

LYNNWOOD TIMES



Lynnwood unveils new sign honoring veterans
P.04



Washington cities reconsider Russian Sister City relationships
P.08



Tom Jordal appointed to Port of Everett Redevelopment Group
P.05

Real News ⚡
Real Impact

Red Cross NW volunteer, Deb Phelps, is just one of many who save lives nationally

By KIENAN BRISCOE

EVERETT, Wash. - Deb Phelps got a call from the Red Cross NW on a Monday morning last fall, informing her she was needed in Reno, Nevada, to assist evacuees fleeing California wildfires. She departed within 24 hours.

When she arrived in Nevada the next morning, Phelps entered the Reno Convention Center, which had been converted into a mega-shelter amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, servicing 300-400 evacuees who were driven further and further east by what the state of California deemed “unprecedented fire conditions.”

The 2021 wildfire season in California experienced an unusually early start amidst an ongoing drought and historically low rainfall and reservoir levels. By January 2021 alone, 297 fires burned 1,171 acres on nonfederal land, almost triple the number of fires and more than 20 times the acreage of the five-year average for January.

Phelps keeps a bag packed at all times in anticipation for calls like these as a Disaster Health Service co-lead volunteer for the Red Cross Northwest and has every day since joining in 2017, after hearing of the California wildfires from her daughter. Within one year of that conversation, Phelps “dropped everything,” including her career as a nurse, to help any way she could.



Continued PAGE 10 >>

Red Cross NW volunteer, Deb Phelps. Source: Deb Phelps.

Nat'l inflation jumps to 40-year high at 7.9% in Feb, Seattle area at 8.1%

By MARIO LOTMORE

WASHINGTON D.C. - The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics announced on March 10, that consumer inflation rose by another 0.8 percent in February after rising 0.6 percent in January, bringing national inflation to 7.9 percent over the last 12 months — the highest jump since January 1982. Inflation of food is the highest it has been since July 1981.

Increases in gasoline, shelter, and food were the largest contributors to the increase. Gasoline rose 6.6 percent in February and accounted for almost a third of all the items monthly increase. Food rose 1.0 percent as the food at home index rose 1.4 percent; both were the largest monthly increases since April 2020.

The 12-month increase has been steadily rising and is now the largest since the period ending January 1982. The all items less food and energy index rose 6.4 percent, the largest 12-month change since the period ending August 1982. The energy index rose 25.6 percent over the last year, and the food index increased 7.9 percent,

Continued PAGE 4 >>

Snohomish County Council honors Judge Cassandra Lopez-Shaw's legacy

By MARIO LOTMORE



Snohomish County Judge Cassandra Lopez-Shaw

SNOHOMISH COUNTY, Wash.—During its Administrative Session on February 28, the Snohomish County Council unanimously passed Resolution 22-010 honoring the life and legacy of Judge Cassandra Lopez-Shaw.

The resolution, introduced by Council Vice Chair Jared Mead (District 4) and seconded by Councilwoman Stephanie Wright (District 3) reads:

WHEREAS, the Snohomish County Council joins the family, friends, and colleagues of the Honorable Cassandra Lopez-Shaw to honor her life, legacy, and commitment

to public service; and

WHEREAS, at the age of eight, she and her family came to the United States, and she grew up in the suburbs of Los Angeles. She then attended the University of Washington where she graduated with honors before earning her Juris Doctor from Loyola Law School; and

WHEREAS, Judge Lopez-Shaw's commitment to vulnerable populations was unwavering. She provided extensive volunteer time in educational settings for young people, especially children from disadvantaged communities. She routinely volunteered

with the YMCA Mock Trial Program, Bothell Youth Court, and in classrooms in public schools across Snohomish County; and

WHEREAS, her commitment to public service led to over 200 hours per year of pro bono work within the community, and recognitions and awards including the Domestic Violence Advocacy Award for her work with domestic violence victims; and

WHEREAS, Judge Lopez-Shaw's 17-year legal career spanned across public defense, private practice, and most recently she was elected as Snohomish County's first Lat-

Continued PAGE 2 >>

Garden Senior Village

6425 196th St. S.W., Lynnwood

NOW LEASING AFFORDABLE ONE & TWO BEDROOMS...CALL 425-775-0881

An affordable 55+ community with all the conveniences for the Lynnwood lifestyle!

Enjoy dining, shopping, three grocery stores, salons, gyms, and more within a 10 minute walk!



President Biden signs \$1.5 trillion omnibus spending package with millions earmarked for local projects



President Joe Biden

By MARIO LOTMORE

WASHINGTON D.C.— On the evening of March 10, on a bi-partisan 68-31 vote, the U.S. Senate passed the \$1.5 trillion omnibus spending package for fiscal year 2022. The bipartisan package funds the government through September 2022, invests in Northwest Washington communities, and provides \$13.6 billion in emergency aid to Ukraine.

U.S. Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), a senior member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, released the following statement on the passage of the spending package which President Joe Biden signed into law on Saturday, according to the White House.

“My job is making sure that Washington state’s priorities are the federal government’s priorities, so whether that’s getting more money for childcare and Pell Grants, or making sure the federal government is living up to its obligations to the Hanford community—that’s what I’m going to keep fighting for every single day in the other Washington,” said Senator Murray.

She was most proud that the package includes:

- A 2.7% raise for Washington state servicemembers.
- Funding to Washington state public schools
- Historic funding for Head Start Programs and a \$400 annual increase in the maximum Pell Grant for students.
- A reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act that includes Senator Murray’s Survivors’ Access to Supportive Care Act.
- \$2.595 billion for the cleanup of the Hanford site—notably, this is \$128 million above the President’s Budget Request.
- Funding for projects greenlit by the Bipartisan Infrastructure law to create jobs in Washington state.

According to the press release, Senator

Murray secured more than \$113 million in direct funding for local community projects throughout Washington state.

HOUSE PASSAGE OF THE OMNIBUS SPENDING PACKAGE

On Wednesday, the U.S. House passed the omnibus spending package with two separate votes. The first vote included \$782 billion in funding for the Pentagon, Department of Homeland Security and other national security priorities which passed with a 361-69 vote. The second vote, 260-171, adopted \$730 billion in provisions related to domestic programs.

The House used a process known as “dividing the question” to hold two votes on the 1.5 trillion omnibus spending package, but the separate passed pieces were joined into a single package when the measure was sent to the Senate.

“My priority in shaping spending bills is to invest in local communities to create well-paying jobs and provide vital services in Northwest Washington,” said Larsen. “This spending bill makes those critical investments while also supporting a sovereign and independent Ukraine, reauthorizing protections for victims of

domestic violence and sexual assault, lowering costs for working families, protecting Washington’s environment and investing in vital infrastructure.”

Congressman Larsen secured \$10,662,665 for ten Second District projects local leaders and stakeholders identified as critical to their communities:

- \$2,000,000 for Phase II construction of Compass Health’s advanced facility for Intensive Behavioral Health Services in Everett. The five-story, 82,000 square foot building will accommodate a range of integrated emergency and preventive outpatient behavioral health care services.
- \$2,000,000 for the City of Mountlake Terrace’s transit connection project. The City will construct a pedestrian plaza adjacent to the new light rail station and lighted, paved pedestrian trails through Veterans Memorial Park.
- \$2,000,000 for construction of Unity Care NW’s The Way Station in Bellingham. The Way Station will provide medical respite, a hygiene center, health care, long-term housing supports and case management for individuals and

Continued PAGE 09 >>

from page 1 LOPEZ-SHAW

inx Superior Court Judge; and

WHEREAS, she will forever be remembered by her commitment to fair representation for disadvantaged populations. A fluent Spanish speaker, she would conduct court in Spanish for people who primarily spoke Spanish as their first language. She also was a constant and compassionate advocate for people without financial means to access fair representation; and

WHEREAS, she will be missed by many colleagues in Snohomish County who appreciated her thoughtfulness, kindness, generosity, and human lovingness – both in and out of the courtroom;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT, RESOLVED, we encourage the people of Snohomish County to honor Judge Lopez-Shaw’s memory and commitment to public service by volunteering or donating to their favorite organization, such as her favorites the Snohomish County Legal Services and the YMCA;

BE IT FURTHER, RESOLVED, since Judge Lopez-Shaw was the first Latina judge in Snohomish County and “you can’t be what you can’t see,” we encourage all young women, especially young women of color, to never give up on their dreams and know you can be whatever you want to be.

COUNCILMEMBERS AND THE PUBLIC COMMENTS

Judge Anna Alexander and Judge Lopez-Shaw were friends outside of the courtroom.

“On behalf of all the judges on the Superior Court Bench, all our court staff, I would like to thank the County Council for such a thoughtful gesture,” judge Alexander said during today’s meeting. “We hope that, although she is no longer with us, her passion for a more just and inclusive and humane community continues through all of our collective work in her honor.”

Judge Alexander read a statement from the Chief Justice of the Washington

State Supreme Court, Steve Gonzales. Chief Justice Gonzales performed the swearing in of Judge Lopez-Shaw.

“Judge Lopez-Shaw served our community with her natural kindness, empathy, bravery and strength,” wrote Chief Justice Gonzales. “She reminded each and every judge on the bench that every decision we make, even seemingly the smallest ones, can have lifetime effects on countless people and that each decision must be made with humanity as the guiding principle.”

Prior to approving the resolution, Council Chair Megan Dunn shared her sympathy to the family on the passing of judge Lopez-Shaw. “I wish we can

offer more than words at this point. I am hopeful that our resolution does bring some hope to the family and her peers.”

Councilman Sam Low added, “Judge Lopez-Shaw was such a great leader in our community. I remember during her campaign meeting with her, and having pizza together at Brooklyn Brothers Pizza, and just what an engaging person she is and how much she cares for her family and for her community. As council Chair Dunn said, these are just words and I wish we can do more.”

He ended saying, “We are thankful for the time that we had her, and how much we learned from her.”

Support Local Be a Subscriber!

For just \$72/year, not only will you have the paper delivered to your home Subscribe now at www.lynnwoodtimes.com/support-us or fill out this form and return with check.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

If paying by check, return this completed form with your check to: Lynnwood Times, 12918 Mukilteo Speedway C23, PMB-162, Lynnwood WA 98087.

LYNNWOOD TIMES

CONTACT INFORMATION

<p>PUBLISHER Mario Lotmore publisher@lynnwoodtimes.com</p> <p>MARKETING SPECIALIST Michele Mitsuchi-Stork sales@lynnwoodtimes.com</p> <p>REPORTERS Kienan Briscoe kienan.briscoe@lynnwoodtimes.com</p>	<p>Bo John Brusco bo.brusco@lynnwoodtimes.com</p> <p>George Ftikas Jr. george.ftikasjr@lynnwoodtimes.com</p> <p>Olivia Thiessen olivia.thiessen@lynnwoodtimes.com</p> <p>Gerti Katro gerti.katro@lynnwoodtimes.com</p>
---	--

LYNNWOOD TIMES

12918 Mukilteo Speedway C23, PMB-162 Lynnwood, WA 98087
P: 425-308-8371 | Website: Lynnwoodtimes.com | Subscription: \$96/Year
(Mail Checks Payable to Lynnwood Times at above address)

Lynnwood approves grant application for recreation and conservation

By KIENAN BRISCOE

LYNNWOOD, Wash. – At its Business Meeting, Monday, March 15, the Lynnwood City Council approved an application for grant funding assistance, and discussed the following items: police body cams, virtual council meeting rules, and a Harris Ford development agreement. This was their first in-person meeting of 2022.

The council authorized applications for grant funding assistance to the Recreation and Conservation Office as provided in Chapter 79.A.15 RCW, acquisition of Habitat Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Lands. Council President George Hurst introduced the motion to approve, which was seconded by Councilman Joshua Binda.

This resolution was to allow the city to apply on behalf of its four capital projects, as part of its PARC plan, to secure grant funding. The grant discussion (if awarded) would come during Capital Budget talks at a later date.

The PARC plan is a 6-year list of park capital facilities in the Capital Facilities Plan which includes: Town Square Park acquisition, Strategic Park Acquisition, Scriber Lake Boardwalk Trail, and Scriber Creek Trail Improvements. Every two years the city applies for grants to the state's Recreation and Conservation Office.

POLICE BODY CAMS

The next item was a fee schedule update on body worn video disclosure actual costs led by Deputy of Police Chuck Steichen, and City Clerk Karen Fitzhum. The discussion was the first of three planned discussions on the subject.

In January of 2022 the Lynnwood PD implemented a Body Worn Camera (BWC) program. Officers within the Bureau of Field Operations, as well as members of the city's Community

Health and Safety Section, wear body cameras and capture recordings that are public records and subject to the Washington State Public Records Act (PRA), Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 42.56.

As explained by the Chief of Police during yesterday's meeting, the cost and work involved in reviewing and redacting audio and/or video can be substantive, and the Lynnwood Police Department is proposing the imposition of a fee for certain requestors for the reasonable costs of redacting audio/video footage prior to disclosure to support this work.

In two weeks, there will be a public hearing and two weeks after that (April 11), an ordinance will be recommended for adoption by council.

VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE RULES

At council's last work session there was some discussion regarding virtual attendance and placing a limit on the amount of times council members can remote in.

Council President Hurst moved to make the amendments to the Council Rule 20, Other General Provision, regarding attendance with the added paragraph:

"In person council meetings are the preferred method of council member attendance. Remote attendance should be used on a limited basis. Due to security concerns attendance for Executive Sessions are limited attendance only. Remote attendance will not be allowed for Executive Sessions."

President Hurst's motion failed without a second. After some debate on parliamentary procedure between Councilman Jim Smith and Mayor Christine Frizzell, Councilwoman Shannon Sessions reintroduced a motion that amended Council President

Continued **PAGE 08** >>

Update to 17-year-old teen attacked at Alderwood Mall

LYNNWOOD, Wash. – Last month Lynnwood Detectives investigated an attack of a 17-year-old Snohomish teen that left him in critical condition at Harbourview Medical Center in Seattle.

The attack took place Sunday, February 6, before 7 o'clock near the south Alderwood Mall parking garage when the victim, accompanied with two family members, was approached in the parking garage area by a group of young adults – four males and a female. A fight then ensued which left the 17-year-old victim with grave injuries.

Two days later, thanks to mall security footage, the suspects were identified

and questioned by Detective Jaqueline Arnett, as well as the 17-year old boy who told Lynnwood Police that he didn't remember anything about the fight.

The investigation has since been closed and ruled as a "mutual combatant situation," according to Joanna Smalls, Public Affairs and Communications Manager, and neither party was charged.

"If it is too difficult to prove who started the fight or that the teens injuries were a direct result of what happened during the fight," Smalls told the Lynnwood Times.



We get bodies moving and faces smiling.

At Fairwinds – Brighton Court, we believe an active life is a happier life. That's why we offer PrimeFit Wellness™, a personalized fitness program to help every resident maximize their mobility and physical health. And we have on-site physical therapy available every day, too. All in the safest environment possible.

Welcome home. Welcome to [FairwindsBrightonCourt.com](https://www.fairwindsbrightoncourt.com)



6520 - 196th St SW | Lynnwood, WA
(425) 329-6510 | [FairwindsBrightonCourt.com](https://www.fairwindsbrightoncourt.com)

Hope Grows Where Light is Given: Unveiling Muradyan's Seed of Hope at Esperance Park



Artist Tsovinar Muradyan standing beside her sculpture, "Seed of Hope."

By KIENAN BRISCOE

EDMONDS, Wash. – Esperance in French means “hope,” so it was only appropriate that the sun was shining and mask mandates were lifted Saturday, March 12, when Tsovinar Muradyan unveiled her latest art installation, Hope Grows Where Light is Given, at Edmond’s Esperance Park.

After a few words shared by Conservation and Natural Resources Director Tom Teigen, Vice Chair of the Arts Commission Kate McKenzie, and local artist Tsovinar herself, a green cloth, held by Muradyan and Teigen, uncovered the statue for the first time.

Event’s attendees included elected officials County Council President Meghan Dunn, County Councilwoman Stephanie Wright, and Edmonds City Council President Vivian Olson.

“I think the seed of hope falling on the same day as the mask mandates being lifted. It just feels poetic that this was the day,” Kate McKenzie, Snohomish County Arts Commission said.

Muradyan’s piece stands directly in the center of Esperance Park’s eight-pointed star where morning sun shines through a small portal carved in the stone, illuminating a tiny bronze sprout, and conveying Muradyan’s message of instilling hope in all who pass by.

There were three factors that attracted Tsovinar to the park before applying to the Art Commission for consideration. The first was the name of the park, the second was where the installation would be placed – in the middle of where five pathways intersect. The third was that she “met the sun” during one of her many trips to the park prior to designing her sculpture.

“When I was here I met the sun and the idea came to me that hope is like a seed. So many things need the sun to grow and we as human beings need to grow to move forward, toward the light,” Muradyan told the Lynnwood Times.

A few years ago, Commissioner Keith Garrick, who lives nearby, was taking one of his regular walks through Esperance Park and stopped at the eight-pointed star. He contacted the Parks and Recreation Department and said “there needs to be a piece of art in the middle of this.”

The Arts Commission, who by code holds the ability for art to be installed in any open public space, agreed with Garrick and put out a call for local artists. Before the call even went out, Parks and Recreation, working alongside the Arts Commission, created a scoring mechanism based on what was being envisioned for the space. The applicant’s visions were then applied to

Continued PAGE 05 >>

Lynnwood unveils new sign honoring veterans



By KIENAN BRISCOE

LYNNWOOD, Wash. – City officials and proud veterans gathered near the upcoming Lynnwood Transit Center, Monday, March 7, to witness the unveiling of Lynnwood’s newest sign honoring veterans.

The sign stands near the intersection of 200th and 44th Avenue West and is the first of many soon to be honoring veterans that will be erected along the city’s thoroughfares.

“This is really a symbol that we honor our veterans who have served...I feel proud,” Mayor Christine Frizzell told the Lynnwood Times.

Lynnwood city councilmembers Shannon Sessions, Julieta Altamirano-Crosby, Council Vice President Jim Smith, Council President George Hurst, and former Mayor Nicola Smith were among those who attended the ceremony.

“We are really grateful she could come back,” Councilwoman Sessions said of former Mayor Smith’s attendance. “Really all of this started because of her.”

The former mayor created a Veterans Round Table, almost a decade

Continued PAGE 09 >>

NEW!



READI SPAGHETTI

FAST • ITALIAN • KITCHEN

Grab-a-Bucket

\$13.00

feeds 2-4 people

Please present this coupon at store to receive offer. Online ordering and delivery available





12822 Mukilteo Speedway, Lynnwood, WA

Next to Taco Time

425-212-9866

Mon-Sat 10am-10pm • Sun 12pm-9:30pm

from page 1 INFLATION

the largest 12-month increase since the period ending July 1981.

SEATTLE AREA INFLATION

Consumer inflation data released today for the Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue metropolitan area comprises of King, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties in the State of Washington, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Prices in the Seattle area rose 1.7 percent over the last two month

ending February 2022. Regional Commissioner Chris Rosenlund noted that the February increase was influenced by higher prices for shelter and food.

Over the last 12 months, the Seattle area experienced an 8.1 percent inflation for month ending in February 2022. Food prices increased 9.8 percent. Energy prices jumped 21.9 percent, largely the result of an increase in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy rose 7.0 percent over the last 12 months.

Tom Jordal welcomes community engagement through Port of Everett Redevelopment Group



Mukilteo City Councilman Tom Jordal.

By KIENAN BRISCOE

MUKILTEO, Wash. – Mukilteo Mayor Joe Marine recently recommended Councilman Tom Jordal as council liaison for the Port of Everett Redevelopment Working Group – a partnership between the city of Mukilteo and the Port of Everett to enhance public access to the city’s waterfront.

Councilman Jordal is one of Mukilteo’s newest council members, winning the election for City Council Position 2 last November against Kevin Stoltz. He comes from a background in business, starting his own company,

Skyline Communications in 2001, actualizing a dream of his since he was a child to start his own business.

Mukilteo-based Skyline Communications has since grown to 40 employees acting as one of the Pacific Northwest’s leading low voltage contractors providing businesses with services in telecommunications infrastructure, access control, video surveillance and in-building radio coverage.

Jordal believes his background in electrical engineering and as a business owner translates well into his new role on city council – Fact-based, level-headed, and fiscally responsible. He also learned, through running his own business, how to give everyone perspective in the room to make sure their voice is heard.

“Oftentimes the best ideas are with quiet people, and I think that transitions well into politics. Sometimes the loudest people you have to muffle a little bit, and sometimes you need to raise the voices of the quiet people,” Jordal said.

Danish born but Pacific Northwest raised, growing up in Edmonds, Jordal’s interest in serving on a government body originated from taking his son on a boy scout field trip to a Mukilteo city

council meeting several years ago.

During that meeting, Jordal found himself interested in the decision-making process concerning whether or not to fund a park-and-ride structure on the west side of Paine Field.

“It didn’t seem like some of the city council had done their homework on the subject, and at that point, I was thinking well shoot, I think I could contribute well to the Mukilteo City Council down the road sometime,” Jordal told the Lynnwood Times.

Some of Jordal’s priorities, while running and continuing into his council position, have been the homelessness crises, community engagement, and waterfront redevelopment.

The latter of these, Jordal recently wrote down at a council retreat a couple of weeks ago when council members were asked to document their top priority. This answer, paired with his focus on waterfront redevelopment throughout his candidacy prior to being elected, ultimately led to Mayor Marine’s recommending him to the Port of Everett Redevelopment Group, which is a sort of stakeholder group with the Port, the City, the Tulalip tribe, and citizens, in order to establish some “guiding principles” on what the focus of the

waterfront should be.

“I think the mayor thought I would have a good, balanced, approach to being a liaison for the city council,” Jordal said.

At last week’s city council meeting, there was a bit of contention concerning Mayor Marine’s selection of Jordal without discussion with the rest of the council. Councilman Jordal assured the Lynnwood Times that he hopes to include the city council in the decision-making process as much as possible through updates, and being open to input from both the council and the community at large.

According to Jordal, the Mukilteo waterfront is a trickier waterfront area than most.

“Although the waterfront is a relatively small piece of land, at 26 acres, there is a lot going on there. There’s a big transportation hub with the ferry, the Sounder, of course all of the cars and pedestrians, there are also 11 different property owners including four different government entities: There’s the Tulalip tribe, the city of Mukilteo, Port of Everett, and WSDOT, and another seven or so private property owners,”

Continued **PAGE 10** >>

from page 4 **ESPERANCE PARK**

this criterion until an artist was selected.

According to Jeremy Husby, County Parks and Recreation Division Director, Tsovinar Muradyan was the unanimous choice from the get-go.

“We had concepts that were very well done. There were multiple artists that came out – Tsovinar did eight or twelve concepts for this park and it was really her written word that was extremely inspiring – that she wanted to plant this seed of hope in everybody,” Husby told the Lynnwood Times. “You can be walking by and you feel like it’s just a rock, but if you’re the right person on the right day you catch this experience, that little bit of sunlight and catching that seed, it just sparks that hope in humanity.”

Tsovinar’s sculpture took over a year

to complete and cost around \$15,000 paid for from the county’s 1% For the Arts funds, set aside from county construction projects.

An additional \$700 was paid to Muradyan to recast the sculpture’s base after an incident of vandalism took place after installation.

According to Husby, Tsovinar was a “pleasure to work with” going “above and beyond” to ensure the sculpture was safe and was “very quick” to come back with a stronger alloy piece in order to defend against future vandalism efforts.

Tsovinar Muradyan, an architect by trade, informed the Lynnwood Times that her background in architecture helps tremendously in her artwork because, in architecture, it’s important to consider the composition from different points of view.

During the design of her sculpture Muradyan shared she was going through a “very hard time,” which added an additional, personal, layer to the message of her installment.

“This sculpture and this park is really important to me. It really helps me a lot. It says you need to have hope, you need to move forward, despite what other feelings you have...and people really need it. Light takes us from the darkness, from despair, and this sculpture reminds people that they need to go to that light,” Muradyan said.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Based out of Seattle, Tsovinar Muradyan aims to build art that brings joy, excitement, pleasure and beauty to people’s lives. There are four design lines that she spends her time for developing each one.

Muradyan has had several of her art pieces displayed in art shows including

personal exhibitions in Redmond, WA and downtown Seattle, WA as well as in New Milford, NJ.

Tsovinar’s works are highly valued by art critics and by art professionals and are included in any private collections.

As an architectural designer, she has over 10 years of experience working in the architecture, interior and graphic design industry holding a M.S. in Architecture and a Ph.D. in Sustainable Architecture from National University of Architecture and Construction of Armenia. She has also worked as an Associate Professor, has conducted special courses for post-graduate students on the topic of Green Roofs, Rain Gardens and Pollinator Habitats.

Muradyan is also the author of approximately ten publications and has supervised seminars and made presentations on the subject of Sustainable Architecture.



Getting You There Safely
Welcome aboard — we make safe riding easy

Learn more at communitytransit.org/commutesafely



Mukilteo Council rejects mayor's DEI Commission picks

By KIENAN BRISCOE

MUKILTEO, Wash. – Despite Mukilteo Mayor Joe Marine advancing three candidates for DEI commissioner positions, the city council voted against approving them without any explanation nor asking the candidates, all of whom were present, a single interview question.

At Council's meeting Monday, March 7, Diversity Equity and Inclusion Commission candidates Gauri Sanghvi (for Position 1), Michael Dixon (for Position 2), and Ewa Wheeler (for Position 3), were not approved 2-3 with Council Vice President Elisabeth Crawford and Councilman Tom Jordal voting in favor; Council President Steve Schmalz, councilmembers Louis Harris and Riaz Khan voting no; and council members Jason Moon and Richard Emery abstaining.

Councilman Emery originally voted in favor but changed his vote to an abstention after Councilman Moon decided to do so.

Council President Steve Schmalz moved to approve Marine's selections to fill the Mukilteo DEI Commission vacancies, seconded by Councilman Jordal, but was not passed following a contentious discussion with implications that questioned the decision-making authority of the Mayor.

"I'm not sure exactly what the council wants," Mayor Marine said. "We had six great candidates. I was voted as Mayor and it is the Mayor's prerogative to choose these. I've never had commissioners that you've basically said no to."

Chapter 2.48, section 2.48.010 of the Mukilteo Municipal Code states "there is established a diversity, equity and inclusion commission consisting of seven members to be appointed by the mayor, subject to confirmation by the city council according to the confirmation process established by council resolution, from residents of the city."

Councilman Harris and Council Vice President Crawford, who both serve as council liaisons to the Mukilteo DEI Commission, questioned the mayor's choices making the points that the three candidates who were not chosen to advance were "highly qualified."

Harris questioned the "objectivity and

equality" of the decision making process, since there was no deadline to apply, motioning to reopen the application for an extended 15 days.

"I understand that all of the applicants are great residents of Mukilteo and have done a lot of great work and have a wealth of experience to bring to the DEI commission but I'm a little concerned about the city's process," Harris said.

City Administrator Steve Powers responded to Harris' concerns that boards and commissions typically do not have set cut-off application dates because the city typically leaves it open until positions are filled.

"I hear your interest in having a closing date on the application process, but I think you could think of this from an employment perspective: you often see postings that stay open until filled – that's historically the process that we've use here," Powers said.

Mayor Marine admitted he did not consult with council liaisons Harris and Crawford in the decision to which Council President Schmalz added he would like to see a process that did involve their input. However, this is not a normal procedure nor is required.

Despite all three candidates being present at yesterday's meeting, and Mayor Marine suggesting, at least three times, that council interview them, not a single council member opted to do so.

Council Vice President Crawford stated she would be more interested in talking to the candidates who were not chosen, "based on their qualifications."

"It sounds like a number of you have concerns about my choices," Marine said. "All three of them are here. If you have questions for them specifically, I'm sure they would be more than happy to answer some of your concerns that you may have. But If you have a problem with me or the process then that's different. We've gone through the process like we do any other commissions."

Both council members Jason Moon and Riaz Khan attempted to allow the candidates an opportunity to speak and introduce themselves but was interjected by Councilman Harris who mentioned that Council President Schmalz pulled the item from the consent agenda to be

voted by council separately.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The City received six applications for DEI Commissioner positions, all of who were interviewed by Mayor Marine via zoom.

Out of the six applicants, Mayor Marine decided on the following three to advance:

- **Gauri Sanghvi:** A resident of Mukilteo for a year and 5 months who has several degrees and certifications for financial planning, business, and teaching. She was a teacher in India, a banker in Canada, and has been a broker in Washington State since 2011. Sanghvi is also President of the General Federation of Women's Club, was a founding member of Sahara Group of Indo-Canadian Women and volunteered with Abbotsford Community Service. She has lived in 4 countries, speaks three languages, and is passionate about helping people from all backgrounds succeed in life.
 - **Michael Dixon:** A resident of Mukilteo for 14 years. He owns Dixon Insurance Agency in Mukilteo and has a Bachelor's and Masters of Business Administration from Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He serves on the Mukilteo Water and Wastewater District Commission, and previously served as Commissioner with Alderwood Water and Wastewater District. He also sits on the YMCA Board of Advisors and is part of the newly formed Diversity and Inclusion task force for the board.
 - **Ewa Wheeler:** A resident of Mukilteo for 22 years where she is a businessowner. Ewa was born and raised in Poland and hopes to bring to the table her experience of going through a refugee camp, and in her words, "life changing immigration."
- The applicants not selected were the following:
- **Sandra Holzer:** A seven-year resident of Mukilteo who is a Family Liaison with the Mukilteo School District where she helps to improve communication between parents, schools, and mental health providers. She is a current member of a local school's Equity Team.

- **Irina Kourilenko:** An eight-year resident of Mukilteo who is a teacher in the Mukilteo School District and co-leads her school's Equity Team. She possesses a Doctor of Education from Seattle Pacific University. She is an advocate for Black Lives Matters and states in her application that "educational equity is the intentional allocation of resources, instruction, and opportunities according to need, requiring that discriminatory practices, prejudices, and beliefs be identified and eradicated." Kourilenko listed fellow applicant, Sandra Holzer as a reference.

- **Kevin Lopez-Mohedano:** A resident of three years and eight months, Lopez-Mohedano is a Regional Program Specialist with the US Administration for Children and Families. He possesses a Lean Green Belt from when he worked for Washington state at the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS). He is currently helping to develop policy and training at his employer for DEI.

Council President Steve Schmalz asked the Mayor during yesterday's meeting if there was "anything that stood out between some of the candidates and some of the others."

Mayor Marine responded that the three he picked were based off a "number of things" such as diversity, time spent in the community, and so on.

"I was really quite impressed with not only the number of applications we had but the qualifications and the eagerness of people to get involved," Mayor Marine said.

After last night's meeting, the application will be reopened and the Mayor hopes these same candidates will reapply.

"I just don't think this sends a very good message to our citizens when they apply for positions and get turned down," Mayor Marine said.

The Lynnwood Times reached out to the three candidates for statements on the council's decision yesterday, as well as City Councilmembers. Gauri Sanghvi declined issuing a statement to the Lynnwood Times stating that she was concerned that offering a statement to the press could affect her appointment.

As of the time of publication, Councilman Tom Jordal was the only city councilmember who responded to our request.

"I voted in favor of the three DEI commissioner candidates because they have wide ranging life experiences including unfair discrimination, Councilman Jordal wrote to the Lynnwood Times. "They are all well versed in spreading understanding of the joy of diversity."

EMAIL TO MICHAEL DIXON FROM COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT CRAWFORD

Immediately after the council meeting, an email was sent to Mike Dixon from Council Vice President Crawford requesting a conversation she would like



Happy Hour
1/2 Price Appetizers
3pm-6pm

BUZZ INN
 Steakhouse

For locations
buzzinnsteakhouse.com

Mukilteo candidate responds to City's decision on alleged council appointment violations

By BO JOHN BRUSCO

MUKILTEO, Wash. — Following the allegation that Mukilteo City Council members Louis Harris and Riaz Khan asked Ashvin Sanghvi, a city council vacancy candidate, to declare his political affiliation during a private meeting, a resident requested the city look into the matter and that the councilmen give an on-the-record response if the allegations were substantiated.

During the Feb. 22 City Council meeting, the city concluded that additional action was not warranted because the Washington State laws (RCW 29A.52.231 and 29A.84.720) that the resident suggested might have been violated only applied to elections, not appointment processes.

Ashvin Sanghvi informed the Lynnwood Times that no one from the City of Mukilteo reached out to him for questioning during its review process of this matter.

COUNCILMEN HARRIS AND KHAN ARE CONFIDENT THEY DID NOTHING WRONG

The Lynnwood Times reached out to Councilmen Harris and Khan for statements via email on January 18th and again on the 21st. Both declined to respond.

However, the councilmen did give statements to another local news outlet, and while they confirmed that such a meeting between them and Sanghvi took place, both maintain they did not ask about his political affiliation.

The councilmen claim that Sanghvi brought the topic up when speaking about endorsements from other politicians and that they explained to Sanghvi why such endorsements weren't necessary for the vacancy fulfillment process.

Councilman Harris said, "I was confident the conversation between Councilmember Khan and myself and the applicant was within the ethical and professional boundaries of vetting candidates within the council process."

ASHVIN SANGHVI'S STATEMENT ON THE CITY'S FINDINGS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS' REMARKS

In response to this latest development, Ashvin Sanghvi provides the following statement:

"We should thank the Mukilteo city lawyer [for] identify[ing] a technical loophole that a law that is used to protect non-partisan positions from political wheeling-dealing during an election can be broken with impunity



Top Left Corner (L-R) Ashvin Sanghvi, Councilman Louis Harris, and Councilman Riaz Khan. Picture of Mukilteo City Administrator Steve Powers addressing the Mukilteo City Council last year at a council meeting.

in an appointment process for the same position. [I] hope the council will act on closing it asap given the fervor with which council men (sic) Harris and Khan pontificated on their unwavering support for non-partisan behavior.

"The two esteemed councilmen know what was said and I stand by my statements made during my presentation and in the press. All I can say is during our meeting at Starbucks councilman Khan bragged about how Jay Inslee views Khan as the face of the party in Mukilteo and the lengths he had gone over the years to ingratiate himself to the party – including carrying the party leader's briefcase.

"Also, during the official council meeting discussing what questions to ask potential candidates for the council position, councilman Harris wanted to ask the candidates 'How do your political ideology impact your decision making.' Just listen to the recording. That says it all

"This is the reason why upstanding and capable citizens think ten times before coming forward for a public service position. I am disappointed that our nice town Mukilteo is becoming a microcosm of the polarized country we live in."

ASHVIN SANGHVI'S ALLEGATIONS DURING JANUARY 18TH CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING

"When I was considering applying for this role, I met with a couple of Mukilteo council members," said then vacancy candidate Sanghvi during the Jan. 18 City Council Special Meeting. "I was appalled at how strongly they wanted me to declare my party affiliation, which is confusing because this is

a non-partisan position."

"And as I held my ground," he continued, "the tone of the conversation changed from kind of help and advice to letting me gently know that maybe I'm not political enough for the role."

It was later revealed to the Lynnwood Times that the council members Sanghvi met with were Councilmen Harris and Khan and that the meeting took place at a Mukilteo Starbucks in December 2021.

MUKILTEO RESIDENT CALLS FOR INVESTIGATION

Then, at the beginning of the Feb. 7 City Council meeting, an email from Mukilteo resident Brooke Perisho was read into the city's record by City Administrator Steve Powers.

In her email, which she also submitted to the Times as a Letter-to-the-Editor, Perisho voiced her concern about Sanghvi's anecdote and asserted that Washington State laws might have been violated—specifically RCW 29A.52.231 and 29A.84.720, which set

legal parameters for non-partisan positions and election processes.

"As I understand it, making a determination of a candidates' eligibility based upon their political party affiliation for a non-partisan City Council position is illegal based on the RCW referenced above," Perisho wrote.

"In a time where citizens of our country have a hard time trusting facts, politicians, and institutions, I am very concerned that two of our own Council Members have been accused of corruption. This is unacceptable in our city."

Perisho concluded her email requesting to know what the city would do to address the issue and that she expected the council members involved to be held accountable if the allegations were substantiated.

MUKILTEO CITY ADMINISTRATOR CLOSES THE CASE

The issue came to a conclusion during

Continued PAGE 08 >>

Quail Park of Lynnwood

Independent Living • Assisted Living • Memory Care



Awarded CARING STAR Service Excellence Award and Herald Readers' Choice Runner-up!

Call or visit TODAY to find out about our current move-in specials.

425-616-3065

QuailParkofLynnwood.com



ADVERTISE

FOR MORE INFORMATION

CALL: Michelle at 773-255-8133 • EMAIL: SALES@LYNNWOODTIMES.COM



Washington cities reconsider Russian Sister City relationships

By OLIVIA THEISSEN

After Gov. Inslee called upon state agencies to cut ties with Russia last month, Washington cities must now decide if they will also cut ties with their Russian sister cities, an action that has fallen in a grey area for many cities across the nation.

In his February 28 press conference, Gov. Inslee requested that “all of our state agencies to do an inventory to identify any commercial or other connections with Russian state institutions or significant Russian companies with an eye towards terminating them or canceling them and not letting them go forward.”

State legislators also introduced a bill that would terminate contracts with any entity based in Russia to divert public funding to Russian entities.

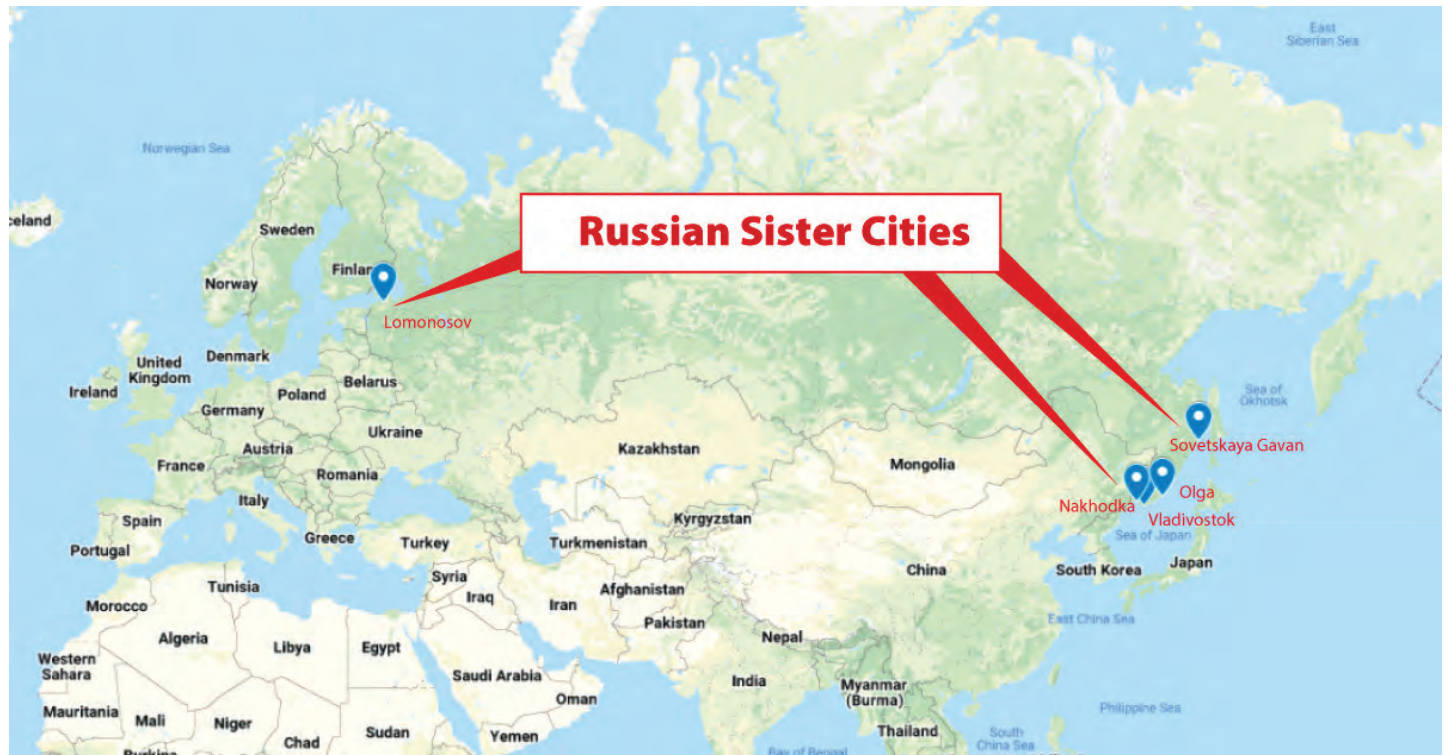
But sister cities remain a grey area, as no public funding is used to support the cities. So far, Colorado Springs, Colo.; Des Moines, Iowa; Dallas, Texas; and Chicago, Ill., have all cut ties with their Russian sister cities to condemn Russian aggression and show support for Ukraine. Many others are still deliberating.

So far, Gov. Inslee has left Washington cities to determine whether or not they will terminate their Russian sister city relationships.

“We would not have a stance on sister city relationships,” Mike Faulk, Deputy Communications Director for the Office of Governor, told the Lynnwood Times. “These kinds of relationships are about promoting goodwill between people. It’s unlikely those kinds of partnerships would be benefitting the state or oligarchy,” he added.

WASHINGTON CITIES AND RUSSIAN SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIPS

Sister Cities International, the organization that has connected 1,800 cities across 138 countries, recently released a letter “to citizen diplomats” requesting sister city relationships with Russian cities not be severed as a symbol of support for Ukraine.



Location of Russian Sister Cities with relationships to Washington state Sister Cities. Source: Google Maps | Lynnwood Times.

“While suspending or ending a sister city relationship to register disapproval of a foreign government’s actions may seem, on the surface, like a positive policy protest action, it has the complete opposite effect – closing a vital and, oftentimes, last channel of communication with vulnerable or isolated populations,” the letter said.

In fact, many Washington cities have maintained sister city relationships with countries under other authoritarian regimes, including several in China and two in Uzbekistan. The sister cities in these countries are viewed as a way of understanding, influencing, and communicating with citizens in authoritarian nations, but now sister cities in Russia alone are in question.

Right now, multiple Washington cities have Russian sister city relationships, including Everett, Anacortes, Bellingham, Tacoma, and La Conner. So far, none have explicitly cut ties with their Russian sister cities.

Everett, which was formerly paired with Sovetskaya Gavan, Russia, has allowed the sister city relationship to dissolve over time with no plans to renew the contract.

“We have not had communication with the city since 2013,” Communications Director Julio Cortes told the

Lynnwood Times. The city will be updating its sister city webpage and its official Wikipedia page to reflect that change.

Anacortes, on the other hand, recently voted to keep ties with its sister city Lomonosov, Russia, while simultaneously voting to remove the Russian flag from its sister city flag display.

“Flying the Russian flag that is currently on the tanks that are attacking people, unprovoked – I would advocate for taking the flags off city displays currently,” one Anacortes council member said in a city council meeting.

“The Russian flag, I suppose, is the flag of the Russian people, but it is also the flag of the state of Russia,” another council member said, sitting in front of the flag display. “And so it does, in fact, upset me to be sitting in this chair right now.”

Officials in Bellingham and Tacoma have also expressed that they do not intend to cut ties with their Russian sister cities of Nakhodka and Vladivostok, respectively.

“This inspired idea of sister cities that was created by President Eisenhower after World War II was very much based on the idea that if we made friends with people in foreign countries, we would

be less inclined to engage in the sorts of things that are happening in Russia, and I believe very much in that notion,” Bellingham’s Mayor Seth Fleetwood said in a February 28 city council meeting.

“The people in our sister city in Russia are our friends, and that’s the people of Russia. Our beef of course is with the dictator in Russia. I will be making no efforts to sever ties,” he said.

Tacoma’s Mayor Victoria Woodards expressed a similar sentiment, explaining that the city’s relationships with Vladivostok, Russia, and Brovary, Ukraine, have been beneficial experiences for the city.

“The sister city committees have always underscored how fortunate we are to have had warm city-to-city relationships with the people of both Brovary, Ukraine, and Vladivostok, Russia,” Mayor Woodards said. “Tacoma is and will continue to be a deeply compassionate city, as we reflected upon the fact that when countries go to war it is the people who suffer. What people want is peace.”

The La Conner city council is the only Washington city that has yet to decide whether it will cut ties with its sister city, Olga, Russia.

from page 3 **LYNNWOOD CC**

Hurst’s motion to include limiting remote attendance to three meetings a year, seconded by Councilman Patrick Decker.

Councilman Binda amended the amendment to include “at the discretion of council members” to clarify that the council members would not need approval from council chambers to virtually attend, nor be required to explain why.

Councilman Binda’s amendment did not pass 2-4, which did not include Councilwoman Altamirano-Crosby who was not able to attend the meeting due to connectivity issues via her virtual attendance, an example that Council President Hurst used to explain the importance of in-person meetings.

After Councilman Binda’s motion did not pass, council returned to the original amendment to Council

President Hurst’s motion made by Councilwoman Sessions.

Council President Hurst added that due to Gov. Inslee’s proclamation on virtual meetings he wasn’t sure if council even had the authority to put a limit on virtual meetings.

“I still vote yes regardless of what the governor says,” Councilwoman Sessions said.

After a long discussion, Councilman Smith ultimately suggested that the council reschedule voting on their virtual meeting attendance rules until March 28, to allow city staff to review procedure. This was seconded by Council President Hurst. This decision passed unanimously.

HARRIS FORD DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT

A Public Hearing concerning the development agreement on Harris Ford

commenced.

This proposed development agreement is for the Harris Ford Dealership to expand at Highway 99 and 200th St SW.

The proposed development agreement will allow Harris Ford to credit the value of the property they would dedicate toward the cost of the proposed street vacation as provided by city code. The agreement also outlines the steps the City and Harris Ford will take to allow the project to begin construction this spring. Development agreements are decided by Council through a quasi-judicial process.

Harris Ford proposes to renovate and expand the front portion of their dealership facing Highway 99. The proposed project includes demolishing the existing satellite showroom; constructing a new single-story satellite showroom of 4,300 square feet for Lincoln automobiles; and expanding

and improving the sales lot around the new showroom with on-site parking, landscaping, pedestrian connections, and new lighting.

The agreement will be revisited by council in 20 days to make a decision.

from page 7 **SANGHVI**

the Council’s meeting on Feb. 22, when Administrator Powers issued the following statement:

“The city received a public comment email that was read into the record at the February 7th City Council meeting. That comment alleged that two city council members violated election laws when they met with an applicant seeking to fill the vacant city council position, and during the meeting, the applicant’s political party affiliation was discussed. The city has reviewed the circumstances surrounding this

Law enforcement use-of-force and pursuit bills pass, awaits Gov. Jay Inslee's signature

OLYMPIA, Wash. – Governor Jay Inslee is expected to sign into law two bills aimed to clarify police enforcement and accountability laws passed last year.

SB 5919 – CONCERNING THE STANDARD FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY TO DETAIN OR PURSUE PERSONS.

Police can pursue and stop vehicles if they have a “reasonable suspicion” of a crime being committed under new legislation that is headed to the desk of Gov. Jay Inslee.

The Washington State House of Representatives voted 86-12 in favor of SB 5919 on Friday, March 4, with bipartisan support. The Senate previously voted in favor of the same bill early last month.

This legislation reverses current law which cites “probable cause” as sufficient reason to engage in a vehicular pursuit. Under SB 5919, however, “reasonable suspicion” will be enough to allow an officer to engage in a vehicular pursuit.

The bill also cleans up language adopted last year describing when an officer can use force. Many in the law enforcement community said the language was confusing and contradictory.

The new bill says an officer can use physical force to:

- Protect against criminal conduct where there is probable cause to make an arrest;
- Make an investigative detention;
- Effect an investigative detention, with less than probable cause if the officer has reasonable and articulable facts that point toward criminal activity;
- Protect against an imminent threat of bodily injury to the officer, an-

other person or the person against whom force is being used.

Under the bill, the amount of force officers can use must be reasonable and proportional to the amount of resistance they face. SB 5919 now awaits Inslee's approval to be signed into law.

HB 1735 – USE OF FORCE BY POLICE REDEFINED IN NEW LAW

People with mental health problems and juveniles can be detained or restrained by law enforcement, according to new legislation on the use of force.

The new law, House Bill 1735, passed the Washington State House with a 90-5 vote, and passed in the Senate 49-0. It was signed into law on Friday, March 4, by Gov. Jay Inslee.

The bill was drafted to end confusion caused by the adoption of a law last year that prevented crisis responders from receiving police assistance.

“It adjusts 2021 police reform legislation by clarifying when an officer can use reasonable force in a non-criminal incident, such as a mental health crisis,” Inslee said.

Incidents surrounding involuntary treatments are also covered under this bill.

“That’s the nature of involuntary treatment, and sometimes that may involve a minor use of force such as having to put someone in a car or transport them or get them out of a car to get them into an emergency room for treatment,” said Hoquiam Chief of Police Jeff Myers.

Furthermore, the bill clarifies the threat standard for an officer to use deadly force.

Under last year’s legislation, the use of deadly force was justified only to protect against an “imminent threat” of serious injury or death for the officer or another person. House Bill 1735 changes this standard by saying an “immediate” threat must be present.

from page 4 **LYNNWOOD VETERANS**

ago, with veteran service providers around the area. Their efforts resulted in a wide variety of resources and programs for veterans and their families in Lynnwood and throughout South Snohomish County.

The city’s latest sign is part of that broader initiative. No taxpayer dollars were needed for this effort. The funds were provided by Heroes’ Café, American Legion Post 37, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 1040 and erected by the Lynnwood’s Public Works Department.

Gary Walderman, Director for the Heroes’ Café, first got the idea from driving around the country and seeing signs honoring veterans in certain cities. He then contacted Councilwoman Sessions, who was part of the original Veterans Round Table and still serves as the Veteran Liaison to the City Council. Sessions, an Air Force veteran herself, loved the idea and worked closely with Heroes’ Café and the VFW to make it happen.

“These signs are a visual pronouncement to those who see them, that Lynnwood, indeed, cares about its veterans and we put them as a priority when considering programs and resources in our community,” Sessions told the Lynnwood Times.

According to Census data there are almost 2,000 veteran’s living here in the city of Lynnwood.

Public Works Director Bill Franz worked with the Mayor’s office and

Content Source: Juan Morfin. Lynnwood Times in partnership with the Washington State Journal. The Washington State Journal is a non-profit news website operated by the WNPA Foundation. To learn more, go to wastatejournal.org.

Traffic Engineers to find a location that could be seen without posing as a distraction to drivers. Franz and his team are currently scouting locations for the other 10 to 12 signs that will be erected later this year.

Although locations for future signs have not been set in stone, Gary Walderman told the Lynnwood Times he hopes to see one at the entrance to Veteran’s Memorial Park and the NW Veteran’s Museum.

THE HEROES CAFÉ

The Heroes’ Café is a monthly gathering of Veterans and their families. Heroes’ Café meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month, open house style, from 9 am to 1 pm at the New Life Church, 6519 18th ST SW in Lynnwood.

Along with endless coffee and camaraderie, a lite breakfast and lunch are provided to local Veterans and their families. There is also access there to a Veterans Service Officer to answer questions and give resources to all Veterans.



Register Now!
K - 12 After-school Enrichment
&
Summer Camps
Coding, Robotics, Science & EE
425-405-STEM(7836)
10100 Mukilton Speedway www.stemtree.com/mukilton

 LYNNWOODTIMES

 @LYNNWOODTIMES

from page 2 **OMNIBUS**

families experiencing homelessness.

- \$1,740,000 for the Samish Indian Nation’s State Route 20 – Campbell Lake Road Roundabout project. The Samish will construct a three-legged roundabout at the intersection of State Route 20 and Campbell Lake Road.
- \$1,000,000 for the City of Lynnwood’s Scriber Creek Trail redevelopment project. The City will redevelop the existing trail corridor into a 16’ wide, ADA-accessible trail with durable, slip-resistant hard surfaces. Where crossing Scriber Creek and associated wetlands, the trail will be constructed on elevated bridge/boardwalk structures.
- \$694,480 for the MacKaye Harbor Water District’s Agate Beach Lane infrastructure improvements on Lopez Island. The Water District will relocate water infrastructure away from a road that is currently failing due to coastal erosion.
- \$500,000 for the City of Sedro-Woolley’s Olmsted Park development project. The City will

develop an existing 14.81-acre city-owned property into a destination park for public use.

- \$346,625 for the Goosefoot Community Fund’s community kitchen project in Langley. Goosefoot Community Fund will create a commercial kitchen to help local farmers, producers and small businesses increase food resiliency on Whidbey Island.
- \$245,560 for the City of Everett’s Pallets to Housing initiative. In efforts to combat the crisis of homelessness and provide suitable shelter, the City is piloting an initiative utilizing low-barrier shelters to temporarily house hard-to-place individuals and couples. The City plans to expand this pilot project to develop a new and different location to benefit youth and families who are experiencing homelessness.
- \$136,000 for the Port of Coupeville’s rehabilitation of the Historic Coupeville Wharf. The Port will replace approximately 400 feet of water and sewer piping that runs along the Historic Coupeville

Wharf’s causeway.

WHAT IS IN THE OMNIBUS SPENDING PACKAGE

According to summaries and fact sheets provided by the House Appropriations Committee, here’s what some of the money will fund:

- \$774.4 million for congressional offices to recruit and retain a diverse workforce (21% increase)
- \$18.2 million to pay interns
- \$602.5 million for the Capitol Police (17% increase)
- \$12.6 billion for the Internal Revenue Service (5.6% increase)
- \$75 million for election security grants
- \$20 million for operating expenses to the Election Assistance Commission
- \$17.5 billion for high-poverty K-12 schools (6.3% increase)
- \$11 billion for Head Start (increase of 2.7%)
- \$45 billion to National Institutes of Health for biomedical and behavioral research (5.3% increase)
- \$26.9 billion in funding for child

- nutrition programs (7% increase)
- \$53.7 billion to Department of Housing and Urban Development (8% increase)
- \$2.6 billion to Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (29% increase)
- \$13.6 billion in emergency aid to Ukraine

WHAT THE OMNIBUS DID NOT COVER

Not included in the 2022 omnibus spending package is \$15.6 billion for pandemic response efforts after Republican representatives requested it be removed. Republicans are asking to see the “full accounting” of what has already been spent on the pandemic before they would support any new funding.

House Appropriations Chair Rosa DeLauro, a Connecticut Democrat, introduced a stand-alone bill with the pandemic response funds which is expected to be voted on in the House this week. However, it is unclear that the bill will get the 60 required votes to pass the Senate.

from page 1 **RED CROSS**

“We’re so quick to move on to the next big news story that we just forget that, after a terrible event, these people are just left for weeks and months trying to recover. . . . But we’re just on to the next disaster it seems like,” Phelps said.

When she arrives on-site after being called to action, Phelps typically meets with the supervisor to get the lay of the land and hear whether she will be working in a shelter or in a management position.

Each shelter has 2-6 licensed nurses or physicians who spend about 12-14 days employed until the torch is passed to the next group of volunteers. At that point, the first thing Phelps does is take a nap for a couple of days, she joked.

Through the Red Cross, victims of environmental disasters are connected to caseworkers who help find housing, provide pet assistance, long-term medical assistance, and even mental health services and counseling to deal with the more everlasting effects of trauma.

“It’s a drop in the bucket of course because sometimes these people need \$50,000, and the Red Cross doesn’t have that kind of money, but they give them enough to get them started and point them in the right direction for long-term recovery,” Phelps said.

Before joining, Phelps didn’t know much about the Red Cross or what was being done for disaster relief, she was just going off her daughter’s assessment of a Facebook post that said they were looking for help.

“Once I got there, I saw that the Red Cross had everything really well in hand. It was a really well-oiled machine. They were serving hundreds and hundreds of evacuees in Santa Rosa and the surrounding areas,” Phelps told the Lynnwood Times.

Phelps has many titles and roles as a volunteer. She is an instructor for new disaster volunteers, she teaches community preparedness education, provides disaster health services, prepares for disasters, trains new nurses, and readies supplies in case an evacuation is in order. If there is a disaster or an emergency, she first responds by providing whatever medicine or medical equipment that may have been lost.

“Wherever I’m needed, I roll up my sleeves,” Phelps said.

On her very first deployment, she was excited but did not exactly know what to do. She was assisting a family that was in the process of losing their farm and noticed the farmer had one shoe that was “just a few steps away from falling apart.”

She asked the farmer if she could fix his shoe and, to some hesitation, he agreed. Although Phelps has since been deployed all over the country, includ-

ing Texas, Delaware, South Carolina, and California, dealing with flooding, earthquakes, tornadoes, and wildfires, she informed the Lynnwood Times that seeing how such a small gesture could make a difference was one of her favorite memories working with the Red Cross.

“That took ten minutes of my time, but it made this guy’s day. Was I trained to do this? No – you just think on your feet. I did that within the first day of my deployment, and I felt so happy that I was able to make a difference in this guy’s life,” Phelps said.

Although Deb Phelps is currently preparing for the wildfire season in the Pacific Northwest and California, she said it’s “killing” her not to provide her services to the Ukraine or Poland right now.

Phelps shared with the Lynnwood Times that dropping everything in her life, quitting her job, and joining the Red Cross five years ago has been “worth it on a daily basis.”

She leaves for Santa Monica next month to take a class on mass casualties to further her expertise to deal with mass shootings, hurricanes, or whatever catastrophe leads to a large loss of life.

Deb Phelps is just one of over 300,000 volunteers offering their services to the Red Cross, more than 90% of their workforce, assisting in anything from blood donations to providing services for veterans all over the world for more than 140 years.

More recently, the Red Cross needs volunteers more than ever after suffering from staffing shortages and increased environmental disasters due to climate change. Despite these challenges, Red Cross volunteers continue to prepare supplies in between breaks from catastrophe in every way they can, always awaiting their next call to action.

“It used to be that we only had a few disasters a year, and now disasters are getting more frequent and more severe than ever before. I admire that the Red Cross is planning for the effects of climate change and this new mentality of ongoing disasters. I like that they’re looking forward and not just reactionary – they’re planning for the future,” Phelps said.

March is considered Red Cross Month and March 23 is Giving Day. You can donate to the Red Cross for disaster relief by visiting <https://www.redcross.org/donate/giving-day.html/>.

from page 5 **TOM JORDAL**

Jordal said. “Developing there is tricky so we’re really lucky to be working with the Port of Everett with all their experience they have with these things.”

Another challenge, Jordal noted, is the limited parking which he says requires a reasonable approach to make use of the, already, limited land.

Increasing parking is one of Jordal’s top personal visions for the waterfront, while staying true to its history, whether tribal or geological, maintaining an educational component, and being inclusive to a wide variety of different people.

On the subject of parking, Jordal informed the Lynnwood Times that the parklet issues Ivar’s faced last year have since been worked on and Ivar’s should be allowed to have their outdoor seating in place by this upcoming summer.

As far as the parking lot on front street, which is still currently fenced off, Jordal hopes to see if it can be used for parking on a temporary basis but said he needs to learn more about why it cannot operate as consumer parking first.

Jordal has already had one meeting with the Waterfront Redevelopment Group which plans to hold a public outreach on May 5 at Rosehill Community Center from 4-6 p.m. to lay the groundwork for the planning process.

There are a lot of limitations on what can and can’t be done to the waterfront, which Jordal hopes to both inform the public of, but also hear what they have to suggest within the parameters of those limitations.

“As a group, we’re getting together to plan how to get public input because really the idea is to figure out what people in the community want, and get those guiding principles in place before doing any planning,” Jordal said. “You can’t build a marina for pleasure boats, for example, so we want to give an idea of what the possibilities are, in a meaningful way.”

Just this past weekend, Councilman Jordal and Kevin Stotlz, who he ran against for city council Position 2, spent time walking the city’s waterfront area educating themselves on the different property owners, limitations, and discussed visions of what they hope to see become of the area in the near future.

from page 6 **DEI APPOINTMENTS**

to have concerning what was on her mind in regard to the DEI Commission.

All other candidates confirmed with the Lynnwood Times that neither Crawford nor any other councilmembers extended similar invitations.

Dixon declined a personal, off record meeting with Crawford stating he would rather hear her opinion in a public forum and in quorum in her official capacity as Vice President of the convened council, as that was the capacity in which he, along with two others, was summarily voted down without question.

STATEMENT FROM EWA WHEELER

“Listening to the Mukilteo City Council March 7 meeting, during which council members refused to accept the selected candidates for DEI Commission was very disturbing, and quite frankly, shocking.

“The process of selecting, interviewing, and appointing the candidates was followed according to the Mukilteo Municipal Code, in which, no codified criteria, nor specific qualification is required for the applicants of DEI Commission.

“During the meeting, Mayor Joe Marine asked on three separate occasions, if the Council members have any questions to selected candidates. Mukilteo council members had no questions to appointees whatsoever, yet they disqualified them, based strictly on the information contained in the applications.

“Without legit explanation from the City council members for the refusal, I feel like all three selected applicants were disqualified based solely on “dislike” by Mukilteo council members.

“As a refugee from Eastern Europe who went through a lengthy and difficult immigration process, proudly being called Polish American, and a Mukilteo resident of 22 years, raising three children in Mukilteo schools, volunteering with Mukilteo Lighthouse Festival and with Mukilteo Chamber of Commers in the past, I thought I could bring a fresh perspective to the DEI Committee. In addition, I would love to bring my experience and equality into Mukilteo and offer extensive diversity and equivalent mixture of experiences to the Commission.

“When I applied for Mukilteo DEI Commission, I was under the impression that Mukilteo is a city of fairness, integrity, open to citizens of multiple diversity.

“If there are no criteria in Mukilteo Municipal Code regarding selection of DEI candidates, if there were no questions asked to any of the appointees during the meeting, I feel my disqualification from the Committee was done subjectively, I feel I have been discriminated based on my application.

“I feel very disappointed.

“What did Mukilteo council members

see in my application to offend them?

“Can Mukilteo council members tell me why am I not good enough?”

PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM MUKILTEO RESIDENTS ON DEI COMMISSION VOTE

Many vocal Mukilteo residents echoed concerns for council’s decision voting against the DEI candidates during the public comments section at the end of the meeting.

“I was very disappointed. I was invited to this meeting, I put my name forward, I’ve been a Mukilteo city resident for 15 years, I’ve been elected three times, and I don’t quite understand what the arbitrary and seemingly discriminatory standard is that I’m being held to,” Mike Dixon, one of the candidates, said.

“You’re voting down of the DEI Commission candidates was shocking and disgusting...It seems you don’t really want diversity on the diversity commission you apparently just want to advance people who fit your preferred mold,” Sharon Damoff, Mukilteo resident said.

“I listened in astonishment that the members of the city council voted down a diverse slate of DEI Commission candidates with no specific objections to one specific candidate. All I heard was that certain council members did not like the Mayor’s choices because they were the Mayor’s choices only or they did not like the process because they were excluded. As for the council members who abstained, council members are appointed to make decisions... how hard can it be to say yes or no?” Tony Damoff, Mukilteo resident said.

PUBLIC COMMENT BY MAYOR MARINE

Just minutes before the meeting was adjourned Mayor Marine had the following words to say to council about their decision:

“I think it was very embarrassing for the city tonight. I’m very disappointed. The council says that they want to work together, including the council President and Vice President. I desperately want to work with this council. I’ve seen it both ways; we only move Mukilteo forward together if we work as a team.

“It’s hard for the city staff if council is fighting with the Mayor. It certainly doesn’t look good for the city...I’ve never seen putting three names on a commission that just wholesale you turn them away. You told three citizens you need not apply. You are not good enough to be on this commission. And quite frankly I know it probably had little to do with any of those three. I think it has to do with the fact that council does not want me in any position that makes choices. I won’t try and be a council member, you don’t try and take away the Mayor’s authority and we will move forward really well together.”

Despite Mayor Marine inviting council members to defend their positions, there was silence.

Op-Ed: Mukilteo City Councilmembers don’t get to invent rules to suit themselves



Michael Dixon

I was denied the confirmation vote tonight to the City of Mukilteo Diversity, Equity and Inclusion commission. Appalled, I asked for an official explanation and have not yet received one.

Let me enumerate. The City Council is empowered by state law to operate within the confines of its City Code. The Code makes no mention of any qualification at all for members of any of its three commissions, nor have any other nominees to any other commission ever been voted down. Tonight, three nominees to the DEI commission were voted down. I was one of the nominees.

In a heated back and forth between the mayor who nominated us and a vocal and vehement Council, comments were made by Councilmembers such as “these nominees are less qualified”, or how struck they were by the absence of so many other “well qualified applicants”. Aghast, I sat befuddled and bemused as the mayor asked to no avail if the Council would simply ask any of the three nominees all in attendance on the Zoom session a single question. They never did. Then they voted in what looked like a 3-3 vote with 1 abstaining until Councilmember Emery recognized the mayor would vote with the majority, so said he changed his mind and his vote and would now abstain, yielding a bullet proof majority decision to reject all three of us. Whether I was voted in 4-3 with the mayor as the tie breaker or 4-3 in the Council, I would have been equally insulted by anything less than a unanimous confirmation.

Now, allow me to explain my qualifications which are already part of the public record. You be the judge.

- I’m African American.
- Owns a local Farmers Insurance Agency in Mukilteo.
- I’ve lived in Mukilteo since September 2007 – that’s 14.5 years.
- I’ve been elected 3 times as a utility commissioner here (twice for Alderwood Water and now currently for Mukilteo Water).
- I’ve served as President, Vice President and Treasurer of the Alderwood Water and Wastewater District Board of Commissioners and am currently Vice President of the Mukilteo Water and Wastewater District Board of Commissioners.
- Following both a BS and MBA from MIT, I have had a 20+ year corporate career spanning large to small companies.
- I worked in city government pre-MBA as the Associate Director for Policy of the Office of Management and Budget of my native US Virgin Islands.
- I worked in public finance investment banking for 3 years pre-MBA, advising municipalities in Texas on bond financings. In fact, during that time I

Continued **PAGE 12** >>

DO YOU OWE OVER \$10,000 to the IRS in back taxes? Our firm works to reduce the tax bill or zero it out completely FAST. Let us help! Call 888-994-1405. (Hours: Mon-Fri 7am-5pm PDT).

DONATE YOUR CAR TO CHARITY. Receive maximum value of write off for your taxes. Running or not! All conditions accepted. Free pickup. Call for details, 855-635-4229.

LOOKING FOR ASSISTED LIVING, memory care, or independent living? A Place for Mom simplifies the process of finding senior living at no cost to your family. Call 1-855-913-2628 today!

MUSICIANS WANTED
Bass player/drummer/piano player to play folk and country style.

Drums and piano provided. Looking forward to making music! Contact: Gregory at 208-697-9312 or gregorygdovicak@yahoo.com

GENERAC Standby Generators provide backup power during utility power outages, so your home and family stay safe and comfortable. Prepare now. Free 7-year extended warranty (\$695 value!). Request a free quote today! Call for additional terms and conditions. 1-888-674-7053.

Prepare for unexpected power outages with a Generac home standby generator

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE! 888-674-7053

FREE 7-Year Extended Warranty* A \$695 Value!

Limited Time Offer - Call for Details

Special Financing Available
Subject to Credit Approval

*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.



WHAT MATTERS TO YOU?

The Lynnwood Times wants to know what issues you would like us to ask the candidates on your behalf. Email your issues in a form of a question to editorial@lynnwoodtimes.com or call 425-308-8371.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



SEND LETTERS TO

Lynnwood Times, 12918 Mukilteo Speedway C23, PMB-162 Lynnwood, WA 98087 or email editorial@lynnwoodtimes.com.

LETTERS POLICY

The Lynnwood Times welcomes letters to the editor of no more than 400 words. Letters will be printed as promptly as possible, as space allows.

To be considered for publication, letters must include a **first and last name**, **address** and **phone number** for verification purposes. We also reserve the right to edit letters as necessary for brevity, grammar and decorum.

 LYNNWOODTIMES  @LYNNWOODTIMES  @LYNNWOODTIMES



Breaking News
LYNNWOOD TIMES
 Support Local Investigative Journalism
Subscribe Today

LEAD DESIGNER FOR HIGH-END KITCHEN CABINETRY WANTED

Lead Designer in Lynnwood, WA. Confer w/ clients re design, sales & instln of high-end kitchen cabinetry, closets, wall-units, workstations etc. BS in Ind. Design or Rel.; 24 mos exp; prof'y in design SW (ID Max, Solid Works, KCD, Illustrator, CAD & Photoshop). Resume to: Italian Custom Cabinets LLC, 15008 35th Ave W, STE D, Lynnwood, WA 98087.

from page 8 **SANGHVI**

topic and is satisfied that additional action by the city is not warranted.”

Powers later explained to a local newspaper how the city arrived at this conclusion.

“Our role was to look at the laws cited by the citizen that applied to elections,” he told the paper. “This is not an elec-

tion. It’s an appointment process. The laws cited were specifically related to elections. The appointment process is a different section of the law. I think it’s important to note those are separate provisions.”

“We looked into the matter and reviewed it against the appropriate standards and determined no standards were violated,” Powers concluded.

from page 11 **MICHAEL DIXON**

served on the strategic advisory consulting team hired by the District of Columbia to author their 4-year strategic turnaround plan. I personally worked with then CFO Anthony Williams on that plan and personally authored the chapter on health and human services. I turned down the job to be deputy CFO of one of his agencies to instead attend graduate school at MIT.

- During my corporate career, I was the regional President of the multi-state African American Forum at General Electric Company from 2005 – 2007. This organization cultivated and developed African American talent through GE’s diversity efforts.
- I am presently on the Board of Advisors of the Mukilteo YMCA and am a member of its nascent DEI Commission.
- I am self-employed here in Mukilteo and support a host of community activities.

- I am well read on this topic as I am 55 and believe I have a useful perspective on this matter.

Evidently, according to the Council, I do not. In fact, I don’t even warrant a single question, so “less experienced” and insufficient are my apparently “lacking” qualifications.

So, my opinion is that the Council acted inappropriately and capriciously in a reckless power battle with the mayor. That’s my opinion. I’m still mad about what happened and request an explanation in a special meeting or inclusion in an agenda of the Council. The Council is not all powerful. They don’t get to invent rules to suit themselves as they go along. Their role is very prescribed and limited – BY LAW. They should not be permitted this type of gargantuan over-reach, or they will never stop overreaching.

First, they came for me. Who will defend you, when they come for you?

Michael Dixon, Mukilteo, WA 98275


LOMBARDI'S
 italian restaurant & wine bar
 Everett Marina • Mill Creek



Celebrate Spring Italian Style

Patio Dining, Fresh Seasonal Dishes

Happy Hour Daily

lombardisitalian.com

