

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

November-December 2009

MUSICIAN GARY PUCKETT HONORED WITH A KEY TO THE CITY OF UNION GAP

I had the honor of speaking to Gary Puckett on the telephone October 5, 2009. Paul Graham of Radio NL in Kamloops, BC set up a surprise telephone conversation for Gary Puckett to converse with the Mayor of Union Gap. Mr. Puckett is originally from Yakima, but formed a musical group known as Gary Puckett & the Union Gap. He is best known for his hits Young Girl, Woman Woman and Lady Willpower, which was on the Billboard Top 10 chart in the late 1960's. I have by executive proclamation proclaimed October 5th as Gary Puckett Day and presented him with a key to the City. Gary mentioned he would like to possibly hold a concert in Union Gap on Gary Puckett Day.



Mayor Jim

DID THE EXTENDED CITY HALL HOURS BENEFIT YOU?

The two month trial of extended City Hall hours ends October 31, 2009. City Hall was open 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday, with City Hall being closed on Fridays. On November 2, 2009 City Hall will return to normal business hours 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Enclosed is a survey to find out if the extended hours benefited you. Please note your name and address on your survey or your survey will not be valid.

CITY OF UNION GAP APPROVED FOR GRANT

Good news was received from Stephen Dunk of the Washington Public Works Board informing that the City of Union Gap application for a Small Communities in Rural Counties Grant was approved for \$700,000. This grant is earmarked for the Valley Mall Boulevard Phase IV water and sewer main improvements. I thank the City Staff and City Council for achieving such a competitive grant.

PROTECTING OUR CITIZENS WATER/SEWER RATES

The City Council voted unanimously on passing an ordinance protecting your water/sewer rates. This ordinance identifies allowable charges to be transferred from these enterprise funds to the General Fund. Identifying true administrative costs for the 2009 Budget has increased our savings over \$500,000 to our Water, Sewer and Garbage Funds averting another rate increase to the citizens.



REMEMBRANCE OF 9/11



Many participants showed their patriotism.

Pastor Mike Gill of the Union Gap First Baptist Church organized a walk in remembrance of 9/11 on Friday, September 11, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. Many participated in the walk to honor the memory of those that died and the heroism that occurred on that tragic day.



Participants preparing for the 9/11 Walk.



Mayor Jim Lemon, Council Member Roger Wentz, Josh Murr and Youth Council Members Donald Beddoe, Erika Lemon and Robert Amezcua.

PROTECTING OUR CITIZENS FROM DISRUPTIVE BOOMING MOTOR VEHICLE STEREO EQUIPMENT

Loud music, or other audio and stereo sounds generated from stereo equipment installed in motor vehicles causing public disturbance, disruptive to the peace and tranquility of neighborhoods shall be fined \$250.00 through Ordinance No. 2640 passed by the City Council on September 28, 2009. If you are encountering this disruptive disturbance, please report it to your Police Department.



COUNCIL RECOGNIZES UNION GAP POST OFFICE

The Council unanimously passed Resolution No. 801 recognizing the post office located in Union Gap that has been serving the community in Union Gap for many decades as a Union Gap Post Office rather than a Yakima Branch Post Office. This action was taken to hopefully prevent the Federal Government from closing the post office in Union Gap.

YOUTH COUNCIL APPRECIATES YOUR SUPPORT

THANK YOU!

The Youth Council thanks everyone for their support in the Youth Council car wash event held September 12 and 19. The car wash was not only a fun event for everyone to get-together, but provided a community service. A special thank you goes out to Thelma Beddoe, Lewis Beddoe, James Murr and Roger Wentz for donating their time for providing adult supervision to these events.



CRIME PREVENTION



NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME MAPPING TOOL

A new crime fighting tool is being launched for the citizens of Union Gap, Yakima, and Selah. By logging onto crimemapping.com the citizens will have the ability to know what is happening in their city, including the ability to see what types of crimes are occurring in their neighborhoods. The Crime Mapping site uses 15 different icons to represent types of crimes, and clicking on an icon will display the date, time and location of the police call and the incident report number. It also gives information on domestic violent assaults. This innovative service will hopefully bring chances of successful resolutions in solving criminal activity in our neighborhoods.

CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF GLENN BATEMAN

Our sincere condolences go out to the family of City of Union Gap Council Member Glenn Bateman who passed away on October 7, 2009. Glenn unfortunately was unable to complete his full term on the Council, but he did work for the best interest of the community and will be missed by all of us.



Council Member
Glenn Bateman

CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF WALT RIPPEE

Our sincere condolences go out to the family of former City of Union Gap Council Member Walt Rippee who passed away on September 17, 2009.

CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF PHIL SALZMAN

Our sincere condolences go out to the family of former City of Union Gap Council Member Phil Salzman who passed away on August 29, 2009.

NEED YOUR IDEAS ON LANDSCAPING THE VALLEY MALL BOULEVARD ROUNDABOUT

Council Member Wentz has asked for ideas on landscaping the Valley Mall Boulevard Phase IV roundabout. Enclosed is a survey to write down your ideas. Please return the survey to City Hall by November 30, 2009 for the Council and me to review.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SERVING ON THE CITIZENS FOR THE FUTURE OF UNION GAP COMMITTEE

The Citizens for the Future of Union Gap Committee is comprised of citizens that organize and promote the Old Town Days and the Old Fashioned Holiday Celebration events for all to enjoy. I thank all past and present volunteers for serving on this committee. If you are interested in being involved in this committee, please send a letter of interest to the City of Union Gap, Attention Mayor Lemon, P.O. Box 3008, Union Gap, WA 98903.

MAYOR'S POETRY PICK



HALF MAST

How many will have died from the first to the last.
All of them will wear it the Red, White, Blue
to cover their last resting place protecting me and you.
How many will have died from the first to the last,
Our flag was made for freedom, not to hang at half mast.

Written by Jacque Craft

Sincerely,

Mayor Jim Lemon