

CITYWIDE NEWS

MAYOR FERRELL STANDS WITH FEDERAL WAY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AT THEIR 'LET US WALK' SAFETY AWARENESS RALLY



Today, Federal Way Mayor Jim Ferrell and Dr. Dani Pfeiffer, Superintendent of Federal Way Public Schools (FWPS), joined our City Councilmembers and Federal Way High School students to raise awareness about pedestrian safety. Everyone gathered at the S 308th Street and Pacific Highway intersections to highlight the urgent need for pedestrian safety measures. We thank Federal Way Police Department (FWPD) Chief Andy Hwang and his team for ensuring everyone’s safety and providing support at the rally.

OUR PEDESTRIAN SAFETY EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIP WITH FEDERAL WAY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Collaborative Partnership! Mayor Ferrell thanks Dr. Dani Pfeiffer, Superintendent of Federal Way Public Schools, for inviting our team to a meeting last week to discuss an educational partnership for pedestrian safety. Bill Vadino, Policy Advisor; EJ Walsh, Public Works Director; Brian Davis, City Administrator; and Federal Way Police Department Chief Andy Hwang were at the meeting. Our primary objective is to prioritize safety by working together, and we plan to share more information about the educational partnership in January 2024.



FEDERAL WAY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MAYOR FERRELL AND CITY COUNCIL HOST A BREAKFAST MEETING WITH THE 30TH DISTRICT LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION AND ELECTED OFFICIALS



Federal Way Mayor Jim Ferrell emphasized police pursuit laws as his top priority during the 2024 State Legislative Session. Under the leadership of Ferrell, the City of Federal Way is taking proactive measures to equip the officers of our Federal Way Police Department (FWPD) with the necessary tools to safeguard the community against crime. The Mayor urged Legislators to take immediate action as the current pursuit laws in our state prevent law enforcement from effectively catching criminals and protecting communities.

MAYOR FERRELL ATTENDS THE 16TH ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST AT HIGHLINE COLLEGE



Mayor Ferrell and our Economic Development Director Tanja Carter recently attended the 16th Annual Legislative Breakfast at Highline College in Des Moines. The South Sound Chambers of Commerce Legislative Coalition gave an excellent presentation about its legislative priorities for 2024 to the local Legislators and business community. Their top priorities for next year include public safety, attainable housing, workforce development, small businesses, and transportation. The City of Federal Way served as a proud sponsor!

MAYOR FERRELL ATTENDS THE GOOD EGGS BREAKFAST WITH CHIEF JUDGE SEAN O'DONNELL FROM KING COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

On December 13, Mayor Ferrell attended an excellent presentation by Chief Judge Sean O'Donnell from the King County Superior Court at the Good Eggs Breakfast! Mayor Ferrell, who has 19 years of prosecutorial experience, appreciates Judge O'Donnell's efforts to implement virtual trial procedures and conduct virtual jury selection and training during the global pandemic.



Community Networking! From left to right: King County Councilmember Pete von Reichbauer, Kent Mayor Dana Ralph, King County District Court Judge Matthew York, Pacific Mayor Leanne Guier, King County Superior Court Chief Judge Sean P. O'Donnell, Algona Mayor Troy Linnell, Maple Valley Mayor Sean P. Kelly, Federal Way Mayor Jim Ferrell, and King County District Court Judge Rebecca C. Robertson.



King County



Mayor's Memo...

HIDDEN LESSONS FROM THE WASHINGTON HUSKIES



The stage is set! Here in Puget Sound, we're all looking ahead to the Washington (13-0) vs. Texas (12-1) College Football Playoff (CFP) Semifinal at the Sugar Bowl in New Orleans on January 1, 2024. This season, single digits have decided eight of the last nine games played by UW. The previous four wins by the Huskies have been by a total of only 15 points!

There is a story behind this trend... We can learn valuable lessons from the nail-biting and close finishes of the University of Washington this year. The Huskies are the second-ranked team in the nation.

Despite facing adversity, the Pac-12 Champion Dawgs found a way to win. They overcame adversity against the Beavers in pouring rain in Corvallis, Oregon, and defeated the Oregon Ducks twice in 2023. UW quarterback Michael Penix Jr., the runner-up for the 2023 Heisman trophy, has been one of the best stories in college football. For the second consecutive year, Penix Jr. was the top passer in the nation, throwing for 4,218 yards.

College football has always been a big part of my life. I played at UW all four years under the legendary Coach Don James, who taught me lessons about life. If you stop by my office, you'll see a copy of *"The Thursday Speeches: Lessons in Life, Leadership, and Football from Coach Don James"* that sits on my desk every day.

Coach James led his team with a CEO mindset: accountability, discipline, focus, no excuses, systems in place for everything, teamwork, and results. Coach James was a wealth of knowledge and instilled a playbook for each of us to prepare for everyday challenges.

Dr. Peter Tormey, a former UW linebacker, in the early years of the James era, collected the speeches and put the book together in 2014 as a tribute to Coach James. Peter is Chris Tormey's older brother (an assistant coach at Washington for 16 seasons). He was also my position coach for several seasons. As my position coach, I had the opportunity to listen and learn from Coach Tormey every day.

Coach Tormey had a very memorable quote that I live by every day:

"The definition of commitment is removing the option to quit."

Think about that for a moment. These are words to live by. We all face challenges, disappointments, and setbacks. How we respond to those challenges sets the course for our lives.

Like the Huskies, our story in Federal Way is one of resilience and determination. No matter the challenge we will never give up in the face of adversity.

As we approach the 2024 State Legislative Session, my top priority is to focus on police pursuit laws. We are taking proactive measures to ensure that our Federal Way Police Department officers have the necessary tools to safeguard our community against crime. The crime numbers are rising in our region, not just in Federal Way. We will not tolerate thieves controlling our communities' narrative and will tackle this issue daily.

We will also relentlessly pursue local jobs and policies that will make our community safer and more prosperous.

With the CFP Semifinal just around the corner, it's important to look back on Coach James' 1991 National Champion Washington team and its perfect season (the Huskies had a record of 12-0, with 8-0 in the Pacific-10 Conference that year).

Let's wait and see if UW can defeat the Texas Longhorns, whom former UW head Coach Steve Sarkisian now leads. If the Huskies win, they punch their ticket to the National Championship in Houston on January 8, 2024.

In doing so, they will have persevered and prevailed even against daunting odds and obstacles.

The stories of Federal Way and the University of Washington remind us of our limitless potential and ability to overcome challenges.

I can't wait for the next chapter!

Thank you,
Jim Ferrell
Mayor of Federal Way

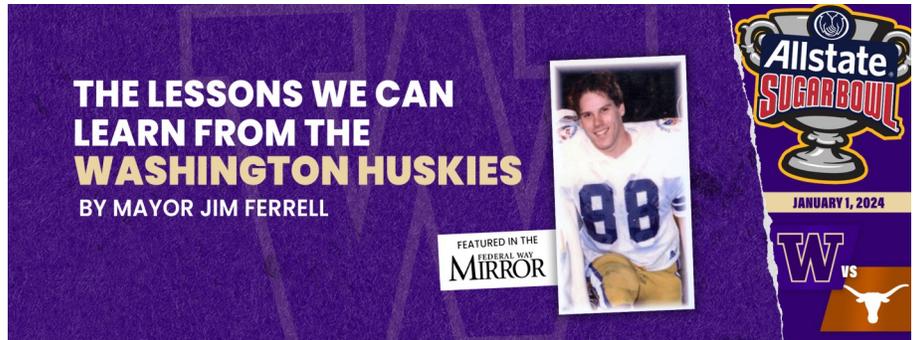
— *Jim Ferrell*

MAYOR'S MEMO IN THE FEDERAL WAY MIRROR

Mayor Ferrell recently wrote an excellent article about the lessons we can all learn from the Washington Huskies football team.

Enjoy watching the College Football Semifinal (CFP) game between UW and the Texas Longhorns on New Year's Day in New Orleans!

You know our Mayor will be watching the Huskies try punching their ticket to Houston for the National Championship on January 8, 2024!



CITYWIDE NEWS

OUR FWPD TRAFFIC UNIT EMPHASIZES THE SIGNIFICANCE OF “NICK AND DEREK’S PROJECT”



Derek King and Nicholas Hodgins



The Federal Way Police Department (FWPD) serves our community as a full-service law enforcement agency. The FWPD Traffic Unit comprises dedicated officers and supervisors who focus on providing excellent service to our community members and visitors.

Our FWPD Traffic Unit focuses on providing the safest possible roadways for motorists and pedestrians through education and enforcement.

For the past decade, we have utilized specially designated funding to enhance Driving Under The Influence (DUI), speeding, and distracted driving patrols.

This allocation of funds comes in the name of the “Nick and Derek Project” in honor of two Decatur High School students, Nicholas Hodgins and Derek King, killed in a DUI collision on Interstate 5 on June 9, 2010, only days before their graduation.



These “Nick and Derek” traffic patrol efforts allow officers to focus strictly on traffic enforcement, providing a solid example of our continuous commitment to promoting responsible driving habits.

DUI Enforcement: DUI remains a leading cause of collisions, injuries, and fatalities. The Nick and Derek Project allocates resources to combat impaired driving. We hope to deter DUI driving in our region, preventing tragic outcomes.



Speeding Enforcement: Speeding remains a significant contributor to traffic collisions and fatalities. The Nick and Derek Project emphasizes targeted speeding enforcement to address this issue. By strategically placing officers in high-risk areas and utilizing speed measuring devices, the FWPD Traffic Unit can enforce speed limits and raise awareness about the dangers of excessive speeding.

Distracted Driving Initiatives: With the recent proliferation of smartphones and other electronic devices, distracted driving has become a growing concern nationwide. The Nick and Derek Project tackles this issue through targeted enforcement operations.

Processing a subject for DUI takes between two to four hours. When a police officer is taken off the street to handle one emergency call, they become unavailable to respond to other emergencies. This project allows the FWPD Traffic Unit to put additional officers on the road and removes the burden from general patrol officers. This community and the FWPD will not tolerate distracted driving and DUIs in our city.

The Nick and Derek Project is a testament to our ongoing dedication to enhancing road safety in our community.



COUNCIL'S CORNER

Let's catch up with Councilmember Hoang Tran!

- **What made you want to get involved in City government?** *My younger sister and I escaped from Vietnam more than 45 years ago, and we ended up in a refugee camp in Malaysia. We wanted to go to America, but at that time, it was very difficult to get resettlement in the U.S. After spending 9-months in the refugee camp, we were allowed to settle in the U.S. Since then, I promised myself that one day I would find a way to repay the debt to the people of this country for giving us a second chance in life. Being a public servant has helped me fulfill that promise.*

- **What is the most rewarding part of being part of City government?** *The most rewarding part of being part of City government is working collaboratively with other councilmembers, the Mayor, City staff, and residents to move the City forward. Also, I enjoy seeing how our decision impact the community usually within weeks or a few months.*

Councilmember Hoang Tran.



- **What have you enjoyed most about being a Councilmember?** *I consider myself as the voice of the underprivileged, under-served people in the community. I can offer a different perspective, especially, the perspective of a person of color. I also hope that by being a member of the Council, I inspire others to get involved and run for public office.*
- **What is your vision for Federal Way's future?** *Diversity and inclusion, having a Safe City, building a technology hub, be able to attract and retain some S&P 500 companies, have a walkable downtown, and be first class in parks and recreation.*
- **What projects are you currently focused on?** *As Chair of the Finance, Economic Development & Regional Affairs Committee (FEDRAC), I continue to work collaboratively with Finance staff, led by Director Steve Groom, to ensure our finances are in top condition, our investments are sound, as well as to prepare for any potential downturn in the economy. Public Safety and Downtown Development are also my priorities.*
- **What makes Federal Way so special?** *It's people. The City has grown to more than 100,000 residents. We are one of the most diverse cities in the state. Our people come from all over the world and speak more than 140 languages. We have a unique opportunity to create an inclusive community where we embrace and celebrate different people and cultures.*
- **Where is your favorite place to go in Federal Way?** *There are so many places in Federal Way that I would consider a "favorite". I enjoy many things that Federal Way has to offer from food at local restaurants, the Farmers Market, the PAEC, parks and lakes.*
- **Which city park is your favorite?** *Steel Lake Park! When my children were younger, we often took them to this park to play. We held birthday parties here and used our non-motorized boat to fish on the lake!*

COUNCIL'S CORNER

This week's Council happenings:

- **Human Services Commission Regular Meeting**, December 18 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall.
- **Reminder - there is no second Council meeting this month.** The next Council Meeting will be on January 2.
- **Reminder - City Hall will close early on December 22 at Noon to celebrate the holidays.** City Hall will remain closed on December 25 and reopen on December 26.
- **Reminder - City Hall will close early on December 29 at Noon to celebrate the New Year.** City Hall will remain closed on January 1 and reopen on January 2.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO YOU FEDERAL WAY!



Please note that this is our final edition of the *Citywide News* for 2023.

We look forward to bringing you the next newsletter on January 8, 2024!

As we celebrate this holiday season with our family and friends (and pets; they're part of the family, too), [click this link](#) to recap the memorable moments of our Tree Lighting Ceremony at Town Square Park on December 2!

Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year!

CITY OF
Federal Way
Centered on Opportunity

RELIVE THE MAGIC OF OUR TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY!

LIVE NOW ON YOUTUBE!

CITYWIDE NEWS

COOKIES WITH MRS. CLAUS RETURNS TO THE FWCC!



The Cookies with Mrs. Claus event is one of our annual traditions in Federal Way! On December 14, guests at the event enjoyed hot cocoa, made holiday cookies, danced to festive music, and took holiday photos. Mayor Ferrell thanks Cassie Swan and our entire Parks and Recreation department for organizing this family-friendly event!

PARKS AND RECREATION UPDATES!



Our Federal Way Parks and Recreation team collaborated with South King Fire for its yearly Santa Parade to gather food donations for the Federal Way Center/Food Bank/Nutritional Meals Program! The event proved a triumph, as Santa and Mrs. Claus captured moments with families and sprinkled holiday cheer while we collected food contributions — exactly 2,600 pounds! The City of Federal Way appreciates the partnership with Captain Brad Chaney and the South King Fire team!



Preschool Education: The preschool teachers recently held individual meetings with each family to discuss their preschooler's development and achievements this school year.

Preschool education is crucial in nurturing essential social and fine motor skills that lay the foundation for their future learning endeavors. In December, Ms. Mari and Ms. Deja distributed cookies and spread kindness!



CITYWIDE NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS IN FEDERAL WAY!

STATE OF THE CITY

ADDRESS BY
MAYOR JIM FERRELL

"Welcome Home"

Thursday, February 15, 2024
at 6:00 p.m.



Mayor's State of the City FREE EVENT

Federal Way Performing Arts & Event Center
31510 Pete von Reichbauer Way S
Federal Way, WA 98003

FREE
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

The **FEDERAL WAY**
MIRROR presents...

HOT OFF THE PRESSES:
Community Conversations

TUESDAY,
DECEMBER 19, 2023

1:00 – 2:30 PM

**POVERTY BAY CAFÉ,
1108 S 322ND PL**

*"A newspaper is a mirror
reflecting the public..."*

– Arthur Brisbane

JOIN US!

**DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY
TO TALK WITH THE NEWSROOM!**

HOT OFF PRESSES is sponsored by FUSION
with refreshments by Poverty Bay Café.

Questions? Contact editor@federalwaymirror.com
or cindy.ducich@federalwaymirror.com

SOUTH KING FIRE PRESENTS



**SANTA
PARADES
& CANNED
FOOD DRIVE**



SCAN ME

DEC 4TH & 5TH IN DES MOINES

DEC 11TH, 12TH, 18TH & 19TH

IN FEDERAL WAY

5:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.

NON-PERISHABLE FOOD DONATIONS

Since 2020, South King Fire has lit up the streets with Santa Parades to spread cheer and support our community.

We partner with our local cities to gather canned food for donation to food banks, offering a helping hand to families in need during a challenging time of the year.

Please scan the code to learn more about this year's parades.



CITYWIDE NEWS

HAPPENING AT THE FEDERAL WAY COMMUNITY CENTER!



FEDERAL WAY

2023 * 2023 * 2023 * 2023 * 2023 * 2023 * 2023 * 2023 * 2023 * 2023 *

WINTER CAMP



SWIMMING * ROCK CLIMBING * CRAFTS * FIELD TRIPS * AND MORE!

DECEMBER 26TH – DECEMBER 29TH
JANUARY 2ND – JANUARY 5TH

Federal Way
**COMMUNITY
CENTER**
It all happens here

FEDERAL WAY COMMUNITY CENTER HOLIDAY HOURS

A graphic with a white background and a red border, set against a blurred background of a Christmas tree. At the top is the Federal Way Community Center logo, which includes the text 'Federal Way COMMUNITY CENTER' and the tagline 'It all happens here' with a stylized wave icon. Below the logo is the title 'Holiday Schedule' in a red serif font. Underneath is a table with two columns: the date and the operating hours.

NOVEMBER 23	CLOSED
NOVEMBER 24	8 AM - 9 PM
DECEMBER 24	9 AM - 2 PM
DECEMBER 25	CLOSED
DECEMBER 31	8 AM - 2 PM
JANUARY 1	CLOSED



SCOUTING FOR TREES

JANUARY 6, 2024

10:00AM–2:00PM PICK UP

Support from: Troop 307, Troop 330, Troop 361, and Troop 841G

Register your holiday tree for pick-up by: January 3, 2024

Drop-off available at Celebration Park:

9:00am–3:00pm January 6th–7th

Must be in Federal Way city limits. Limited amount of pick ups available.
3 trees per person at drop-off

- Suggested donation: \$5–\$10 for drop off; \$15–\$20 for pick up
- No ornaments, lights, tinsel, stands, or other debris
- Environmentally responsible disposal!



SCAN



TO REGISTER



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®
PACIFIC HARBORS COUNCIL

For troop info go to: beascout.org • Questions? ScoutingForTrees.FW@gmail.com