

LYNNWOOD

TIMES



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Real News ⚡
Real Impact

Marysville man arrested for the murder of Lynnwood resident Carl Bridgmon



Leif Gunnar Smith appearing in court on Wednesday, May 25, 2022 for the alleged murder of Carl Bridgmon. Lynnwood Times.

By KIENAN BRISCOE

Daleway Park.

SHOOTING

the area.

LYNNWOOD – Leif Gunnar Smith appeared in Everett District Court on Wednesday, May 25, for the alleged murder of 70-year-old Carl Bridgmon that occurred on April 5, 2022, at Daleway Park. Bail was set for \$1 million. Bridgmon’s was caught in the middle of an altercation between four individuals and gunned down as he sat in his car at

Lynnwood. Detectives arrested Smith, a 21-year-old Marysville resident, May 24th and booked him into the Snohomish County Jail on multiple charges including Assault 1, Assault 2, Robbery 1, and Aggravated Murder 1. If convicted, Smith faces life in prison.

DALEWAY PARK

Carl Bridgmon man was shot dead in his car Tuesday, April 5, at Lynnwood’s Daleway Park, on 64th Avenue West. Lynnwood Police were on the scene at 2:14 p.m. after reports of multiple shots fired were made to find a deceased adult male in the driver’s seat of a vehicle, which was damaged by several bullets. Multiple bullet casings were also found in

Several people were seen fleeing the area, police said, and a black Toyota car was seen speeding away. A witness told the Lynnwood Times they appeared to be young adults.

Two 18-year-old males were found in a nearby neighborhood backyard and ques-

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County kicks off in-person pandemic recovery public events

By BO JOHN BRUSCO

SNOHOMISH COUNTY – In the summer of 2021, Snohomish County Executive Dave Somers and County Councilmembers established the Office of Recovery and Resilience (ORR). The office’s mission is to guide the County in its efforts to recover from the pandemic and is funded to be operational through 2023.

One of ORR’s primary responsibilities is overseeing how the County allocates its American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds and aims to administer said funds “quickly and equitably.” The County received \$80 million in ARPA funds in May of 2021 and is expected to receive another \$80 million between May and June of this year, totaling \$160 million worth of ARPA funds.

The ORR has already helped the County Council allocate funds into four main areas: Community Support, Economic & Workforce, Public Health, and Reserves & Operations.

“At ORR, our goal is to use these [ARPA] funds to make significant and sustainable positive changes for our families, workers, and small businesses, with a focus on communities most impacted by the pandemic,” explains ORR’s Deputy Communications Director Kelsey Nyland.

According to the National League of Cities (NLC), ARPA funds must be obligated (or contracted) by December 31, 2024, and any unexpended funds won’t be subject to recapture until the end of December 2026.

“We are working as hard and as quickly as we can to get this funding out and into the community and also to do it right so that the Federal government doesn’t come back later and say, ‘hey, we’d like that money back,’” says Chief Recovery and Resilience Officer for Snohomish County, Dr. Kara Main-Hester.

Continued **PAGE 08 >>**

Lynnwood appoints Arra Rael as DEI commissioner



Photo of Commissioner Arra Rael.

By KIENAN BRISCOE

LYNNWOOD – After an emotional 30-minute public comment section at Lynnwood’s City Council meeting Monday, May 23, council approved Arra Rael for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Commissioner following a controversial decision to postpone the vote last month.

Council also approved vacating 64th Avenue West for the Harris Ford expansion, and approved allocating

\$3,465,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funds. The approved ARPA funds include \$400,000 for the Lynnwood Food Bank, \$1 million to Volunteers of America, no more than \$2 million to go toward Scriber Lake maintenance, and to reimburse Silver Creek Church, not to exceed \$65,000, to fix their lighting and parking lot.

Council has until December 31, 2024 to decide how to spend the remaining funds.

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Lynnwood Public Works expects a busy year despite pandemic and supply chain shortages



Photo of Bill Franz.

By **KIENAN BRISCOE**

LYNNWOOD – Despite COVID, and other challenges, the Lynnwood Public Works Department had a busy year in 2021 with much more in the works through 2022. Even though this year will be mostly “designing and planning”, Public Works Director Bill Franz told the Lynnwood Times, the prep work will pay off as the city continues to prepare for growth.

“It’s been pretty amazing that despite COVID and everything it’s done to us, and continues to do to us, we’ve still managed to keep the projects and the work coming,” Franz told the Lynnwood Times. “That’s something that I’m really proud of despite trying to figure out a new way of working and staying safe.”

The Department’s focus for capital projects involve completion of 196th Street, Poplar Way, updating the Waste Water Treatment Facility, and building a new North-South road through the City Center called the 42nd Street Avenue West project. Many of these projects are in their design and plan phase, as Franz noted, with the construction focused on completing 196th by the City’s goal of 2023.

In addition to capital projects, the Department paved Scriber Lake Road (just south of 196th), 200th (just east of Highway 99), 48th (just west of Fred Meyer), and 44th (just south of 212th) last year. Paving will continue throughout 2022 allocating \$2.5 million from its budget as well as an additional \$2.5 million from American Rescue Plan Act funds.

The Department also upgraded water and sewer around the light rail station construction (48th and 200th),

completed Sewer Lift Station #8 (just south of Alderwood Mall) and activated new sewer force mains in the mall and city center areas which were constructed over the past few years, while completing the ADA Transition Plan to make the city more ADA accessible, to name a few.

196TH STREET CONSTRUCTION

196th Street is undergoing construction while still serving 50,000 vehicles per day, with most work conducted at night. This project involves one mile of widening, starting at 48th by Fred Meyer, and sidewalk improvements. It began predesign in 2008 and is projected to be complete next year, costing a total of around \$50 million.

“We’re about halfway through,” Franz said. “Really the biggest reason it’s taking so long is we’ve had to keep the road open. If we could close it down we could probably get it done in half the time, I’m sure, and for less money too, but we don’t have a choice.”

196th is one of Lynnwood’s oldest roads and not without its complications. When builders began digging it up they found everything from an old two-lane brick road buried beneath to tanks and water pipes long forgotten.

“We knew this project would throw us some curve balls but it’s gone well,” Franz said.

Franz noted the project is still on track to be completed on time, and in budget, but the city will know for sure once they’ve completed their 2022 biennium budget for capital projects.

BEECH ROAD

Beech Road is set to receive 1,000 feet of new street, upgraded sidewalks, bicycle lanes, and improved business access by 2023. This project, which began predesign 2007, has now been fully funded at a cost of \$4 million.

Once complete, Beech Road will serve 3,000 vehicles per day. The road will create a new west leg to the intersection by the old Sears at Alderwood Mall and run a new arterial up around the backside of Beech, eventually extending along the backside of Target. It will then connect up north, providing another route for people to get around these businesses and improve access to

them.

“Having another connection in that area is forward-thinking, and now we need to start planning for these early. It takes 10 to 15 years to get these built,” David Mach, City Engineer, said.

POPLAR BRIDGE

While other transportation capital projects are undergoing progression and completion, some, like the Poplar bridge, are awaiting the necessary funding to begin. This project aims to create an entirely new bridge over I-5 involving six lanes with sidewalks and would require the intersections to be raised slightly to allow room for its expansion.

There are roughly four or five different crossings identified in Lynnwood, according to Mach, and by adding another, City Planning believes this could be the biggest solution for congestion relief as the city prepares for growth in upcoming years.

The design and property acquisitions are almost finished and the bridge is projected to serve 30,000 vehicles per day, with a cost estimated at \$49 million (\$39 million of which is needed to begin construction). Predesign began in 2008.

Lynnwood is currently working on securing Federal and State funding to complete Poplar Bridge, as they

have for several years now, typically making it to final funding rounds but not quite succeeding in acquiring the necessary \$25 million needed to begin construction.

In years passed, Franz informed the Lynnwood Times the Department typically hear back by mid July whether they will, or will not, receive the grants applied for this year.

WASTE WATER TREATMENT FACILITY

The Lynnwood/Edmond’s Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), which received its original primary treatment 60 years ago, expanded primary treatment 40 years ago, and expansion to provide secondary treatment 30 years ago, is in much need of an update.

Most of the equipment at the Wastewater Treatment Plant is 30 to 40 years old, is difficult to maintain, and spare parts are often unavailable for the aging equipment. The maximum daily flow exceeds capacity for most processes, peak wet weather storm flows necessitate bypass of partially treatment wastewater, and the current plant configurations is complicated and limits site utilization for expanded capacity.

There are also permit issues involved with air quality violations related to sludge incineration.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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LYNNWOOD TIMES

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Edmonds Heights’ real-life “Ms. Frizzle” inspires local students



Erin Zackey. Photo courtesy of Erin Zackey.

By KIENAN BRISCOE

EDMONDS – In many ways, Erin Zackey, K-12 Math and Science Teacher at Edmonds Heights, is Snohomish County’s very own Ms. Frizzle. She looks the part: Thin, red-haired, infectious laugh, and dresses in costumes that fit the day’s lesson plan. She would even have a pet chameleon named Liz if the Edmonds School District allowed it.

“I just kind of fell into being Ms. Frizzle because I have red hair and I love wearing costumes,” Zackey said. “My closet is super full of costumes.”

The only thing missing from Zackey’s complete “The Frizz” package is a magic school bus...but even that may change soon.

Zackey is currently writing a grant, through the Edmonds Foundation, to secure \$7,000 in funding to purchase a bus. If successful, she hopes to use it to pick up different groups of students from different schools and take them on local educational field trips. While she may not be able to transport her passengers into outer space or the Cretaceous period, she does plan on painting the bus to replicate the eponymous vehicle from the book series she draws inspiration from.

“If you can get kids to have fun, these are the things kids will remember and begin connecting,” Zackey told the Lynnwood Times.

This is not the first grant Zackey has written through the Edmonds Foundation and it won’t be her last. Throughout her 10 years as an educator in Edmonds School District she has learned to love the easy process of applying for grants, through the Foundation, and utilizing the funds she receives to elevate her teaching style to a more hands-on experience for her kids.

“I really do genuinely appreciate having access to materials that make these lessons engaging without breaking my own bank,” Zackey told the Lynnwood Times. “Over the years knowing that I have organizations that are willing to support my creative endeavors has made a huge difference.”

Through the funds she’s secured from the Foundation, Zackey has built a curriculum that includes learning the

ecosystem through painting, math through games, identifying birds through binoculars, and even getting kids outside once a week to read trees, plant seeds, and manage their very own garden in a series of painted horse troughs.

“I will say those grant funds were really well spent because these are things that are used a lot, it’s not like a one time deal or one class deal,” Zackey said.

ERIN ZACKEY: HANDS-ON APPROACH TO TEACHING

Zackey knew she wanted to be a teacher from a very young age. She grew up in an active, outdoorsy, family on Vashon Island taking care of her many younger cousins. She began babysitting throughout her teens and by her freshman year in college knew being an elementary school teacher was her calling in life. She attended Western Washington University and eventually secured her teacher’s certificate.

Though she doesn’t necessarily remember elementary science classes she took as a kid, she does remember feeling connected to the wilderness and the places she grew up, deciding to help urban kids have a similar connection to nature through her own teaching.

“When I was a student the most memorable lessons always involved movement or singing or action. That’s how I learned best, by doing things and creating projects,” Zackey said. “These kids have a lot of sitting time in their life. It’s really important to get kids creating and moving.”

Zackey began working at Edmonds Heights as a workshop instructor, teaching as little as one and as many as a dozen classes on a contract basis. When she had children of her own it became harder to balance all of her volunteer programs and classes so she formed an outdoor education program called Froggy Holler through the Shoreline Parks Department. That program continues to exist today under the name Mudskippers Outdoor Preschool.

At Edmonds Heights Zackey currently teaches about 10 classes, mostly K through 6 grade, including a Magic School Bus themed class about the ecosystem and a class called the Art of Science. She is also dipping her

Continued **PAGE 07** >>

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Rotary Club of Lynnwood awards \$55,000 in scholarships



Sue Venable, Scholarship Chair, Lynnwood Rotary Club, and Jeff Patterson, Director of Campaigns for Compass Health with scholarship recipients on Thursday, May 19, 2022. Photo Credit: Kienan Briscoe.

By **KIENAN BRISCOE**

LYNNWOOD – The Rotary Club of Lynnwood presented \$55,000 in scholarships to students Thursday, May 19, at the Lynnwood Convention Center, for their outstanding academic achievement and commitment to community services.

“We’re very proud of these children. We’re so grateful that we have so many active community members that are able to offer these opportunities and proud of the school district for producing these students,” Debra Kilgore,

Vice President of the Edmonds School District Board of Directors, told the Lynnwood Times.

\$5,000 UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS FOR FOUR-YEAR COLLEGES

Alejandra Engel from Meadowdale High School who has been a library teaching assistant at her school and a member of the Auto Technician program, track and field varsity team, hurdle team, concert team, pep band, and jazz band. She has also received a creative writing top senior exhibitor

award from Evergreen State Fair.

Engel has completed 274 hours of service through the Edmonds Rotary on service projects and has been the Vice President of Snohomish County 4H Club, a camp counselor, and a volunteer in several organizations. Engels either wants to get involved in the medical field or welding after attending her dream school at St. Martin’s University in Lake Stevens.

“I’m really excited knowing the caliber of students in the area and the limited number of opportunities, it’s just really cool to have Alejandra selected,” Steve

Engel, Alejandra’s father told the Lynnwood Times.

“I feel really, really grateful and lucky,” Alejandra Engel said. “Hard work’s paying off.”

Saul Gonzales from Meadowdale High School has been involved in his school’s orchestra, Black Student Union, Ski Club, Link Crew, and others. He was Link Leader of the Month, and Youth Merit Award recipient at the Edmonds Rotary Club. He wants to become a teacher or youth counselor and achieve an equitable school system with plans to attend Edmonds College before the University of Washington.

Madeleine Karnikis from Meadowdale High School has been captain of the high school swim team, a member of Young Life since sixth grade, a certified life guard at sixteen and has worked in various park and recreation programs throughout the area. She was a member of the honor society both junior and senior year and set a swim team record in 2019. She has volunteered in the Dominican Republic building bathrooms and water sanitation in the country. She has also volunteered at the Special Olympics. Karnikis hopes to obtain her degree in biology and pursue a degree in medicine, through the lens of public health.

Aurysia Ko from Meadowdale High School was on the Band Leadership team, Wind Ensemble, Jazz Band, National Honor Society, YEOC (Young Executives of Color), and Link Crew.

Continued **PAGE 05** >>



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from page 4 **LYNNWOOD ROTARY**

She was the Meadowdale High School Student of the Quarter in Physical Science, Meadowdale Arts Music Booster Organization Student of the Month twice, a Link Leader for two years, and alto saxophone competition finalist. She participates in local clothes drives through Goodwill and wants to help middle school students learn the alto saxophone. Ko hopes to pursue a bachelor's degree in Business with a minor in music and help local businesses. Ko's family is building a restaurant and Ko will be helping get it up and running while attending the University of Washington.

Imogen French from Lynnwood High School has been on the varsity tennis team for three years, was class council and school leadership class two years in a row and directed and planned her school's talent show. Her awards include Honor Role for four years, home coming court, and volunteered at Edmonds School District Nourishing Network, Lynnwood Food Bank, and wants to major in Environmental Science and minor in Teaching Education at Oregon State University.

"I'm very proud. Imogen has worked very hard all the way through high school and put in a lot of time and effort to outside activities and projects. This award is amazing and she deserves everything she's got," Kevin French, Imogen's father told the Lynnwood Times.

Faith Murray from Lynnwood High School is an ACL leader and captain of her high school's swim team of which she's served four varsity years,

and one varsity year on the track team. She was an honor roll student for two years, five quarters on the Dean's honor roll at Edmonds College, received a Legacy Award on the Lynnwood swim team and graduated high school with an Associate's degree from Edmonds College. She founded and organized Hope Group, volunteered at the Lynnwood Food Bank, and wants to focus on environmental studies.

Damarius Ibrahim of Mountlake Terrace High School was in track and field and cross country, jazz band, and ecology club. She gained an award in Washington Journalism Education Association in a feature write off competition, received two outstanding musician awards at the University of Oregon Jazz Festival, and varsity lettered in cross country and track. She has volunteered at Root of our Youth Coalition and aspires to pursue her passion for music and athletics and study environmental studies at college.

Ritika Khanal from Mountlake Terrace High School is the editor-in-chief of the school newspaper, the Hawkeye, and is a student advisor to the school board to the Edmonds School District and a member of the Ecology Club. She was a Washington delegate for the AI Newport Journalism Conference and was student of the month in 2021 and 2022. She has volunteered in Math Textbook Adoption Committee, a volunteer at the Nepal Seattle Society and a member of the National Honor Society. Khanal wants to pursue a degree in law and will attend Harvard University later this year.

Brooke Rinehimer from Mountlake Terrace High School was captain of the robotics program, a four-year var-

sity golf player, and was a finalist in the National Merit Scholar, winner of an Advanced Placement with Distinction Award, National Honor Society, and Mountlake Terrace Athlete of the Month. She was on the city of Edmonds Youth Commission and has volunteered at the Edmonds Food Bank. She wants to pursue a career in the research field after attending University of California Santa Barbara.

Minh Vu from Mountlake Terrace High School was on the National Honor Society, Connect Crew, Key Club, Asian Student Union Vice President, Class of 2022 ASB, and a Western Aerospace scholar. He was an AP scholar with honors, and volunteered at his high school's PTSA Goodwill drive, was a math tutor, and a member of the soccer club. He will attend University of Washington later this year.

\$2500 GRANT RECIPIENTS FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Banelli Rios Santana from Scriber Lake High School wants to focus her

future on helping homeless people. She has volunteered at Housing Hope and through her church on many community based projects. She hopes to use the funds to receive an A.A. degree from Everett Community College and eventually secure a career in healthcare.

Meredith Camacho from Lynnwood High School has been involved in the robot program at school and helps run the Lynnwood High School flower shop. She is an honor roll student and has helped in food drives during the holiday season. She hopes to someday run her own business and non-profit organization. She will be attending Shoreline Community College and transferring to a four-year university after receiving her Associates degree.

ABOUT LYNNWOOD ROTARY CLUB

The Rotary Club of Lynnwood is a fellowship of leaders who voluntarily support others through Vocational, Community, and International and Youth Service.

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Place: Bellingham at Bellingham High School
Ticket Prices: \$25/\$20

Date: Saturday June 11, 2022
Time: 3 PM
Place: Edmonds at The Edmonds Center for the Arts
Ticket Prices: \$25/\$22/\$15



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Memorial Day Ceremony
Veterans Park, 44th Avenue West and Veterans Way,
Lynnwood Monday, May 30, 2022 | 11:00 AM

Registration is now open for the Lynnwood Police Camp for youth ages 11 to 14 years. All county youth are encouraged to apply; however, space is limited!

It's a fun week of learning safety skills, team building, leadership development, physical activities and much more!

Camp Dates: July 18-21, 2022. from 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. each day
Registration Fee: \$125 per child, limited scholarships are available
Application deadline: June 17, 2022

Registration: To register, contact Connie Avalos-Galer at cgaler@LynnwoodWA.gov or 425-670-5613. or visit: <https://www.lynnwoodwa.gov>.

This will give youth a chance to interact with law enforcement and have positive experiences with the police, as well as learning safety tips, team building challenges and leadership development. Some highlights include spending a day of team building at High Trek Adventure for a high ropes course challenge. Participants will also learn about police science, work with the K-9 unit and participate in SWAT team activities, plus much more!

Cops & Kids event in Lynnwood on June 4th

On Saturday, June 4, the Lynnwood Police Department (LPD) will be hosting a Cops & Kids event from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Alderwood Mall Terraces.

The LPD will be displaying and giving tours of police cars, motorcycles, and specialty police vehicles. There will also be K-9 demonstrations and giveaways, so bring the kids and get ready to have fun!

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from page 2 **PUBLIC WORKS**

The Department of Ecology issued the Puget Sound Nutrient General Permit (PSNGP), which went into effect January 2022, based on water quality standards for dissolved oxygen not being met in many locations in Puget Sound.

The PSNGP applies to 58 domestic WWTPs discharging to the Puget Sound and Salish sea and aims to address decreasing oxygen levels caused by nutrient discharge.

With the projected growth of Lynnwood, with the light rail expansion, the future service area population is predicted to need to serve 74,400 by 2050. Currently the service area population the site is capable of serving is 38,150. This also takes into consideration new 2,000-unit multi-family complexes that are currently being planned to be built in the area near-term.

The treatment plants current loading capacity is 5 million gallons per day (MGD) and 10,200 pounds per day of biochemical oxygen demand (BOD). By the year 2050 the treatment plant is predicted to need a capacity to load 8.92 MGD and 17,800 per day of BOD.

Franz informed the Lynnwood Times that all of the work needed to do at the treatment plant will not affect the opening of Light Rail and the project is currently in "full study mode" with the comprehensive plan being worked on as well as the three year update on utility rates.

Utilities operate a little different than general government, using a separate enterprise fund that have to be self sufficient. In other words, most of the funding comes from the rates in which they city charges their customers for water, sewer, stormwater, and others.

"We're on track to meet the short-term

stuff. The longer term stuff is what we're planning for right now," Franz said. "It's all coming together over the next few months what our plans are,"

The plant's necessary upgrades could cost up to \$200 million.

42ND AVENUE WEST PROJECT

A new grid street at 42nd Ave West will be a completely new roadway in the heart of the Lynnwood City Center, running from Veterans Way South to Alderwood Mall Blvd. It will be 2,000 feet, aiding to break down super blocks, improve business access, and offer bicycle facilities and two to three vehicle lanes, and will have 16-foot-wide sidewalks, offering a new connection point for pedestrians to gain better access to businesses.

"It just feels more like a pedestrian oriented street," David Mach said.

This project is currently in its design and right-of-way phase and will cost somewhere in the range of \$1 million. Preliminary steps have already been made.

POT HOLES

Lynnwood Public Works filled a total of 231 pot holes last year and are reviewing new strategies to preserve the city's roads longterm leading up into colder months this winter, recently attending a conference on cold weather preparation back East. The conference, Franz said, gave the Department many new ideas they hope to try this upcoming winter to preserve the city's roads from harsh weather.

OTHER 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2021 Lynnwood Public Works:
- Pumped 4.31 million gallons of sewage
 - Incinerated 2.8 million pounds of solids

April 5 after the vehicle he was sitting in was shot by unknown suspects who were in a confrontation with other individuals, also unknown to Bridgmon.

"Our family is in complete shock. Thank you for the community's concern for our Dad, Carl Bridgmon, he was 70-years-old and a Lynnwood resident," said the Bridgmon family.

"Our Dad loved to go to that park and sit and have his coffee several times a week," said his daughter Courtney Teno. We are devastated and would really appreciate privacy as we process this over the next few days and weeks."

Carl leaves behind two daughters, their significant others, two sisters, and many other loved ones and friends. "Carl never met a person he didn't talk to or try to make friends with," Teno said.

The Lynnwood Police are still asking anyone who has any information on this shooting to contact Detective Arnett at (425) 670-5669. You can also leave tips at Crime Stoppers of Puget Sound (1-800-222-8477).

WHAT MATTERS TO YOU?

Email editorial@lynnwoodtimes.com or call 425-308-8371.



Below is the statement from Carl Bridgmon's family in its entirety: Family of a beloved Lynnwood man, who was innocently killed during the April 5 senseless shooting at Daleway Park in Lynnwood shares about their Dad, Carl Bridgmon.

Bridgmon was tragically killed on

- Planted 549 trees with tree vouchers
- Released 30,000 Coho salmon in Hall Lake
- Built 218 crosswalks with new Thermoplastic
- Replaced 29 non-compliant storm drain lids in bike lanes
- Made 6 water main repairs
- Made 34 water service replacements or repairs
- Installed, replace, or serviced 300 water meters
- Cleaned 3.63 miles of sewer mains
- Inspected 3,237 catch basins, cleaned 978, and repaired 17
- Cleaned 373 signs
- Brought 17 new vehicles to service
- Completed 1,075 fleet work orders services
- Held 4 recycling events

from page 3 **"MS. FRIZZLE"**

toes in a creative writing class for her second and third graders.

As well as an educator, Zackey is an advisor for students and parents, creating Written Student Learning Plans (WSLP) – individualized plans for each of the students at the school to better suit their individual needs.

SECURING FUNDING THROUGH EDMONDS FOUNDATION

Zackey first heard about the Edmonds Foundation during her first year as a certificated teacher, about nine years ago, although she didn't really know what it was all about. While seeing the benefits the Foundation brought to her school and her colleagues she began writing grants and her classroom experiences hasn't been the same since.

"I don't love spending my own money. I do all the time because we don't have a huge amount of classroom funds to spend," Zackey said. "I have no problem asking for help because it makes an impact on kids. It says I love working with you and teaching you new content. I care enough about what I do to ask for help when I need it because I can't do it alone."

Most recently Zackey utilized funds from the Foundation to host a couple speaking events featuring Houston Kraft, author and kindness advocate, and Chenoa Egawa, author of the children's book *The Whale Child*,

about a whale that becomes a boy to warn people of the dangers our world's oceans are facing.

With help from the Foundation, Zackey's students had the privilege of meeting Egawa, win a free copy of her book, and finish off with some outdoor gardening in celebration of this year's Arbor Day.

Typically grants the Foundation awards Zackey average around \$500 which Zackey told the Lynnwood Times makes all the difference when it comes to buying art supplies, microscopes, bird guides, and other resources.

"A couple hundred dollars really makes a big difference," Zackey said. "Without the Edmonds Foundation my work wouldn't be possible."



Photo courtesy of Erin Zackey.

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from page 1 **LYNNWOOD CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

At council's meeting on April 25, Councilwoman Shannon Sessions moved to postpone the vote appointing Arra Rael as DEI commissioner after voicing reservations that Rael was not a Lynnwood resident nor voter registered in the city of Lynnwood. According to Rael's LinkedIn profile, two months ago she was appointed to the City of Bothell's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee.

Sessions stated she wanted the council to review with city staff to ensure they were in compliance with city code before making a decision.

Given the nature of the position, the council's decision sparked an eruption of emotional public comments spanning over 30 minutes at Monday's meeting, many accusing the city council of being "exclusive" and "silencing" the voices of historically marginalized people.

Lynnwood resident Joy Karen made the point that at the April 25 meeting and May 16 work session, respectively, there were other candidates appointed to boards along with the DEIC, who were given opportunities to speak although no similar opportunity was granted to DEIC appointee Rael. Karen continued to share that the council spent more time questioning procedures than getting to know Rael in what she said was an attempt to "delegitimize and mute" the commission.

"You as the council have entrusted this DEIC with the responsibility to bring historically silenced voices forward and to suggest best practices for the city of Lynnwood," Karen said. "You have been trusted with the good faith of this community that you would advocate for all the voices of this community, not just the ones that make you comfortable or share the experiences that you have."

Arra Rael addressed the council personally about postponing her appointment to the commission first by clarifying that, in regards to speculation of whether she was a registered Lynnwood voter, she was indeed. In regards to living outside of Lynnwood city limits Rael noted that, according to the Lynnwood interactive map on the Lynnwood city website, she lives 1,200 feet away from Lynnwood city borders in unincorporated Snohomish County.

"While this distance might seem inconsequential to some, it has become the center of an incredibly contentious debate among city council and has become the primary reason why I should

not be appointed as a committee member," Rael said.

Rael noted there has been heightened scrutiny towards members of the DEIC, and only members of the DEIC, using the example of the May 16 Work Session when "the city was caught unaware that several other boards and commissions either loosely adhered to residency requirements or not at all."

"The actions the city council has taken in the last few weeks has sent a message to the community that they are unfortunately more invested in exclusion rather than inclusion," Rael said Monday. "I do not believe this is the message or the impact this city council wants to convey."

Lu Jiang, Chair of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Commission, also had a few words to say to council regarding their decision to postpone Rael's vote, whom the DEIC unanimously, if not emphatically, recommended council appoint.

The Lynnwood Municipal code allows for up to two non-Lynnwood residents to sit on boards and commissions and Rael satisfies that requirement, Jiang pointed out. In addition, by residing in unincorporated Lynnwood she would bring a unique, meaningful, perspective on marginalized representation, she said.

The voter registration requirements were changed in December, 2021, which Jiang stated was added to disqualify illegal immigrants from sitting on boards and commissions. The DEIC's mission statement states to "remove barriers" and "expand services", Jiang added, which the city is doing the opposite of by placing limitations, within the last six months, deviating from the commission's objective of creating an equitable environment.

"Not approving Arra's nomination demonstrates a pattern of systemic discrimination through excluding diverse voices," Jiang said.

Vice Chair of DEI commission Jennifer McLaughlin, chimed in through zoom to add the point that "equity is the process of redistributing access of opportunity to be fair and just - it's a commitment to action." McLaughlin noted that one and three Lynnwood residents are born outside of the United States so by restricting commissioner requirements to Lynnwood citizens and voters this disqualifies a vast pool of Lynnwood residents due to the country's long winded immigration process.

"I realize that the intent of city council is probably good but intent actually is not important, what's important is im-

pact and the impact of these actions is discriminatory," McLaughlin said.

Councilwoman Sessions spoke to her decision to postpone the vote last month by clarifying it had nothing to do with Rael's qualifications personally, but more to do with committee procedure.

"From the beginning it wasn't specific to Arra...it was specific to what we learned whether she qualified or not," Sessions said. "We do set rules for a reason."

In line with this procedural commitment, Sessions requested the Mayor and Council President George Hurst prepare an ordinance to be presented to council June 15 that would amend the city's municipal code restricting commission and board positions to Lynnwood residents and registered Lynnwood voters exclusively to avoid what she considered a similar "pickle."

Despite this request, Sessions not only voted in favor of appointing Rael, but vocalized her support of her in the position.

Councilman Joshua Binda made the motion to approve Arra Rael as DEI commissioner, and the motion was approved 4-2 with Councilman Patrick Decker and Council Vice President Jim Smith voting no. Councilwoman Shirley Sutton did not attend Monday's meeting.

BUSINESS ITEMS AND OTHER MATTERS

Council also read a proclamation recognizing May 30 as Memorial Day, held a brief presentation recognizing the Human Resource Department and the work that they do, and unanimously approved the following during their consent agenda:

- Claims in the amount of \$4,199,079.65 for the period May 2, 2022 through May 15, 2022, and payroll in the amount of \$1,254,276.56 dated May 6, 2022.
- A memorandum of understanding with local governments in settling claims against pharmaceutical companies supplying opioids
- A funding agreement for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Aeration Blowers upgrade

Additionally Councilwoman Sessions moved to approve resolution 2022-08 authorizing the purchase of real property identified by Snohomish County Assessor's parcel number 0060840030015, known as the Elk's property, for a Sprague's Pond Park addition. Session's motion was seconded by Councilman Decker and was approved unanimously.

Council Vice President Jim Smith also motioned to approve an ordinance amending the Lynnwood Municipal Code Title 1 (General Requirements), 19 (Subdivision Title), and 21 (Zoning) to make corrections found in error. Smith's motion passed unanimously.

Council President George Hurst then moved to postpone action on voting on eliminating vehicle license fees and utility tax relief until October 10 to allow the city to have a better understanding of its revenue during the Fall. Both postponements were approved by the council unanimously.

from page 1 **PANDEMIC RECOVERY**

Each recovery event will have three parts, according to the County's press release. The events will begin with "resource tables where attendees can connect directly with Snohomish County and community-based services and resources."

Organizations such as the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, planning and Development Services, and Volunteers of America Western Washington will participate in these resource tables.

The events will also host a voting session where attendees can voice their top three priorities for recovery investment to inform the County's decision-making. After the top three priorities of each district have been identified, the event will facilitate a "deep-dive discussion on the top-voted issues" to begin developing potential solutions and programs.

The events are free and open to the public and provide an opportunity for residents to connect directly with elected officials on issues relating to pandemic recovery, and attendees are not required to stay for the entire event to participate.

District Four Recovery Event Date & Time: Wednesday, May 25; doors open at 6 p.m., event ends at 7:30 p.m.

- Location: Mountlake Terrace City Hall, 23204 58th Ave W, Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043
- Cities: Bothell, Brier, Mill Creek, Mountlake Terrace
- More information & RSVP: www.snohomishcountywa.gov/recovery

District Three Recovery Meeting Date & Time: Thursday, June 2; doors open at 6 p.m., event ends at 7:30 p.m.

- Location: Lynnwood Library - Sno-Isle Libraries; 19200 44th Ave W, Lynnwood, WA 98036
- Cities: Edmonds, Lynnwood, Woodway
- More information & RSVP: www.snohomishcountywa.gov/recovery

District Five Recovery Event Date & Time: Thursday, June 9; doors open at 6 p.m., event ends at 7:30 p.m.

- Location: 4H Building #501, Evergreen State Fair Park, 14405 179th Ave SE, Monroe, WA 98272
- Cities: Gold Bar, Index, Lake Stevens, Monroe, Snohomish, Sultan
- More information & RSVP: www.snohomishcountywa.gov/recovery

District Two Recovery Event Date & Time: Wednesday, June 15; doors open at 6 p.m., event ends at 7:30 p.m.

- Location: Public Meeting Room 1 & Plaza, Snohomish County Campus, 3000 Rockefeller Avenue, Everett, WA 98201
- Cities & Tribes: Everett, Mukilteo, Tulalip Tribes
- More information & RSVP: www.snohomishcountywa.gov/recovery

District One Recovery Event Date & Time: Thursday, June 23; doors open at 6 p.m., event ends at 7:30 p.m.

- Location: Byrnes Performing Arts Center; 8821 Crown Ridge Blvd, Arlington, WA 98223
- Cities & Tribes: Arlington, Darrington, Granite Falls, Marysville, Stanwood, Sauk-Suiattle Tribe, Stillaguamish Tribe
- More information & RSVP: www.snohomishcountywa.gov/recovery

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