



TUKWILA CITY PAGES

The city of opportunity
The community of choice

Help change a child's life for the better

One of the nation's oldest and largest youth mentoring programs has a shortage of men. **Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Puget Sound** – like the organization's many other chapters nationally – has a backlog of boys waiting for Big Brothers. The organization's recruiters believe the shortage of volunteers can be attributed to longer work hours, other volunteer options, and even increased entertainment options such as video games. Contrary to the perception that younger adult men are



targeted to fill the Big Brother role, the organization is increasingly looking for older men who bring time, patience and life wisdom to the role.

Trevor – a former Little Brother – remembers "I met Steve when I was in 7th grade. When I first met him I wasn't too sure. He seemed so much older than me. As time went on I began to realize he was just another big kid. We had a lot of great adventures together, doing everything from going to his lab to snowboarding to river rafting. Steve was the first person to show me what a real man is and I will be forever indebted."

Make a difference and donate 3-4 hours a month to a child. Interested in learning more? Contact Kara Sanders at Kara.Sanders@BBBSPS.org.

Pregnancy Aid provides needed things

For over 40 years, **Pregnancy Aid** in Des Moines has been serving low-income pregnant women and families with babies in South King County. Pregnancy Aid provides maternity clothes, baby and children's clothes, diapers, books, toys, and baby furniture – including car seats – to anyone in need. Families return the borrowed items once their child has outgrown them. The office is located at 730 South 225th in Des Moines, and open from 10:00AM to 1:00PM on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. No appointment is necessary; bring picture ID.

Shopping season is upon us... outsmart the crooks!

- Never leave your laptop, GPS, purse, etc., in the vehicle. Visible power cords tell a potential thief there's something worth stealing in the car.
- Be aware of your surroundings at all times. Keep a secure hold on your purse and parcels.
- Have your keys in your hand as you are walking to your car. Do not put items down or on your car to open the door.
- Take oversized purchases (like TVs) straight home, rather than risk having them stolen while you continue to shop.
- Make a plan with children in case you get separated. Establish a central meeting place.
- Ensure that all children with you know your cell phone number. Give cards with your contact information to any who don't.
- Review with your children who they can turn to for help if approached by someone they don't know or if they find themselves alone.
- Each time you make a purchase, make sure you leave with your checkbook, credit cards, cell phone and wallet.
- Always lock your car doors and take the keys. Suspicious people in the area? Call 911.
- If you go back inside to shop after stashing packages (out of sight) in your vehicle, move it to another parking location on the other side of the lot or building, where a watching & waiting thief cannot see you re-park.

Spirit of Giving
toy collection event
November 23
Westfield Southcenter
South Parking Lot

Spirit of Giving Toy & Food Collection Event
Saturday, November 23 10:00AM to 4:00PM
Westfield Shopping Center south parking lot
Please come down, shop & donate toys, food or cash
This collection event is jointly sponsored by Tukwila's Police Department and Parks & Recreation Department

Get into the spirit

Each holiday season Tukwila's Parks and Recreation Department organizes a holiday giving program in partnership with the Tukwila Police Department and Tukwila School District for local children in need.

This program relies on citizens who generously purchase new gift items for the recipients in this program, typically children and families who are homeless, low-income or in troubled situations.

Last year this program alone helped serve over 250 children. This year's goal is about 300 children. Please help bring holiday cheer to many Tukwila area families this holiday season. By participating in this program, you can truly make a difference in a local life.

If you or your business would like to share in the spirit of giving, please contact Shannon Fisher at 206-768-2822 or Shannon.Fisher@TukwilaWA.gov.

Enjoy Swimming with a Friend!
ONE FREE ADMISSION with one paid admission
during any Tukwila Pool Family Swim, Lap Swim or Open Swim!
Coupon valid through December 31, 2013

4414 S. 144th St. Tukwila, WA 98168 | 206-267-2350 | www.TukwilaPool.org | poolinfo@TukwilaWAgov

As the holiday season approaches, retailers, malls and grocery stores are more crowded than usual with busy shoppers. Keep these tips in mind whenever you go out to shop (the rest of the year, too!) Common-sense measures are the key to thwarting thieves. And for everyone's safety, there's advice for those shopping with children over the next several weeks.

By following this advice, you can reduce the stress of shopping during this particularly busy season. As always, keep your personal safety in mind, and be on the lookout for fraud and identity theft.

Attention, businesses: Your current licenses expire on December 31. Watch your mailbox for the annual renewal notice, coming soon!

Stormwater survey results

In 2010, as part of the City of Tukwila's Surface Water Management Program, the City began to survey its citizens to measure the public's knowledge and perception of stormwater and, at the same time, conduct an education and outreach program as is required by our National Pollutant Discharge Elimination (NPDES) Phase II permit.

The City of Tukwila recently completed the 2013 survey that you might have participated in. The objective is to compare results of this year's survey to previous years' results, allowing the City to analyze the effectiveness of its communications on – and the public's awareness of – surface water issues, and to identify areas for improvement in educational outreach. Some important stormwater issues to understand:

- In Tukwila, water drains into the stormwater system, completely separate from the sanitary sewer system. Typically stormwater is not treated to remove pollutants before being released into the environment.
- The primary cause of pollution in stormwater runoff is individual human activity, not industrial dumping. Success in reducing environmental pollution depends upon everyone's participation in helping to make a difference.
- Biodegradable soap is not a safe addition to stormwater drains, and should be kept from entering the stormwater drainage system.
- To protect the environment, soapy water from washing a vehicle is best handled by allowing it to be absorbed by a lawn or the ground. It should not be allowed to flow into the street or drainage ditch.
- The gaps between bricks or pavers help reduce the volume of stormwater runoff and pollution in the environment.

The entire survey results of this year and previous years can be viewed on the City's NPDES web page at www.TukwilaWA.gov/PubWks/NPDES.



Street sweeping and stormwater

A main component of the City's Surface Water Management Program (SWMP) is cleaning the City's catch basins. When it rains, sediments and contaminants such as motor oil and car

brake residual that have collected on City streets are washed into catch basins. The contaminants then attach to the sediments and are carried away by stormwater downstream to the Green/Duwamish River.

The City's street sweeping operation collects significant amounts of these sediments and contaminants before they can enter the catch basins. The City's street sweeper makes two or three cleaning cycles throughout the City each year. Also, after snow and ice events, sweepers direct their efforts to the removal of sand from City streets.

Any blockage by fallen leaves or debris on catch basins will back up on City streets and may cause flooding. Citizens making sure that the catch basins are free of blockage helps the entire system work better.

For more information about the City's surface water management programs, contact NPDES Coordinator Greg Villanueva at 206-431-2442 or email SWMP@TukwilaWA.gov.

Reducing the occurrences of false alarms saves you money

A false alarm is an alarm caused by human error or equipment malfunction that results in summoning a Police or Fire Department response with no evidence of an existing police or fire emergency situation.

False alarms are costly, misdirect valuable Police and Fire resources, and can jeopardize the safety of police officers, firefighters and citizens alike. Frequent false alarms also promote a complacent attitude. In the case of a residence, this can cause neighbors to ignore your alarm, making your system less reliable and credible if a true emergency occurs.

The City of Tukwila allows two free Police or Fire false alarm responses per calendar year. A courtesy letter is sent to the home or business location giving notification of these alarms. False alarm #3 incurs a \$25.00 fee charged by both the Police and Fire Departments. All false alarms beyond #3 are \$25.00 for Police Department responses; beginning with alarm #4, Fire Department false alarm response fees are \$50.00. Notification will be given by invoice which states the fee due, the alarm number for the year, the incident number, and the date, time and location of the occurrence. False alarm fees, in effect since 2007, are being reviewed for possible increase.

Before activating your alarm system, take note of these prevention tips for fewer false alarm occurrences:



- Keep pets, helium-filled balloons, plants, fans, etc., away from the motion sensor monitor of the alarm.
- Make sure all windows and doors are closed and locked to ensure that all alarm contacts are properly aligned.
- Make sure that newly placed décor items (such as holiday decorations) don't interfere with your door or window alarm contacts or motion sensors.
- For businesses, make sure all staff has been trained in alarm procedure for entering and exiting alarmed buildings. For residences, make sure all family members know these procedures as well. Ensure that guests are also aware that an alarm exists, how it is activated, and what to do should they accidentally trigger the alarm.
- Wait a few minutes before driving away from the home or business, to make sure that the alarm system does not have a false activation.
- Make sure the contact list you have with your alarm company is accurate and up-to-date.

For answers to questions about false alarms, or for advice/information on fire and crime prevention, contact the Police administrative representative at 206-433-1804 or the Fire administrative representative at 206-575-4407.

Tukwila City offices will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 28 & 29, in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

Tukwila businesses shine at King County's Diamond Awards event

On October 16, three Tukwila businesses were recognized for their excellent efforts to reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality at the 20th annual Diamond Awards luncheon at the Hilton Airport Hotel. With Mayor Haggerton in attendance, this King County program honored:

BECU, with a coveted Diamond Ring award for their work in managing employee commutes as central to the company's vision of becoming carbon-neutral by 2035;

Group Health's Employee Transportation Coordinator Sarah Hollis, with an award for her outstanding work with employees at headquarters located in Tukwila; and

The **Boeing Company**, with an award for their innovative marketing guides.

The Diamond Awards program was established to recognize employers and individuals who are redefining the popular notion of commuting in King County. Through their outstanding and innovative programs, these employers improve the performance of our transportation system, keep our economy vibrant and protect our precious ecosystems.



Monica Patti of BECU, with Tukwila Mayor Jim Haggerton



Sarah Hollis of Group Health, with King County Executive Dow Constantine