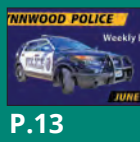


# LYNNWOOD TIMES



Foundation for ESD Scholarship Spotlight: Delina Abraha P.07



Last week 116 crimes in Lynnwood, theft most frequent P.13



Special Session likely to address transportation needs P.02

Real News ⚡  
Real Impact

## Spruce Elementary groundbreaking ceremony thanks to 2021 Capital Levy



Students, faculty, administrators, and engineers at the groundbreaking of the future location of Building 2 of Spruce Elementary on June 23, 2021. Source: Lynnwood Times/Mario Lotmore.

By MARIO LOTTOMORE

LYNNWOOD, Wash., June 25, 2021 – The Edmonds School District celebrated the start of construction of Spruce Elementary School’s new building on Wednesday, June 23.

The school held Closing and Ground-breaking ceremonies to commemorate the former building’s closing and demolition and the start of the new build-

ing’s construction, which was funded through the voter-approved 2021 Capital Levy.

The school plans to move students and staff to the 1,000-capacity former Alderwood Middle School for the 2021-2022 school year. The Lynnwood Times obtained exclusive media access at the ceremony.

Spruce Elementary’s new building will

feature an 81,000 square foot two-story main classroom building, a one-story Gymnasium and Commons, north wing, library with an outdoor project area, playfields and equipment, separate bus and parent vehicle routes, additional parking, site improvements of the existing grass play field, emergency vehicle access, and neighborhood pedestrian connections.

Continued PAGE 10 >>

## Sound Transit-Edmonds College Apprenticeship Program

By BO JOHN BRUSCO

An apprenticeship program through Sound Transit has been significantly beneficial for the Seattle area’s infrastructure and local communities. As the city continues to grow, Sound Transit has been expanding its Light Rail project.

One of the program’s creators, Edmonds College President Dr. Amit Singh, recounts how the program came to be and the ways in which it has helped to mitigate labor shortages.

“I am very thankful to the City of Lynnwood for our partnership,” says Dr. Singh, who was initially approached by Lynnwood Mayor Nicola Smith about the opportunity for the program.

Speaking to the necessity of the apprenticeship program, Dr. Singh explains how a risk assessment ultimately led to the program’s creation.

“Sound Transit recently conducted a risk assessment for the Lynnwood to Everett light rail expansion,” he says, “and concluded there will be a major local labor deficit of 6.2% for all occupations needed to complete the project.”

Continued PAGE 06 >>

## Primary Election Q&A with Lynnwood, Mukilteo and Everett candidates

By KIENAN BRISCOE

The 2021 primary election will be held on August 3 and ballots will be mailed to voters on July 15.

In preparation for the 2021 election, the Lynnwood Times asked candidates questions to supplement the questions in your voters pamphlet.

### LYNNWOOD CANDIDATES

The following questions were asked

the mayoral candidates:

Q1: What are your top focuses?  
Q2: What makes you unique as a candidate?



George Hurst

A1: Housing is number one. Right now almost all of the housing being built in Lynnwood is either market rate apartments and million-dollar homes. There

are not any alternative housing options being built like condominiums, duplexes, etc.

Business recovery from the COVID-Economy is so important for Lynnwood. We need to reassess our business fees and determine if they encourage businesses to hire employees and provide those employees with wages that pay more than just the minimum wage.

Lynnwood is going to build a Commu-

nity Justice Center. I want to create a Community Police Commission to guide the programs that will take place in that building.

We need to make sure our infrastructure is ready for the arrival of Light Rail in 2024.

A2: I am the only candidate with a BA and Master’s Degree in American History which allows me to have a historic

Continued PAGE 05 >>



# Elect Jim Smith Lynnwood Mayor

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# Special Session likely to address State's transportation needs

By KIENAN BRISCOE

Senator Steve Hobbs reintroduced his Forward Washington transportation package at a public hearing April 12.

The 16-year \$17.8 transportation plan would inject funding into transportation projects throughout the state and create 18,000 family-waged jobs throughout Washington per year according to a news release by Senate Democrats.

“Forward Washington means foundational and historic change for people across our state,” Hobbs said in the news release. “These investments would provide Washingtonians with a cleaner environment, improved transit options, safer roads and bridges and a 21st century infrastructure that will make our state more competitive and



Senator Steve Hobbs at the ribbon cutting of the Harbour Reach Corridor in Mukilteo on June 26, 2021. Source: Lynnwood Times/Mario Lotmore.

our economy more resilient.”

Some of the investments included in

Hobbs' package are:

- Funding for the replacement of the I-5 Columbia River Bridge, which is over one hundred years old.
- Highway 2 Monroe bypass.
- Funding for a rebuild of the US 2 Trestle in Snohomish County and adding another lane for congestion relief.
- Increased investments for special needs transit, rural mobility grants, commute trip reduction, transit fare reduction, as well as increased bike and pedestrian accessibility.
- Maintenance and preservation work including investments for repairs to roads, highways and bridges throughout the state.
- Highway 99 investments.
- Restoring culvert fish passages.

Continued PAGE 15 >>

# Hazard pay mandated for County grocery workers in 3-2 vote

By KIENAN BRISCOE

SNOHOMISH COUNTY, Wash., June 25, 2021 – At a public hearing on June 23, the County Council passed Ordinance 21-034, by a vote of 3-2, mandating grocery stores across unincorporated Snohomish County to pay its workers \$4/hr. hazard pay capping at \$1,250 per employee.

Councilmembers Stephanie Wright, Jared Mead, and Megan Dunn voted in favor, whereas; Sam Low and Nate Nehring voted against.

“I’m proud to see that [the ordinance] passed. We offered a balanced approach which included hazard pay for grocery workers and also recognizing our frontline workers and the sacrifices they made,” Dunn told the Lynnwood Times.

Grocery employees employed by stores meeting the following criteria are exempted from receiving county-mandated hazard pay:

- Convenience stores or food marts primarily engaged in retailing a limited line of goods that generally includes milk, bread, soda, and snacks
- Farmers’ markets
- Stores less than 10,000 square feet in size that primarily engaged in retailing groceries for offsite consumption
- Stores over 85,000 square feet with less than thirty percent of its sales floor area dedicated to the sale of groceries

The ordinance takes effect ten days after being signed by County Executive Dave Somers, and will remain in effect until the Governor declares an end of the State of Emergency or by December 31, 2021, whichever comes first.



Some councilmembers weren't keen on the idea of mandating grocery

employers pay for the hazard pay.

Continued PAGE 16 >>

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# County to consider differential pay to employees on military leave

By LYNNWOOD TIMES STAFF

SNOHOMISH COUNTY, Wash., June 28, 2021 – Today, Snohomish County Councilmember Nate Nehring introduced an ordinance to provide differential pay to County employees who are reservists in the United States Armed Forces. The proposal provides additional support for employees who are called up to active duty while employed by the County.

Uniform differential pay provides the difference between an employee's county salary and their military pay while they are serving our country in the Armed Forces. Often times, military salaries are lower than a reservist's County salary which creates a financial burden for their families when they are called upon to serve. This proposal would remove that barrier and provide support and relief to our community members who risk their lives for our

nation and our County.

“As a County, we benefit greatly by employing veterans and reservists in the United States Armed Forces,” said Councilmember Nehring. “This action of providing differential pay to active duty employees will have a significant impact for these families who sacrifice so much for all of us.

“This ordinance will allow us to focus on the tasks at hand and not be troubled by the financial hardships we'd otherwise incur,” said Joe Davis, a county employee and member of the Armed Forces. “I appreciate Councilmember Nehring's dedicated and commitment to the county, the Armed Forces, and their families.”

The proposed ordinance on differential pay for county employees on active military leave has been introduced and will be considered by the Council at a

public hearing on July 21st at 10:30 a.m. The ordinance and associated staff report can be found at this link.

For questions about the proposal or

more details about the meeting, please contact Councilmember Nehring's office by email at nate.nehring@snoco.org or by phone at 425-626-4173.

## LYNNWOOD TIMES

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LYNNWOOD TIMES

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# Lynnwood government facilities transition to in-person services

LYNNWOOD Wash., July 1, 2021 – Throughout the next several months, Lynnwood government facilities will transition back to in-person services with slightly modified hours.

Beginning on Tuesday, July 6, the Lynnwood Police Front Desk and the Municipal Court will re-open. On July 12, Lynnwood City Hall and Development & Business Services will re-open.

The Lynnwood Recreation Center and the Lynnwood Senior Center are currently open and operating.

Below are Lynnwood government building hours and contact information for in-person business:

### Recreation Center

The Lynnwood Recreation Center is currently open and drop-in visits are welcome! Pre-registrations are encouraged for pool users.

Monday – Friday 5:30am – 9:30pm  
Saturday 7:00am – 9:00pm  
Sunday 9:30am – 6:30pm

### Senior Center

Beginning on July 6, drop-in visits are welcome!

Monday – Friday 8:30am – 3:00pm

### Police Department Front Counter

Beginning July 6, the Police Front Counter will be open.

Monday – Friday 8:00am – 5:00pm

\*Fingerprinting will be done by appointment only

### Municipal Court

Beginning on July 6, the Municipal Court will be open with modified hours.

Monday – Friday 9:00am – 4:00pm  
(closed from 12:15pm-12:45pm each day)

### City Hall

Beginning July 12, City Hall will be open with modified hours.

Monday-Friday 8:30am – Noon

### Development & Business Services

Beginning July 12, Development and Business Services will be open with modified hours.

Monday – Friday 8:30am – Noon

### City Council Meetings

City Council is looking forward to returning to the Council Chambers for in-person meetings very soon.



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- National Night Out Week August 3-8
- Movies & Movement Week August 9-15
- Scavenger Hunt Week August 16-22
- Throwback Week August 23-29
- Farm to Table Week August 30-September 4

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## Jim Smith has the experience and dedication to Move Lynnwood Forward

- Twenty-five years on the Lynnwood City Council
- Council President and Vice President
- Chairman for the Snohomish County Board of Health
- Lynnwood Food Bank volunteer weekly since 2020
- Created and produced children's Japanese Language/Culture class at Lynndale Elementary
- Proposed and Passed Tax Relief Plan for Lynnwood
- Founder and President of The Lynnwood Chamber
- Junior Achievement Instructor at Meadowdale Middle
- Provided Music Lynndale Elementary Walk-a-Thon
- Personally produced/financed Lynnwood Christmas tree lighting for thirteen years (Santa, hot cocoa, kids chorus,)
- Lynnwood Library Board Liaison
- Lynnwood Fire Department Liaison
- Fire and Police Disability Board Member ten years
- Parks Board Liaison
- Human Services Commission Liaison
- Provide music performances to Senior Housing facilities
- State President of the Washington Pilots Association
- Established the Lynnwood Senior Center in Lynnwood
- Washington Air Search and Rescue member
- Neighbors in Need volunteer for over a decade as well as personally providing hot food for the homeless
- Lynn-O-Rama Chairman (Lynnwood Festival) four years
- Produced the Lynnwood fireworks 4th of July Celebration
- Rotary International member for fifteen years
- Jaycee Local and State President
- Edmonds College Business Management Board
- South County Court Advisory Board
- Angel Flight Volunteer Pilot
- Assistant Minister at Trinity Lutheran Church
- Senior DeMolay member (Past Master Councilor)
- Lynnwood Rotary Air Fair Advertising Chairman
- Chaired the Lynnwood Jaycee's Easter Egg Hunt



**Elect Jim Smith**  
*Lynnwood Mayor*

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# Mukilteo celebrates the opening of Harbour Reach Corridor



Mayor Jennifer Gregerson (center with scissors) joined by residents and city council members at the ribbon cutting of the Harbour Reach Corridor in Mukilteo on June 26, 2021. Source: Lynnwood Times/Mario Lotmore.

By KIENAN BRISCOE

MUKILTEO, Wash. June 26, 2021 – Hundreds gathered on a hot and sunny Saturday to celebrate the opening of the Harbour Reach Corridor Project connecting Harbour Pointe Boulevard and Beverly Park Road.

The Harbour Reach Corridor Project was funded by \$15.1 million of Connecting Washington Funds,

\$2.3 million in Washington State Transportation Improvement Board funding, and \$1 million of City transportation impact fees. The project is almost equal to the city’s annual budget at the time funding was received back in 2015.

State Route 525 was previously the only north-south connection from the southern City limits to SR 526. This new road adds an alternate north-

south route through the City, providing increased capacity for vehicles, and significantly improving emergency response times to the south portion of the City.

It adds a multimodal connection through the community, providing pedestrian and bicycle facilities, streetscape standards, and traffic safety measures such as a roundabout.

An estimated 250 residents gathered for the ceremony who paraded down the road for the first time ever on either by biking or walking. The road was open to vehicular traffic a little after 12:10 p.m.

“I was very happy that it was a large turnout on a hot day. To me it was just exceptionally well-received,” Councilman Bob Champion told the Lynnwood Times.

“I think it will definitely lessen traffic,” Alicia, Mukilteo resident of 19 years and ceremony attendee said. “We don’t like to take our bikes on the Speedway, so this gives us more of an opportunity to ride our bikes through here and explore more parts of Mukilteo.”

The ceremony kicked off with speakers including Mayor Jennifer Gregerson, Senator Marko Liias (D-21), and Senator Steve Hobbs (D-44), Bill Grady, General Manager of KLB Construction, and Council Vice-President Bob Champion.

“Today we’re celebrating a way to make our city feel like one neighborhood,” Mayor Jennifer said in her opening speech.

“Our residents on Beverly Park Road can now access our community as

*Continued PAGE 12 >>*

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## Concerns that City Council may have violated procedures during HAP vote

By KIENAN BRISCOE

MUKILTEO, Wash., June 25, 2021 – Councilman Bob Champion addressed the Mukilteo City Council at its June 21 Business Meeting, with concerns that their vote on the Housing Action Plan (HAP) was a violation of democratic procedure given the motion to vote was made before the council had the opportunity to discuss.

Councilman Bob Champion’s Comment on possible HAP procedural violation:

“I would like to say a few words that convey to you, the council, my thoughts on how citizens lose faith on democracy,” Champion said to his fellow colleagues during Public Comment. “Our democracy is a form of government in which the people hold political power and rule through their elected representatives. For our democracy to thrive specific procedural norms must be followed and the civic rights of every citizen must be respected.

“From the discussions at our last meeting, the norms of our council rules and procedures were transgressed. And while procedures alone do not define a democracy, their presence

is indispensable to its survival. In my opinion, any council that fails to impose restrictions upon itself, that fails to follow the rule of law with regards to its own procedures, that does not discuss, deliberate on, investigate, or ascertain all of the available facts before making a motion on their own conclusions as the foundation of their official quasi-judicial action cannot be considered democratic.

“The biggest threat to the democratic rule is the temptation for leaders to fiddle with established procedures and undermine the principles of contingent consent. At our last meeting this council violated our own process and procedures, and based on the social media chatter, the citizens of our town have taken note, a keen interest, and they’re watching what we’re doing. We have a lot to do before the end of this council session. In order that this council restore the faith in our democracy, let us take note of our violation of procedure, acknowledge it, and not repeat our mistakes.

“And further let us vow to conduct the people’s business in a fair, impartial and non-partisan manner. I believe by working together, within the framework

*Continued PAGE 16 >>*

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The Snohomish County Sheriff's Office offers a free 12-week 2021 Citizen's Academy for residents interested in learning about their local law enforcement. Classes are held Wednesday evenings (6-9:30 p.m.) with two weekend field trips.

The Snohomish County Sheriff's Office 2021 Citizen's Academy program includes classroom training by patrol deputies, detectives and corrections deputies for hands-on participation:

- 911 and dispatch
- Major crime investigations
- Patrol procedures and equipment
- Jail cell extraction
- Traffic operations
- Vehicle collision investigations
- Child abuse and crimes against children
- Jail operations

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Download an application and return it to the Sheriff's Office South Precinct (15928 Mill Creek Blvd), or by fax at 425-337-5809, or by email to [academy@snoco.org](mailto:academy@snoco.org). The application deadline is August 1, 2021 and a background check is required for all participants.

- K-9 enforcement
- Drugs and gangs
- Crime scene technology
- Search and rescue
- Special weapons and tactics (SWAT)
- Gun range

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from page 1 **ELECTION 2021**

perspective on how government operates on a national, state and local level.

During my 6 years on the City Council, I have been able to serve on various regional boards and commissions. As Chair of the Regional Fire Authority, I was able to end 20 years of political stalemate and the City now has a more efficient fire service.

I spearheaded the compromise that consolidated two 911 call centers in Snohomish County expediting response times and saving tax dollars. I am able to encourage compromise decisions.



**Christine Frizzell**

**A1:** I bring my passion for this city, my 40 plus years of finance experience, my leadership skills, my ability to collaborate, and my compassion for everyone who calls Lynnwood home.

Change is the only constant that we have, and we must face our change head on.

Under my leadership we will examine our finances to ensure we are being the best stewards of the tax dollars we have been granted. I will continue to listen and learn from people of other races, cultures, religions, and political leanings.

I will work with our small businesses to increase their impact in Lynnwood. I will make changes that support the ideals of inclusion and equity in city hall and throughout our city. I will

support our police and fire agencies as they provide safety and emergency services to our community in responsible and equitable ways.

**A2:** My strongest leadership skill is collaboration. I recognize that work done in the Mayor's office is more about team effort than solo action. We must have input from all levels of an organization whether it is a business, non-profit group, or government. We must be more inclusive in our meetings and decision-making processes. I have the endorsements of John Lovick, Cindy Ryu, Lauren Davis, Jesse Salomon, Stephanie Wright, and the Mayors of Everett, Mukilteo, and Mountlake Terrace among other community and elected representatives.



**Jim Smith**

**Q1:** My platform is simple. We need to put the people of Lynnwood first!

- Within the first year we will get 50% of our homeless street people into alternative arrangements and off of the streets.
- Within two years we will make Lynnwood the safest city in Washington... but we will start on day one.
- Within three years we will eliminate every Lynnwood Utility tax through frugal budgeting and spending.

Make Lynnwood the safest, most livable city in Snohomish County.

**A2:** With over 25 years on the Lynnwood City Council, I have by far the

Continued **PAGE 08** >>

**NICK Coelho**  
LYNNWOOD CITY COUNCIL

**Nicola Smith**  
Lynnwood Mayor  
"Our city is very lucky to have quality people engaged in our government. Nick is one of those."

**Christine Frizzell**  
Lynnwood City Councilmember and Mayoral Candidate  
"Nick goes above and beyond to look at issues and ask questions. He will be a tremendous asset."

**Shannon Sessions**  
Lynnwood City Councilmember  
"Nick is authentic, honest, and innovative. He is a part of our community we need to have represented on our City Council."

**Ian Cotton**  
Lynnwood City Councilmember 2013-2021  
"Nick has the right background in small business know-how, plus a focus on housing. That is what Lynnwood needs to bring our city forward."

**Ruth Ross**  
Lynnwood City Councilmember  
"When I look for examples of future leaders of Snohomish County, Nick comes immediately to mind."

**Cindy Ryu**  
WA State Representative  
"We need more fresh leaders like Nick in local government."

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# Lynnwood teacher, Ms. Wrolstad retires after 36 years



By GERTI KATRO

LYNNWOOD, Wash. — After 36 years, Cathi Wrolstad, the well-known Lynnwood teacher, is retiring. In a June 17 event organized by her colleagues at Beverly Elementary School, she said goodbye to her teaching career among friends, colleagues, and former students.

Keeping in mind social distancing protocols and restrictions, the Beverly Elementary board made sure the event was one to remember for their beloved coworker. They organized a car parade in the Beverly School parking lot, where vehicles would stop, greet and exchange a few words with their colleague, mentor, and teacher.

Ms. Wrolstad spent 21 years at Beverly Elementary School teaching 2nd and 3rd grade but was most recognized for her work with kindergarten children and her ability to connect with students and families.

The line of cars that showed up made the parade last much longer than initially anticipated. The cars decorated

with Beverly Elementary School colors had messages of affection written for Ms. Wrolstad. In the meantime, her colleagues at Beverly guided the participants holding paper signs, each of them telling a fact from Wrolstad's career.

At the end of the parade, you could see the satisfaction on her face from many surprises she got that evening, made possible from her little friends, their families, or former coworkers. Even after being tired from the long evening and the wait in the sun, she was so kind to share some moments from her career.

"My best memory is, by the end of the year the kids are emulating what you wanted them to learn. If it means owning their behavior and apologizing to each other or saying things that I said to them during the year and they incorporated," Ms. Wrolstad told *The Lynnwood Times*. She added, "I will miss how meaningful teaching is. You go to bed at night knowing that you're making the difference."

During her 36 years she did extraordinary work not only with kids, but also mentoring a lot of first year teachers, giving them natural skills to succeed in this job. One of them, Julie Krusenstjerna, happened to be present at her former mentor's special day sharing her memories.

"She was an amazing mentor. I was volunteering in her classroom, and she told me, 'Why don't you be a teacher? You are natural.' And I had a really

*Continued* **PAGE 16** >>

## When Coyotes Attack

By BO JOHN BRUSCO

LYNNWOOD, Wash., July 1, 2021 — As it is the time of year when coyotes begin to explore further from their dens in Snohomish County, community members are experiencing an increase in coyote sightings. Now, when a cat goes missing, it is hard not to imagine worst-case scenarios wherein a house pet might have encountered a wild animal.

As residents of Snohomish County and the Seattle area share a habitat with coyotes, education and safety precautions may be the best solution.

### Coyotes and Missing Cats in Snohomish County

"What's with all the missing cats? Is there a tracker to see if there is a pattern?" A Mukilteo resident asked on their Nextdoor app. "Sadly, we have seen an influx of coyotes in the area," another user responded.

The conversation started on the 18th of June and had over 70 comments by June 20th. Most responses were of concern supporting the coyote theory, while others claimed coyotes killing cats doesn't happen as frequently as some might think. But the simple fact of the matter is that the Pacific Northwest is a habitat for coyotes, and it is not uncommon to see them roaming the streets of the surrounding neighborhoods.

According to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, "In Washington, these intelligent and adaptable [coyotes] now manage to occupy almost every conceivable habitat type, from open ranch country to densely forested areas to downtown waterfront. Despite ever-increasing human encroachment and past efforts to eliminate coyotes, the species maintains its numbers and is increasing in some areas."

### Coyotes Exploring Beyond their Den in Snohomish County

It's the time of year when residents of the north Seattle area experience increased coyote sightings and incidents. This annual occurrence is corroborated by the City of Mukilteo's Department of Animal Control, whose website reads, "Many people are concerned about their animals being targeted by coyotes, and that there is an increase in the number of reported sightings. During this time of the year, both adults and adolescent pups are exploring further from the den, leading to more sightings."

coyote snohomish county  
"Females tend to make their dens under fallen trees or digging out dirt to settle in," the site continues. "If you live near one of the gulches, wetlands, or large numbers of trees, it is likely that coyotes have made their home near you."



Coyotes feed on small mammals such as rabbits, rodents, and free-roaming domestic animals. Their prey when eaten are missing heads, feet, and hides leaving fur at the feeding site.

Bones, feathers, and fur can be seen next to den entries. Signs of digging occur where coyotes follow promising scents and excavate prey, including moles, voles, and gophers.

### Not a New Phenomenon According to Wildlife Dispatcher

Though it may be frightening for some, coyote sightings in Lynnwood, Mukilteo, Edmonds, Everett, and other developed parts of the region are nothing new. Ronnie Drake, a Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife dispatcher, has been receiving calls and making incident and sighting reports about

coyotes for half a decade now.

"I can tell you, working here at dispatch for the last five years, it has been constant, and it has been a problem, and you know, it's not going to go away anytime soon," Drake said when asked about recent coyote sightings in the Seattle area.

"And it is a massive problem in Seattle and Tacoma," Drake continued. "I have not seen it — being in here and getting those calls for five years — decrease. It's just been a constant issue."

Coyotes rarely attack people however precautions should be taken for little children. Fish and Wildlife suggest if people run into an aggressive coyote, make yourself look big, put your hands

*Continued* **PAGE 07** >>



# Foundation for ESD Scholarship Spotlight: Delina Abraha



By **BO JOHN BRUSCO**

LYNNWOOD Wash., June 30, 2021 – On the 17th of this month, Foundation for Edmonds School District, a Lyn-

nwood-based non-profit organization, announced this year’s scholarship recipients. Despite the unique challenges of this past school year, more than 60 donor-funded scholarships were awarded to students who will be pursuing post-secondary education next fall.

The total dollar amount from the post-secondary scholarships awarded this year was \$138,000, which was divided among 55 graduating seniors across seven different high schools in the district.

“Congratulations to both the scholarship recipients and the entire Class of 2021,” wrote the Foundation’s Executive Director, Deborah Brandi, on the official news release. “This last year has proved especially difficult and has required extra perseverance from each student. The Foundation is so proud of all that you have accomplished and are celebrating this incredible accomplishment with you,” she continues.

“We are also so thankful for the families and donors who make these scholarships possible and who allow us to continue making educational dreams come true.”

## Scholarship Spotlight Delina Abraha

Of the 55 scholarship recipients, Delina Abraha stands out. A graduate of Mountlake Terrace High School, Abraha’s name catches the eye as it appears twice on this year’s list of recipients. Receiving both the Gaynelle Burdette Derr Memorial Scholarship and the Keith Ewing Memorial Scholarship, Abraha earned \$8,000 in total from the two awards.

A hard worker from the start, Abraha devoted her best efforts to academics, sports, and even employment throughout her high school career.

Abraha is a first-generation Eritre-

an-American student and served as the treasurer for the Black Student Union over the last four years. She carried her leadership abilities into athletics as well, as she captained the Hawks Girls Basketball team for two years, even earning their MVP title in 2018. Additionally, Abraha was selected for the Seattle Children’s Hospital Research Training Program, where she volunteers her free time in the community.

Her future plans include enrolling in a pre-medicine program at university, where she anticipates making a career in pediatrics.

Deborah Jacobsen, the Communications Manager at Foundation for Edmonds School District, says, “We are incredibly proud of Delina and her hard work and wish her the absolute best in her future endeavors!”

Special thanks to Deborah Jacobsen for this story.

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**Tiffany Smiley**  
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**Caleb Heimlich**  
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from page 6 **COYOTES**

in the air and throw things at the animal if they get aggressive. Do not attempt to pet nor feed a coyote.

### Education and Safety Precautions

Adult coyotes weigh between 20 to 35 pounds, with males being slightly larger than females. At the shoulder, an adult male coyote is about 25 inches tall. They resemble a small German shepherd and can come in a variety of colors.

The reason why coyotes have been a

constant issue over the years isn’t due to a lack of resources or funding; rather, it is simply due to nature’s tenacity. As the City of Mukilteo’s website explains, “Contrary to popular belief, efforts to control or even eliminate coyote populations only disrupt a pack and generally leads to an increase in pups being born as the pack rebuilds.”

Mukilteo Animal Control believes that education is the best method of reducing conflict with coyotes. “Coyotes have been living with and among humans for the last 15,000 years and will continue to share our urban environment,” their site reads.

“While we are fortunate to have these

wildlife habitats in our community, learning how to live with and avoid conflict is a better way to resolve this human-wildlife contact. Enjoy your natural spaces and remember wildlife is still wild.”

Even though a perfect solution may not exist, Animal Control in Mukilteo has made an extensive list of safety suggestions for residents and their pets. The complete list of precautions can be read on the department’s website.

### Human Solutions and Finding Lost House Pets

Do not feed coyotes. A coyote who learns that humans are an easy source

of free food will not distinguish between your scraps and your small pet.

It’s also important to remove or secure potential food sources such as: pet food, garbage and compost, and especially fallen fruit – coyotes love fruit and berries.

Whether it’s coyotes or raccoons, residents experiencing any sort of wildlife conflict can call PAWS Wildlife Center for a humane solution.

Pet owners whose pets are missing can contact animal shelters’ lost and found pages, such as Everett’s lost and found pets page or Snohomish County’s webpage for lost animals.



from page 5 **ELECTION 2021**

most experience to lead this City along with the heart to put our people of Lynnwood first.

For decades I have owned my own business in Lynnwood AND employed over 25 people at any one time.

My Bachelor Degrees from CWU (Business Administration and Law & Justice/Prelaw) are more aligned with the skills needed to run this large organization.

I am the only candidate that has been a very successful state president of non-profit organizations. My community involvement is by far the most extensive and started when I was in my early 20s.

Vote Jim Smith if you want safer neighborhoods, safer streets and lower taxes...and a focus on the people of Lynnwood! The result will be that we will make Lynnwood the gemstone of Snohomish County.

The following questions were asked the city council candidates:

**Q1: 1. What are the top strengths and opportunities for your city?**

**Q2: What makes you unique as a candidate?**

**Position 1**



**Shirley Sutton**

**A1:** Because of light rail, Lynnwood will grow exponentially and collect more taxes. The challenge is to keep the city affordable. With extra revenue we can remove the \$80 Lynnwood adds to the car registration renewal.

We should also lower water bills. The tax increase was to be temporary, only during the recession. The median bi-monthly bill used to be \$60+, and now it's almost \$200. Worse! The base service is \$185 so you pay even if are out of town or your house is vacant.

Residents are being taxed out. Lynnwood can lower prices if it is frugal. This administration raised directors' salaries to almost \$200,000.

The Mayor gave 20+ individuals time off for their hard work during the pandemic. This cost the city \$150,000+. At \$18/hour, those \$150k represent more than 4 years of work not performed and paid.

Lynnwood residents are mortified when their hard-earned money is wasted. This must stop.

**A2:** I have a Bachelor's in Law and Justice and a Master's in Education. I've lived in Lynnwood for 20 years. I worked at EdCC and was a Councilwoman.

I served in several task forces and committees since 2008.

I know how City Hall works and the many ways we can save money without hurting services.

I have knocked on 6,000+ doors and heard my neighbors' concerns. I want them voiced in City Council.



**Nick Coelho**

**A1:** Lynnwood's greatest strength is its future. It's literally full of opportunity.

We have a once-in-a-lifetime chance to build a new downtown from scratch that fits our community's needs. A once-in-a-lifetime chance to enhance the character of our neighborhoods by allowing housing that supports residents at all stages of life. A once-in-a-lifetime chance to foster the next generation of entrepreneurs and allow space for their coffee shops, bakeries and corner stores within our residential areas, making our city truly walkable not only to parks and transit, but also finally to destinations and flavors.

People living here already know that our city has a convenient proximity to good schools, the interstate and the Alderwood Mall. With growth on its way, our City Government will need to be smart and proactive to ensure convenience and opportunity remains afforded to all.

**A2:** I am a Millennial entrepreneur who rents his home and has grown a successful and respected business right here in our city -- Around the Table Boardgame Pub, a Lynnwood original since 2013.

Not only has my career required me to be creative and think outside the box, its social nature has given me a broad perspective on the lives of residents both within and without our city. I have a great appreciation for the stories I hear, and I am eager to take these voices to City Council.



**Chris Eck**

**A1:** What makes our city so great, is our residents and our businesses' and those just passing through. We are a community with many types of people. Residents, who share a passion for Lynnwood and who care deeply it's future. I share that same passion!

I have the proven leadership that is needed to address our issues and I'm focused on Lynnwood Priorities.

While our greatest strength is our community, it can sometimes be a challenge to make sure everyone is heard.

**A2:** As a Human Services professional and as an active member of the Lynnwood community, I have a demonstrated track record of bringing people together. I am uniquely qualified for this race because of my proven leadership and experience.

Lynnwood's rapid growth and the extension of light rail will require an experienced leader that will be prepared to make an immediate difference on day one.

The top opportunity for Lynnwood is really connecting with our community, to ensure that we are communicating with everyone. Council decisions affect people's lives, and they deserve to be included in those decisions.

We have an opportunity and a responsibility to address our housing needs so that everyone has an opportunity to experience our great city. I am running because I love our community and I am ready to work for you!

**Position 2**



**Nas Lashgari**

**A1:** Lynnwood is a rapidly growing City and we are experiencing significant changes. There are many opportunities

available through these developments. The light rail coming to our city will be providing more access to transportation for many.

Lynnwood will be a destination point, we will have a major increase in our economic development and this will bring opportunities for growth.

With the creation of a City Center and an active urban core, we will need to continue to nurture operational excellence, as well as continuing to be a safe, and affordable City while maintaining the residential aspect of our City.

City of Lynnwood and Mayor Smith have done a fantastic job of managing this growth and we need to continue on that momentum.

**A2:** My unique qualification is Management, I want to be proactive in managing the growth of our City moving forward. I approach every issue with openness and inclusiveness with the lens of Equity. I will serve ALL the people of Lynnwood.

I want to be instrumental in fulfilling the community's vision, to be a safe, welcoming and livable City. I will work collaboratively with all City Departments to ensure we move toward truly being a City Where ALL Are Welcome, which is the campaign I spearheaded while serving the City of Lynnwood as the Chair and Vice Chair of DEIC, the last four years.

**Patrick Decker**

**A1:** The diversity, ideas and energy of our residents.

The convergence of people from a variety of backgrounds who challenge the status quo, and have fresh ideas and experiences is what built our nation, and is what makes our city great.

We need to bring more community members into discussions about today's decisions, and tomorrows opportunities.

We need to be diligent in understanding the ideas, hopes, dreams and vision of this community.

Second is the geographic location we enjoy. At the nexus of I-5 and I-405, with a light rail terminus coming to our city, combined with our parks and greenspaces, and the beauty of the mountains and Puget Sound so near, geographically we are in one of the most ideal locations in Western Washington. We need to leverage this location to bring solid, well paying careers to this community, so our residents can live, work, thrive and raise their families here.

Third is the quality of our Law Enforcement and First Responders. They do an amazing job caring for and protecting this community.

**A2:** I am a 35 year resident of Lynnwood and have served in this community consistently throughout that time, including several years as Planning Commissioner, more recently on the

Civil Service Commission, currently as a City Councilmember, and previously as Scoutmaster and Varsity Scout Coach.

I raised my family here, and want Lynnwood to be a great home for my sons to raise their families in as well. I love this community and want to see it prosper.

The Lynnwood Times did not receive responses from the following City Council candidates in time for the print deadline:

- Lisa Utter (Lynnwood - Council Position 3)
- James Rutherford (Lynnwood - Council Position 3)
- Joshua Binda (Lynnwood - Council Position 3)

**MUKILTEO CANDIDATES**

**Position 1**



**Peter Zeive**

**A1:** Mukilteo is a wonderful city full of happy people. We are single family homes and small apartment complexes. Lots of recreation opportunities with beaches, parks, and the Japanese Gulch.

The state and county government are telling us we cannot be Mukilteo. They are telling us we need to grow up and become a big city.

Our current council and mayor are cheerleaders for this destruction. The opportunity is to elect a city council and mayor that say no.

My campaign slogan is "Keep Mukilteo a Small Town". I will fight to make sure that we stay Mukilteo.

**A2:** I read about the proposed Housing Action Plan (HAP) on January 29, 2020 and immediately organized a community response.

I was able to get over a dozen citizens at every city council meeting, all standing up to give testimony. As the council moved to zoom in March of 2020, a new approach was needed so I launched a petition. I came up with a unique technique where I mailed out signature cards to every address in Mukilteo and respondents could text me a picture from their cell phone. Through that process I built up a membership list of 450 emails for Preserve Mukilteo that allows me to alert citizens to zoom meetings where we express our opinions.

Whether elected or not elected I remain a guardian for our city.



**Louis Harris**

**A1:** Mukilteo's top strengths are its residents, geographic location, and history. I am committed to ensuring that each of our strengths are preserved, supported, and highlighted as we continue to address the challenges our city faces.

The top opportunities for Mukilteo are infrastructure maintenance and improvements; strengthening local businesses and economic recovery, and im-



from page 8 **ELECTION 2021**

proving resident's quality of life. I've seen how our infrastructure needs to be improved, especially on Mukilteo Lane, and throughout the city.

Our businesses are missing out on revenue because our city needs an economic plan to capture more of the money passing through our city by commuters and tourists so that Mukilteo residents can benefit from that additional revenue.

**A2:** I have had the privilege of representing Mukilteo residents for the past year. During that time I've gained a deep understanding of how the city can better serve residents, and I am committed to making sure that happens.

I am unique because I know the value of Mukilteo Ants working together to strengthen our beloved city. I have the experience and expertise of bringing people together to accomplish a common goal. I know that Mukilteo needs this now, more than ever, especially given the concerns about regional population growth.



**Tina Over**

**A1:** Mukilteo has many strengths. We are a budding community of diversity and our residents embody what I consider

a true sense of community and community involvement.

As a current and previous Civil Service Commissioner for the City of Mukilteo, working with our fire and police department, I take pride in the quick response of our emergency response team.

Our community has opportunities to better ourselves. Our current inability, given our revenue to pay for the maintenance & replacement of critical city infrastructure can be greatly enhanced by the right elected officials.

A much-needed senior center that keeps being put off needs to be addressed, these are things I believe we can do without raising taxes.

**A2:** I both live and work in Mukilteo. I'm an engaged member of this community and have been since I was moved here almost 8 year ago.

I make it a point to check in on my neighbors, plan and attend community events that bring people together and do the hands on work.

I have served a number of years on the local PTA board as well as a local non-profit, Leadership Launch. I was chairperson for a number of student/family fundraising events. I have assisted many programs to help the homeless and underprivileged organizations in our and around our surrounding areas.

If elected, I will work for you and you alone.

**Position 2**

**Caitlein Ryan**

**A1:** We have many resources in Mukilteo, but it is my fellow neighbors and all our residents that make me proudest to call Mukilteo home.

Our community knows how to and has demonstrated an ability to come together with ingenuity and caring when we are presented with a challenge.

As we face increasing urgency with climate change, I see great opportunity for partnership with local industry to seek improvement in sustainable practices and use of materials.

I am also excited by the opportunity to further community education and services to help assist households reduce environmental impact.

**A2:** My resume is rather unique. I do not think I am alone in acknowledging that when you are a working mom, traditional career paths can be hard to come by.

My experience includes a doctorate in theatre education focusing on qualitative research. I have also been a medical practice CEO and office manager. Also, I have been in the cannabis industry since the passage of ballot measure I-502, first as an investor in a producer/processor license and now as the interim executive director of The Cannabis Alliance. Finally, the most important part of my resume is being a mom to my four kiddos!

I believe this odd collection of experience demonstrates my capacity for flexibility. I believe in all of these paths I have developed a confidence of leadership and a keen sense of compassion for all members of whatever community I serve.

**Ayesha Riaz Khan**

**A1:** I am grateful for the growing diversity in the city of Mukilteo and the safer streets that our law enforcement officials and neighborhood block watch groups patrol and watch our citizens every day.

It's a beautiful to see people of different faiths, cultures and belief working together in our city.

In addition, there are many opportunities ahead of us for our city, but the biggest opportunity is the business growth, which will make our community stronger and healthier without even raising any taxes especially for small businesses.

**A2:** As a substitute teacher for the Mukilteo School District and a proud parent of three kids, currently attending the Mukilteo School District.

I feel much comfortable running for Mukilteo City Council and I will work hard and differently bring the positive change in the council.

I have organized, hosted and helped empower women as well as local small business owners to succeed by connecting people.

Organizing an annual International Women's Day where we honor women and promote the and their businesses while recognizing their accomplishments for their outstanding work in our community for years, I have also created an enormous impact on several projects supporting refugee families with daily necessities.

I continue leading the communication panel of ICOM/MAS as a Board of Directors in the right direction.

**Position 3**

**Alex Crocco**

**A1:** Mukilteo is an attractive place to live, raise a family, work, play, and age gracefully. Its strengths include safe neighborhoods, great schools, a vibrant local economy with good jobs, our waterfront and park system, and an active group of volunteers lending their skills and abilities to build our community.

I see opportunities to build on our strengths through planning, budgeting, and community involvement that align with our vision.

I'm interested in the planning and zoning process to take advantage of our waterfront, support our local businesses, and maintain the character of our neighborhoods.

I'm interested in the ways that city planning can support our school system.

I'm interested the things our city can do to allow people to age gracefully in their own homes. I believe we need specific plans to connect more neighborhoods with sidewalks, protect Japanese Gulch, develop the waterfront, and address the impacts from Paine Field.

**A2:** The things that make me suited for a position on city council include my leadership, business, and organizational skills. I am a good listener, I am comfortable asking tough questions, I am a skilled facilitator, and I can work with the wisdom of the group.

This is my first campaign, I want to use my skills for the benefit of the community of Mukilteo, the place my wife and I choose to raise our family.

**Tim Ellis**

**A1:** The basis of Mukilteo's many strengths is centered around location: where the natural beauty of the Pacific Northwest and Salish Sea surrounds, and resources abound. The location drives the local economy, enabling local businesses to thrive while still having a small enough feel that residents nod when passing.

Adapting and mitigating climate change can be seen both as the largest issue and opportunity facing Mukilteo. Each decision we make, from transportation and development guidelines to food selection affects the quantity of greenhouse gases being released into the atmosphere.

**A2:** As a 36 year resident of Mukilteo and a chair of the Mukilteo Climate Action Committee. I am uniquely qualified for a Mukilteo city council position. My continuing involvement in the Snohomish County Marine Resource Committee, WSU Beach Watcher as well as Mukilteo Parks and Arts Commissioner give me a clear picture of the challenges facing our community.

I understand the tools of productivity teams and people working together from my career as an Information Technology manager I will use logic, facts and data to work with other council members to move our community forward.



**Carolyn "Dode" Carlson**

**A1:** Mukilteo has a great network of volunteers who work together to improve life here for all.

I began volunteering at our community garden shortly after it was formed. I became president for years. We've donated up to 2500 lbs. in a season.

Kiwanis is also a non-profit. In spite of the difficult year we all just experienced, Kiwanis was able to give out 17 scholarships to our graduating seniors. I am currently President of our local Kiwanis.

I am also President of our Mukilteo Seniors Association. We are a non-profit that works closely with our city to build programming for our senior community. We are planning to have our own building soon. Currently the city lets us use Rosehill.

I've served on the Mayors Key Communicators committee, the Rosehill board, currently I'm on the Parks and Arts Commission, and the Mukilteo Ferry Advisory Committee. I also took part in the Housing Action Plan discussion. And I'm on the Lighthouse Festival board. We are having one this year! Parade too. September 10 through 12. MUKFEST.COM.

**A2:** What I've mentioned above with all the connections we have as a community. I would like to also give a shoutout to Kandace at the Chamber. She has reached out to our seniors to try to help us find a home.

I have a desire for civil discourse. It is possible and it is important. It's who I am.

The Lynnwood Times did not receive responses from the following City Council candidates in time for the print deadline:

- Kevin Stoltz (Mukilteo - Council Position 2)
- Tom Jordal (Mukilteo - Council Position 2)
- Steve Schmalz (Mukilteo - Council Position 3)

**EVERETT CANDIDATES**

The following questions were asked the mayoral candidates:

- Q1: What are your top focuses?**
- Q2: What makes you unique as a candidate?**



**Cassie Franklin**

**A1:** The priorities for my second term as Mayor of Everett are pandemic recovery, housing and homelessness, and fiscal responsibility.

Since our first COVID 19 case, I worked steadily to protect public health, shield our local economy, and support local businesses and community members.

The ongoing housing and homelessness crisis in our region is a growing challenge I will continue addressing with short-term and long-term solutions. Our new Pallet Shelter program is one of many steps we will take in the



# Lynnwood High School student wins Congressional District Art Competition

By BO JOHN BRUSCO

LYNNWOOD, Wash., July 3, 2021 – This year’s winner of the Congressional District Art Competition is Susanna Lee, a Lynnwood High sophomore student in the Edmonds School District. The competition has been held every spring since 1982, and its purpose, according to house.gov, is to “recognize and encourage artistic talent in the nation and in each congressional district.”

Rep. Rick Larsen (WA-02) along with four local judges, scored the 36 art submissions they received from the district based on four categories: creativity, execution of skill, and the narrative quality or emotive aspects of the work.

The four additional judges this year included Eric Shew from Bellingham Arts Commission, Therese Kingsbury from Whidbey Island Arts Council, Rita Martin from the Skagit Arts Association, and Judy Tuohy from the Schack Art Center in Everett.

Susanna Lee, art piece titled “You and Your Future,” was selected as the Second District’s winner of the 2021 Congressional Art Competition.

Susanna Lee, piece titled “You and Your Future,” the winner of the Second District’s 2021 Congressional Art Competition.

Lee’s work is peaceful yet captivating as it depicts an individual moving

and inspecting the puzzle pieces of one’s self. The minimal use of color puts a thematic emphasis on lighting, as a staircase leading out of darkness and into light can be seen in the background.

Of her work, Lee said that it “represents any individual, an individual who has worked for so long, putting themselves together to enter their dreams.”

According to the district’s press release, Lee’s work will be displayed in the U.S. Capitol for the next year along with other winning pieces from congressional districts across the United States.

Rep. Larsen and Lee’s art teacher at Lynnwood High School, Brooke DeWard, congratulated Lee for winning this year’s competition.

“The Congressional Art Competition continues to be an opportunity to recognize and encourage artistic talent in the Second District and across the country,” said Larsen. “Congratulations to Susanna Lee for winning this year’s competition with her outstanding piece, ‘You and Your Future,’ and to all the talented Second District artists for submitting their artwork.”

“The Congressional Art Competition recognizes and encourages artistic talent among high school students across the country, and I can think of no better fit than Susanna Lee for this year’s



award for this [congressional] district,” said DeWard. “Congratulations, Su-

sanna Lee!”

## from page 1 SPRUCE ELEMENTARY

According to Spruce Elementary Principal Emily Moore, the former building had been around for 60 years. During that time, the school taught over 24,000 students, served over four million lunches, held over 21,000 recesses, and hosted countless open houses, carnivals, and festivals.

“We celebrate the legacy of this building and its service as we look forward to many more years in the new, future Spruce Elementary,” Moore said.

The Boy Scouts of Troop 61 lowered Spruce’s flag to be raised at the new building’s future opening. Moore invited attendees to leave their mark by writing a word that will appear on the grand staircase art piece of the new

building.

Former Spruce Elementary principals Linda Tripp and Margaret Mesaros appeared with School Board President Dr. Deborah Kilgore and Superintendent Dr. Gustavo Balderas at the ceremony who thanked the community for investing into the children’s future.

“This has been a very difficult year for all of us,” Balderas said. “But this is for the kids and the future is bright.”

The Edmonds School District Board of Directors had originally planned Spruce Elementary’s improvements to be a modernization in 2015 but upgraded to a full replacement project in January 2017.

In June 2017, Spruce Elementary’s re-

placement project was split into two phases culminating in the new building’s Wednesday groundbreaking.

Taine Wilton, ESD Project Manager, said that the project’s total cost is split up into two parts: the construction cost and a soft cost. Wilton said that the construction cost is about \$29 million rounded up with the project’s total hard and soft cost of \$45.5 million.

Carin Chase, ESD’s Legislative Representative, is excited that the new building is finally going up, which she says is thanks to voters.

“We can move forward with up-to-date safety features and educational opportunities for the kids,” Chase said.

Moore said to everything there is a

season and was sad to see the former building go yet is grateful that students and staff have the middle school to host the upcoming school year.

“I feel like everyone went to a school like Alderwood, at least in my generation,” Moore said. “Moving there brings memories of nostalgia and special feelings, especially since it’s seasoned.”

Kim LaFleur, a 22-year veteran teacher at Spruce, says that it is a bittersweet moment yet is optimistic about Spruce Elementary’s future.

“We are super looking forward to the new building and cannot wait to serve our community,” LaFleur said.

## from page 9 ELECTION 2021

coming years.

Lastly, we must tackle the city’s structural budget deficit. I plan to collaborate with city council to ensure revenue is available for residents’ programs and services.

**A2:** My extensive background in the nonprofit sector and broad membership across regional and national boards gives me a unique perspective on how to address community needs.

As former CEO of Cocoon House, a nonprofit organization that housed and supported homeless and at-risk youth, I learned how to work creatively with limited resources and identify innovative solutions.

I have served on many regional and national boards related to housing, homelessness, public safety, LGBTQ rights,

and equity.

As the first woman ever to be elected mayor of Everett and successfully led our city during one of the most challenging times, I am not afraid to make the tough choices necessary to provide residents the safe, welcoming community they deserve.



**Steve Oss**

**A1:** I am not a professional politician, nor have I ever run for a public office. I have lived my entire life in Everett other than my time that I proudly served our country in the military.

I have been employed in several different types of jobs; additionally, I owned a coin-laundry and managed several employees.

Since 1997 I have worked for Everett

Transit and been the union president for the last 16 years. I have two grown daughters, one son, one daughter-in-law and one beautiful granddaughter. The Everett V.O.A. selected me as their volunteer of the year in 2019.

It is imperative to address Everett’s deficit now. We must identify needs versus wants because we might not get everything that we want.

Businesses need to feel welcomed into Everett. The city needs to support businesses so that they in turn can support the city through tax revenues and jobs. We need to encourage business owners to flourish and have mutual goals to work with the city.

All city employees must be taught that we all do work in customer service regardless of what jobs we perform. We must treating employees properly from hiring to retirement, all employees must feel they are being treated well

and fairly.

Active listening is key to understanding what is being communicated and understand what businesses and citizens are trying to convey.

The Lynnwood Times did not receive responses from the following City Council candidates in time for the print deadline:

- Ron Wittock (Mayor - Everett)

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# Ten Lake Stevens staff members become green belts in Lean Six Sigma



By KIENAN BRISCOE

LAKE STEVENS, Wash - Nine city staff members and one Lake Stevens Sewer District employee recently graduated from a Lean Six Sigma training program in order to better serve residents and improve internal processes in the city.

The idea was paid for by the city staff's development budget and coined by Mayor Gailey, in support of the executive team, who sought training regarding Lean Six Sigma in hopes to improve various city processes.

Those who were included in this certification were Capitol Projects Manager Aaron Halverson, Parks Planning and Development Coordinator Jill Meis, Building Official Ryan Mumma, Cal-

liope Consulting CEO Lori Erikson, Records Specialist Margaret Cooper, Senior Records Specialist Megan LeBlanc, Sewer District General Manager Mariah Low, IT Director Troy Stevens, Human Resource Director Anya Warrington, Deputy Clerk/Accounts Payable Adri Crim, and Mayor Brett Gailey.

Lean Six Sigma teaches employees to evaluate and process the steps involved with projects to ensure it best serves the end use customer. In a city setting where most services are broken down into a process of steps, this certification allows city staff to make improvements on these steps to maximize efficiency.

In a city press release published June 11, an example of how this can aid in city services is building permits.

'The city issues building permits through its Planning and Community Development Department. Lake Stevens has fewer planning staff per capita than most cities its size. Less staff could mean delays but applying Lean Six Sigma practices makes the permit process more efficient and faster,' the press release states.

Staff members participated in a 40-hour course over nine weeks, earning their "green-belts" in the program, which are agents of change trained in the methodologies of Lean Six Sigma and are capable of implementing high-impact projects. Those who are certified in this course have a developed understanding of the everyday practices needed to sustain a continuous improvement culture, manage processes and conduct high-impact Lean Six Sigma projects for any type of organization.

Part of the graduation of this program was to ask participants to identify processes they wanted to improve in the city. Some of those included:

- Human Resources: Helping employees return to work after an injury or illness using efficient and consistent processes.
- Police Department: Providing an employee care program for first responders.
- Information Technology: Developing a mobile device provisioning system for city staff.
- Code Enforcement: Developing a tracking system for fines and penalties issued for code violations.
- Procurement: Coordinating purchase of goods and services across

all city departments.

Lean Six Sigma Institute (LSSI) has trained and certified over 60,000 Lean Six Sigma professionals and helped more than 700 organizations across various industries achieve their goals and objectives by adopting Lean Six Sigma philosophy, methodologies, and tools.

They help organizations become more successful by providing the following products and services:

- Lean Six Sigma Training and Certification
- Implementation and Problem-Solving Coaching
- Continuous Learning Material
- Development of Continuous Improvement Teams.

Since 1998, LSSI has helped people and organizations reach their highest potential, maximize profits, and increase value by providing knowledge and guidance on implementing continuous improvement culture change, methodologies, and tools.

Organizations employing Lean Six Sigma Institute training and coaching services to achieve significant improvements in speed and quality in providing products and services to their customers.

"We are planning to conduct black belt training for 1-2 employees at the city in the near future," Anya Warrington, HR Director for the city of Lake Stevens, told the Lynnwood Times.

## from page 1 APPRENTICESHIP

According to Dr. Singh, after running an internal review of labor market trends and forecasts, Edmonds College reached the same conclusion. "As a result," he explains, "we collectively identified five potential supply gaps in the following key occupations necessary to meet the unique labor demand for this project: construction laborers (6.7%), construction equipment operators (5.5%), carpenters (6.4%), electricians (4.8%), and truck drivers (6.4%)."

Although the exact enrollment numbers are being finalized, Dr. Singh says that "the pre-apprenticeship partnership pathway has been designed with scalability in mind."

After students in the program complete their workforce training, Dr. Singh anticipates that there will be enough laborers to meet the previously detailed labor demands.

### Helping the Community by Creating Employment Opportunities

When asked how the program has helped the community, Dr. Singh noted that the program's objective has brought people together. "The pre-apprenticeship program is an example of local industry, labor, and community leaders coalescing around a common goal for the betterment of all community stakeholders."

"This common thread," he continues, "has helped unite an array of content experts and increased communication across various community stakeholders traditionally not in correspondence with one another otherwise."

The program is commonly referred

to as a "pre-apprenticeship" program because no previous experience is required. All apprenticeship candidates will be given training from basic to the advanced skills required to fulfill construction vocations. As per Sound Transit's website, "You do not need construction skills to get started; the professionals will teach you what you need to know."

The pre-apprentice nature of the program has helped to create more jobs and provide individuals with skill and development training. According to Dr. Singh, it has also promoted "self-efficacy for those who otherwise may feel displaced from current workforce trends."

### Opportunity for the Underserved

While the opportunity is available to any eligible applicant, Dr. Singh emphasized how this program can help historically disadvantaged members of the community. "The pre-apprenticeship program is an ideal opportunity for minority and underserved segments of the community," he explains.

"Here, in addition to general marketing techniques, an intentional marketing emphasis will focus on women, BIPOC, tribes, veterans, and refugees as well; whereas," he continues, "the pre-apprenticeship project will help Sound Transit meet their institutional DEI (Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion) goals."

### Where to Apply

The Sound Transit Pre-Apprenticeship Committee anticipates registration to start in early August, and classes will begin this fall. For more information, visit the Washington Department of Labor and Industries' website or [soundtransit.org](http://soundtransit.org).

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# Lake Stevens sees no vandalism after installation of cameras at Davies Beach

By KIENAN BRISCOE

LAKE STEVENS, Wash—Security cameras were installed at Davies Beach on June 4, following a surge of vandalism in Lake Stevens parks. Since installation, according to Deputy Chief Jeffrey Beazizo, no instances have been reported.

Over the past few months, the city reported vandalism that has cost taxpayers thousands of dollars, according to Mayor Brett Gailey, delaying the opening of projects including the playground area of North Cove Park. Instances of destruction to these facilities, the Mayor reports, have been occurring as often as “every other day.”

“It’s super frustrating as a mayor to have to deal with trying to open great parks for our community and not getting them open on time because we’re dealing with vandalism and

graffiti issues,” Gailey said.

At Lundeen Park, bathrooms have been closed due to graffiti, requiring a fourth cleaning in only a couple months.

In February, King 5 reported two young adults were involved in defacing Lake Stevens parks and businesses, the removal of which resulted in a full day of work and over \$800 in cleanup fees. They were identified when one of the suspects used a credit card in his name at a local business. It is not clear whether these individuals were linked to the more recent events and there are no suspects; with the installation of security cameras the city hopes that could change.

“This is especially unfortunate in the summer months when park usage by our residents is the highest. It’s also disheartening for our employees who have put in long hours to create beautiful open spaces for the

community to enjoy only to see that work destroyed,” Gailey said.

The mayor sent out a memo on June 9 asking help from community volunteers for cleanup as well as small projects involving planting and weeding with paid seasonal positions also available.

“Over the past few weeks, several facilities have been vandalized. Damages are running into the tens of thousands, and in some cases, require park closures until repair work can be done to make them safe again,” Gailey said in his memo.

The security cameras were funded with \$35,000 the city budgeted in 2020 to improve facilities and parks with more planned on the way.

“The city has invested a lot of money to improve our facilities and parks. To protect these investments and increase public safety at our facilities, security

cameras are being deployed to aid in this process,” Jeffrey Beazizo, Deputy Chief of Lake Stevens Police Department, told the Lynnwood Times.

Beazizo stated the Lake Stevens Police Department plans to prevent further instances of vandalism to parks with proactive enforcement and asking citizens to call 911 if they witness any incidents.

“[We hope] to provide a tool for investigative purposes only for incidences surrounding public safety issues and property damages at our facilities and as a deterrent for stated activities,” Beazizo told the Lynnwood Times.

Later this month security cameras are planned to be installed in North Cove and Frontier Heights.

## from page 4 HARBOUR REACH

conveniently as anybody in Harbour Pointe. Our residents here in Harbour Pointe are going to be able to avoid a congested Speedway or hopefully choose to walk or bike to reach destinations outside the city. We’re more connected and safer than ever before.”

Senator Lias thanked Gregerson for her leadership and acknowledged Paine Field and Snohomish County for their contributions to the project.

“This road is special because it does really demonstrate the future of where our transportation system needs to head...it accommodates all kinds of users,” Lias said. “If you’re walking, if you’re biking, if you’re driving down the street, if you’re in a wheelchair or have a mobility impairment, this corridor is designed to help you move around our community.”

Lias shared with attendees that extending the Harbour Reach Corridor to the Mukilteo Speedway is in this year’s \$17.8 billion transportation package called Forward Washington.

Senator Lias told the Lynnwood Times that the proposed plan in the transportation package is to continue the multimodal connection from Beverly Road through 132nd Street to the Mukilteo Speedway.

Mayor Gregerson shared that her goal is to extend the bike lanes north on Harbour Reach Dr. and Chennault Beach Rd. to the north crossing of Harbour Pointe Blvd.

Forward Washington, unveiled by Senate Transportation Committee Chair Steve Hobbs this year, is a 16-year transportation plan to fund projects such as the following:

- Removal of the state’s fish passage barrier
- \$1 billion for construction of new ferry vessels
- Rebuilding of the US 2 Trestle
- Replacement for the I-5 Vancouver Bridge
- Transportation investments that benefit people with special needs, rural mobility, bike and pedestrian paths, commute trip reduction, and public transit
- Storm water cleanup to remove pollution in the Puget Sound

Forward Washington is partially funded by a cap and invest program in SB 5126. The plan also counts on a 9.8 cent gas tax, a statewide transportation benefit assessment, a shift of the car sales and use tax on EVs/Hybrids (starting in 2026), and other vehicle and licensing fees.

The last transportation package was Connecting Washington, passed in 2015, which raised the state gas tax

by 11.9 cents per gallon and funds \$16 billion in projects, including the Harbour Reach Corridor Project.

“What I love about projects like this is it transcends the political animosity that happens from both sides of the aisle,” Senator Hobbs told residents just before the ribbon cutting. “This is a classic example of good government bipartisanship and community advocacy...Projects like this gives back to the community.”

Bill Grady, General Manager for KLB Construction, shared the company’s commitment to providing a safe working environment for its employees.

“At this job we had over 40,000 safe-hours. We have over 100 employees that came in and out of here with virtually no incidents and that is near and dear to us – think safe, be safe.”

Former Mukilteo Mayor Joe Marine, shared with the Lynnwood Times his thoughts on the opening of the corridor.

“The turnout was great. It just shows really how excited the community is this. It’s rare; there’s street widening a lot of times, some improvements but to have a whole new road put in to alleviate traffic. Mukilteo is interesting in that we’re one-mile wide, six-miles long, and the speedway is really the only north-south arterial. So, to alleviate some of that with a road like Harbour Reach Extension is great.”

County Councilwoman Megan Dunn told the Lynnwood Times it was great to see so many attendees and for many of them to be on bike for their maiden trek on the new road.

“I think it’s a great turnout, it’s really exciting right now to have this neighborhood corridor and it was great to see so many people just coming from the different neighborhoods, riding their bikes, walking getting here,” Dunn told the Lynnwood Times. “This is a really important connector so it’s great to see all the neighborhood excitement.”



Councilman Joe Marine, County Councilwoman Megan Dunn, and Senator Steve Hobbs (D-44) at the ribbon cutting of the Harbour Reach Corridor in Mukilteo on June 26, 2021. Source: Lynnwood Times/Mario Lotmore.



# Last week 116 crimes in Lynnwood, theft most frequent

**LYNNWOOD POLICE**

**Weekly Blotter**

**JUNE 21-28**

By **GERTI KATRO**

During the week between June 21-28 there were 116 crimes reported by the Lynnwood Police Department with the most frequent being theft in 25 cases.

A high place on the list is the Adult Protective Services (APS) with six cases over this week and Child Protective Services (CPS) with four. There has been a natural death and other felonies like car prowler which also is high in number for the past week.

Among other incidents, the K-9 unit has remained active intervening at least six times keeping our first responders safe.

An attempted rape happened on June 20 but the Police Department determined that these records must be withheld from production at this time as they pertain to an ongoing law enforcement investigation.

**19-year-old builds a gun, charged for weapon violation**

Parents of a 19-year-old turned in a handgun to the Lynnwood Police Department after they discovered the weapon under a blanket on the couch where their son was sleeping.

According to the police report, the firearm was black and tan and appeared to be a Glock 17 in style but had no serial number or branding aside from the "P80" engraved on its grip. The mother of the teenager was concerned because her son has been on opioids and recently has been engaging with known criminal elements.

With the written approval of parents, the police officer got custody of the gun for further examination.

From later investigations it was discovered that the son, with initial R, had built the gun himself, buying a kit available online. But the police officer found out that despite the kit being sold as a non-working gun, the actual weapon had all the missing parts to call it a firearm.

The police officer claims that the gun is a fully working firearm and is being held as evidence.

R intended to sell the homemade firearm to someone who approached him to build the weapon. Text messages be-

tween R and his father revealed that R was afraid for his life fearing he would get killed if he didn't "give it [the gun] to the person who paid for it."

The police report concludes that the firearm is categorized as a "ghost gun" and charges are being referred to the prosecutor for RCW 9A.10.010, Unlawful Firearms.

**Plumber threatens manager over an invoice**

A call for plumbing ended up with text threats and court orders. The incident happened at the Boys and Girls Club location at 24th Avenue West in Lynnwood.

The maintenance manager of the Boys and Girls club hired a plumber to fix a defective pipe but did not expect to get threats after the work was completed. After completing the job, the plumber texted the manager requesting payment. The manager told him he will be paid after sending an invoice. At this point the plumber began sending threatening text messages demanding payment for his services.

According to the police report, text messages read as follows:

"You bold face liar!!! You told me a month ago the payment was in the mail. I'm coming to the boys and girls office tomorrow. No payment by them, myself and my crew are removing my materials bought and paid for by myself along with the labor I provided.

"Tomorrow (managers name) and if not I'm holding you personally to respond and myself will deal with you accordingly. You understand boy!! This is grown folk sh\*t now since you are taking food out of my kids mouth. Think clearly on your next response (manager's name). Catch you on the flip side!! Promise!!"

According to the police officer who responded to the civil dispute, the manager said that the plumber did not make explicit threats towards him or the Boys and Girls Club, but that he wanted to document the incident.

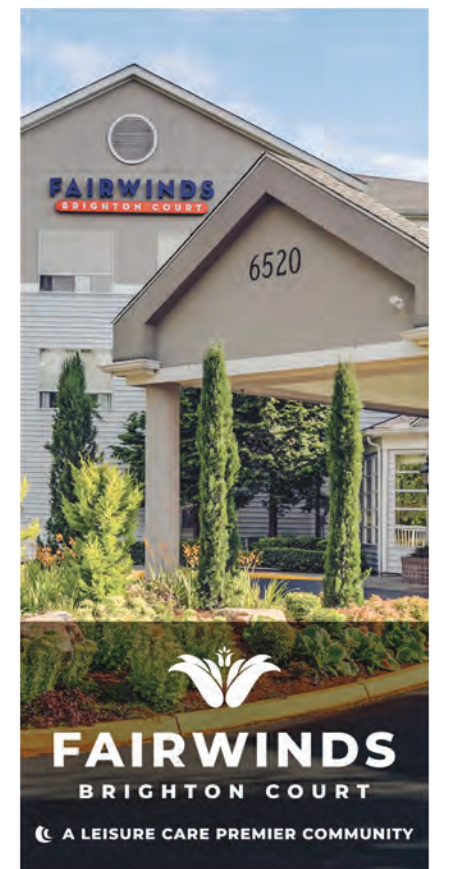
As of now, there is a trespass form filled against the plumber and text messages are being held as evidence.

**Snohomish County Government Facilities Will Reopen to the Public on Tuesday, July 6, 2021**

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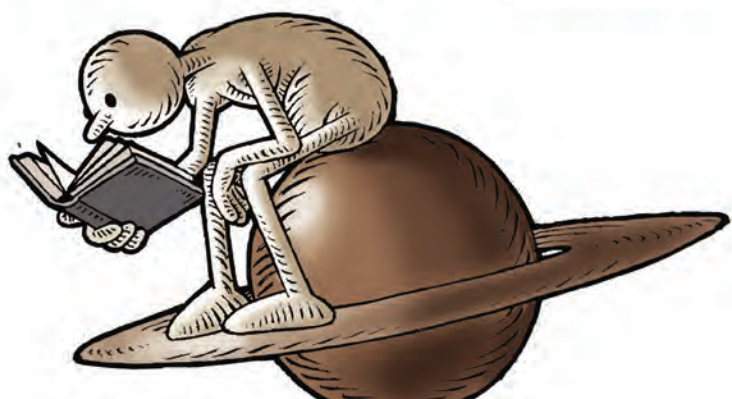
## DR. HORACE SCOPE ASTROLOGICAL TRENDS FOR JULY

### “The Answer Always Lies in the Stars!”

If the end of June brought many kinds of frustrations and delays for you and others, then you’ll be pleased to know that Mercury - recently retrograde - now turns direct in early July. So what better time is there for you now seeking a new direction - a thing that will not only benefit yourself, but will help others too. Specifically...

-  **ARIES:** As the highest expression of the Aries energy is best expressed by initiating new activities, this month will be a great opportunity for you to help others start something new.
-  **TAURUS:** As the highest expression of the Taurus energy is best expressed by being down to earth and steadfast, this month is a time to be a rock upon which others might build.
-  **GEMINI:** As the highest expression of the Gemini energy is best expressed through learning, reading and communicating, July could be a good time to encourage others to share ideas.
-  **CANCER:** As the highest expression of the Cancer energy is best expressed by nurturing or being sensitive towards others, this would be a fine time to reach out to family members.
-  **LEO:** As the highest expression of the Leo energy is best expressed by being loyal or warm to others, July is a time to lead or help others in the direction they are struggling to go.
-  **VIRGO:** As the highest expression of the Virgo energy is best expressed by being helpful or of service to others, now is a good time to be supportive and not critical of others.
-  **LIBRA:** As the highest expression of the Libra energy is best expressed by being balanced and just, this is a good month for you to bring needed harmony to others who are in need.
-  **SCORPIO:** As the highest expression of the Scorpio energy is best expressed by through discipline and strength, this is a good time to fight for the causes of others.
-  **SAGITTARIUS:** As the highest expression of the Sagittarius energy is best expressed by trust or faith, now would be a good time for you to show support to others.
-  **CAPRICORN:** As the highest expression of the Capricorn energy is best expressed by being solid and steadfast, July is a month were you can assist others with your practical guidance.
-  **AQUARIUS:** As the highest expression of the Aquarius energy is best expressed by freedom and individuality, this could be a time for you to help others discover their own true selves.
-  **PISCES:** As the highest expression of the Pisces energy is best expressed by being caring and compassionate, this is a time for you to reach out to the more disadvantaged around you.

- JULY 04 / MOON in TAURUS / INDEPENDENCE DAY:** A Taurus Moon should indicate a calm and mellow day - although too much of a good thing can be bad!
- JULY 06 / VENUS opposition SATURN:** Could be a long hangover from Independence Day still kicking in? A day were feeling cold and unloved might be a factor.
- JULY 08 VENUS square URANUS:** The emotional blues of the 6th could give way to a new excitement in the love department - or a time to independently break free?
- JULY 09 MOON in CANCER.** As the Moon resides in its own sign of Cancer, this is a great day to deal with domestic issues. Cook something special for the one you love!
- JULY 13 / VENUS conjunct MARS in LEO:** The affections and/or passions could be much inflamed today - or perhaps just a day of compromise with the one you love.
- JULY 15 / MOON in LIBRA / VENUS aspects:** Potentially an exciting day for all matters connected with the heart - and/or could be an excitingly creative day instead!
- JULY 17 / MOON in SCORPIO / SUN opposition PLUTO:** “Intensity” may be the word of the day today. Try not to be controlling - or seek to control others.
- JULY 19 / MOON in SAGITTARIUS / SUN trine MOON:** Could be a day to expand the horizons - or bring some philosophical balance to your inner/outer Self.
- JULY 22 / MOON in CAPRICORN / VENUS opposition JUPITER:** A good day to consolidate matters of the heart, or put too much faith in the object of your affections.
- JULY 23 / MOON in AQUARIUS / SUN opposition MOON:** Emotional independence could be a factor today - or simply you’re at odds with yourself in terms of feelings?
- JULY 25 / MOON in PISCES / MERCURY opposition PLUTO:** A very emotionally sensitive day, so be careful of what you say. Your words might come over a little strong.
- JULY 29 / MOON in ARIES / MARS opposition JUPITER:** Definitely a day to want to move on. Just don’t be overconfident in your own powers of action however.



## Zieve kicks off his “Keep Mukilteo a Small Town” campaign



Peter Zieve addressing Mukilteo residents at the Friends of Abe picnic on June 19 at Mukilteo Lighthouse Park.

MUKILTEO, Wash.—Peter Zieve hosted his campaign kick-off for Mukilteo City Council on Sunday, June 27th 6-8 p.m. at his home in Mukilteo. It was one of the hottest days of the year with temperatures reaching 95 degrees in Mukilteo.

When asked why host the kick-off campaign inviting the entire city to his home, Zieve told the Lynnwood Times, “I am a community man with an open-door policy. I run my business that way and I will continue that commitment when elected to the council.”

Zieve’s campaign slogan is “Keep Mukilteo a Small Town.” His campaign platform is opposing to the Housing Action Policy (HAP), preserving Mukilteo’s quality of life and promoting home-town values.

Zieve is fundamentally against the decriminalization of sex work and defunding police.

The family man and decades-long businessman shared with attendees why he is the best choice to represent the priorities of residents. Zieve criticized what he called a “smoke-and-mirror show” in what his opponent proposed in making the motion to approve the HAP and aired concerns on the methods used to silence the other council members.

“We need a return to transparency and accountability,” Zieve said.

Zieve continued, that his opponent’s HAP vote prioritizes constructing high-density housing over single-family residences; a direct threat to the small-town vision laid out in the current City’s Comprehensive Plan – the document which lays out a city’s future growth and development efforts.

Zieve defined a small town as a community where residents have space to park their vehicles unlike the congestion of big cities, pedestrians utilize bike lanes free of parked cars lining the roads, and a safe community where neighbors know one another.

“Living in a small town means we know and care about each other,” Zieve said.

The Zieve family moved to Mukilteo in 2007. His daughter is a Kamiak high school graduate class of 2011 and his sons attend Harbour Pointe Middle School and Columbia Elementary. He is a supporter of local causes and establishments like the YMCA, Boys and Girls Club of Mukilteo, Camp Solomon Schechter and the Electroimpact Youth Robotics camp.

Zieve has donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to local schools, families, and charities as a Mukilteo resident. According to his campaign Facebook account, over two hundred Kamiak kids have gained on-the-job experience through Electroimpact’s internship program and full college tuition paid to a dozen Kamiak graduates.

Chris Beemus, a six-year Mukilteo resident, said that he supports Zieve and is “on-board” with most, if not all, of his campaign platform.

“Peter’s pledge to keep Mukilteo small and reject the HAP’s high-density housing is what attracts me to his campaign,” Beemus said.

The three-time Mukilteo City Council candidate founded his aerospace company Electroimpact in July 1986 after receiving a Ph.D. from the University of Washington (UW) in Mechanical Engineering.

Electroimpact’s initial task was to commercialize Low Voltage Electromagnetic Riveting technology he invented in his UW doctoral research. Now, Electroimpact manufactures equipment to help companies such as Boeing and Airbus make airliners.

During the pandemic, Zieve repurposed Electroimpact’s manufacturing capabilities by providing thousands of healthcare workers across the globe face shields and personal protective equipment saving countless lives.

Sisay Desalegn, an Ethiopian Mukilteo resident said that Zieve is a personal friend who has always been there for him. He supports Zieve because he believes Zieve would accomplish “a



CITY OF SNOHOMISH, Wash. – Over 100 packed SnoTown Brewery, Tuesday, June 29 for the campaign kick-off of Mayor John Kartak in his re-election bid for the City of Snohomish’s chief executive.

Kartak was born in Seattle at the former Northgate Hospital and was raised on a farm just across the valley from Snohomish. He moved to Snohomish proper in 1996 where he raised five sons and has seven grandchildren.

Snohomish is a politically purple community with varying faiths and beliefs, Kartak said at his campaign kick-off event. Although they differ in opinions, the people of Snohomish value one another as a community.

“This is a community where everyone knows their next-door neighbors,” Kartak said. “We think about them not as someone with different beliefs, but as our neighbors first.”

Kartak’s campaign platform is protecting small-town values, keeping Seattle politics out of Snohomish, and focusing on the core duties of city government.

Kartak is a 32-year General Contractor as part owner and Operations Manager of AAA Kartak Glass & Closet. In the 1990s Kartak helped form Cutting Edge Windows, LLC where he served as part owner and General Manager up until being sworn in as Mayor of Snohomish in 2017.

SnoTown Brewery is owned by Keri Jensen and Frank Sandoval. Sandoval is a fourth-generation Snohomish resident and supports Kartak because he saw him putting in the work as mayor from the very start.

“He wore blue jeans and had a tape measure on his belt walking around town in the early mornings taking measurements to ensure local legislation will work out and be what’s best for the city,” Sandoval said.



**JOHN KARTAK CAMPAIGN KICK-OFF**

Originally, Jensen “wasn’t a fan” of Kartak. But when Kartak visited SnoTown to get to know her and Sandoval, she learned that Kartak supports local businesses and the community.

“He is good for the people, small businesses, and us,” Jensen said. “John Kartak all the way.”

Thus when Kartak needed a place to host his campaign kickoff, Jensen and Sandoval “gladly offered” their hometown venue, SnoTown Brewery.

According to his campaign website, Kartak is a board member on Snohomish County Tomorrow, the U.S. Navy League (Lake Washington & Everett Council), Sons of the American Legion Post 96, and Vice President of the Snohomish Kla-Ha-Ya Days festival organization. He is also a member of the Snohomish County Farm Bureau, Snohomish Kiwanis, Garden City Grange, and Snohomish Sportsmen’s Club.

Jason Rask and his family and friends cooked the evening’s feast which included coleslaw, cornbread,

a special Rask family recipe chili, and 100 pounds of pulled pork which took 16 hours to cook. “I just like people being happy when they eat my food,” Rask said.

Snohomish residents Marli and Jim Andre are voting for Kartak praising his accessibility, with Jim noting that he has been able to speak with Kartak “half a dozen times” during his term despite never having talked to a mayor in his life.

“It’s a pleasure to speak to a mayor who is interested in hearing what the community has to say,” Jim Andre said. “I feel that everyone has a seat at the table with John.”

For more information on John Kartak and to support his campaign of staying as Snohomish’s mayor, visit his website <https://www.yeskartak.com/> or his Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/YESMayorKartak>.

SnoTown Brewery is located on 511 2nd Street in Snohomish.

from page 2 **TRANSPORTATION**

“An added benefit to this transportation package is it really helps improve the environment,” Hobbs told the Lynnwood Times.

With the passing of Senator Reuven Carlyle’s cap and invest program, State Bill 5126, which passed the Senate in April and aims to decarbonize energy sources, a large portion of Forward Washington’s funding has already been passed according to Hobbs.

“Out of the \$17 billion, \$5.2 billion has already been passed because of the cap and invest bill,” Hobbs told the Lynnwood Times.

Hobbs continues to work on his infrastructure plan, but is waiting on some approvals from the Federal Government and legislatures. He aims to have a special session in October or November.

“I think we got an 80% solution, but we have to see what the feds are going to do. Seeing what they’re going to give us in funding will modify our infrastructure plan,” Hobbs told the Lynnwood Times.

Hobbs communicates quite regularly with Rick Larsen’s office, subcommittee chair in the U.S. House of Transportation, which he says has been a great benefit to the package’s progress. While it is important to Hobbs to talk to many legislatures to create a plan that works for everyone, some remain critical.

Mark Harmsworth, prior Mill Creek City Council member and two-term House of Representatives transporta-

tion chair, believes Hobbs’ transportation package focuses too much on public transit and not enough on alleviating road congestion.

“I don’t believe that the increases they put through were necessary. Those monies are going to force up the price of gas, estimates are up to fifty-six cents per gallon over the next ten years or so,” Harmsworth said.

Forward Washington counts on a 9.8 cent gas tax as well as a statewide transportation benefit assessment, a shift of the car sales and use tax on EVs/Hybrids (starting in 2026), and other vehicle and licensing fees according to Senate Democrats.

“My goal is really to have something that appeals to both sides of the aisle and across the state. I think it’s important to have a broad range of support,” Hobbs said.

Harmsworth believes the funding is not being spent wisely. Over the last 20 years, he said, the state has shifted from spending money on roads, which represents 96% of trips taken in Washington State.

“We used to spend 65% of our transportation dollars on fixing roads, now we’re spending 65% of our transportation funds on transit and transit only represents about 4% of trips taken in the state,” Harmsworth said.

According to Harmsworth the state should allocate transportation funds proportionally to types of trips taken. He does not believe spending more money on transit encourages commuters to use alternative modes of transportation because the majority of those

who use public transit cannot afford to drive a car.

Additionally, the Puget Sound area does not have the density of housing and population, according to Harmsworth, to support the types of transit that are being built such as trains, which are a “19th century mode of transportation”.

“A train is fixed. We don’t know what that commute path is going to look like in 30 years but bus rapid transit, if a route isn’t being used, you can move the bus somewhere else without having to rebuild the infrastructure,” Harmsworth said.

Harmsworth is working on his own transportation plan that focuses on congestion relief rather than trip reduction.

Mobility 21, a project developed by Bellevue real estate developer Kemper Freeman, released a plan back in April that would focus on bus rapid transit in Bellevue, which Harmsworth notes is “much more flexible from a transit perspective.”

Harmsworth has been working on his plan for a while but has no word on when it will be ready to publish.

More recently, Hobbs supported a transportation biennium budget proposal that was enacted May 18 with a partial veto by Gov. Jay Inslee for including funding and certain sections that were in conflict with other statutes, past vetoes, and the state ferry system.

In a letter by the governor, sent May 18, his decisions for the veto were as follows:

“Gov. Inslee stated that section 205,

which directs the Transportation Commission to evaluate and identify activities funded in the transportation budget that might be paid for using other revenue sources, provided no funding to support this work. For this reason it was vetoed.”

“Section 220: Gov. Inslee noted that the sentence “Fuel type may not be a factor in the grant selection process” is a ‘nondollar proviso’ that is in conflict with the statutory mandates in RCW 47.66.040 and 47.66.030 that direct WSDOT to consider energy efficiency issues and federal and state air quality requirements in selecting programs and projects as well as impairs the transition to zero emission vehicles plan articulated in RCW 43.19.648.”

“Governor Inslee vetoed Section 309, which provides the appropriation authority for the Washington State Ferries construction program, noting the section “No funds appropriated in this act or additional funds received through the unanticipated receipt process may be allocated or expended for terminal electrification purposes this biennium,” could result in the Department of Transportation foregoing opportunities to pursue funding for terminal electrification and charging, which would act against the needs of the ferries program.”

“The Governor vetoed section 920, which states “Fuel type may not be a factor in the grant selection process,” because it would reinstate a previously vetoed sentence in section 220.”

The portions of SB 5165 that were enacted and put into effect set budgets for transportation in Washington from May 2020 to June 30, 2023.



from page 1 **CLASS OF 2021**

Councilman Nehring proposed allocating American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for the hazard pay compensation to avoid mandates on private business, but council members Dunn and Mead disagreed believing these funds are needed elsewhere.

“From my perspective, when we talk about hazard pay, we have a really difficult time understanding the desire to slap down mandates on private businesses given the fact that congress has sent the county over \$160 million for COVID-related purposes like this,” Nehring said.

Low voiced concerned that employers will pass the expense to consumers.

“As the only council member who has run a profitable business, understand how businesses operate, and how profit and loss statements work... I do believe these grocery stores need to take care of their employees and they need to make sure they're safe and fairly compensated,” said Low.

He continued, “Profit margins are not very high in the retail grocery business. This ordinance will raise grocery prices, and this will lead to hours of employees being cut to make up the difference.”

Because County Executive Director Ken Klein seemed to have no answers to the council's questions regarding what stores would be impacted, Low made a motion to extend the vote for two weeks which did not pass.

Low added that there has been no discussion to include relief for nurses and medical professions who have also been on the front-line of the pandemic since January of last year. He also criticized the failure to include in the ordinance retailers and pharmacists who were deemed “essential” by the

state.

Low's motion was seconded by Councilman Nehring but failed 2-3.

“I really think this is punishment to businesses and not hazard pay,” Low added.

According to Forbes article, Walmart Revenue Hits \$559 Billion for Fiscal Year 2020, Walmart retained its spot as the largest retailer in the United States. In its 2020 Annual Report, Walmart reported a net income of \$14.9 billion, or an increase of 223%, when compared to 2019. However, based on the criteria laid out in the ordinance, Walmart employees may not qualify for the county-mandated hazard pay.

Amazon, which owns Whole Foods grocery store, reported a 224% increase in net income, or \$8.1 billion, for the first quarter of 2021 when compared to the same period last year. Overall, Amazon delivered a record performance in 2020 with net income soaring to \$21.3 billion or 84%.

**Hazard Pay Public Testimony**

Out of around 10 public comments, Wendy, a Snohomish County Albertson's employee of 26 years, was one of two in favor.

“My ability to care for my elderly parents who need me every day has also been put on hold,” Wendy said. “Meanwhile the company I work for has tripled their profits because we, as grocery workers, have continued to work to make sure that our community has been fed.”

Wendy worked full-time throughout the pandemic. She has been quarantined twice due to COVID exposure from work which has not only affected her work-life, but also her family-life as well.

“Time is a treasure to me. Throughout

COVID I've been unable to have regular interactions with them because of my job as a grocery worker, which has not only been heart-wrenching for me but also for them,” Wendy continued.

Holly Chisa of the NW Grocery Association noted the ordinance only targets grocery retailers who have collective bargaining agreement (union contracts). Walmart, Home Depot, Target, CVS Pharmacies, all of whom were open during the pandemic would not be affected by the ordinance.

“We one hundred percent agree that our employees are heroes...the problem we have with this ordinance is the council is making the decision to intervene a year plus into the pandemic and a union contract, but you are not affecting non-union retailers. We ask you please to put this ordinance down and not move forward,” Chisa said.

Debbie Gaff from the Local 38 Chapter of the Teamsters, who is in favor of the ordinance, shared with the council the number of grocery store workers who became infected with or died from COVID.

“Since March first of this year, at least 41,700 grocery store workers had been infected or exposed and 184 grocery store workers have died,” said Gaff.

Jeffery Temple, Fred Meyer Director for Corporate Affairs, stated that grocery store workers had the lowest rate of transmission of any business and felt that the County should be focused on vaccination and not corporate profits.

“Our company disagrees with these kinds of ordinances that truly pick winners or losers in the workforce. The average wage for workers in the area is over twenty dollars an hour and with benefits is over thirty dollars an hour,” Temple said.

He continued, “Our collective goal

should be to focus on vaccines and not imposing measures that sidestep bargaining agreements and put the workforce in a position of choosing extra pay over getting vaccinated.”

Cincinnati-based Kroger, which owns Fred Meyer and QFC stores, saw a 22% increase in net earnings for 2020 or \$2.8 billion. Albertsons, who also owns Safeway grocery stores, reported a net income in 2020 of \$850.2 million, up 82% from 2019.

“I think it's misinformation to say this will raise the cost of goods, because the cost of goods are not necessarily based on what they're paying their employees,” Councilwoman Dunn responded. “We were very clear that they did raise their hazard pay last year and this year, and they did not raise their prices.”

**Hazard Pay Ordinance Background**

Snohomish County received \$147 million in Federal CARES dollars, in 2020, to respond to the county's COVID needs. This year, the county was granted an additional \$160 million in federal American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) dollars that, if voted in favor by the council, will be allocated to this effort.

Snohomish County Executive Dave Somers proposed the ordinance to the Snohomish County Council, June 8, to provide supplemental pay to public-facing employees working through the pandemic in unincorporated Snohomish County.

“Our frontline workforce has been putting themselves at significant personal risk for the last 17 months providing ready access to food, shelter, safety, and other essential government services,” said Somers.

from page 4 **HAP**

of our rules and procedures, we will accomplish great things,” Champion said.

HAP Motion Recap and Meeting Minutes Challenged  
Champion contested the accuracy of the minutes for the last council meeting held June 7, that read, “Councilmembers continued discussion on aspects of the proposed HAP (or Housing Action Plan).”

During the June 7 meeting, Councilman Louis Harris was the first councilmember to be given the floor by Mayor Jennifer Gregerson after calling for council discussion on the HAP. Just earlier the council heard about an hour of public comments, predominantly against adopting the HAP resolution.

Harris made a motion to adopt a modified version of the HAP – changes to the Comprehensive Plan language, educate the public about programs to assist residents to stay in their homes, and improve senior housing actions. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Elisabeth Crawford.

“If you listen to the tapes, it went immediately to motion, so council did not have the chance to discuss all of the elements of the business item that was placed before them. Before they

had to go to a discussion on the motion that was made,” said Champion, who requested that line be struck from the records.

Mayor Jennifer Gregerson agreed with Champion, that councilman Louis Harris put forth the motion to vote before the council had the opportunity to discuss it and that the line in the records would be removed. There was no opposition from the rest of the council.

Other Council Business  
The council was then joined by City Administrator Powers who led a discussion on the rules and next steps in funding working towards a list of upcoming projects.

Other topics discussed during the meeting were:

- Local currency, such as a “Muk Bucks” option
- IT infrastructure and digital transformation of City operations
- City operations and communications
- Economic development, tourism, and business support
- Replace lost revenue, such as General Fund (including Recreation), Streets Fund, Lodging Tax

from page 14 **ZIEVE**

great deal” for the community.

“He really cares for Mukilteo, is involved with Mukilteo community life, and makes an effort to reach out to oth-

from page 6 **MS. WROLSTAD**

good job and she told me, ‘You need to think about that.’ You know, I really thought about it. I quit my full-time job, went back to school, became a teacher and never regretted it. I still apply to this day things that I learned from her,” said Ms. Krusenstjerna.

She continued, “She used to do this special thing with the kids where they would bring their stuffed animals and leave them in the classroom overnight and the next day when they came back in class it would look like they had a party. The kids would go, ‘Wow they had a party last night here,’ remembered Krusenstjerna, whose daughter was one of the students taught by Ms. Wrolstad.

If you ask her colleagues, Wrolstad is known for abilities beyond teaching. Her passion for gardening is not a secret at Beverly Elementary. She contributed to school grounds, where she started the Beverly Garden. After relaxing a little bit, she will dedicate

ers,” he said.

For more information on Peter Zieve and to support his campaign of becoming Mukilteo's newest city councilman, visit his website <https://peterzieve.net/>.

some time to gardening. Our question is what she has in her plans? She answered jokingly, “I have to figure out what I want to be when I grow up,” and she continued, “I will relax for a little bit and then get involved with some voluntary work.”

Cathi Wrolstad started teaching at Beverly Elementary School in 1985 and during her career she taught more than 900 kids. A fun fact about her is that her brother is the well-known NFL referee, Craig Wrolstad. Her colleagues unanimously stated that she was the first one to arrive and the last to leave and she will be missed in the classrooms where she taught.

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