

# OLD TOWN NEWS

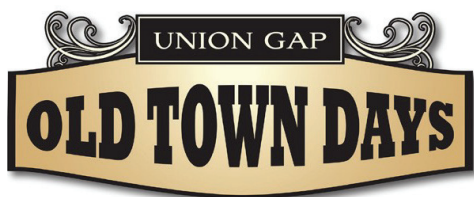
CITY EVENTS, CITY COUNCIL, DEPARTMENTS, COMMITTEES,  
& MUNICIPAL CODE INFORMATION

Summer 2025  
VOLUME 47, ISSUE 2

UNION GAP  
1883



Por favor llame 248-0432 para obtener información en español



## UNION GAP OLD TOWN DAYS & CIVIL WAR REENACTMENT

JUNE 14-15, 2025 - FATHER'S DAY WEEKEND

ALL EVENTS ARE AT FULLBRIGHT PARK

**FREE ADMISSION / PARKING**

Make this Father's Day Weekend one to remember at the 2025 Union Gap Old Town Days and Civil War Reenactment—a free, family-friendly event filled with history, excitement, and hands-on fun for all ages!

The highlight of the weekend? The Civil War Living History Camps and four live battle reenactments—two each day! Each battle is narrated by an entertaining emcee who brings the era to life with fascinating commentary and historical insights. After the battles, stroll through the authentic camps where each tent has a specific role, from the medic's station to letter writing and sock darning. The reenactors love sharing their knowledge and stories with curious visitors of all ages.

Celebrate Dad of the Year on Saturday and enjoy the always-popular Union Gap Police Department Pancake Feed to kick off the morning.

Explore museum exhibits including the historic apple packing line, the bustling blacksmith shop, and scenic tram rides through the museum grounds.

Young explorers will love the Living History Scavenger Hunt, where they can interact with reenactors and earn fun prizes along the way!

And don't forget to bring your appetite! A variety of Yakima Valley's favorite food trucks will be on-site all weekend serving up delicious food and drinks.

It's an unforgettable way to celebrate history—and Father's Day—in Union Gap!







# **MASTER GARDENER**

## **20TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR AHTANUM DEMONSTRATION GARDEN**

**Join our Garden Party!**  
**June 21, 2025 from 10AM – 2:30PM**  
1000 Ahtanum Road, Union Gap, WA 98903

Get answer to your garden questions. See demonstrations, How you can grow food in pots.  
Make garden décor for your yard. Build a trellis. Enjoy refreshments.



## **NO MORE PARKING FEES IN AHTANUM YOUTH PARK**

Yes, you heard it right, there are no longer parking fees in Ahtanum Youth Park. In April, after discussion and recommendation from city staff, the Union Gap City Council approved an ordinance removing parking fees for Ahtanum Youth Park.

Discussion was held on the importance of being able to fund the parks but it was found that revenues collected were not greater than what was being spent on enforcement efforts of the fees. The City Council continues to explore creative ways to build a strong community.

## **YOU WILL SEE MORE ACTIVITY IN AHTANUM YOUTH PARK THIS YEAR**

The city has approved Use Agreements with Yakima Youth Rugby “The Griffins” and with Yakima Valley Grid Kids for use of the fields in Ahtanum Youth Park. Yakima Youth Rugby will hold practices and events between April 29th to December 7th. Yakima Valley Grid Kids will hold practices and events between May 2nd and November 8th.

City Council also approved Use Agreements with Hop Country Cornhole and the Yakima Table Tennis Club for use of the Activities Building for their weekly events. Hop Country Cornhole will conduct events on Wednesday evenings between 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and Yakima Table Tennis Club will conduct events on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

These events are open to the public so if you’re interested in participating you can contact their groups individually or for further information contact Public Works Director Jason Cavanaugh at 509-248-0432.



## SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM (SFSP) FREE BREAKFAST AND LUNCH AT UNION GAP SCHOOL



JUNE 23-27 & JULY 7-18  
MONDAY-FRIDAY for ALL children 1-18 years of age

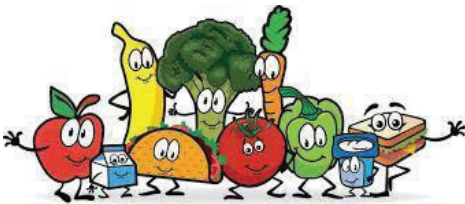
**CLOSED: MONDAY-FRIDAY, June 30-July 4, 2025**

BREAKFAST SERVED: 8:15AM - 9:00AM

LUNCH SERVED: 11:15AM - 12:15PM

If you have any questions, please call  
**Debra Manzano at 248-3966 x 402**

Union Gap School is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider



## PROGRAMA DE SERVICIO DE ALIMENTOS DE VERANO (SFSP) DESAYUNO Y ALMUERZO GRATIS EN LA ESCUELA UNION GAP



23-27 DE JUNIO y 7-18 DE JULIO  
LUNES-VIERNES para TODOS niños de 1-18 años de edad

**CERRADO: LUNES-VIERNES - 30 DE JUNIO-4 DE JULIO DEL 2025**

SE SERVIRÁ DESAYUNO: 8:15AM - 9:00AM

SE SERVIRÁ ALMUERZO: 11:15AM - 12:15PM

Si tiene cualquier pregunta, favor de llamar a  
**Juanita Justo al 248-3966 x 400**

El Distrito Escolar de Union Gap es un empleador y proveedor de  
igualdad de oportunidades



## POLITICAL SIGNS

(a) "Political sign" is defined in Section 17.08.020 and is exempt from the application, permit, and fee requirements of Title 17 when the standards of Chapter 17.08 are met. The temporary sign provisions of Section 17.08.110 do not apply to exempt political signs.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of the Union Gap Municipal Code, political signs may be placed in public street rights-of-way subject to the following requirements:

(1) Political signs are prohibited in the median of Valley Mall Boulevard/Pioneer Street, as well as on all city property other than rights-of-way.

(2) Political signs are prohibited within the vision clearance triangle of all streets and driveways, as defined in Chapter 11.12 and Section 17.08.060.

(3) Political signs shall be located out of the traveled portion of the roadway, located out of established parking areas, and shall no larger than four square feet.

(4) The chief of police, public works director, and building official, or their respective designees, are authorized to remove any sign which in their sole discretion, creates a public safety concern. Any signs which are removed shall be stored during the relevant campaign, and may be retrieved by campaign representatives.

(5) An adjacent landowner or tenant who removes political signs from right-of-way fronting his or her property shall not be guilty of a civil or criminal infraction or misdemeanor under either law or local ordinance.

(6) The city shall not be liable for damages to political signs caused by city activities, such as street and right-of-way maintenance.

(Ord. 2388,2003)

## COMMITTEE / BOARD MEMBERS AND COMMISSIONER NEEDED

The City of Union Gap is seeking volunteers interested in serving as a planning commission member and Park committee member. Selected persons must be Union Gap residents and United States citizens. Interested persons should complete an application, which can be found on the city website at [www.uniongapwa.gov](http://www.uniongapwa.gov), or by contacting the city clerk at **509-248-0432**.

Please submit a complete application to:

**Lynette Bisconer, City Clerk,**

City of Union Gap, 102 West Ahtanum Road, Union Gap, WA 98903 or at [lynette.bisconer@uniongapwa.gov](mailto:lynette.bisconer@uniongapwa.gov)

# NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Tuesday, August 5, 2025

National Night Out, a nationwide event, is held on the first Tuesday of August. Join us from 5-7 pm at Loudon Park 3600 3rd St for some food and fun!



## VALVE TURNING PROGRAM

The City's valve turning program is currently underway and will continue for the remainder of the year. If you encounter discoloration in your water, please limit your use of water so any naturally occurring sediment will settle. If discolored, please be assured your water will be the same safe water you enjoyed prior to this maintenance program. You might ask, "What is the valve turning program?"

**Who:** Public Works Personnel

**What:** This is a preventive maintenance program, which involves locating and mapping all valves in the system. Recording pertinent information. Cleaning out valve boxes or vaults. Operating all valves to ensure they function properly. Depending on the condition of the valve, it may require repair, replacement, or non-emergency maintenance.

Water valves are an essential part of the City's water distribution system and they can be tough to work with, as there are many details and safety measures that must be followed to ensure success.

**When:** Currently and will continue thru the remainder of the year.

**Where:** The entire City of Union Gap water distribution system.

**Why:** To assure reliable operation and maintain water quality; extends the life of the valves; helps ensure water system reliability; helps you safely and effectively operate your system for regular use; ensures the system is operable in the event of an emergency.



## DIGGING ON YOUR PROPERTY?

Please remember, we are all required by law to call the National "Call-Before-You-Dig" @ 8-1-1. After utility operators are notified, to mark any buried utility lines in the proposed digging area. You may see paint or flags marking the areas that utilities have been located so you do not dig into an underground line.

Below are some color markings you may see:

WHITE	Pre-marking of the outer limits of the proposed excavation or marking the centerline and width of proposed lineal installations of buried facilities.
PINK	Temporary Survey Markings.
RED	Electric power lines, cables or conduit, and lighting cables.
YELLOW	Gas, oil, steam, petroleum, or gaseous materials.
ORANGE	Communication, alarm, signal lines, cables or conduits, and fiber.
BLUE	Potable water.
PURPLE	Slurry, irrigation and reclaimed water.
GREEN	Sewers, drainage facilities or other drain lines.



## FREE OF CHARGE!

Washington Recycles 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](http://www.1-800-RECYCLE.WA.GOV) or call **1.800.732.9253** – this is a **FREE** service!





## DOES YOUR WATER HAVE AN ODOR?

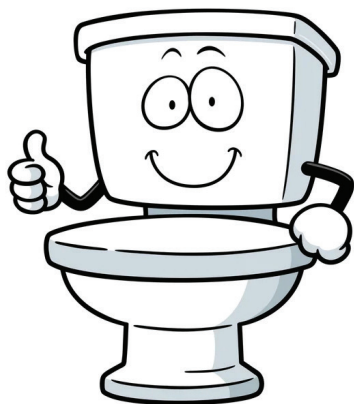
On occasion, during the summer months, the City receives calls from customers stating their water has a “rotten egg” odor. The smell of rotten egg, in water, is an indicator of the presence of hydrogen sulfide; although particularly unpleasant to smell, it is perfectly safe to drink. Every month, the City collects numerous samples throughout our entire water distribution system and all of our samples return satisfactorily, from a certified lab.

## SEASONAL METER CUSTOMER

Effective immediately, we will no longer be automatically turning on seasonal meters. Instead, we kindly request that the customer contact our Utility Department at 509-248-0434 to initiate the service. This change is being implemented to enhance our service efficiency and ensure that all customer requests are handled promptly and accurately. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we transition to this new process.

Should you have any questions or require further assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out to our office at 509-248-0432 or via email at [Christopher.fix@uniongapwa.gov](mailto:Christopher.fix@uniongapwa.gov). We are here to help you. Thank you for your attention to this matter; we look forward to continuing to serve you in the best way possible.

## BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU FLUSH!



We hope this message finds you well. We are reaching out to address an important issue regarding waste disposal that has been affecting our sewer system. Recently, we have encountered repeated blockages in our sewer lines due to inappropriate items being flushed down toilets. While toilet paper and disposable wipes (designated as flushable) are acceptable for disposal in the sewer system, we want to remind you that all other items must be placed in the garbage. This includes clothing, mop heads, feminine products, and other materials that do not break down easily in water. Improper disposal can lead to serious plumbing issues, costly repairs, and disruptions in service for everyone in our community. We kindly ask for your cooperation in ensuring that only approved items are disposed of through the sewer system. By working together and following these guidelines, we can help maintain the integrity of our sewer infrastructure and keep our community running smoothly. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter.

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## 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

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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	(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) 771-9513

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**