



The Hazelnut

A City of Tukwila publication for our residential and business communities



JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2024
VOLUME 44, NUMBER 1

WHAT'S INSIDE:

SPECIAL EDITION
The City of Tukwila
2023 Annual Report

Messages from
the new Mayor and
Council President

TukwilaWA.gov

Minimum Wage and Fair Access to Additional Hours of Work

In 2022, voters in the City of Tukwila approved Initiative Measure No. 1, which provided Labor Standard requirements for affected employers and certain employees who work in Tukwila. After the initiative passed, City staff invested many hours to implement the voters' intent. Without adding any additional staff, we researched legal interpretations, published draft rules, accepted public

comments, answered questions, and published the final rules on time. We created posters, notices and forms, and notified potentially affected employers and employee organizations. The City will continue to update information, answer questions, monitor compliance, and take enforcement action as necessary. More info at TukwilaWA.gov/minimumwage

City of Tukwila Equity Policy

The City adopted a policy that states our commitment to fair access to all. In order for all to have access, the City must remove barriers to opportunities and services. A dedicated group of staff, City officials, and community members are working to do just that. In 2023, the City's Equity Policy Implementation Committee (EPIC) received the International City/County Management Association Community Equity and Inclusion Award. This award recognizes EPIC's ongoing efforts, such as improving access for diverse language groups.

The Equity and Social Justice Commission (ESJC) builds community, and advises the City on matters of social justice. Social justice is undoing social inequalities caused by racism and other forms of oppression. One way ESJC contributed was collaborating on a well-attended 3rd Annual Juneteenth Celebration at the Sullivan Center. The holiday was commemorated with African American traditions and calls for action to end racial injustice. You are encouraged to learn about the City's six Equity Policy goals and read the original policy, adopted in 2017. TukwilaWA.gov/EquityPolicy





MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Please allow me to introduce myself

Hello, Tukwila, I am Thomas McLeod, your new Mayor. After serving six years on Tukwila’s Planning Commission and then eight years as a Tukwila City Council member, I am proud to now serve as your Mayor.

I grew up in the south-end of Seattle attending Glacier High School, Highline Community College, and later City University of Seattle. I just finished a 30-year career as a Tax Accountant serving clients that ranged from small family-owned businesses to high-net-worth clients, and – when needed – representing them before the IRS. My parents still live in Tukwila, and I was fortunate to raise my three children in Tukwila, watching them learn and grow moving through our Tukwila School District. In my personal time I stay very active spending time with family and friends, dining at our many fabulous restaurants, following local sport teams, and exercising by biking, swimming, and playing a game of pickleball from time to time.

In my time as a Planning Commissioner, I enjoyed working on such projects as I-fly Indoor Skydiving, Hotel Interurban, King

County Library, and Tukwila Village. I was especially proud to see Tukwila Village win the Washington State Governor’s Smart Community Award. As a Councilmember, I really enjoyed working to create our traffic-calming program, enhanced Public Safety measures, balanced budgets and significant committee efforts that lead to our transformation from Tukwila Fire to the Puget Sound Regional Fire Authority.

My vision for Tukwila centers around connecting people to people. In an ever-growing world of technology, artificial intelligence, political divide, and social isolation, we seem to be getting away from the very fabric that binds us together: our need to connect to one another. Following the COVID pandemic, we found we could gather virtually for a service, a meeting, or simple conversation. And while this technology is revolutionary, it deprives us of “Third Places” that serve as connectors to one another. Outside of home and work, where are those “Third Places” where we meet new people, engage in a new experience, or come to understand people that are different from us?

What am I looking for in my term as Mayor? Those “Third places” that bring us together and move our community closer to one another. It could be a new neighborhood coffee shop, a beer hall, events that get us out of our house and engage with one another. Of course, I care about Public Safety and housing issues. Let’s say that’s a given, but beyond the obvious, I want to help create a space where you and I can come together, learn about each other, and grow together. That is Tukwila to me.

Thomas McLeod
Mayor, City of Tukwila

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Human Services

In 2023, Tukwila Human Services staff assisted residents with a variety of needs. These include housing and utility instability, food insecurity, physical/emotional health services, and a wide variety of other self-sufficiency resources like English as a Second Language classes, training/employment program and minor home repairs.

Many residents are still experiencing financial impacts from COVID, inflation, and increases in the costs of meeting basic needs (housing, utilities, food). Staff responded to over 2,700 calls during 2023, and one-time rent and utility assistance enabled the stabilization of 104 households, 7% more than 2022.

Technology & Innovation Services

TIS collaborated with multiple agencies and coordinated the development of the Student Private LTE network serving the Tukwila community. Approximately 400 Tukwila students who reside in the Tukwila Hill, Allentown, Cascade View and Tukwila International Boulevard neighborhoods have access to fast, free internet on their new Private LTE Enabled Chromebooks. The network is scaled to support the educational enrichment of 1,200 students, enabling future growth and provides a foundation for future smart city Initiative.

The City’s network and email security was strengthened with the deployment of new softwares to stop breaches, ransomware, and cyber-attacks.

At the end of 2023, TIS refreshed laptops for City staff to ensure our hybrid workforce is stable with current laptops and updated operating systems.

City Council meeting minutes and the complete text of all legislative items are available online in the Digital Records Center at TukwilaWA.gov. For additional information about the work of the City Council, please call 206-433-8993.

COUNCIL CORNER

by Mohamed Abdi,
2024 Council President



New year, Council President and Councilmembers

Hello to the Tukwila community – I am excited to serve as your 2024 City Council President. We have a lot of work ahead of us, but we have a great team and I’m looking forward to a year of collaboration on important issues.

This year, the City Council welcomes four new members: Armen Papyan, Jovita McConnell, Dennis Martinez, and Hannah Hedrick. We appointed Hannah to serve with us after an application and interview process that concluded last month. We are appreciative of all those in the community who applied.

This year we are also trying something new for our meetings. We’ve reduced the standing committee meetings down to just once a month, and will instead meet in an informal work session format every 1st and 3rd Mondays at 5:30 p.m. prior to the Regular Meeting. We’ve committed to revisiting this format in six months to see how its working.

One of my duties as Council President is to appoint Chairs and members of the four standing committees. For 2024, they are:

2nd Mondays - 5:30PM	4 th Mondays - 5:30PM
Community Services and Safety Jovita McConnell, Chair De’Sean Quinn Hannah Hedrick	Transportation and Infrastructure Services Armen Papyan, Chair Dennis Martinez Hannah Hedrick
Planning and Community Development Dennis Martinez, Chair Tosh Sharp Armen Papyan	Finance and Governance De’Sean Quinn, Chair Tosh Sharp Jovita McConnell

You can read more about the work of the City Council by visiting our web page at TukwilaWA.gov/council. We want to hear from our fellow community members – you can find contact information on the website and on the last page of this newsletter. Subscribe to Council meeting agendas at TukwilaWA.gov/city-clerk.

CITY COUNCIL

In 2023, the City Council held 17 Regular, 21 Committee of the Whole, 17 Special, and 74 Committee meetings. This is all while members also represented the City on over 25 regional boards.



L to R: Allan Ekberg, Kathy Hougardy, 2024 Council President Mohamed Abdi, Kate Kruller, Cynthia Delostrinos Johnson

In 2023, under the leadership of Council President Cynthia Delostrinos Johnson, the Council focused on effective relationship building and successful collaboration. This was a focus of the annual retreat and ultimately led to revised Rules of Procedure to include more details around meeting conduct, expectations, and civility. The new rules will help the City Council work better together, with City staff and with the public

At the last meeting of the year, the City Council honored outgoing Mayor Allan Ekberg and outgoing Councilmembers Kathy Hougardy, Kate Kruller, and Cynthia Delostrinos Johnson with appreciation for their years of service to the Tukwila community.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Public Involvement for the Comprehensive Plan

The Planning Staff held numerous outreach events and meetings, and sent a newsletter update to many community members to gather input for the Comprehensive Plan. This input helped shape the drafts that the Commission considered.

Tukwila Tree Giveaway

In October 2023, the second annual Tukwila Tree Giveaway distributed 270 trees to 140 households and businesses in Tukwila! This program is a collaboration between the Tukwila Department of Community Development and King Conservation District, with support from the Tukwila Parks and Recreation Department. Tree Giveaway recipients either picked up their one or two free trees at Hazelnut Park, or had them delivered to their house.

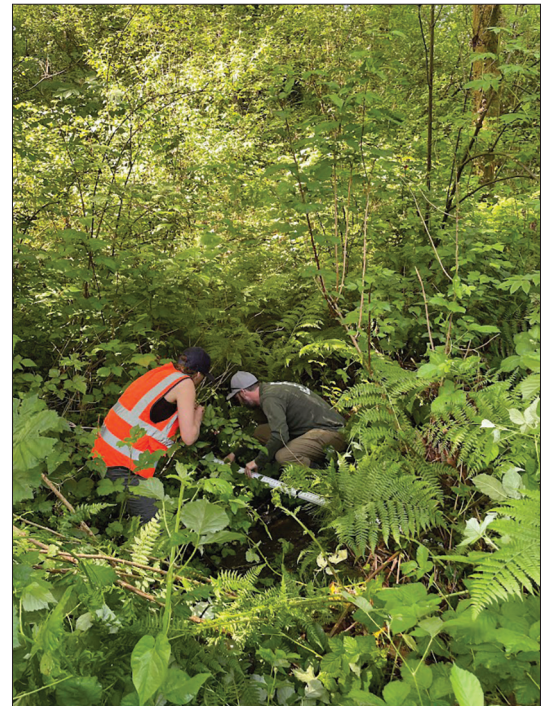
The Tree Giveaway offered 15 different types of trees, all with different characteristics – there was a tree for everyone!

If you are interested in receiving your own free trees, the Tukwila Tree Giveaway will be back in October 2024. Applications for trees will open in the summer. Details will be posted on TukwilaWA.gov/tree-giveaway/ when applications are open.



Planning Commission Activities

The Tukwila Planning Commission had a busy year. They convened twice a month to meet the state’s Comprehensive Plan adoption deadline of December 2024. They reviewed the proposed changes to the 10+ Elements of the Comprehensive Plan. Much of the year, the Commission focused on Housing Element changes required by new State legislation intended to address the State’s housing crisis. They also held public hearings to review proposed zoning regulations and a development project. (More information available at TukwilaWA.gov/CompPlan.)



Wetland and Watercourse updates

In 2023, The Department of Community Development, with support from the King Conservation District, began updating the mapping of wetlands and watercourses in the City’s online map, Tukwila iMap. It had been almost 15 years since these features had been updated. These improvements to the online map allow City planners and Tukwila community members to more accurately understand the environmental features of our city.

To make these updates, staff have been surveying the streams in Tukwila to determine if fish are able to access them. Salmon and trout are important parts of the natural ecosystem in Tukwila, so it’s critical we protect their habitat.

Recycling Activities in 2023

The Residential Collection Event held at Foster High School collected 388 carloads of recyclable material, amounting to 43,245 pounds or 21.62 tons of material kept out of the landfill.

The City and its previous waste hauler Waste Management conducted a Re-Think Waste Art, Photo and Video contest for Tukwila K-12 students, with winners receiving cash prizes. Nine students and one teacher won for their recycle-focused art works or support for the project. Winners were selected by a panel including members of the Tukwila Arts Commission, and presented to the City Council in May, where family members were invited to join in the recognition.



Tukwila Business Recycler of the 2022 was awarded to **Seattle Chocolate Company**. The company was recognized for its significant success at reducing its waste stream and reducing its carbon footprint. Former Mayor Ekberg presented the award in April 2023.



PUBLIC WORKS

152nd Water Main Replacement

The existing water main was an undersized, dead end 6" cast iron pipe from the 1960s that needed a lot of maintenance, including regular flushing. This new water main is a larger 12" ductile iron pipe starting at Macadam, extended 1,800 feet to tie into an existing water main along Sunwood Boulevard, thus improving water quality for residents and reducing maintenance for City staff.



Intersection of 152nd and 57th presented numerous utilities to avoid, including fiber, gas, high voltage lines, and a large water main



Installed a 14-Ton water vault due to the difference in water zones

POLICE DEPARTMENT

In spite of staffing challenges in 2023, the Tukwila Police Department is proud to have continued to serve the Tukwila community. We remained committed to ensuring that everyone who worked, lived and visited Tukwila felt safe, and that everyone had access to our services.

Our officers and support staff continued to dedicate their time towards our community engagement efforts, participating in several events. We were very appreciative for the time spent with the Tukwila community members and businesses. This page features some of the highlights.

As we look to the future, we want to continue to build even stronger relationships and create even more fun and interactive events for our Tukwila community. We hope you will join us!



Special Olympics Washington Torch Run - This is a longstanding tradition that we were honored to participate in every year.

Paint with the Tukwila Police Department - We had several new and old graffiti covered, picked up trash, met property owners and employees, and made some new partnerships in the process.

Coffee with a Cop - We spent time with the customers and employees at Starbucks, making and drinking coffee. Our own K9 Apollo even had his own Pup Cup.



Night Out Against Crime - We were spoiled with all the delicious food served by the Tukwila communities and businesses.

“School Is Back” Haircut with Affluent Barbershop - Thanks to Affluent Barbershop, Tukwila school students were able to receive free haircuts in time for back to school. We also handed out school supplies and Tukwila PD stickers at the event.



Ballin’ with Badges - Our officers took on shooting hoops with the kids and provided free school supplies to them.



Halloween - Our officers stopped at the Foster-Tukwila Presbyterian Trunk or Treat to hand out glow sticks, and walked some trick or treaters around the neighborhoods.

Shop with a Cop - Our officers took selected students from the Tukwila School District to Target and JC Penney to shop for their families. They also wrapped the gifts and had lunch after the shopping was done.



Battle of the Badges: We handed out our evidence bags full of holiday spirit to those who stopped by Battle of the Badges at the Renton Community Center. (The other 26 participating agencies also decorated their department vehicles.)



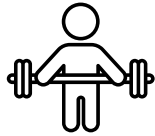
PARKS AND RECREATION

HEALTHY PEOPLE



6,554

Youth in sports programs



28,956

Adults in fitness programs



20,934

Youth and seniors in meal programs



\$702,000

Grant dollars won in support of programs



5,767

Senior adults in enrichment programs



7,223

Youth and teens served by outdoor programs



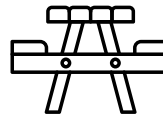
60,011

Rounds of golf played



4,299

Senior adults in fitness programs



32,169

Community members served through rentals



\$38,000

Spirit of Giving donations supporting families experiencing homelessness

HEALTHY GREEN SPACES

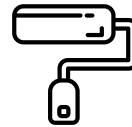
OUR PARKS

Tukwila is home to over 150 acres of open space



25

Miles of trail mowing



50,000

Square feet of graffiti painted out



97,205

Pounds of loose litter collected in parks

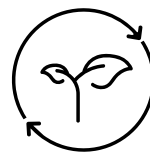


Protecting our urban forests and green spaces since 2017



12

Active restoration sites



317,298

Total square footage of green space restored



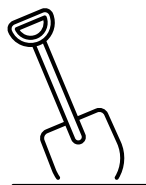
381

Native trees planted



338

Survival rings cut around trees to save them from invasive ivy



2,716

Native plants planted



94

Stewardship volunteer and work crew parties



5,980

Stewardship volunteer and work crew hours

THE HAZELNUT

City of Tukwila
6200 Southcenter Blvd.
Tukwila, WA 98188

PRESORT STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SEATTLE, WA
PERMIT NO. 12698

Postmaster: If named addressee has moved, deliver to current resident.

The 2024 application is now available for Tukwila's City of Opportunity Scholarship

In 2014, the City created a scholarship program for high school students living in Tukwila. Its purpose: providing financial assistance and opportunity to deserving students for continuing their education beyond high school. We are taking applications from those enrolled for undergraduate study in colleges, community colleges, trade schools, and universities. Selection criteria includes, but is not limited to, residency in Tukwila, academic accomplishments, community service, references, financial need, and personal essay. To see the complete list of eligibility requirements, and to download the application, go to TukwilaWA.gov/scholarship. The deadline to submit scholarship applications is March 31, 2024. For more information, contact Executive Assistant Cheryl Thompson in the Mayor's Office at 206-433-1850 or Cheryl.Thompson@TukwilaWA.gov.

Economic Development Strategy

After extensive community engagement, the City completed its first Economic Development Strategy. This document includes goals and strategies to achieve Tukwila's vision for its future economy. Learn more at TukwilaWA.gov/economy



Tukwila Health and Wellness Center

In June of 2023 the City completed selling vacant land to HealthPoint, where they will build a new health and wellness center. The property is located on the east side of Tukwila International Boulevard at the corner of South 146th Street. It was purchased by the City after some high crime motels were closed in 2013. HealthPoint's first phase is scheduled to open in 2026 and will include primary care medical, dental, behavioral health, pharmacy, and childcare. Learn more at healthpointchc.org/support-us/building-a-new-community-health-and-wellness-center-in-tukwila.

TUKWILA CITY HALL

6200 Southcenter Boulevard
City Hall campus in-person hours:
Monday/Wednesday/Thursday, 8:30AM-4:00PM
Phone: 206-433-1800 Fax: 206-433-1833
Email: Tukwila@TukwilaWA.gov
Website: TukwilaWA.gov

MAYOR Thomas McLeod 206-433-1850

Mayor's Office

Administration Offices..... 206-433-1850
Marty Wine, *Interim City Admin* ...206-433-1851
Economic Development 206-433-1832

Administrative Services

City Clerk's Office..... 206-433-1800
Human Resources - Personnel ...206-433-1831
Human Services206-433-7181
Community Engagement 206-454-7564
Technology Services..... 206-454-7575

Community Development Dept.

Nora Gierloff, *Director*206-431-3670
Code Enforcement.....206-431-3682

Finance Department

Vicky Carlsen, *Director*..... 206-433-1835

Parks/Recreation Department

Pete Mayer, *Director*206-767-2342

Police Department

Eric Drever, *Chief*206-433-7175
Mindi Mattson, *Emergency Mgr* ...206-971-8750

Public Works Department

Hari Ponnekanti, *Director*..... 206-433-0179

Emergency - Fire, Police **911**

MUNICIPAL COURT

15005 Tukwila International Blvd 206-433-1840

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

PUGET SOUND REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY

All fire-related services.....253-856-4300
PugetSoundFire.org

2024 TUKWILA CITY COUNCIL

Mohamed Abdi, *Council President*
2023 Council President..... 206-798-4872
Mohamed.Abdi@TukwilaWA.gov
De'Sean Quinn.....206-331-5939
Desean.Quinn@TukwilaWA.gov
Tosh Sharp.....206-507-6440
Tosh.Sharp@TukwilaWA.gov
Armen Papyan.....206-888-3380
Armen.Papyan@TukwilaWA.gov
Jovita McConnell 206-600-3533
Jovita.Mcconnell@TukwilaWA.gov
Dennis Martinez206-960-1607
Dennis.Martinez@TukwilaWA.gov
Hannah Hedrick 206-580-8123
Hannah.Hedrick@TukwilaWA.gov
To email the entire Council at once:
CityCouncil@TukwilaWA.gov
Laurel Humphrey, *Analyst* 206-433-8993

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

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