Like a lot of City of Fife employees, Associate Planner Taylor Jones started her career here because of the size of our city. She saw an opportunity to define her interests as a planner while working on a broad range of projects.

After earning her bachelor's degree in Sustainable Urban Development from the University of Washington Tacoma, she was on track to employment at a bigger city, but when she saw the opportunity for a planning position in Fife, she grabbed it.

“I felt fortunate I could have a full-time planning position right out of school,” said Jones. “If I had stayed in a bigger city, I would have been one of a lot of planners for a long time. Getting to be one of two planners here, and getting to work on a lot of projects was appealing. I get to work on projects where in bigger cities, they’d have their own departments for those projects. There’s more room for growth and more unique opportunities.”
She credits her boss, Community Development Director Steve Friddle, with giving Jones and her co-workers freedom in developing their interests.

“Steve tells all of us on his team to let him know what we’re specifically interested in,” said Jones. “He gives us capacity to let us work on our own interests. I assist the mayor in some of the housing and transit issues she works on. When she wanted staff assistance on that, I got that opportunity. Your job is more fulfilling when you have the opportunity to work on projects that speak to your passions in addition to your necessary, but sometimes mundane, duties,” she said.

While that means she’s reviewing permits for air conditioner placements one day, the next day she is working to help shape Fife’s future with public transit as ST3 extends southward to Pierce County.

That’s precisely what she envisioned when she started her planning career path at UWT. After high school, she attended The Evergreen State College for two years, but took off a decade from school before returning to UWT in 2013. After her first urban development class, she became hooked.

“I was returning to school as an adult. I was doing it with a practical lens that would lead to a specific career path. And the urban planning department at UWT worked very closely with the City of Tacoma.”

MISSING MIDDLE HOUSING IN FIFE

She’s looking forward to her department tackling some upcoming meaty issues. One is the encouragement of “middle housing,” which is slightly higher density housing than single-family homes, but not as dense as apartment complexes. Think: duplexes, town homes and multiplexes. Encouraging middle housing means affordable housing could become within reach for more people.

“Housing is such a determinant for every part of successful life. For health and safety, economic security. Where people have access to affordable housing, that’s a baseline we have to achieve before we can grow as a region.”

Middle housing is one way that cities such as Fife can improve access to housing, but keeping it affordable in a smaller footprint. Jones applied for, and
received, a federal grant to assist with amending codes to make middle housing possible.

“Cities could apply for a grant from the Department of Commerce for cities that adopt code amendments that facilitate those different housing options. The end of last fall … we got the grant and we’re working on code amendments that will help pave the way for making that missing middle housing possible.”

Jones said she’s looking forward to digging into those code amendments, and to also have bigger discussions in the city about creative growth solutions.

“I think I have a lot of opportunity working here and there’s a lot of room in a smaller city to get creative. I think especially with leadership right now, there’s a lot of openness to hear opinions from people at all different stages of their careers. I have felt like my opinion has been sought out and it’s been valued.”

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**TACO TUESDAY IN FIFE**

Have you made Taco Tuesday a dinner tradition yet? Let’s make it easy for you. Here are five Fife options that will keep you close to home and won’t break your bank. These destinations are not just known for tacos. They also offer burritos, enchiladas, carne asada, fajitas, seafood and more. If you can fit it into your budget, small business owners in Fife could really use your help.

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**TAQUERIA EL CORRAL**

3251 Pacific Hwy E., Fife

This mobile restaurant serves an extensive menu of tacos, burritos and a few breakfast items. It’s entirely on wheels and located in the Shell parking lot. Every dish is served with radishes, carrots and delicious salsa.

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**TAQUERIA TRES HERMANOS**

4420 Pacific Hwy E., Fife

This fast-casual taqueria is home to the best salsa and pickled vegetable selection in the entire area. The pickled carrots with jalapenos are a must and you’ll probably become a huge fan of the verde salsa. Their carnitas tacos are another for your to-eat list.
SAN MIGUEL
2024 54th Ave E., Fife
This is a great combination destination with a taco counter for picking up a quick order of tacos, burritos and more. San Miguel also is a grocery store with an extensive selection of ingredients, and there’s an on-site butcher. Need quick dinner? They have pre-marinated meats.

THE HOT CORNER
4602 20th St E., Fife
Usually on Tuesdays, diners can find the Hot Corner food truck in the parking lot of Sportco. Check the mobile restaurant’s frequently changing schedule at facebook.com/thehotcornerwa.

TACO TIME
5105 Pacific Hwy E., Fife
This Northwest classic destination has a drive-thru if you simply don’t want to get out of the car. Taco Time also has chicken, beef, bean, coconut shrimp and fried fish tacos. Tacos are served old-school style with a crunchy corn shell, or with soft corn tortillas.

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR SUMMER IN FIFE
Make the most of your summer and play Fife BINGO. Who couldn't use a distraction this summer, right? So why not make ice cream in a bag, have a water balloon fight and go for a bike ride on one of Fife's beautiful trails? Use this as your summer activity checklist and create lifelong memories with your family, friends and neighbors.

CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD YOUR BINGO SHEET.

Share your photos with us by tagging @fife_washington and #fifesummer

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VOLUNTEER POSITION OPEN

The Fife Police Department is seeking two members of the Fife community who would like to serve as non-law enforcement...
community representatives on a multi-agency Independent Investigative Team. Interested? The deadline for applying is July 10. 
Here is more information and how to apply for this volunteer position.

UTILITY TAX INFORMATION

There was a recent change in the utility tax disclosure, stemming from HB 2889, passed by the Legislature during the 2020 session. The amount billed includes the following taxes calculated on the gross revenue of each utility service.

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<th>Water</th>
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<td>City Utility Tax</td>
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More info from the state here.

TAYLOR WAY CONSTRUCTION

The City of Tacoma is starting a construction project, expected to happen from July 7-20, along Taylor Way from East 11th Street to SR 509. There will be paving, utility placement, railroad crossing replacement and more. There will be lane closures and traffic might back up from time to time. You can read the full details at the City of Tacoma's website.
In keeping with the state's directive regarding public meetings and limiting public contact, the Fife City Council has been conducting remote city council meetings. To find out how you can participate in those meetings, visit cityoffife.org and select the date for the next council meeting. Citizens who would like to submit comments in advance of the meeting may do so by emailing the comments to the City Clerk’s office at cityclerk@cityoffife.org or sending via postal mail to 5411 23rd Street E, Fife, WA 98424.