



# TUKWILA CITY PAGES

The City of Opportunity  
*The Community of Choice*

## Tukwila Village Community Celebration

### Mayor's Message



#### Tukwila's response to homelessness

Homelessness and affordable housing are major issues in our region that continue to grow in size and complexity. The recent survey we did on the City's Strategic Plan made it very clear that Tukwila residents are concerned about housing affordability. Some estimates indicate that more than 1,000 people move to the Puget Sound region each week. As more and more people compete for scarce housing resources, skyrocketing housing prices in the region spur many people to move south seeking more affordable housing. Because of this southward trend, we are seeing Tukwila housing prices rise and housing turnover occur more frequently.

We have also seen a corresponding rise in homelessness. Many people experiencing homelessness are working, but simply cannot afford housing. Other homeless people are also suffering from myriad serious issues such as job loss, low wages, negative credit, domestic violence victimization, mental illness and/or substance abuse issues. Homelessness is a complex social issue and mental health and addiction are only a part of the problem.

Our City has been responding to the issues of homelessness and affordable housing for many years in a variety of ways. Our Human Services Division provides \$180,000 per year to fund prevention, intervention, outreach and housing programs in the region that serve Tukwila residents. The City supports services such as employment programs, shelters and transitional housing (including three houses owned by the City), legal assistance, mental health and substance abuse services, medical and dental care, and one-time financial assistance for eviction prevention.

We are proud to partner with Tent City 3, Best Starts for Kids, Riverton Park United Methodist Church, King County Minor Home Repair Program, Tukwila School District staff, Tukwila Community

Center, Weekend SnackPack Program and Mary's Place, to help Tukwila residents stay here and thrive here.

We are equally proud of the many other City programs and initiatives that support Tukwila residents. The Tukwila Municipal Court Unified Payment (UP) Program offers drivers with traffic tickets in King County courts a payment plan to help them get back their driver's licenses. This program reduces the barrier of court fines that can hinder folks' participation in society. In 2017-2018, the City Council allocated an additional \$50,000 to Human Services funding, and passed Source of Income Discrimination that prohibits landlords from discriminating against prospective tenants who receive public financial assistance. The City also passed legislation allowing mother-in-law cottages (Accessory Dwelling Units, or ADUs) to be built as private rentals, enlarging the opportunity for housing in the City. Our Code Enforcement team works hard to make sure that people are living in safe and healthy rental housing. Tukwila's Police Department has a robust Community Police Team (CPT) that actively monitors and reaches out to people experiencing homelessness in our community. Members of the CPT have started a Homeless Task Force that includes Police, Human Services, Fire and other sub-regional/regional community providers to address the issue. Our partnership is broader than just within Tukwila.

In addition to what we are currently doing, we continue to examine other policies and programs that can help us balance positive growth with serving the needs of existing Tukwila residents. We want to live up to our vision: **The City of Opportunity, the Community of Choice** for all Tukwila residents.

Allan Ekberg  
Allan Ekberg, Mayor



On July 21, 2018 the City partnered with Tukwila Village Development Associates (TVDA), Sustainable Housing for Ageless Generations (SHAG), the King County Library System, the Tukwila School District, Kona Kai Coffee, and others to host the Tukwila Village Community Celebration. The event was held on the new plaza at the Sullivan Center at Tukwila Village, marking a major milestone in the City's twenty-year effort for the project. The celebration was a chance to cut the ribbon for the opening of the first phase of Tukwila Village and for the community to celebrate with food and music.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony featured speakers from the many organizations who were involved in providing funding for the Tukwila Village project. US Senator Maria Cantwell attended and spoke on the importance of the Federal Low Income Housing Tax Credit program. Without that funding program, this phase of Tukwila Village would not have been financially possible. Attendees were also welcomed by Ken Workman, representing the Duwamish people. Mr. Workman welcomed everyone in many languages from the First Nations who live in our region.

While senior housing stands as the cornerstone of Tukwila Village, its six-acre campus also includes the beautiful Tukwila Library, Kona Kai Coffee, office space, and the Sullivan Center's community room with kitchen and plaza. In 2019 another senior apartment building will open which will also include space for small retail businesses. More information is available at [Facebook.com/TukwilaVillage](https://www.facebook.com/TukwilaVillage).

## TUKWILA FAMILY FEST

Wednesday, August 22 – 5:00 to 8:00PM – Cascade View Community Park, 14211 - 37th Avenue S  
Come celebrate Tukwila's diverse communities with an evening of music, resources, arts & crafts, and much more!

### 2019/2020 Budget process is underway

The City is currently working toward – and committed to – developing and adopting a fiscally-sound, balanced budget for the 2019-2020 biennium. On October 1, the Mayor will formally present his proposed budget, following Council review of each department's preliminary budget during committee meetings over the next two months. The Council will deliberate and adopt the final City budget by the end of the year.

All levels of government are currently facing budgetary challenges due to a variety of consequential factors. According to our preliminary analysis of the 2019/2020 budget, Tukwila will as well. Sales tax, which makes up more than 1/3 of our revenue, has flattened, and revenue growth is not keeping pace with the cost of ongoing expenditures. Additionally, the State funding of sales tax mitigation, which was established to compensate cities like Tukwila hard-hit by the change to destination-based sales tax, will end by 2020. This results in a \$1.4 million shortfall to the next biennial budget.

When the City began experiencing these challenges this year, all of the departments cooperatively initiated a 3% underspend to align their expenditures with the updated revenue forecasts. While continuing to maintain its services, the City has already realized savings and is on track for reducing expenditures to match anticipated revenues.

In order to address the shortfall, the City is examining several things to help it produce a balanced budget:

- **Reduction of ongoing expenses:** Each department has been asked to identify a 3% budget reduction in 2019 and 2020.
- **Exploring additional revenue options:** The Administration is studying what, if any, additional non-voter-approved revenue options could be available to the City.
- **Priority-Based Budgeting:** The City's implementation of Priority-Based Budgeting (PBB) will help the Administration, Council and staff better understand how department and program budgets align with City priorities, as well as identifying areas that could be considered for reduction in services. PBB takes time to implement, and will be a multi-year process to fully achieve all of the benefits of this effort.

At this point, no decisions have been made. There will be significant opportunities for community input over the coming months, including Council Committee, Committee of the Whole and regular Council meetings, digital engagement via social media and the website, and by other means. Both the Administration and Council are genuinely committed to a cooperative approach to the budget, which includes input and ideas from the community, staff and other stakeholders. The City will be transparent in all of its decision-making, and steadfast in providing ongoing, comprehensive communications regarding the budget as it is developed and deliberated.

### City receives park program grant

The belief that everyone deserves a great park close to home (within a 10-minute walk) led the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), the Trust for Public Land (TPL) and the Urban Land Institute (ULI) to launch the 10-Minute Walk campaign in October 2017. Since then, nearly 200 mayors have committed to improving park access and quality in their cities. Tukwila is one of 12 cities to receive the first technical assistance grants to advance the three goals of the 10-Minute Walk Campaign.

- ▶ Leadership – Demonstrate broad-based support for the 10-Minute Walk Campaign.
- ▶ Planning, Policy and Funding – Support incorporation of the 10-Minute Walk Campaign as a sustained planning and funding priority for the community.
- ▶ Implementation – Increase percentage of people living within a 10-minute walk of a high-quality park through enhanced funding, partnerships and expertise.

Tukwila's campaign focus will be using new engagement tools to determine community desire for park placement, development and programming that can be reflected in the City's Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan.

About 80% of Tukwila residents already live within a ten minute walk of a park. Learn more at [10minutewalk.org](https://www.tukwila.gov/10minutewalk.org).

### Tukwila Municipal Court sets standard for interpretation



On July 25, the Washington Courts Interpreter Commission came to Tukwila Municipal Court to observe how we provide court interpreters for Limited English Proficient, deaf, hard-of-hearing, and blind individuals. Candace Morrison from Tukwila's court staff presented 1Lingua, an interpreter scheduling program, to the Commission chaired by Washington State Supreme Court Justice Steven González.

In 2017, Tukwila provided interpretation services 326 times in 26 languages. The top five languages were Spanish, Somali, Vietnamese, Nepali and Amharic.

## COUNCIL CORNER



### My top five things to do in Tukwila

by Verna Seal, 2018 Council President

Have you seen the Tukwila Fall 2018 Activities Guide? On page 36 is a list of 50 things to do in Tukwila, and I thought this month I'd highlight five that are my absolute personal favorites.

**1 Walk, run, or bike along the Green River Trail.** Did you know you can park your car at the trail head on 48th Avenue South, walk north on the trail, turn around at 40th Avenue South to head back, and you've traveled three miles. That's great practice for a 5K! Along the trail you can see one of the few eagles that nest along the river, LOTS of bunnies, and meet and greet others that are walking the trail. A great time is about an hour before sunset when the sun reflects off the water... there's nothing like it.

**2 View fall colors at the Macadam Winter Garden.** Thanks to the vision of former City Councilmember Pam Linder, what was once a swamp is now the stunning Macadam Winter Garden! It's called a "winter garden" but there's something new to see with each season. The hostas, the black-eyed Susans, the maples – so much beauty to see while you just sit and think (or read). Check it out on the corner of South 144th and Macadam Road.

**3 Volunteer at Green Tukwila Day.** How fun is traipsing through ivy and overgrown bushes, whacking away at invasive species? You're doing a good thing for the environment, and it's a total stress reliever! Volunteering is a great way to meet like-minded community members, learn about native plants, and spend time outdoors. Join the Green Tukwila event on October 6, from 9:30AM to noon. Learn more at [TukwilaWA.gov/GreenTukwila](https://www.tukwila.gov/GreenTukwila).

**4 Play with your best friend at an off-leash dog park.** If you ask Baxter and China – my crazy lovable beagles – where they like to be (other than sleeping on the couch) they would tell you Crestview Park! Located at 16200 - 42nd Avenue South, it is now home to an awesome off-leash dog park with a gigantic fenced-in area for big and little dogs! There's a drinking fountain for both you and the dogs and seating at a nice picnic table when you're not chasing after them. The park is still home to a picnic shelter, a play structure, and a very unique stone labyrinth.

**5 Attend Family Story Time at Tukwila Library.** Everyone should know by now how much I love reading and our Tukwila Library. (If not, check out my Council Corner article from June.) The science is clear: children need to read AND we should read to our children. Every Wednesday at 10:30AM there are stories, songs and simple games that build early learning skills. On Mondays, from 10:30AM until 12 noon you can have fun singing songs, telling stories, reading books, creating art and playing in English and Spanish! Niños recién nacidos hasta los 5 años, acompañados de un cuidador. Diviertanse cantando canciones, contando cuentos, leyendo libros, haciendo manualidades y jugando. Juega y Aprende es en inglés y español.

There you have it! Plus, the Activity Guide offers 45 more things to do in Tukwila. I invite you to email me and let me know what else should be added to the list – [Verna.Seal@TukwilaWA.gov](mailto:Verna.Seal@TukwilaWA.gov). In the meantime, get outside and enjoy Tukwila!

## BACKPACK DRIVE

Help Tukwila students  
achieve their fullest potential  
with needed school supplies

- SUPPLY LIST:** 2" binder • Binder dividers • Mechanical pencil & refills • Markers • Pencil pouch/boxes • Composition notebooks • Alarm clock • Backpacks • Pens/Ticonderoga pencils • Glue sticks • Scissors • Erasers • Folders • Sharpies • Notebook/graph paper • Pencil sharpeners • Highlighters • Post-It Notes

**DROP-OFF LOCATIONS:** Lobby, Tukwila School District, 4640 S. 144th Street  
Lobby, Tukwila offices, 6300 Southcenter Boulevard



Tukwila City offices  
will be closed on  
Monday, September 3,  
in observance of the  
Labor Day holiday.