



# City of Tumwater Tumwater on Tap

city newsletter

Tumwater on Tap | Fall 2014, print edition



City leaders celebrated the grand opening of the new Police Department at the Community Day event on September 17, 2014, with a ribbon cutting ceremony and public tours. The facility upgrade marked completion of the promises made in the 2011 levy lid lift. See page 2 for more information.

## A message from the Mayor

I am pleased to present the City of Tumwater's 2014 printed edition of our e-newsletter, "Tumwater on Tap." If you're not registered to receive the monthly emailed version, please take a minute to sign up on the City's website.

We have accomplished a lot this year. Major planning efforts for the Capitol Boulevard Corridor and the Brewery District concluded. Now, the work has begun to take those actions outlined in the plans and begin feasibility and pre-design work as funding is available. We kept the promises we made in the 2011 public safety proposition with the purchase of a new fire truck, successful hiring of firefighters and police officers, and construction of the expanded police station at City Hall. And we continue to work hard to facilitate redevelopment of the former brewery.

As the year comes to an end, our City's biennial budget is balanced and revenues appear stable, but delayed infrastructure investments during the recession must be addressed. Expenses continue to outpace revenues. In the coming year, our City Council will consider alternative strategies to raise revenue to fund priorities such as transportation system and facility maintenance.

I encourage you to find time this season to enjoy the beauty and abundance of our community. I am very grateful to live in Tumwater and proud to serve as your Mayor.



"I encourage you to find time this season to enjoy the beauty and abundance of our community. I am very grateful to live in Tumwater and proud to serve as your Mayor."

—Mayor Pete Kmet

Just a click away, you'll find more on the City website...

- Find City Council, Council Committee, and Advisory Board meeting records.
- Welcome packet
- Tumwater history and about City government
- City Calendar with meetings and City-sponsored events

## Contents

- **Online City services expand**—page 1
- **Promises made in public safety levy have been kept**—page 2
- **City budget balanced**—page 2
- **Dispose of FOG in the trash**—page 3

- **We're ready for winter**—page 3
- **Keep storm drains clear**—page 3
- **Design Preference Workshop**—page 3
- **Winter Driving Tips Crossword**—page 3
- **Christmas Tree Lighting Festival**—page 4

## Online City services expand

Each year, our City strives to create efficiencies, expand online accessibility, and improve the quality of services and information available to the Tumwater community. This year, the City launched a new website. The site was designed with responsive web technology to function on mobile, tablet and desktop devices. In addition, the City now offers expanded online utility payments and added online registration for Parks & Recreation classes and programs. As more people are moving to electronic media to get their news and information, the City also provides a variety of e-Notifications so you can stay informed and connected.



Now it's easier to get things done online...

browse to the City website at [www.ci.tumwater.wa.us](http://www.ci.tumwater.wa.us) and...

### Sign up for e-Notifications

All you need is an email address to register. City news is delivered to your inbox in real time. Visit the City website and choose from:

- **City Hall General Alerts** – get weekly City Council meeting agendas and Worksession agendas, plus public hearing notices, news releases, Stream Team Newsletters, and emergency messages;
- **Tumwater on Tap** – e-Newsletter delivered monthly with brief articles about what's happening in the City of Tumwater;
- **Construction & Traffic Alerts** – get notices for construction projects and traffic impacts to help you plan your day;
- **Tumwater Valley Golf Course** – special deals and promotions;
- **Parks & Recreation** events, programs, notices & field closures, or select a special day camp or sports league for information;
- **Barnes Lake Management District** – meeting announcements, agendas and minutes;
- **Volunteer News & Events** – information related to volunteer activities and community engagement programs;
- **Annexations** – notices, updates and information about current and proposed property annexation(s) of Tumwater Urban Growth Areas.

### Pay your Tumwater utility bill online

Utility customers can view a summary of water usage, get an account history and more. Visit the City website for instructions or to register. Need help? Call us at (360) 754-4133.



### Register for Parks & Recreation classes and programs

Now you can register online for Tumwater Parks & Recreation classes and programs. Browse the catalog, register and pay for classes. Call (360) 754-4160 for assistance.

### Apply for a Permit and schedule an inspection

Find construction related permit application forms and submittal checklists on the City website to get moving on your project. You can check on the status of your permit, schedule an inspection, and find property parcel records too. Call (360) 754-4180 for assistance.

### Apply for a job

The City uses online recruitment services to streamline the employee selection process and find the best people to serve our community. Applicants can browse job openings and apply online. They can also register to receive notices of City job openings in their field. The City of Tumwater is a great place to work and online recruitment helps us find the best applicants to serve you.

### Request information or report a problem online

Submit an online request for information or assistance. Send us a **Question, Comment or Suggestion** to reach City staff during business hours and get the information that you need. **Report a problem** so that we can dispatch City resources or work with partner agencies to fix it (business hours only). Contacts are also available for after-hours, weekends, and emergencies.

### Tumwater Records Center - Online City Records Repository

Browse our records repository 24 hours per day. City of Tumwater Records Center is designed to facilitate public access to archival city records, including service and interlocal agreements, council agendas and reports, minutes, ordinances and resolutions, etc. Navigate the records center by topic folder or search to find the document you need.



[www.facebook.com/cityoftumwater](http://www.facebook.com/cityoftumwater)  
Find City events, programs and human interest updates.



# Promises made in public safety levy have been kept

## 1) Additional Personnel

Twelve new police and fire personnel added capacity to public safety services. The levy provided funding for six new public safety employees (three police officers, including one school resource officer, and three firefighters).

## Firefighters/Paramedics

In addition to the three firefighters hired directly through levy funding, four fire personnel were hired through funding from service changes—one paramedic (due to Medic One contract changes for south Thurston County) and three firefighters (from the west side annexation). A federal SAFER grant also fully funded two additional firefighters for two years (2013-2014). The increased staffing has allowed Tumwater's North End Fire Station to re-open on a half-time (50%) basis for the first time in many years, exceeding expectations promised in the levy.

## Police Officers

Three new police officers have now been hired through the levy. The first two came on board in 2012. Standards for becoming a police officer are very high. Applicants must pass a series of stringent screenings (civil service test, oral boards, physical ability tests, background screening and a psychological exam). The department hired Charles Lett in September 2014, completing the staffing promise in the levy.

## 2) Facility Improvements

The new Police facility is complete. The Grand Opening was held in September 2014. The project began in February 2013, with the 5,000 sq ft expansion to City Hall. Then, the original 5,100 sq ft space within City Hall was renovated. The new facility has improved safety and efficiency through design. It has a protected police entrance, fenced parking, additional holding cells and a secure evidence room. The historic brewery kettle is displayed outside the new facility.

## 3) Equipment Upgrades

A new fire engine was delivered in 2012. This was the first installment in the 25-year replacement schedule and maintenance program funded by the levy.

# City budget balanced but new infrastructure funding sources are essential

In December, the City Council will wrap up the budget for the next biennium, 2015-2016. This was a difficult budget to balance. While the economy is not declining, it isn't growing fast enough to keep pace with the costs of running the City. Like many communities, and the State of Washington, the population continues to grow, placing more demand on services like public safety. Tumwater's population has grown by 8.2% since 2010. The City also has mandates that are often unfunded. For example, increased requirements for public defender services in court now cost the City about \$200,000 more per year. Finally, seven years of recession-based budgeting has caused the City's infrastructure to receive insufficient maintenance. Streets, buildings, and parks are in need of significant improvements to prevent severe damage.

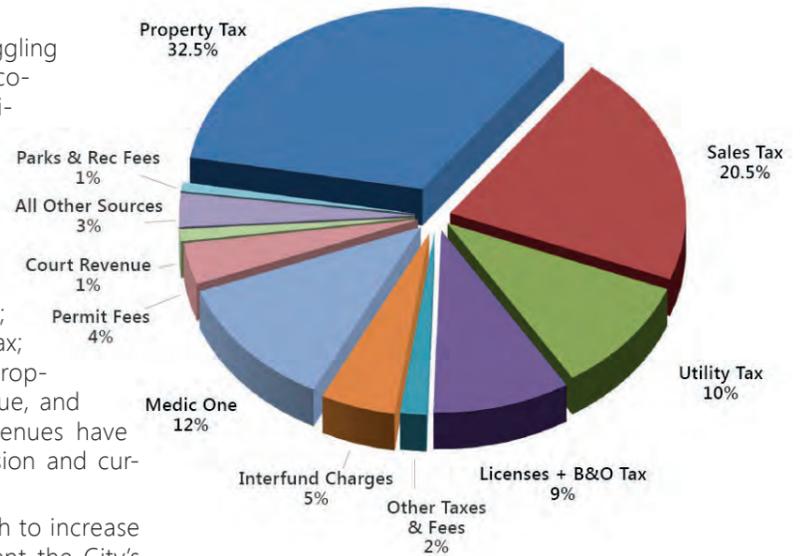
With a \$133 million budget, it's easy to assume that there should be plenty of money to do everything. But the budget includes emergency reserves and capitol funds that are used strictly for designated projects or utilities. The City's General Fund, which is about one-third of the overall budget and which provides for many of the services usually associated with the City (police, fire, parks, courts, etc.), will be just over \$44 million for the next biennium. The City has continued to develop lean budgets that carefully consider community needs and the best methods to provide services. A number of efficiency measures were implemented, including the use of technology to reduce meter-reading time and

allow for online utility bill payments and recreation registrations. The City has maintained the commitment to fund public safety. With more than 50 percent of the budget committed to Police, Fire, and Court, it is difficult to create budget savings without cutting those services.

Jurisdictions around the State are struggling to pay for services, even with the mild economic recovery. There is a "structural deficit" inherent in public service funding in the State. Property tax, the primary revenue source, is generally capped at a 1% growth rate. The cost of running the City goes up 3-3.5% per year. In order to make up that gap, the City looks to growth in retail construction for sales tax; growth in business activity for B & O tax; and new development for growth in the property tax base, construction related revenue, and utility connections and taxes. Those revenues have had slow growth rates during the recession and current recovery.

The City is taking an aggressive approach to increase the tax base in ways that help implement the City's plans for redevelopment in areas like Capitol Boulevard, the Brewery Neighborhood and the brewery properties. These projects are happening, but the process takes many years. The City is also looking at revenue options which could be dedicated to specific

2015-2016 Preliminary General Fund Revenues  
Total \$44,230,039



uses like street maintenance, facilities, and the City's recreation programs. To find out more about City services and to stay informed about these types of issues, visit the City website and subscribe to the City's e-Notifications.

## Giving during the holidays

The Holiday Assistance Program provides gifts to needy families in Tumwater. The program began over 20 years ago by City staff as a community service project. Now, the Tumwater Lions Club operates the program in cooperation with the City and Tumwater School District. Qualified children in the Tumwater School District can be gifted with toys, shoes, coats and/or food for the holidays. To adopt a family, making a donation or to volunteer, visit [www.tumwaterlions.org](http://www.tumwaterlions.org). Gift request tags will be available at Tumwater City Hall as well.

The Holiday Assistance Program is one of many great programs available in the community to help families around the holidays and throughout the year.



Email [TumwaterHoliday@comcast.net](mailto:TumwaterHoliday@comcast.net) or call (360) 786-6979 for more information.



## Dispose of FOG in the trash

When preparing your holiday meals, please remember not to pour fats, oils and grease (FOG) down the drain. FOG coagulates in pipes. Even if you run hot water and detergent down the drain, FOG will harden in pipes when it cools. This can cause clogs and backups in your household plumbing, sewer pipes and home septic systems. When cooking, scrape FOG into a can.

Cover the can and store in the freezer to cut down on kitchen odors. When the can is full, throw it in the trash. Larger quantities of household cooking oil, such as that used for frying a turkey, can be taken to Hazo House for free disposal. Find Hazo House at the Thurston County Waste and Recovery Center, 2418 Hogum Bay Road NE, Lacey, WA.

Pick up your FREE FOG kit from the Public Works Department at Tumwater City Hall



## TUMWATER Valley

## First Tee of South Puget Sound

Tumwater Valley Golf Club is pleased to announce a recent partnership with The First Tee of South Puget Sound. First Tee works strategically through community partners to serve at-risk youth who would not otherwise have the chance to play the game of golf. First Tee's mission is to impact the lives of young people by providing educational programs that build character, instill life-enhancing values and promote healthy choices through the game of golf. In addition to learning fundamentals of the golf swing and the game, First Tee's character education and life skills programs help young people prepare for success at school, at home and in their community. The emphasis is on the program's nine core values which benefit players both on and off the course for a lifetime.

The First Tee Program is open to youth ages six to seventeen of all ability levels. Tumwater Valley's inaugural season was a great success as the course played host to approximately 100 youth. First Tee sessions at Tumwater Valley are now in high demand and filling up quickly. For more information regarding



exciting upcoming events or to get your player involved, visit [www.tumwatervalleygc.com](http://www.tumwatervalleygc.com) and follow the link to Instruction - First Tee.

## We're ready for winter

The Tumwater Public Works Operations and Maintenance Division provides snow and ice response (roadway clearing and treatment) during winter storm conditions. Snow and ice response activities are based on best management practices and service requests on a graduated, prioritized system to meet Tumwater's mobility needs.

Each year, Tumwater staff coordinate snow and ice response with adjacent cities, Thurston County, state agencies and Intercity Transit. They strategize to create a consistent road clearing plan to facilitate transportation throughout the community.



## Snow & Ice Response Plan

Tumwater roads are divided into three categories for response purposes:

- 1) **Lifeline roadways** are plowed and treated first. These routes are kept clear to accommodate emergency vehicles and primary transportation routes that connect major arterials with other roads in the community.
- 2) After the lifeline roadways are passable, crews move on to **priority roadways**. These roads include most streets that connect neighborhoods to the lifeline roads in the transportation system. A list of these roads and a map of priority routes are available on the City website.
- 3) **Neighborhood streets** are only plowed when lifeline and priority roads are cleared. The City does not plow private streets or driveways.

To view a map of lifeline and priority roads, visit the City website at [www.ci.tumwater.wa.us/snow-ice](http://www.ci.tumwater.wa.us/snow-ice). For questions, call (360) 754-4150.

### Did you know?

Tumwater has 22 "Lifeline" roadways? Lifeline Roadways are plowed and treated first during snow and ice events. These routes are kept clear to accommodate emergency vehicles and primary transportation routes that connect major arterials with other roads in the community.



## New Community Matching Fund coming in 2015!

Do you have an idea for a project or event in your neighborhood? Beginning in 2015, the Community Matching Fund will provide matching grants to groups that complete projects or host events that build community. Groups provide volunteer resources, in-kind donations, or cash, and those resources are matched by grants up to \$1,000 for projects and \$250 for events. Applications will be available in 2015. Contact City of Tumwater Volunteer Coordinator at [volunteer@ci.tumwater.wa.us](mailto:volunteer@ci.tumwater.wa.us) for more information.

## City of Tumwater – Design Preference Survey

### Which buildings do you prefer?

**Share your preferences** for updated building design guidelines in Tumwater

The City of Tumwater is studying ways to improve the attractiveness of development in our community. Please share your thoughts and ideas with us. Public feedback gained from the survey will be used to develop recommendations to rewrite the current design standards in the City of Tumwater Zoning Code.

**Take the online survey before December 3, 2014.** Visit the City website at [www.ci.tumwater.wa.us/design-guidelines](http://www.ci.tumwater.wa.us/design-guidelines).

**Stay informed.** Visit the City website and register for e-Notifications, Tumwater City Hall General Alerts list or call (360) 754-4180.



## Winter Driving Tips

While driving during winter remember the following safety tips:

- Clear all windows, and do not start (2 across) until your windows are (2 down).
- Unattended vehicles with their (1 down) running make prime targets for thieves.
- If it is snowing, turn on your (5 across) – this helps other drivers (6 across) you.
- Slow down so you are able to maintain (4 down) of your vehicle at all times.
- Make sure every occupant is wearing their (8 across).
- Four-wheel and all-wheel drive vehicles do not (7 across) or steer better in (3 across) conditions. (7 down) down and give yourself plenty of room.
- Keep a safe (13 across) from, and do not pass, any (10 across) plow and/or sanding truck.
- If you get stuck, activate your (9 down) hazard lights, and remain in your vehicle; you are safer there than (11 down) of your vehicle. If you must exit the vehicle, check for other (12 across) and then stand a (14 down) distance away.

Want to find the answers? Visit the Public Works Department section of the City website and find Winter Driving Tips!

To find out more about how we take care of your streets during snow and ice events, visit our website at [www.ci.tumwater.wa.us/snow-ice](http://www.ci.tumwater.wa.us/snow-ice).



For more information on Winter Storm Preparedness, check out [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov), [www.noaa.gov](http://www.noaa.gov), or [www.TakeWinterByStorm.org](http://www.TakeWinterByStorm.org)

’Tis the Season  
**CHRISTMAS TREE  
 LIGHTING FESTIVAL**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13  
 2:00PM - 5:00PM

**TUMWATER FIRE STATION & CITY HALL**  
 555 Israel Rd SW, Tumwater, WA

FREE event for the whole family!

Event includes holiday crafts (cookie decorating and ornament-making), school choir performances, the Christmas tree lighting, and a special guest appearance from Santa! For more details, call Tumwater Parks & Recreation: (360) 754-4160.

Sponsored by the City of Tumwater and the Tumwater Downtown Association.



**Volunteer Tumwater**



Tumwater offers a variety of programs and activities to extend the reach of City services and provide valuable connections within the community.

We’ve got monthly projects, customized group options, ongoing programs like the Adopt-a-Road program and more.

*Volunteer Today!*

Contact the City’s Volunteer Coordinator at (360) 252-5424 or volunteer@ci.tumwater.wa.us to connect with a volunteer opportunity! Or sign up for the Volunteer News through the City’s e-Notifications.



Open and learn more about your City in this printed edition of Tumwater on Tap.



If you are a property manager, please pass this on to your Tumwater tenant. Thank you!

Postal Customer  
 ECRWSS

PRSR STD  
 US POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 OLYMPIA, WA  
 PERMIT NO. 177

**Our Mission**  
 In active partnership with our citizens, we provide leadership and essential municipal services to cultivate a prosperous economy, a healthy natural environment, vibrant neighborhoods, and a supportive social fabric.

**Our Vision**  
 Tumwater of the future will be people-oriented and highly livable, with a strong economy, dynamic places, a healthy natural environment, engaged residents, and a living connection to its history.

**Our Beliefs**  
 We believe in People, Excellence, Opportunity, Partnership, Learning, Environment.

Tumwater City Council

No photo available	Eileen Swarthout	Debbie Sullivan	Tom Oliva	Neil McClanahan	Nicole Hill	Ed Hildreth	Joan Cathey
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**City of Tumwater**  
 555 Israel Road SW  
 Tumwater WA 98501

**City of Tumwater**

555 Israel Road SW  
 Tumwater, WA 98501  
 www.ci.Tumwater.wa.us

- General Information.....360-754-5855
- Mayor/City Administrator's Office.....360-754-4120
- Utility Billing questions.....360-754-4133
- Building Permits.....360-754-4180
- Volunteer Coordinator.....360-252-5424
- To report a leak/spill (24 hours/day).....360-754-4150
- Parks & Recreation programs or events...360-754-4160
- Golf Course information/tee times.....360-943-9500
- Police Department (non-emergency) .....360-754-4200
- Fire Department (non-emergency).....360-754-4170
- Thurston County Courthouse.....360-786-5450
- Emergency Services ..... 9-1-1

**Where can you find Santa in Tumwater?**

On the Santa Fire Truck, of course. This holiday tradition returns to Tumwater, December 6th–20th, 2014. Santa and the elves will make their annual trip through Tumwater neighborhoods on an antique fire truck, sharing carols and candy. They'll also be collecting non-perishable food items and accepting monetary donations for the Thurston County Food Bank.

Santa's schedule is subject to change (depending on the weather). Start times and neighborhoods are listed below.

- Saturday, December 6 at 4:30 p.m., Tumwater Hill
- Sunday, December 7 at 4:00 p.m., Trails End – Henderson – Lake Susan – The Farm
- Monday, December 8 at 6:00 p.m., Elm Street – East Dennis
- Tuesday, December 9 at 6:00 p.m., Lake Park Dr.-Trospen Rd.–Eagles Landing–Louise St.–Fiesta Ct.–Trospen Hill
- Wednesday, December 10 at 6:00 p.m., Glenwood Park – Gold Creek
- Thursday, December 11 at 6:00 p.m., Bonniewood – Thunderbird Villa – West X Street
- Friday, December 12 at 6:00 p.m., Sunrise Villa
- Saturday, December 13 at 10:00 a.m., Fred Meyer parking lot
- **Saturday, December 13 at 5:00 p.m. Tree Lighting Festival, City Hall**
- Saturday, December 13 at 6:00 p.m., Tumwater High School Area



*On the Santa Fire Truck, of course!*

- Sunday, December 14 at 4:00 p.m., Hoadly Loop – Cathy Court – Lorne – South – Armstrong – Middle – Primrose – Delta
- Monday, December 15 at 6:00 p.m., Montaire Clubhouse (1815) – Breckenridge Hts. Clubhouse (1845) – Firland – Mottman
- Tuesday, December 16 at 6:00 p.m., Littlerock Road – Allimor
- Wednesday, December 17 at 6:00 p.m., Linwood – Barnes Lake – Sapp Rd. – Simmons Mill
- Thursday, December 18 at 6:00 p.m., Alpine Villa – West Lee – Palermo Valley
- Friday, December 19 at 6:00 p.m., Somerset – Westridge
- Saturday, December 20 at 6:00 p.m., Make Up

