



CITYWIDE NEWS

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ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

The City of Federal Way is proud to recognize Andy Hwang's exceptional accomplishment as a Chief of Police, becoming the first Korean-American Police Chief in the mainland United States in 2014. Hwang has been a member of the City of Federal Way Police Department for 27 years, as of June 3.

With 36 years of service as a police officer and his 10th year as Police Chief, Hwang's career began as a cadet with the Olympia Police Department.

"I did that for two years while attending college," said Hwang, who dreamed of becoming a police officer growing up in our state capitol. "The second year, I was also a reserve officer for Olympia PD."

In January 1988, the Olympia Police Department hired Hwang as a full-time police officer. Then, in 2014, Federal Way Mayor Jim Ferrell made an important announcement, a significant moment for Hwang.

"One of my first official acts as Mayor of Federal Way was to name Andy Hwang our Chief of Police," said Ferrell. "He is leading our police department with integrity, professionalism, and compassion. I'm so proud of the work he is doing for the residents of our community."

"Part of building trust is having a workforce that understands the community." Hwang said about leading a Police Department committed to serving Federal Way, considered by many as one of the most diversified communities in Washington state.

"Coming to Federal Way, more Korean Americans were residing here [at that time]. This was quite different from the Olympia community. I immediately made an impact earning the public's trust, inspiring and serving as a role model for many." Hwang meets quarterly with the Korean American community in Federal Way, along with elected officials and other department directors, to share information about economic development, the City's finance, public safety, and other essential topics for the past 27 years, which is always well received by the Korean business owners and residents.

Hwang, who earned a scholarship to play second base for the Pierce College baseball team, later transferred to Saint Martin's University in Lacey. Hwang fully understands the importance of fair and responsible competition. Sports have taught him the value of teamwork and effective communication. Hwang said participating in sports has been crucial in developing his discipline.

"It teaches how to build an effective team. I coach little league baseball with Federal Way National Little League," said Hwang, who loves baseball. "I'm coaching in the Mariners 12-U and will be one of the All-Star coaches for Federal Way, an opportunity to give back to the community. I can't think of a better way to shape the young people for future success."

Although they were once high school competitors – with Hwang playing football and baseball at North Thurston and Mayor Ferrell suiting up for the Yelm Tornados in the 1980s – they relish working on the same team.

"Ironically, we discovered that we played high school sports against each other," said Ferrell. "It's much better to be on the same team now."

"Who would have ever thought that someday I would come to work at the City of Federal Way [with Mayor Ferrell]?" said Hwang. "Baseball was my best sport, and I was the co-captain of the baseball team my senior year. We still talk about it [the high school glory days]. So we go to community meetings and talk about it."

Hwang sends this message to children regarding the importance of setting goals: "You have to have a vision for where you want to be; you don't want to be derailed. Successful people have a vision for themselves, they are passionate about reaching their goals and will work hard to open doors to opportunities. And the most important part is that character matters. When we hire police officers, what are we looking for? We're looking for people of character."

Hwang's character, leadership, and commitment to protecting and serving the community are truly inspiring, particularly during the celebration of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

The City of Federal Way celebrates Hwang's commitment and service as the Chief of Police. His lifelong dream of becoming a police officer is a testament to his unwavering dedication and perseverance.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

On May 11, the **Greater Federal Way Emergency Management Commission** gathered to address the safety of residents. They scheduled an **Emergency Operations Center (EOC)** training on May 24 and 25, with a rehearsal on **July 4 in conjunction with the Red, White & Blues Festival at Celebration Park**. Kevin Pelley, the Emergency Manager, said the training and rehearsal would focus on alert procedures, EOC setup, and initial response actions. The EOC supports on-scene responders and situational awareness to the Mayor and policymakers during emergencies and disasters.

PARKS & RECREATION



We're excited to announce that the **Hooked on Fishing Event** was an enormous success, with 316 participants. Our gratitude goes out to Parks, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, and I'm Hooked Inc. for making this outdoor fishing experience possible for the community. The event was memorable for everyone involved, with 2,000 stocked trout in the lake.

The Federal Way Performing Arts and Event Center (PAEC) hosted a weekend full of excitement with unforgettable performances by **The American ELO and Philip Glass**.

As **Memorial Day Weekend approaches**, the Parks Director, John Hutton, and his team are getting the **Spray Ground at Town Square Park** ready for the community's enjoyment.

The **Federal Way Community Center** will serve as a cooling space during regular business hours anytime excessive heat warnings are in effect for our service area. This service is available to anyone who seeks relief from the heat. This past weekend, Western Washington experienced the highest temperatures of the year. "It's very important that people take steps to be safe in this unseasonably hot weather," Federal Way Mayor Jim Ferrell said. "The Community Center stands ready to assist those who need to get out of the heat and have a safe place to rest."

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Finance staff held the initial kickoff conference with State Auditors Office (SAO) to begin the financial audit for the year ended 2022. The auditors provided their initial list of requested materials from Finance, and staff has already started that work. As last year, SAO staff will be working primarily remotely. We will inform other departments of any information requests beyond the records Finance has. The Bureau of Labor Statistics released the April CPI numbers, and national inflation was 4.9% over the same month last year. The Finance staff reinvested a \$1 million investment maturing this month that yielded 1.7%, with a 4-year investment earning 3.7%.

STARCHASE SYSTEM FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

The **Federal Way Police Department**, to mitigate the impact of legislation regarding police pursuits, has implemented the pilot program StarChase system in their patrol vehicle. This advanced technology allows law enforcement to track down suspects who try to escape in a vehicle. A recent traffic stop incident demonstrated the system's effectiveness in immobilizing a driver. The system tracks the car in real-time by firing the GPS tracker at the vehicle using a pneumatic launcher, negating the need for a high-speed chase. The department recorded its first successful capture and hopes for many more in the upcoming months.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Community Development continues its work on the periodic update of the City's Comprehensive Plan. The primary focus is on the new chapters for Climate & Resiliency and Community Services and updates to the Housing chapter. City code updates responsive to the Heartland audit are moving to City Council, as are edits to the code to protect views of Mount Rainier from the Performing Arts and Event Center (PAEC). Work continues exploring the creation of a tax increment financing district in the City's downtown area. With the hiring of the Office Manager, some functional changes have been implemented to improve processing times for permit intake and submittals. The department will begin monitoring these to provide transparency to the efforts undertaken.

FARMERS MARKET CELEBRATES 20TH ANNIVERSARY

The **Farmers Market in Federal Way** celebrated its 20th Anniversary on May 13. Many were on hand for the event, including Mayor Jim Ferrell, City Council President Linda Kochmar, Deputy Mayor Susan Honda, Councilmembers Jack Walsh, Lydia Assafa-Dawson, and Jack Dovey. Rebecca Martin, President and CEO of the Greater Federal Way Chamber of Commerce, was also present. The Federal Way Farmers Market Director, Rose Ehl, received support from Cindy Duchich from the Federal Way Mirror and Laura Belvin, a Board of Commissioner from Lakehaven Water & Sewer District. The **Farmers Market is open every Saturday from 9-3 p.m. until October 28 at The Commons in Federal Way**.



WORKING FOR YOU

The **Public Works Director, EJ Walsh**, and his team are repairing damaged ADA ramps and paving arterial roadways as part of the overlay program. This project will be ongoing throughout the summer season. Additionally, the City's Madvac litter vacuum collects litter from approximately 60 miles of roadway weekly. In addition, the Surface Water Maintenance staff has been working diligently to rebuild catch basins that have sunken or been damaged on City roads. Finally, on Earth Day, the Public Works department successfully collaborated with 45 community volunteers to clean up the Panther Lake area, removing 613 pounds of litter from the community.

Take advantage of the Touch-A-Truck event! It's a fantastic, family-friendly activity that provides an exciting opportunity to learn about the trucks that serve our City. **The free event is scheduled for May 20 from 11-2 p.m. at Wild Waves, 36201 Enchanted Parkway S in Federal Way.**

CITY CLERK UPDATES

Mark your calendars for the upcoming **City Council Regular Meeting on May 16 at 6:30 p.m.** The meeting agenda includes public hearings on Amendments to the City Comprehensive Plan and Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan (PROS Plan), Park Impact Fee Zoning Code Amendment, Housing Action Plan Implementation Code Amendments, and the 2023/2024 Biennial Budget Amendment. The City Council will hear the second reading and enactment of Council Bill #847, Relating to Mademeanor Possession of a Controlled Substance. Public comment is accepted and encouraged at all regular meetings.

Prior to the regular meeting on May 16, the **Council will conduct Commission Interviews** for the Diversity Commission, Youth Commission, and Arts Commission during a special meeting beginning at 5 p.m. If interested, you can find ongoing recruitment notices for volunteer boards and commissions on the City Clerk page of the City website.