

## WHAT'S INSIDE:

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- Green Tukwila 2025 projects
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- Public Works keeps us clean
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- ...and more!



**JANUARY 2025**  
VOLUME 45, NUMBER 1

## Mark your calendar!

**Restoration at Riverton**  
Tuesday, February 11  
11:30AM TO 1:30PM  
at Riverton Park  
13263 Macadam Road S

**Riverside Restoration with REI**  
Wednesday, February 12  
9:00AM TO 1:00PM  
at Bicentennial Park  
A Green Tukwila Partnership

**Spring Break Camp**  
April 7 thru 11  
7:30AM TO 5:30PM  
at Tukwila Community Center  
Space is limited - secure your spot early!

**Centennial Celebration**  
100 years of Foster Golf Links



**TukwilaWA.gov**



# The Hazelnut

A City of Tukwila publication for our residential and business communities



## City Hall Blood Drive

Thursday, February 13  
10:00AM to 4:00PM

in the Council Chambers  
at Tukwila City Hall

Appointments are required;  
schedule yours at

[TukwilaWA.gov/BloodDrive](http://TukwilaWA.gov/BloodDrive)

## Rain barrels available

Take advantage of this green offer! These barrels store rainwater for reuse in Tukwila residents' landscaping/yards/gardens. Lower valves have been installed with a garden hose attachment.



Limited supply of rain barrels;  
one barrel per household.

These rain barrels  
are repurposed  
food-grade barrels!



Cost: \$45.00

Made possible by a grant from the  
Washington State Department of Ecology

In June 2024, the City hosted a well-attended rain barrel workshop, where participants shared their additional ideas. Interested in workshops about rain barrels or other natural yard care practices? Please send a message to [EnvironmentalCompliance@TukwilaWA.gov](mailto:EnvironmentalCompliance@TukwilaWA.gov) using the subject line of "Rain Barrel." We will keep you updated.



## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

# ACTION THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS



That framed quote from Helen Keller really sums up how I view my role in City government serving as your Mayor. One of my most important duties is to form and develop partnerships that benefit the Tukwila community. In my first year as Mayor I have focused on meeting people and connecting with organizations to explore opportunities to partner and work together collaboratively. Some notable examples include:

**Asylee Response** – Responding to the growing need of asylum seekers in Tukwila cannot be done without the support of our state and regional partners. The State of Washington and King County have been instrumental in the response, including providing grant funds directly to the City. Thrive International stepped up to provide housing for some of the most vulnerable families in need, and the International Rescue Committee is leading the effort on a resource hub to help new arrivals. Several faith-based institutions throughout the Puget Sound are providing care for families in need. The City would not be able to serve those in need without the various partners who have stepped up.

**Amazon Partnership** – Amazon's support for Still Waters to provide meals for students outside of school in 2025-2026 is a result of City staff building a relationship with Amazon over the last few years.

**Starfire Sports** – The world-class sports facility for youth in Tukwila has set the example for public-private partnerships for sports facilities. The City purchased the land from King County in 2002 and Starfire invested over \$20 million to build the indoor training facility, turf fields, and other improvements. Starfire served as the training ground for Seattle Sounder FC from the team's founding until last year; in 2023 Seattle Reign FC started to practice on the campus; and is the home to the Seattle Seawolves of Major League Rugby. More importantly, over 1.3 million people visit Starfire to train for soccer, rugby, lacrosse, and other sports.

As we greet the new year, I am excited by some promising partnership opportunities.

We're partnering with Westfield Southcenter to fund additional police officers at the mall. Over 16 million people visit yearly; the mall accounts for nearly 25% of the City's taxable retail sales.

The City is working with Greater Seattle Partners (GSP) to promote Tukwila nationally and internationally for economic opportunities. I recently met with Brian Surrat, President/CEO of GSP, to reinforce Tukwila's attributes for operating a business.

Finally, I had the opportunity to meet with Representative Steve Bergquist, Representative David Hackney, and Senator Bob Hasegawa to discuss the City's priorities in the upcoming 2025 Washington State Legislative session. I appreciate the support the Tukwila community receives from our 11th Legislative District representatives at the State capitol. Our State delegation has also been instrumental in helping the City secure funds to respond to the asylee need discussed before.



These partnerships allow us to accomplish much more than we can do on our own.

*Thomas McLeod*  
Mayor, City of Tukwila

## Highlights of the 2025-2026 City Budget

In November, the City Council adopted the 2025/2026 City of Tukwila Budget and Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Some highlights from the adopted budget and CIP include:

- ◆ **Tax Relief** – The City of Tukwila reduced its regular property tax levy from \$1.89537 per 1,000 of assessed valuation to \$1.24337 per 1000 of assessed valuation, a total reduction of over 34% (Note, final levy numbers may be adjusted once the County finishes its property tax valuation).
- ◆ **Public Safety** – The budget added two new officers to focus on safety at Westfield Southcenter. Westfield will share the costs for these officers. Also in the budget is a new Park Ranger position to focus on park safety and improving the experience for users of the City's parks and trails.
- ◆ **Free College** – Called the Tukwila Promise, funds were allocated to provide two free years of school at Highline College for qualifying students in the Tukwila School District.
- ◆ **Cyber Security** – Investments will be made in the City's technology infrastructure to protect critical systems from cyber-attacks and incidents.

- ◆ **Infrastructure** – The City will invest over \$1 million to upgrade aging sewer mains in the Southcenter District. This investment will reduce emergency repairs and ensure reliable sewer service in Tukwila's central business district.

### Tax Relief

As part of the adopted 2025/2026 Budget, the City reduced its property tax levy by \$6 million. This means reduced property tax rates for all residential and commercial property owners in the City. The City property tax levy was reduced from the 2024 regular levy collection rate of \$1.89537 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation to \$1.24337 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, a total reduction of 34 %. For example, a house in Tukwila with a total assessed by King County of \$400,000 will pay \$260 less in regular property taxes this year to the City as a result of the reduced levy amount.

Please note that a property tax bill is impacted by a variety of factors, such as the total assessed valuation and other taxing agencies such as school districts, the State of Washington, and special purpose districts which may have raised their rates for 2025.

Green Tukwila Partnership is kicking off the year with plans to work across the city. Give a wave and say "Hello" when you see a partner organizations, field staff and local stewards removing invasive plants, picking up trash, and planting native trees and shrubs in our green spaces.

This year's list of sites is more significant than ever before. The sites include Southgate, Riverton Park, Codiga Park, 57th Avenue Mini Park, Tukwila Park, Cottonwood Corner, Crystal Springs Park, Tukwila Community Center, Duwamish Hill Preserve, and multiple sites along the Green-Duwamish River.



*2025 – It's gonna be a  
GREEN YEAR!*

**GREEN  
TUKWILA**  
PARTNERSHIP



How can you support natural areas and the river in Tukwila?

- 🌱 Volunteer at a work party or steward your local park.
- 🌱 Join a native plant walk or litter cleanup.
- 🌱 Attend an environmental workshop.
- 🌱 Visit [TukwilaWA.gov/GreenTukwila](https://TukwilaWA.gov/GreenTukwila) to find 2025 opportunities, or to sign up for "The Dirt" eco-newsletter.

🌱 Follow Green Tukwila Partnership on Facebook and Instagram @greentukwila and share opportunities.

**Follow Us**  
@greentukwila





Come work with us! Why? Our City values are **CARING, PROFESSIONAL AND RESPONSIVE**. The City of Tukwila is made up of talented individuals from all walks of life, and we want **YOU** to be a part of our vibrant team!

Check the Tukwila careers page regularly to see what's available at [GovernmentJobs.com/careers/TukwilaWA](https://www.GovernmentJobs.com/careers/TukwilaWA).

Have questions or need assistance?

Human Resources: 206-433-1831 or  
[HumanResources@TukwilaWA.gov](mailto:HumanResources@TukwilaWA.gov)



## City of Tukwila Comprehensive Plan Update adopted

On December 16, Tukwila's City Council adopted the update of the 2024-2044 Tukwila Comprehensive Plan. The Plan defines the community's vision, values and priorities over the next twenty years. The Plan is being put into final format and will be available in early 2025, along with a listing of the Implementation Strategies that the City will undertake to bring the Plan's policies into reality.

## Middle housing regulations and design guidelines underway

Tukwila's Community Development staff are working to update development standards needed to offer "middle housing" options in Tukwila. Middle housing is a type of housing sized between single-family and larger multifamily housing types. It was a very common housing type in the first half of the 20th century, but has not been built much since then. These units are designed to blend into existing neighborhoods in both appearance and scale. They may be built as duplexes, triplexes, fourplexes, townhomes, or at other slightly higher densities. The State legislature mandated that Washington cities offer these housing types to address the region's housing shortage, and to provide a greater variety of housing options available to families.

Staff will conduct public outreach and provide an engagement website early this year to receive public input. They will continue to work with the Planning Commission and City Council through the winter, with adoption of the new standards required by June 30, 2025.

## It's licensing time for rental units

All rental units in Tukwila are required to be licensed and inspected. Don't forget to renew your Rental Business License now! You can renew through the online licensing portal at [TukwilaWA.gov/RentalHousing](https://TukwilaWA.gov/RentalHousing). Please contact the Rental Housing Program at [RentalHousing@TukwilaWA.gov](mailto:RentalHousing@TukwilaWA.gov) or 206-431-3674 if you have any questions.

To check the status of your rental unit or a unit that you are interested in renting; or to request a courtesy rental inspection, please contact the Rental Housing Program at [RentalHousing@TukwilaWA.gov](mailto:RentalHousing@TukwilaWA.gov) or 206-431-3674.



### Council will examine City's financial sustainability

To the Tukwila Community, it is my honor to serve as the 2025 City Council President. I plan to use this space to focus on issues and matters of importance coming up on Council agendas so that you have the information you need to stay engaged and share your opinions. While this is an off-budget year we will have plenty of work to do, not just in the form of our standing committees, work sessions, and Committee of the Whole meetings. Councilmembers also work hard and serve on numerous regional boards, where they can monitor and participate in issues with an eye out for Tukwila's needs.

One key focus this year is on financial sustainability. Tukwila is not unique among Washington state cities in that expenditures/inflation far outpace revenues. When the 2025-2026 budget was adopted in November, the City Council directed staff to "identify opportunities to enhance existing revenue streams and implement new revenue sources and return to the City Council with a report on all revenue options to safeguard the City's fiscal health." This will be a year of a deep dive into not only revenues but identification of efficiencies and the right level of service that is affordable.

*by Tosh Sharp,  
2025 Council President*



I am also glad to share that starting this year there are two full-time police officers assigned to Westfield Southcenter. In addition, 2025 is an election year with four City Council seats up. If you are interested in learning more about running for office, visit [pdc.wa.gov](https://pdc.wa.gov).

City Council business is public and we are committed to transparency. Meetings are open to the public, and you can subscribe to receive our meeting agendas every Friday. This way you can monitor what is coming up and share your input, via email, phone call, or public comment at a meeting. The City Council wants to hear from you any time – our contact information is available on the back page of this newsletter, and you can learn more about our work as well as subscribe to meeting agendas by visiting [TukwilaWA.gov/council](https://TukwilaWA.gov/council).

## RECENT COUNCIL ACTIONS

- Adopted a 2025-2026 Consolidated Fee Schedule (Res. 2105)
- Accepted grant funding from Sound Transit to improve access to the Tukwila International Boulevard Light Rail station
- Awarded lodging tax funding to Seattle Seawolves for continued partnership through 2026
- Accepted grant funding from King County Flood Control District for the Gilliam Creek Erosion Repair project
- Awarded a contract to CFM Advocates for Federal government affairs services
- Adopted the 2025 State Legislative Agenda (Res. 2206)
- Adopted 2025-2026 Biennial Budget and 2025-2030 Financial Planning Model and Capital Improvement Program (Ord. 2749)
- Adopted truck route regulations in Allentown (Ord. 2751)
- Adopted 2024-2044 Tukwila Comprehensive Plan (Ord. 2753)
- Authorized Mental Health Professionals Co-Responder Program through 2025
- Authorized a collective bargaining agreement with United Steelworkers for Police Non-Commissioned employees
- Authorized an Interlocal Agreement with Washington State Department of Social and Health Services to fund Police services at or near the Olympic Heritage Behavioral Health Hospital

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

## Small efforts can grow to bring about big changes



The City of Tukwila's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program helps to improve our water quality. One aspect of the NPDES permit is known as Business Source Control (BSC). Through our inspection program,

the City supports local businesses in both private and public sectors. It assists in identifying the source of pollution, and provides technical assistance to reduce that pollution.

The City's NPDES Permit provides guidance for which businesses should be included in a source control program. These include a wide variety of business types and commercial entities that may (or do) generate pollutants that could come in contact with rainwater. Some examples are restaurants, automotive sales and/or repair, and dry cleaners. Numerous other business types are also included in this program, as well as commercial properties with an increased risk of stormwater contamination.

What is source control? Spills or improperly stored materials outdoors can wash pollutants into storm drains or other bodies of water when it rains. Stormwater source control is an approach to finding potential pollution sources and stopping them from mixing with rainwater and entering our storm drains.

Examples of technical support offered from our inspections program comes from King County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Manual (SPPM). The SPPM provides best management practices adhered to the type of business you are operating. It can be accessed through [TukwilaWA.gov/SPPM](http://TukwilaWA.gov/SPPM).



You can prevent costly damage! Fats, oils and grease (**FOG**) from cooking can cause major plumbing problems when poured down the drain. Homeowners and property managers should take preventive steps to avoid expensive repairs and protect the environment.

Why? Because FOG solidifies in pipes, leading to blockages, slow drains and sewage backups. For homes, this means costly damage and cleanup. In multi-unit buildings, FOG can clog shared pipes, affecting multiple units and leading to major repairs.

Also significant for both private properties and public infrastructure is the environmental impact. FOG blockages can cause untreated sewage to overflow into streets and waterways, harming local ecosystems and public health. Preventing FOG build-up is crucial for avoiding expensive repairs and protecting the environment.

Easy steps can keep your plumbing system healthy and reduce the strain on public infrastructure. Simply put, it saves money and is the right thing to do. Learn more with free resources and guidance for all residents at [TukwilaWA.gov/FOG](http://TukwilaWA.gov/FOG). For additional assistance, please contact [EnvironmentalCompliance@TukwilaWA.gov](mailto:EnvironmentalCompliance@TukwilaWA.gov).



# Tips for **WINTERIZING YOUR HOME**

## HEATING

Check furnace and change air filter

Test smoke alarms and CO<sub>2</sub> detectors

Reverse ceiling fan to blow warmer air downward

## FIREPLACE

Clean fireplace - remove ashes and debris from the fireplace or stove's firebox

Check dampers

Keep up-to-date fire extinguisher nearby

## INSULATION

Check attic and basement insulation

Caulk and weatherstrip windows/doors, and seal any cracks or gaps around your home

Insulate exterior outlets

## EXTERIOR

Clean gutters and downspouts, inspect roof and chimney

Insulate exposed piping and faucets

Keep exterior walkways in good condition

## PLUMBING

Insulate exposed water pipes under sinks, in attics, crawl spaces or outside your home

Insulate hot water tank

Remove all attached garden hoses

## DRAFTS

Seal off crawlspace

Close vents

Get draft guards for entry doors

Cover condensing unit of air conditioner

## OTHER

Gather winter supplies and tools - sand, ice melt, car scrapers, snow shovels

Store extra water, canned food

Test your sump pump

Triple check your home's insurance policy



*Your home isn't the only one that can be winterized. Your neighbors and those most vulnerable might need your help too!*

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

**TUKWILA LEARNING CENTER PRESCHOOL**

**NOW  
ENROLLING**



- ✓ **STUDENTS BECOME PROBLEM SOLVERS & LIFELONG LEARNERS**
- ✓ **INDEPENDENT EXPLORATION & STRUCTURED ACTIVITIES**
- ✓ **A HEALTHY DOSE OF RUNNING, JUMPING, AND DANCING!**
- ✓ **AGES: 3-4 YEARS OLD**
- ✓ **THROUGH JUNE 13**  
**MONDAY – FRIDAY**  
**9 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.**



**TUKWILA CITY HALL**

6200 Southcenter Boulevard  
City Hall campus in-person hours:  
Monday—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  
Emergency Management .....206-971-8750  
Technology Services..... 206-454-7575

**Community Development Dept.**

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

**Finance Department**

Aaron BeMiller, *Director* ..... 206-433-1835

**Parks/Recreation Department**

Kris Kelly, *Interim Director* ..... 206-767-2342

**Police Department**

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

**Public Works Department**

Pete Mayer, *Int Dir/Dep City Adm* . 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..... 206-767-2321  
Facility Rentals.....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)

**2025 TUKWILA CITY COUNCIL**

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[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