

# CITYWIDE NEWS

## OUR CITY PREPARES FOR THE ANNUAL RED, WHITE & BLUES FESTIVAL!



Federal Way is gearing up for the **28th Annual Red, White, and Blues Festival!** Fourth of July at Celebration Park is a date we look forward to every year - a time to enjoy the festivities and celebrate together.

“The Red, White, and Blues Festival has long been woven into the fabric of Federal Way, serving as a symbol of community unity and celebration,” **Mayor Jim Ferrell said.** “For nearly three decades, this event has provided a platform for locals to gather and honor the nation’s independence in a festive and safe environment.”

Get ready to be thrilled as the sun sets, and the excitement **culminates at 10:15 p.m. with a stunning fireworks display** that will light up the sky. **Spike & The Impalers** are the headliners for the **concert starting at 4 p.m.**

Bring the family to this free event!

“This is the show in our community on July 4,” said **John Hutton, Parks Director,** who has lived in Federal Way since 1992 and worked almost every Fourth of July event. “I want to acknowledge our Parks and Recreation Department for making the Red, White, and Blues Festival successful and our Federal Way Police Department for their hard work. Without them, this event does not happen. The concert portion is epic. We get good local bands that have featured Rock & Roll Hall of Famers.”

**MILES FOR MESO**  
 4th of July Fun Family  
 5k Run/Walk 2023



## MILES FOR MESO 5K RUN/WALK ON JULY 4

Join us for our 12th annual **Miles for Meso 5K Run/Walk** at the **Federal Way Community Center** on **July 4 at 8 a.m.**

- 5K Run/Walk - 9 a.m. (\$30)
- 5K Run/Walk Wheelchair - 9 a.m. (\$30)
- Kids Dash - 8:30 a.m. (Free)
- Virtual 5K Run/Walk (\$20)

[Click here for registration information.](#) The fundraiser pays tribute to **Bud Hatley and Bob Stewart, Federal Way School District Athletic Hall of Famers,** and all who have lost their lives to Mesothelioma.

“The widows of several victims of Mesothelioma were the driving force to begin this tradition and have served as loyal, hard-working volunteers,” Hutton said.

**Our City will share all proceeds from this event with the Mesothelioma Foundation,** helping support research and care for those impacted by this rare cancer caused by exposure to asbestos.

## FWPD URGES RESIDENTS TO STAY SAFE AROUND THE FOURTH OF JULY



*The Independence Day season will see the Federal Way Police Department in action, seizing fireworks and imposing a fine of \$300 on those found in possession of illegal contraband.*

As we approach the Fourth of July holiday, the **Federal Way Police Department (FWPD)** reminds everyone that fireworks are illegal in our City.

Soon after the City of Federal Way was incorporated, the **City Council voted to legalize fireworks in the new City.**

Many cities and counties have banned fireworks for four reasons: they can cause injuries, fires, noise, and environmental pollution.

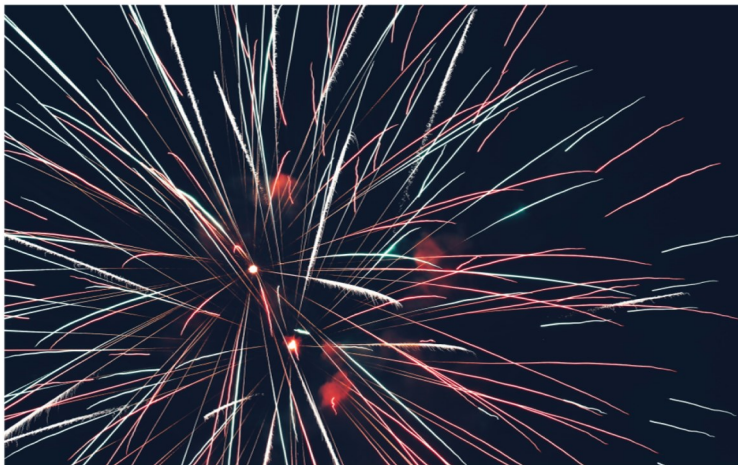
Fireworks associated with Independence Day and New Year's have been part of American traditions for many generations.

It isn't realistic to expect police writing fireworks tickets by itself will change this cultural tradition. It takes everyone in their circles of influence.

For example, the school district has a rule against setting off fireworks on its properties. Homeowners associations and apartment complexes would benefit from following this rule and enforcing consequences for any violations on their premises.

Our Communications Officer, David Solano, shared a story with FWPD about a former colleague from a Detroit TV station. The [chief meteorologist lost their left eye in 2014 due to a firework accident.](#)

"Besides fireworks being illegal in our City, recreational fireworks can be dangerous, resulting in serious burns and injuries. As parents and adults, we are responsible for protecting our children from preventable and senseless fireworks-related injuries this Fourth of July. Keeping our community safe is our number one priority," **said Police Chief Andy Hwang.**



*The Washington State Fire Marshal's Office has made it illegal to sell, possess, or discharge firecrackers, bottle rockets, skyrockets, and firework missiles within the state.*



## COUNCIL'S CORNER

Last week, Council President Kochmar, Deputy Mayor Honda, and Councilmember Assefa-Dawson attended **the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) Annual Conference in Spokane**. At the next Council meeting, they will discuss what they learned from their reports. However, they wanted to share the following beforehand:



*“Attending the annual AWC conference is a great time to meet new people, reconnect with Councilmembers from around the state, learn from experts, and hear about what is happening in other cities. We look forward to sharing what we learned with others.” -Deputy Mayor Honda*

This week, **the Council will conduct interviews for Council Position #2**. Initially, there were 18 applicants, but during the Council meeting on June 20, they narrowed it down to seven candidates who will proceed to the interview stage.

The process for appointing a new Councilmember is extensive, and our Council is grateful to the **City Clerk, Stephanie Courtney** and her team for making this process smooth.

Each applicant will receive 30 minutes for their interviews.

Council will conduct them on **June 26 during a Special Meeting open to the public, beginning at 5 p.m. in Council Chambers**.

*From June 20-23, Council President Linda Kochmar joined Councilmember Lydia Assefa-Dawson and Deputy Mayor Susan Honda at the AWC Annual Conference in Spokane.*

### The candidates:

- Saudia Abdullah
- Gordon Bock
- Lana Bostic
- Karen Brugato
- Paul McDaniel
- Tom Medhurst
- Anna Patrick



**Please be reminded that the Council Meeting, usually held on the first Tuesday of July (July 4), is rescheduled for Wednesday, July 5.**

### This week's Council happenings:

- City Council Special Meeting: Interviews for Applicants for Position #2 at City Hall, **June 26 at 5 p.m.**
- Human Services Commission Regular Meeting at City Hall, **June 26 at 5:30 p.m.**
- Finance, Economic Development & Regional Affairs Committee (FEDRAC) Regular Meeting at City Hall, **June 27 at 5 p.m.**
- City Council Special Meeting: Interviews for Applicants for Position #2 (if needed) at City Hall, **June 29 at 5 p.m.**

## DICK'S DRIVE-IN WILL OPEN ITS FEDERAL WAY LOCATION ON JULY 27



Mark your calendars for **July 27 at 10 a.m.** when **Dick's Drive-In** will open its doors at **The Commons in Federal Way!**

We hope you'll be available for their ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the historic moment.

This occasion is noteworthy because it emphasizes the favorable influence that Dick's Drive-In's expansion into Federal Way will have on our community.

Known for its iconic presence in Seattle since the 1950s, Dick's Drive-In has become a beloved staple in Washington state.

The grand opening in Federal Way is an opportunity to indulge in the mouthwatering menu items that have made Dick's Drive-In famous!

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

This week the department reviewed proposed code changes to residential open space requirements with the Planning Commission. The purpose of these code amendments is to provide more consistency among residential uses and to reduce the available space requirements recognizing the recently-approved park impact fee. CD staff attended Juneteenth activities, gaining input on the City's Comprehensive Plan as part of the periodic update.

Code compliance has started proactive enforcement activities as times allow. We are implementing new measures to flag more distressed properties sooner before they impact the neighborhood. Compliance officers will be in charge of this new task.

## COMMUNITY RECREATION

Our Day Camp staff received full-day training on **June 22 and 23.**

Training consisted of daily procedures, camp songs, games, and activities.

We have nine returning Day Camp leaders and 17 new camp staff for the 2023 summer camp.

**Our summer camp starts on June 26,** and we are excited to have 173 youth aged 4-15 registered for the first week!

The summer camp provides a fun, safe, and exciting place for our valued participants. The City is grateful for the hard work of our Day Camp staff in making this possible!



## WINNERS OF THE MUNICIPAL COURT ART CONTEST 2023 RECOGNIZED



During the City Council meeting on June 20, **Municipal Court Judges David Larson and Brad Bales** acknowledged and congratulated the winners of the **Federal Way Arts Commission Municipal Court Art Contest**. Judges Larson and Bales requested an art contest organized by the **Federal Way Arts Commission**.

The contest intends to encourage students to reflect on the concept of liberty and help families feel more at ease should they find themselves in a courtroom. The competition was available to **all grades 1-8 students living within the Federal Way School District boundaries**.

“We had over 20 submissions, and then we picked the top three from elementary schools throughout Federal Way and the top three from middle schools,” said **Cassie Swan, the Recreation Coordinator for Arts & Events**.

The Arts Commission offered cash rewards ranging from \$25 to \$100 to these winners:

- 1st Place Elementary (*What Liberty Means To Me*)  
**Sehaj Kaur Nagra, 1st grade—Meredith Hill Elementary**
- 2nd Place Elementary (*I Have Freedom of Choice*)  
**Tiffany S. Lee, 4th grade—Lakeland Elementary**
- 3rd Place Elementary (*God Gives Freedom*)  
**Azarij Boiko, 3rd grade—Silver Lake Elementary**
- 1st Place Middle School (*What Liberty Means to Me*)  
**Daniel Huh, 6th grade—Federal Way Public Academy**
- 2nd Place Elementary (*Freedom of Speech*)  
**Aaliyah Perkins, 7th grade—Sequoyah Middle School**
- 3rd Place Elementary (*Life, Love, Liberty*)  
**Trinity Yamada, 7th grade—St. Vincent De Paul School**

## CITY CONTINUES ITS PARTNERSHIP WITH FWPS FOR SUMMER LEARNING



**Federal Way Public Schools (FWPS)** has been working with our City to offer educational summer learning videos for the past three years. And we are excited to continue this partnership for a fourth year, **with the videos set to air from June 27 through July 28!** The videos are accessible through **our 24-hour Federal Way Government Access Channel 21 (GOVAC)** and the [FWPS website](#).

FWPS provides educational videos on subjects, including English language arts, mathematics in Spanish, and English. FWPS has developed a summer learning program for K-5 students specifically designed to improve their educational experience before the start of the next school year.

## PUBLIC WORKS AFTER-HOURS CALL



On June 20, our Public Works crew **responded after hours to a diesel spill on Dash Point Road.**

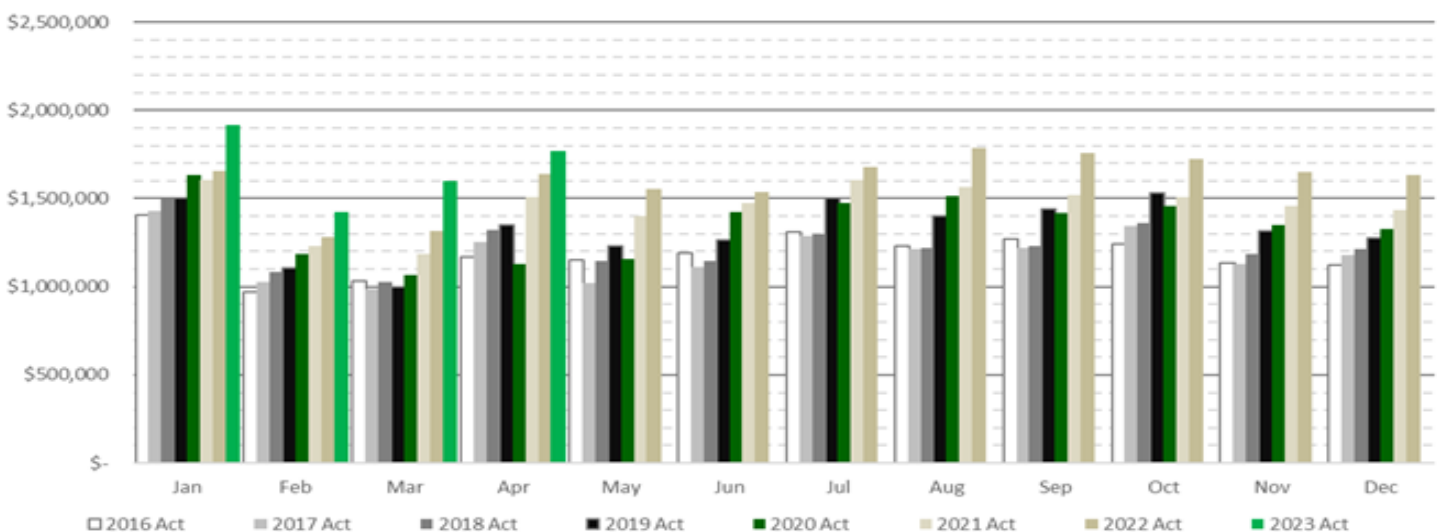
The spill stretched for approximately 0.6 miles. Diesel makes the road slick and unsafe for vehicles while also creating the potential for environmental pollution.

**The team used a chemical absorbent, the white powder seen in the pictures, to soak up the diesel.** After the absorbent became saturated, the crew used brooms and street sweepers to clean it up.

The hard work of Public Works staff **prevented the diesel from getting into the storm drains, swales, and ultimately the creeks and Puget Sound.**

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

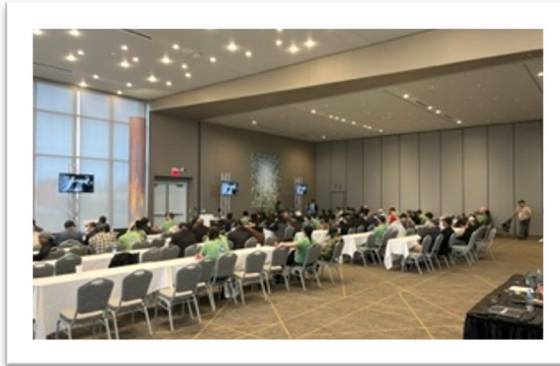
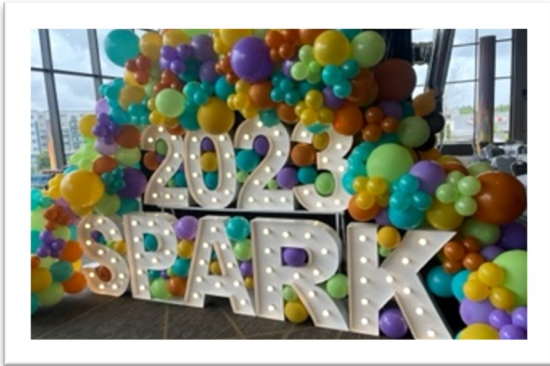
City of Federal Way  
Historical Sales Tax Remittances by Month



Finance staff reports that the City of Federal Way sales tax receipts are up. Again! **Follow the money: in the graph above, the bright green bars show the Sales Tax collected** in the City of Federal Way compared to the same month in the previous seven years. Every month, retailers remit their sales tax to the State, and the following month the Department of Revenue remits the City our portion. For the fourth month in a row, the local economy is doing better than it did in the same month last year. **To our valued employees,** we appreciate your essential role in driving the economic success of our City. Your contributions are highly significant and deeply appreciated! Thank you.



Our friends at **The Performing Arts and Event Center (PAEC)** recently hosted the **Goodman Real Estate SPARK Event**. Over 300 attendees were at the PAEC on June 20 for a full day of training and seminars. The group who used the event space and theater for their sessions occupied the entire facility. OVG360 Hospitality provided breakfast, lunch, and hors d'oeuvres for those in attendance.



## TWO SHOWS ANNOUNCED AND WENT ON SALE JUNE 23



**MADAGASCAR THE MUSICAL ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2023, AT 7:30 p.m.**

Based on the smash hit DreamWorks' animated motion picture, **Madagascar The Musical** follows all your favorite cracka-lackin' friends (Alex the Lion, Marty the Zebra, Melman the Giraffe, Gloria the hip hop Hippo and a colony of hilarious, clever penguins) as they escape from their home in New York's Central Park Zoo and find themselves on an unexpected journey to the madcap world of King Julien's Madagascar. Filled with outlandish characters, adventures galore, and an upbeat score, you'll have no choice but to "Move It, Move It!"

**Madagascar The Musical** is the perfect family outing, with vibrancy and pace for audiences of all ages!



**JAKE SHIMABUKURO — CHRISTMAS IN HAWAI'I — NOVEMBER 15, 2023, 8 P.M.**

Ukulele master and jolly ambassador of aloha, **JAKE SHIMABUKURO**, will bring joy to the world this upcoming 2023 Holiday Season by delivering a special gift for all with the debut of his highly anticipated holiday show, **JAKE SHIMABUKURO – CHRISTMAS IN HAWAI'I**. With only four strings, Jake is a humble master whose mission is to connect and inspire people. Whether one-on-one or in front of an audience of thousands, Jake shares a deep emotional connection with the listener that is open, magical, and transcendent.

Tickets are available at: [www.fwpaec.org](http://www.fwpaec.org). Stay tuned for upcoming events at the PAEC!

