Eleven of Tukwila’s future leaders had the opportunity to go to Washington, D.C. this spring. They attended the National League of Cities’ Youth Conference, met privately with Washington State’s two senators, and toured the nation’s capital. These young people are part of Teens for Tukwila, a service-driven group with a mission of “strengthening the Tukwila community.” Teens for Tukwila focuses on teen voice and community service/advocacy, as well as leadership development.

Sponsored by the National League of Cities, this year’s annual Youth Conference brought together young people from 43 states. It provided leadership-building opportunities, as well as workshops and networking opportunities with elected officials from around the country. The Teens for Tukwila delegation learned what other young people are doing in their cities to address issues specific to youth, while sharing their own experiences in Tukwila. The conference also allowed the youth to participate in a mock political convention, where the youth delegates chose candidates for president and prioritized key policies of interest to youth across the country.

It was clear that the Teens for Tukwila group is unique among youth councils. Most others are usually sponsored only by the mayor with limited access to all of their elected officials. In Tukwila, the City Council as well as the Mayor are actively involved with Teens for Tukwila.

Both Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell met with the Tukwila delegation and were highly engaged with the group. Before their trip, the teens prepared extensively for the meetings; they researched issues, planned what they would talk about with the Senators, and who would do the speaking. They selected two issues for discussion with each Senator: education and immigration policy for Senator Murray, and homelessness and drug abuse for Senator Cantwell. Two teens spoke about each of the issues, relating personal stories to the Senators about the significance of these topics and the affect on their lives as well as throughout Tukwila. Both meetings were very powerful. While the issues were already on the Senators’ radar, they emphasized to the senators the importance of hearing student stories so that they can continue advocacy to address these concerns.

During their free time, the group had the opportunity to visit key monuments and memorials around Washington, D.C. At each monument the group reflected on the person or event that inspired the tribute. They were particularly moved by the Korean and Vietnam War Memorials, Lincoln Memorial and Reflecting Pool, and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial. The teens had the opportunity to see the White House both during the day and evening, walk around the Washington Monument, and even received a guided tour of the Capitol Building from Senator Cantwell’s staff. The whole event was truly the trip of a lifetime. The Teens for Tukwila brought back concrete new ideas and lasting memories that will help them grow as leaders in the Tukwila community.
I am very pleased to be part of this edition of the Hazelnut—my first as Mayor of the City of Tukwila. This publication has long been important to residents as a way to learn more about key City initiatives and events, and better connect with City government.

When taking office in January, I identified three mayoral priority areas that I wanted my administration to tackle immediately. I am pleased to have this opportunity to provide you with updates as to how we are tackling these important civic issues.

**Speeding in residential neighborhoods**

The Police Department, along with other City departments, developed a number of cost-effective strategies that can be utilized to help address speeding in Tukwila’s residential neighborhoods. Over the coming weeks, the City will begin deploying these efforts, which include:

- A public outreach campaign in concurrence with enhanced speeding enforcement;
- Public Works and engineering strategies—as resources allow—to provide traffic calming measures on key streets;
- Reclassifying two patrol officers as patrol/speed enforcement officers who would be able to provide full-time speed enforcement when staffing levels allow; and
- Purchasing eight new speed radar guns, known as LIDARS, to allow existing patrol officers to add traffic enforcement to their existing responsibilities.

**Enhanced customer service and addressing community-raised issues**

Listening to residents, I have heard some frustration about not having a view into the resolution of issues brought to the City. As such, I asked staff to identify how we can initiate a way for residents and other community members to both flag issues and see the resolution of all flagged issues throughout Tukwila. I’m pleased to announce that later this spring we will bring online a web-based and app service delivering accessibility and transparency to users. It will allow the community to bring issues to the City’s attention and track them over time. The City will create a workflow that ensures such issues are sent to appropriate staff, responded to and resolved in a timely manner whenever possible.

**Proactive Code Enforcement**

The other key issue I have heard clearly from the community is the need to step up our efforts on code enforcement. As in many other of our neighboring communities, this remains a difficult issue throughout many of our neighborhoods. However, after taking a good look at how we do things now, the needs for making changes, and what we could do differently, we have come up with a strategy to move to a proactive code enforcement model that will have Code Enforcement officers out in the field more, faster connections with properties that have a code violation, and better tools for all residents to prevent such issues. For example:

- By redeploying some existing resources, including enhanced technology and administrative support, Code Enforcement officers will now be able to be in the field more often, identifying potential problem properties without waiting for a complaint as the current system requires.
- Staff is exploring ways that we can reduce the contact time with problem properties, such as door hangers that would allow the City to communicate problems immediately with residents.
- A public outreach effort that helps all members of our community understand actual code enforcement violations—all of which are clearly defined in the Tukwila Municipal Code—and what types of issues do not qualify.

I am excited to bring these new strategies to Tukwila and hope that you will join us in working to tackle these issues. We can all do this by watching our speeds in our neighborhoods, and reporting speeding problem areas to Speeding@TukwilaWA.gov. When we launch the new web and app-based program for constituents to flag issues, I hope you will become an early user and join the virtual community working to better our city. And, finally, there are many ways you can help to improve code enforcement in Tukwila—from offering to help a neighbor with an overgrown lawn, to reporting an unpermitted construction activity, to ensuring our yards remain clear of trash and debris. Even with staff out in the neighborhoods in a proactive fashion, we will still need the assistance of the community on this effort.

Allan Ekberg, Mayor
2015 Utility Tax Rebates

In 2003 the City of Tukwila imposed a utility tax and added surcharge to Seattle City Light customers as a contract fee. With Resolution No. 1547, the City established policy to rebate the additional taxes and contract surcharge fees to eligible low-income seniors (age 62 or older) or disabled residents for electric and natural gas utility rebates.

Criteria for eligibility

◆ Must be at least 62 years of age or disabled.
◆ Disposable income from all sources must not exceed $32,000 per household.
◆ Must be a Puget Sound Energy or Seattle City Light customer.

Required information due by June 30, 2016

◆ Must complete application and notarized supplemental affidavit at the Finance Department in Tukwila City Hall.
◆ Must provide copy of 2015 income tax return.
◆ Provide copy of their Puget Sound Energy or Seattle City Light 12/31/15 billing statement as verification of customer account status.

Payment process

Those applicants determined to be eligible will receive a rebate check from the City based on the actual taxes and surcharges paid for 2015. For additional information, please call Fiscal Coordinator Lily Jue at 206-433-7190.

Residents may qualify for discounts or rebate

Other discounts available to Tukwila residents

For eligible customers, the City offers a reduced rate of 50% on both the water/sewer bill and the surface water (storm) bill. To qualify, the person must be at least 62 years of age (if married, then either spouse) or totally and permanently disabled, and have a combined disposable income from all sources of less than $32,000 per year. This rate only applies to customers residing in the City’s water/sewer and/or surface water jurisdiction. Proof of income, age and/or disability is required. To apply, download the application:

TukwilaWA.gov/UtilityTaxRebate

or get one from the Finance Department at City Hall. The application must be notarized, which the City can do for this document at no charge.

Cable TV and garbage customers who are low-income seniors (age 62 or older) and/or permanently disabled residents are eligible for:

Monthly garbage service: 50% discount
Monthly basic TV service: 40% discount

Disposable income from all sources must not exceed $32,000 per household. For additional information or assistance, call Frank Iriarte at 206-431-2445.
Providing municipal services to Tukwila's residents, businesses and visitors requires a team of people possessing a variety of skill sets and knowledge from all types of backgrounds and experiences. The City of Tukwila regularly recruits for open positions and offers a number of different types of employment opportunities. Job types at the City of Tukwila range from entry level to professional, from temporary seasonal appointments and internships to regular benefited full-time and part-time careers. Job types include supporting and managing recreation programs, maintaining City infrastructure, protecting life and property, providing assistance to those in need, ensuring due process in the courts, and providing responsive administrative support and customer service to Tukwila residents, businesses and visitors. Some jobs require little-to-no experience or training at entry, while others will require more experience, higher education, and specialized certifications such as are needed in the technology services field and building trades.

Anyone interested in a job with the City of Tukwila can visit our Employment Opportunities page at TukwilaWA.gov/JobOpenings
City job classifications can be viewed at TukwilaWA.gov/JobDescriptions

These show the necessary minimum qualifications, skills, abilities, knowledge, education and/or training equivalents to assist an applicant in determining whether the position is a good fit for them.

Job seekers may be interested in signing up for a Job Posting Notification that allows prospective applicants to receive email notification for 12 months when a position opens with the City of Tukwila that matches the job interest category they have selected:

TukwilaWA.gov/JobNotifications

During spring and summer months, the City of Tukwila sees an increase in hiring for temporary extra labor positions, particularly in the City's Parks & Recreation Department where entry level jobs are available ranging from Recreation Leaders to Golf Maintenance Workers. Visit the Employment Opportunities page to see current position openings.

The City of Tukwila is committed to ensuring that residents and visitors know the full array of employment options available at the City. There are many facets to employment in city government. If you have an interest in public service, consider joining a team focused on continually working to make Tukwila a great place to live, work and play!

Don't have access to a computer? Visit the Human Resources Department during business hours Monday through Friday, from 8:30AM to 5:00PM, where a computer is available for reviewing and applying for City of Tukwila Jobs. The Human Resources office is located at 6300 Southcenter Boulevard, in Suite #112.
Tukwila adopts new parking regulations

At its February 1 Regular Meeting, the City Council adopted two ordinances updating parking laws in Tukwila. Both ordinances were developed and approved in response to community feedback and the City’s strategic direction toward improving neighborhood appearance and quality of life. The Council will receive a report later in the year regarding how implementation is working for both ordinances.

Ordinance 2494 – Updating parking regulations on City streets & property

With this ordinance, TMC 9.20 (Parking Regulations) is overhauled to incorporate and streamline several parking-related laws. These changes include:

- Standard industry definitions of vehicles by class and weight size are now included in the City’s code.
- Parking on City property, including parking lots at buildings, parks and trails, is limited to six hours without authorization.
- Vehicles weighing 10,001–16,000 pounds (Class 3 and Class 4) may not be parked in residential zones, except large Class 3-rated pickups.
- Vehicles over 16,001 pounds (Class 5) may not be parked on any City street, unless engaged in business, construction or loading/unloading.
- Recreational Vehicles may be parked in residential zones for only 24 hours.

Ordinance 2495 – Limit of six cars on certain residential lots

This ordinance limits the number of vehicles that can be parked on residential lots under 13,000 square feet to no more than six. Vehicles hidden from view in a carport or enclosed garage do not count toward this limit, and there is a 48-hour exception so that those hosting large gatherings will not be in violation of the law. The existing law requiring parking on approved durable surface still applies.

If you have questions about these changes to the parking laws, please call 206-433-8993. You can find the full text of both of these ordinances, along with legislative committee history, on the City’s website at TukwilaWA.gov.
**Duwamish Gardens/Chinook Wind**

The City is soliciting ideas for a new park name for this habitat restoration site that will be completed later this year. In the future, the park will include the adjacent Chinook Wind site, which will also be developed for habitat. It is preferable to have one park name for both sites. An article appeared in the February Tukwila Reporter and the tribal stakeholders have also been contacted requesting their ideas for a park name. Have a suggestion? Please contact Mike Perfetti at Mike.Perfetti@TukwilaWA.gov.

**42nd Avenue South – Allentown Roadside Barriers**

Installation of the timber guardrail barriers along 42nd Avenue South began on February 22, 2016 with completion achieved in mid-March. Work included one-way traffic control on 42nd Avenue South, south of South 116th Street, to allow for material deliveries and installation.

**BNSF Intermodal Facility Access**

The Community Outreach Plan was presented to Transportation Committee on February 16, 2016 for discussion of screening criteria for the project alternatives. Finalization of the selection criteria will allow the study to proceed with analysis of the alternatives and the selection of a preferred option.

For more information regarding any of these projects, please call 206-433-0179.

**South 144th Street, Phase II**

The South 144th Street Project’s design has been completed and is ready to be advertised for construction bids. The improvements are from Tukwila International Boulevard to 42nd Avenue South, adjacent to Tukwila Village. One last parcel still needs to be acquired for right-of-way, and the final Seattle City Light agreement needs to be approved. Bids should be advertised this spring with construction beginning this summer. Besides the street improvements, this project will also include a new traffic signal at 42nd Avenue South and a mid-block rapid flash beacon for pedestrians.

**Tukwila Urban Center Pedestrian/Bicycle Bridge**

This project will construct a new non-motorized bridge across the Green River for a connection between Southcenter and the West Valley Highway area, including the Tukwila Station (Sounder/Amtrak station). Bid advertisement cannot occur until approval from the US Army Corps of Engineers is obtained, which is currently in process.

**42nd Avenue South, Phase III**

The final design of the roadway improvements on 42nd Avenue South from Southcenter Boulevard to South 160th Street is nearing completion. The roadway will have 12-foot travel lanes and a four-foot bike lane in the uphill direction. Coordination with all affected utilities is underway. The City recently held an informational open house on the project.

**BAR Bridge Rehabilitation**

The City is currently reviewing the draft Construction and Maintenance Agreement with BNSF Railroad. After the agreement is executed, right-of-way can be certified and final plans can be prepared for construction bidding. Advertising for the construction bid is expected this spring. Selection of a construction management consultant is underway. Construction should begin this summer.

**53rd Avenue South**

Roadway improvements for 53rd Avenue South from South 137th Street to South 144th Street are currently in the preliminary design phase. This project has received $2,141,400.00 in State Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) funding, and must meet TIB’s minimal roadway design requirements that include sidewalks on both sides of the roadway. The City’s Walk and Roll Plan has designated this route to include shared vehicle/bicycle facilities (sharrows). Due to the limited right-of-way width of 40 feet on 53rd Avenue South and the roadway’s topography, fitting the planned roadway improvements within the existing right-of-way will be challenging.
Each fall the buzz of youth basketball fills the Tukwila Community Center. Tukwila’s Parks and Recreation Department has been coordinating youth basketball for over 25 years – one of their longest running and most popular programs. Kids from kindergarten through sixth grade participate in the program, designed to teach sportsmanship, teamwork, and basketball. Beyond the game, kids develop social skills and fine motor skills, and improve their physical fitness levels. A combination of volunteers, business sponsors and a partnership with Tukwila’s elementary schools makes the program successful.

Over 350 kids annually register to play in the program. It is not uncommon for staff to hear from adults when registering their children that they themselves were once participants. Although the focus is on kids and basketball, the program isn’t just for children. Many parents (and grandparents) volunteer to coach, and many past participants are employed as scorekeepers, gym supervisors and referees.

Local business sponsors provide generous support to ensure that children have the opportunity to participate. Support from businesses helps to offset registration fees, program supplies and scholarships. An essential partnership between Tukwila Parks and Recreation and Tukwila’s elementary schools ensures space for practice and games.

The popularity of the winter league program prompted staff to create three additional complementary seasonal basketball programs to foster growing interests for Tukwila Basketball. Seasonal programs are led by longtime Volunteer Coach Wayne Severson, who is passionate about the sport and introducing kids to the game. Each fall a six-week “Kid’s First Basketball Clinic” provides an introduction to the game as well as tune-up for the winter season. In the spring, Basketball Boot Camp focuses on individual skills and game-time situations, setting kids up with skills to practice throughout the off-season. And in the summer, a week-long Basketball Camp delivers skill development, exercise and fun.

As the 2015/2016 season comes to a close, Tukwila Parks and Recreation staff wishes to commend everyone for their commitment to the basketball program: the 34 teams (326 kids) and 36 coaches (862 volunteer hours) who participated in 448 practices and 129 games. Additionally, we thank the nine generous sponsors and an extraordinary partnership with Tukwila School District’s elementary schools who make the program possible.

Tukwila Parks and Recreation is always on the lookout for volunteers to coach and program sponsors. If you’re interested in the 2016/2017 season, please contact Marlus Francis at 206-767-2309.

City debuts its new website design

The City of Tukwila recently unveiled a complete redesign of the City’s website. Residents, businesses and other members of the Tukwila community are encouraged to visit the new site at TukwilaWA.gov.

The new site is the culmination of months of work to improve accessibility to Tukwila’s online community. It features easier, more intuitive navigation for users, more accessible content and new functions such as a newsfeed and community calendar. The site also uses “responsive design,” which means it is more compatible with mobile devices such as cell phones and tablets. Additionally, the site allows for translations, provides a City directory of employees, and offers detailed search capabilities.

While the new site is much different than the old one, many of the same features exist. For instance, users can still link to live or previous Council meetings from the new site, get a variety of important City information, and access the popular Digital Records Center that houses all City contracts, public meeting agenda packets, meeting minutes and more. Over the next few months, the City plans to bring more services online to enhance the user experience. If you haven’t yet seen the new site, come take a look!
THE HAZELNUT
City of Tukwila
6200 Southcenter Blvd.
Tukwila, WA 98188

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

To help us correct addresses or eliminate duplicates, please call 206-433-1800.

Mark your calendar!

APRIL

16 Duwamish Alive! 10:00 AM–1:00 PM
Duwamish River shoreline @ Duwamish Hill Preserve

23 Healthy Earth, Healthy You 9:00 AM start
Fun 5K Run and Walk @ Tukwila Community Center

MAY

14 Backyard Wildlife Festival 9:00 AM–3:00 PM @ Tukwila Community Center

14 Recycling Event Drop-box collection @ Foster High School

JUNE

12 Curbside Collection City-wide bulky item pick-up

17 Teen Summer Kick-off Festival 11:30 AM start @ Foster High School stadium

JULY

4 Family 4th at the Fort Park opens at 9:00 AM, festivities begin at 4:00 PM, fireworks at 10:00 PM @ Fort Dent Park

13 See You in the Park Noon–1:30 PM, performance by The Islanders @ Bicentennial Park

27 See You in the Park 5:30–7:00 PM, performance by the Bubbleman @ Riverton Park

30 Touch-a-Truck 9:00 AM–1:00 PM – Safety & Emergency Preparedness Fair @ Westfield Southcenter

AUGUST

3 PB&J Family Concert Series Noon–1:00 PM, performance by Recess Monkey @ the Tukwila Community Center Spray Park

5 Family Outdoor Cinema Series Starts at dusk, presenting “Inside Out,” rated PG, @ the Tukwila Community Center

10 PB&J Family Concert Series Noon–1:00 PM, performance by Brian Vogan and His Good Buddies @ the TCC Spray Park

10 See You in the Park 5:30–7:00 PM, performance by Gary Stroutsos @ Tukwila Park

12 Family Outdoor Cinema Series Starts at dusk, presenting “Hotel Transylvania 2,” rated PG, @ the Tukwila Community Center

17 PB&J Family Concert Series Noon–1:00 PM, performance by The Not-Its @ the Tukwila Community Center Spray Park

19 Kids Festival Noon–3:00 PM @ Cascade View Park

19 Family Outdoor Cinema Series Starts at dusk, presenting “The Good Dinosaur,” rated PG, @ the Tukwila Community Center

THE HAZELNUT
Newsletter is published twice a year by the City of Tukwila, and written by City staff. Produced by the Communications Office.