Finding the community’s preferred location for a TUKWILA TEEN & SENIOR CENTER

Responding to community interest, Tukwila’s City Council included the first phase of this new City facility project as part of the 2021/2022 budget. Throughout 2021 the project team has held more than 65 meetings, hearing the community’s ideas about the center’s value, desired functions, look & feel, and more. This includes our “Community Champions” who represent the many diverse communities in Tukwila.

The Council determined that the Teen & Senior Center should be in the Tukwila International Boulevard neighborhood. The project team agreed any potential site must be a willing seller or a City-owned property, requiring no displacement of any kind. The team worked to review various potential locations, develop a list of pros and cons, and ultimately reduce the choices to two candidate sites.

What do YOU think?
Two ways to tell us!

Access these opportunities at TukwilaWA.gov/TTSC

- Which of these sites is your favorite?
- Why did you choose one site over the other?
- What else would you like to tell us about locating the Teen & Senior Center?

Neighborhood survey on bridge design

Seeking feedback from community members and other stakeholders, the City of Tukwila recently gathered opinions about design elements of the 42nd Avenue Bridge Replacement Project. Five questions were presented stakeholders pertaining to various design choices for the bridge replacement project, including bridge railing/landscaping/lighting concepts, color preference, and a gateway element.

Participant responses were collected from an online survey that ran from August 31 to September 30, along with an in-person Gallery event held on September 15. A total of 112 votes were received. The full report and photos of the selected design elements can be viewed on the project website at TukwilaWA.gov/42nd.
Mayor’s Message

As we approach the 22-month mark of navigating our new world of Covid-19, I’ve been thinking a lot about our community’s resilience (the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties) and how we have weathered this pandemic together. This experience also reminds us of the importance of being prepared – as a family and a city – for other possible disasters, such as a significant earthquake or flood. I do think some of the knowledge we have gained during 2020 and 2021 can help inform our preparation for any future significant event.

During the pandemic we experienced the importance of knowing our neighbors and learned more about resources available in our community. I’ve heard countless stories of residents looking after one another during the pandemic: running errands for groceries or prescriptions, helping folks gain access to shots or tests, mowing lawns for elderly or ill neighbors, and swapping childcare duties during remote learning sessions. These are critical pieces of a strong community – one prepared, resilient and ready to tackle what comes next.

Another key is the health of the organizations that provide services to our community. I’m proud of the City’s ability to pivot and maintain the seamless delivery of all City services – some of which are provided virtually now. My gratitude also goes to the ongoing committed hard work by remote, as well as the majority of employees who come to the City and continually serve this community. Many of us have benefited from the great work of other organizations, including school districts, nonprofits and the generous business community. We are fortunate to have so many community partners working to ensure Tukwila’s resiliency and success.

Speaking of partners, I do want to point out my oversight in the October Hazelnut Mayor’s Message. Focused on the response to the Maple Crest Fire, I unfortunately forgot to include the Tukwila Children’s Foundation (TCF). That was a major omission, so I wanted to apologize here and highlight their substantial work through the informative article below.

As the holiday season is upon us, I want to wish everyone a wonderful time of year.

Allan Ekdberg
Mayor, City of Tukwila

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Tukwila community continues to amaze me

A force in our community since 1999, the Tukwila Children’s Foundation (TCF) has grown and centered itself squarely in the Tukwila community over the past 18 months. TCF was formed to support children and their families within the Tukwila School District. Their support includes covering basic needs, scholarships, community engagement, policy advocacy, and partnering with TCC for the annual Spirit of Giving event that provides families in need with household goods, toys and other gifts during the holiday season.

“The last 18 months for TCF have been transformational,” commented Executive Director Jonathan Joseph. Many in Tukwila have reaped this reward, with TCF providing $420,000 in direct service to families with children in Tukwila since the onset of the pandemic. Funds have gone toward rental and utility assistance, combating food insecurity, donation of a much-needed refrigerator truck to the Tukwila Pantry, and an ongoing partnership with the Parks and Recreation department to support young people in the community. “We have become a critical partner to many service providers and city programs in Tukwila. We are a leading partner in transforming Tukwila to meet the needs of all its residents”

Members of the current Board include many Tukwila School District alumni who are very committed to TCF’s mission. More reflective of the diverse community it serves, the Board has been able to leverage its significant connections and lived experience to become a trusted partner with Tukwila’s families, and help connect families with support services and programs. As an example, TCF was able to provide services to many families furthest away from resources, including those who lost their home in the Maple Crest Apartment Fire. Currently, the foundation has high school interns from Foster High School focused on improving community engagement strategies in Tukwila. One intern recently shared that this program has inspired her to be a voice for transformational change in the Tukwila community.

For more than 20 years the Tukwila Children’s Foundation has positively changed the lives of individuals and families and – ultimately – the broader community. Interested in getting involved? Become a member of the Tukwila Community Foundation, follow them on social media, or be a volunteer. For more information, visit their website at TukwilaChildrensFoundation.org; on FaceBook, Instagram #tukwilachildrensfoundation, or Twitter.
Looking back across 2021, there is much to appreciate in how our community navigated the ever-evolving pandemic together. Tukwila’s ability to persevere and care for each other is impressive – thank you for that! I remain optimistic as vaccinations are widely available to expanding age groups, and we have gradually resumed patronizing our favorite restaurants, the local library and the Tukwila Community Center, as well as sports, entertainment and school. Many thanks to our Tukwila Fire Department for helping King County stand up one of the best COVID Testing sites up on Tukwila International Boulevard - and providing a Mobile Vaccination Team to reach our most vulnerable residents.

Council practice rotates the role of City Council President each year by seniority, so as I write this, my time in this role is closing out. We accomplished a great deal, and I appreciate the hard work of my fellow Councilmembers.

The budget constraints caused by the pandemic evolved into innovative strategies to support our residents and businesses. Through careful prioritization, we worked to meet changing needs across the city. Federal allocations are now flowing in, which we are using to build back services, create new jobs, and improve the safety of our neighborhoods. We focused on affordable housing solutions, rental assistance, utilities aid, and support for the most vulnerable.

We improved transparency of Council meetings by restoring live public comment and publishing recordings of all committee meetings to be available for on-demand viewing on TukTV. Together, we selected a new Police Chief, increased police accountability, made a renewed commitment through community-oriented policing practices, and increased efforts to reduce crime, while making an investment and placing greater focus on community well-being. Our new public safety facilities are all open and operational, and we set foundational steps for creating a new Teen and Senior Center. We provided businesses small and large with aid and support to survive the devastation from the pandemic.

We put public safety first, improved our infrastructure and balanced the budget to serve everyone in our diverse community. We made improvements to busy roadways, including sidewalks, updated storm drainage and sewer lines, and added lighting to make roadways safer at night. We are working hard to reduce speeding and relieve traffic on residential streets. We’ve worked very hard to make Tukwila a better place to live, work and raise a family.

This was also an election year for four municipal positions. After 16 years of service on the City Council, Verna Seal decided to retire. There are not enough words of praise or accolades for someone that devoted to Tukwila. Zak Idan also decided not to run for re-election to his seat. He brought new and innovative perspectives to our Council and truly made a difference in so many positive ways. We welcome back De’Sean Quinn and Thomas McLeod and prepare for the arrival of Mohamed Abdi and Tosh Sharp, who all succeeded in their races.

Some may remember this year as one of great impact and hardship. I hope you will also be able to reflect back and be satisfied with what we were able to accomplish together.

The complete text of all legislative items is available online in the Digital Records Center at TukwilaWA.gov. For additional information about any of these actions, please call 206-433-8993.
Police officers honored at Council meeting
At the October 4 City Council meeting, several Tukwila officers received Life Saving awards for their service during incidents in 2021.

**Officer Daugherty – Life-saving Medal**

On July 4, Officer Chris Daugherty was helping other officers investigate a robbery at the Link Light Rail Station. Officer Daugherty searched the area and located a large pool of blood. He followed the dripping blood trail for approximately 100 yards, and then found a wounded male unconscious in the bushes. Officer Daugherty pulled the injured man from the bushes, assessed his wound, and applied a tourniquet to the man’s nearly amputated arm to stop any further hemorrhaging. Without Officer Daugherty’s life-saving actions, the male would have certainly died within a few minutes.

**Officers Wells, Zwicky and Etheridge – Life-saving Medal**

On June 4, Officers Jarrett Wells, Aaron Zwicky and Kenneth Etheridge responded to the area near Moctezuma’s restaurant for a report of a male who had been shot. After the initial assessment of the victim’s gunshot wounds on his left arm, right thigh, and the right side of his abdomen, the three officers started to render medical aid to the victim. Utilizing his medical kit, Officer Etheridge passed out tourniquets and chest seals to Officers Zwicky and Wells. Officer Zwicky put a tourniquet on the victim’s upper left arm to address that wound. Observing multiple gunshot wounds to the man’s torso, Officer Wells used the chest seals on the victim’s torso wounds. Officer Zwicky used a pair of trauma shears to cut the pants off the victim’s right leg. The gunshot to the victim’s leg had shattered his femur, causing significant internal bleeding. Officer Zwicky used a tourniquet from Officer Etheridge’s medical kit on the victim’s right leg to control the bleeding. When the Tukwila Fire Department and King County Medic One unit arrived, they took over provision of medical aid to the victim, who was eventually transported to Harborview Medical Center.

On June 17, the medical director for King County Medic One called and said that the medical attention provided by the officers who assisted the victim “saved his life.” He stated the tourniquets and chest seals that were applied by the responding officers were instrumental in the victim’s survival. “No question the victim would have died without the life saving measures the officers performed.” He said the officers “went above and beyond” in providing emergency medical attention, necessary in preventing “the tragic death of a 39-year-old man.”

**Opportunities to help your community**

The City of Tukwila is assisted in its operations by the volunteers who serve on our Boards, Commissions and Committees. These advisory bodies provide guidance in several areas to decision-makers, and represent the diverse viewpoints of the community to bring public participation into government. Volunteers serve a vital function by offering their time and expertise as members.

In September, the Council confirmed these community members to the Future of Fire/EMS Services Community Advisory Committee: Sally Blake, Jim Davis, Katrina Dohn, Ramona Grove, Hien Kieu, Abdullahi Mallin, Peggy McCarthy, Jovita McConnell, Ben Oliver, Andy Reiswig, Dennis Robertson, Verna Seal, Abdullahi Shakul. Tukwila appreciates their volunteer service to our community.

Effective January 1, 2022, the following positions are vacant:

- Arts Commission: Positions #1 and #6
- Civil Service Commission: Position #3
- Community-Oriented Policing Citizens Advisory Board: Resident Positions #1 and #5, Education Position #8, Student Representative
- Equity and Social Justice Commission: Education Position #2, Student Representative
- Human Services Advisory Board: Business Position #6
- Landmark Commission
- Library Advisory Board: Resident Position #5, Student Representative
- Park Commission: Community Positions #5 and #7, Student Representative
- SeaTac Airport Stakeholder Advisory Round Table Community: Positions #1 and #2

If you are interested in serving on one of these advisory bodies, please submit a completed Boards, Commissions and Committees Application for Appointment to the Mayor’s Office. A link to the application and additional information about all of the City’s the boards, commissions and committees can be on the City’s website at TukwilaWA.gov/boards. For more information, please call 206-433-1850.
Green Tukwila digs in – Planting season 2021!

The Green Tukwila community shattered the annual planting record in the fall of 2021. Forest Stewards, partner organizations, the local community, and City staff worked together to plant 500 trees and 380 understory plants at Tukwila Park, Fort Dent, Crystal Springs, Riverton, and the Duwamish Hill Preserve. “There is magic at the work parties, we are not just planting a healthy forest; we are sowing the seeds of a strong community and a better tomorrow,” says Olena Perry, Green Tukwila Stewardship Specialist, Parks Department.

A special “Thank You” goes out to Friends of the Hill, Forest Stewards, Bridging Cultural Gaps, Bhutanese Community Resource Center, Partner in Employment, Summer Search, Forterra, McKinstry Construction, Duwamish Alive Coalition, and the Duwamish Tribe for your stewardship of the land, hard work, and community leadership.

To get involved with Green Tukwila or join a mailing list, visit TukwilaWA.gov/GreenTukwila.

Fitness Room passes at reduced rates through 2022

A partnership with the King County Veterans Senior and Human Services Levy has created fitness and wellness opportunities for veterans, active military, and older adults 60 or greater at the Tukwila Community Center. A beautiful fitness room – with cardio, free weights and weight machines – is available as follows:

Active Military: Anyone who resides in King County and can show active military status qualifies for a reduced pass rate.

Veteran Membership: Anyone who resides in King County and can show veteran status with qualifying identification has free use.

Seniors: Tukwila residents who are age 60+ can use the Fitness Room for free Monday/Wednesday/Friday from 9:00–12:00 noon.

Community Center staff are transitioning current paying members who qualify to these free memberships.

Sign Up
TPR E-NEWS

Receive updates about Tukwila's parks, park improvement projects, recreation activities, community services, stewardship/conservation programs and much more!

or visit: tinyurl.com/TPRnews
Windstorm damages on East Marginal Way

On the afternoon of October 24, the City of Tukwila was notified that power poles along East Marginal Way South had snapped and electrical lines were in the roadway, due to a windstorm that had hit the region. Upon arrival, an assessment was completed noting 15 downed power poles, a damaged signal cabinet, a fire signal arm down in the street, and no power to the streetlights from the 8600 Block to 16th Avenue. The impacted areas of East Marginal Way were closed to through-traffic while response activities were taking place.

Over the course of the next few days there were coordinated repair efforts between Tukwila Public Works, Seattle City Light and Seattle Department of Transportation to safely open the road. The affected area was reopened on October 27 at 8:30 AM. Crews continue to work at the site to restore permanent power and make signal repairs to the downed fire signal at Boeing Fire Department.

Sewer Lift Station 4

Lift Station 4 is located along Todd Boulevard, off West Valley Highway. The station is undergoing electrical upgrades, including a new control panel to better monitor the flow and capacity of the sewer system. Construction is in progress and is expected to conclude by the end of 2021.

Sewer Lift Station 12

Lift Station 12 is located in the parking lot of Key Bank at Andover Park West and Strander Boulevard. The station is undergoing electrical upgrades, including moving light fixtures and bringing electrical conduits up to code. The concrete spalling within the wet well will also be repaired. Construction is in progress and is expected to conclude by the end of 2021.

Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program

In 2019, the City’s Public Works Department presented a new program for our community members intended to calm traffic on residential streets. The Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program, or NTCP for short, was passed by Resolution No. 1955 on December 10, 2018, and funding for the program was included in the 2019-2020 biennial budget. Due to pandemic-related reductions in revenue, the program was cut during the 2021/2022 budget process. However, with receipt of federal ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds, the Council brought the program back with partial funding at the end of 2021 and full funding in 2022.

Traffic conditions on residential streets greatly affect livability in neighborhoods. Speeding and unnecessary through traffic on residential streets can create safety hazards or be generally undesirable to the people who live in the neighborhood. Traffic calming is the application of measures that can be taken to reduce negative effects of motor vehicle use, alter driver behavior, and improve conditions for non-motorized street users.

The NTCP has been developed to guide City staff and inform residents about the procedures for implementing traffic calming on residential streets. There are many different treatment options that can be considered for each unique location. The answer for one street is rarely the same for another, as each street and each neighborhood have different conditions, needs and goals.

Any resident or association (such as a Homeowner’s Association) is eligible to enroll a street in the NTCP. A request can be made by using the online form. Requests must include a contact name, address, phone number, and email address. Anonymous requests and complaints are not accepted. Requests should include a description of the location and the specific problem that needs to be addressed. From there, staff will look into the individual concerns, work with the residents, and develop a plan of action.

For more details or to enroll, please go to TukwilaWA.gov/NTCP.

Annual Small Drainage Project

The Annual Small Drainage Project designs, constructs, and repairs small stormwater drainage sites throughout the City. Construction is currently taking place at Klickitat Drive and 53rd Avenue South, where a new storm sewer line is being installed along the roadway, and an existing storm pipe is being repaired behind Thordyke Elementary School.
Former Tukwila Mayor Jim Haggerton

On November 11, former Tukwila Mayor Jim Haggerton passed away. Mayor Haggerton served for two terms, beginning on January 1, 2008 and stepping down at the end of 2015. Prior to that he spent 13 years on the Tukwila City Council and an additional nine on the Tukwila Planning Commission.

Mayor Haggerton was very involved in the region, serving on dozens of committees including Sound Cities Association, Association of Washington Cities, Cascade Water Alliance, and Valley Communications Board to name just a few. As mayor, he identified many achievements he was most proud of, particularly his financial stewardship of the City over two terms. Public Safety was a critical priority for Mayor Haggerton, and he was thrilled with the partnerships, teamwork and results associated with the Take Back Our Boulevard operation. Under Mayor Haggerton's watch, the City adopted its first biennial budget, oversaw the development of the City's strategic plan that continues to guide us today, and forged the Tukwila Valley South agreement to that he spent 13 years on the Tukwila City Council and an additional nine on the Tukwila Planning Commission.

Washington State Bag Ban enacted

Beginning October 1, 2021, Washington state launched a statewide plastic bag ban (RCW.70A.530). The bag ban prohibits the distribution of single-use plastic carryout bags by restaurants, retail, small vendor, and grocery stores. Plastic bags are a common form of pollution that threatens human health, wildlife and the environment. Harmful chemicals are released when plastics are produced, used, incinerated, or slowly disintegrate into microscopic particles.

Going forward, be sure to bring your own bag to grocery and retail stores to help reduce plastic litter – and to save money. Paper bags or thick reusable bags are now 8¢ each. Single-use plastic bag supplies will be used up by local businesses and then no longer available. Produce bags are still permitted.

This new ban will help reduce plastic contamination at our recycling facilities, waterways and on our roads. Learn more at Ecology.WA.gov/Bag-Ban.

CONSERVATION CORNER

by the City of Tukwila’s Recycling Program

Waste free for the Holidays!
Tips and considerations to reduce waste in your household during the holiday season

Gift Giving
• Consider giving experiences instead of more “stuff,” such as gift cards for events, activities, or local take-out.
• Give edible gifts, such as fruit baskets.
• If purchasing lights or batteries for presents, choose LED lights and rechargeable batteries.
• Consider making presents or shopping second-hand.
• Use fabric, reusable bags, or re-purposed materials to wrap presents. This saves resources and money!

Meals
• Try to select local foods or seasonal foods. Visit local Farmer’s Markets or the Spice Bridge Market in Tukwila for great ideas!
• Store food right to help it last longer. Use this guide: your.KingCounty.gov/dnrp/library/solid-waste/waste-prevention/too-good-food-storage-guide.pdf
• Remember to compost your food scraps if you have a yard waste cart. All food is accepted including meat, dairy, and items like turkey bones.

Recycle
• Are your lights from last year no longer working? Old light strings can be recycled at a number of locations: KingCounty.gov/depts/dnrp/solid-waste/programs/ecoconsumer/green-holidays/holiday-light-recycling.aspx
• Receive presents with wrapping paper? Although most is recyclable, paper that is NOT recyclable is foil or glitter paper, or paper that is mixed with thick plastic. Cellophane paper is also not recyclable.
• After-holiday cleanup – double check which items can go into your recycling cart and which are garbage. Visit Waste Management’s recycling page to find out more: WMNorthwest.com/Tukwila/
• If you have unusual items to recycle (e.g., cooking oil, batteries, appliances), find local recyclers on this site: info.KingCounty.gov/services/recycling-garbage/solid-waste/what-do-i-do-with/

For more information, email recycle@TukwilaWA.gov
Nabdoon xilli ciyaareedkan


Giữ an toàn mùa này

Khi thời tiết lạnh hơn, mọi người thường dành nhiều thời gian trong nhà cùng nhau, tăng nguy cơ từ Covid.


Tiêm vắc-xin covid là an toàn, miễn phí và hiệu quả.

Mantenerse seguro esta temporada

Cuando el clima se vuelve más frío, las personas a menudo pasan más tiempo en el interior, aumentando el riesgo de Covid.

La mejor protección es vacunarse. Las vacunas COVID-19 protegen a las personas de enfermedades graves y la muerte.

Las vacunas covid son seguras, libres y efectivas.

Stay safe this season

When the weather gets colder, people often spend more time indoors together, increasing the risk from COVID.

The best protection is to be vaccinated. The COVID-19 vaccines protect people from severe illness and death.

COVID vaccinations are safe, free, and effective.