

## Change Federal Way's form of government? You vote Feb. 19

A change in Federal Way's form of government is on the ballot Feb. 19. The text from the King County Voter's Guide follows:

"If approved by the voters, this measure would abandon the current Council/Manager form of government and adopt the Mayor/Council form of government. This change would transfer the administrative responsibilities from the City Manager, hired by the City Council, to an elected Mayor. The position of City Manager would be eliminated and the elected Mayor would become a full-time position. The elected Mayor would preside over City Council meetings and be recognized as the head of the City for ceremonial purposes. The reorganization to Mayor/Council form of government would require an election in November 2008."

The ballot measure is the result of a citizen petition that met the minimum required 1,825 signatures. To pass, the measure needs a simple majority or more than 50%.

Federal Way has had the Council/Manager form of government since its incorporation in 1990. The City Council consists of seven members who are directly elected by the citizens for four-year terms. The City Council establishes law and policy by passing ordinances and resolutions.

The Council adopts the City budget and approves appropriations and contracts. It also levies taxes and grants franchises. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor are elected by the Council from among its members for a two-year term and preside at Council meetings. Eleven boards and commissions made up of citizen volunteers advise the City Council.

The Council appoints the City Manager who serves as Chief Executive Officer and manages the City's daily business through administration of personnel, policies, funds and programs, and enforces the laws of the City.

**Voters Pamphlet:** The King County voters pamphlet provides statements

from citizen committees for and against the change of government ballot measure. View the pamphlet online at: [www.metrokc.gov/elections/contests/measureinfo.aspx?cid=23677&eid=1222](http://www.metrokc.gov/elections/contests/measureinfo.aspx?cid=23677&eid=1222). You may also view a sample ballot for Federal Way at: [www.metrokc.gov/elections/200802/sampleballotfederalway.pdf](http://www.metrokc.gov/elections/200802/sampleballotfederalway.pdf)

## Channel 21—not your average government TV station

Federal Way's government TV channel, TV 21, keeps getting better. Wait, did you even know the City had a TV station? Even if you know about it, have you tuned in lately? You might be surprised at what you see.

Check out "Connections," the City's new quarterly magazine show highlighting the people, places and events that make Federal Way unique. "Connections," a 30-minute program that replaces the video version of "City Update," features community stories with heart. The updated show has more energy and style while being both entertaining and informative.

Not only are the shows more exciting but the picture just got better too. Recent upgrades to the system improved picture quality, allowing us to show more content, and made our scheduling more flexible. In fact, **the schedule now rotates daily** instead of showing the same show at the same time all week.

You can still see City Council and School



Natalie Rees, the host of "Connections," films a segment of the new magazine show in the King County Aquatics Center. Running the camera is Sid Lee, TV 21's Video Production Coordinator. Photo: Linda Farmer

Board meetings on Channel 21—staples of government access TV—but we're striving to create programming that connects you with the services paid for by your tax and rate dollars.

Find a schedule and archived programs at [www.cityoffederalway.com/TV21](http://www.cityoffederalway.com/TV21).

[www.cityoffederalway.com](http://www.cityoffederalway.com)

(253) 835-7000

### Winter 2008

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City of Federal Way  
City Manager's Office  
33325 8th Avenue South  
P.O. Box 9718  
Federal Way, WA 98063-9718

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## Services

### **Pet license? Permit? Charge it!**

Next time you renew your business documents, apply for a permit or get a pet license you can put it on your plastic. In addition to accepting check or cash, the City now accepts credit card payments. There is a \$3,000 daily credit card limit and no daily limit if you pay with cash or check. Registers are located at the front desk and in the Finance, Community Development and Police departments.

### **Korean community welcomes new liaison**

The City welcomes Kyung Jung, a part-time Korean Community Liaison, to help local Korean citizens gain better access to City services. Miss Jung, also known as KC, provides translation services, guides citizens through City procedures, and coordinates meetings and events. Miss Jung is available weekdays from 9:10 a.m. to 1:10 p.m. Contact her at 253.835.2605 (Korean), 253.835.2655 (English), or [kyung.jung@cityoffederalway.com](mailto:kyung.jung@cityoffederalway.com). The next quarterly Korean community meeting is 6:30 p.m. March 20. The Korean Community Liaison program has been so successful, the City Council last year approved the hiring of a part-time liaison to the Hispanic community in early 2008.

### **Utility tax rebate for low-income disabled**

Low-income disabled persons can now seek a rebate on their utility taxes. The rebate program, which also helps low-income seniors, covers the City's tax on gas, electricity, telephone, cell phones, pagers, garbage/recycling, and cable TV charges. You must meet the HUD income levels, utility bills must be in your name and you must live in the city limits. Taxes on wastewater/water charges are not eligible. **Applications are due by April 30.** Application packets are available at [www.cityoffederalway.com](http://www.cityoffederalway.com), for pickup at City Hall, 33325 8th Ave. S.; or call 253.835.2541 to request a packet by mail.

### **Free tax assistance for low-income**

Volunteer IRS-trained tax preparers are available to assist people with low and moderate incomes this tax season. No ap-

pointment necessary, just stop by the Multi-Service Center (1200 S. 336th St.) Wednesdays and Thursdays from 5 to 8 p.m. Only basic personal tax returns are eligible. For more information: 877.211.9274 or [www.unitedwayofkingcounty.org/taxcampaign](http://www.unitedwayofkingcounty.org/taxcampaign).

## Police

### **Federal Way Police Chief elected Chair of King County Police Chiefs Association**

Federal Way Police Chief Brian Wilson was elected chair of the King County Police Chiefs Association for 2008. This is the first time in the City's history that a Federal Way police chief has served in this capacity. The association represents law enforcement officials in King County, addresses issues of mutual interest, and works with local, state and federal organizations on public safety issues.

Chief Wilson has been a member of the Federal Way Police Department since its inception in 1996 and is a 28-year veteran police officer.



### **Your tax dollars at work: 12 new police officers sworn in**

Last year the community approved a 1.75% increase in the City's utility tax in return for more police officers, equipment and other public safety needs. Your tax dollars are already at work! In December, the City held a swearing in ceremony for 12 of the new officers. By July, all 18 officers included in the tax increase will have finished their training program and will be serving the citizens of Federal Way. *Photo: Linda Farmer*



## Parks and Rec.



### **Community Center a hit with kids, teens, adults**

Myka Truss is one of 80,000 kids, teens and adults who enjoyed an Open Swim at the Federal Way Community Center in 2007. The pool was the main draw of the center with more than 15,000 coming through for swim lessons and more than 400 competing in swim meets. Birthday parties, exercise classes, weddings and events for seniors also topped the list of community uses of the center. The center is located in Celebration Park and offers a multitude of ways to get fit, have fun or just hang out. Drop in or become a passholder. Call 253.835.6900 for details or visit [www.cityoffederalway.com](http://www.cityoffederalway.com).

*Photo: Sid Lee*

### **New boardwalk at West Hylebos Wetlands Park**

After being closed for construction the last six months, the West Hylebos Wetlands Park is open and the new boardwalk is ready to guide your way in. Built in 1990, the original boardwalk was badly deteriorated and needed to be completely redone. The new boardwalk is three-quarters of a mile long and is built out of composite wood and recycled plastic lumber and is wider to accommodate wheelchairs. A new parking lot near the historic cabins on South 348th Street will now serve both the cabins and the boardwalk. A grand opening will be scheduled for this spring. The construction was paid for with City, State and Federal funds.

## News

### Lakehaven now provides permit assistance at City Hall

Getting your permits just got easier with the addition of a Lakehaven representative at the City Hall permit office. Available weekdays from 9 a.m. to noon and from 1 to 4 p.m., the Lakehaven representative will assist with development review and water and sewer system permits. Having someone onsite means better coordination with the City's regular development review activities - ideally speeding up the review process. South King Fire and Rescue is also onsite to handle fire permits. Health-related permits are now the only permits not handled in some fashion at City Hall.

### \$258,300 saved by paying off bond early

The City paid off a general obligation bond five years early saving taxpayers \$258,300 in needless interest. The bond, issued in 1997, was valued at \$1.89 million and was used to remodel the Knutzen Family Theatre. The City was able to pay the bond off early from higher than anticipated real estate excise tax funds in 2007. With an interest rate of 5.3% and a yearly payment of \$430,000, this extra money will now be available for city expenses.

### Snow plows, generators and radios-oh my!

In the wake of last year's storm the City Council invested \$1.5 million in emergency systems and equipment. The City bought plow and sanding trucks, de-icing tanks, generators, handheld two-way radios and even has its own AM radio station to better protect the community. City staff are also stepping up emergency training and are coordinating more closely than ever with local agencies.

### Quick, name 10 easy things you can do for emergencies

While we're on the subject, what have you done to protect your family in an emergency? Build a disaster kit, check your smoke detectors, have a family emergency plan - these are just some of the things you can do to prepare. Watch our fun seven-minute video of the "Top 10 Tips for Emergency Preparedness" on Federal Way TV 21 or online at [www.cityoffederalway.com/prepare](http://www.cityoffederalway.com/prepare).

### City's new radio station: AM 900

During the next winter storm or local emergency tune into the City's new emergency station at 900 on your AM radio dial to get real-time updates. The radio station will only be activated in emergencies and has the best signal on car radios or radios with antennas. Here, Thomas Coviak of Information Station Systems demonstrates how the station works.

*Photo: Linda Farmer*



### Want to live downtown? Sign up now

The City's bold new approach to downtown living is now accepting pre-sales. The development, called "Symphony," spans a four-acre site and calls for four towers ranging from 16 to 24 stories in height, placing them among some of the tallest buildings between Seattle and Portland. The development features nearly 60,000 square-feet of retail shops, restaurants and office space and about 900 condos and apartments. Symphony also will include a one-acre public park with seating areas, performance space and a water feature. For more information, visit [www.symphonyliving.com](http://www.symphonyliving.com) or call United Properties, 604.736.3864.

### Yellow flashing signal cuts collisions, keeps traffic on the go

If you've taken a left at the intersection of South 336th and 9th Avenue South you probably noticed the traffic signal has a yellow flashing arrow. When the yellow arrow is flashing you can turn left, yielding to oncoming traffic and pedestrians. The signal, installed in late 2006 as an experiment after a national study showed they help prevent crashes and keep traffic moving, has worked well: collisions are down 47% and cars are moving more consistently through the intersection. Another yellow flashing signal was installed in late January at SR 99 and South 312th Street and the City plans to add a few more this year as budget allows.

### Count down at the crosswalk

After a citizen suggestion last spring, count down pedestrian timers have been installed at nearly half of the City's 75 intersections. The new signals have oversized numbers that count down the time remaining to safely cross the street - keeping you safe and traffic moving. At a cost of about \$3,000

apiece, the City installed the timers at 37 intersections based on the signals that had the most distance to cross and highest number of pedestrians. The City plans to install the remaining timers as money becomes available.

### \$4.35 million from the State for improvements at 356th and SR 99

The "why in the world did they build it that way?" intersection of South 356th Street and SR 99 got a boost from the State Transportation Improvement Board with a \$4.35 million grant. The grant, the third largest award given by the state in 2007, will allow the City to realign the intersection and add turn lanes to increase traffic capacity. Sidewalks, landscaping, illumination and drainage improvements will also be added. Construction is expected to begin in spring 2009 and be completed by fall 2009.

## Public Works

### Pacific Highway HOV project — we're halfway there!

December marked the halfway point for the Pacific Highway South HOV Lane (Phase III) project. The contractor just completed the underground utility vault, and various utility companies have begun moving cable, telephone and other services underground. This will reduce the number of above-ground wires and utility poles. About three-quarters of the east side is paved and the tallest walls are structurally finished. Later this spring, traffic will shift from the southbound lanes to the northbound lanes, allowing the contractor access to the southbound side. The project is still scheduled to be finished by September. Get weekly project updates at [www.cityoffederalway.com](http://www.cityoffederalway.com), click on "street projects" in the right-hand menu.



## City Council Highlights



Jack Dovey  
Mayor

Eric Faison  
Deputy Mayor

Jeanne Burbidge

Dini Duclos

Jim Ferrell

Linda Kochmar

Michael Park

### Dini Duclos joins Council

Dini Duclos was elected to the City Council last November with a term that goes through 2011. Duclos is the Chief Executive Officer of the Multi-Service Center, a local non-profit community action agency. She holds a bachelor's degree in education from Fitchburg State College and a master's degree in social work from the University of Connecticut. Duclos has lived in Federal Way for 12 years.



### Jack Dovey appointed Mayor

On Jan. 2, the City Council unanimously appointed Jack Dovey as Mayor of Federal Way. He will serve a two-year term. Dovey served on the Council from 1995 through 1999 and then again from 2003 until the present. His term on the Council expires in 2011. Dovey co-owns a chain of nine BlueWater Wireless stores in Western Washington, including locations in Federal Way and Maple Valley.

### Eric Faison appointed Deputy Mayor

Eric Faison was unanimously appointed by the City Council as Deputy Mayor on Jan. 2. He will serve a two-year term. Faison served on the Council from 2001 to 2004 and was elected again in 2005 with a term ending in 2009. For his day job, Faison splits his time between being the administrator for the Town of Woodway, and being the community and governmental affairs manager for the City of University Place.

### City Council appoints 29 people to commissions since last September

#### Arts Commission

Carrol Clemens, Bruce Lee

#### Civil Service Commission

Linda Purlee

#### Diversity Commission

Lawrence Yapp, Jaye Zern, Susan Honda (alternate)

#### Human Services Commission

Chris Andersen

#### Lodging Tax Advisory Committee

Mike Dunwiddie, Carrie Wells, Michael Yim

#### Planning Commission

Sarady Long, Tom Medhurst, Timothy O'Neal (alternate), Kevin King (alternate)

#### Youth Commission

Catherine Rawsthorne, Marlon Harington, Christina Jeong, Traci Johnson, Joshua Mussa, Andrea Ortega, Riley Germanis, Caroline Hellwig, Jordan Rohrs, Kevin Suh, Olivia Timothy, Samuel Tang (alternate), Jessica Baik (alternate), Justin Yi (alternate), Heather Hallstrom (alternate)



#### CITY OFFICES

33325 8th Ave. S.  
P.O. Box 9718  
Federal Way, WA 98063  
835-7000  
www.cityoffederalway.com  
Federal Way TV Channel 21

#### CITY COUNCIL

Jack Dovey, Mayor  
Eric Faison, Deputy Mayor  
Jeanne Burbidge  
Dini Duclos  
Jim Ferrell  
Linda Kochmar  
Michael Park

#### CITY ADMINISTRATION

Neal Beets, City Manager, 835-2401  
Cary Roe, Assistant City Manager/Public Works Director, 835-2701  
Iwen Wang, Assistant City Manager/CFO, 835-2510  
Donna Hanson, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director, 835-6901  
Greg Fewins, Community Development Director, 835-2601  
Pat Richardson, City Attorney, 825-2563  
Brian Wilson, Chief of Police, 835-6701  
Linda Farmer, Communications/Gov. Affairs, 835-2411  
Sharyn Earl, Graphic Design

#### MUNICIPAL COURT

Michael Morgan, Municipal Court Judge

*\* All numbers 253 unless otherwise noted*

## Calendar

#### February 28 - April 17

Master Recycler Composter Training, City Hall ..... 835.2771

#### February 29 - March 16

"Nightmare of a Married Man," Knutzen Family Theatre ..... 661.1444

#### March 14-16, 21-23

Household Hazardous Wastemobile, The Commons ..... 835.2771

#### March 15

Recycling Event, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Twin Lakes Park and Ride..... 835.2771

#### March 20

Korean Community Meeting, 6:30 p.m., City Hall..... 835.2605

#### April 19

Earth Day events, 9 a.m. to noon, various locations ..... 835.2652

#### April 25-26

2nd Annual Writers Retreat, Dumas Bay Centre ..... 835.6900

#### May 3

Korean Health Fair, 9 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Community Center .....835.2605

#### May 10-11

Buds & Blooms: Federal Way Garden Festival, various venues ..... 835.2501

#### Date TBD

City Center Access Project Phase II Public Meeting ..... 835.2742