

The Hazelnut

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2019

VOLUME 39, NUMBER 1

A City of Tukwila publication for our residential and business communities

Tukwila: The City of Opportunity, the Community of Choice



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Reflecting on our various accomplishments in 2018, I begin by thanking the community, Council and City staff, all of whom made significant contributions making it a great year. I want to share some high points:

Public Safety Plan – 2018 was a pivotal year for the Public Safety Plan. (See more information on Page 7)

Traffic Calming in our Neighborhoods – I am proud of the collaborative work done to reduce speeding and make our neighborhoods safer. Enhanced enforcement work done by the Tukwila Police Department, heightened engineering by our Public Works Department, and Council's great work in passing the City's new Traffic Calming policy – all are working hard to slow down drivers in residential areas and improve the experience for pedestrians.

Customer Service Growth– The City is perpetually working on improving customer service, and there were many great examples of providing needed benefits to community members, from to increased community engagement at Council's public listening sessions, to a Permit Center providing timely services facilitating the many construction projects in Tukwila, to time-saving online Police reporting.

More Transparency into City Budgeting – In 2018 the City instituted Priority Based Budgeting (PBB), a great tool for the community to see the City's various programs and services, how much is spent on each program, and City's process of determining where the money is budgeted.

Ongoing Investments in our Neighborhoods – 2018 saw a number of infrastructure projects come to substantial completion, including the third phase of improvements to 42nd Avenue South, significant work on the 53rd Avenue South project, the addition of dedicated dog play areas in two City parks, rehabilitation of four bridges, and more.

I am very proud of our 2018 achievements, and now most interested to see what we'll accomplish together in 2019!

Allan Ekberg
Allan Ekberg, Mayor

This special edition of the Hazelnut is the City of Tukwila's Annual Report – highlights of City staff and elected officials' accomplishments in 2018.



COUNCIL CORNER

*by Kathy Hougardy,
2019 Council President*



Happy New Year! I am honored to serve as Council President in 2019. While I am still one of a seven-member body, each of whom has the same influence over policy decisions, I do have a few additional responsibilities. In Tukwila, Council President duties include appointing the Chair and membership of our four standing committees, approving the agendas of all Regular, Committee of the Whole, and Special meetings, presiding over Committee of the Whole meetings and special work sessions, signing legislation, and serving as Mayor Pro Tempore in the absence of the Mayor. I am proud of all the Council has accomplished these past few years, and know we have a busy year ahead.

Many of the policy decisions made by the Council are first discussed at meetings of our four standing committees:

- Public Safety Committee
- Transportation & Infrastructure Committee
- Finance Committee
- Community Development & Neighborhoods Committee

Committees meet at 5:30PM in the Hazelnut conference room at Tukwila City Hall and are open to the public.

For more information about our meeting schedule, the work of the Council, the focus of our committees, or to sign up for agendas, please visit TukwilaWA.gov.

Parks and Recreation Department

- ◆ Implemented Green Tukwila Stewardship Plan, completing 670 hours of volunteer restoration work at three Tukwila parks with King Conservation District funding



- ◆ Adopted a Municipal Arts Plan, and started implementation of Artist in Residence program.
- ◆ Received Creative Consultancy for Southcenter District to implement an art engagement project.
- ◆ Developed new marketing plan resulting in 1,700 more Fall rounds of golf at Foster Links compared to 2017.

- ◆ Received funding for an Older Adult Recreation and Services Needs Assessment and an automatic door opener upgrade at the Tukwila Community Center with King County funding.
- ◆ Implemented a Kaleidoscope Play and Learn Program at the Tukwila Community Center with King County funding.
- ◆ Provided toys, clothing and household items to over 300 Tukwila children through the Spirit of Giving program.
- ◆ Developed three acres of dog play area within two existing parks, Foster Park and Crestview Park.
- ◆ Cleaned up approximately 60 homeless encampments, removing close to 180 cubic yards of waste removal.
- ◆ Received a National Recreation & Parks Association 10-minute Walk Grant, which supports planning to ensure residents are within a 10-minute walk to a quality park.



Mayor's Office

Staff from the Mayor's Office/Economic Development:

- ◆ Supported business outreach and negotiations related to the Public Safety Plan.
- ◆ Completed the sale of Phase 1 land for Tukwila Village to developer, and celebrated the grand opening of two affordable senior apartment buildings, the new Tukwila Library, Kona Kai Coffee, the Sullivan Center and plaza. Formed non-profit community organization to operate the Sullivan Center and plaza.
- ◆ Awarded designation of four census tracts as Opportunity Zones to attract investment through federal capital gains tax incentives. Began marketing the opportunity zones and facilitating development.
- ◆ Supported Forterra's purchase of Knight's Inn motel for eventual partnership with Abu Bakr Islamic Center to develop affordable apartments and small business spaces.

Staff from the Records Governance/City Clerk's Office:

- ◆ Provided legally required training for elected officials on public records and open public meeting requirements.
- ◆ Enhanced online Digital Records Center with the addition of 84,559 high-retrieval permit and land use images for free access by the public.
- ◆ Compiled agendas for and facilitated 46 weeks of Council and Committee meetings.
- ◆ Review/analysis of 70 pieces of legislation; adding them to Tukwila's Municipal Code for online access by public.
- ◆ Executed 245 new City contracts, making them – along with all City contracts – available online to the public.
- ◆ Served the community through the issuance of 230 pet licenses.
- ◆ Were key partners and contributors in support of community service programs – SnackPack, Spirit of Giving, and food and clothing for homeless populations.

City Council

Under the leadership of Council President Verna Seal, the City Council spent an extremely busy 2018 working on a variety of policy matters in its four standing committees:

- Public Safety
- Transportation & Infrastructure
- Finance
- Community Development & Neighborhoods

Over the course of 2018's meetings – 23 Regular, 19 Committee of the Whole, 83 Committee, 10 Special meetings – the Council worked on issues related to the budget, the Public Safety Plan, employee compensation, and standing up for the rights of our community members. Highlights from the year include:

- ◆ Enhanced public communication about Council legislative actions.
- ◆ Increased community engagement and hosted four public listening sessions out in the community.
- ◆ Partnered with youth via Teens for Tukwila student group.
- ◆ Passed an updated compensation policy.



- ◆ Amended the Mayor's proposal and adopted a balanced and fiscally responsible budget for 2019-2020.
- ◆ Adopted new regulations for Accessory Dwelling Units.
- ◆ Adopted an official neighborhood traffic calming policy to enhance safety in our neighborhoods.
- ◆ Passed an ordinance prohibiting officers and employees from inquiring about immigration status, unless needed in the course of a criminal investigation.

Municipal Court

- ◆ Increased the number of domestic violence (DV) classes offered by Probation Department from three to four. To meet high demand, the court's low-cost DV therapy courses provide a certified program for defendants to stay in compliance with court orders and get the help they need.
- ◆ Administered county-wide program to help people get their driver's licenses reinstated. Initiated by Tukwila's Court, the Unified Payment ("UP") program provides a low-cost consolidated payment plan for people whose licenses are suspended for non-payment of fines in multiple courts.
- ◆ Participated in a presentation to the Supreme Court regarding efforts to address the problems associated with legal financial obligations. Tukwila Court leadership was invited to share the successful program of payment alternatives including program of offering community service in lieu of fines and costs.
- ◆ Added a labor program supervised by professionals from the King County Community Work Alternative as a jail alternative. Low-level and non-violent offenders clear property, pick-up litter, help with trash/nuisance disposal and other tasks, giving back to the community with valuable assistance instead of serving jail time.

- ◆ Hosted the prestigious Washington Supreme Court Interpreter Commission to demonstrate interpreter scheduling via the use of technology and managing a high volume of cases requiring numerous diverse language assistance needs. Administrator Kinlow was recognized for dedicated service in access to justice.



- ◆ Hosted 15th year of "Court for Kids" program. The court presented lessons regarding basic legal concepts, leadership skills, public service opportunities, and mock trial programs to students of all ages, including the entire second grade of Tukwila Elementary School.

Finance Department ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

- ◆ Began implementation of Priority-Based Budgeting (PBB), which aids the City in allocating funds to the programs that are determined – through outreach and communication – to be most critical to the community.
- ◆ Managed City-wide budget process concluding in adoption of 2019-2020 Biennial Budget by the City Council.
- ◆ Utilized new financial forecasting platform – Whitebirch – for long-range financial planning which helps ensure the City’s long-term sustainability.
- ◆ Managed Park and Fire impact fee update process, resulting in new rates, better defined rate categories, and a rate model to facilitate future updates.
- ◆ Issued \$8.2 million bond to finance residential street projects, and refinanced \$2.25 million short-term urban renewal debt – all at competitive interest rates.
- ◆ Transitioned billing for surface water services to King County, making bill payments easier and more efficient for residents.
- ◆ Simplified the business license fee calculation by changing the basis to number of employees, rather than based on employee hours.
- ◆ Established reporting to the Public Safety Plan Financial Oversight Committee, reflecting the City’s commitment to transparency.

Department of Community Development ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

- ◆ Developed new regulations for Accessory Dwelling Units allowing backyard cottages and apartments that are part of a house, and offering an amnesty program through June of 2019 for units built without permits.
- ◆ Worked with Tree Committee, Planning Commission and the City Council to update tree regulations to protect Tukwila’s trees and preserve our urban forest.
- ◆ Continued implementation of the Southcenter Plan’s vision of a transit-oriented mixed-use center, with 644 apartments and 546 new hotel rooms recently built or underway in the area.
- ◆ Began outreach for State-mandated updates to Tukwila’s shoreline and environmental regulations, in consideration of ensuring adequate protection for the river, wetlands, streams and steep slopes, while balancing property rights.
- ◆ Updated the rental housing inspection requirements to provide a quality control audit and prohibit conflicts of interest by inspectors.
- ◆ Opened 391 code enforcement cases and closed 304, many simple issues with quick resolution and some taking more time, such as those requiring legal action.
- ◆ Organized the annual yard sale and continued our state funded assistance for residential and business recycling.
- ◆ Continued grant funded education and outreach around replacing single-driver car trips with biking, transit, car pools and van pools.
- ◆ Reviewed and issued 1,757 building, mechanical, electrical and plumbing permits for new or remodeled buildings. The estimated cost of all the construction approved in 2018 was \$153,135,631, up 26% from 2017.
- ◆ Provided timely permit review and construction inspection of multiple large projects such as the 19 story Hotel Interurban/Airmark Apartments; maintained a 24-hour turnaround time for building inspections.



Public Works Department

- ◆ Created new Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program (NTCP) to protect livability in Tukwila neighborhoods by reducing the negative effects of motor vehicle use on residential streets. This enables residents or associations (e.g., homeowners association) to request enrollment of the street in the NTCP.
- ◆ Installed Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB) at the mid-block pedestrian crosswalk in front of Showalter Middle School, speed cushions on South 148th Street, and numerous radar speed signs around the City.



- ◆ Completed 42nd Avenue South residential street improvement project, which included full street improvements, sidewalks, bike facilities, undergrounding of utilities, and replacement of the Gilliam Creek 36-inch surface water culvert.
- ◆ Repaved Southcenter Boulevard as part of the City's Overlay and Repair program.
- ◆ Cleaned and inspected the North hill water reservoir.

- ◆ Performed improvements to four bridges – Boeing Access Road over BNRR, Frank Zepp Bridge (South 180th Street), Grady Way Bridge (shared with Renton), and the Beacon Avenue South Bridge – all with significant grant funding.



- ◆ Continued development of accurate GIS (Geographic Information System) as-built drawings of the City's water, sewer, and surface water infrastructure.
- ◆ Resealed atrium glass at Tukwila Community Center.



Technology and Innovation Services

- ◆ Modernized City's network infrastructure by replacing aged and out-of-support hardware, e.g., network backbone and remote facility connections.
- ◆ Deployed new network infrastructure for data security between the City and the Washington State Patrol to ensure delivery of secure criminal justice data to the City.
- ◆ Provided education and advice to all City staff for awareness of cyber-attacks and phishing schemes to further secure the City's computer network and data.
- ◆ Provided guidance in Technology Council and Technology Team to ensure collaboration with staff in assessment of technology needs and purchases.

- ◆ Provided project leadership in implementation of new software solutions for performance management: fire staffing, digital signatures, City of Tukwila public WiFi, permitting, and asset management.
- ◆ Partnered with Tukwila School District and software company Betty Blocks to launch a City of Tukwila Digital Academy, which graduated its first class in the area of techniques for basic software development. Youth developed a solution for Tukwila residents to provide feedback on the City of Tukwila's goals.
- ◆ Supported enrichment activities for a Foster High School technology intern.

Police Department



- ◆ Implemented a community engagement strategy in which the entire department engages the community, in an effort to build trust and legitimacy, while solving problems and reducing crime.
- ◆ Continued to integrate social media (Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, YouTube) as part of the Department's daily public engagement strategy.
- ◆ Went "live" with online reporting to create efficiencies and free up officer time for proactive policing.
- ◆ Fully integrated Axon body/in-car cameras.

- ◆ Conducted Bulldog academy at Foster High School, civics class, and community academy.
- ◆ With the assistance of COPCAB members, developed and distributed citizen survey to measure citizen satisfaction with the police department.
- ◆ Participated in the buyer beware emphasis, and maintained situational awareness on regional gangs and activities.
- ◆ Collaborated with USPS on narcotics interdiction using the Narcotics K9 program.



Administrative Services

Staff from Human Resources:

- ◆ Accomplished successful recruitment for key positions in the Human Resources Department, hiring a new Director, Analyst/Civil Service Examiner, and Technician.
- ◆ Conducted mandatory Workplace Anti-Harassment and Anti-Discrimination training for all City employees.
- ◆ Held promotional Civil Service tests for Fire Captain, Battalion Chief, and Police Sergeant for current and future vacancies.
- ◆ Advertised 74 job vacancies, received 2,788 job applications, and hired 99 staff.

Staff from Community Engagement:

- ◆ Advertised and facilitated several open houses to share City information with community members.
- ◆ Coordinated program of apprenticeships for high school students.
- ◆ Participated in/facilitated meetings including Community Connectors, Equity and Social Justice Commission, Regional Equity and Inclusion Group, Seattle Southside Chamber of Commerce Education and Workforce Committee.

Staff from Human Services:

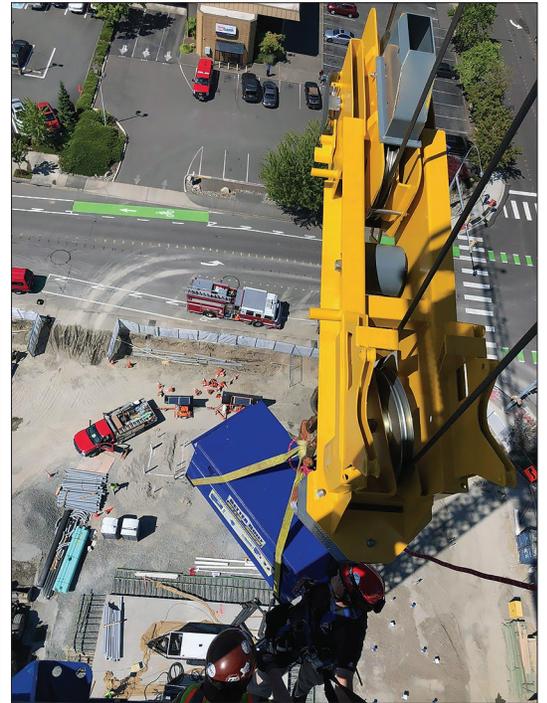
- ◆ Successful completion of 2019-20 Request for Proposal (RFP) review and recommendation process for funding service providers.
- ◆ Increased efficiency through technology – Human Services Advisory Board used iPads to review RFPs.
- ◆ Provided Information and/or assistance to 2,308 people.
- ◆ Provided 275 hours of case management hours to Tukwila residents in need.
- ◆ Participated in/facilitated meetings including Tukwila School District Providers, Refugee Forum, Global to Local, Seattle King County Housing and Homelessness Program, and SeaTac-Burien-Tukwila Joint Providers.

Staff from Communications:

- ◆ Coordinated employee program of departmental overviews – monthly posters, videos, articles – to acquaint staff with co-workers and their work.
- ◆ Created posters in recognition of heritage months.
- ◆ Provided print/digital support to City departments.
- ◆ Increased digital and video communications.

Fire Department ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

- ◆ Developed specifications for the purchase of two new customized fire engines and a ladder truck, to be delivered in 2019.
- ◆ Participated in regional “Future Women in EMS/Fire” workshop designed for young women seeking to pursue careers in Emergency Medical Services or firefighting.
- ◆ Updated City’s Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.
- ◆ Provided community education that includes two CERT classes, twelve fire extinguisher trainings, and participation in 28 public presentations and events.
- ◆ Graduated four firefighter new hires from Recruit Class; added three new members to Rescue Team.
- ◆ Processed approximately 985 plan reviews, 737 construction inspections, and 107 fire investigations through Fire Marshal’s office.
- ◆ Attended to a total of 5,717 incidents (Aid calls, Fire response, Hazardous Materials).



- ◆ Conducted ongoing Fire staff education encompassing rescue trainings including a special high-rise training, EMS, truck and pump academies.

Public Safety Plan Update

- ◆ 2018 was a foundational year for the Public Safety Plan.
- ◆ The Administration and City Council collaborated to identify how to address the funding gap for the Public Safety Plan due to construction cost escalation and market conditions. The new funding plan was approved without additional funds from voters.
- ◆ Mutually-agreeable settlements were achieved with every property and business owner associated with all

- of the Public Safety Plan sites, avoiding costly litigation and ensuring the projects will remain on schedule.
- ◆ Fire Station 51 was fully designed, permits were applied for, and the project is expected to break ground in March of 2019.
- ◆ The Justice Center was fully designed, permits were applied for, and the project is expected to break ground on April 1, 2019.



- ◆ Fire Station 52 went through the initial round of design; early site work is expected to begin in the summer of 2019 with the building construction to begin later that month.
- ◆ Programming and master planning began on the Public Works site so that the City has a detailed plan on how investments and improvements will be made on the property over time.

Postmaster: If named addressee has moved, deliver to current resident. To help us correct addresses or eliminate duplicates, please call 206-454-7573.

City of Tukwila   
PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN

**Official Groundbreaking Ceremony for the
 Public Safety Plan and Fire Station 51**

**Saturday, March 30 – Starts at 10:00AM
 at the intersection of S. 180th Street
 and Southcenter Parkway**

Come enjoy food and activities

**Everyone is welcome and
 encouraged to attend!**

Save the Date!



Reducing traffic issues in residential areas

As mentioned in the City’s Annual Report inside this issue, Tukwila has created a new program aimed at calming traffic on residential streets.

The Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program (NTCP) is designed to allow for a transparent, predictable, and equitable process for implementing effective traffic calming measures in neighborhoods throughout the City. Any resident or association (such as a Homeowner’s Association) is eligible to enroll a street in the NTCP. A request should be made in writing, either a physical letter or an email, or by using the form available on the City’s website. Requests must include a contact name, address, phone number and email address; anonymous requests and complaints will not be accepted. Requests should include a description of the location and the specific problem that needs to be addressed. Once received, staff will begin looking into the individual concerns, work with the residents, and develop a plan of action.

If you have any questions regarding the NTCP, please contact Senior Program Manager Cyndy Knighton at 206-431-1164 or Cyndy.Knighton@TukwilaWA.gov.

TUKWILA CITY HALL

6200 Southcenter Boulevard
 Hours: Monday–Friday, 8:30AM–5:00PM
 Telephone: 206-433-1800
 Fax number: 206-433-1833
 E-mail: Tukwila@TukwilaWA.gov
 Website: TukwilaWA.gov

MAYOR Allan Ekberg.....206-433-1850

Mayor’s Office

Administration Offices..... 206-433-1850
 David Cline, *City Administrator*206-433-1851
 City Clerk’s Office..... 206-433-1800
 Economic Development 206-433-1832
 Municipal Court..... 206-433-1840

Administrative Services

Rachel Bianchi, *Dep. City Admin.* 206-454-7566
 Human Resources – Personnel ...206-433-1831
 City Job Line..... 206-433-1828
 Human Services206-433-7181
 Community Engagement 206-454-7564

*Nameplate banner photo of the winter sunrise
 at the Community Center taken by Tukwila’s
 Parks Maintenance Supervisor Matthew Austin*

Community Development Dept.

Jack Pace, *Director*.....206-431-3670
 Code Enforcement206-431-3682

Finance Department

Peggy McCarthy, *Director* 206-433-1835

Fire Department

Jay Wittwer, *Chief*.....206-575-4404
 Jason Konieczka, *Emerg Mgmt* ...206-971-8740

Parks/Recreation Department

Rick Still, *Director* 206-767-2342

Police Department

Bruce Linton, *Chief*.....206-433-7175

Public Works Department

Henry Hash, *Director*..... 206-433-0179

Technology Services Department

Joseph Todd, *Director*..... 206-454-7575

Emergency – Fire, Police **911**

TUKWILA COMMUNITY CENTER

12424 - 42nd Avenue South
 Recreation Division.....206-768-2822
 Senior Center/Services.....206-767-2323

FOSTER GOLF LINKS

13500 Interurban Avenue South
 Pro Shop206-242-4221

TUKWILA CITY COUNCIL

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CityCouncil@TukwilaWA.gov
 Laurel Humphrey, *Analyst* 206-433-8993

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

7:00PM in Council Chambers
 Regular Meetings 1st/3rd Mondays
 Work Meetings.....2nd/4th Mondays