



City Hall  
555 Israel Road SW  
Tumwater, WA 98501-6515  
Phone: 360-754-5855  
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December 4, 2015

Dear Residents, Property Owners, and Business Owners:

Welcome to the City of Tumwater! As of January 1, 2016, the area known as Tumwater's Eastside Urban Growth Area (UGA) will become part of the City of Tumwater (see the enclosed map). I've included information in this letter to help answer some of the questions about service transitions for this area. If you need additional assistance, feel free to browse the City's website at [www.ci.tumwater.wa.us](http://www.ci.tumwater.wa.us) or give us a call at (360) 754-5855.

### **Police**

Starting January 1<sup>st</sup>, the Tumwater Police Department will be the primary provider of police services within the annexed area. Tumwater Police have a higher ratio of officers to citizens to respond to concerns and calls, so you should see improved service. They respond to both residential and commercial burglary alarms as well. The City has a multi-departmental traffic team to help find solutions for speeding and other traffic and pedestrian safety concerns. For non-emergency situations during normal business hours (M-F, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) call (360) 754-4200 or after-hours non-emergency dispatch at (360) 704-2740. If you need to call the police for an emergency any time of day, dial 9-1-1. One reminder from Tumwater Police: shooting or the discharge of dangerous weapons is not allowed within the City.

### **Fire & Emergency Medical Services**

Many properties within the annexed area are part of Fire District #15 and are already served by the Tumwater Fire Department through a contract. District #15 will dissolve upon annexation and fire response in these areas will remain with the Tumwater Fire Department. For other annexed areas currently served by the East Olympia Fire District (District #6), District 6 will continue to respond for another two years to allow a transition period. On January 1, 2018, responsibility for calls in this area will shift to the Tumwater Fire Department. Both Fire Departments remind you that outdoor burning is currently not allowed within the annexation area and this restriction will continue upon annexation to the City.

### **Annexation Census**

A door-to-door census of annexed areas is required by State law to ensure State shared revenues are properly allocated to the City. Over the next couple of months, census takers will be going to every residence within the annexed area to obtain a population count. Information gathered during this census will be aggregated for the area as a whole, and information on individual households will remain confidential. We sincerely ask your cooperation and if you have any reservations or questions about this census, please give us a call at (360) 754-4180.

### **Changing your Address**

Your address and zip code will not change with the annexation. The U.S. Postal Service uses zip codes for mail delivery. Feel free to update your address to "Tumwater" as time allows.

## **Businesses**

If you operate a business, you will need a Tumwater business license, which can be obtained on the Washington State Department of Revenue's website at <http://bls.dor.wa.gov/file.aspx>. Depending on where your sales occur, you may now be subject to City Business & Occupation (B&O) taxes. If you have questions about B&O taxes, such as what types of businesses are required to pay them, or what the rate would be, you can contact our Finance Department at (360) 754-4136 or visit the City website at [www.ci.tumwater.wa.us/departments/finance/b-o-tax](http://www.ci.tumwater.wa.us/departments/finance/b-o-tax). The Tumwater Fire Department will be visiting businesses during the month of December to answer questions about the safety inspection program and to deliver business licensing forms.

## **Stormwater Fees**

Every property in the annexed area currently pays a stormwater fee to Thurston County. After annexation, this fee will be paid to Tumwater. Thurston County bundles the fees with yearly property tax statements, but the City bills monthly. So, this fee will not be included on your 2016 property tax statement, rather, property owners will receive the first monthly statement from the City on January 30, 2016. If you currently receive City water or sewer services, then a stormwater fee will be included with your water or sewer bill. The City's Utility Billing will send a separate letter to all those who will need to set up new stormwater accounts in December 2015. Call (360) 754-4133 with questions regarding stormwater billing. These fees are used for street sweeping and maintaining the storm drainage system along public streets. Upon annexation, you will begin to see more activity by City Stormwater maintenance staff as we inventory the various storm inlets and drains and check their condition. We will also begin a regular street sweeping schedule. In general, most streets are swept once per month, with the more heavily used streets swept more frequently as time allows.

## **Thurston County Property Tax Statement**

Property taxes were already calculated for 2016 by the time the annexation was finalized. All unincorporated Thurston County property owners pay a Thurston County Road Tax. During this transition, the County road tax will show up on your property tax but a portion of those taxes will be transferred to the City. Upon annexation, the City will be responsible for providing road services. After 2016, you will no longer pay a County Road Tax. Instead, the City general property tax levy will include this expense.

## **Stay Involved**

Now is a great time to be a part of the City of Tumwater. We are just starting to update our Parks and Recreation Plan, our Transportation Plan, as well as the Housing, Land Use, and Utilities Plans of the Tumwater Comprehensive Plan. A large number of your neighbors pointed out a lack of park amenities in the newly annexed area as well as some roadway problems. Your participation in updating these Plans will be helpful in getting your neighborhood issues addressed. To find out how to become involved, please contact the Community Development staff at (360) 754-4180 and be sure to sign up for the City e-Notifications on the website.

## **Please Share Notices with Tenants and Landlords**

Please let others know of these important changes. If you own a rental, please inform your tenants (residential or business). If you are a renter, then please let your landlord know about the change. Your help in spreading the word is appreciated.

**Contact the Mayor or City Councilmembers**

Tumwater City Councilmembers do not have offices at City Hall. You can email me, the City Council, and City Administrator by sending one email to [council@ci.tumwater.wa.us](mailto:council@ci.tumwater.wa.us), or leave a message by telephone at (360) 754-4120. You may also send written correspondence to Tumwater City Hall, Attn: Mayor's Office, 555 Israel Road SW, Tumwater, WA 98501.

**Tumwater City Councilmembers:**

Neil McClanahan, Mayor Pro Tem

Joan E. Cathey

Ed Hildreth

Nicole Hill

Tom Oliva

Debbie Sullivan

Eileen Swarthout

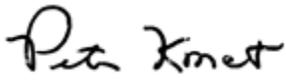
The Council meets twice each month—on the first and third Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. Meetings are held in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 555 Israel Road SW, Tumwater, Washington. There is an open public comment period at the beginning of each meeting. These meetings are televised on TCTV-Channel 26 and are also available online. Go to the following web address for more information:

<http://www.ci.tumwater.wa.us/departments/mayor-city-council/city-meetings/council-meetings>.

Finally, I encourage you to participate in some of the great programs we have available to stay connected to the community and strengthen neighborhoods: volunteer programs, citizen boards and commissions, neighborhood event or project grants, Tumwater University, and more! You can find more information about these programs and about other services the City of Tumwater can provide at [www.ci.tumwater.wa.us](http://www.ci.tumwater.wa.us).

On behalf of the Council and our staff, I would like to welcome you to Tumwater! We look forward to serving you.

Respectfully,



Pete Kmet, Mayor

Tumwater Eastside UGA Annexation Area – as of January 1, 2016

