

# CITYWIDE NEWS

**THE COMMUNITY JOINS MAYOR FERRELL FOR OUR ANNUAL TREE-LIGHTING CEREMONY AT TOWN SQUARE PARK!**



***Our Tradition in Federal Way! On December 2, a packed crowd gathered at Town Square Park and joined Mayor Jim Ferrell for the Tree Lighting Ceremony. The family-friendly event included hot cocoa for the kids, a visit from Santa Claus, and other fun holiday festivities. The City of Federal Way appreciates Cassie Swan, Recreation Coordinator Arts & Events, and the entire Parks & Recreation team for organizing this once again and ensuring the smooth running of the event!***

CITY OF  
Federal Way  
**CITYWIDE NEWS**



# CITYWIDE NEWS



# CITYWIDE NEWS

## THE COMMUNITY GATHERS FOR OUR ANNUAL JINGLE BELL BRUNCH!

Mayor Ferrell thanks the staff and those who attended the much-loved Jingle Bell Brunch on December 2 at the Federal Way Community Center (FWCC)! The Federal Way community enjoyed delicious pancakes and hot cocoa while watching their kids have a great time, creating cherished memories through arts and crafts and other fun activities!



***Thank You, Federal Way, For Your Support! We take immense pride in our Federal Way Community Center and are thrilled to see everyone enjoying its amenities. The Federal Way community's continued support is greatly appreciated and valued.***



***The Unforgettable Moments! Santa and Mrs. Claus visited with the kids at the FWCC and participated in the holiday celebrations with families. We are grateful to our Parks & Recreation team for spreading joy in our community during this time of the year.***

# CITYWIDE NEWS

## NEWLY APPOINTED CONSUL GENERAL OF JAPAN IN SEATTLE VISITS MAYOR FERRELL



***This morning, Mayor Ferrell welcomed Makoto Iyori, the newly appointed Consul General of Japan, who recently arrived in Seattle. Hiro Tojo, Senior Assistant for Political Affairs at the Consulate General of Japan office in Seattle, also joined the tour at City Hall. Economic Development Director Tanja Carter, City Administrator Brian Davis, and Policy Advisor Bill Vadino greeted them in Federal Way. Consul General Iyori has served in several distinguished overseas postings, including Canada, Indonesia, and the Philippines.***



## FWRPD DETECTIVE HELPS SOLVE A 20-YEAR-OLD MURDER



A jury this year found Melvin Taylor guilty of the February 4, 2002, murder and sexual assault of a woman in Federal Way in a murder case that went unresolved 20 years ago.

The Federal Way Police Department (FWPD) responded to a homicide that took place in the 31200 block of Pacific Hwy S. on February 4, 2002. The victim had suffered several attacks, FWPD discovered upon its arrival.

An extensive investigation involving crime scene personnel and investigators worked tirelessly, searching for evidence and leads to ensure that this person would be held responsible for their heinous actions.

With minimal evidence and exhausted leads, and despite the continued efforts of the numerous individuals involved in this case, the case went cold.

Those who followed put in many hours, but the investigation never closed, and the victim's family did not receive the justice their loved one deserved.

A new development in the FWPD investigation occurred in 2020 when DNA from a separate crime connected to Taylor was collected.

The Washington State Patrol's crime lab provided information that pointed to a possible suspect in the case.

Detective Adam Howell took the lead and began investigating this crime. Adam meticulously reviewed collected case files and evidence to establish a link between the victim and the DNA match suspect.

Adam followed the evidence, worked with the experts and the prosecutors, and was able to present charges for the sexual assault and murder of our victim on the identified suspect.

In February of 2023, the suspect was tried and successfully convicted for the egregious assault of the victim, as well as convicted of a separate sexual assault involving another victim.

Mayor Ferrell, FWPD Chief Andy Hwang, and the City of Federal Way recognize Detective Howell's diligent efforts in cracking this case.

We appreciate Adam's dedication and leadership in safeguarding and serving our Federal Way community.



# CITYWIDE NEWS

## MAYOR FERRELL WORKS WITH FUSION TO OPEN COLD WEATHER SHELTER; THE FWCC NOW SERVING AS A WARMING SHELTER

**FUSION** **N**  
HOUSING FAMILIES IN NEED

In response to the extended cold temperatures, Mayor Ferrell partnered with FUSION's Executive Director, David Harrison, to open a severe weather shelter at the FUSION Center on November 29 and 30.

FUSION collaborated with the City of Federal Way to transform its common room into a 14-bed emergency weather shelter last week, providing food, water, and necessary items for unhoused individuals.



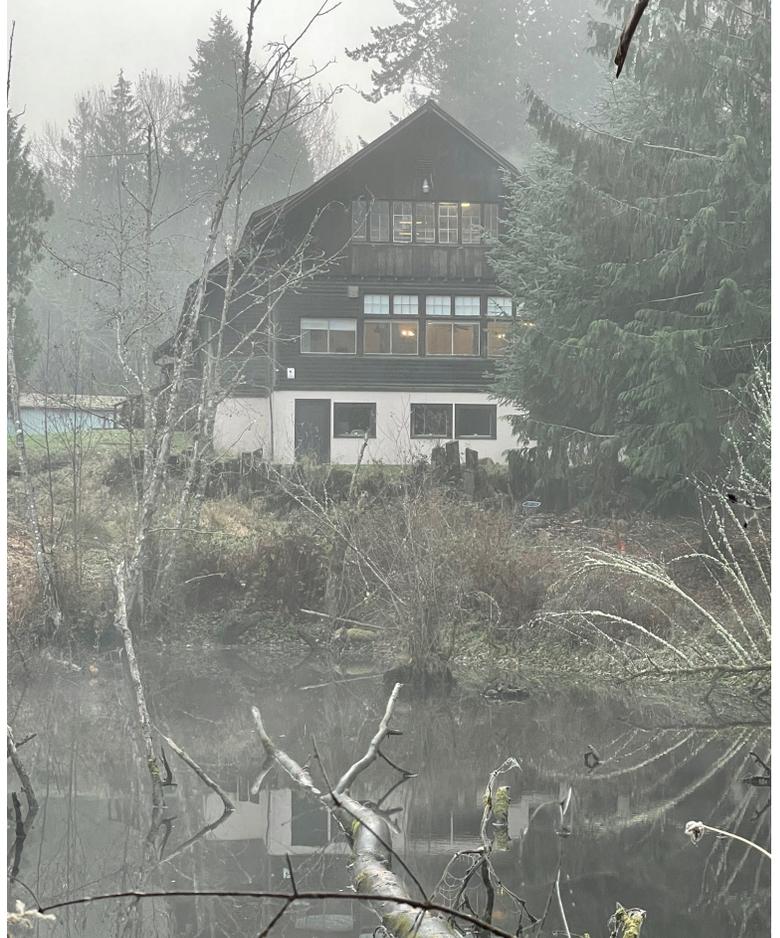
Mayor Ferrell and the City of Federal Way are grateful to the FUSION case workers and shelter staff for offering guidance and resources to those experiencing homelessness in our community.

Mayor Ferrell announced that the Federal Way Community Center (FWCC) will serve as a warming shelter during the day until the weather improves.

"We are committed to our residents' safety and proud to partner with our friends at FUSION," said Ferrell. "Our hardworking FWCC staff is ready to assist anyone in our community who needs a warming shelter. We're doing everything we can for the citizens of Federal Way."



## MAYOR FERRELL VISITS THE BROOKLAKE PROPERTY TO EXPLORE OPTIONS FOR PRESERVING ITS HISTORICAL VALUE



**Preserving Our Federal Way History!** Left to right: **George Richen, Parks and Facilities Manager; Jason Gerwen, Parks Deputy Director; Mayor Jim Ferrell; John Hutton, Parks Director; and Brian Davis, City Administrator (not pictured),** went on a tour to explore potential uses for this historic site, focusing on environmental education. **Kudos to Mayor Ferrell for capturing the photo of the Brooklake cabin!**



Last week, Mayor Jim Ferrell toured the historic Brooklake cabin and lake with our Federal Way Parks & Recreation team!

We are assessing the property's structural needs with funds from The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to determine its best use.

**Fun fact:** The city's first pump is at the bottom of this lake, which provided potable water to Federal Way.

While celebrating the past, we're planning for the future! Stay tuned for more details.

## CITYWIDE NEWS

### MAYOR FERRELL JOINS KING COUNTY COUNCILMEMBER PETE VON REICHBAUER AT THE GOOD EGGS BREAKFAST!



***Networking and learning! Left to right: King County Councilmember Pete von Reichbauer, Federal Way Mayor Jim Ferrell, Dr. Tim Dellitt, CEO of University of Washington Medicine, and Maple Valley Mayor Sean P. Kelly were in attendance at the Good Eggs Breakfast at Emerald Downs on November 29.***

Last week, Mayor Ferrell had the opportunity to attend the Good Eggs Breakfast at Emerald Downs in Auburn. It was a great event that featured an insightful keynote speech by Dr. Tim Dellitt, the new CEO of the University of Washington Medicine in Seattle.

Dr. Dellitt spoke about the state of healthcare post-pandemic, inspiring the audience to think positively about the future. We thank King County Councilmember Pete von Reichbauer for putting on these fantastic networking breakfast events in South King County!



# King County

## COUNCIL'S CORNER

### COMMUNITY

### IN ACTION

At a time when many are rushing around in a holiday fervor, many families struggle with providing a little holiday magic. The Ashcraft/North Family is ready to step in to help.

“My wife and I looked at each other and decided that we didn’t need to get each other anything for Christmas because if we want something, we just get it ourselves,” said Catherine North.

This conversation was eight years ago. At that time, 20 children needed help at Wildwood Elementary School. A partnership with the family liaison official at the school has set them up with 62 children in need of a Christmas this year.

Catherine adopted 62 children this year and followed the four-gift rule, getting each child something they want, need, wear, and read. The Steel Lake Presbyterian Church donated all the coats and shoes, and a former librarian contributed over 40 new books.

News of this generous act spread quickly on Facebook.

“I started an Excel sheet, but I needed to move it to Word,” said Catherine, with a smile, showing her 10-plus pages of children’s information that was given to her.



***The 2022 Holiday Haul is ready for delivery to Wildwood Elementary. Photo credit: Catherine North.***



***Char Ashcraft (left) and Catherine North (right) are pictured with Christmas gifts, preparing to donate to Wildwood Elementary. Photo credit: Catherine North.***

The coordinated effort brings unwrapped gifts into their home, and when a child’s wish list is complete, it is staged in their garage until it is ready for the appointment with the family liaison officer at Wildwood.

Char Ashcraft’s passion for social work, particularly with underprivileged children, prompted her to embark on a particular project. Coupled with Catherine’s love for volunteerism, the duo has created numerous Christmas miracles over the past eight years.

Not only have they provided for multiple families, but they also brought the community together in a new and exciting way.

“I do hope that people are inspired to call the schools themselves. It just takes organization, but it makes a big difference,” said North.

And a big difference it certainly is making!

## COUNCIL'S CORNER

This week's Council happenings:

- **Land Use & Transportation Committee Meeting**, December 4 at 5 p.m. at City Hall
- **City Council Special Meeting**, December 5 at 4:30 p.m. at City Hall
- **City Council Regular Meeting**, December 5 at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall
- **Planning Commission Regular Meeting**, December 6 at 5 p.m. at City Hall
- **Arts Commission Regular Meeting**, December 7 at 9 a.m. at the Federal Way Community Center

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM OUR CITY COUNCILMEMBERS!



*Our dedicated City Councilmembers were on hand for the Tree Lighting Ceremony on December 2! From left to right: Mayor Ferrell, Councilmember Paul McDaniel, Deputy Mayor Susan Honda, Councilmembers Jack Walsh, Hoang Tran, Jack Dovey, and Council President Linda Kochmar. The City of Federal Way appreciates the City Council's commitment to supporting our community's residents.*

# CITYWIDE NEWS

## PARKS AND RECREATION UPDATES



The Federal Way Thunder teams, representing Special Olympics in flag football and bowling, participated in the State games in Tri-Cities over the past weekend! The Traditional and Unified Football teams secured bronze medals in their respective divisions. Among the bowlers, one claimed the Gold, another earned silver, and two brought home bronze.

The athletes had a fantastic experience competing against participants from across the State. They enjoyed engaging in games and activities in Olympic towns and celebrated their victories by dancing the night away at the Victory Dance hosted by Special Olympics!



PAEC UPDATES



The PAEC hosted the Federal Way Symphony’s annual holiday show with the theme *An English Holiday* over the weekend! The audience enjoyed a festive holiday program filled with symphonic favorites, surprises, and exceptional performances of British choral works by Gustav Holst and Vaughan Williams. The Federal Way Chorale witnessed an outstanding performance by baritone Ryan Bede and violin soloist Eden Pawlos.

The Federal Way Youth Symphony Orchestra recently performed at the PAEC, delivering a sparkling performance that filled the air with the sounds of their dedication as they celebrated the 70th Anniversary of the South Korea-America Alliance.



Get ready for an exciting schedule at the PAEC this month! On December 6 at 7:30 p.m., the renowned Canadian Brass band will perform in Federal Way for its show *Making Spirits Bright*. Led by the legendary tuba player Chuck Daellenbach, the ensemble promises to bring joy and brilliance to the holiday season. Experience the magical holiday event with Canadian Brass! Join us for their unique arrangements of classic favorites like “I’ll Be Home for Christmas” and “Jingle Bell Rock.” [Click here to purchase tickets.](#)

Davina and the Vagabonds will perform *A Vagabond Holiday* in Federal Way! This lively holiday concert combines blues, swing, and New Orleans jazz. Davina has a unique vocal style compared to some of the greatest singers of all time, including Etta James, Amy Winehouse, Janis Joplin, and Billie Holiday. This concert promises to be an energetic and entertaining experience. The show will be held at 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Join us for a memorable holiday celebration at the PAEC!



Mark your calendars for December 16, when the PAEC welcomes the Federal Way Chorale for its annual holiday show! With 30 years of experience creating music, the Federal Way Chorale proudly presents *Yuletide – A Celebration of the Season in Song* at 4 p.m. Enjoy a variety of melodies in festive settings and add joy to your holiday season!

Take advantage of the last big event of December: O Christmas Tea: A British Comedy! There are two shows on December 17 — one at 3 p.m. and another at 7:30 p.m. The performance is by London’s three-time Impresario Award-winning duo and is innovative and funny. O Christmas Tea cleverly blends British propriety with wordplay, physical comedy, and interactive surprises for a unique experience.



# 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

**CENTERSTAGE!**

# Sleeping Beauty

A HOLIDAY PANTO

BY **VINCE BRADY**  
DIRECTED BY **HELEN MARION**



**TICKETS ON  
SALE NOW!**

BUY ADULT TICKETS  
ONLINE AND SAVE \$3

**NOVEMBER 25 - DECEMBER 17**

**CENTERSTAGETHEATRE.COM | (253) 661-1444**  
3200 SW DASH POINT RD, FEDERAL WAY, WA 98023

## SPONSORS



**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.**





# Cookies with Mrs. Claus

**DECEMBER 14**  
5:30 - 6:30 PM

**\$3 ENTRY PER PERSON**



# 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 26<sup>TH</sup> – DECEMBER 29<sup>TH</sup>**  
**JANUARY 2<sup>ND</sup> – JANUARY 5<sup>TH</sup>**

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

## FEDERAL WAY COMMUNITY CENTER HOLIDAY HOURS



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

### Holiday Schedule

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