

FEDERAL WAY MOVING FORWARD

Fall 2014

News and resources for residents

Federal Way's First Downtown Park Opened in July



Federal Way residents have been asking for a downtown park for years and in July, they got their wish as Mayor Jim Ferrell and the City Council cut the ribbon on Town Square Park

More than 1,000 residents of all ages joined a fun and festive grand opening ceremony July 12th for the Town Square Park, the city's first downtown park.

The four-acre multi-use park (located at 31620 20th Ave. S., adjacent to the Federal Way Transit Center) is designed to be a park for all residents. It features a large lawn area for recreational activities, picnic tables and barbecue grills, a community garden, two giant-sized chessboards (with 24-inch tall pieces), full-sized and half-sized basketball courts, and a kids maze.

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Hello PACC, Goodbye Toys R Us



Demolition of the Toys R Us building was celebrated by residents and city officials

The downtown landscape cleared a space for the performing arts and conference center with a July 10th ceremony to start demolition of the long-vacant Toys R Us. Mayor Ferrell delivered the first blows to the building from the cab of Lloyd Enterprises' excavator as a crowd of about 45 people cheered him on.

With the old building now gone, the performing arts and conference center

(often referred to as the PACC) will begin to rise next year with a planned opening of fall 2016. The City Council voted unanimously in June to move ahead with the project, after lengthy community discussion, a citizen expert panel and much consideration.

Work done by the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Panel confirmed that the City can build and operate the facility without additional taxes and that the performing

arts and conference center will stimulate the local economy, create jobs and spur additional business investment in the downtown. The Panel found that the \$32 million project will generate \$59 million in construction-related spending and 338 jobs, while the ongoing operations will generate each year approximately \$3.2 million in spending and 29 new jobs.

The Blue Ribbon Panel also concluded that the project will positively influence development in the city center, and would likely spur additional investment in surrounding downtown properties.

For more information, visit www.cityoffederalway.com/PACC. And keep your eyes on the PACC site as the building takes shape in the coming year!

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Mayor Jim Ferrell

Welcome to "Federal Way Moving Forward"!

The last ten months have been busy as your city government is working hard to make Federal Way a great place to live, work and play. As you'll see in these pages, there are exciting new initiatives throughout the city.

Building community is a partnership between the citizens and their government. We need to hear from you! Whether it's a question you have, neighborhood concerns that need to be addressed, or you just want to check in with your Mayor, we're here for you.

I can be reached at jim.ferrell@cityoffederalway.com or **253.835.2402**. A list of phone numbers for common questions is on page 4.

City government works best when it's guided by the voice of the people. Let's work together to keep Federal Way Moving Forward!

City Hall Comes to Your Neighborhood

If you have a neighborhood issue that needs addressing or just want to share your opinion with the Mayor and City Council, join your city government at an upcoming Neighborhood Connection meeting.

Since April, Mayor Ferrell and the City Council have visited Olympic View, Adelaide, Mirror Lake and Sherwood Forest elementary schools and talked with over 400 residents. City officials address topics such as streets and public safety, followed by an open mic session, where neighbors can ask questions and share thoughts on city and neighborhood issues.

The remaining 2014 meetings are:

Wildwood Elementary, October 23, 6-7:30 pm

Panther Lake Elementary, November 13, 6-7:30 pm

Additional information is available at

www.cityoffederalway.com/NeighborhoodConnection

Community



Code Compliance Program Protects Neighborhoods

Neighborhoods are the backbone of the Federal Way community. This year, the City strengthened its code compliance program to protect homeowners from the impact of vacant property, graffiti and chronic property nuisance problems like junk cars and unmaintained yards. The neighborhood protection initiative enables code compliance staff to respond to growing complaints

citywide about code violations in neighborhoods. The program also identifies serious, chronic violation properties that significantly impact neighbors' property values and brings a "hot spots" approach to getting the properties cleaned up and resolving the violations. To report code violations or graffiti, please contact **253.835.2617** or www.cityoffederalway.com/codecompliance

Where Federal Way Began



In March, city officials secured a donation of the Brooklake Community Center, permanently protecting this historical site as a city park.



New black & white police vehicles unveiled at City Hall

Town Square Park

Park —Continued from page 1

Construction of the park was funded by \$267,000 from city center redevelopment funds set aside for projects that enhance downtown development.

The ability of the park to draw more than a thousand visitors on its opening illustrated the goal of making “Federal Way’s downtown a place to drive to, not just to drive through,” said Mayor Jim Ferrell. By increasing public use and a sense of place downtown, the park is expected to help spur additional business interest in the city center.

Park use has continued to grow through the summer with family playtimes, church group and workplace picnics, special events (see Movie Night) and recreation classes.

With the first summer of Federal Way’s downtown park a resounding success, the future looks bright for Town Square Park and the city center.

Help Guide Town Square Park’s Future

The City is actively exploring additional ideas to continue improving Town Square Park to serve the needs of the city’s residents. You can help guide this effort by participating in our online survey at www.surveymonkey.com/s/townsquarepark

Interested in Town Square Park Activities? For information about park rental and recreation activities, call **253.835.6964**



Steel Lake Park’s rebuilt Family Funland now features the nation’s first AbilityWhirl for wheelchairs



Everything was awesome at Town Square Park on August 9, as 930 Federal Way residents enjoyed a beautiful Saturday evening downtown with a free showing of “The Lego Movie”

Community Gathers for Movie Nights and Seahawks

The lawn at Town Square Park became Federal Way’s living room with two movie nights in August and September. Over 1,900 residents turned out for showings of The “Lego Movie” and “Despicable Me 2”. Be sure to watch for the return of the

Town Square Park movie night series in 2015.

Federal Way Seahawks fans gathered in the hundreds for two Seahawks rallies at City Hall in January and February, cheering the Hawks on to Super Bowl victory!



Seahawks fans cheered the Hawks in front of City Hall’s very large 12th Man banner

Local Economy

Federal Way Economic Indicators

The local economy continues to show strong signs of growth in 2014. Here are a few indicators of Federal Way’s growing economy:

- Kohl’s opened at The Commons, May 2014
- Caffe D’arte headquarters and coffee roasting plant opened, September 2014
- Dick’s Sporting Goods opened at The Commons, fall 2014
- Progressive Insurance Claim Center is under construction
- Seattle Children’s announced a \$15 million South Sound clinic
- The Commons mall is completing a \$27 million renovation



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Federal Way, WA 98003



Mayor Jim Ferrell Deputy Mayor Jeanne Burbidge Councilmember Lydia Assefa-Dawson Councilmember Bob Celski Councilmember Dini Duclos Councilmember Susan Honda Councilmember Kelly Maloney Councilmember Martin Moore



New Police Substation



Mayor Ferrell and Council members officially open the new downtown substation, to help keep the city's growing business core a safe place to shop and visit

Frequently Called Numbers

Mayor Jim Ferrell: 253.835.2402

City Council: 253.835.2401

Police: call 911 for emergencies.
For non-emergency calls, 253.835.2121

Code Compliance and Graffiti:
253.835.2617

Streets, Traffic and Stormwater:
253.835.2700
(After hours, call 800.400.0749)

Follow Civic Events on TV21 and YouTube

“New Day Federal Way” brings Neighborhood Connection and other events to you on TV21 (Comcast channel 21) and on the City’s YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/user/FWcommunications