

CITYWIDE NEWS

WELCOME HOME, FEDERAL WAY!



As you start the New Year, we have many exciting updates and plans for Federal Way, and I look forward to sharing those details with everyone soon!

Join us for our State of The City Address on Thursday, February 15, at 6 p.m. at the Performing Arts & Event Center (PAEC).

Our attention is divided between the developments we are making in the city and our theme for 2024: Welcome Home.

What exactly does Welcome Home mean?

Whether you are new to our beautiful city, a resident, or returning after many years out of state, we're happy to welcome you home! This phrase lies at the core of our diverse and growing Federal Way community and what it represents.

From the infrastructure in our community to the flagpole you see while driving on 320th, to our state-of-the-art PAEC, Town

Square Park, Dumas Bay Centre, Steel Lake, or the Town Center Steps – we proudly consider this Federal Way's front yard.

We are not just talking the talk but walking the walk, too!

We are excited to continue progressing with our Town Center 3 (TC 3) Redevelopment Plan and what that means for the future of the Commons Mall. We look forward to the arrival of light rail in Federal Way, which will bring an estimated 30,000 visitors to our area daily.

As seen from the cranes dotting the downtown skyline, our city is progressing and growing.

Thank you, Federal Way, for your support as our story unfolds.

Happy New Year!

Jim Ferrell
Mayor

2024!

CITYWIDE NEWS

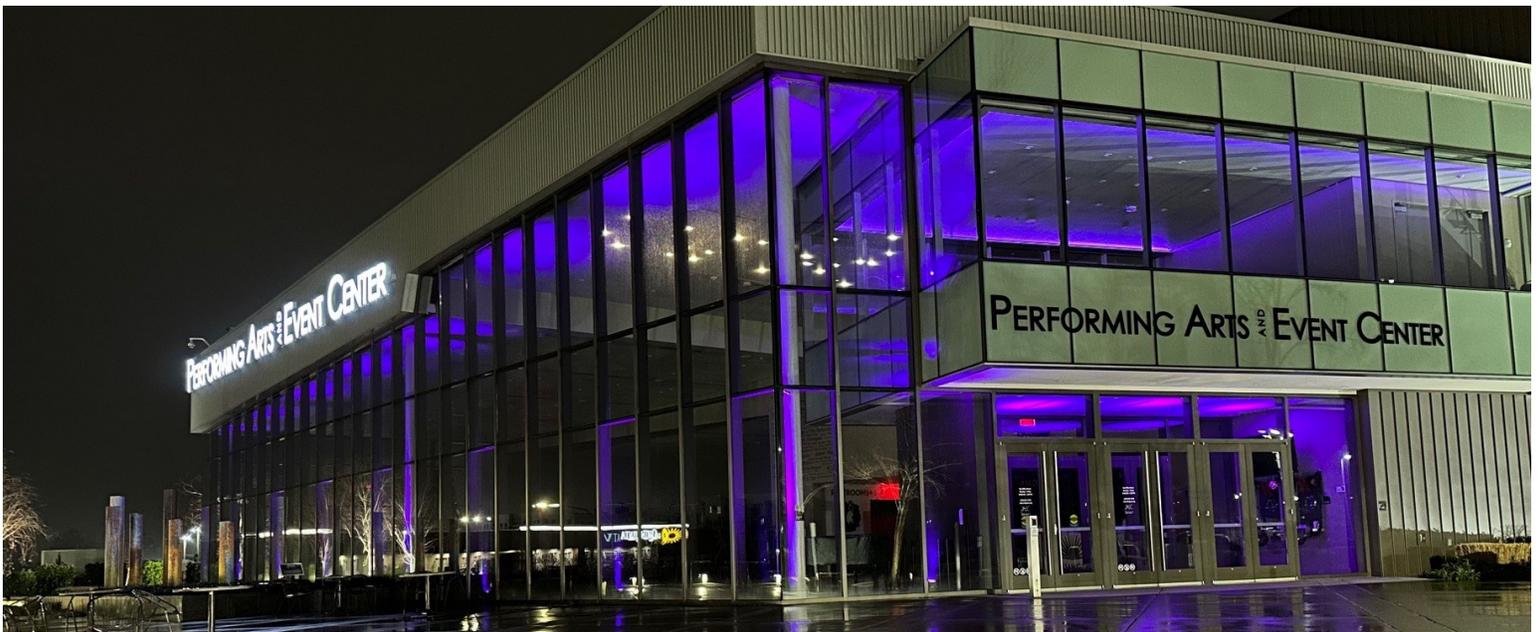
FEDERAL WAY SUPPORTS WASHINGTON HUSKIES BY LIGHTING UP THE PAEC PURPLE!



The No. 2 Washington Huskies (14-0) are preparing for their College Football Playoff (CFP) National Championship showdown against No. 1 Michigan (14-0) at NRG Stadium in Houston today!

Mayor Ferrell, who played football at the University of Washington under the legendary head coach Don James, supports his Alma Mater by turning the Performing Arts & Event Center (PAEC) purple for tonight's nationally televised game against the top-ranked Wolverines.

Remember to join the excitement and support the Dawgs by wearing purple today as we get ready for **kick-off at 4:30 p.m. (PST) on ESPN** — don't forget to use **#PurpleReign** for any Huskies social media tonight!





The City of Federal Way, in partnership with committed community residents, is sponsoring a FREE course teaching beginning financial management skills.

This weekly course will take place on **Wednesday evenings from January 24 through March 20 from 6:30 -8:30 p.m. at the Federal Way Community Center (FWCC).**

The course utilizes *Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University* materials and group discussion. The topics include wisdom and common sense to help sharpen skills in budgeting, paying off debt, increasing savings for emergencies, home ownership, and education expenses. Each family will receive a workbook with financial planning software for post-course planning.



Volunteers for the 2024 Financial Literacy winter session recently gathered in preparation for the upcoming program!

Location: Federal Way Community Center

Dates: January 24 through March 20, 2024

Time: 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Cost: Free to Federal Way residents

Class Size: Limited to 40 participants

Registration: Registration will be through the Evite website (below).

Curriculum: The course utilizes *Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University* materials and group discussion.

Child care: Child care will be provided by the Federal Way Community Center for children up to age 8 years. A total of 20 children can be accommodated.

Youth Attendance: Children ages 9-12 are welcome to attend the class with their parents if they are interested. Otherwise a room will be provided for them where they can read or do homework. This room will be monitored by an adult volunteer who can assist with homework. Up to 30 youth can be accommodated.

Course Completion Incentives: There will be a \$50 gift card given to those who complete at least 7 of the 9 classes.

Registration: Please register using the QR code or the Eventbrite link at rb.gy/swqbrm

If you have questions, please call (253) 835-2420 or email bill.vadino@cityoffederalway.com





FWPD ENDS 2023 BY GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY!

In December, our Federal Way Police Department (FWPD) partnered with South King Fire and several service organizations to support Federal Way Cares for Kids. Federal Way Cares for Kids is a local non-profit that has benefitted the Federal Way community for nearly 10 years. This gathering is one of many community events where families of the Federal Way Public Schools (FWPS) get together!

During the holiday season, Lakota Middle School served 298 families needing support. Once the families arrived, the children could go to the Kids Zone, where several activities were available, and parents could shop for gifts for their kids and families.



FWPD thanks the following partners: Federal Way Public Schools, Grace Church, Bella Red Salon, South King Fire and Rescue, Curves, Qualstar Credit Union, Temple Fitness, Expeditors, Birth to Three, Puerto Vallarta, Chick-Fil-A, ESM Consulting Engineers, Family Life Community Church, Federal Way Soroptimist, South 288th Family Dentistry, Journey Church, Northwest Payment Brokers, St. Francis Hospital, The Ridge and The Shores Apartments, and Sub Zero Nitrogen Ice Cream. For further information or to donate to this organization, please visit www.fwcaresforkids.org.



FWPD officers participated in the annual Shop with a Cop program during the holidays!

The program connects our police officers with local children, helps families in need, and allows kids to see the positive side of law enforcement. The FWPD spent time with children, who received a gift certificate to purchase any item of their choice. The police officer acts as a chaperone and companion to the children throughout the day as they shop for items.

Shop with a Cop is a program that connects children with police officers, creating positive experiences for both — this fosters trust in law enforcement and builds lasting memories.



We thank **Dick's Sporting Goods** and **Walmart Supercenter** for partnering with FWPD to create a positive impact on the lives of youths in our community. Both businesses donated more than \$4,500 for the events!



ARTS 4 YOUTH PROGRAM RETURNS TO THE PAEC!



Our friends at the PAEC want to use the first *Citywide News* of 2024 to highlight a program near and dear to them — Arts 4 Youth!

Arts 4 Youth was founded in 2017 to provide integrated arts education experiences for K-12 students, particularly those from low-income and marginalized communities. The program provides access to the benefits of the arts to all students. Teachers receive free resources, and students attend matinee performances with their classmates.

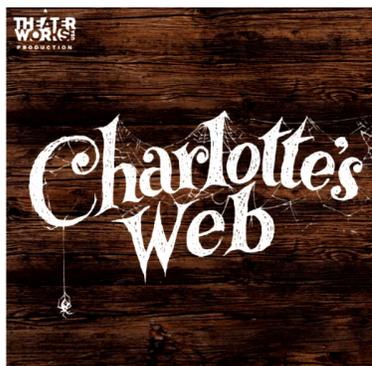
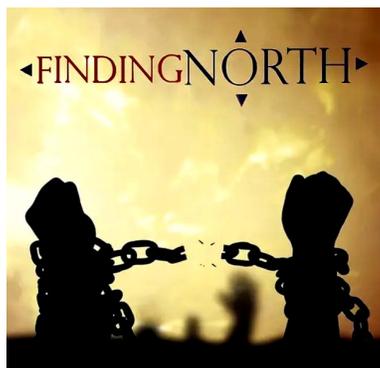
Arts Education Coordinator Kate Croteau, a former teacher, believes the arts can improve student behavior, foster a sense of belonging, and enhance academic performance.

“We believe that access to art is essential, and every student should get a chance to see, do, and interact with the arts as they grow up,” said Kate.

Arts 4 Youth had 8,000 students participate in two seasons and part of the 2019-2020 school year but paused its program due to the global pandemic. Now that it’s back this year, Croteau and the PAEC staff want to spread the word to other local schools to grow the program.

“2024 is our first full year back,” said Kate. “We have already had three shows in October and December this season: *How to Survive Middle School*, *Call of the Wild: Illustrated Edition*, and *Magic School Bus: Lost in the Solar System*. More than 1,000 students entered our doors for these three shows. We’ve worked primarily with Federal Way Public Schools (FWPS), but we want you to know that this program is for all kinds of schools: Montessori, private, public, and home school, for example.”

[Click on this link to learn more about the Arts 4 Youth Program!](#)



Upcoming Arts 4 Youth Shows Where Tickets Are Still Available!

March 6 at 10 a.m. — “Finding North” is a one-person play about African-American hero John P. Parker and his modern-day quest for life in America.

April 1 at 10:30 a.m. — “Charlotte’s Web” by the same theater production company as the popular Dog Man show.

May 7 at 10 a.m. — Seattle Shakespeare’s “Macbeth.”

COUNCIL'S CORNER

Happy New Year, Federal Way!

With the new year upon us, the Council had its first meeting on January 2. During that meeting, the ceremonial swearing-in of the newly elected Councilmembers was performed by King County Superior Court Judge LeRoy McCullough and Federal Way Municipal Court Judge David Larson.



Re-elected to Council Position #1, Councilmember Lydia Assefa-Dawson was sworn in by Judge McCullough, with witnesses by her friends and family in the audience. Councilmember Assefa-Dawson took a moment to thank the City of Federal Way for re-electing her and promised to continue to pursue serving the citizens of Federal Way with dignity and respect.



Councilmember Lydia Assefa-Dawson with her friends and family after being sworn into office.



Councilmember Susan Honda was sworn into office by Judge Larson.

Re-elected to Council Position #3, Councilmember Susan Honda was sworn in by Judge Larson, with her husband as witness — and photographer — in the audience. Councilmember Honda thanked the community members on her re-election and said she does her best to represent the City of Federal Way; this is her fourth term on Council, and she is still just as excited as the first time she joined office.



Councilmember Jack Walsh was sworn into office by Judge Larson.

Re-elected to Council Position #5, Councilmember Jack Walsh was sworn in by Judge Larson, with his wife as a witness in the audience. Councilmember Walsh stated that Federal Way is a great community, and it is an honor to serve the community. He also thanked his supporters and expressed his excitement that Federal Way wants to improve its community.



Council President Linda Kochmar was sworn into the Council Presidency by City Clerk Stephanie Courtney.

Re-elected to Council Position #7 and re-elected to Council President a few minutes later, Linda Kochmar was sworn in by Judge Larson and City Clerk Stephanie Courtney (for the Council Presidency). She noted the importance of keeping the City of Federal Way clean and healthy through the work of the governing laws.

Council President Kochmar thanked the Council for working on the City's behalf, noting that they are a strong Council because of their ability to work things out on the dais with differing points of view. She also thanked the community of Federal Way for her re-election to Council.

2024 is shaping to be another busy year for the Council as they begin the conversations about the biennial budget this Fall.

COUNCIL'S CORNER

This week's Council happenings:

- **Land Use & Transportation Committee (LUTC) Regular Meeting**, January 8 at 5 p.m. at City Hall.
- **Parks, Recreation, Human Services & Public Safety Committee (PRHSPSC) Regular Meeting**, January 9 at 5 p.m. at City Hall.
- **Lodging Tax Advisory Committee (LTAC) Regular Meeting**, January 10 at 10 a.m. on Zoom.
- **Senior Advisory Commission Regular Meeting**, January 10 at 2 p.m. at City Hall.
- **Youth Commission Regular Meeting**, January 11 at 5 p.m. at the Federal Way Community Center.
- **Diversity Commission Regular Meeting**, January 11 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall.

Planning Ahead:

- **City Hall Closure in honor of Martin Luther King Jr.**, January 15.
- **Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Event**, January 15 at 10:30 a.m. at the Federal Way Performing Arts & Event Center (PAEC).
- **City Council Regular Meeting**, January 16 at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.
- **City Council Retreat**, February 3 at 8 a.m. at Dumas Bay Centre.



CITYWIDE NEWS



PARKS AND RECREATION

While Federal Way Public Schools (FWPS) was on break, the kids spent their days at our Federal Way Community Center (FWCC) participating in the Winter Break Camp!

The leaders at the day camp organized various fun activities, such as building gingerbread houses and playing snowball dodgeball.

They also took the campers on a field trip to the local movie theater to watch a documentary called *Migration!*



DOWNLOAD THE FREE 'EYES ON FEDERAL WAY' APP!

An advertisement for the "Eyes on Federal Way" app. It shows two smartphones displaying the app's interface, which includes a map and various icons. A cartoon character with large eyes and blue hands is also featured. The text "Available Now!" is written in a blue, bubbly font, and "Eyes on Federal Way" is written in a large, white, bold font. There are also buttons for "Download on the App Store" and "GET IT ON Google play".

You can download the Eyes on Federal Way app for free from the App Store or Google Play! This app allows you to report non-emergency issues such as a shopping cart on the sidewalk, a pothole in the road, or trash on the streets.

We appreciate you working with us to keep Federal Way clean!



CITYWIDE NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS IN FEDERAL WAY!

STATE OF THE CITY

ADDRESS BY
MAYOR JIM FERRELL

"Welcome Home"

Thursday, February 15, 2024
at 6:00 p.m.



Mayor's State of the City FREE EVENT

Federal Way Performing Arts & Event Center
31510 Pete von Reichbauer Way S
Federal Way, WA 98003

CITYWIDE NEWS



BUILDING COMMUNITY BRIDGES

JANUARY 15, 2024
10:30 AM – 1 PM

MAIN EVENT
10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

NETWORKING TIME
FEATURING LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Located at Federal Way
Performing Arts & Event Center
31510 Pete von Reichbauer Way S
Federal Way, WA • 98003





The 17th Washington State
Korean American Day Celebration

Hallyu,

한인의 날 KA-Day Festival

K-Pop, K-Dance, K-Culture and more



January 13th, 2024 (4pm)
Highline Performing Art Center
401 S 152nd St, Burien, WA 98148



워싱턴주 한인의날 축제 재단

The Washington State
Korean American Day Celebration Foundation

후원: 시애틀 총영사관, 재외동포청, 워싱턴주 각 사회단체, 기업 및 업소, 각 언론사

CENTERSTAGE!
SPIDER'S WEB

BY AGATHA CHRISTIE
DIRECTED BY VINCE BRADY



JANUARY 26 – FEBRUARY 18, 2024

CENTERSTAGETHEATRE.COM | (253) 661-1444
3200 SW DASH POINT RD, FEDERAL WAY, WA 98023

SPONSORS





UTILITY TAX REBATE PROGRAM

\$100 REBATE

ENROLLMENT PERIOD: JANUARY 1 – MAY 30, 2024

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

You may be eligible if you can answer **YES to all** of the following questions:

- You lived within the incorporated limits of the City of Federal Way in 2023 YES NO
- You paid household utilities, which are in your name, in 2023 ...*..... YES NO
- The annual gross household income in 2023 did not exceed the following: YES NO

* Income of every member of your household over 18

ANNUAL GROSS HOUSEHOLD INCOME*	
PEOPLE IN HOUSEHOLD	MAXIMUM ANNUAL INCOME
1	\$47,950
2	\$54,800
3	\$61,650
4	\$68,500
5	Please call 253-835-2506

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- U.S. Individual Tax Return Form 1040 for 2023 (if one was filed);
OR
- Bank statements for November and December 2023 (if no income tax return was filed) showing all sources of income including Social Security Income .
AND
- One copy each of utility bill paid in 2023 for the following utilities only:
 - Gas, Electric, Water, Sewer, Garbage, and Telephone/Cell Phone/Cable
 - Documentation must show the bill was paid.
 - DO NOT send original bills. Paperwork will NOT be returned.

Please mail or bring your application to the address below:

Federal Way City Hall
Finance Department
Attn: Utility Tax Rebate Program
33325 8th Ave South
Federal Way, WA 98003-6325

CONTACT

Have questions or need assistance, please contact the Utility Tax Rebate line at 253-835-2506 or visit us at Federal Way City Hall.

[If you want to learn more, please click on this link](#)