

LYNNWOOD TIMES



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Real News ⚡
Real Impact

Celebrated LPD Officer passes away



Lynnwood Police Department Officer Mark Brinkman sharing his Target Zero story. Source: The Washington Traffic Safety Commission.

By ERIN FREEMAN

Lynnwood Police Officer Mark Brinkman, 56, passed away unexpectedly on April 11 at Providence Medical Hospital in Everett after collapsing in his home earlier that evening.

the Lynnwood Police Department (LPD). He started his law enforcement career in the city of Langley, before moving to the Island County Sheriff's Office. In 1996, he joined the LPD, where he established himself as an exceptional police officer and leader, said LPD Chief Jim Nelson.

Brinkman, a 35-year law enforcement veteran, served his last 25 years with

According to Nelson, Brinkman distinguished himself as a leader

regionally as the Vice-President of the WACOPS (Washington Council of Police and Sheriffs) and internally in his service as the President of the Lynnwood Police Guild.

"Mark was a very dedicated law enforcement professional, friend, father and husband," said Nelson. "I

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2021 Capital Levy addresses School District's critical needs

By BO JOHN BRUSCO

The Edmonds School District (ESD) had its 2021 Capital Levy forum March 30 via Zoom. Dr. Gustavo Balderas, the District's Superintendent, spoke about the current plan to get students back in their classrooms. Harmony Weinberg, the District's Program Manager, made a case for the capital levy, citing the urgent structural, safety, and capacity needs.

Before the presentation, Superintendent Balderas gave a brief update on the school's reentry plan. He stated that as of Monday, March 29, 2021, students from kindergarten to second grade are back in the classroom and that the schools have been operating according to a hybrid format. Additionally, he stated that the rest of the elementary school students would be back in the classroom beginning on April 12, with all secondary students returning on April 19. Every grade will be following a hybrid format.

Mindful of how challenging this school year has been, Supt. Balderas also mentioned the District's plan for a robust summer program. He said that the program would be "for learning recovery and acceleration for our students and to plan for fall reentry as well."

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Members of the community raised awareness of Asian hate crimes



Mukilteo Stands in Solidarity Rally on April 3, 2021. Source: Lynnwood Times.

By BO JOHN BRUSCO

Hundreds attended the Mukilteo Stands in Solidarity and the Rally for Unity in Esperance Park, where members of the community shared their experiences and raised awareness of Asian hate crimes in America.

Peaceful demonstrations of solidarity against Asian hate crimes have been taking place across the Seattle area. Hundreds turned out for a rally in Downtown Bellevue on March 20th, according to King 5 News. The next day, more demonstrators marched down Highway 99 in Edmonds, and just a few days later, on March 27, more than a hundred people attended

another rally at Esperance Park.

These demonstrations have been in response to the rise in Asian hate crimes, with the Atlanta shooting being the most recent attack; the tragic incident that took place on March 16 and claimed the lives of eight people, six of whom were Asian-American women.

Hate crimes against Asian-Americans have been increasing ever since the onset of COVID-19. According to a 2020 study conducted by the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism, Asian hate crimes in 2020 increased by 33% in Seattle when compared to 2019.

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Edmonds passes \$4 per hour hazard pay for grocery store workers

By MARIO LOTMORE

Edmonds, Wash., April 12, 2021 - The Edmonds City Council passed Ordinance 4219 instituting a \$4 hazard pay for grocery store workers within Edmonds city limits on April 6. The ordinance passed 4-1 with two members abstaining.

All grocery store workers in public-facing positions regardless of union status will be eligible, like clerks and baggers for hazard pay. Those who work in offices do not qualify while both unionized and non-unionized workers are eligible. The ordinance takes at 12:01 a.m. on May 5, which is 30 days of the date of passing.

This ordinance would require grocery stores that employ 500 or more employees statewide to provide employees with a hazard pay rate of \$4 per hour until Governor Jay Inslee has declared an end to the State of Emergency in Washington state.

The ordinance applies only to “grocery businesses” over 10,000 square feet in size primarily engaged in selling groceries for offsite consumption or businesses over 85,000 square feet in size with 30% or more of the sales floor dedicated to the sale of groceries. This ordinance does not apply to convenience stores, food marts, or farmers markets, or grocery businesses outside of the Edmonds city limit.

During the audience comments

section, two grocery store workers and a teamster’s union Local 38 official spoke in favor of hazard pay and their perceived need for it.

City council president Susan Paine and Councilwoman Laura Johnson spoke in favor of the ordinance because it addresses the risks that grocery store workers face. They mentioned the daily on-the-job stressors faced like extra cleaning performed.

Councilwoman Fraley Monillas passionately argued that since big corporations have made a lot of money during the pandemic she believes they should share some profits to workers via the \$4 hazard pay.

Councilwoman Diane Buckshnis wanted to gain an understanding from City attorney Jeff Taraday of how \$4 and not some other rate was determined.

Taraday said hazard pay was justified last year when workers temporarily had it and it is justified now. Because a union already negotiated \$4 with a Seattle PCC Community Market, Taraday stated it seemed like a reasonable amount to institute for Edmonds.

Councilwoman Vivian Olson pushed back saying Edmonds legislation won’t affect national corporate policy on hazard pay for employees and warned of its unintended consequences stating that Lynnwood is unlikely to follow Seattle’s lead.



Edmonds City Council at its April 6 Business Meeting.

Olson reminded councilmembers of current anti-pandemic profiteering regulation and if Washington corporations are engaging in such activity, “then it would be more appropriately dealt with” by state and local agencies.

Councilwoman Kristiana Johnson wanted to the council to consider a more socially equitable approach by expanding the \$4 hourly hazard pay to other industries, such as healthcare.

Walkable Edmonds

All downtown Edmonds business owners who spoke during public comments, including Kate Guthrie, were not in favor of Walkable Mainstreet. Guthrie feels that it’s not necessary and deters older customers because of its lack of close and

convenient parking. She is the owner of Glazed and Amazed.

Cline Jewelers owner Andy Cline and Demetris Woodstone Taverna director Pedro Germano both spoke on the survey the city conducted concerning Walkable Edmonds. They argued that it was skewed in favor of Walkable Edmonds and not allowing business owners to oppose the program.

Citizen Tree Board

The City of Edmonds’ Citizen Tree Board gave its annual report. Edmonds is in its 10th Year as a Tree City USA and earned their 5th Growth Award. They plan to continue tagging downtown trees and perhaps expand the program outside the downtown area. The group hopes to create a “Little Library” to educate the community on native trees and plants.



Mill Creek Councilman Vincent Cavaleri. Source: Vincent Cavaleri.

By KIENAN BRISCOE

Mill Creek, Wash. - The City of Mill Creek passed an ordinance Tuesday, April 13, making knowing possession

Mill Creek passes ordinance to re-criminalize drugs

of a controlled substance a crime following weeks of debate and discussion. The vote passed with 4 yeas, 2 nays and 1 abstention.

On February 25, 2021, the Washington State Supreme Court ruled that RCW 69.50.4013(I), the statute that criminalized the possession of controlled substances without a prescription, exceeded police authority and violated the due process clauses of the state and federal constitution following a decision made in State v. Blake.

As stated in the Mill Creek Agenda Summary: Concerns have been raised that the absence of a simple possession statute could impair the City’s ability to address the challenges from the increased use of controlled substances by making it more difficult for law enforcement to direct individuals who

knowingly possess controlled substances toward treatment and other means of assistance.

The ordinance was introduced by Councilman Vincent Cavaleri at a City Council meeting held March 23, 2021, directing staff to prepare an ordinance that would make possession of controlled substances a crime and which would include a knowledge element necessary to satisfy constitutional due process standards.

The ordinance was drafted and presented to the council on April 6, receiving input from Chief of Police Jeffery Young, Prosecutor Chad Krepps and City Attorney Deddinger. A decision was not made at that time to allow the ordinance any necessary revisions and Mayor Pro-Tem Stephanie Vignal, who was not in attendance, an opportunity to vote.

The key provisions of the ordinance were the following:

possess a controlled substance or to possess a controlled substance with intent to use it unless the substance was obtained directly from, or pursuant to, a valid prescription or order of a practitioner while acting in the course of his or her professional practice.

- Setting the penalty for a violation as a gross misdemeanor punishable by up to 364 days in jail and a \$5,000 fine.
- Adopting by reference RCW 69.50.360; RCW 69.50.4014, and several other statutes regarding controlled substances and drug paraphernalia.
- Making it unlawful for a person under twenty-one years of age to possess with intent to use marijuana, marijuana-infused products, or marijuana concentrates, violation of which is a misdemeanor punishable by up to 90 days in jail and a \$1,000.

“I am absolutely delighted the city of

- Making it unlawful to knowingly

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LYNNWOOD TIMES

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Mayor Smith moves forward with hiring of Race and Social Justice Coordinator

By KIENAN BRISCOE AND SEBASTIAN MORAGA

LYNNWOOD, WA – Mayor Nicola Smith sent a memo to the City Council of Lynnwood, Friday April 2, informing that she is moving forward with hiring of the Race and Social Justice Coordinator (RSJC), despite many council members’ reservations.

Race and Social Justice Coordinator Background

During the budget process approved in November 2020, Mayor Smith proposed a racial justice coordinator position to replace the Inter-Governmental Liaison in an effort to focus on implementing equitable principles and practices into the work of City Government. The Lynnwood Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Commission (DEIC) asked the Mayor to bring the topic of a Race and Social Justice Coordinator to the City Council. The Council was never informed of the DEIC request.

A motion was brought forth to the council by Julieta Altamirano-Crosby, to delay the hiring for the RSJC until more research was conducted to define what the roles of the position would be, which was passed by the council. The Mayor then hired a consultant to conduct a survey to learn what types of needs Lynnwood’s diverse community require.

The position was revisited by Mayor Smith again in February 2021, insisting it be fulfilled immediately. George Hurst, City Council President, brought an additional motion to delay the hiring for the position until the data from the survey could be assessed. This motion also passed by four council members, Jim Smith, Julieta Altamirano-Crosby, Ian Cotton, and Hurst, which provoked

discussion whether the council has the right to tell the Mayor who she can and cannot hire.

Mayor Smith’s April 2 memo

Two months later, Mayor Smith issued the memo informing she would be filling the position despite the council’s belief it should be delayed. To view the memo click here.

She wrote: Council, I have given you the grace and the opportunity to learn more about the need for this important position. I am very concerned at the barriers and obstacles that Council is (maybe inadvertently) placing on this position. No other job description has outcomes and metrics attached to it. I am concerned that the line between Council and the Executive is becoming blurred. Job performance is the role of the Executive.

Response to Mayor Smith’s April 2 memo

“My concern about this hiring is the lack of process transparency and the lack of any support funding for this position. The failure to include any supplies or services for the Race and Social Justice Coordinator, is a failure to accurately reflect the true cost needed for this position,” Hurst told the Lynnwood Times.

In the Mayor’s message found on page 14 of the 2021-22 proposed budget, she lists budget reduction strategies including, “Delaying the rehire of vacant employee positions,” but according to Hurst, this is in conflict with her decision.

“My greatest concern is that the RSJC is a position that is destined to fail due to lack of any funding to assist the new



Lynnwood City Council members in the council chambers at city hall. Pictured left to right: Ian Cotton, Ruth Ross, Julieta Altamirano-Crosby, Christine Frizzell, George Hurst, Shannon Sessions and Jim Smith.

employee,” Hurst said.

In the 2021-22 proposed budget, page 91, the program cost of the Equity and Social Justice section shows salary and benefits totaling \$219,796 but includes no listed funds budgeted for supplies or services, which the 2019-20 budget included for the Inter-Governmental Relations Liaison, the vacant position being filled by the RSJC, which included salary, benefits, as well as \$5,000 for supplied and \$104,165 for services.

“There is no line item for this position as far as supplies or support. A lot of it involving internal human resource funding that I thought the HR director should be dealing with. It just seemed like this was not a well-funded position,” Hurst said.

“If the Mayor would be up front and give the Council an accurate accounting for the RSJC, there would be much less resistance to the hiring of this im-

Continued PAGE 04 >>

Edmonds man files lawsuit against city gun laws and wins

By KIENAN BRISCOE

EDMONDS, WA - When Brett Bass first read Edmonds City Ordinance 4120, requiring firearms to be stored in lockers, his immediate response was confusion.

“The brazen nature of the city government discussing the illegality of the measure and then passing it anyway was extremely frustrating,” Bass told the Lynnwood Times.

On July 24, 2017, the Edmonds City Council led by then Council President now Mayor Mike Nelson, passed Ordinance 4120 by a 5-1 vote requiring gun owners to secure firearms with a locking device.

Violations of the ordinance would range from \$500 for anyone not permitted to use it gains access to the weapon, to a fine of \$10,000 if the firearm is used to commit a crime, injure or cause death to themselves or others.

According to a Snohomish Health District report, Firearms in our Community, an estimated 34% of

Washington adults had a firearm in their home in 2016 of which 53% of firearm owners reported securely storing their firearm(s).

It wasn’t the requirement to store the weapons in secure locking equipment that frustrated Bass. He is an advocate for and encourages all owners of firearms to diligently control access to them, owning a 600-lb gun safe himself in which his own firearms are stored. The problem he had with the ordinance was the “clear and wonton disregard for the decades-old preemption statute and the overly prescriptive nature of the regulation’s wording.”

“People should be diligent, responsible, and proactive in their storage for firearms and other potentially lethal means, but government should never be excused from violating the law in order to make a point,” Bass said. “Allocating funding for public service messaging around this topic is appropriate and useful; prohibitions enacted in defiance of longstanding statutory law are not.”

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Nine years after Washington state legalized cannabis, some Snohomish County cities resist



By **KIENAN BRISCOE**

It's been nine years since Washington State passed initiative 502, legalizing recreational marijuana for persons 21-years or older, yet some Snohomish County cities, including Lynnwood, are still resistant to welcoming the industry.

Lynnwood's Moratorium

As of today, there are no recreational cannabis stores within Lynnwood city limits, despite four licenses (or title-certificates) allocated to the city by the state. All four of these licenses, which are issued by the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board, are accounted for by individuals who must

wait for the city's approval before they are reinstated as retail licenses.

"Nobody can convince me that marijuana isn't a gateway drug that leads people to opioids, meth, heroin and alcohol," Mayor Nicola Smith told the Lynnwood Times. "These are all drugs that have resulted in the carnage of the past generations of our young people and families.

She added, "My siblings and other family members started with pot in their young teen days. Everyone of them has lasting physical and mental consequences from their addictions to drugs and alcohol, including my brother who committed suicide."

Mayor Smith has made it her personal mission to "find support getting interventions to help humans heal before drugs convince them to engage in criminal activity."

The culmination of Mayor Smith's efforts, with Lynnwood city staff's (including police) work is the realized dream of the Community Justice Center project, which is a rebuilding and re-imagining of the Community Justice Center to allow the necessary space and function to bring "the best justice service to our community."

"We know that we can't arrest and jail people out of addiction," said

Continued PAGE 06 >>

from page 3 **RSJ COORDINATOR**

portant staff position. It is a staff position our community members need, but they deserve a fully funded Race and Social Justice Coordinator," Hurst added.

Hurst believes, at some point, the city should develop a Human Services Department, which many cities have, to support the position of the Race and Social Justice Coordinator. It would be a new department and would require an additional proposed budget in the next biennial.

"I fear that what has been transpiring over the past several months debating about this position, is unfortunately a very clear example of institutional racism. We are creating and perpetuating unnecessary barriers which are stopping progress and sending a very negative message to our BIPOC employees and our community members. I have heard from several people that they are tired. They are tired of not being believed that they face barriers and bias, they are tired of the finish line always moving, they are tired of words that don't match actions," Mayor Smith wrote in her memo.

Proposed RSJC performance measures

The RSJC Performance Measures, as defined in the Mayor's Memo are as

following:

- Coordinate with consultant to conduct a Community Equity Survey to assist with meeting Strategic Priority #3 to be a Safe, Welcoming and Livable City, and City Resolution 2017-03 to be a Safe, Welcoming, and Equitable City.
- Increase training opportunities for city employees related to race, equity and undoing structural racism to one or more offering annually in addition to the "Role of Government Training."
- Formalize the City's Racial Equity Action Plan over the next 3 years.
- Participate/consult on every major project or initiative of the city to ensure a racial equity lens is applied.
- Connect weekly with community leaders from underserved and underrepresented communities to build up a network of trusted messengers.

"As the Administrator and CEO of the City of Lynnwood, I am directing my staff to begin the recruitment process to fill the Race and Social Justice Coordinator position. Council, I do not need your approval per se, but I am asking for your support of this position and this important work. This work should not divide us, it is intended to make us better, to improve outcomes for everyone," Smith wrote.

As of now, there are no candidates for

who would fill this position but the council believes the hiring of the RSJC will be fairly soon.

In other city council news:

- Lynnwood councilmembers offered tacit approval of the city's plans for a stronger presence on social media.
- Mayor Smith said the city still had not received further indication regarding the authorized use of the funds from the Biden Administration's American Rescue Plan. "We anticipate knowing more in early May," she said.
- Despite a rise in COVID-19 cases, Snohomish County will remain in Phase 3 of the state reopening plan. Whitman, Cowlitz and Pierce counties got sent back to the more restrictive Phase 2, and Mayor Smith urged continued caution among the citizens of Lynnwood and Snohomish County, to keep both in Phase 3.
- The council voted 3-2 to appoint councilmember Julieta Altamirano-Crosby as its Liaison to the Alliance for Housing Affordability Board.
- The Lynnwood City Council approved the scheduling of two meetings for May 12 and 13 from 6-9 p.m. to interview candidates to the council post left open by Ian Cotton, who announced his resignation in March.

Delicious Girl Scout Cookies available at QFC locations

By ERIN FREEMAN

In the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, girl scout cookie season looks different this year, with cookies now being sold inside grocery stores, rather than outside of them.

On March 21, the Girl Scouts of Western Washington and QFC announced that the grocery chain will sell Girl Scout Cookies at 56 stores throughout western Washington.

“QFC is excited to support local Girl Scout troops as they adapt and adjust their cookie-selling during the pandemic,” said Chris Albi, President of QFC. “We understand the importance of health and safety, so this is a great opportunity to help the girls continue their fundraising efforts while providing our customers with delicious cookies.”

Before the partnership, Girl Scouts in western Washington had been selling Girl Scout Cookies online during the pandemic. Online sales are officially over, but boxes can be purchased at the select QFC locations through May 30.

Eight types of cookies are being sold, and include Thin Mints, Samoas, tagalongs, Lemon-Ups, Trefoils, S’mores, Do-Si-Dos, and gluten-free Toffee-Tasties. All proceeds of cookie sales will go directly to local Girl Scout troops.

“We’re so grateful for this partnership with QFC because it’s an extension of our annual cookie program, which is our biggest source of funding for Girl Scouts. QFC is helping us expand the customer base for cookie sales, and in turn, creating more opportunities for our Girl Scouts,” said Megan Ferland, CEO of Girl Scouts of Western Washington.

“By buying Girl Scout Cookies at QFC, you’re directly supporting the Girl Scouts we serve since all the money is staying local.”

Sales during cookie season fuel annual funds for girl scouts to partake in activities and programs, such as summer camp. They state that each box of cookies purchased makes a direct impact in the community by powering empowering experiences for young girls.

To find a QFC location selling Girl Scout Cookies near you, use the store locator at <https://www.qfc.com/stores/>.





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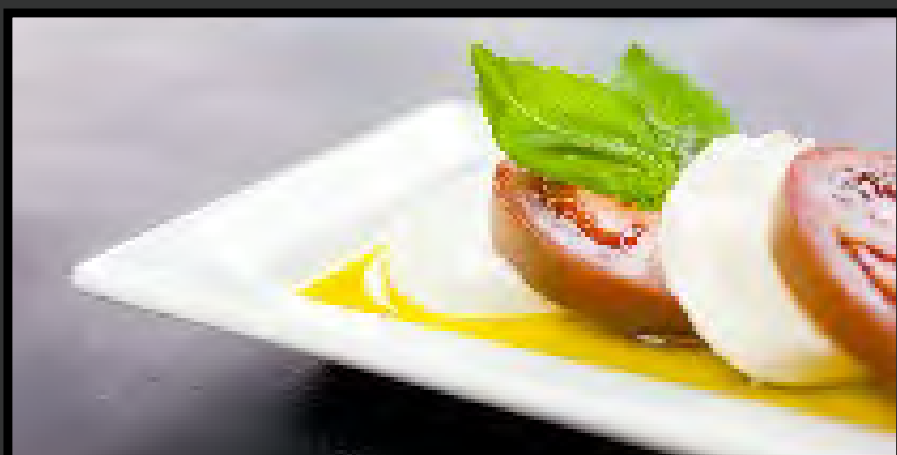


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from page 4 CANNABIS

Mayor Smith. “Our new Justice Center will be providing programs and services that support people in getting themselves woven back into the fabric of our community and leading healthy and productive lives.”

Despite Mayor Smith’s personal beliefs, she told the Lynnwood Times she would not stand in the way of retail cannabis shops opening in Lynnwood, because she recognizes people (some close to her) who find relief and healing from cannabis products.

“The people voted to legalize it; so just because my personal beliefs and experiences don’t align with the use of marijuana and its consequences, doesn’t mean that I am going to be a barrier to what the people have legalized,” Mayor Smith said. “The revenue to the city by way of taxes will certainly be used up by our safety programs as they scoop up those who engage in a journey of drug use and the consequences thereof.”

One of the City Council Members pushing for recreational stores in Lynnwood is City Council President George Hurst, who was originally on the planning commission when the moratorium was enacted in 2015.

At this time the council had its concerns with how the industry would be controlled, and ultimately was in favor of the ban. Hurst, as well as many other council members, have since changed their mind after witnessing the positive effects of the industry in surrounding cities such as Everett and Mukilteo.

“It’s time,” Hurst said. “It’s a legal business in the state of Washington. We’re one of the few cities in the area that has a ban on it. I know our mayor is resistant to it but it’s the council that creates the policies. She can have her opinion, and that’s great, but there are council members that feel that it’s time.”

Hurst plans on bringing this decision back to the council sometime this year, possibly June, when Ian Cotton’s council vacancy is filled. The City of Lynnwood voted in favor of recreational marijuana back in 2012 and a recent petition within the city collected over 1,200 signatures in support of cannabis. Hurst believes Lynnwood, despite its residents and council being in favor, has taken so long to welcome the industry due to

“old school thought.”

When councilman Hurst reintroduces the idea of adopting recreational cannabis stores to the Lynnwood City Council, it will go to the planning committee to take into account zoning orders to ensure cannabis stores do not open too close to schools and churches.

Businessman Henok Abraha

The organizer of the survey is Lynnwood resident Henok Abraha, one of four license holders in Lynnwood awaiting approval by the city before he can open a store. Abraha hired a firm, pre-COVID, to conduct the petition to understand the city’s level of interest and received over 1,200 signatures in two weeks.

“It proved there is interest in Lynnwood,” Abraha told the Lynnwood Times. What was noticeable, to Abraha, upon conducting this petition was how many of Lynnwood’s residents were shocked to realize there were no recreational stores within the city limits even after voting for it in 2014.

“We are working on overturning this moratorium in Lynnwood. There’s not a lot we can do. We just have to present our case to the Lynnwood city council, try to get them to understand it and hopefully it’ll change the rules,” Abraha said.

Abraha obtained his license a few years ago when these were being dispersed. He partnered with those who had 50-52 license and submitted a location to Lynnwood, approving cameras and alarms as if he was going to open a store.

Since that time, there have been changes to the law through which title certificate owners are not required to maintain property if a city is in a moratorium. Because of this he does not have a location, as of now. He is awaiting on the city council to change the rules and designate zoning before choosing one. Abraha is also a license holder in the city of Shoreline, where he operates the store Kush Club.

“You’re just kinda waiting. I can’t understand a lot of these unknowns. It’s been six years. Any research that needs to be figured out...you can look at neighboring cities, you can talk to law enforcement,” Abraha said. “It would be amazing to have a store in the same place I grew up, to know half the people that may come in, and serve this

community.”

Mill Creek Moratorium

Lynnwood is not the only city in Snohomish County to be cautious of allowing recreational stores into its cities. The city of Mill Creek, like Lynnwood, has no recreational marijuana stores within its city limits and Mill Creek Councilman Vincent Cavaleri wants to keep it that way.

“Today marijuana is easier to access and more potent than ever, and a higher percentage of people who use are heavy users, compared to people who drink alcohol or smoke cigarettes,” Councilman Cavaleri told the Lynnwood Times. “Despite the widespread usage, there is little public awareness, and even denial, of the facts and the dangers. Crime rates, DUI’s and traffic accidents have all risen in states that have legalized the drug for recreational and medicinal use, not to mention minors in possession of the drug.”

Cannabis Contribution to the Washington state Economy

In a recent study conducted by Washington State University, the cannabis sector contributed \$1.85 billion to gross state product in 2020. Retail cannabis sales grew 21% between 2019 and 2020 and grew 605% between 2015 and 2020.

Marijuana Excise Taxes are the fastest growing component of the state’s General and Selective Sales Tax revenues with tax revenues from direct cannabis retail sales being \$468.81 million. Washington State has had lower growth rates in retail cannabis sales compared to both Oregon and Colorado since 2017.

Cities of Arlington, Everett, and Mukilteo welcome cannabis employers

In the surrounding city of Mukilteo, which has two state-appointed licensed stores, Mayor Jennifer Gregerson believes there has been only perceived positives.

“I appreciate the contributions that the Kushman’s store have provided to our community: donations to the Boys and Girls Club, Food Bank, etc. There are very few 911 calls related to the stores-not more than any other business...The industry provides jobs. It is heavily regulated, which ensures only adults are able to visit and use marijuana. The medicinal benefits are also important to those who need them to handle medical conditions,” Gregerson told the Lynnwood Times.

The city of Mukilteo had a choice in creating regulations and deciding which zones would allow a store.

“If the City Council had decided to forbid them, we would not have received some revenues that the state shares with cities, or the revenue that comes from the sales tax related to the store,” Gregerson said.

Mayor Barbara Tolbert, of Arlington, shares a similar thought. When the idea of opening recreational stores in the city of Arlington came up, Mayor Tolbert was like many others, wary of how the new industry would be handled.

“It was the will of the voters. Our city

passed it, so it was our job to make it work,” Tolbert said.

Mayor Tolbert sat down with the business owners to form a coalition and organize a strategy leading up to the opening of stores. So far, she’s had no regrets.

“It’s been everything we could all hope for,” Tolbert told the Lynnwood Times. “It’s created jobs for 125 people, with livable wages and benefits, [and] there’s revenue from the state. The business owners have blended in with the community offering their agricultural expertise to city parks, and donating to flex funds, etc.”

Even in larger Snohomish County cities, such as Everett, the largest city in Snohomish county with a population of over 100,000, the experience has been resoundingly positive according to Mayor Cassie Franklin.

Mayor Franklin was a member of the committee back in 2012, when the decision to open recreational marijuana stores was being discussed and she, similarly, had her concerns. Within the past eight years of operating under five state appointed licensed stores, Franklin told the Lynnwood Times there has been more positives than negatives.

In a recent study conducted by the city of Everett, there was no noticeable increase in crime related to marijuana, no increase in DUI stops or arrests, and no concerns on the basis of public safety.

Additionally, there has been no indication to any increases in underage marijuana use, one of the city’s original reservations. The opposite has occurred, according to Mayor Franklin, and a decrease in underage cannabis use was observed in the city’s recent study.

Based upon the city’s success with the cannabis industry and the data they’ve gathered, Everett has since extended its appointed licenses to an additional two, for a total of seven licenses.

“Initially we were hesitant about welcoming additional retail marijuana establishments into our City, not knowing what the impact would be,” said Mayor Franklin. “But after our City Council’s Public Safety Committee studied the issue carefully, the data showed this industry wouldn’t impact our City any differently than other retailers, such as small grocery stores, in the city.”

She continued, “Now that these businesses have been part of our community for several years, I’ve found that overall, they have had a positive impact on our economy. Some cannabis businesses are very positively engaged in philanthropic efforts and giving back locally. I would recommend neighboring jurisdictions consider the benefits this industry could bring to their communities.”

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CDC issues temporary halt to Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine

BY MARIO LOTMORE

On April 13, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Food and Drug Administration announced a “pause” in using the single-dose Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine following six reported U.S. cases of a rare and severe type of blood clot.

According to the Washington state Department of Health, about 160,000 doses of J & J vaccine have been administered in Washington state.

Just two weeks ago nearly 15 million doses of Johnson & Johnson vaccine were ruined at a manufacturing plant in Baltimore.

To watch the 37 minute briefing go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ELXnGYgsJY>.

Joint CDC and FDA Statement in its Entirety

As of April 12, more than 6.8 million doses of the Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) vaccine have been administered in the U.S. CDC and FDA are reviewing data involving six reported U.S. cases of a rare and severe type of blood clot in individuals after receiving the J&J vaccine.

In these cases, a type of blood clot called cerebral venous sinus thrombosis (CVST) was seen in combination with low levels of blood platelets (thrombocytopenia). All six cases occurred among women between the ages of 18 and 48, and symptoms occurred 6 to 13 days after vaccination.

Treatment of this specific type of blood clot is different from the treatment that

might typically be administered. Usually, an anticoagulant drug called heparin is used to treat blood clots. In this setting, administration of heparin may be dangerous, and alternative treatments need to be given.

CDC will convene a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) to further review these cases and assess their potential significance. The FDA will review that analysis as it also investigates these cases.

Until that process is complete, we are recommending a pause in the use of this vaccine out of an abundance of caution. This is important, in part, to ensure that the health care provider community is aware of the potential for these adverse events and can plan for proper recognition and management

due to the unique treatment required with this type of blood clot.

Right now, these adverse events appear to be extremely rare. COVID-19 vaccine safety is a top priority for the federal government, and we take all reports of health problems following COVID-19 vaccination very seriously.

People who have received the J&J vaccine who develop severe headache, abdominal pain, leg pain, or shortness of breath within three weeks after vaccination should contact their health care provider.

Health care providers are asked to report adverse events to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System at <https://vaers.hhs.gov/reportevent.html>.

from page 1 **STOP ASIAN HATE**

Solidarity in Mukilteo

This last Saturday, members of the community in Mukilteo showed their support by attending a demonstration held at 4675 Harbour Pointe Blvd. The rally was coordinated via a Facebook event page titled Mukilteo Stands in Solidarity and had about 100 people in attendance. A live-stream recording of the event can be viewed on the Lynnwood Time’s Facebook page.

The rally provided an opportunity for community members to voice their personal experiences as Asian-Americans. Five speakers expressed their concerns and called for Mukilteo to stand in solidarity with them against hate crimes.

Activists address their Community

The first speaker, Hayley Aho, spoke about the need to condemn hate and not just read about it in the news. She said, “To actually stop Asian racism is to recognize that all of our struggles and all of our obstacles are combined. To Be an Asian ally, or a Black ally, or an ally in general, is to condemn racism against all communities — to condemn Islamophobia, to condemn anti-Semitism, to condemn Xenophobia, to condemn homophobia, to condemn transphobia. Condemn the things that end our lives and land us into another article that you merely read and forget with the scroll of your phone,” she said. “Use your voice to amplify ours.”

The next speaker, Nathan Duong, spoke about the cultural changes that must be made in order to stop the hate. “These incidents, these violent attacks on our Asian Pacific Islander community, they were grown out of a culture that dismisses and that erases hate,” he said. “That erases us. That erases oppression. That invisibilize us. And it is this dismissal of hate that has manifested in our workspaces in our schools, in our communities, that is causing this surge in hate violence against our communities.”

After Duong’s words, Councilman Riaz Khan addressed the crowd and spoke about how these acts of hate should concern every American. He recounted an experience he had at a local shopping mall where he overheard people debating whether or not the community should be concerned with hate crimes because they seem



Jennifer Lin Kwong at the Mukilteo Stands in Solidarity rally on April 3, 2021. Source: Lynnwood Times photo by Mario Lotmore.

to be happening on the East coast. In response to this anecdote, Councilman Khan said, “If it happens in New York, it happens in my heart. If it happens in New York, it happens in everyone’s hearts. We should care for each of them. We should. And we are here today to show our support.”

Councilman Khan also spoke about the individual’s responsibility to stop hate. “Some people don’t get it,” he said, “The hate, it goes, it flies like a fire. We are extinguishers. We got to stop the fire of hate. We are all responsible. We should speak up. As Asians. As Americans. As Africans. As anyone. We should tell them we are here.”

Loren Poisel spoke next about everyone’s rights as Americans and the need to speak out when those rights are violated. “Asian Americans may not have been here the longest, but Asian Americans have the same rights as everyone else,” she said. “The right to feel safe. The right to be protected. And the right to feel at home. And when those rights are violated, we cannot stay silent. We cannot keep our heads down. We must get involved. We must rock the boat.”

The next speaker to address the crowd was Jennifer Lin Kwong. She spoke about her experience with microaggressions. She related microaggressions to paper cuts — a single incident being harmless, but multiple cuts every day can be fatal. “As Asian-Americans,” she said, “our spirit dies a death by a thousand paper cuts.”

“I beg you,” Kwong continues, “if you

hear one of these microaggressions, please call it out.”

Following Kwong’s remarks, Ton Nyugen spoke about his concern for the elders in the Asian community. “The part that I hate about this the most,” he explained, “is not that I’m a target — I believe that I can fight back. It’s our elders. I think about my mom. I think about my dad. It’s our elders.”

Nyugen also asked the community to focus on love in order to fight hate. “For all of you, our allies. I hope that if you see it, you call it out and step up for us. Can you do that?” he asked. “So when you go home tonight, I hope that each and every one of you talks to your kids, to your nieces and nephews, to your parents, to your aunts and uncles. Talk to them about how far love can go, how powerful love can be. And how much more love can radiate than hate.”

Chief Cheol Kang of the Mukilteo Police Department was scheduled to be the closing speaker at the rally but was unable to attend. Alex Callaway, the event’s coordinator, read Chief Kang’s address out loud on his behalf. His remarks focused on the dangers of hateful language. “Racist speech, crude comments, and racially-motivated microaggressions have no place in our society, let alone our community,” wrote Chief Kang.

“Words matter,” he continued, “What may be perceived as a joke by one person is the fuel to ignite the racially motivated hate for another to do harm. It is

everyone’s responsibility to let others know when words are culturally insensitive or hurtful.”

Chief Kang also wrote about how it is everyone’s responsibility to have difficult conversations about hateful and discriminatory language in order to eliminate it. “These are the tough conversations we need to continue having to break the perpetual cycle of bias, discrimination, and racism that passes down from generation to generation,” he wrote. “We all have a responsibility in this process to eradicate racism and bias — much like we all have a part to eradicate COVID-19.”

Statements from Lynnwood city council members

Jim Smith of the Lynnwood City Council praised the activists who raised their voices at the Mukilteo rally, saying, “Rather than stay at home and do nothing, this group of young people decided to take action and voice their concerns about the recent cruelty towards Asians. I hope they have inspired others to take positive action throughout our communities.”

Lynnwood City Councilman George Hurst, who attended the Edmonds rally on March 27, recalled the strong sense of unity he felt that day. “The rally was a great time for our community to come together and listen to words of unity and statements against hateful actions. It was a needed demonstration of support for our AAPI community.”

Hurst also shares another opportunity he had to show his solidarity that day at a local church. “After I left the rally, I was able to take part in another way to show concern for our residents. Charisma Church in Lynnwood, whose members are almost all BIPOC, handed out hundreds of bags filled with free groceries to anyone who came to the church,” he said.

Speaking about these public displays of support and solidarity, Hurst said, “The rally in Edmonds and the food give-away in Lynnwood provide great examples that we reject hate and we do care for our neighbors.”

Online resources have also been developing in response to the rise in Asian hate crimes. One such resource is stopaiphate.org, a website that is dedicated to recording and reporting hate crimes.

Sheriff's Office announces collaborative effort to combat graffiti



By ERIN FREEMAN

The Snohomish County Sheriff's Office has announced a new initiative to clean up graffiti within public spaces throughout Snohomish County, an effort they say will help discourage crime.

On Saturday, March 27, Snohomish County Sheriff Adam Fortney, his entire Command Staff and their families volunteered their time to clean up graffiti in South Snohomish County. The team began at Airport Rd and Admiralty Way, moving to E. Gibson Rd from

Airport to 121st, and ending at 148th St.- west of Highway 99. Beginning at 9 a.m., the cleanup lasted 5 hours.

"Members of our office volunteered their time to help our community and take steps to clean up the streets and help reduce criminal activity," said Courtney O'Keefe, spokesperson for the Sheriff's Office.

According to O'Keefe, Sheriff Fortney launched the graffiti removal program because he's committed to cleaning up the vandalism within Snohomish County and reducing crime within its communities. Graffiti often displays defiance towards rules and laws and can be a sign of gangs attempting to acquire a neighborhood or claim territory, she explained.

"Vandalism and graffiti encourage and display criminal activity within a community," she said. "It can make residents feel unsafe, targeted and/or afraid in a place where they should feel safe – at home."

The Sheriff's Office is currently working to develop the effort into an an-

ti-graffiti volunteer partnership with the community. Sheriff Fortney envisions a volunteer program where graffiti complaints can be addressed within a 3-day timeframe from when they occurred.

"Getting the graffiti cleaned up in a timely manner is critical to keeping graffiti out of our communities to the extent we are able," said O'Keefe.

While the details of the program have yet to be worked out, the Sheriff's Office will soon be looking for residents in the community who want to volunteer.

"With this program, we are making it a goal and priority to partner with our community and with property owners to take back our Snohomish County streets and keep them clean," said O'Keefe. "We know this won't be fixed overnight, but our hope is that with persistent partnerships between our community and law enforcement, we can fight back and help keep our streets clean."

from page 1 **OFFICER BRINKMAN**

will miss him personally, and the members of your department are grieving his loss. Mark was taken from his family and from all of us too soon and we will miss him."

Particularly passionate about traffic safety, Brinkman served as a Law Enforcement Liaison to the Target Zero program, a statewide program working towards reducing traffic deaths and serious injuries. The Washington Traffic Safety Commission (WTSC) honored Brinkman as its 2016 Law Enforcement Liaison of the Year. He has also been widely recognized for his specialized work as a Drug Recognition Expert and trainer.

"The Lynnwood community has lost a great Police Officer and leader with the passing of Mark Brinkman," wrote Lynnwood City Council President George Hurst. "His expertise in DUI recognition and his calm demeanor in responding to calls made Lynnwood a safer place. Mark was an imposing presence on the streets, and it reflected the compassion he had for his fellow officers and for the residents of

Lynnwood. We are all better for having had Mark be part of the Lynnwood Police Department."

Lynnwood City Councilwoman Christine Frizzell told the Lynnwood Times that every time she connected with Brinkman, his commitment to caring for and serving the community was abundantly clear.

"He always had a friendly greeting and word of encouragement," she said. "He was personable, well respected, and genuine. He loved his family and his faith community deeply. His passing leaves a hole in our hearts and in our community."

Lynnwood City Councilwoman Julieta Altamirano-Crosby extended her sympathies to Brinkman's family.

"My heartfelt condolences go out to Officer Brinkman's family. Lynnwood has lost a treasured member of our law enforcement community," Altamirano-Crosby said.

Steve Brinkman told the Lynnwood Times that the pain he feels following the passing of his brother

is deep and real, and while Officer Brinkman was younger than him, he looked up to him for his empathy towards others.

"He was a gentle giant. For me and anyone who knew him, he was humble, and for myself, someone I could look up to even as an older brother," he said. "He had a deep faith in Jesus Christ, that is what guided him through life, and that is what guided him as a Police Officer as well, it kept him from becoming 'jaded', it allowed him to serve in his profession with compassion and an example to those around him. He always had the belief that no one was beyond help."

In a Facebook post, Lynnwood City Councilwoman Shannon Sessions acknowledged Brinkman's relationship with his religion, while also touching on his service within the community.

"Mark is a brother in Christ, high integrity, outstanding police officer and a loving and forgiving man of God," wrote Councilwoman Shannon Sessions in a Facebook post. "He served his family well, his community, his church family, City of Lynnwood, his LPD family, other fellow first responders and more."

"This is a shocking, sudden, major loss," she added.

Councilman Jim Smith told the Lynnwood Times that Brinkman was an incredible human being and that his service to the Lynnwood community, his family and God cannot be emphasized enough.

"There is a piece of my heart that now seems to be missing," Smith said. "I will remember him as an incredible servant and as a friend. Thoughts and prayers are not enough for this giant of our Lynnwood family. He will be greatly missed by all."

The Snohomish County Sheriff's Office recognized Brinkman for his dedication to service in an April 13 Facebook post.


"My heart aches for the Brinkman family and our brothers and sisters with the Lynnwood Police Department," said Snohomish County Sheriff Adam Fortney. "Mark was a great guy and great police officer."


Chief Nelson says that the LPD is in contact with Brinkman's family, working to support them and honor their wishes.

"While your police department is grieving, we will continue to honor Mark by supporting his family during this very difficult time," he said. "Please put Mark, his family, the officers, and all of those he touched in your thoughts."

Safety, Security, Equity

Learn about the April 27 Capital levy





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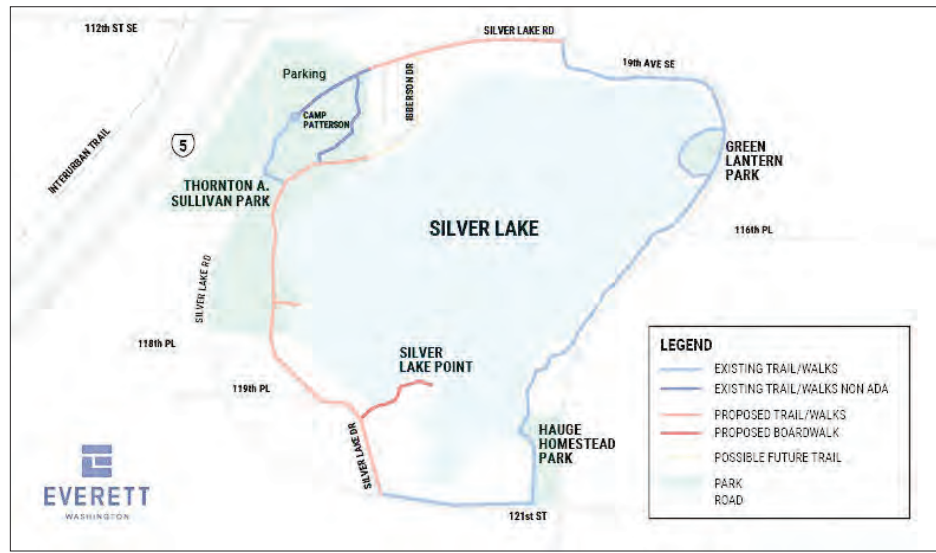
Silver Lake Trail project, Everett Mayor keeping her promise

Everett, Wash.- A long-standing plan for a pedestrian path surrounding Silver Lake is making headway amidst the coronavirus pandemic.

Although a long-term goal of the city, the anticipated high expense to achieve the Silver Lake Trail Project kept the plan dormant. In 2019, Everett Mayor Cassie Franklin discovered ways to cut costs without compromising the design's mission of improving accessible recreational opportunities and pathways for pedestrians and bicyclists around Silver Lake.

"Creating a connected recreational trail around the lake would further enhance this amenity for residents and visitors alike," said Franklin in a statement to the Lynnwood Times. "This has been something city teams envisioned decades ago, but the high cost has always been a barrier. We've scaled back some of the design elements and found a way to improve recreational opportunities and pathways around the lake, affordably, so people of all abilities can safely enjoy it."

In her 2020 State of Everett address, Mayor Franklin stated that the project was one of her goals for the year, but the pandemic's impact on the city bud-



get prompted a delay. Mayor Franklin then reinforced her commitment to the project in her 2021 address in January.

Increasing recreational opportunities in South Everett is a priority of Franklin. She says North Everett has predominantly been the recipient of this development.

"This project is important to me because historically, many of the city's investments have been in North Everett, which tends to have better walking and biking routes, as well as access to water and riverfronts," she said. "South

Everett, in the meantime, has one of the most beautiful, but underutilized lakes in the region: Silver Lake."

Construction costs of the trail are anticipated at approximately \$900,000.

The city's parks and community services staff described the design for the path to the Everett City Council in a presentation on February 17, detailing that the city intends to construct paths on the north and west sides of the lake, connecting them with existing sidewalks and trails dispersed around the lake

The addition of the proposed trail in the Silver Lake Trail project will complete a two-mile loop around the lake, with the trail's width ranging between 5 and 10 feet, depending on the area.

In January, some Silver Lake neighbors, the residents of Ibberson Drive, expressed concerns about a portion of the property the city planned to use for the trail through Ibberson Drive, claiming the access is private. They also expressed the potential to attract crime and unlawful parking of vehicles on the narrow street, making it difficult to navigate the road.

Everett Parks and Facilities Manager Cory Rettenmeier announced on March 19 the removal of the area's design from the project but stated that the city has a right to proceed with construction in the area in the following years. City staff is hopeful that residents of Ibberson Drive will join other Silver Lake residents and trail users in supporting the project, said Rettenmeier.

"The city understands that residents desire more communication specific to these proposed trail segments," he said. "There will be communication and discussion prior to any decision being made in the future."

from page 1 CAPITAL LEVY

After Supt. Balderas's remarks, Harmony Weinberg, the District's Program Manager, showed a student-made video called "2021 Capital Levy - According to Students." The minute-long video features two young students who teach that a Capital Levy is something that "raises money to take care of our schools!" With that money, the students say that "necessary improvements" will be made to address "capacity challenges."

They also share that the capital levy would be needed to "replace two very, very old schools," referring to Oak Heights and Spruce Elementaries. At the end of the video, the students remind viewers to "vote before April 27!"

The Four Focus Areas

Beginning to make a case for the 2021 Capital Levy, Weinberg succinctly stated, "We need to invest in our students." Weinberg then made an important note about the absolute need for a capital levy, stating that "the state does not provide adequate funding for capital facilities, so the law allows districts to ask for local assistance through levies and bonds."

Weinberg stated that the four main focuses of the levy would be:

- Building improvements
- Safety, security, and accessibility
- Improve capacity
- Replace aging schools

Providing the context for these needs and how they were decided upon, Weinberg explained that in the Summer of 2019, "After two years of community involvement, it was determined that the capital project needs for our district totaled \$1.7 billion." Noting the large sum, Weinberg reiterated, saying, "that's 'B' — billion."

"It's important to know," she continued, "that the two years of this group

analyzing and looking at our facilities, these are needs. These are not just new kitchen counters that just will look cute, and you want to get them to look nice. These are specific needs that we really need in our buildings."

The group Weinberg is referring to is the ESD Facilities Advisory Committee. This committee identified the cumulative capital needs of the district and gave the total estimation of \$1.7 billion. Last year, the group prioritized \$600 million worth of projects for the February 2020 bond. Voters turned down the bond as it only received 56% support when it needed at least 60% to pass.

Weinberg recounted this failed attempted bond from 2020 and how, after further evaluation, the School Board decided by fall to focus on the four critical needs she mentioned earlier. Come October, "the School Board approved a capital levy that would provide \$30 million a year for the next six years," said Weinberg.

Why now a Capital Levy?

Weinberg noted time as the crucial factor. Not only are students physically returning to school buildings, but as Weinberg pointed out, "The longer we wait, the more it will cost. Prices go up. Costs go up."

Additionally, Weinberg emphasized that a problem that seems small now will likely become more significant in the future if neglected.

Building Improvements

As "improvements to preserve buildings" is a fairly broad topic, Weinberg provided the specific issues that need to be addressed. She cites roofs and gutters, boilers, building exteriors, and HVAC systems as all requiring repair and improvement.

Weinberg presented a photo of College Place Elementary School's old cracked roof so that viewers could see

for themselves. "If we don't replace it soon, it will continue to cause costly maintenance issues," said Weinberg.

A photo of an old boiler from Cedar Way Elementary school. The boiler is the original one from when the school was built in the 1950s. "That is not a picture from a history book," she said, "that is the current boiler, and a capital levy would allow for a new and energy-efficient boiler at that school."

Safety, Security, and Accessibility

Two photos depicting an outdated boiler and 30-year-old heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system were used to illustrate the need to address current safety issues. Currently, Meadowdale Elementary, Seaview Elementary, Cedar Valley Community, Cedar Way Elementary, Maplewood K-8, Chase Lake Community, Mountlake Terrace High School, and Terrace Park Elementary all require HVAC system replacements or improvements.

Thirteen schools require critical fire alarm and sprinkler system upgrades. Additional improvements will be made to fencing, gates, and signage. The capital levy would also be used to fund automatic door opening capabilities district-wide for students with physical challenges.

Capacity Challenges

According to Weinberg, elementary schools are at 107% capacity. She also noted that the 44 relocatables — portable classrooms — spread across the District, still do not satisfy current capacity needs.

"This overcrowding exists now and will likely continue with future growth and enrollment," said Weinberg.

In addition to increasing classroom capacity, the levy would also increase cafeteria and play-area capacity by building more covered areas. "This isn't just to keep kiddos out of the rain because this is the Northwest," said Weinberg.

"It's more to allow the district to deal with bigger capacity issues which are shared gym and cafeteria space, and just not having enough areas for our kids at some of our elementary schools because of the capacity challenge."

Replace Aging Schools

As was mentioned in the video shown at the beginning of the forum, the two schools that stand in the most need of replacement are Oak Heights and Spruce Elementary. Weinberg noted that Spruce Elementary is in particular need of replacement.

"Not only is it an old building," she said, "But it's just not built for today's safety and security needs as well."

Weinberg shared that the inability of the staff to visibly identify people as they approach the school because the main office lacks windows, is both a safety and security issue for Spruce Elementary.

Tax Dollars and Sense

Showing a graph of annual tax rates, she conveyed that taxpayers were paying almost \$2 more per \$1,000 three years ago when compared to today. By 2023, the tax rate will still be \$1.44 less than what residents were paying in 2018.

If the capital levy receives approval by voters come April 27, the tax rate will be \$3.36 per \$1,000. Earlier this year, the district made a public statement regarding this tax rate.

"This is lower than what voters have approved in the past and would maintain a steady local education tax rate over the next four years," said the district.

Weidberg reminded viewers of the why behind this levy. "Who benefits from the 2021 capital levy?" she asks. "Our students! Our Staff! Our Families! Our Community!"

CANNABIS AND THE COMMUNITY

Standing with the AAPI and other communities against hate

BY JOSH ESTES, PACIFIC NW REGIONAL STRATEGIES, LLC
SPONSORED FEATURE



Navigating the complex and constantly changing recommendations from the Federal, State and Local authorities has become a full-time position. The pandemic has forced many of us to change course, try new things, and apply for new jobs in new industries. With record sales in the cannabis industry during the past year, Washington state continues to generate consistent revenue from sales of the

plant. Many local cannabis retailers have used these dollars to support the local community.

After all, it is the local community that the cannabis industry interacts with and serves every day. The people of the community are not only retail cannabis customers. They are also employees, friends and family. It in this very same community that the employees of retail cannabis stores live and contribute to the local economy.

Simply put, "Cannabis is Community" and for this month's column I would like to bring awareness to the increasingly hateful and harmful rhetoric that is plaguing our nation.

The recent increase of horrific and senseless acts of hate, targeted at the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities has generated significant outpourings of support from across the country.

Locally, in Snohomish County there have been a number of events and rallies aimed at denouncing hate. Each socially-distanced, in-person gathering for unity, has drawn on average more than 100 supporters and speakers. I had the privilege of attending both the Bellevue and Edmonds rallies against hate and I was inspired by the words of the many speakers in attendance.

The message that "Hate has no home here," was very clearly received and has been carried to other communities including recent rallies in Mountlake Terrace, Everett, Mukilteo and others. Additional efforts to raise anti-hate and racism awareness are also taking place across the county.

The city of Lynnwood has recently issued a proclamation to "Stand Against Racism," and the Leadership Snohomish County program is hosting it's annual "Step Up Conference, to Move Racial Equity Forward."

Step Up, offers a variety of workshops for people with diverse interests and different levels of knowledge and experiences. A variety of solution-based workshops cover a variety of topics including how to address institutional racism, implicit bias, and microaggressions.

Attendees will also explore decolonization of education, the intersection of race and LGBTQIA people, systems change, and more. This year's program will be held virtually on April 30, 2021 from 8am to 5pm. To learn more about the event or to register, visit www.leadershipsc.org.

Cannabis retailers across the state employ a diverse group of people from many backgrounds. It is not uncommon to find multiple languages spoken at a retailer. I was recently in a retail store in Mukilteo that had four different language translations offered to customers, including Russian, Spanish, French and Japanese. Some of these stores are also event sponsors of the Step-Up Conference, including two retailers who operate in the unincorporated areas of Lynnwood.

The Cannabis Community values diversity and understands the importance of standing with those in the AAPI community, and all communities that are the targets of senseless hate.

If we are going to stop hate in all forms, we must be unified and we have to speak out as one voice. I encourage you to attend an AAPI event in your community, use your voice to raise awareness and denounce hate!



"Knowing yourself is the beginning of all wisdom"
--- Aristotle

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One Day: A local Lynnwood author shares the importance of self-care

By BO JOHN BRUSCO

Wendy Hairfield, a local Lynnwood author, shares a short story about finding time for oneself in the 2021 edition of Chicken Soup For the Soul, titled Making "Me Time": 101 Stories about Self-Care and Balance.



101 Stories About Self-Care and Balance

Amy Newmark

Chicken Soup For The Soul is a book series containing over 250 titles. Each book is a compilation of short stories about an individual's experience. This year, the Making "Me Time" edition includes a personal anecdote from a Lynnwood local, Wendy Hairfield.

Having earned a B.A. in Journalism from Temple University, Hairfield is a skilled storyteller. She currently lives in the Seattle area, working as a freelance writer. Her short story "One Day," the featured title in this year's edition of the series, is a meaningful memory of Hairfield's that she is now sharing with the world.

The story opens with Hairfield's husband asking what she would like for Mother's day. Her response was unexpected: A night away by herself.

As she pulls away from her home and heads into the woods to stay the night at a friend's cabin, Hairfield recounts her inner dialogue. She felt conflicted. She wanted a day to herself, but she also felt guilty. At the time, Hairfield was a new mom and would be leaving her five-month-old daughter behind. Thinking to herself, she finally decided, "She'll be fine for one night."

As the rest of her story unfolds, Hairfield's original plan doesn't go the way she had imagined, but she remained determined to give herself the time she felt she needed.

When Hairfield eventually was able to rest alone, she recounts what that felt like for her. She writes, "I deserved this one night. For sure. I turned off the light, and the guilt."

Stories like Hairfield's are a reminder

of the importance of self-care and addressing personal needs.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Household Pulse Survey, 2020, by the end of 2020, 42.4% of adults in Washington state reported symptoms of anxiety or depressive disorder. A seven point increase from April of 2020.

The "About" portion for this year's edition of Soup for the Soul echoes the same message: "Self-care and life balance are what we all neglect most. These 101 true stories will show you how to take care of your physical and mental health," Hairfield's story being one of those 101.

With the cacophony of historical events that have unfolded over the last year, most Americans are likely in need of some form of self-care. While everyone's approach may vary, for Hairfield, this meant taking "One Day" for herself.

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Vote "Yes" on Proposition No. 1

By DEBORAH KILGORE, PRESIDENT, EDMONDS SCHOOL BOARD



Citizens of Lynnwood will soon receive a ballot in your mailbox, and I am asking my neighbors to please vote YES in support of the school capital levy. The levy will provide much-needed funding for safety upgrades, maintenance and operation of our schools, and building additional capacity to meet present and future population growth.

If we have learned anything during the pandemic closure, it's that our public schools are central to the healthy operation of our city. Lynnwood kids, families and community members rely on

Edmonds School District not only for the high-quality education we provide to more than 20,000 students. We also rely on the District for healthy meals, fitness and health, safe neighborhoods, entertainment, jobs, economic development, and emotional support.

As a District leader, I know how cost-effective it is to keep our schools well-maintained. Half our buildings are more than 50 years old and require careful and continual maintenance to extend their useful lives. Imagine if we were unable to replace a roof in a timely fashion. Of course, there would be expensive consequences and ultimately, the entire building would become a blight to the neighborhood.

As a parent, I know how important it is for schools to be safe and welcoming for students. Many of our schools need safety upgrades like new fire alarm systems and secured entries. Some of our older schools require expensive

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TESLA'S NEW TOUCHSCREEN GEAR SELECTOR

By **GEORGE FTIKAS JR.**

National Highway Traffic Safety Agency reports of Tesla's new touchscreen gear selector being in compliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards has not eased concerns online. There are still many who feel uneasy with push button and dial gear selectors, so seeing the pushback against a touchscreen version isn't surprising.

On March 23, several Tweets featured a video that showed a new touchscreen gear selector on the refreshed Tesla Model S and Model X. In said video, the left side of the touchscreen is shown with a small vehicle outline on the edge of the screen. When the user places their finger on the vehicle and slides up, the car is in drive; slide down and it is in reverse. Several outlets have reported that representatives from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration say the gear selector meets current compliance standards. It is worth noting that under US federal law, automakers self-certify their vehicles under FMVSS guidelines.

Back in January, Elon Musk Tweeted that the refreshed models will automatically determine the "drive direction based on what obstacles it sees, context & nav map." He then writes that this can be overridden via the touchscreen. This means the selector featured in the video is a backup system, but there is still the question of reliability. After initially disagreeing with a NHTSA request back in January, Tesla eventually agreed to recall 135,000 vehicles for faulty memory chips within the touch-

screens.

The discussion on gear selectors is reminiscent of those that occurred after the death of "Star Trek" star Anton Yelchin, who was crushed by his Jeep Grand Cherokee after mistakenly thinking the vehicle was in park. Practicality is often sacrificed for the sake of style, but some design choices with vehicle shifters feel like an attempt to be unique. While this really doesn't seem to be the case with Tesla's design choice here—not sure the same can be said of the new yoke steering wheel—it is certainly fair to question the validity and necessity.

Regardless, it is exciting to think about a completely autonomous vehicle. This new automated gear selector and touchscreen backup aren't live yet and likely haven't been tested by many outside of Tesla, so features are subject to change. It is also important to keep in mind that perfecting autonomous technology is likely the only way to significantly reduce traffic deaths.

Tesla of Seattle-Lynnwood

There is a Tesla showroom and service center in Lynnwood off of Highway 99 (17731 Highway 99) for those that find themselves interested. A salesperson from Lynnwood Tesla did confirm that they have several units available for test drive and often have vehicles on the ground ready for purchase.

Most Teslas are custom ordered, but the sales staff is able and willing to assist.

from page 10 **YES ON PROP 1**

replacement of boilers that came with schools when they were new 60 years ago! As my child returns to his school building, I want to know that he is safe, protected from the elements, and breathing clean air while he learns.

As a longtime Lynnwood resident, I know how important it is for our school district to keep up with population growth in our area. Currently, there are 44 portable buildings used at elementary schools throughout the District, and schools are still over-crowded. This problem will only become more substantial over time as all the

new housing construction you see in the area is completed. The levy will include funding to complete Spruce Elementary and replace Oak Heights Elementary, which are important steps toward alleviating overcrowding. Both schools are within Lynnwood city limits and new construction will benefit our neighborhoods now and for generations to come.

Please join me in voting YES for kids, YES for schools, and YES for our beloved city of Lynnwood. For more information about the levy, please visit <https://www.edmonds.wednet.edu/cms/One.aspx?portalId=306754&pageId=33453360>.

from page 2 **MILL CREEK**

Mill Creek was able to criminalize possession of narcotics in last night's council meeting. Our goal and our commitment must always be public safety first, that is what the citizens expect and that is what I've promised them," councilman Vincent Cavaleri said in an official statement provided to the Lynnwood Times.

"Thank you to the Mill Creek city staff who provided support and helped craft

this legislation."

Ordinance No. 2021-871, which amends Chapter 9.04 of the Municipal Code criminalizing the possession of a controlled substance without a prescription, will go into effect immediately.

Mill Creek becomes the second city in Snohomish County following Marysville's lead to re-criminalize simple possession of a controlled substance.

Gimme a Break!

Big corporations, lockdowns and COVID, oh my!

By **CHAD LEE**

Big corporation haters lament: corporations fuel commercialism, drive out small businesses, inject millions of dollars into elections, unfairly influence our political system, and are just plain EVIL.

Pop culture in turn, often echoes these sentiments and paints corporations as the bad guys. The Resident Evil franchise exemplifies this since the Umbrella Corporation's research is what spawns the creation of undead masses.

Just imagine the ensuing public relations nightmare: "Our stocks went down how much just because of flesh-eating zombies?"

So, if corporations are so evil, it'd be crazy to support policies that disproportionately benefit corporations, right?

Well, thanks to COVID-19 lockdown restrictions, many big corporations like Wal-Mart and Clorox are swimming in cash. Online sales have surged Amazon's value to \$1.7 trillion... that's trillion with a "T."

Amazon owner Jeff Bezos' net worth more than doubled during the COVID-19 pandemic from \$97 billion in early March 2020 to \$204.6 billion as of August 2020 according to Forbes and Bloomberg.

Bill Gates got primed!

But here's the kicker, many of the same politicians who support COVID-19 shutdowns are anti-corporation. Yet the shutdowns directly benefit the big corporations they claim to hate.

Gimme a Break!

According to the Washington Post article, America's biggest companies are flourishing during the pandemic and putting thousands of people out of work, small business revenue shrank 12% nationally over the first nine months of 2020; whereas, the top 50 companies averaged a 2% growth within the same period.

Small businesses were unable to keep stores open over the pandemic. Companies such as Nvidia, Microsoft, Home Depot and Wal-Mart and saw 49%, 13%, 9% and 6% revenue growth, respectively, within the first nine months of 2020 when compared to 2019.

Isn't it about time to allow small businesses to compete against corporations on the open market once again? Or do we continue to endure the wrath of Kens and Karens, unwitting agents of big corporate overlords, who have bullied their way into our subconscious?

Here's an idea... Buy from small businesses only and boycott big corporations as much as possible! Or.... Gasp... Ease restrictions or end them completely!

Gimme a Break: *Thought-provoking humorous insight for the reader on the run brought to you by Chad Lee.*

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from page 3 FIREARM LAWSUIT

When Alan Gotlieb, founder of the Second Amendment Foundation (SAF), approached Bass asking if he would be willing to serve as a plaintiff in a lawsuit against the city, he enthusiastically, if trepidatiously, agreed. It was through the SAF in which he maintained a point of contact throughout the legal process despite the National Rifle Association's (NRA) involvement.

"The city knew it was illegal. The city did not have the authority to make the rule. They even said it would not stand up to a lawsuit," Bass told the Lynnwood Times.

Bass knew Gottlieb personally through the Safer Homes, Suicide Aware task force, in which they both serve. He joined Forefront Suicide Prevention after volunteering on the Firearms Subcommittee of the Safer Homes task force. He became involved in the firearm industry after returning to the United States from serving in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve overseas, and after years of civilian work in private sector security contracting. It was his experience in detailed report generation that benefited in the list of documentation review that was involved with lawsuit filing.

It was around 2016 when Jennifer Stuber, former Forefront Suicide Prevention director and co-founder, approached Bass at a King County & Seattle Public Health panel, to join her task force.

Bass had been working as a manager at West Coast Armory and was invited

to speak at the panel, representing the firearm business. The first question on the panel, asked by a public health worker, was 'how do we get those people with their guns to listen?' and Brett asked if he could take it.

The room grew quiet. The panel steered their heads toward 'the random guy from the gun business' in curiosity.

Brett answered, "I think there's a serious problem with the way that you asked the question; you kept referring to 'those people' with 'their guns' and it smacked of pointing a big finger at a large chunk of society and saying, 'I don't like you.' There's some serious othering language built into how your question was constructed, and that's astonishing to me."

Bass then conducted an informal audience poll asking how many in attendance were gun owners. Two hands went up. He followed up by asking how many people could name the four universal rules of firearm safety; one hand went down.

He concluded his point by saying, "this is a serious problem. You folks are public health experts. You're presumably trained in cultural competence. But you're incapable of talking to my community. This shouldn't be a partisan issue...this is a serious societal problem."

Bass received a standing ovation and was later approached by Stuber to join her team, where he's worked ever since.

Years later, after the decision to join the

NRA-backed lawsuit against the city of Edmonds, he had a deposition with opposing council, after many meetings with the legal team.

"[It was] somewhat nerve-wracking. The opposing counsel was very concerned with the speed with which I could open my safe, how quickly I could grab a rifle next to my bed, etc. and seemed frustrated when I told them that I'd never timed myself doing either activity. I was under oath; I wasn't about to give my word that I could do something in a specific amount of time when I had never timed it," Bass said.

Brett believes that Government is like a fire. If well-tended and kept from uncontrolled expansion it will keep people warm at night and help cook their food. But if left unrestrained, it incinerates whatever it touches.

"We must hold the government to account, especially since it represents the legitimized monopoly on force," Bass said. "It is allowed – and expected – to use force to coerce the citizenry to behave within the structures of the rules upon which the citizens collectively agree."

He continued, "If government is allowed to flout the laws created by the consent of the governed, it becomes tyrannical. Our society is predicated upon the foundation that we are all ruled by the law, and this includes government. We do not have rulers; we have elected representatives. We cannot claim to have a government by, of, and for the people if the government is allowed to break the law and the citizens aren't."

The appellate court was found in the plaintiff's favor and appealed February, arguing the law concerning firearms is ambiguously worded.

"The city broke the law and they got called on it," Bass said. "Laws are intended to protect the rights of citizens. The point is they should not be allowed to break statutory law."

Bass is not a fan of violating the law and holds no grudge against the Edmond's City Council. He believes in safe gun ownership and recommends everyone take a course on gun safety, if you are an owner or not.

He feels our ability to arm ourselves has done more good than bad and said from his observation, "Firearms are used more often in preservation of life and property than they are to take from it."

Bass believes the largest driver of firearm fatality is suicide, by far, and that increasing community connectedness, decreasing the barriers to mental health and substance use counseling, and better allocating resources to deal with the majority of suicide decedents will lead to a reduction in the number of people who die from gunshot injuries more than any other set of policy recommendations.

In 2016, firearm suicides accounted for 75% of all firearm deaths in Washington state according to the Snohomish Health District. The report also stated that firearm suicides account for 45% of all suicides in Washington state.

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