



# TUKWILA CITY PAGES

The City of Opportunity  
*The Community of Choice*

It all comes together at  
TUKWILA'S COMMUNITY CENTER!

Autumn Harvest Carnival – Thursday, October 26 – 6:00–8:00PM – \$2.00 per child  
Senior Halloween Bunco & Lunch – Wednesday, November 1 – \$10  
Tukwila's Spirit of Giving Program – Help provide gifts to families in need

## Mayor's Message

### Small Business Awards

I am proud of the great businesses we have in our community. While we have some very successful large businesses, we are also home to a number of excellent small businesses.

On September 21, King County Executive Dow Constantine presented his annual small business awards for King County businesses. I'm happy to say that three Tukwila small businesses took home achievement awards; no other city had more businesses recognized. The winners:

- **Industrial Revolution** won for Best Exporting small business of the year. Located in the Segale business park, their vision is to equip every outdoor enthusiast. Industrial Revolution makes outdoor equipment, which can be found at REI and Amazon.com, and are also found in countries worldwide.
- **Pacific Rim Environmental** won for Green/Sustainable small business of the year. Pacific Rim Environmental is located on Southcenter Boulevard (just right down the road from City Hall), and does everything from asbestos removal to lead paint remediation to air quality monitoring.
- **Odin Brewery** was awarded Best Overall small business in the County. They were one of the first businesses to recognize the vision of the future Southcenter area and chose to locate in the area, making a \$3 million investment. Odin has grown from four employees to 14. Last year they acquired Hilliard's, allowing Odin to double its distribution. They have also become very involved in the community. Co-owner and CEO Dan Lee serves on the City's Lodging Tax Advisory Board, and Odin is working with the City to bring events to Baker Boulevard.

Eligibility for nomination of a company includes:

1. Must be a for-profit company;
2. Has been in business for at least three years, and
3. Has no more than 50 employees.

A business can self-nominate or be nominated by a city or Chamber of Commerce. Nominations for Tukwila businesses were done jointly by the City's Economic Development Division and the Seattle Southside Chamber of Commerce. What other businesses deserve a nomination for next year? Let me know.

*Allan Ekberg*  
Allan Ekberg, Mayor

In observance of upcoming holidays, City offices will be closed:  
• Friday, November 10  
• Thursday, November 23  
• Friday, November 24



### As the autumn rains come, you can help prevent flooding in your neighborhood

Tukwila residents are hopefully aware of the dangers of pouring oil, pesticides and other products into our storm drains, but now that fall is here, remember: A stormwater drain is no place for leaves, either. Autumn leaves that fall to the ground inevitably accumulate at the mouth of stormwater drains and ditches, preventing the free flow of water. The result is localized flooding on your street that poses a hazard to travelers in vehicles, on bicycles and on foot. Water can also flow over the roadways and begin pooling on private property, eventually entering foundations, and getting into homes and basements.

You can help prevent flooding problems. Keep an eye on any storm drains near you, occasionally raking away leaves or other yard debris gathered there. The best time to inspect the storm drain in front of your house or business is before a rain storm. Clear your drain only if it is safe. Stay out of the street and



work from the curb a sidewalk if possible. Use a rake or broom to remove leaves and debris from the tops of storm drains. Do not attempt to remove the grate, only the debris on top of the grate.

When you are clearing your yard or sidewalk, do not rake or blow leaves into the street where they can be washed into the storm drain. Don't put grass clippings, leaves or other yard debris into ditches, culverts, streams or other waterways. Consider using a lawn mower to finely chop the yard waste into mulch, which is great fertilizer for your lawn, or composting your leaves in a bin.

If you see a flooding trouble spot, you can report it using TukwilaWorks, the online/mobile app tool for reporting non-emergency issues.

### Knock at the door? Be wary

There have been several recent reports of door-to-door salespeople that are offering residential services, and either claiming association or implying that they are part of, or are soliciting on behalf of, local fire departments. This is absolutely untrue; Tukwila Fire does not solicit anything door to door, nor does it endorse any such solicitation. Whether it's misrepresentation by a company or a scam to get into people's homes for theft, take these precautions when someone comes to your door:

- Never let strangers in unless you called them for a service
- Door-to-door sales are required to carry ID identifying themselves and their organization
- Any suspicious activity/persons should be reported to Tukwila police by calling 911
- Warn neighbors of possible scams – especially the elderly who are more susceptible



### Tukwila Fire's Emergency Management office says "Get ready for wet winter"

The National Weather Service recently determined that there is an increasing chance (approximately 55–60%) of a "La Nina" winter in the Northern Hemisphere during the fall and winter of 2017-18. What this basically means is a slightly colder and most likely a wetter winter than normal. Earlier forecasts leaned towards a "Nina Neutral" winter.

Some have asked what the weather forecast terms of El Nino, La Nina and Nina Neutral mean. A good explanation of the differences can be found on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) website:

[OceanService.NOAA.gov/facts/NinoNina.html](http://OceanService.NOAA.gov/facts/NinoNina.html)

Occasionally we have a "Nina Neutral." Nina-neutral refers to those periods when neither El Nino nor La Nina is present. These periods often coincide with the transition between El Nino and La Nina events. During Nina-neutral periods the ocean temperatures, tropical rainfall patterns, and atmospheric winds over the equatorial Pacific Ocean are near the long-term average. Nina Neutral periods often bring major storms with them.

With the potential for a colder and greater amount of precipitation forecast, be sure to start preparing now. Rain gear, umbrellas, clean gutters and more! Here is a great site with tons of information regarding preparing for winter weather:

[Weather.gov/WRN/winter\\_safety](http://Weather.gov/WRN/winter_safety)

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Emergency Management Office, which is willing and happy to assist as needed: 206 971-8740/8742 or [EmergencyPrep@TukwilaWA.gov](mailto:EmergencyPrep@TukwilaWA.gov).

## Branding Tukwila

For more than 50 years Tukwila has been a destination in the Puget Sound region for folks to shop, dine, play and stay. Every day the City's population soars to over 150,000 as people come to visit Westfield Southcenter, iFly, Starfire Sports, the City's two movie theaters, Family Fun Center, Museum of Flight and Acme Bowl – just to name a few. Tukwila is a great place to visit, and the City wants to ensure that people in the region associate Tukwila with fun and positive experiences.

Over the past year the City has been working on developing a brand that will be used to market and promote the City to visitors. This brand will be primarily focused on the Southcenter area of Tukwila, where many of the well-known entertainment businesses are located. Next year the brand will go public with events and activities designed to promote the City regionally. You may also see ads and promotions highlighting Tukwila as part of the overall branding project. The project is funded solely from the City's lodging tax funds. Under Washington State law these monies can only be used to support tourism promotion activities.

## Green and thriving open spaces

In February 2017 the City of Tukwila joined the Green Cities Partnership, a regional collaboration of cities working to steward natural open spaces. Tukwila's program and initiative is called "Green Tukwila." Together with Forterra, EarthCorps, the Student Conservation Association, and the Tukwila community, Green Tukwila will care for the City's public parks and open spaces.

Throughout the next 20 years we will work to restore and maintain 138 acres of Tukwila's urban Forest. To do this, we need your help! Join your friends and neighbors, and bring your families outside to learn about trees, shrubs, invasive plants and more. Work parties are being planned for community members to help care for precious urban forests and to ensure healthy, safe, and beautiful public spaces to enjoy into the future.

To learn more about the Green Tukwila program, become a park steward, or to sign up for volunteer opportunities please call 206-767-2315 or contact [Olena.Perry@TukwilaWA.gov](mailto:Olena.Perry@TukwilaWA.gov).



## Daylight Savings ends Sunday, November 5

Get an extra hour of sleep, then change the batteries in your smoke/carbon monoxide alarms!

## New plan allows for easier, less expensive way to pay traffic fines

As of October 1, 2017, individuals with traffic-related fines in multiple jurisdictions in King County have an easier and less expensive way to pay court-mandated fines from multiple courts through the new Unified Payment (UP) Program. This new program also lifts the hold on a person's driver's license before the fines are completely paid off.

In 2016, 66,000 people in King County had court fines that could lead to automatic suspension of their driver's license. The average fine obligation for these individuals was \$315. Many of these individuals have multiple fines in multiple courts, which required two or more separate payment plans for each court, often through a collection agency charging both interest and collection fees.



The program is a collaboration between the district and municipal courts in King County. The UP Program allows people with fines in multiple jurisdictions in King County the ability to pay off their obligations without going to a collection agency. Because the program only charges a flat fee of \$7.00 per month, individuals save costs that would have been accrued through a collection agency, which assesses collection fees and compounding interest as high as 19%. Monthly payments as low as \$25 are accepted and the agency will work with court customers to determine an appropriate amount on an individual basis.

Participating courts include King County District Court and the municipal courts of Algona, Auburn, Bellevue, Black Diamond, Bothell, Burien, Des Moines, Duvall, Enumclaw, Federal Way, Hunts Point, Issaquah, Kenmore, Kent, Kirkland, Lake Forest Park, Maple Valley, Mercer Island, Newcastle, Normandy Park, North Bend, Pacific, Redmond, Renton, Sammamish, SeaTac, Seattle, Shoreline, Skykomish, Snoqualmie, Tukwila, Woodinville, and Yarrow Point. Each of these courts operate their own relicensing programs that allow individuals with fines in their court to participate in similar payment programs and/or payment alternatives.

Meeting agendas, City programs, recreation activities, publications and more... get the most current information at [TukwilaWA.gov](http://TukwilaWA.gov)!



## The good in our process

by Thomas McLeod, Councilmember



It's been nearly two years since I accepted an appointment to the Tukwila City Council. For those who don't know me, I have lived in Tukwila since 1989, served six years on Tukwila's Planning Commission, and during the day work as a tax accountant in Bellevue. Currently, I am Chair of the Council's Public Safety Committee and serve on the Finance Committee.

As a new member of the Council, I seek to fully engage the people and processes I serve, always looking for the good and finding the value in what we do as a Council. To that intent, I want to share a recent experience regarding Council process.

Our City staff was developing legislation regarding business license renewal fees and the amount to charge for full-time and part-time employees of local businesses. I agreed with an overall change, but there was disagreement on how much to assess for part-time employees. My two committee members agreed with staff's proposal; I disagreed with the amount. It came out of Committee with a vote of 2-1 in favor of the proposed legislation. After Council discussion, it was sent back to the Finance Committee to work out legislative language and address the different views on the fee for part-time employees. Following Committee discussions, the ordinance was sent back to Council with the same vote of 2-1. At that meeting, I explained my reasoning to fellow Councilmembers and, when it came time to vote, the Council passed the ordinance as I had proposed by a vote of 4-2.

That process caused me to reflect on how we discuss our differences and present our positions. In today's polarizing political climate, there is not enough space given to people of differing opinions. At times, we entrench ourselves with beliefs that cannot be challenged. Our views and parameters of what we will accept have become increasingly narrow. Through our Committee and Council discussions, space and consideration were given to an opposing view without attack, passionate pleas, or raised voices. And contrary to late-night "keyboard captains" critical of our Council process, staff's legislation was never "rubber-stamped" or "unanimously" approved.

It was Albert Einstein who said, "Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value." It's not always about winning and losing the discussion in a healthy democracy, but about the integrity of our process. As a Councilmember, I want to hear your voice and your reasoning as part of the process. I accept that there may be a space between where you stand in your beliefs and where I stand in mine, but in that space between us, there is an opportunity to meet and discuss with respect and consideration. In doing so, we may come to value what is right in our process.



Speak with a Councilmember about what's on your mind! Let's get together to talk at the Tukwila Library 14380 Tukwila International Blvd.

Next Chat: Sat., November 11

10:00AM to 12:00 NOON