



THE HAZELNUT

A City of Tukwila publication for our residential and business communities

VOLUME 30, NUMBER 4

SEPTEMBER 2009

Autumn's return to the rainy season means stormwater runoff and pollution

Stormwater runoff occurs when precipitation from rain or snowmelt flows over the ground. Impervious surfaces like driveways, sidewalks and streets prevent stormwater from naturally soaking into the ground.

Why is stormwater runoff a problem? Stormwater can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants and flow into a storm system or directly to a lake, stream, river, wetland, or coastal water. Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged untreated into the waterbodies we use for swimming, fishing, and providing drinking water.

The effects of pollution – Polluted stormwater runoff can have adverse effects on plants, fish, animals and people.

◆ Excess nutrients can cause algae blooms. When algae die, they sink to the bottom and decompose in a process that removes oxygen from the water. Fish and other aquatic organisms can't exist in water with low oxygen levels.

◆ Sediment can cloud the water and make it difficult or impossible for aquatic plants to grow. Sediment also can destroy aquatic habitats.

◆ Debris – plastic bags, six-pack rings, bottles and cigarette butts – washed into waterbodies can choke, suffocate or disable aquatic life like ducks, fish, turtles and birds.

◆ Household hazardous wastes like insecticides, pesticides, paint, solvents, used motor oil, and other auto fluids can poison aquatic life. Land animals and people can become sick or die from eating diseased fish and shellfish or ingesting polluted water.

◆ Polluted stormwater often affects drinking water sources which can, in turn, affect water treatment costs.

For more information about stormwater impacts, please call Greg Villanueva, Tukwila Public Works, at 206-431-2442.

Mayor's Message: Rock 'n' Roll, Light Rail and Night Out (oh, my!)

Since the last *Hazelnut*, the City of Tukwila has been involved in a number of events that generated headlines locally and nationally.

I am proud of our City employees for the effort they expended to make the first ever Tukwila to Seattle Rock 'n' Roll Marathon and 1/2 Marathon a resounding success. The start line on Interurban Avenue near the Gateway Center was manned by approximately 300 volunteers and turned out to be a perfect location to stage the 25,000 participants.

Virtually all departments in the city, with assistance from some neighboring jurisdictions, played some role in making this event a memorable one and led some of the race organizers to comment that the City of Tukwila went all out to make this event a success and they were extremely impressed.

Congratulations to the volunteers from our service organizations, neighborhoods, and friends from throughout the area who contributed their time and effort. My special thanks go out to the Gateway Center and Interurban Avenue businesses who allowed us to organize the start line activities in this area.

The latest major event was for the City of Tukwila to welcome the beginning of Central Link Light Rail service from the Westlake Station in Seattle to the Tukwila Station on Tukwila International Boulevard. Following the dedication and ribbon cutting ceremonies on the morning of Saturday, July 18, light rail was opened to the public for free rides all weekend.

The system officially opened on Monday, July 20 to fare-paying customers and appears to have been very well received. Tukwila is fortunate to have a

landscaped parking area at our station with an overflow lot nearby.

We have a very good agreement with Sound Transit covering operation of the light rail system in Tukwila. Sound Transit will be monitoring noise levels and other concerns of our citizens. *(Please see back page.)*

Tuesday, August 4 saw another very successful Night Out Against Crime, a national program whereby many of our neighborhoods come together for sharing good food, getting to know each other a little better, and visiting with City staff and elected officials who enjoy visiting all the gatherings around the city. Congratulations to all the participants in Tukwila who help make this event so popular.


Jim Haggerton, Mayor