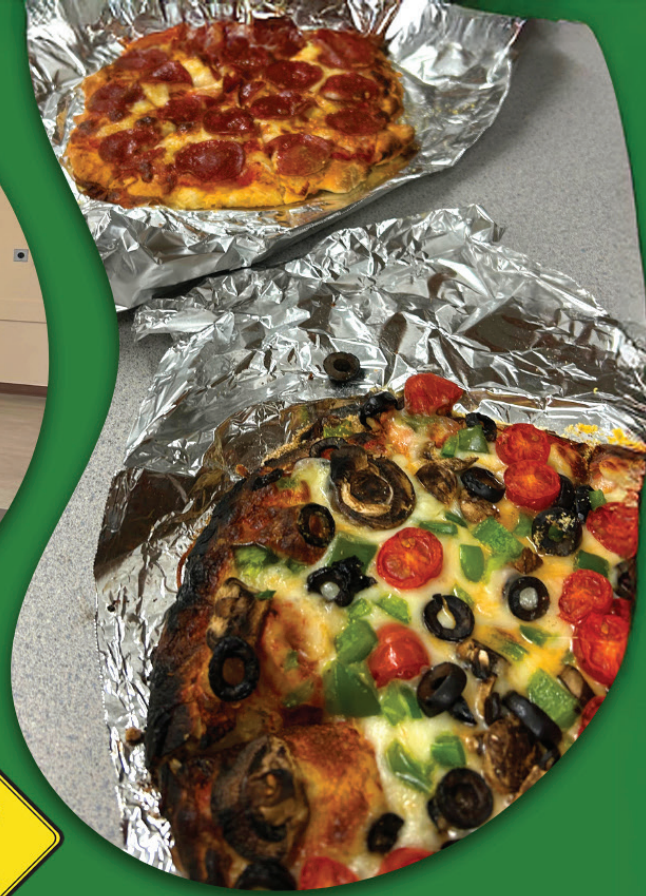


## NEW COUNCIL MEMBER

Please help us welcome our newest City Council member Carol Fredrickson. Carol was sworn in on January 13th to fill vacant position number 5.

## SENIOR CENTER

The senior center is open Monday - Friday 8:30am to 12:30pm. Fun activities and lunch provided by Meals on Wheels. Call 509-426-2601 to register for a meal. Must be eligible to participate in the program. Address: 1008 W. Ahtanum Road, Suite 3 Union Gap WA 98903



# PIZZA FOR PRODUCERS

YAKIMA, WASHINGTON



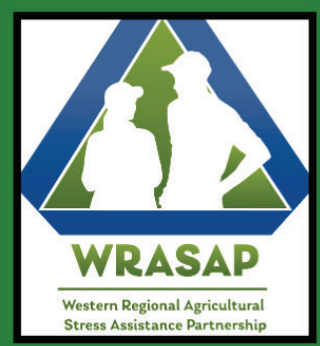
- **Museum Tours - 3:00 PM**
- **COMET Training - 4:00 PM**
- **Pizza Pie Preparation & Set-up - 5:30 PM**
- **Pizza Party - 6:00 PM**

COMET™ (Changing Our Mental and Emotional Trajectory) trains community members how to initiate a supportive interaction when they encounter someone who is in a “vulnerable space” and help shift the person’s mental health trajectory back to a place of wellness instead of proceeding towards a mental health crisis.

COMET aligns with rural cultural values of neighbor helping neighbor and communities being their own best resource.



**MARCH 8TH, 2025**  
At the Central Washington Agricultural Museum  
4508 Main St, Union Gap, WA 98903



# WORK ZONE SAFETY

A reminder to all...anytime you are on the roadway as a driver, a passenger OR you are performing construction in a work zone – everyone must be attentive and not distracted. Work crews AND the driving public are all at risk in construction work zones. Remember, individuals on the road are spouses, parents, children, siblings, friends, **human beings** – and everyone deserves to **ARRIVE ALIVE** at their destination.

## We ask all drivers in work zones to:

- Slow down – drive the posted speeds, they are there for your safety.
- Be kind – our workers are out there helping to keep you safe and improve the roadways.
- Pay attention – both to workers directing you and surrounding traffic; put your phone down when behind the wheel.
- Stay calm – expect delays, leave early or take an alternate route if possible; no meeting or appointment is worth risking someone's life.

**WSDOT**

## WORK ZONE SAFETY FACTS

**TOP 3 REASONS**  
for work zone collisions:

FOLLOWING TOO CLOSE,  
EXCESSIVE SPEED, &  
DISTRACTED DRIVING



**WASHINGTON AVERAGES**

478

roadway work zone injuries each year

**2X THE FINE!**

Traffic fines are double in work zones



**95%**

of people hurt in work zone collisions are...

...**MOTORISTS** their **PASSENGERS** or passing **PEDESTRIANS**



Nationally, there's a work zone crash...  
**...EVERY 5.4 MINUTES**



wsdot.wa.gov/about/events-programs/give-em-brake

Each year about 670 people are killed nationally in roadway work zones. In 2022, Washington had six fatal work zone crashes on state roads.



## NOTHING BUT Rain IN OUR Drain

### Spring is on the Way...

While preparing your yard for the spring & summer seasons, 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 should be kept clear of lawn clippings, leaves and garbage to help keep them clear and limiting the chances of flooding in your yards and/or home.

Stormwater drains are not processed like a sewer system – drain flows directly into our riverbeds and local streams without a sanitization process. By limiting the amount of fertilizer used, 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. Remember, we are the solution to stormwater pollution!



## IS YOUR DOG LICENSED?

Section 6.04.110 of the Union Gap Municipal Code states the following:

All dogs three (3) months of age or older are required to be licensed under this chapter.

- Tags.** The police department shall issue animal licenses consisting of a metal tag with a number corresponding to the number of the application to the applicant. The applicant is required to cause the tag to be attached or fixed to the animal. The tag is not transferable. The absence of the license tag on a dog's collar shall be prima facie evidence that said dog has not been legally licensed.
- Fees.** The following fees shall be paid for licenses required under this chapter:
  - Spayed or neutered dogs that have current vaccinations and with a veterinarian's certificate: ten dollars (\$10.00) annually.
  - Un-spayed, unneutered, or unvaccinated dogs, or dogs not current on vaccinations: thirty dollars (\$30.00) annually.
  - Licenses shall be valid from January 1st to the following December 31st. For other than first time owners of a specific dog, licenses purchased after April 30th of any year shall be subject to an additional fee of fifteen dollars (\$15.00) for each license.

Application can be accessed on the city website @ [www.uniongapwa.gov](http://www.uniongapwa.gov).

For further information contact the Union Gap Police Department @ **509-248-0430**



# Union Gap Police Department



Chief Cobb was recognized at a recent City Council meeting by Sheriff Udell for his efforts in managing the development of the Yakima Valley Crisis Response Unit (YVCRU) **Great job Chief Cobb!**



Join us in congratulating our newest academy graduate Alex Gonzalez. You will be seeing him around the city soon.



## OUR MISSION

To help those within our community by meeting a need temporarily, promoting further education, and improving community relations and good will.

The Union Gap Police Employees Foundation is an independent, private non-profit 501(c)(3), dedicated to supporting and strengthening the service of the Union Gap Police Department.

## FUNDRAISING EVENT: JUNE 15, 2025



UNION GAP  
**POLICE EMPLOYEE FOUNDATION**

**OLD TOWN DAYS**

**PANCAKE FEED**

*At Fullbright Park*



### PARTNER WITH US THROUGH DONATIONS OR SPONSORING!

Contact us on Facebook at Union Gap Police Employee Foundation or email: [ugpefoundation@gmail.com](mailto:ugpefoundation@gmail.com)



## YOUR SUPPORT IS HELPING OUR COMMUNITY

### 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

Published on a quarterly basis to  
keep citizens informed

### WEBSITES

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 (509) 248-0432  
Fire (509) 575-6060  
Park Reservations (509) 248-0432  
Treasurer / Clerk (509) 248-0432  
Utility Billing (509) 248-0434  
Newsletter (509) 248-9202

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Building / Planning (509) 575-3638  
Code Enforcement (509) 248-0430  
Public Works (509) 225-3524

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Police (509) 248-0430  
Crime Prevention (509) 457-5927  
Animal Control (509) 248-0430

#### 1000 AHTANUM ROAD

Senior Citizen Center (509) 248-2668  
Activities/Barn Rentals (509) 248-0432

#### TOURISM & TRANSIT

Tourism Promoter (509) 575-8770  
Union Gap Transit (509) 574-8000  
UG Transit TTY (509) 574-8000

### MAYOR & COUNCIL

#### COUNCIL MEMBERS

Position #1  
**John Hodkinson** ~ (509) 424-0993

Position #2  
**Greg Sewell** ~ (509) 952-9733

Position #3  
**Roger Wentz** ~ (509) 930-7023

Position #4  
**Jack Galloway** ~ (509) 961-2466

Position #5  
**Carol Fredrickson** ~ (509) 248-0432

Position #6  
**Julie Schilling** ~ (509) 453-2446 Ext. 3

Position #7  
**Sandy Dailey** ~ (509) 248-6351

#### MAYOR & DEPUTY MAYOR

Mayor  
**John Hodkinson** ~ (509) 424-0993

Deputy Mayor  
**Roger Wentz** ~ (509) 930-7023

### CITY STAFF

*City Manager*  
**Sharon Bounds**  
(509) 494-6562

*Director of Public Works &  
Community Development*  
**Jason Cavanaugh**  
(509) 225-3524

*Director of Finance &  
Administration*  
**Lynette Bisconer**  
(509) 248-0432

*Police Chief*  
**Greg Cobb**  
(509) 248-0430

*City Attorney*  
**Jessica Foltz**