

LYNNWOOD

TIMES



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Real News ⚡
Real Impact

Fathers of Snohomish County



Top (L-R): Mario Pimienta along with his wife Sandra, and daughters Sara and Paula. Shawn Loudenback and wife Tristan, along with their two children. Bottom (L-R): Phong Nguyen, wife Sandy and their two children Milani and Sicily. Greg Urban with his daughter.

By **REN CUMMINS**

Every June around the United States, we take one Sunday each year to honor and celebrate the men who have helped bring us into this world and/or the men who raised us: Father's Day.

Decades past, it was a simple enough affair where our fathers would get an extra helping of being treated like the king of his castle, complete with a decent sized breakfast, time to enjoy whatever big game might be on the television, and a really nice tie to wear to work.

A simpler time, where the role of father as breadwinner and protector of the family was culturally expected and was free from much sense of variation.

Times, however, have changed dramatically over the years, offering if nothing else, an enormous variety of father's presents ranging from craft beer of the month to handmade ceramics (or 3D printed tchotchkes) and even lists in any internet browser search for literally hundreds of new and unique ideas for father's day presents, so perhaps the time of the "bad tie" joke has finally gone away.

And not just that, of course, but the role of fatherhood has been expanded. The once traditional responsibilities have shifted between parents, as well.

From caring for children, taking care of the home to earning the money or running their business, the expectation of what exactly a father does as a father is no longer as clear-cut and role-specific as it once was. But where some might see this as an unneces-

sary complexity, many parents see as an opportunity to flexibly share the responsibilities in order to adapt to a changing world.

Snohomish county is full of examples of the rise of the new and changing role of fatherhood, and the Lynnwood Times took a moment to share some of the experiences and examples of the 21st century father.

From drawing strongly from our cultural experiences and looking to the new opportunities afforded by cultural evolution and new industry and technology, it is worth celebrating the lives of these men as well as all our fathers who have put in the time and effort to be the best they could be in the raising of their children.

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Governor Jay Inslee tours South Snohomish County

By KIENAN BRISCOE

SNOHOMISH COUNTY – Governor Jay Inslee toured Snohomish County Monday, June 7, visiting Community Health Center in Edmonds, Edmonds College in Lynnwood, Pallet in Everett, and the new ferry terminal in Mukilteo.

“It’s just been a great day, there’s so many positive things going on in Snohomish County right now,” Inslee told the Lynnwood Times.

Community Health Center

The first stop was Community Health Center of Snohomish County Edmonds walk-in clinic, which is one of the busiest CHC clinic locations serving thousands of medical and dental patients according to Joe Vessey, Chief Executive Officer for CHC.

The facility which opening in November of 2020, welcomes patients, regardless of ability to pay, affordable primary health care services – medical, dental, and pharmacy. The clinic also administers COVID vaccines up until 7 p.m., seven days a week.

Inslee and Vessey joined by CHC staff Jessica Ro, Communications Manager, Oskana Strok, Dental Practice Manager, and Adam Heath, Chief Operating Officer, discussed the progress of the clinic’s vaccination efforts.

According to Inslee, 98% of people who have lost their lives have not been

vaccinated, and Washington state has one of the lowest COVID-19 mortality rates in the country.

“Hundreds of millions of people now have these vaccinations and they now have essential immunity from COVID with a high degree of probability. I am so appreciative of the people of this clinic that make this available, this [life] saving medicine,” Inslee said.

“It’s available to everyone for absolutely nothing - it’s free to save your life. There’s no reason to risk your life today. Get the vaccine, save your life and that’s also going to help us open up our state.”

Edmonds College

Inslee continued his Snohomish County tour meeting with faculty and students at Edmonds College’s Hazel Miller Hall, a new STEM and nursing building name after local philanthropist Hazel Miller. Dr. Rachel Wade, Physics Department head at the college, shared the progress on developing a Quantum Optics Lab for students to explore the quantum properties of light.

Inslee and Dr. Wade discussed the basics of quantum physics. In 1993 Inslee secured funding for the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory in Richland, WA. The LIGO facility detects gravitational waves from black holes that are billions of light years from earth. Research from the facility led to a 2017 Nobel Prize in Physics



Mayors Mike Nelson (Edmonds) and Nicola Smith (Lynnwood) thank Gov. Inslee for his support during the pandemic. Lynnwood Times/Mario Lotmore.

for the first-ever direct observation of gravitational waves – ripples in the fabric of space and time.

When asked where he learned quantum entanglement theory, Inslee told the Lynnwood Times, “Well I learned things like that from the Washington state legislature. They are all brilliant in the House and the Senate. I learned from them.”

Edmond College’s LPN nursing program was recently awarded the Project Firstline Infection Control in Community College Curriculum Grant, a \$10,000 grant to update all of its courses with current infection control information and to collaborate with other universities and the CDC.

Inslee then visited the Mathematics, Engineering, Science, Achievement (MESA) room, which focuses on initiatives to improve diversity and retention of historically underrepresented students in the STEM fields.

Lynnwood Mayor Nicola Smith, who sits on the Sound Transit Board, shared with Governor Inslee how she and Dr. Amit Singh, Edmonds College President, worked to put together an apprenticeship program in partnership with Sound Transit which mitigated a projected labor shortage for the light rail project.

Mayor Smith shared with the Lynnwood Times
Continued PAGE 04 >>

In-person meetings return to Mill Creek, others soon to follow

By KIENAN BRISCOE

The city of Mill Creek resumed in-person city council meetings May 25, the first time since the statewide shutdown, while many surrounding cities are still meeting remotely.

The city’s hybrid system allows for council members or staff to attend via zoom if they are still uncomfortable or have legitimate medical reasons, according to councilman Vincent Cavaleri, yet all council members were in attendance for the first public meeting May 25.

“We the people must always have unfettered access to government. The city of Mill Creek has resumed in person meetings as of four weeks ago,” Cavaleri said.

The city has also begun a staggered or tiered opening of City Hall and City services, with the expectation of being

100% open by the end of June.

“We simply cannot allow fear to block access to government buildings and services. Simply put, someone has to be first. I am incredibly proud of my brave colleagues who put aside their own concerns for the peoples’ needs,” Cavaleri said.

While Mill Creek returns to council in person, many meetings in other Snohomish County cities, including the Snohomish County Council, continue to operate remotely. Snohomish County Council plans to re-open the week of July 6.

Snohomish County

According to Megan Dunn, Vice Chair and Councilwoman for District 2, the County Council will then resume in-person meetings with a hybrid option allowing remote testimony and participation. Councilman Sam Low

cannot wait to resume.

“I am already hosting my Public Works Committee Chair meetings from the council offices, and I am ready to host in person council meetings now. I have been doing hybrid zoom meetings with my Rotary Club and I see no reason why we can’t do hybrid zoom meetings at the county now,” said Low.

Everett

For Everett, the city has yet to determine a date in which they will resume meetings in person.

“Our teams are working with our councilmembers on plans to return to in-person, when safe and feasible to do so,” Kimberly Cline, Director of Communications for the city of Everett, said.

According to Cline, switching to remote platforms last year, such as Zoom and Microsoft Teams, has had its pros and cons. While attending meetings remotely has made attending meetings more accessible for community

members and protects the health and well-being of the community, according to Cline, “you simply don’t connect with people in the same way through a computer or phone as you do when in person.”

Many other challenges include adapting to the new technologies and formats which presented a learning curve initially, according to Cline, but has been “running much more smoothly now.”

Although council meetings in Everett continue to be held remotely, most city employees are physically reporting to city worksites now, at least part-time.

“For Everett, the safety of our councilmembers, our staff and community members has been our top priority. We have aligned our actions with the open meeting act guidelines and waivers issued by the state during this public health crisis and were able to continue to conduct city business,” Cline said.

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LYNNWOOD TIMES

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Lynnwood explores new waste and recycling options

By **GEORGE FTIKIS JR.**

LYNNWOOD - The City of Lynnwood Public Works laid out a possible 7-year plan to update the city's waste and recycling program during the city council meeting on June 8, 2021.

Lynnwood currently operates under the Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission (WUTC). According to Public Works Director Bill Franz, when cities annex, they are able to leave the WUTC system to contract directly with a waste hauler or provide their own services. For reasons unknown to Franz, Lynnwood stayed in the system after incorporating in 1959.

The solid waste and recycling presentation was given by Public Works Manager Marcie MacQuarrie. The

main issue MacQuarrie highlights is a lack of control over the contracts with the haulers. The city is unable to address customer service issues and complaints, negotiate rates, or implement discount or extra pickup programs. Whenever they get contacted by the community, they are really only able to direct them to the WUTC or the hauler.

"Community members don't understand that we don't manage our garbage hauler contracts," MacQuarrie said. "We can call the WUTC or call the hauler and ask them to help them out, but we really don't have any control because we're not under contract with them."

The WUTC system has also resulted in there being two haulers for Lynnwood. Residents on the west side of Highway 99 are under Republic Services, while

the east side are under Waste Management NW. MacQuarrie states that managing their own contract can limit that to one provider.

"It is odd that we have two different haulers in Lynnwood. That we're on this kind of older system really designed for more unincorporated areas," Franz said during the meeting.

Most cities have chosen to leave the WUTC. Of course unincorporated areas of Snohomish County are still under WUTC, but the only other cities are Edmonds, Everett, Brier and half of Lake Stevens. Lake Stevens recently went through an annexation, so this half is currently in the 7-year process of leaving the WUTC. Bothell, Mountlake Terrace, Kirkland, Mukilteo, Shoreline, Mill Creek, Snohomish, Stanwood and the other half of

Lake Stevens are no longer under the WUTC.

There are some challenges beyond the timeline for leaving the WUTC—such as staffing, bidding and drafting a contract—but the ability to customize a contract to Lynnwood's needs does have merit. It should be noted that some council members did not appear to be completely sold on the idea, so there will be continued discussion on the matter.

"We think that to make that first declaration and pass an ordinance and start that process is really fairly low risk, if not very low risk because we're not committed until the end of year 5," Franz said. "It allows us to get right out to the community and start finding out what people really think and would like."

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Mukilteo adopts HAP amidst overwhelming public opposition

By **KIENAN BRISCOE**

MUKILTEO - The Mukilteo City Council passed its Housing Action Plan (HAP) with a vote of 4-3 during its four-and-a-half hour contentious Business Meeting on June 7.

Councilmembers Sarah Kneller, Elisabeth Crawford, Richard Emery and Councilman Louis Harris voted for the adoption of the HAP. Councilmen Joe Marine, Bob Champion and Riaz Khan voted against.

Concerns arose that the City may lose a \$30,000 reimbursement from the state to pay BERK Consulting if the HAP didn't pass. However, the three strategies adopted by the council are sufficient to meet Commerce's requirements to receive the reimbursement.

In a surprising twist of events, Councilman Joe Marine, introduced a motion that passed 6-1 to place on the November ballot an advisory measure for residents to share their preference on housing options for Mukilteo.

All councilmembers voted yes to place the Advisory Measure on the ballot with Councilman Emery voting against.

The next steps for the three HAP strategies approved by Council will be:

- Comprehensive Plan language will be updated through the 2024 update process. Staff work will begin next year, with public outreach, Planning Commission and Council meetings occurring from 2022-2024.
- Educate the public about programs to help residents stay in their homes: The council will undertake an effort in the next 3 years to identify resources to make them more

- available to residents.
- Improve senior housing options: this will take further analysis on what types of methods are preferred, Gregerson identifies a 3-7 year timeline, pending other priorities and legal obligations.

"The council will have to finish the Comprehensive Plan update, and that will be a big workload requirement. So we'll balance this, which could include code updates, with that effort," Gregerson said.

What in the HAP passed?

The adopted HAP passed on Monday night is a shell of its original 13 strategies to address housing needs in Mukilteo. The three strategy categories presented by newly-appointed Councilman Harris and seconded by Councilwoman Crawford, appears to focus on amending housing and land use policies in Mukilteo's existing Comprehensive Plan.

The three strategy categories adopted are:

- **Strategy 1:** Review Comprehensive Plan Language;
- **Strategy 2:** Educate About Programs to Help Residents Stay in Their Homes; and
- **Strategy 3:** Expand Senior Housing Options.

According to the Housing Action Plan prepared by BERK Consulting, **Strategy 2** recommends that the city considers "additional assistance and education to residents" of homebuyer, landlord-tenant, and roommate programs. **Strategy 3** focuses on expanding "housing choice" in the form of multi-family residential dwellings and/or incentivizing "ADA accessibility and senior-friendly features."

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Strategy 1, "Review Comprehensive Plan Language," solely focuses on considering changes to Mukilteo's existing Comprehensive Plan. Since the plan's adoption on October 5, 2015, the Comprehensive Plan has been amended three times, with the last two on February 1, 2021.

The Comprehensive Plan is "a strategic vision of what Mukilteo's guiding land use document should look like" and to serve as guidelines for the "City

of Mukilteo Comprehensive Plan 2035 – Moving Mukilteo Forward."

Mukilteo's existing Comprehensive Plan states there is "very little undeveloped land left in the City," therefore its focus is "sustaining what we have" by "managing redevelopment and preserving and improving the existing quality of life" for residents.

Mother finds pornography on Edmonds school-issued laptop

By KIENAN BRISCOE

LYNNWOOD - When Governor Jay Inslee extended the closure of all Washington schools April 6, 2020, in an effort to help slow the spread of the novel COVID-19 virus, students adopted remote learning models that consisted of Zoom calls and learning videos on school-appointed Chromebooks. But after finding pornographic material on a school-issued computer, some mothers, such as Lynnwood resident Melissa Fields, are left wondering just how safe and effective distance learning is to children.

On May 25, 2021, Fields was notified, by her cousin, that her seven-year-old special needs son was watching an inappropriate video on YouTube. She later reviewed her child's search and viewing history, noticing a list of videos consisting of pornographic content. After confronting her son about the computer's history, she learned he had used voice commands in sites such as Google and YouTube, to search for the video game Human: Fall Flat. The voice controls misinterpreted this command as "human full" directing the 11-year-old boy to mature content.

"Remote learning is not safe, healthy, or appropriate for children, especially children with special needs. It is frankly disgusting that Edmonds School District believes this is an appropriate education," Fields said.

Fields learned that children in Edmonds School District, who according to her,

remained remote longer than most school districts in the area, have a YouTube account using their Edmonds School District email. The school district created YouTube account was not set in restricted mode which would limit access to this content. After asking other parents, it seemed that many other children's accounts in Edmonds School District were also not restricted.

"How could a school-issued Chromebook direct my 7-year-old son to nude videos? How are these school-issued Chromebooks given to our children not blocked down to prevent a 7-year-old with special needs from watching pornography?" asked Fields.

Field's son attends first grade at Hazelwood Elementary School and has an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), through the school, for his severe ADHD and dyslexia. To obtain an education plan like this, a parent must request that the school evaluate a child to see if they are eligible.

The school conducts an evaluation of the child, testing them in academic areas, social/emotional areas, and test their gross motor and fine motor skills. This evaluation is done to determine if the child has any significant delays or difficulties that are beyond the average student and can cause difficulties with learning.

If the evaluation determines the child needs additional assistance from the school to be successful, then the school will hold an IEP meeting where

specialized goals are set and tailored to the student with specialized instruction.

"Some families are able to have a parent home to assist their child with online learning. However, some parents, such as me, have a full-time job and are unable to assist. Therefore, it ends up falling on childcare providers to make sure the child pays attention to the Zooms, follows instructions, and does assignments. Childcare providers are not teachers and are simply not equipped to cater to each child so individually when they have different teachers, different tasks, and different schedules," Fields said.

In February, Fields tried hard to push the school district to return her son back to school for any in-person instruction after receiving a report card that said the teacher didn't have sufficient information or participation to give her son grades. Despite his childcare's efforts, according to Fields it was difficult to keep her child on task and focused, if not impossible.

"For a child with significant attention issues and learning difficulties, remote learning simply exasperated his frustrations. He struggles to focus in-person significantly and Zooms were nearly impossible. This went nowhere and he didn't return to in-person learning until March 29th, in a hybrid model," Fields said.

Field's son attends two full days a week in-person and the remaining three days of the week is online.

"[He] has severe ADHD, dyslexia, but is also intellectually gifted. They call this 'twice exceptional' which means an exceptional intellectual ability, with an exceptional learning disability. I provided this to the school and requested an IEP meeting to address the results and make changes to his IEP," Fields said.

At the time of the IEP meeting, Field's son had attended school in-person for 6 days total. According to Fields, everyone on the meeting suggested more special education for her child and the school was going to do a new evaluation based on what they had observed to add additional services.

The school now has a paraeducator dedicated to sitting with and working with him every in-person day he has at school, all day, giving him one-on-one support the entire school day when he is in-person (aside from recess, lunch, bathroom breaks etc.). Her cousin has been watching her son, on his remote learning days, as she looks into childcare options.

After Fields noticed the pornographic content her 7-year-old had observed due to unrestricted search settings, she sent an email to Hazelwood principal Norma Lee. Lee responded with a plan to limit the child's Chromebook use to in person learning only and making all asynchronous work paper and pencil through work packets the school would send to Field's residence.

Continued PAGE 11 >>

from page 2 INSLEE TOUR

Lynnwood Times how this collaboration between the college and the city of Lynnwood is a perfect example of how Edmonds College and STEM addressed the shortfall of electrical and construction skills so desperately needed in the region.

The college will be recruiting for the apprenticeship program this summer and classes will begin in the fall.

Edmonds' mayor, Mike Nelson, shared similar benefits when discussing Edmonds College's value proposition to the community.

Edmonds is looking to use some of the American Rescue Plan Act funding to partner with Edmonds College by offering tuition assistance for retraining programs for its residents impacted by the pandemic.

"Prioritizing STEM is so crucial right now...and to have that in our backyard is so cool! You can have that kinda access right here; and if we can help partner and facilitate getting more of our residents to pipeline through here it would be so great," Mayor Nelson told the Lynnwood Times.

Both Rep. Cindy Ryu (Lynnwood - D) and Rep. Strom Peterson (Edmonds - D) shared that the partnerships of the college with local industry is a testament to Dr. Singh's leadership and were impressed of the college's outreach to the underserved community.

Carl Zopora, chair of Edmonds College Board of Trustees, told the Lynnwood Times that STEM professions

and nursing have huge demands in the community and the college is accepting the challenge to meet the growing demand.

"Our job is to respond to the needs in the community and of the upcoming trends," Zopora said. "The Board of Trustees are particularly wanting to make sure we are doing the best job we absolutely can in the areas of STEM."

Mukilteo Ferry Terminal

After leaving Edmonds' College, Inslee toured Pallet, a local company in Everett that manufactures small dwellings for people experiencing homelessness. While in Everett, Inslee met with Snohomish County Executive Dave Somers and Everett Mayor Cassie Franklin in a closed-door meeting.

The tour concluded at Mukilteo to view the new ferry terminal on Front street - the first new Washington State ferry terminal in 40 years which historically facilitates 2.3 million vehicles and four million passengers annually.

"It's great to have the Governor come visit our city," Mayor Jennifer Gregerson said. "This terminal is the first new ferry terminal in a long time and we're very proud of it. It's really beautiful and it's a great asset in the community. We're really happy to welcome him [Inslee] to Mukilteo."

The new terminal rests on the site where the Treaty of Point Elliot was signed in 1855, which preserved native hunting and fishing rights in return for land. Because of this, the state worked with 11 federally recognized tribes on the project.



Nicole McIntosh, Washington State Ferries Chief of Staff, Patty Rubstello, Assistant Secretary to Washington State Ferries, Roger Millar, Washington State Department of Transportation Secretary, Gov. Jay Inslee, Rep. Lillian Ortiz-Self (Mukilteo - D), Rep. Strom Peterson (Edmonds - D), and Mukilteo Mayor Jennifer Gregerson at the Mukilteo Ferry Terminal on June 7, 2021. Lynnwood Times photo.

"Tribal cooperation was essential in the development of this project. We've used the language where possible, the plants, the interpreting boards all strive to tell the history of the tribes in the area," said Roger Millar, Washington State Department of Transportation Secretary.

WTS International, which is dedicated to creating a more diverse, inclusive, and equitable transportation industry through the global advancement of women, awarded WSDOT Mukilteo Multimodal Ferry Terminal its 2021 Innovative Transportation Solutions Award for transportation projects led by women. Over 60 women were involved in the planning, design, and construction of the terminal.

Nicole McIntosh, Washington State Ferries Chief of Staff, began working on the project 20 years ago. Some of

her main focuses were safety, efficiency, and multi-modality. The terminal is safer, more open, and efficient without the issue of pedestrian congestion interfering with scheduling, according to McIntosh.

"From a pandemic standpoint it was incredible to keep this project on time," Patty Rubstello, Assistant Secretary to Washington State Ferries, told the Lynnwood Times.

The terminal has solar panels on the roof and, in the last two months, saved \$700 each month in utilities. It catches rainwater to be used as gray water, and the building uses optimal windows as natural air conditioning.

"This is the most beautiful, most functional ferry system in the United States - it's the most environmentally friendly," Inslee told the Lynnwood Times.

LSHS senior appears with Chris Pratt on Ellen Show



Madisen Cordell takes a selfie with her Amazon scholarship prize box. (Photo courtesy of Madisen Cordell)

By **BO JOHN BRUSCO**

LAKE STEVENS - Actor Chris Pratt, a Lake Stevens High School alumnus, recently appeared on the Ellen Degeneres show where he and Ellen spoke with recipients of the Amazon Future Engineer scholarship.

Among those recipients was Madisen Cordell, a Lake Stevens High School Senior who shares her excitement for the future. Pratt also spoke fondly of his favorite Science teacher from his Lake Stevens High days, Bob Ingraham.

Chris Pratt appeared on The Ellen

Show this past Sunday to promote “The Tomorrow War,” an Amazon Original Movie where he plays a science teacher who gets drafted into a futuristic war. Reminiscing on his own experience in science class, Pratt said, “I loved science! I did pretty well in science class. I studied at the University of Lake Stevens High School.”

Pratt specifically recalled his time in Bob Ingraham’s AP Biology class. “We had the most amazing science teacher named Mr. Ingraham,” he said. “I loved this guy.” Pratt described Mr. Ingraham as “our small town Indiana Jones,” who had knives, a whip, and a

“leather trench coat.”

After Pratt’s unorthodox description of Mr. Ingraham, he and Ellen joked that perhaps some of Pratt’s depiction was exaggerated.

A Facebook post from The Lake Stevens School District later confirmed that Pratt was speaking a bit hyperbolically. In parentheses at the end of the post, it reads that Mr. Ingraham “did rock a fabulous hat and leather trench coat, but not the knives and whips.”

Amazon Future Engineer Program

As Pratt portrays a science teacher in his upcoming film, he also promoted the Amazon Future Engineer program during his televised appearance.

According to amazonfutureengineer.com, the program is “a comprehensive childhood-to-career program aimed at increasing access to computer science education for children and young adults from underserved and underrepresented communities.”

Pratt elaborated on the program’s uplifting purpose, saying it’s “essentially to inspire kids from all over the world, especially in underserved communities, for careers in computer science and STEM, which is science, tech, engineering, and mathematics. So they give 100 college-bound seniors 4-year \$40,000 scholarships and paid internships.”

In addition to the scholarships for college-bound seniors, Pratt also mentioned how the Amazon Future Engineer program rewards outstanding teachers with a \$25,000 “teacher of the year” award.

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City of Marysville S&P Score Upgraded to AA+

By **KIENAN BRISCOE**

MARYSVILLE - The City of Marysville’s outstanding debt for water and sewer systems has been upgraded from an ‘AA’ rating to ‘AA+’ by the Standard and Poor Global Ratings this year, the second highest bond rating below AAA.

S&P reviews the city finances, debt structure, economy, demographic factors and management practices of the governing body and administration to determine the city’s ability to meet debt payments. Bond rating can only occur when proposing to issue debt and periodic review of issued debt, which was the case of this upgrade, explained Finance Director Sand Langdon.

“An upgrade in the bond rating basically translates into lower interest rates. That’s a win for taxpayers because it reduces the cost of financing large utility projects,” Langdon said.

“The upgrade reflects our view of the system’s liquidity position, which strengthened over the past 10 years, consistently robust all-in coverage metrics, declining debt service obligations, and lack of future debt plans. Further supporting the upgrade are the manageable annual capital needs that are driven primarily by renewal and replacements of aging infrastructure

that management plans to fund with reserves. These factors, in combination with annual rate-setting practices, support our view that financial metrics will be substantiated at or near current levels,” the April 2021 rating summary states.

The rating helps investors know their potential risk - the higher rating, in theory, provides a lower risk. The higher rating does imply a greater ability to meet debt payments which translates into a lower interest rate.

S&P noted that Marysville’s credit strengths include “very affordable” monthly utility rates, low debt-to-capitalization ratio and robust regional economy, according to a city news release.

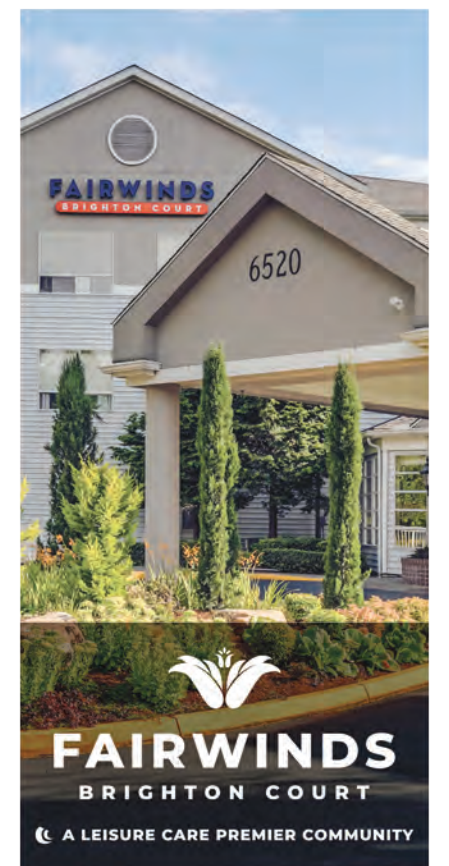
The risk review also found that Marysville has an abundant water supply, about half of which comes from groundwater wells and the balance purchased from the City of Everett through a long-term agreement, and the wastewater treatment system has capacity for current and future growth, the news release continued.

S&P Global’s mission statement is to accelerate progress in the world by providing intelligence that is essential for companies, governments, and individuals to make decisions with conviction.

For over 160 years, S&P Global has been turning information into insights, providing essential intelligence that accelerates progress. Poor’s Publishing Co., which issued its first credit rating in 1916, merged with Standard Statistics Co. to form S&P in 1941 and has now grown to having over 23,000 employees across the globe.

According to S&P, ‘Credit ratings are forward looking opinions about an issuer’s relative creditworthiness. They provide a common and transparent global language for investors to form a view on and compare the relative likelihood of whether an issuer may repay its debts on time and in full. Credit Ratings are just one of many inputs that investors and other market participants can consider as part of their decision-making processes.’

The city of Marysville now has one of the highest revenue S&P scores, along with Everett who also maintains an AA+ rating in both revenue and limited tax general obligation (LTGO), in Snohomish County. Edmonds holds an AAA, the highest rating, in LTGO but an Aa3 rating by Moody’s in revenue which is equivalent to an AA- in S&P’s scale. Lynnwood holds an AA+ S&P rating in LTGO and an AA S&P rating in revenue.



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Sound Transit turns to realignment strategy as it faces a \$7.9 billion affordability gap

By KIENAN BRISCOE

SEATTLE, Wash., June 6, 2021 – Following an unprecedented affordability gap of \$7.9 billion, down from \$11.5 billion, Sound Transit looks to realignment strategies to ensure voter-approved projects – ST-2 and ST-3 – remain on schedule due to the combined effects of the pandemic and increased cost estimates.

Despite these major setbacks, Sound Transit assures the Lynnwood Times that the extension to Northgate and Lynnwood remain unaffected.

“Construction of our light rail extension to Lynnwood is fully on track and remains scheduled to open in 2024. This and all other projects already in construction are moving forward without being subject to the realignment process. By 2024 we are on track to nearly triple the length of the region’s light rail system from 22 miles to 62 miles,” said Geoff Patrick, Deputy Executive Director of Communications for Sound Transit.

However, in a Special Board Meeting held June 3, all proposed realignment strategies have the Lynnwood-Mariner extension to complete 2038 delayed by 2 years from its original 2036 date, and the Mariner-Everett link delayed five years to 2041. Yet that parking for the Everett link is delayed by 10 years and scheduled to be complete in 2046.

Also, \$40 million to improve access to the Edmonds and Mukilteo stations

for riders are also proposed to be delayed by 10 years and scheduled to be completed in 2034.

Two major simultaneous factors – pandemic-driven recession and increased pressure on the real estate and construction sectors of the economy – have set Sound Transit projects back \$1.5 billion in forecasted tax revenues while battling a 40% increase in labor and materials, according to Sound Transit’s Financial Plan Update.

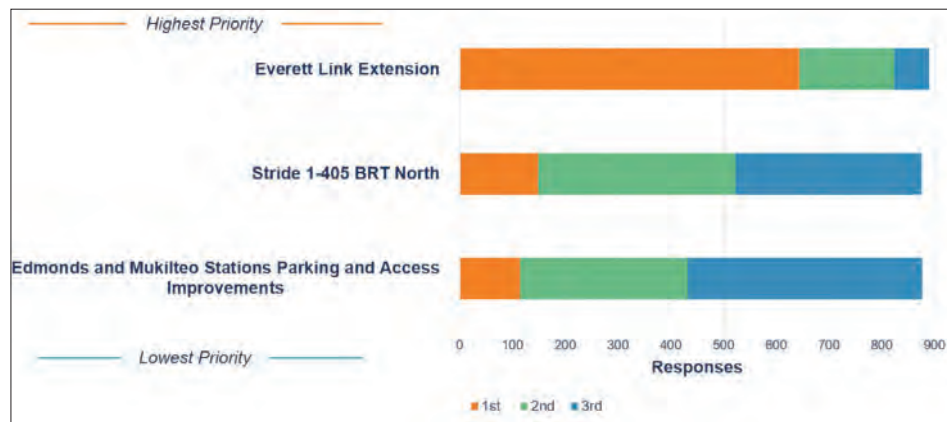
The pandemic greatly reduced the revenues Sound Transit relied upon to expand the regional transit system when businesses were closed and potential riders stayed at home, plummeting revenues critical for funding transit construction.

At a Sound Transit Board meeting held in April, readjusted forecasts indicated that the programs remained unaffordable without realignment.

Parallel to pandemic-related revenue declines, the recession has not slowed the growth of construction material and labor. In a January 5 letter sent to Sound Transit CEO, Peter Rogoff, from Kimberly Farley, Deputy CEO, cost estimates for projects that have not been baselined were reported to increase from \$4.84 billion to \$6.17 billion from 2019 to 2020.

Sound Transit Realignment Process

According to Patrick, the first emphases on the realignment process



April 2021 survey results from the 907 Snohomish County respondents that were asked to rank their top five projects in the North Corridor. Source: Sound Transit.

are to work in the coming months and years to control costs and secure expanded funding. So far, a grand total of \$342,943,098 (which includes approved CARES funding and CRRSAA Funding) in relief funds have been received and major efforts are underway to secure necessary further funding including \$527,890,035 in American Rescue Plan funding.

The realignment process began in January and continues to proceed on the following schedule:

- January: Review Project evaluation
- February: Discuss realignment approached
- March: Define realignment approaches for public feedback
- April: Engage with the public and key stakeholders
- May: Discuss realignment options
- June: Develop draft realignment plan
- July: Take realignment action

Sound Transit Realignment Survey

The Sound Transit Board is reviewing 9,730 survey responses from the public as various realignment strategies are discussed.

From April 12-30, 2021, South Transit staff provided an online survey that allowed Puget Sound residents to rank their priorities among the voter-approved projects not already under construction and subject to potential realignment decisions.

Over 30,000 residents participated in an online open house which shared Sound Transit’s revenue and cost estimate issues related to the purpose of the realignment strategy.

According to survey respondents:

- 86% currently ride or plan to ride transit in the future.
- 49% live in the Seattle Area, whereas; only 10% lived in Snohomish County.
- 63% reported household income of \$100,000 or more.

The overall regional themes – those districts within Sound transit’s tax base – expressed by the survey respondents were:

- Expanding Link light rail as it is catalyst for multi-family housing
- Parking – Snohomish, South King and Pierce resident would like more parking
- Perception that cost increases should have been planned for more effectively.
- Concern that costs, particularly property costs, will only increase the longer we wait.

Snohomish County Survey Results

Snohomish County respondents – 907 in total – were asked to rank their top five projects in the North Corridor. Orange reflects first-priority rankings, followed by green for second priority, blue for third, pink for fourth, and aqua for fifth. According to the survey, the completion of the Everett Link Extension was their highest priority.

According to the study, “Many Snohomish County residents feel that they pay a lot in taxes to help fund Sound Transit, but they haven’t seen much in terms of promised service and feel left behind in transit expansion.”



from page 2 RESUME MEETINGS

Cline believes since switching council meetings to remote formats there has been no change in efficiencies or budget, although it is not something the city has tracked.

According to Cline, the main expense associated with a council meeting is the time of the staff and councilmembers who need to present on topics, observe proceedings, facilitate, or record the meetings. This expense varies based on what topics are on the agenda, how many staff need to participate, and the duration of the meeting.

Lynnwood

The City of Lynnwood also continues to hold their council meetings on Zoom with discussion on offering a hybrid return to Council Chambers around July, depending on Gov. Inslee’s orders and the city’s ability to set up the right

technology, however no firm date has been set as the city works on a plan to resume safely.

“We want to continue to use Zoom as a way for our public to easily connect with council. As most other cities and the county, we have increased our community participation because Zoom has made it convenient,” Mayor Nicola Smith said.

Julie Moore, Communications and Public Affairs Officer for the city of Lynnwood, says a benefit to hosting remote city council meetings has been keeping city employees safe by asking them to stay home throughout the pandemic.

In addition, Moore shared that more community members are logging on to watch council meetings and other public meetings, appreciating that they do not need to leave their homes and interrupt their evening, dinners,

homework, etc. to attend a meeting. Under the initial Governor’s four phase approach, government buildings were not set to reopen until Phase 4.

“Limited capacity can be a tricky thing to accomplish, and we do not have staff available to be the monitor to screen individuals for symptoms, monitor appropriate social distancing, and capacity limits,” Moore said. “Our county’s case rates had been on a steady increase, so we just felt it was not safe to bring people into our buildings until we received further guidance from the state.”

Moore believes the city of Lynnwood has been more productive since switching to remote meetings and has cut costs. When the city began using Zoom, FX Video to record the city council meetings were no longer required. Savings on other soft costs such as: council, presenters, and attendees saving on commuting costs.

“We are extremely proud of the way our employees have continued to support our community with flexibility, creativity, and resiliency,” Moore said.

Mukilteo

Mukilteo plans to reconvene in-person meetings July 6, according to mayor Jennifer Gregerson.

Phase 3

Gov. Inslee announced May 13 that the state is moving toward a statewide reopening on June 30, moving all counties to Phase 3 of the Healthy WA: Roadmap to Recovery. An earlier reopening date than June 30 could be achieved if Washington reaches a vaccination percentage of 70% or more from residents 16 years or older.

The state has been open to 50% capacity for indoor spaces since March 22, given the Governor’s mandates.

from page 1 **FATHERHOOD**

**Mario Pimienta,
Mazatlan Restaurant, Owner**

Ask most fathers their greatest goal with parenthood and they'll say it is to give their children the opportunities for a life they didn't have at their age. For people around the world, the United States of America has become synonymous with those kinds of opportunities, which is why for generations many people have immigrated to this land in search of those very chances to improve the lives of each generation to come.

Mario Pimienta came to the United States from the state of Jalisco in Mexico at the age of 19 to do just that.

He found work as a dishwasher and, through learning and drive, by the time he was 35 years old he was running the restaurant itself. Being a business owner in his community is not just a point of pride but a responsibility he takes very seriously, working hard to keep the traditions and culture from the land of his birth and youth alive in the lives of his family and new home.

For the past ten years, he has leveraged on his community leadership to work with non-profits to improve the area but has also reached back to Jalisco to help build medical clinics and special needs education centers. And taking this responsibility personally has been a mindset he has passed on to his two daughters Sara and Paula, who, along with his wife Sandra, serve as leaders and ambassadors at the local and international level.

Along with raising their children to be bilingual, Mario has worked hard to keep the traditions from his youth alive and well in his free time. One of his favorite pastimes is through charrería, a historical form of horse riding and rodeo traditional to Mexico which came from Spain in the 16th century.

Above all, fatherhood has been one of the elements of Pimienta's life that has brought him the greatest rewards.

Even when his work or hobbies require long periods of travel, he has even used those times to keep the open lines of communication between him and his children. And thanks to having placed communication as a priority, he feels that the love and understanding in his family has always thrived as a result: a lesson he gained from his own father and one he uses as a measure for his own personal success.

Greg Urban, South County Fire Commissioner and President of the Edmonds Chamber of Commerce

The nuclear family of the 1950s-1990s established a common sight: at the end of every day, a work-weary father would return home, there to be greeted with the evening meal shared with the family. It may not have been everyone's experience, but it was shared and syndicated on the television and on screen, establishing what often was a dramatized expectation of what families could be like.

And for those who experienced that sort of daily family time, it did set the standard for many young men who grew up in that time. This expectation developed into many young men seeking out structured professional lives of providing for their families, creating

the challenges of balancing the responsibilities of both providing the financial needs as well as the emotional needs for their children. This is what Greg Urban has placed among his highest priorities.

As the South County Fire Commissioner (elected in 2019) and President of the Edmonds Chamber of Commerce since 2014, Urban knows all too well the importance of living up to his professional obligations as well as the effort and attention necessary to be a full-time father of his five year old daughter.

His relationship with his own father demonstrated the urgency of spending the kind of quality time with his own child, but also in providing the kind of care and support to help her grow and develop into what he hopes will be a life full of confident self-sufficiency.

"Treating kids like they can't do anything stunts them," Urban said. "You have to give them opportunities to grow into the things they're capable of doing."

Although his roles have kept him busy through the local, economic and organizational challenges from Covid-19, he has been fortunate enough in his positions to be able to adjust his work when family emergencies arise. Any parent is all too familiar with the tendency of childhood illness or the other unexpectedness that comes with being a parent and should be able to appreciate the grateful benefit that comes with occupational flexibility, and Urban recognizes this.

Urban also believes it's never too soon to begin setting encouraging expectations for one's child as it a key to guide a child's journey towards self-reliance.

"I'm self-taught in almost everything I've done... if somebody can do it, I can learn how to do it. You learn by doing, and that's the big one - don't get stuck at the start: start, and figure it out."

**Phong Nguyen,
Anna's Furniture, Owner**

One of the greatest aspects of modern parenting is the realization that no two fathers need to father the same way.

The once immutable "provider" template has opened itself to a variable framework, where each father and mother have the opportunities to be the kind of father and mother that is both ideal for the needs of their children and also create the home environment they strive for.

Phong Nguyen, owner of Anna's Furniture clearly keeps this sentiment in mind while balancing what often feels like a 28-hour-a-day work routine with the time and energy needed to maintain a fatherly presence with his wife Sandy and their two children, Milani and Sicily.

Named for the Italian inspiration that charmed Nguyen and his wife - and even provided the setting for their engagement - these two young girls offer Phong the love and inspiration to him for all the hours he puts into keeping his business moving.

He finds that striking that important work-life balance and bringing joy and playfulness into as much of their togetherness time as possible are key to

his own happiness. At the same time, he finds that work feeds back into their family life by making possible all those elements of love and shared experience possible, which in turn motivates him to work even harder.

His motto is simple: "We're here on this planet for only a finite amount of time, so I want to be able to give them anything and everything that makes them happy."

The lessons he gleaned from his own father form the basis of his work ethic: "Don't be afraid to take risks. The bigger the risk the bigger the reward."

"Sometimes you'll have to step out of your comfort zone to do this, but in doing so you will learn a lot more about yourself and whether you fail or succeed, both results will end up in great learning opportunities."

This, and a strong focus on doing what also makes you happy, are the things he tries to pass along to his daughters, even if on occasion it means enjoying spaghetti with your hands.

And of course, it wouldn't be a father's day without a quality dad joke, which Phong was happy to share: "My daughters told me to take the spider out instead of killing him. We went out and had dinner together. Nice guy. He's a web designer!"

Shawn Loudenback, Real Estate VP and Broker, Head Coach of the Seattle Vikings

Whether a deeply informed fan of any or all sports or not, one cannot help but appreciate the strong analog of coaching to parenting. Working with a

group of individuals - often at young ages - in order to hone their skills and guide them into a fundamental ability to function at their best potential both individually and as a team, is no stretch to the care and attention a parent can provide to their children.

Follow Shawn Loudenback for even a short period of time and sooner or later, one will hear the name called out from any number of people who may pass him by: "Hey, Coach!"

Loudenback has been coaching for a fair number of years now, having taught football and basketball and now as the head coach for the Seattle Vikings, Seattle's youth rugby program.

His coaching philosophy is simple but profound, and one culled from the wisdom he gleaned from the words of his father: "teach and coach players to make decisions, because decision making will dictate the life you lead." He goes on to explain, "Whether to make the pass, take the shot, go to the hoop, get through the gap, make the block - your coaches expect you to make those choices on the field; they call the play, so you do what you need to do - including going out and finding the work if you need to."

What people are attracted to - getting hired, getting picked - people want to know that you're going to get things done. When something is in the way, you make a decision, make a plan and get it done."

It is no small leap of logic to see how such an approach lends itself easily to ideals found in a fatherly philosophy, either.

Continued **PAGE 11** >>

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1.5 MILE
Photo by Dave Welton

BIKE
19.5 MILES
Photo by Justin Burnett

RUN
3.75 MILES
Photo by Justin Burnett

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Man with loaded AR-15 arrested on Mukilteo ferry

By KIENAN BRISCOE

MUKILTEO - A man was arrested carrying an AR-15 style rifle and ammunition on a Mukilteo ferry Wednesday, May 26.

David boarded the MV Tokitae ferry leaving for Clinton around 3 p.m. with an AR-15 style rifle concealed under his jacket and three loaded magazines in his pocket.

According to KOMO news staff, a witness reported seeing the magazines in the man's jacket pockets.

Washington State Ferry employees immediately notified the vessel captain and Washington State Patrol. The man was reportedly intoxicated, according to Trooper Kevin Fortino, WSP Homeland Security Division Public Information Officer.

Ethell walked into the bathroom where he was closely watched by WSF employees, who were relaying information to the WSP responding to the scene.

There were 200 vehicles on board and 165 walk-on passengers.

WSP Troopers responded, located the Ethell and took him into the custody.

Ethell claimed the rifle was for personal protection, but his concealed carry license was expired. He was booked

for concealed carry violation.

Troopers led a full sweep of the vessel but did not find any items of concern before the ferry resumed course to Clinton.

David Raymond Ethell was booked into the Snohomish County Jail May 26 and released the following morning at 6 a.m. He was charged with possession of a concealed carry without permit and dangerous weapon possession by the Everett District Court.

"Washington State Patrol will continue to investigate the incident and circumstances," Fortino told the Lynnwood Times.

On Monday, May 17, the Supreme Court dismissed a case in Rhode Island that involved local officers entering the home of Edward Caniglia and seizing his firearms without a warrant. A local court allowed the search, claiming that the decision to take the firearms without warrant fell within the Fourth Amendment's "community caretaker exception."

According to CNN, the case began when Caniglia, while in a dispute with his wife in 2015, placed his gun on the dining room table and asked her to shoot him.

She declined and spent the night in a hotel. In the morning, when she couldn't reach Caniglia through phone



Mukilteo Ferry Terminal stock photo. Lynnwood Times/Mario Lotmore.

calls, contacted local police to check on his wellbeing.

Local law enforcement believed Caniglia demonstrated a risk to harm himself and contacted a hospital to admit the man for psychiatric evaluation. His firearms were confiscated after the ambulance carried him away. Caniglia sued local law enforcement for viola-

tion of Fourth Amendment.

The Supreme Court sided with Caniglia, holding that the lower court's interpretation of the Fourth Amendment was broad and unjust. Justice Clarence Thomas, writing for an unanimous Supreme Court, ruled the lower court's decision "goes beyond anything this court has recognized," according to CNN.



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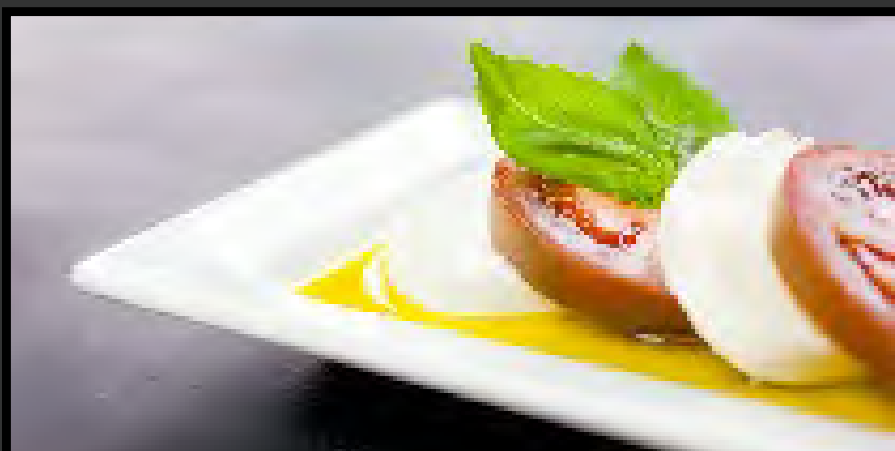


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Dunn Lumber and Pinnacle Roofing explain lumber prices



By KIENAN BRISCOE

Since the early 19th century, the lumber industry has played a key role in laying the foundation of Washington State's economy, but within the last year lumber prices hit record-highs, stifling industries that rely on it.

According to Market Insider, spot lumber prices hit an all-time high of \$1200 per thousand board feet, an increase of 250% in the past year and 348% since March 2020, around the time of the nation-wide COVID-19 shutdown.

These rising costs have added \$24,000 to the price of the average new single-family home, and nearly \$9,000 to multi-family homes based on data from the National Association of Homebuilders.

For Lynnwood-based Pinnacle Roofing, the rising lumber prices have forced them to reduce their price estimation to 14 days from their usual 30 to 60. Despite this minor setback, the company has experienced a 30% increase in business, within the last year, and according to Lenny Schwartz, CEO and President, the "numbers keep climbing."

"We [keep] updating customers on prices but most aren't aware and [are] still buying," Schwartz said.

According to Schwartz, the slowdown in production activity in the second quarter of 2020 had serious repercussions that "only now are we experiencing the aftermath." The driving factors are low inventory and unprecedented disruptions in the supply chain.

"When inventory levels are healthy and predictable throughout the building season, freight and transportation benefit from proper planning and logistics. Unfortunately, the 'need-it-now'

paradigm has also added to increased costs," Schwartz said.

Pinnacle Roofing Professionals, LLC, approaches their 12-year anniversary serving the Seattle Roofing Sector and specializing in roofing, solar, electrical, and chimneys, both residential and commercial.

Gradual factors have been building for some time, says Mike Dunn, President of Dunn Lumber, where Pinnacle gets their supplies. Factors including a powderpost beetle infestation that has become worldwide, and logging restrictions placed on preserving forestry. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, there was a surge of at-home projects and an increased demand for housing. All of these factors overwhelmed an already increasingly fragile supply chain.

The pandemic led to closures of lumber mills, labor shortages, limited boxcars and containers for transportation, and forest fires. Mills that have remained in operation throughout the pandemic cannot get enough logs or enough staff, leading to them not being able to produce enough to meet the rising demand. According to Dunn, the motivation for producing more logs is there because the prices are right, but they simply can't.

"I think on top of that you got a certain excitement to be back in life, so people are paying prices that maybe in normal times...are simply astonishing," Dunn said.

Given certain circumstances, Dunn Lumber can only maintain a couple of weeks' worth of inventory at a time. Although they attempt to "ride the market", as Dunn stated, they can only buy a certain amount at a time, from what is limitedly available, and the prices change weekly.



Mike Dunn, President of Dunn Lumber

"You're paying a little margin for the work of bringing it here and having it available. We [also] don't have the space. If we could buy a hundred carloads of something we would have nowhere to put it," said Dunn.

Many of Dunn Lumber's distributors process their orders months in advance to have product available to consumers. When COVID first hit, the company experienced shortages in fencing and lumber but inventory, despite only holding two weeks' worth of material, has remained relatively stable.

"There's just too many dollars chasing

too few goods," Dunn said, who has been with Dunn Lumber for 50 years and has never seen price increases like this in his career.

While Dunn Lumber sources most of their material from places such as Lakeland Mill in British Columbia, plywood is still gathered from the Pacific Northwest, including Oregon where the Oregon Forest and Industries Council reported that the fires in Oregon alone may have killed 15 million board-feet of timber, which is enough to build 1 million homes.

"It's really not that surprising when
Continued **PAGE 10** >>



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June is the month of the “Summer Solstice” - the longest day of the year and a time when the nights start to draw in again. Occurring on June 20th this year, it’s seen by many societies as a time of exuberant festivals and rituals. So, maybe a good time to let your hair down and celebrate!

- ARIES:** Try holding me back! It doesn't take much to get me going - and when I do you won't see me for dust! Of course you can join me if you like, but you may find it hard to keep up!
- TAURUS:** I may not be dancing in the streets but I can have a good time in my own sweet way. Perhaps a good meal with a few beverages would be something to consider!
- GEMINI:** I've been extremely mentally active of late - nothing new here! But I could well do with letting my hair down for once. Text me and we'll think it through or something!
- CANCER:** I probably feel best when I'm in the heart of my family - or at least feeding them. So if the mood takes me, I could probably prepare a feast that is fit for a king - or a queen!
- LEO:** The party probably won't start until I get there anyway, so clear the decks for me to make a big, dramatic entrance for everyone. After that, you're all on your own!
- VIRGO:** I'm generally not one for celebrating too much. But if you tell me what you want, I'll make all the arrangements. However, I'll need lots of details to make it perfect!
- LIBRA:** Don't rely on me to make the arrangements as I'm not particularly good at being decisive. But I'll definitely keep the party going and sort out any differences if they happen!
- SCORPIO:** You won't see me celebrating on the surface but for sure there's a lot going on underneath. I'm the cool and steely type you see, but I'll be there if you invite me!
- SAGITTARIUS:** As long as we don't do the “same old, same old things” I'm in. You see, I'm all for exploring the new, as well as discovering new experiences. So let's do that!
- CAPRICORN:** I'm a bit of a traditionalist myself, and really good at planning things long term. So give me plenty of warning of what's happening - although I may not dance much!
- AQUARIUS:** OK, so I may be eccentric and a law unto myself at times, but I do love to mix in social gatherings. So regardless of style or culture, I'll be there doing my own thing!
- PISCES:** I hope there'll be lots of bright lights, music and color. I love nothing more than escaping out of the humdrum and into the romantic. So fly me to the moon, etc., etc!

JUNE 02 / VENUS in CANCER: This might be a good time to brighten up your home and show it a little extra “TLC”!

JUNE 03 / MOON in ARIES: The Moon is all about feeling, so today could be a day to dare do something new or pioneering.

JUNE 05 MOON in TAURUS / MARS opposition PLUTO: Not a good day to pick a fight or be unreasonably stubborn!

JUNE 10 MOON in GEMINA. As today is a New Moon, this might be a time to start planning something new & important.

JUNE 11 / MARS in LEO: Traditionally a good time to “strut your stuff” and boost the ego by showing off a little.

JUNE 20 / MOON in SCORPIO / SOLSTICE: More a day to celebrate in silence - but a good day to celebrate nevertheless!

JUNE 22 / MERCURY DIRECT: If plans have been delayed or communications difficult of late, today might be a turning point.

JUNE 24 / FULL MOON in CAPRICORN: If you've been planning something for some time, this could be a good day to bring it to some kind of rewarding conclusion.

JUNE 26 / MOON in AQUARIUS: Later in the day could be a good time to act on those feelings of independence that may have been growing in you of late. Unto yourself be true!

JUNE 29 / MOON in PISCES: Maybe today you'll have more energy to put those dreams or plans of yours into practice! Also a good day to help the underdogs in your life.

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Snohomish County Public Works wins APWA 2021 Project of the Year Award

By KIENAN BRISCOE

SNOHOMISH COUNTY - At a virtual ceremony May 13, Snohomish County was awarded the American Public Works Association (APWA) 2021 Project of the Year award for its S. Machias Rd. and Machias Cutoff Intersection Improvement Project in the Transportation, Under \$5 Million category.

The APWA, a non-profit, international organization of more than 30,000 members involved in the field of public works, presents the Public Works Project of the Year awards annually to promote excellence in the management and administration of public works projects, recognizing the alliance between the managing agency, the contractor, the consultant, and their cooperative achievements.

With over 63 chapters in North America, the APWA supports those who operate, improve, and maintain public works and infrastructure through advocacy, education, and member engagement.

“This award is a testament to our team’s ability to complete projects that benefit our community and the environment during a challenging year,” said Kelly Snyder, Public Works Director in a recent Snohomish County press release. “By partnering with our contractor, Strider Construction, we were able to work together to complete this project safely, on time and on budget – congratulations to all involved!”

The project was not without its challenges, however, battling the health, financial, and logistical constraints of the COVID-19 pandemic, delayed permitting due a government shutdown in 2018, coordinating with five utility companies, and environmental constraints. Despite its complexities, the

project was completed in June 2020.

“This was not your typical intersection improvement project, due to the many challenges the project presented,” said Doug McCormick, Public Works Deputy Director and County Engineer in the Snohomish County press release. “This project wouldn’t have been possible or successful without the coordination and partnership between our Public Works and Parks staff and the many partners including utilities, partner and permitting agencies, and the public’s patience.”

S. Machias Rd. is an arterial that carries traffic from Snohomish to Lake Stevens and onward to SR 92 and the Machias Cutoff, branching off from S. Machias Rd. The \$2.1 million project aims to alleviate the risk of rear-end collisions by improving roadways to allow more efficient vehicle movement, integrating the Centennial Trail crossing, providing new signals, and adding amenities such as a new fish passage culvert over thousands of native vegetation, bike rests, and crosswalk buttons accessible from horseback. Before the improvements, the intersection operated as a busy three-legged, all-way stop. The entrance to the Centennial Regional Trail ran adjacent to the intersection, creating congestion.

According to Snohomish County Councilman Sam Low, the project is an important improvement for the Machias area, making it safer for trail users to safely cross S. Machias Rd. and improving traffic.

This year marks the second year in a row Snohomish County has been awarded an APWA project of the year award, winning the \$25 million to \$75 million Environmental category in 2020 for its Smith Island Estuary Restoration project.

from page 7 **PRICE OF LUMBER**

you take that many people out of work and suddenly there isn’t the bodies to handle a crises...things are gonna get worse fast,” Dunn said.

Companies like Dunn Lumber continue to source lumber from British Columbia for its SPF (Spruce, Pine, Fir), species that grow inland in cold temperatures. This is better for remodeling and construction due to strength, ease of use, and aversion to defects. Most of the Pacific Northwest-grown trees are Hemlock and Douglas Fir, a faster growing tree, which is brasher grained and heavier. Dunn Lumber stopped sourcing from local mills like Buse in Everett and Hampton in Darrington, back in the 80s for this reason.

In addition to supply-and-demand to panels, resin that is used to cure composite panels is also in a shortage following a major resin supplier in Texas going under during the cold-snap.

“I caught some of the crazy things going around on YouTube lately where there was this economist outside Hampton Mill taking pictures of stacks of lumber and talking about, ‘This is

where all the lumber is and that’s why it’s so expensive.’

“First of all, that lumber was in process. It was between the point at which it was milled and the time it was dried and surfaced and then packaged and delivered. There’s a fair amount of lumber in process at a large mill. “And secondly, if you took that entire inventory, it was probably fifteen minutes in the supply chain. There is so much material being used on a day-by-day basis that it looks like a lot when you see it. But you’re talking about literally billions of board sheet in a year’s time that are produced internationally so a few carloads doesn’t amount to much,” Dunn added.

From a retailer’s perspective, the market is acting exactly as you would want it to operate according to Dunn.

“It’s not like food in that if it gets to a certain price some people will starve and some people will get fed. It’s simply a matter of ‘can you wait for your project, or do you have to do it now - or are you willing to do it now with these prices?’ ...That’s the way the free market works,” said Dunn.

NOTE: Whereas it’s popularly believed that astrologers assert that all people of the same Sign of the Zodiac will experience the same things, it is not so. When we are born our Birth Chart shows specific sensitive points that are unique to us and us alone. Consequently, when the planets move through the Zodiac on a regular basis, they can trigger those sensitive points for us - which of course means that not everyone in a Sign is affected in the same way at the same time. Therefore it pays us all to know our personal Birth Charts well!

Fact checking...Misinformation

By **GEORGE FTIKAS**

In another example of the power of social media, calls of bias and unfairness from the Washington Post spread to mainstream media outlets after a Facebook post at the end of April. The image in the Facebook post claimed that the Washington Post was going to discontinue fact checking on President Biden for the remainder of his term. Like anything getting passed through the grapevine, some even concluded this meant Fact Checker itself would be ended.

The misinformation was based on a series of tweets from Washington Post's Fact Checker Editor and Chief Writer Glenn Kessler, stating that Fact Checker's database for Biden would not "extend beyond 100 days." The decision, according to Kessler, was largely based on the number of extra hours it took to maintain the Fact Checker database on Trump.

Several media outlets weighed in, though most cited that the Washington Post was going to continue fact checking Biden, just not the database. This included the Associated Press News, USA Today, Washington Times, and PolitiFact, to name a few. Fox News and the National Review were far more critical of the change, Fox choosing to link tweets "ripping" Kessler while NR listed some incorrect claims made by Biden.

In the time since these stories were published, Fact Checker has continued to fact check Biden.

The Fact Checker team began in 2007 and is indeed currently composed of three people: Kessler, Salvador Rizzo, and Adriana Usero. Kessler has been editor and chief writer there since 2011. Regardless of opinions on their conclusions, the Fact Checker's small team have objectively put in the extra hours. One could argue that if they are feeling overwhelmed, they could hire additional team members to continue the database. Or that since Biden supposedly makes fewer misleading claims, it would be easier for the team to maintain a database beyond the first 100 days.

The criticism toward fact checkers in general has resulted in some proposed legislation. Michigan state representative Matt Maddock and several others introduced House Bill 4813—also known as the Fact Checker Registration Act—which would require fact checkers to register or face \$1000 per day fines. It would also require a \$1 million fidelity bond insurance would allow fact checkers to be sued for "any wrongful conduct that is a violation of the laws of this state."

It should be noted that Maddock has been a regular subject to fact checkers and the bill is already under fire for possibly violating the First Amendment.

from page 7 **FATHERHOOD**

During his twenty-one years of marriage with his wife Tristan, they have raised their two children under these same principles; to learn self-sufficiency and the confidence in one's lessons learned in order to put those lessons into action for the betterment of the lives of themselves and their "teams" – friends and family alike.

Mindful of the notion that no one should be a "one man show," these were essential lessons to be shared even when his roles as father and coach crossed over when his daughter and son each found themselves on teams he coached. Rather than simply being stricter with them than with their teammates, he made sure to pull them each aside and prepare them for what they should expect.

Of course he would need to work harder with them to avoid accusations of favoritism, but, too, he created the distinction of helping them to address him in whichever of his two capacities they might need: either as their coach, or as their dad.

Two of his father's other lessons have remained with him as well, leaving their mark on him in their own way: "it's not what you do that people remember; it's who you are." – and, also, "never stop learning, not until the day you die."

When not on the field, Loudenback operates as a Vice President and Owner of R1 Real Estate, where these principles of coaching and leadership also spill over into his business interactions.

Flexibility, speed, and knowledge are all key skills for managing a business,

from page 4 **LAPTOP**

"Our team is working to provide the best learning environment possible for [your son]. We really care about him and are eager to do what is necessary to keep him safe and learning," Lee wrote in an email addressed to Fields.

According to Principal Lee, Edmonds Schools District uses SecURLY as a filter to protect students from adult content. Despite this she added that, "given enough time, a highly motivated student will find ways to circumvent the protections that have been put in place" and "supervision needs to be in place to ensure effectiveness."

While Fields appreciated the compassion and empathy Lee demonstrated, referring to her as "the best possible principal [she] could ever

imagine assisting a parent through this experience", she added concerns that although the SecURLY filter was in place how easy it was that her illiterate seven-year-old could find a way around the security system so easily.

'If there was an issue with accessing an educational video, the parent or caregiver could call Edmonds technological department, at which time Edmonds technology could 'white list' whichever video and allow it. I firmly believe that the small potential inconvenience with accessing an educational video weighs so small in comparison with the ability to access videos way beyond a student's maturity level. I'm incredibly concerned about all of the Edmonds School District parents and students and would feel much safer if I knew the school district was making a change,' Fields wrote to

from page 7 **MADISEN CORDELL**

LSHS Senior and 'Brilliant Future Engineer,' Madisen Cordell

After Pratt's summary of the program, six recipients of the award virtually appeared on the show. At the top right corner of the screen, Lake Steven's Senior Madisen Cordell waved to the audience.

"It felt so surreal to earn this scholarship. I still don't know if I believe it," says Cordell. She first heard about the scholarship in her AP Computer Science class taught by Mr. Ken Gray. What she didn't know at the time was that she would not only receive the award but would also make a televised appearance for it.

"I never thought I would get on the Ellen Show, especially not for being a nerd, but it was pretty fun.," she explains. "It is kind of a huge flex to be called a 'brilliant future engineer' on national TV."

While she is excited about the future, Cordell admittedly feels additional pressure from all the recognition. "It is a lot of pressure now that everyone knows what I want to do with my life," she explains. "Everyone in my town, it feels like, are expecting me to continue doing great things, and I hope I can; I actually feel pretty confident."

Cordell also spoke adamantly about her newfound love for coding. "I love working with code and making things. It is a super fun and new way to think,"

but the roots of his business approach can be easily traced back to the very skills he applies to the teams he coaches.

"Once you have 60% of the information needed to make a decision, make the decision," he advises. "Wait too long and the decision probably got made for you."

On this father's day – and, of course taking the time to thank our fathers need not wait for a single day each year – it is worth celebrating those fathers who have done the work; who have tried to be there for us, our children, to raise and prepare us for the lives we are to live.

No father may be perfect, obviously, but for those who have taken their responsibility seriously, let us think of them and remind them of the impact they have made on our lives. For those

Lee.

Although Fields does not blame the Edmonds School District, feeling they did everything in their power to remediate the situation, she does worry about the long-term effect of her child's exposure to mature content and the possibility it may happen to another parent's child.

A few days following the conversation she had with her son about his search history, she was asked by the seven-year-old about the physical differences between boys and girls, a question welcome by her as a mother but believing it to be a result of his exposure to mature content and not age appropriate.

"It ultimately wasn't the school's fault, and they were very quick to find a

she says, words that would make any Computer Science teacher proud to hear. "Growing up, I loved crafting, and coding is, in my opinion, super similar because you can directly make things instantly. You get a chance to be creative while also feeling like a genius," she says.

Cordell feels that with whatever "great things" she does in the future, coding will be a part of them. "I hope that I do cooler things in my life than go on Ellen," she says. "I can't say what I want to be coding in the future, but I do want to keep coding."

In addition to sharing her hopes and success, Cordell also desires to impart some advice to her peers. After explaining how she took a computer science class on a whim, she says, "If anyone doesn't know what they want to do, just go with a whim you'll never know where it'll take you. I've found that things generally work out — which I know is privileged of me to say — but just keep going to school and maybe you'll find something you love."

With the scholarship in hand, Cordell plans to attend Western Washington University, where she will study computer science and mathematics.

of us who are fathers ourselves, it is a fine day to remember the lessons that prepared us for the weight of this awesome task.

Among all the lessons and advice, one final comment by Loudenback serves as a special consideration, a statement he offers to his children and to his athletes as a good reminder for all: "to your children, you are a giant. Always be conscious of that."

May this day serve as a gentle reminder of that deep connection between a father and child. May we be gentle giants, filled with compassion and love for the children placed in our care.

solution," Fields said, "It's the district and the district's technology department who are at fault for not providing safe school issued Chromebooks with proper security settings."

On March 15, Gov. Inslee signed an emergency proclamation requiring in-person education opportunities for public K-12 schools.

Seven days later, Edmonds School District Superintendent Dr. Gustavo Balderas announced that, based on an agreement between the district and Edmonds Education Association, that Edmonds schools would honor the Governor's orders by offering hybrid (remote and in-person) school sessions by mid-April.

from page 3 **MUKILTEO HAP**

The Growth Management Act (GMA) requires cities and counties to develop a comprehensive plan to manage population growth. According to the city's website, its current plan meets the state's GMA requirements. The next major periodic Comprehensive Plan update is scheduled for June 2024.

In 2015, the adopted city of Mukilteo Comprehensive Plan, won the Comprehensive Planning for Small Cities & Counties Award by the American Planning Association and Planning Association of Washington. The plan was described as "a compelling and easy-to-read plan that contains a clear 'intent statement' at the beginning of the document."

According to the adopted HAP, Strategy 1 recommends that the existing Comprehensive Plan updates its "language and policies" by identifying metrics, impact of fees, redefining the plan's intent, and impacts between diverse housing units that affect the following policies: H04, H05, H06, LU2, LU6, and LU11.

The document titled, "Attachment 2: Mukilteo Housing Policy Review and Recommendations" of the HAP, calls for evaluating sections of the City's Comprehensive Plan and land use regulations for routine policy and regulation updates.

Below are the policy considerations specified in the Mukilteo Housing Policy Review and Recommendations document:

- Policy HO4: To identify actions and metrics to acknowledge that there is an undersupply of affordable homes for lower income persons
- Policy HO5: To identify actions and metrics for diverse housing options – Duplexes, triplexes, condominiums, townhouses, accessory dwelling units and cottage housing – for residential and mixed-use zoning districts
- Policy HO6: Calls for identifying methods to consider the impact of fees on those needing rental housing who earn less than 50% Area Median Income (AMI) which is \$54,268, according to the 2019 U.S. Census Bureau
- Policy LU2: To redefine the intent of the City's land use policy to no longer prioritize single-family residential dwellings by adopting policies that balance the "housing needs of all economic segments" at more attainable price points than low-density single-family homes by considering the following dwellings: duplexes, triplexes, condominiums, townhouses, accessory dwelling units and cottage housing
- Policy LU6: To amend code regulations to open up the potential for higher density mixed use projects throughout the city of Mukilteo
- Policy LU11: Develop policies that spur a redevelopment of a pedestrian-centric Downtown Business District by offering housing bonus densities for condos or senior housing

**Mukilteo Planning Department
HAP Presentation**

During the Business meeting, Lauren Balisky, Planning Manager for the City of Mukilteo shared a PowerPoint

A Housing Action Plan is Not...

- ... Not a low-income or subsidized housing plan
- ... Not Financial assistance for low-income households
- ... Not a plan to rezone the City for high-density, multi-family development
- ... Not approval of permits for housing construction

Exhibit 2. Diagram of Policy Review focus, 2020

Slide 5 of the Mukilteo Housing Action Plan presented by Lauren Balisky, Planning Manager for the City of Mukilteo, at the June 7 Business Meeting. Source: City of Mukilteo.

presentation that recapped the HAP's process, strategies, and Planning Commission recommendations. According to the slides, the Planning commission recommends all HAP strategies less the following: completing the Midtown Mukilteo Overlay between 88th and 76th streets on Mukilteo Speedway, review Zoning Framework, and considering Annexation.

"The focus of the Housing Action Plan is in areas the city does have control over... What we do have control over are policies, development regulations and our processes. And all of those influence the ability of the market to provide housing to moderate income households," said Balisky.

Balisky in her presentation emphasized strongly to the council that the HAP is not a plan to rezone Mukilteo for high-density and multi-family development.

However, this appears to be misleading and contradicts the strategies outlined in the HAP and the recommended policy changes from "Attachment 2," to the City's Comprehensive Plan to "encourage" affordable housing, multi-family housing, and code regulations "to open up the potential for higher density mixed use projects."

Councilman Marine raised this concern and possible changes to existing zoning policies.

"I think maybe we will agree to disagree on that. It seems like double-speak," Marine told Balisky.

Councilman Khan dubious of the HAP, criticized Balisky on the plan.

"It is an uncooked plan. It's not low income...it's not assistance...What is it? I've been asking this question every slide you put up. I think Mukilteo should be preserved, not destroyed. People have been asking us constantly," said Councilman Khan. "It is not for the people of Mukilteo!"

Dawn Couch, of BERK consulting shared that Mukilteo is a diverse city without the racial segregation issues of urban centers.

"When we first compiled this, I was surprised of how diverse Mukilteo was in the data. So that was good to see," said Couch. "We were not able to distill out any severe [racial] disproportionality in the community."

According to Couch, if the city had not met the obligations of the Growth Management Act, there would be consequence that could include ineligibility for grant funding, fines, and possible revenue freeze by the state to disburse sale taxes.

Since the city's existing Comprehensive

Plan currently meets the state's GMA requirements, there would be no consequences for not adopting the HAP itself.

Champion asked how much staff hours have been spent on the preparation of HAP but Lauren Balitsky could not answer, leading to some council members concerns of both the transparency and organization of the final product.

Baritsky could not provide how many hours went into the project.

According to Baritsky the city of Mukilteo is currently prepared to absorb its current growth target through 2035, but what is not known is the growth target for 2044 and what needs to be done to absorb future growth.

According to the Growth Management Act, Mukilteo's current growth target for 2035 is 21,812 or an increase of 371 residents within eleven years. Roughly 98% of buildable land in Mukilteo is developed.

Mukilteo HAP Vote Recap

After lengthy public comments, Councilman Harris made the motion to pass Resolution 2021-01 to adopt the HAP in its partiality, before hearing from the rest of the council for debate. Harris' motion was seconded by Councilwoman Crawford opting to add improved permit processing which itself was seconded by Councilwoman Kneller.

"We cannot put walls around Mukilteo," Kneller said.

Councilman Khan attempted to amend the motion, albeit it out-of-order, in favor of rejecting the HAP in whole and return any reimbursement grants to the state, which was seconded by Councilman Champion.

City Attorney Daniel Kenny advised the council that Khan's motion was invalid and redirected the council to the original motion, made by Harris, explaining that a motion cannot be made while a motion is on the table.

Councilman Marine offered the idea to put the HAP on the ballot, highlighting that he has never seen an issue with this much community involvement in his many years in government.

Champion added, in his seven years in government, he has never seen an issue that has gained as much contention.

Marine's motion passed 6-1 allowing "density" and "low income housing" options to be voted upon by the public. Marine believes that the Council should have voted on adopting a HAP after an advisory measure was voted upon by residents in November.

However, Harris' preemptive motion had already been presented and passed.

Mayor Jennifer Gregerson shared with the public that the advisory measure is not a regular proposition and is, hence, non-binding.

"It's not a right of the voters to vote on it, it's a legislative right; it cannot be a regular proposition," Gregerson said. "The council retains their legislative authority."

Public Comments

At its peak, 106 attended the remote council meeting between Facebook and Zoom platforms, eager to hear the resolution of the plan which has grown controversial since its inception leading to petitions, protests, and mostly disapproving public comments.

While comments were much more divided than the public hearing May 17, there were six public comments who were in favor of adopting the HAP, and 19 in opposition.

"I'm opposed to the Housing Action Plan as it currently stands. It's overwhelmingly clear that the residents do not want to change the character or the density," Sharon Damoff, resident of Mukilteo of over ten years, said.

"Mukilteo is already economically and racially diverse. Mukilteo residents, like my family, have stated they do not want the HAP. City Council would be very wise to vote along the wishes of its citizens. Don't tell us what we get. We tell you what we want. It's a representative government," said Paul Ellis.

Peter Zieve, who moved his business to Mukilteo in 1993 and moved his family to Mukilteo in 2003 thought what was presented was "very duplicitous" and made a vow that he, along with local businessmen, will come up with a plan to cover the loss of \$30,000 if the HAP were to be rejected.

However, Mukilteo resident Lani O'Conner and five others were in favor of the council voting to approve the HAP.

"I think opposing it is actually selfish, in a way. It is selfish to not give an opportunity for other people to join us in this beautiful community....I am in Mukilteo because some people believed that I, also, belonged in Mukilteo. I am support of this," said Caroline.

Elizabeth Wilson, a new Mukilteo home-owner and Karl Almgren, a fourth-generation Mukilteo resident, Lani O'Connor, and Jon Waters all shared similar sentiments.

Mukilteo HAP Ballot Measure

The Council will begin discussions about the advisory ballot measure at the July 6 city council meeting. According to Mayor Gregerson, It may require 2-3 meetings to identify the actual ballot measure concept, and approve both the ballot language as well as the pro/con voters pamphlet statement committees.

Council will need to debate whether they want to meet the August 3 deadline for the November General Election, or if they want to wait until a 2022 election.

Gregerson shared that Council will have to take action to approve the costs related to this effort, which would be between \$10,000-30,000 for election costs and informational materials.