

**WHAT'S INSIDE:**

- State of the City address
- Teddy Bear Clinic
- Recent Council actions
- Free Recycling Collection Event
- Pea Patch farmers
- ...and more!



# The Hazelnut

A City of Tukwila publication for our residential and business communities

**MARCH/APRIL 2024**  
VOLUME 44, NUMBER 2

**Save the dates!**

*Rain Barrel Workshop*  
Wednesday, June 12, 2024  
6:30-7:30PM  
Tukwila Community Center

*4th Annual Juneteenth Commemoration*  
Wednesday, June 19, 2024  
11:00AM - 1:00PM  
Sullivan Center at Tukwila Village  
Speakers and performances!

*Tukwila Community Garage Sale*  
Saturday, August 3, 2024  
8:00AM - 4:00PM

Sellers can sign up starting in June, to have their location included in the Citywide garage sale map. Participants will be able to pick up yard sale signs in July. Look for information on the City of Tukwila's website.

**TukwilaWA.gov**



**This survey seeks community input**

**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU**



**How do you think Tukwila City funds should be used?**

In late April and early May, Tukwila households will be mailed a brief survey that asks for your input about the 2025-26 City budget. Your opinion is important to the City! We want to hear your ideas about where to make service investments over the next two years, and how City services are currently meeting your needs.

You can respond to the survey by mail, by phone, and online at [TukwilaBudgetPrioritiesSurvey.org](https://TukwilaBudgetPrioritiesSurvey.org). The survey is available in multiple languages.

City of Tukwila Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Priorities Survey

Language: English - English -

- EXAMPLE FROM ONLINE VERSION -

Major City Services and Fiscal Year 2025 Budget

[ Q1 ]

Please indicate how well your needs are being met by each of the major City services listed below. If you do not have a service listed, please select "No Need."

	Fully Met	Mostly Met	Partly Met	Not Met
01. Assistance for Basic Human Needs: Food, Rent, Utilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
02. City efforts to improve access to Affordable Housing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
03. Code Enforcement: Ensure Private Properties are Safe and Maintained	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

### Mayor McLeod's State of the City address highlights his priorities for Tukwila

Prompted by my first 100 days in office, I presented to the City Council the State of the City message, the first one since 2015!

My goals are to update you on work being done in the City and to share a vision for 2024.

I hold the belief that we can create a greater culture of **CUSTOMER SERVICE** and **ACCOUNTABILITY** here at City Hall. One of the first major decisions I made was a change in our City Administration. Our newly hired Deputy City Administrator has become the City Administrator. Marty Wine brings a fresh set of eyes and experience to assist in our organizational changes. Additional reorganization changes were made to enhance customer service and organizational accountability.

Having Tukwila's public counters open four days a week, up from three days, improves **AVAILABILITY** of customer service. The upcoming budget looks to hire positions frozen during the pandemic, and restore City services to pre-pandemic levels – another customer experience enhancement.

In February, I was very happy to swear in four new police officers, who will be deployable in June. It's the first time in 20+ years that the Police Department is fully staffed – another positive move in **PUBLIC SAFETY**.

Starting in the 2024-25 school year, the School Resource Officer will be restored to Foster High and Showalter Middle School. The Mental Health Co-Responder Program added a second co-responder position. We continue to look for ways to expand this mental health service in conjunction with law enforcement.

Our **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT** office will be tasked with fostering a culture of preparedness – through planning, exercise and education – providing the City with the tools and capabilities necessary to respond to an incident that has local or regional impacts. We are developing a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and a multi-year strategic plan for elected leaders, City staff and community members, to ensure their understanding of roles and responsibilities.

Our vision for **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** is for sustainable and inclusive prosperity for all. Our plans and actions to achieve this goal include a new Economic Development strategy in 2024. In just two short years, Tukwila will be on the verge of the world stage helping to host the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

Seattle is a host city with games being played at Lumen Field. There is incredible economic opportunity for our city as the world embarks on the Puget Sound.

The greater Puget Sound Region is experiencing a shortage of ALL types of **HOUSING**. To this point, we are working to create both affordable and market rate housing opportunities. We continue to support creative housing, including two tiny home villages in Tukwila. Tukwila received \$2 million from the State to support and serve people experiencing homelessness.

We remain mindful of the City's financial health. The 2025–26 Biennium Budget will be one of the most significant budgets we build for the City of Tukwila. My administration and the City Council are tasked with building a **SUSTAINABLE BUDGET**, in consideration of changing revenue streams and rising inflation. We are applying Program-Based Budgeting, meaning programs and services will drive departmental budget decisions.

Earlier in 2024, we scored a successful Washington State audit. This year, we will be implementing a new B&O tax that will provide more stable tax revenue for this year and future budgets.

So, what does all of this mean to you? Our focus areas – Customer Service, Public Safety, Emergency Management, Economic Development, Community Housing and Sustainable Budgeting – will help us best serve the Tukwila community. Applying these elements to everyone, the service of City staff and elected officials creates **ACCESS TO OPPORTUNITY**.

In 2017, the City adopted Resolution 1921 - our Equity Policy. This policy recognizes the value of our diverse community, as well as the inequities that impact access to opportunity. The City's definition of equity includes "eliminating systemic barriers and providing fair access to programs, services and opportunities." The policy provides "guidance to the community, staff, and elected officials as to how we work together towards economic, civic and social justice." Learn more at [TukwilaWA.gov/EquityPolicy](http://TukwilaWA.gov/EquityPolicy).

If there is one thought to sum up my vision for 2024, it is **EQUAL ACCESS TO OPPORTUNITY**. Thank you!

*Thomas McLeod*  
Mayor, City of Tukwila

# Teddy Bear Clinic!







**Saturday, May 18**  
**10:00am - 1:00pm**

**Station 74: 24611 116th Ave. SE, Kent**

Bring your favorite teddy bear or stuffed animal for a checkup!



Our Firefighter/EMTs will provide free checkups for teddy bears and kids in a relaxing environment designed to help ease children's fears of medical emergencies and exams.

-  First 400 children receive a **FREE teddy bear** courtesy of Warm 106.9 FM radio. *(limit 1 per child)*
-  Tour a fire engine and aid car.
-  Spray water through a fire hose.
-  Participate in fun activities at our training center.



**\*Please dress appropriately for any weather.\***

For more information, call (253) 856-4483 or email [dmaher@pugetsoundfire.org](mailto:dmaher@pugetsoundfire.org)

## COUNCIL CORNER

Happy Spring! As I write this, we have been enjoying some beautiful sunny weather in Tukwila. I hope you are getting outside to enjoy all our city has to offer. I have a few updates to share from the City Council.

In early March we held our annual City Council Retreat. One of the responsibilities of being the City Council President is to organize this event, making it a great day with lasting impacts for the whole year. My intention was to focus on teamwork and relationships. We had a productive day of learning more about one another and how we can best work together. Everyone shared stories about their journey to public service and challenges faced along the way. We may have different backgrounds, but we all share a strong work ethic and a commitment to the Tukwila community. I was very proud of everyone's participation and feel very inspired by my fellow Councilmembers.

Another interesting activity I get to do as Council President is serve as Chair of the City's Lodging Tax Advisory Committee. Tukwila receives 1% of lodging taxes charged on certain overnight hotel and motel stays in the city. State law strictly limits how these funds can be used, which are intended only for tourism-related activity, and the role of the Advisory Committee is to make recommendations to the City Council on how these funds are spent. One use of the lodging tax revenue is the Experience Tukwila digital initiative – learn more

## 2024 brings Councilmembers together to tackle City business

*by Mohamed Abdi,  
2024 Council President*



by visiting [ExperienceTukwila.com](https://ExperienceTukwila.com), or find it on Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram. There you can find information about all the exciting things going on in Tukwila.

Also in March, the Tukwila City Council had representation in Washington D.C. at the National League of Cities Congressional City Conference. Councilmembers Sharp, Papyan, and Martinez joined Mayor McLeod to attend educational sessions, meet with legislators, and advocate for assistance with crucially important issues such as the asylee crisis and rail transportation. Councilmembers do a lot of work outside of our weekly meetings – we participate on regional boards and committees, and we take advantage of opportunities like this to advocate for our city at all levels of government. I appreciate my colleagues for taking the time to do this.

Remember, the Tukwila City Council always wants to hear from you. Visit our web page at [Tukwilawa.gov/council](https://Tukwilawa.gov/council) or find our contact information on the last page of this newsletter.

## City-supported bill puts State in the lead for response to asylum seekers and refugees



In March, Mayor McLeod joined Governor Inslee and others in Olympia for the signing of House Bill 2368. The Bill directs the Washington State Department of Social and Health Service (DSHS) to take the lead in responding to the growing asylum seeker needs in the State of Washington.

The City of Tukwila championed for the adoption of House Bill 2368 so that the State of Washington can take the lead in a coordinated response to address the humanitarian needs at Riverton Park United Methodist Church and other sites through the region. While not part of the Bill itself, the State has allocated nearly \$30 million in the 2025 operating budget for statewide response to the growing needs of asylum seekers. Tukwila will receive \$2 million from this grant funding, supporting nonprofits in their work to provide urgent housing and assistance to asylees and refugees

# RECENT COUNCIL ACTIONS

- Adopted an amended mid-biennium budget (Ord. 2722)
- Clarified noise regulations (Ord. 2723)
- Granted Valley View Sewer District a non-exclusive franchise agreement (Ord. 2724)
- Authorized a contract for design of 65th Avenue South and Southcenter Boulevard Intersection Improvement Project
- Accepted grant funding for Public Defense Program
- Prohibited cutting across public or private property to avoid an intersection (Ord. 2725)
- Amended Business & Occupation Tax Code (Ord. 2727)
- Adopted 2024 State Legislative Agenda (Res. 2084)
- Awarded a bid for construction of Green River Trail Connector Project
- Accepted Department of Ecology grant funding for Ramp Litter Cleanup Program
- Accepted Washington Military Department and U.S. Department of Homeland Security grant funding for network security infrastructure and training
- Elected Mohamed Abdi as 2024 City Council President
- Appointed Hannah Hedrick to Position No. 3 on City Council

- Expressed collective support for Tukwila School District Propositions 1 and 2 on February 2024 ballot (Res. 2090)
- Adopted 2024 City Council Standing Committees (Res. 2091)
- Confirmed appointment of Andy Youn to City Clerk
- Accepted Cooperative Watershed Management Program grant funding for the Green the Green and Nelsen Side Channel re-vegetation projects
- Approved lodging tax funding for the Experience Tukwila digital initiative

## CONFIRMATIONS

Congratulations to Kathy Hougardy, who was confirmed as an Equity and Social Justice Commission member. Tukwila thanks you for your volunteer service to our community!

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

**FREE EVENT!**

## WORLD REFUGEE DAY GLOBAL VILLAGE

JUNE 22, 2024

**SAVE THE DATE!**

12-5 pm  
Foster High School,  
Tukwila

Booths | Performances | Kids Activities  
International Food & Marketplace

*Tukwila City offices will be closed on Monday, May 27, in observation of the Memorial Day holiday*

**Memorial Day**

**FREE  
EVENT!**

## King County- Sponsored Repair Event

Saturday, May 11 – 1:30 to 4:30PM at the Tukwila Community Center

Don't toss your broken household items or your clothing that needs mending! At this free community repair event, skilled volunteer "fixers" can take a look at your items and try to help.



Items that fixers can potentially work on include household and personal items that are small enough to be carried in by one person, including certain electronics, small furniture, and clothing/textiles. Items brought in for repair, including clothing, must be clean. Items that cannot be worked on include anything that uses gasoline, cell phones, and microwaves.

King County holds several of these events all over the County every year. And this will be the first one in Tukwila! No appointments, but an advance sign-up gives priority over "walk-in" items or second items (and walk-ins are fine, too). To request an advance sign-up, or for more info, contact coordinator Tom at [Tom.Watson@KingCounty.gov](mailto:Tom.Watson@KingCounty.gov) or at 206-477-4481. You can also visit [KingCounty.gov/repair-events](http://KingCounty.gov/repair-events).



### Volunteer with the Green Tukwila Partnership

Join Green Tukwila Partnership and learn about local wildlife, the Green-Duwamish watershed and care for urban forests. Sign up today and remove noxious weeds, clean-up litter, water young trees and meet new people; all tools and training are provided on site.



[< Learn more or sign up](#)

**GREEN  
TUKWILA**  
PARTNERSHIP

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram @GreenTukwila

### Bulky Item Collection

New this year! Once each year, residential customers can order a no-cost collection of up to four non-appliance bulky items, plus extra trash and smaller items (up to two cubic yards; a cubic yard is 3' x 3' x 3'.) Pickup will be during your normal collection day, but you must call Recology at 206-944-3900 in advance to schedule your date.

Examples of bulky items include, but aren't limited to, mattresses, box springs, sofas and chairs.

If you've already had your no-cost bulky item pickup for 2024, or if you have appliances to dispose of, you can still call to make an appointment and arrange for pickup. However, fees will apply. Refrigerated appliances cost \$51.68 per item, non-refrigerated appliances cost \$25.83 per item, and items such as sofas, chairs, mattresses, and box springs cost \$41.48 per item.





**FREE!**

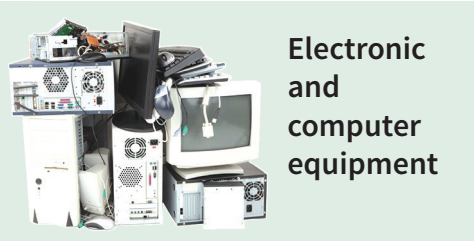
# Tukwila Recycling Collection Event

**Saturday, May 18 9:00AM - 3:00PM**

**Tukwila Community Center  
12424 - 42nd Avenue South**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## WHAT'S ACCEPTED



Electronic and computer equipment



Televisions



Lead acid batteries



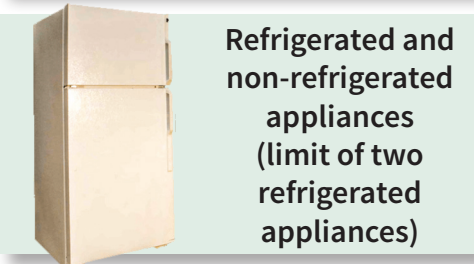
Propane and helium tanks (limit of two 5-gallon tanks)



Scrap metal



Bulky wood



Refrigerated and non-refrigerated appliances (limit of two refrigerated appliances)



Alkaline batteries



Mattresses & box springs (limit of four units per vehicle)



Tires (no rims, and limit of 10 tires)

**NOT ACCEPTED**



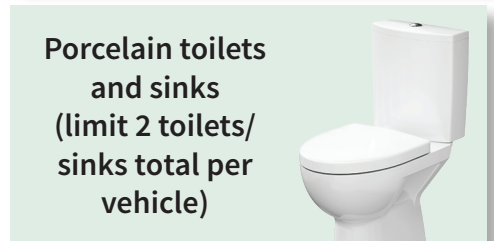
No paint or hazardous waste



Broken furniture (no upholstered furniture)



Cardboard (flattened)



Porcelain toilets and sinks (limit 2 toilets/sinks total per vehicle)



Funded in part by grants from King County's Solid Waste Division and the Washington State Department of Ecology

For more details about the event and the items accepted, please visit [TukwilaWA.gov/garbageandrecycling](http://TukwilaWA.gov/garbageandrecycling)

**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.*

**Tukwila’s Gully Gardens P-Patch provides a growing space for a blossoming Congolese community**



Through the Congolese Integration Network (CIN), folks are rolling up their sleeves and digging into the earth, bringing their Congolese Community Garden to life. Workers have cleared out the weeds, added nutrients to the soil, planted the seeds, and eagerly look forward to seeing the flourishing results of their collective efforts.

They envision this labor of love as a symbol of resilience and togetherness for the Congolese community. The nurturing of this garden can cultivate a brighter, greener future for all.

Officially dedicated in 2014 as Gully Gardens, the P-Patch is a community program designed to provide gardeners with an opportunity to grow fruits, vegetables and flowers.



CIN is a non-profit organization in South Seattle, led by and for Congolese immigrants and refugees. CIN facilitates the social, economic, cultural, and spiritual integration of Congolese immigrants and refugees into their homes in Washington state.

**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](mailto:Tukwila@TukwilaWA.gov)  
Website: [TukwilaWA.gov](http://TukwilaWA.gov)

**MAYOR** Thomas McLeod ..... 206-433-1850

**Mayor’s Office**

Administration Offices..... 206-433-1850  
Marty Wine, *City Administrator*....206-433-1851  
Brandon Miles, *Dir, Strat Init/Gov Rel* 206-431-3684  
City Clerk’s Office..... 206-433-1800  
Community Engagement ..... 206-454-7564  
Economic Development ..... 206-433-1832  
Human Resources – Personnel ...206-433-1831  
Human Services .....206-433-7181  
Mindi Mattson, *Emergency Mgr* ...206-971-8750  
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, *Dir/Dep City Admin* ...206-767-2342

**Police Department**

Eric Drever, *Chief* .....206-433-7175

**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 Shop .....206-242-4221

**PUGET SOUND REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY**

All fire-related services.....253-856-4300  
[PugetSoundFire.org](http://PugetSoundFire.org)

**2024 TUKWILA CITY COUNCIL**

Mohamed Abdi, *Council President*  
2023 Council President..... 206-798-4872  
[Mohamed.Abdi@TukwilaWA.gov](mailto:Mohamed.Abdi@TukwilaWA.gov)  
De’Sean Quinn.....206-331-5939  
[Desean.Quinn@TukwilaWA.gov](mailto:Desean.Quinn@TukwilaWA.gov)  
Tosh Sharp.....206 507-6440  
[Tosh.Sharp@TukwilaWA.gov](mailto:Tosh.Sharp@TukwilaWA.gov)  
Armen Papyan.....206-888-3380  
[Armen.Papyan@TukwilaWA.gov](mailto:Armen.Papyan@TukwilaWA.gov)  
Jovita McConnell ..... 206-600-3533  
[Jovita.Mcconnell@TukwilaWA.gov](mailto:Jovita.Mcconnell@TukwilaWA.gov)  
Dennis Martinez .....206-960-1607  
[Dennis.Martinez@TukwilaWA.gov](mailto:Dennis.Martinez@TukwilaWA.gov)  
Hannah Hedrick ..... 206-580-8123  
[Hannah.Hedrick@TukwilaWA.gov](mailto:Hannah.Hedrick@TukwilaWA.gov)  
To email the entire Council at once:  
[CityCouncil@TukwilaWA.gov](mailto: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