

The Hazelnut

A City of Tukwila publication for our residential and business communities



NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2022

VOLUME 42, NUMBER 6

Tukwila: The City of Opportunity, the Community of Choice

A welcome to our public safety partnership



Matthew L. Morris
Fire Chief, PSRFA

PUGET SOUND REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY

The Puget Sound Regional Fire Authority (PSRFA) is proud to be a regional partner in building safe and healthy communities. This is a goal that everyone can support, and is only possible through shared resources and collaborative partnerships.

I am excited to announce that the City of Tukwila has entered into a contract with the PSRFA to provide all Fire Department-related services effective January 1, 2023. This partnership creates efficiencies through cost savings and expanded services to the residents and visitors of the City.

All members of the Tukwila Fire Department will be joining the ranks of the PSRFA and will continue to provide the exceptional services that the City has always recognized. All service levels will be maintained and will benefit from the additional staffing and resources available through the PSRFA.

In addition, expanded services will be provided to the City. As part of its Community Risk Reduction efforts, PSRFA provides the Fire Department Community Assistance, Referrals and Education Services ("FDCARES") program – a non-emergency response and referral system with registered nurse and social worker staffing. This program can assist in navigating the social service network, or advocate for community members with insurance providers and other health care professionals. Other beneficial Community Risk Reduction services include fire prevention, public education, and emergency management.

The PSRFA is humbled to be selected to provide care and support to the residents and visitors of the City of Tukwila. We pride ourselves in our shared purpose of "Professionally and compassionately taking care of people." The PSRFA will always take exceptional care of people and serve with integrity, innovation and inclusion. We are truly excited and feel privileged to serve the City of Tukwila. We look forward to the future of building safe and healthy communities together.

Look inside for information about:

- Tukwila's Economic Development Strategy (page 3)
- New solid waste contract (page 4)
- Free carpool parking permit at Link Light Rail station (page 5)
- Snow and ice priority routes for winter travel (page 7)

Mayor's Message



**We asked for your input.
You told us what was important to you.
We listened.
The City's infrastructure matters.**

As we wrap up 2022, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your support of our city, our neighbors and our future. Throughout this year's biennial budget process, we consistently heard from residents who shared their priorities for the future and desires for our community. You conveyed the importance of maintaining and enhancing City services, supporting our public safety professionals, preserving our infrastructure, and maintaining the safety net for the most vulnerable in our community through our human services program

This year's budget process has been difficult – with hard decisions needed – dealing with a fiscal imbalance due to expenses rising faster than revenues. Yet, turning toward 2023, I do look forward to what lies ahead. During budget-related community engagement earlier this year, staff repeatedly heard about the importance of public safety, as well as maintaining and enhancing infrastructure in Tukwila. Addressing that issue, there are some exciting infrastructure projects in the coming biennium that I'd like to highlight.

Allentown Area

The 42nd Avenue Bridge replacement project is on track to complete design and begin construction this coming biennium. Other projects in Allentown include the Truck Reroute Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that will get fully underway in 2023. Also proposed is a raised crosswalk on 42nd Avenue at the South 119th pedestrian bridge that will include rapid flashing beacons for further safety. While the latter project is grant-dependent, we have been notified that we are on the short list and are optimistic the grant will be received in the first half of 2023.

Safe Routes to School

The City has two of these projects planned in the coming biennium. The first is to install curb, gutter and sidewalks on both sides of South 152nd Street between Tukwila

International Boulevard and 42nd Avenue South. This project is finishing up design, and construction will begin next year, grants permitting. The second Safe Routes to School project installs a raised crosswalk with pedestrian-activated flashing beacons across South 144th Street at 46th Avenue South by Showalter Middle School. Staff plans to apply for grant funding to begin design for this project.

Parks and Trails Improvements

There are a number of projects coming online over these next two years to enhance Tukwila's parks and trails. While some of the planning for these efforts will be further refined in the first half of 2023, highlights include improvements to the Green River Trail near the Southcenter Pedestrian Bridge, a variety of City parks improvements to increase usage, and addressing deferred maintenance by replacing, renovating, adding or improving amenities.

Annual Street Improvements

Next year will also see our ongoing critical investments in our streets and neighborhoods infrastructure. This includes the annual overlay program on critical arterials; the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program, which invests \$400,000 annually in improving the safety of our neighborhood streets; investments in accessibility to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act; and ongoing signal repair, bridge and other infrastructure investments.

I am pleased to share these highlights, illustrating how we intend to meet the Tukwila community's expressed needs in this area. Thank you again for taking the time to convey your desired budget priorities and services. Have a wonderful New Year.

Allan Ekberg
Mayor, City of Tukwila

OPEN HOUSE

JUST AHEAD

Public Works Open House

You are invited to come and learn more about Tukwila's Public Works operations, and about the City's plans to build a new facility to support these activities.

Wednesday, January 11, 2023

Drop by anytime between 5:30–7:00PM

**Please join us in Meeting Room A at the
Tukwila Community Center
12424 - 42nd Avenue South**

Public Works staff provide critical public services such as emergency response, road maintenance, snow removal, vehicle maintenance, streetlights, and fire hydrant repair, just to name a few.

We appreciate your interest in what our teams do for this community.

Helping families overcome food insecurities

Still Waters has been providing weekend "snack packs" throughout the school year since 2016. They have done this alongside Tukwila community volunteers, community groups and leaders. With nearly 80% of Tukwila School District students eligible for free and/or reduced lunch, the Tukwila Weekend Snack Pack program is an important food resource for families when school meals are not available.

Currently, Still Waters has food/funds to provide weekend snack packs to 154 students for only a few more months. Without the support of generous community members and the assistance of volunteers, this program will cease in March or April 2023. There are several ways to help the organization meet its needs. Please visit their website at <https://stillwaters.services>

COME WORK WITH US!

The City of Tukwila provides an engaging, productive and safe work environment. We are proud to offer excellent benefits and competitive salaries.

You can search our listing of current employment opportunities, with job descriptions, qualifications, salary and other information about the open positions.

Check regularly to see what's available at

[GovernmentJobs.com/Careers/TukwilaWA](https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/tukwilaWA)

*The City of Tukwila is
an equal opportunity employer.*

Help us plan for Tukwila's future economy



The City is developing an Economic Development Strategy. Can we improve Tukwila to better support our businesses and attract new jobs to this area? Are there certain types of businesses you'd like to see more/less of? Do you have detailed feedback about doing business in the City? Whether you're a resident, a recent arrival, own a business, or work in Tukwila, we want to hear your ideas as we create this strategy for the City. We'll explore Tukwila's current role in the regional economy and trends affecting the region. Your input can help us strengthen Tukwila's economic future.

A successful Economic Development Strategy will:

- Ensure our retail and entertainment center remains strong and growing
- Maintain a diverse variety of businesses that will provide sustainable tax revenue
- Help our community business districts develop into great neighborhoods.

Want to know more? Visit our web page to view the overall project schedule: TukwilaWA.gov/EDP. Have ideas for a business or service or insights about a particular corner of the City? The web page has an interactive map to pinpoint your thoughts. Want to share your ideas? Take our online survey: TukwilaWA.gov/EDsurvey.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Derek Speck at Derek.Speck@TukwilaWA.gov.



City selects new solid waste contractor to start later next year

On September 19, Tukwila's City Council accepted staff's recommendation and voted to award the City's next solid waste contract to Recology King County. The new contract will be effective November 1, 2023, and the City will provide updates as the transition date nears.

The City's Request for Proposals process saw two proposals submitted with Recology scoring the highest rating. Using the resident feedback previously discussed in the Hazelnut, staff prioritized reliability, cost and customer service in the next provider.

The next contract offers enhanced services at residential prices roughly 15% lower than the current regional average.

Here are a few other contract highlights:

- Extended call center hours, open seven days per week until 7:00PM.
- Access to in-person customer service at the four Recology Stores in King County, where customers can also drop off hard-to-recycle items free of charge (such as batteries, light bulbs, e-waste, etc.).
- A full-time Waste Zero Specialist to help customers implement improved recycling and composting programs, reducing waste sent to landfill.
- One year of free composting collection service for eligible commercial customers who participate in training.
- Residential collection trucks will service the city at least four days per week as opposed to the current one day a week, enabling better response to customer requests.
- Commercial collection services will continue seven days per week, meeting the needs of Tukwila businesses.
- Tukwila residents can request one free annual bulky item pickup of up to 2 yards of additional garbage and up to 4 non-appliance bulky items (such as couches or large chairs).
- Curbside holiday tree collection, following the holiday season each year, for residential customers.

City staff will continue to communicate with residents about solid waste priorities, and keep them informed on what to expect as we near the next contract.

City Council Actions Highlights: October–November, 2022

- Approved an interlocal agreement for the Puget Sound Auto Theft Task Force
- Approved an agreement with Recology King County, Inc., for 2023-2033 comprehensive garbage, recyclables and compostables collection
- Accepted Department of Ecology grant funding for the Stormwater Management Action Plan and the Stormwater Quality Retrofit Project
- Authorized an interlocal agreement with the Puget Sound Regional Fire Authority for Fire/EMS services
- Adopted a policy for naming or renaming City property (*Res. 2052*)
- Convened labor-focused Budget Town Hall and multiple Budget Work Sessions
- Granted a non-exclusive franchise to King County Water District No. 125 (*Ord. 2681*)
- Accepted Washington State Department of Commerce funding to study Missing Middle housing as part of the Comprehensive Plan update
- Adopted the 2023 South King Housing & Homelessness Partners Work Plan and Operating budget (*Res. 2055*)
- Adopted a new Public Works fee schedule (*Res. 2056*)
- Awarded a contract with HDR, Inc. for the Allentown truck reroute Environmental Impact Study

CONFIRMATION

Congratulations to community member Bao Dennis Nguyen who was confirmed to the Equity and Social Justice Commission. 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**. For additional information about any of these actions, please call 206-433-8993.*

Council Corner

A busy year in terms of financial challenges, and a proud year of accomplishments in service to our community

*by Thomas McLeod,
2022 Council President*



The year is quickly coming to a close, and the Council has approved a balanced budget for the City covering Biennium 2023–2024. It wasn't easy; revenue streams change over time with new state laws, economic conditions and overall business climate. The Mayor's proposed budget introduced a new B&O Tax – revenues that would be directed towards public safety and funding for seven positions currently frozen in the Tukwila Police Department. The Council approved this with some additional accountability measures and opportunity for stakeholder involvement in implementation.

We deliberated on how best to fund City services, with deep dives into taxation and public safety, which is at the center of this budget cycle. This 2023–2024 biennium budget is identified as a “bridge budget,” with many changes coming into focus for the next biennium budget of 2025–2026. As a Council, we not only serve this budget cycle but set up future councils to give budget oversight for the City. What tools will they have to build a budget?

The consideration of a B&O Tax is to replace revenue streams that State law has changed or are declining in a new economy. Over the past several years, revenue streams have not kept pace with City expenses, which leaves us to find new revenue or cut back on services. Future considerations are the budget implications of annexing Tukwila Fire into the Puget Sound Regional Fire Authority. Is our financial health and our City's business

model fiscally sustainable? Council has already approved funding to study this topic in 2023. And currently, a post-pandemic Economic Development Plan is being prepared that should be available in 2023 for a future council to work with. It is an ever-changing landscape.

While one eye is on the future, the other eye looks to the past year and some great work by the 2022 City Council. This year we completed funding towards the Allentown Bridge on 42nd, approved the location of the bridge, funded the Environmental Impact Study on the truck re-route project in Allentown, authorized two Tiny Home Villages, approved the first steps for annexation into the Puget Sound Regional Fire Authority, updated our fireworks regulations, allowed Council meetings to be attended virtually, opened our Fleet & Facilities building, and held our first-ever Budget Town Hall with labor unions supporting many Tukwila employees.

It's been a busy year as your Council President. I have appreciated the many good contributions from all the Councilmembers, but I do want to highlight Councilmembers Quinn and Hougardy for their senior leadership, and Councilmember Delostrinos-Johnson for her thoughtful collaborations. It made a difference. Next year, we will vote in a new Council President. It's been a privilege to serve in this capacity, and wherever my City service goes next year and beyond, it's with heartfelt gratitude I get the opportunity to serve Tukwila.



Free carpool parking permit for Tukwila's Link Rail Station

Free carpool parking permits are available now for transit riders who arrive together at Tukwila International Boulevard Station. Permits give you access to priority parking spots on weekdays before 10:00AM. With the park-and-ride reaching full capacity by 9:00AM, a carpool parking permit can alleviate the rush to find a spot. Learn more and apply for a free permit at [SoundTransit.org/ride-with-us/parking](https://www.soundtransit.org/ride-with-us/parking).



Green River Trail repair

The westbound lane of the Green River Trail, beneath the Tukwila International Boulevard Bridge, is currently closed. This section of the trail has no structural protection and has slowly eroded and washed out over time. This project will address the bank erosion and restore the trail. A interim repair will protect the trail from further loss while a permanent repair is planned.



Stormwater Quality Retrofit Program

Created to improve the water quality of stormwater discharges to the Green-Duwamish River from City, this project will retrofit two City street discharge points. One is located on Tukwila International Boulevard near its intersection with SR 599, discharging to Riverton Creek and then on to the Duwamish River. The second is on Interurban Avenue South at South 141st Street, and it discharges directly to the Duwamish River. A Washington State Department of Ecology grant will reimburse the City for the design, construction and construction management costs. Experience gained from these projects will help to develop a cost-effective model for future retrofits.



42nd Avenue South Bridge replacement

The bridge replacement design continues. The first milestone of the construction document phase (“30%”) lays out the major design elements of the project and establishes a baseline schedule, budget and cost estimate. Once the 30% design plans are submitted to the City in early 2023, application can begin for the multiple required permits. The King County Sewer Division is providing project staff with information about the sewer line that runs under the Duwamish River parallel to the current bridge alignment. Staff will be coordinating with King County Parks – owners of the Green River Trail – because the trail will need to be adjusted during and after construction. The trail will ultimately tie into the new bridge that will feature a 10-foot wide pedestrian path on its east side.

Tukwila Parkway emergency repair

Earlier this year, at the southeast corner of the Tukwila Parkway/ Andover Park West intersection, the City’s 10” cast iron water main failed. The failure caused extensive damage to a portion of the street and the sidewalk. The water crew has repaired the main and work has begun to repair the intersection. Pavement restoration has been completed and all lanes are open to traffic. Remaining work includes signal pole replacement and sidewalk restoration. Because lane closures are not allowed in the central business district/Southcenter area during the holidays, all remaining work will be placed on hold until after January 1, 2023.



West Valley Highway Improvements

The work on West Valley Highway and Longacres Way is complete for this construction season. Paving, sidewalks, and storm drainage improvements are complete. In early 2023, new streetlights will be installed on Longacres Way – an improvement that has been requested for several years. 2023 will also see the installation of a new pedestrian signal across West Valley Highway at the Pedestrian Bridge. The High-intensity Activated crossWalk (known as a HAWK signal) will be the first of its kind in Tukwila.

The Department has created this City map showing the snow and ice priority routes to assist with your plans for venturing out. You can view it in more detail at TukwilaWA.gov/wp-content/uploads/snow-and-ice-routes-map.pdf



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. To help us correct addresses or eliminate duplicates, please call 206-454-7573.

Stay healthy this winter

The flu is a viral illness that mainly affects the respiratory tract and lungs. The disease is easily spread from one person to another. Compared to previous seasons, flu activity has increased earlier than usual locally, and health officials are warning that it is more severe. The best way to prevent the flu is to get a flu shot every year. The flu shot is recommended for everyone, including children 6 months of age and older.



If appropriate, it is safe to get the flu shot and a COVID shot at the same time.

Caafimaad qabo jiilaalkan

Hargabku waa jirro fayras ah oo inta badan saameeya habka neefsashada iyo sambabada. Cudurku wuxuu si fudud ugu gudbiyaa qof kale. Marka la barbardhigo xilliyadii hore, dhaqdhaqaaqa hargabku wuxuu kordhay ka hor intii caadiga ahayd ee gudaha, iyo saraakiisha caafimaadku waxay ka digayaan inuu aad u daran yahay. Sida ugu wanaagsan ee looga hortagi karo hargabka waa in la qaato tallaalka hargabka sannad kasta. Tallaalka hargabka ayaa lagula talinayaa qof kasta, oo ay ku jiraan carruurta da'doodu tahay 6 bilood iyo ka weyn. Haddii ay habboon tahay, waa badbaado in la qaato tallaalka hargabka iyo tallaalka COVID isku mar.

Giũ sức khỏe trong mùa đông này

Cúm (cúm) là một bệnh do vi-rút gây ra, chủ yếu ảnh hưởng đến đường hô hấp và phổi. Bệnh rất dễ lây lan từ người này sang người khác. So với các mùa trước, hoạt động cúm tại địa phương tăng sớm hơn thường lệ và các quan chức y tế cảnh báo rằng nó nghiêm trọng hơn. Cách tốt nhất để ngăn ngừa cúm là tiêm phòng mỗi năm. Tất cả mọi người nên tiêm phòng cúm, kể cả trẻ em từ 6 tháng tuổi trở lên. Nếu thích hợp, hãy tiêm phòng cúm và vắc-xin COVID cùng một lúc. An toàn rồi.



KingCounty.gov/influenza

Mantente saludable este invierno

La influenza (gripe) es una enfermedad viral que afecta principalmente las vías respiratorias y los pulmones. La enfermedad se propaga fácilmente de persona a persona. En comparación con temporadas pasadas, la actividad local de la gripe está aumentando antes de lo habitual y los funcionarios de salud advierten que es más grave. La mejor manera de prevenir la gripe es vacunarse contra la gripe todos los años. Se recomienda la vacunación contra la influenza para todos, incluidos los niños a partir de los 6 meses de edad. Si es debido, es seguro recibir las vacunas contra la gripe y la COVID al mismo tiempo.

TUKWILA CITY HALL

6200 Southcenter Boulevard
City Hall campus in-person hours:
Monday & Wednesday, 8:30AM to 4:00PM
Phone: 206-433-1800 Fax: 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 Administrator206-433-1851
Economic Development 206-433-1832

Administrative Services

Rachel Bianchi, Dep. City Adm..... 206-396-0341
City Clerk's Office..... 206-433-1800
Human Resources – Personnel ...206-433-1831
City Job Line..... 206-433-1828
Human Services206-433-7181
Community Engagement 206-454-7564
Technology Services..... 206-454-7575

Community Development Dept.

Nora Gierloff, Director206-431-3670
Code Enforcement206-431-3682

Finance Department

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

Fire Department

Jay Wittwer, Chief.....206-575-4404

Parks/Recreation Department

Pete Mayer, Director206-767-2342

Police Department

Eric Drever, Chief206-433-7175
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

TUKWILA CITY COUNCIL

Thomas McLeod, President 206-492-4821

Thomas.Mcleod@TukwilaWA.gov

Kathy Hougardy 206-571-0007

Kathy.Hougardy@TukwilaWA.gov

De'Sean Quinn.....206-331-5939

Desean.Quinn@TukwilaWA.gov

Kate Kruller..... 206-678-7885

Kate.Kruller@TukwilaWA.gov

Cynthia Delostrinos Johnson..... 206-595-5469

C.Delostrinos.Johnson@TukwilaWA.gov

Mohamed Abdi 206-798-4872

Mohamed.Abdi@TukwilaWA.gov

Tosh Sharp.....206 507-6440

Tosh.Sharp@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