



TUKWILA CITY PAGES

The City of Opportunity
The Community of Choice

Mayor's Message

In appreciation of the community's generosity

For many of us, this time of year is about giving back. There are many individuals, businesses, and organizations that give to our community throughout the year. As a City, we are blessed with their commitment to ensuring all members of our community have an opportunity to get basic needs met. These include Tukwila Pantry, the Tukwila Children's Foundation, Still Waters, Church by the Side of the Road, and Riverton Park United Methodist Church, among others. Here's what these organizations do:

Tukwila Pantry is a food bank open to anyone in need of fresh produce and non-perishable items. Food is distributed on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from 12:30 to 2:30PM, in the basement of the Riverton Park United Methodist Church.

Tukwila Children's Foundation works to meet the unmet needs of children in Tukwila, including clothing via their CARE (Clothes Are Really Expensive) drives. The organization is 100% run by volunteers.

Still Waters: Services for Families in Transition runs the Tukwila Weekend SnackPack Program that sends a backpack full of food home with Tukwila students on the weekend, when they don't have access to school meals. They provide this service to elementary and middle school students, with plans to expand to the high school.

Church by the Side of the Road (CBSR) and Riverton Park United Methodist Church (UMC) provide free community meals once a week: CBSR hosts lunch on Tuesdays, and Riverton UMC hosts dinner on Thursdays. Many folks in our community volunteer to serve at those events. As mentioned above, Riverton Park UMC also hosts the Tukwila Pantry.

In addition, our community is lucky to have two Rotary Clubs: **Duwamish Rotary** and **Southcenter Rotary**. The Duwamish Rotary hosts an annual bowl-a-thon in March to raise money for the Tukwila Pantry, and funds student scholarships for Tyee High School. The Southcenter Rotary supports the Still Waters Weekend Snackpack Program, and funds student scholarships for Foster High School, Raisbeck Aviation High School, Puget Sound Skills Center, and Seattle Christian High School.

Here at the City, we fund many local organizations that support members of our community, including Catholic Community Services, the Multi-Service Center, Refugee Women's Alliance (ReWA), Kona Kai Coffee and HealthPoint, along with the Highline and Tukwila School Districts. Our employees are also incredibly generous, donating to a stock of socks, gloves, scarves, diapers, hygiene products, and any other need for household goods that may arise. City employees also donate food to the Weekend SnackPack Program. Recently the City hosted its annual Season of Giving event. City staff along with many local businesses and individuals donated toys and other gifts, plus a lot of volunteer time. This provided the opportunity for Tukwila School District families who are experiencing homelessness to "shop" for Christmas gifts for their family members. And the recent Foster High School CARE Night was a success due to community members like yourself who donated all sorts of clothing to keep our kids warm this winter.

Thank you, all. I am proud to live in such a generous community, a community that comes together again and again to help ensure that everyone has what they need.

Allan Ekberg
Allan Ekberg, Mayor



Celebrating the new apartment: Valdez, Lynn, Tran and Anthony



Addressing homelessness in Tukwila

Early in December, the Community Policing Team (CPT) of Tukwila's Police Department made huge strides in helping members of our most vulnerable population. With assistance from several officers working alongside the staff of **Sound Mental Health (SMH)** and the **King County Mobile Crisis Team (KCMCT)**, they were able to move two of our long-time homeless residents into housing and get them the assistance they need.

Lynn, who has resided under one of the bridges in town for roughly the past 10 years, finally agreed to accept offers to get him help. The CPT got Lynn to speak with social workers and counselors who were able to set him up with housing. As a result of a lot of work on the part of SMH'S Anthony and other professionals, Lynn got an apartment.



Signing the lease

the resources and help he needed to take this monumental step. Officer Tran presented Lynn with a backpack full of necessities to help get him back on his feet. He also thanked the social workers and SMH staff for the help and expertise that they provided in making this happen for Lynn. Lynn noted that he'd been sleeping on the ground for so long that, even though he had a bed in his new apartment, it would take some getting used to not sleeping on the ground anymore.

The day before Lynn moved in to his apartment, the CPT was able to get help for another one of Tukwila's long-time homeless residents named Guillermo, who has been in Tukwila for almost as long as members of the Police Department can remember. Guillermo has cleaned up properties, mowed the lawns of businesses, cleaned up graffiti, cleaned sidewalks and has just generally been an amazingly kind and giving person, all without ever asking for money or anything else for the work that he has done. As life on the streets for many years has become all that he knows, Guillermo has been hesitant to accept assistance, but he finally agreed to let the CPT get him help. Members of the KCMCT, who are trained mental health professionals that police officers regularly work with, met with Guillermo at the police station and were able to take him in to get help and assistance.

Officers Danninger, Hisa, Hernandez, Masters, Valdez and Wollan, as well as many others, all consistently checked in on Guillermo and have been attempting to get him help for quite some time. Thanks to their efforts and the efforts of SMH and the KCMCT, Guillermo is now getting the help he needs.

A huge thank-you goes to Anthony and the rest of the staff at Sound Mental Health as well as the members of the King County Mobile Crisis Team for the continued partnership and help that they offer to this community. Their work, dedication and passion for what they do is imperative to helping the homeless and those in mental crisis.

Council approves selection of sites for Public Safety facilities

As you know, Tukwila voters approved a bond measure to fund the replacement of three aging fire stations, fire equipment and apparatus for 20 years, and a new justice center to house the Police Department and Municipal Court. Coupled with a much-needed new shop facility for our Public Works crews funded by general funds and utility funds, these five buildings and associated equipment comprise the City's Public Safety Plan.

On December 2, the City hosted the last of three in-person open houses for 2017. It was very well attended; around 50 people came to the event, and another 72 visited the online open house. The focus of this open house was on the locations for the new buildings.

On November 6, after a long vetting process in which City staff, Council, the volunteer Siting Advisory Committee and residents participated, the Council approved the list of recommended sites, and authorized staff to begin acquiring those properties. While the City prefers to come to voluntary agreements with all

property owners, it retains the ability to use eminent domain if needed. Of the thirteen total properties the City will acquire in order to fully implement the Public Safety Plan, there are already three signed purchase and sale agreements as of this writing.

Tukwila values and appreciates the diversity of its businesses, recognizing that some may be significantly impacted by these siting decisions. The City's Economic Development team is hard at work with each affected business to understand their individual needs and to identify strategies that will assist the transition of these businesses to new locations. These strategies will be presented to Council in the first quarter of 2018.

Please visit TukwilaWA.gov/PublicSafetyPlan for more information and updates, or call 206-454-7565. Watch for spring and fall open houses coming in 2018.

City of Tukwila PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN

Another Shop with a Cop event success

This recent outing was an opportunity for Tukwila school children in need to do some Christmas shopping for their families that they wouldn't otherwise be able to do.

The City and its Police Department thank the businesses that make this event possible: Target, Toys "R" Us, Tukwila Family Fun Center & Bullwinkle's Restaurant, Azteca, Westfield Southcenter, Red Robin Gourmet Burgers, and Acura of Seattle.



Interested in serving on a Board or Commission? The City needs you!

Tukwila is assisted in its operations in several areas by the volunteers who serve on our Boards and Commissions. Volunteers serve an important function by offering their time and expertise as members. Anyone interested in serving on a Board or Commission can complete an application and submit it to City Hall. Applications are reviewed and appointments are made by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council. Current Board and Commission vacancies appear to the right.

The positions are open until filled, but a first review of applicants will happen on December 26, 2017. More information about all of the City's Boards and Commissions as well as the Boards and Commissions Application Form can be found on our website, or call 206-433-1850 if you have any questions.

Civil Service Commission

Position #1 is mid-term and expires 2021. Position #2 expires 2023.

Provide the manner in which civil service (all police personnel and commissioned fire personnel) examinations, appointments, promotions, transfers, demotions, reinstatements, suspensions and discharges are made. Decide appeals from suspensions or terminations.

Community-Oriented Policing Citizens Advisory Board

1 opening for a community member

Make recommendations via Chief of Police on issues concerning public safety and police services within City. Enhance police-community relations

Equity and Social Justice Commission

1 opening for Education or Community member

Advise city of opportunities to promote understanding that accepts, celebrates and appreciates diversity in the community and to facilitate increased understanding and awareness of social justice and human rights.

Human Services Advisory Board

1 opening for a business member

Assists in monitoring and assessing human service needs and programs in Tukwila; provides recommendations for prioritizing human service needs; and recommends policies and programs for funding



by Dennis Robertson,
2017 Council President



A president's closing thoughts

It's the end of the year and this is my last column as 2017 City Council President. With this being such a busy year at the City, I hardly know where to begin with witty, wise or informative parting words.

I could write how productive this year has been and list all the critically important issues your City Council addressed. But Tukwila Councils have been doing that for many years.

We did work hard. There were the usual number of late night and special meetings as we figured out how to adjust budgets and codes to a constantly changing world. Normal kinds of activities that City Councils do --- with the help of a hard-working City staff.

Your City Council was wise and stayed out of the way of the Public Safety Project Team as they went through their startup phase this past spring. Later, we, the Council - with the help of the Public Safety Team and a committed, gutsy Citizen Siting Advisory Committee - did finalize new sites for two Fire Stations, a Public Works Facility, and a Justice Center for our Police and Court. Those decisions weren't necessarily easy or totally popular, but all of the site decisions were based upon what was best for the entire City, not just one neighborhood.

I should probably mention two things about 2018, the coming year. First, it will also be filled with lots of important, difficult decisions as the Council deals with far more requests for spending money than we have money to spend. But that can, and should be, said about every new year in our City. Second, based upon our system for choosing a different Council President every year, there will be a new one in 2018. One that will bring energy, a bit of creativity, and a lot of integrity. Because of that, I am truly optimistic. Tukwila will have a great 2018!

The most important thought I can end the year with is thanks. Thanks to our residents for giving me and the other Councilmembers the chance to serve. Thanks to the staff for working so hard. Thanks to Councilmember Joe Duffie for his 36 years of dedicated service, which is coming to an end at the end of the month. But mostly, thanks to my wife for another year of letting me skip out on my promise to be home more.

Look for information about
2018 Council Chats
in this space next month,
as well as on the City's website
at TukwilaWA.gov



In observance of the upcoming holidays,
Tukwila City offices will be closed on
Monday, December 25 and Monday, January 1.