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Sept 10th

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TIMES



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RISNW - helping over 400 Ukrainian families find peace in Snohomish Co.



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Real News ⚡
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Korean American Appreciation Day



Korean Appreciation Day on Saturday, August 13, 2022, at Kamiak High School in Mukilteo. Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore.

By KIENAN BRISCOE

MUKILTEO—Mukilteo celebrated its first ever, Korean American Appreciation Day at Kamiak High School, Saturday, August 13. It was emceed by Mukilteo Councilman Jason Moon, the council’s first Korean American member, and organized in partnership with the newly formed Mukilteo Korean Community Association.

Around 400 attendees packed the school’s cafeteria to feast on Korean dishes, such as kimchi and bulgogi donated by local restaurants, and watch traditional Korean dance, Tae Kwan Do, and even K-Pop demonstrations. Kamiak was chosen to host due to its large Korean American student body, of which 10 to 15% of its nearly 2,000 students identify as Korean American.

Notable attendees included Mukilteo City Council members Jason Moon, Richard Emery, and Tom Jordal and Mukilteo Mayor Joe Marine, Mukilteo Police Chief Cheol Kang, Kamiak Principle Stephen Shurtleff, and 21st LD State Senate candidate Janelle Cass (R).

“I’m really happy with how it turned out,” Councilman Moon told the Lyn-

wood Times. “Anything community engagement is something we need more of as a city.”

The day was chosen to fall close to Korean Independence Day which Koreans celebrate globally August 15, honoring when the United States and Soviet Union helped liberate the country from 35 years of Japanese colonialism in 1945. Coincidentally, August 15 also marked the day the Mukilteo Police Department welcomed their second Korean American Police Officer to the force, second to Police Chief Cheol Kang who shared his story Saturday growing up as a Korean immigrant in Tacoma’s eastside. To this day, Chief Kang, keeps his original green card on the top of his dresser to remind him of where his family came from.

The organizers of the event were Dr. Hyunseok Kim, Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Seattle, and James Yoo who developed the idea with three close friends, both long-time Mukilteo residents and elders within the Korean American community.

The four elders wanted to organize an event that would teach Mukilteo’s younger generation of Koreans their culture while expressing their gratitude



Mukilteo resident James Yoo (second-right) with other organisers of the Korean Appreciation Day event in Mukilteo on August 13, 2022.

to the community. Yoo reached out to Councilman Moon, who has focused his efforts on giving Korean Americans living in Mukilteo a voice both on city council and through his role serving on the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Commission prior.

“It just came out of a roundtable discussion among ourselves,” Yoo said. “We wanted to show the young Korean Americans what kind of past we had to work through; to make a footprint in the next generation.”

Yoo, who turned 82 on August 10, immigrated to the United States in 1960 and has lived in Mukilteo for 19 years. He told the Lynnwood Times he thought the event was a “great success” and was thrilled to see a large turnout of varying age groups.

Mukilteo has one of the largest Korean American populations in Washington State at 8.2%, its largest immigrant population, recently announcing that it is working with South Korea on a sister

County approves \$20 million purchase of bridge-housing units

By MARIO LOTMORE

SNOHOMISH COUNTY—After approximately 2 hours of public testimony, the Snohomish County Council with a vote of 3-2 today, will move forward with the agreement to purchase two hotels to significantly boost bridge housing with access to behavioral health services within the County.

“The points of agreement between everybody that spoke today, are vastly greater than the disagreements,” County Executive Dave Somers said in his statement of support urging the Council to approve entering into the two sales agreements. “We all agree that we need to provide help for folks... Nobody wants a horrible facility, uncontrolled facility in their neighborhood. I don’t want that in the county. This will not be that.”

Public comments centered on the following themes: accountability, safety, substance use disorder, treatment, and homelessness. Several members of public advocated for the Council to delay the vote citing a proposed ordinance from Councilman Nate Nehring that requires participants in the bridge-housing program to undergo chemical dependency treatment if that person is found to have a substance use disorder.

“The American Rescue plan dollars in the contract we have with the federal government absolutely prohibits denying housing to individuals with disabilities, including [those with] substance use disorders,” Executive Somers shared during the meeting.

The county will be using the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to purchase both hotels – the America’s Best Value Inn in Edmonds for \$9,075,000 and the Days Inn facility in Everett for \$10,823,000.

During Councilman Sam Low’s questioning to staff of costs to own and maintain both hotels, it was disclosed that the estimated annual maintenance cost per room per year was \$20,000 and because of APRA loan conditions, the County would need to utilize the hotels for no less than 20 years.

“If the County were to sell the building(s), the funding could be required to be paid back,” Kelsey Nyland, Communications Director, Office of Recovery & Resilience, wrote to the Lynnwood Times.

According to the County, the cost to lease the rooms for both hotels would



Snohomish County Executive Dave Somers speaking about COVID-19 in March 2021. Lynnwood Times.

equate to a present-day amount of just over \$80 million (129 rooms x \$85/room x 365 days x 20 years) over the next 20 years. The cost to purchase and maintain the hotels are projected to be \$71.5 million (purchase price + 129 rooms x \$20,000/year x 20 years).

The 20-year per unit estimated cost to provide vouchers would equate to \$620,500 compared to \$554,248 based on the assumptions in the staff analysis to purchase and maintain each unit.

The County anticipates using funds from the 0.1% sales tax increase that went into effect on April 1 of this year to pay for the estimated \$2.58 million in annual recurring maintenance costs and will be tailoring a bridge-housing model from literature and best practices from the National Alliance to End Homelessness, the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, and the State of California Project Homekey program.

Bridge housing is time-limited housing with the intent of individuals stabilizing and moving to permanent housing. Wraparound services staff at the housing site will help each resident access the services they may need, whether that’s food, hygiene, employment services, mental health supports, medical supports, or substance use disorder treatment. Some services will be provided on site and other may be off site. The County will work with each local jurisdiction to determine how to collaboratively prioritize individuals for service. The bridge-housing program is intend to house unsheltered adults and couples only.

According to both agreements, the County now has 60 days from August 17, 2022, to complete its “due diligence

items” and may terminate the agreement upon its findings. Items to condition of sale may include but not limited to property condition, environmental assessments, methamphetamine testing results, and financial records.

“I am proud to support the County’s unique approach to provide services and assistance to those who are most vulnerable in our community. I am confident that this investment will help create safer, healthier, and stronger communities for us all,” said Vice Chair Jared Mead.

Now that the sale agreements have been approved, the County will issue a Request for Proposals for service providing organizations to help operate the two hotels.

Councilmembers voting in the affir-

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Council authorizes an additional \$8.9 million for Justice Center



Lynnwood City Council, January 2022.

By KIENAN BRISCOE

LYNNWOOD—Despite a vehemently opposing public comment section, the Lynnwood City Council voted to approve a contract award for the new Community Recovery Center (CRC) at Monday's Business Meeting, July 25, with all council members voting in favor except Councilman Joshua Binda who chose to abstain.

Lynnwood City Council authorized a bond issuance for the Community Justice Center and Town Square Park, adopted a Clean Streets ordinance, and approved Convention Center usage dates at its Business Meeting Monday, August 8.

Before these business items were discussed agenda minutes were unanimously approved for the July 20, July 25, August 1 meetings. All council members were present for the meeting except for Councilwoman Shannon Sessions.

After Councilman Patrick Decker briefly read a proclamation affirming September 5 as Labor Day in the City of Lynnwood, Michelle Meyer, Finance Director, led council through a presentation spotlighting Lynnwood's Finance Department. Some of the Department's 2021 to 2022 achievements were issuing the biggest bond in the city's history last year, completing the 2020 and 2021 Financial Statements completed on time, wrapped up their 2020 Audit, updated monthly sales tax report, updated utility billing payment plan options, updated its strategic plan and filled multiple vacancies.

Myer returned to council, along with Lori Charles, HR Manager, later in the meeting to brief council on Collective Bargaining labor negotiations during a closed session.

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING 2022 BOND ISSUANCE

Councilman Joshua Binda moved to adopt ordinance 3423 amending ordinance 3407 allowing for the refunding of a 2012 bond issuing additional funds for the Community Justice Center. Binda's motion was seconded by Councilwoman Shirley Sutton.

The new ordinance, as prepared by the City's Bond Counsel, sets the parameters for the 2022 LTGO bond issuance to refund the 2012 LTGO Bonds, issues

an additional \$8.9 million towards the construction of the CJC, and issues an additional \$4 million for the property acquisition of the future Town Square Park.

On June 24, 2021, the City issued LTGO Bonds to fund construction of the Community Justice Center (CJC) in accordance with the parameters established in Bond Authorizing Ordinance No. 3387 adopted on March 22, 2021. Due to supply chain and material cost impacts resulting from the ongoing pandemic, construction bids for the CJC were higher than anticipated. Council approved the construction contract on September 13, 2021, with the understanding that additional bond financing would need to be issued for the project in conjunction with the anticipated 2022 refunding issuance.

Bond Authorizing Ordinance 3407 was adopted on December 13, 2021, to allow for the refunding of the 2012 bond and issue additional funds for the CJC.

Despite Councilman Binda bringing forth the motion for adoption, he chose to abstain from voting with all other council members voting in favor allowing it to pass.

ORDINANCE: COMPLETE STREETS

Council Vice President Jim Smith then moved to adopt an ordinance related to Lynnwood's Complete Streets, which allows for the development of improved walking and biking conditions; supports developing a safer, more efficient transportation system; and provides safer access to schools and parks in Lynnwood. Smith's motion was seconded by Councilwoman Julieta Altamirano-Crosby and passed unanimously.

LYNNWOOD CONVENTION CENTER USE DAY APPROVALS

Staff opened a call for requests for convention center use days receiving eight applications. Four of those applications meet the intention of use days and have event days which are available for use at the convention center.

A review of the applications, discussions with applicants, and coordination with the Convention Center for availability, results in a staff recommen-



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Health care leaders speak with Larsen about Inflation Reduction Act



By MARIO LOTMORE

EVERETT—Rep. Rick Larsen (WA-02) met with the CEOs of both Compass Health and the Community Health Center of Snohomish County in Everett to discuss benefits the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) brings to Washingtonians and health care centers.

“I think the biggest impact, would be the ability for Medicare to negotiate lower prescription drug prices for seniors,” Larsen shared with the Lynnwood Times when asked what he is most proud about the legislation of the IRA as it relates to health care. “I think that’s going to help seniors quite a bit with their finances. It also caps out of pocket cost \$2000 a year. So, this would be a big benefit for seniors who struggling with rising costs.”

One key legislation missing from the IRA is the extension of the Childcare Tax Credit. According to Rep. Larsen, the tax credit reduced childcare poverty by approximately 39 percent in the United States in 2021.

“Given that was such a huge number and such a demonstrable benefit to families, to see it not extended was a disappointment,” Larsen said. “But with that said, there’s a lot to be had in this bill.”

In March, Rep. Larsen secured over \$10 million for several Second District projects local leaders and stakeholders identified as critical to their communities. One of those projects was \$2 million for the upcoming 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.

One key policy as it relates to healthcare in the IRA is the extension of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) premium subsidies established under the American Rescue Plan (ARP) for three years. The Joint Economic Committee estimates the enhanced premium tax credits included in ARP enabled 95,000 Washingtonians, including

11,000 people in Washington’s Second Congressional District, to enroll in affordable health insurance plans on the ACA marketplace.

Tom Sebastian, President/CEO of Compass Health, shared that the three-year extension of the ACA would impact over 12,000 of their Medicaid patients.

“On January 1st of 2014 everything changed for us because we had so many thousands of community members that could not access care...So all that changed in one day for us and we’ve been able to double our capacity to serve the community since that time,” Sebastian shared with Rep. Larsen about the three-year extension of the ACA premium subsidies.

“So, the extension of that for three years is super significant. It allows us to be able to think about how we plan over the next three years to make sure we are as accessible as possible to individuals that qualify, particularly for Medicaid, but also for the insurance, importantly for the insurance exchange.”

Compass Health provided approximately 160 thousand instances of telehealth services in 2021 and expects that trend to continue. By partnering with United Way of Whatcom County and various school districts, Compass Health now provides telehealth services to every school in Whatcom County.

“The school staff really just have to get the student in front of the screen and then you take it from there,” Sebastian said.

Another partnership with Community Action of Skagit County allows telehealth services for residents who are unable to connect at home or face broadband challenges.

For the first time, Medicare will directly negotiate the cost of certain prescription drugs – such as a \$35 co-pay cap for insulin – and the legislation, that is headed back to the House for approval later this week, also caps out-of-pocket costs at \$2,000 per year for Medicare Part D beneficiaries buying prescription drugs from pharmacies. These policies in the IRA start in 2026 and apply only to people covered by Medicare – not those with commercial insurance.

The Department of Health and Human Services will initially select ten drugs eligible for negotiation by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and another ten drugs by 2026. The Selection criteria for the drugs will be based on their total spending under Medicare Parts B and D, with an exception for smaller biotech drugs, including vaccines. That exception would apply to biotech drugs from 2026 to 2028.

Joe Vessey, CEO of Community Health Center of Snohomish County, applauded the cap on insulin co-pays during his meeting with Rep. Larsen on Monday.

“Access to diabetic medications has been a challenge for seniors...another

Continued **PAGE 15 >>**

Julie Moore replaces Art Ceniza as Asst City Administrator



By MARIO LOTMORE

LYNNWOOD—Mayor Christine Frizzell on Friday has selected Julie Moore to serve as Lynnwood’s next Assistant City Administrator. She will be filling a vacancy left by the retirement of Art Ceniza who served the role for the last 12 years.

Moore will assist the Mayor in the

overall management of the City, supporting internal and external operations, and implementing City policies, programs, and procedures. Moore’s new salary will fall between an hourly rate range of \$74.97 to \$96.51 per hour, a 35% increase from a previous 20.94% pay grade increase in December of 2021 with an hourly rate range of \$55.32 to \$71.22 per hour.

“Julie Moore is a dedicated and trusted member of our City’s Executive team,” stated Mayor Frizzell in a statement to the public.

She added, “I am excited by her passion for the City of Lynnwood, the professional expertise she continually exhibits through her work in outreach and communications, and her ability to connect and engage with City Directors, staff, community agencies, and community members. Julie is a strategic thinker, a problem solver, and a great collaborator – she is going to play a crucial role on our City’s leadership team as we move Lynnwood forward.”

In mid-July, Mayor Frizzell and the Lynnwood City Council passed a proclamation to honor former Assistant City Administrator Art Ceniza, commemorating his retirement.

In 2010, Ceniza, an army veteran, began his career in Lynnwood as the Assistant City Administrator and has been instrumental in supporting the successful administration of three Lynnwood Mayors. He is a staunch

advocate for employee support and well-being, an advocate for advancing racial equity, and a champion for a ‘One Lynnwood’ strategic approach to problem-solving and city management.

In addition to his tenure in Lynnwood, Ceniza has served for over 27 years in public administration.

Prior to her hire as Assistant City Administrator, Moore served under former Mayor Nicola Smith, as the City’s Manager of Communications and Public Affairs. In 2008, she began her service to Lynnwood working at the Office of Neighborhoods & Community Affairs on community-building through outreach programming and engagement.

Moore is a graduate of Meadowdale High School and earned a degree in Cultural Anthropology from Western Washington University. After spending a few years in Tucson, Arizona, she returned to the Northwest and joined the City of Lynnwood. She is currently working towards a master’s degree in Management and Leadership.

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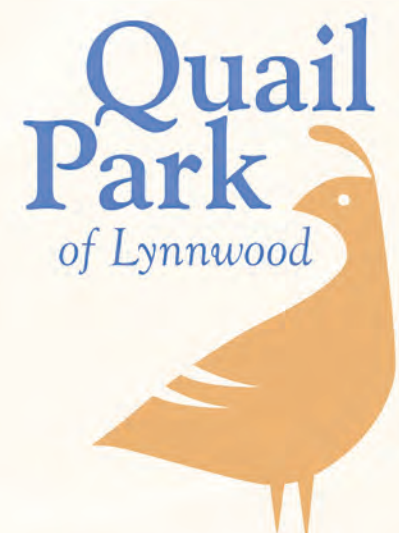
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RISNW - helping over 400 Ukrainian families find peace in Snohomish County



Farhad, his wife Natalia, their two children and Natalia's mother Tetyana standing in front of their Arlington apartment. Photo 2: Van Dinh-Kuno with Farhad's two boys.

By KIENAN BRISCOE

ARLINGTON—Farhad, his wife Natalia, and two children, lived relatively simple lives in their home city of Odessa, Ukraine. Farhad worked as a cabinetmaker and Natalia worked teaching English at a nearby elementary school. They were your typical Odessian family but, on February 24, everything changed.

Farhad was on his way to the grocery store that Thursday morning when he heard it: a loud explosion that shook the port city streets. People began to run, panicked, leaving Farhad, not quite knowing what was going on, thinking of his family first. He ran home and ushered his wife, kids, and mother Tetyana to the basement to seek shelter. As the air raid sirens echoed through the streets, Farhad told the Lynnwood Times his children were terrified, stuttering, and unable to form proper sentences.

“Kids understand. When we go to the basement, they know something is going on,” Farhad said.

The Russian airstrikes fired that day left 22 Ukrainians dead, and at least 6 injured. By February 27, just three days after the initial bombings occurred, Russian saboteurs had begun operating in Odessa. The next month Russian warships, situated offshore in the Black Sea, continued to pelt the city with missiles, targeting warehouses, and leaving a wake of destruction in their aftermath.

February 24 was the first day of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, a major escalation in the Russo-Ukrainian war that began in 2014. It has caused the largest refugee crises since World War II, with more than 6.4 million Ukrainians fleeing their home country and a third of the population displaced. The purpose, Russian President Vladimir Putin said, was to “demilitarize and denazify” Ukraine.

Farhad and his family lived in their basement for the next month as things continued to worsen. Occasionally he

would leave to restock resources and see his home city more and more decimated by the invasion. He knew he and his family needed to escape but didn’t know where to go or how.

When their neighbor, someone who had disappeared and was presumed dead, returned to Odessa he mentioned he had fled to nearby Poland which gave Farhad an idea. He helped his family pack all of their belongings into two suitcases and hailed a cab to the closest train station.

“We left everything behind. Our life was in two suitcases between five people,” Natalia, Farhad’s wife, told the Lynnwood Times.

The train station was packed like sardines and nobody seemed to know what time the next train would come. As Farhad and his family waited, squeezed between the bodies of other families, they could hear the sirens and bombings of their home from the platform. Eventually the train came and they got on, tucking themselves into a car that was meant to fit two. It wasn’t until the train left the station that all was quiet, the passengers, although crowded together, not saying a word.

It took an entire day to reach their destination in Sopot, Poland, where the family stayed for a while but still felt unsafe with Russian ships occupying the Baltic Sea. They planned to escape to the United States, to join Natalia’s sister, Julie Wold, in Seattle but there were some complications due to Farhad being born in Azerbaijan and not an official Ukrainian citizen.

That’s when Wold turned to Van Dinh-Kuno, Executive Director of Refugee and Immigrant Services Northwest in Everett.

Dinh-Kuno, a former refugee from Vietnam, has dedicated most of her adult life helping others at Refugee & Immigrant Services Northwest where she has been Executive Director since 1991. After moving to Washington state, she was hired first as a job developer, then assistant director before

assuming her current position of 28 years. As the result of her own experience, through her organization, she is committed to providing culturally and linguistically appropriate services so all refugees and immigrants can build a better life for themselves and their families.

“Van is an amazing person. She really helped streamline [the immigration process] in a world where nothing is streamlined,” Wold told the Lynnwood Times.

Dinh-Kuno’s agency got to work setting helping Farhad and his family sign up for medical services, food assistance, enrolling in English classes at Edmonds Community College, work authorizations and fee waivers, and obtaining temporary protective immigration status.

While Dinh-Kuno handled the immigration process Wold, with the help of the Everett Police Department, organized a fundraiser to help her family afford a fully furnished apartment in Arlington where they still live, happily, today. Farhad and his family told the Lynnwood Times that they have noticed the benefits of their new lifestyle change most in their children who have abandoned their stress in pursuit of simply being kids.

“I feel this is the duty, not only as a former refugee, but as a member of our community to band together and support Ukrainian refugees. That’s what our country is all about,” Dinh-Kuno told the Lynnwood Times.

Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine began Dinh-Kuno’s agency has helped over 400 Ukrainian refugee families begin new lives in Snohomish County.

For more than 40 years, Refugee & Immigrant Services Northwest (RISNW) has been helping newly arrived refugees and immigrants rebuild their lives and achieve their full potential as contributing citizens in their new country.

RISNW is a refugee-led, multi-ethnic, multi-cultural organization with the mission to empower refugees, immigrants, and their families to become self-sufficient and healthy, contributing members of society.

Beginning as a grassroots organization in 1977, the agency started with serving newly arrived Southeast Asian refugees in Snohomish County. Since then, it has grown to become a multi-service organization serving refugees and immigrants living in Snohomish, Whatcom, Skagit, San Juan, and Island Counties.

RISNW’s core staff of 20 full-time and 137 on-call interpreters are fluent in 40 languages and dialects who value partnerships, collaborations and services delivered by culturally relevant and linguistically appropriate staff who reflect the clients they serve.

They accomplish this by providing a comprehensive array of linguistically and culturally appropriate services, and advocate for equitable funding and services for limited English-speaking refugees and immigrants.


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Leaders call on Edmonds SD to reinstate School Resource Officers as gang violence hits Lynnwood

By **MARIO LOTMORE**

LYNNWOOD—Local leaders and community members gathered at Lynnwood's Silver Creek Family Church to discuss public safety in an open forum setting on Wednesday, August 10.

"There is an inherent need for authorities to help keep our public safe," Lynnwood City Councilwoman and event organizer Julieta Altamirano-Crosby said in her opening address to her second "Let's Talk About Public Safety" forum. "The lives of people depend on public safety professionals and their ability to respond to situations quickly, effectively, and accurately."

The forum comes a month after the tragic shooting deaths of 16-year-old Jesus Sanchez, Jr. and 15-year-old Tidus Goodwin-Linville at Spruce Park, a drive-by shooting leaving two teens injured, and another shooting at Pick and Pull in Lynnwood.

Mayor Christine Frizzell acknowledges that recent events "have been a little bit unsettling" but assured attendees that her administration is serious about public safety.

"We acknowledge that things have been a little bit unsettling, and we want to assure you that we are aware of them

and taking action," Mayor Frizzell said.

Lynnwood currently has 71 law enforcement officers and the city council recently approved five additional positions.

Panelist for Wednesday's forum included James Nelson, Lynnwood Police Chief, Lynn Sordel, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Arts, Bill Franz, Director of Public Works, Judge Valerie Bouffiou, Lynnwood Municipal Court, and Cole Langdon, Lynnwood Police Department. Karina Gasperin was the moderator for the forum.

Almost all the questions asked by community members to the panelist focused on gang violence.

"I want to know what exactly you are doing to prevent the youth for going into gangs especially the youth that is mostly targeted and what are you doing in the community?" asked Diana, a Lynnwood resident who summed up the overall sentiment of community members.

The removal of School Resource Officers (SRO) by the Edmonds School District in 2021 along with a new law, HB1140, requiring minor suspects consult with an attorney prior to police

questioning that went into effect this year, Chief Nelson and other panelists attribute as two significant factors hampering preventative intervention of gang violence in Lynnwood.

"School Resource Officers see these problems as they develop," Chief Nelson said. "They have tried to intervene with the parents and the students, and this isn't just a small thing. Some of this is gone and we are trying to find a way to access those kids."

"The legislation is a big deal and I see my role as informing policy...when we take away the ability of police to interview a juvenile in custody without a lawyer there is a big impact," Chief Nelson said when responding to a similar question asked by another resident.

In addition to proposing fully funding Special Operations at the Lynnwood Police Department to tackle gang violence in the upcoming biennium budget, Councilwoman Shannon Sessions emphasized that residents must reach out to the Edmonds School Board to reinstate School Resource Officers.

"I want to reiterate that we have heard the [removal of] School Resource Officers was a bad decision when it happened," Councilwoman Sessions said. "I am a mother of five kids and have worked in public safety, it is predictable to see what is happening and plus all the other things is something you cannot measure. It is huge and it is important to reach out to school board."

Community members inquired if the Edmonds School District is considering the reinstatement of the School Resource Officer program to combat rising gang violence, to which Chief Nelson implied, no.

"We communicated with them [Edmonds School District] that we are in that process of budgeting, because this [SRO] is a person we want to budget for and right now they [Edmonds School District] are not ready for a public resource officer to go and be there in the schools," Chief Nelson told attendees.

Both teenagers who were fatally killed in the double-homicide at Spruce Park in July, attended Lynnwood High School. The shooting is believed to be "gang-related" according to law enforcement. In a FOX13 interview, Rose Camunas shared that her son Jesus "loved video games, ice cream and wanted to play football in school this fall."

Parks and Recreation Director Sordel informed attendees that his department is going to do everything it can to prevent another senseless tragedy at Lynnwood's parks.

"After the tragedy in Spruce Park, I asked what we can do, how can we help our community?" Sordel shared. "We are activating some things when school starts in Cedar Valley. We are going to resume drop by teams, our junior counselor programs...we are also trying to resume our night waves at the recreational center."

Approximately 275 young adults are employed and/or volunteer at the Lynnwood Recreation Center, according to Director Sordel.

"We recognize that the teens are more at risk in middle school and high school, so we focus on them," Director Sordel said.

Judge Bouffiou shared she would like to see a "Law Day" program partnership with the Edmonds School District where every fourth grader would participate in a mock trial, be witnesses, jurors or judges.

On another note, to reduce recidivism, Judge Bouffiou also shared the concept of a "problem-solving court" where defendants have access to GED, job training, and behavioral health service providers at the court. The forum was the second in a series organized by Lynnwood City Councilwoman Altamirano-Crosby. She informed the Lynnwood Times that the next event is planned for the fall.

Mukilteo Police host impromptu "Pop Up BBQ" for residents



Mukilteo Police "Pop Up BBQ" on August 10, 2022. Lynnwood Times.

By **MARIO LOTMORE**

MUKILTEO—Over one hundred Mukilteans joined the Mukilteo Police Department for an impromptu "Pop Up BBQ" at Lighthouse Park on Wednesday evening.

At 4:40 p.m. on August 10, the Mukilteo Police Department announced on Facebook, "We are hosting a pop-up BBQ at Lighthouse Park until about 7pm tonight!!"

Mukilteo Crime Prevention Officer Nathan Fabia organized the "Pop Up BBQ" event and shared that he and the other officers wanted a way to celebrate with the Mukilteo community.

"All of us at Mukilteo Police are so fortunate to work here for this wonderful city and community outreach is something that all of us are passionate

about," Officer Fabia said. We want to give back to this awesome community that supports us so well and celebrate with them."

Attendees enjoyed burgers, hotdogs, and lawn games. Even Mayor Joe Marine sat down with residents and enjoyed a hotdog or two.

"Our police foundation funded this event and they've been wanting to do a lot more community outreach events and campaign with kids," Mukilteo Police Chief Cheol Kang told the Lynnwood Times. "So, between our staff, our volunteers and foundation members, we have been able to put this together."

Officer Fabia shared his gratitude to both day and night shift sergeants as well as the Mukilteo Police Foundation for all of their efforts in making



Lynnwood City Council, January 2022.

the "Pop Up" a reality.

Jason Moon and Cindy Ryu attend Korean American Grassroots Conference in D.C.

By KIENAN BRISCOE

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Mukilteo councilman Jason Moon accompanied by Representative Cindy Ryu (D-Lynnwood) and SeaTac City Council member Peter Kwon, recently attended the Korean American Grassroots Conference (KAGC) in our Nation’s Capital on July 27 through July 29 – the largest nationwide network of Korean American voters.

The national conference draws over 600 community members from over 110 districts across 31 states every summer. As a non-partisan not-for-profit organization, KAGC is dedicated to uplifting the Korean American community through active civic engagement and, in turn, contributing to the U.S.-Korea alliance.

“[The biggest thing] I learned [is] that diversity and balance is important. If one group of people cannot be heard or given an opportunity, then a red flag is thrown,” Councilman Moon told the Lynnwood Times.

When the elected officials first arrived in D.C., they spent their first day registering, networking, listening to key speakers and attending a session on the Adoptee Citizen’s Act specific to Korean Americans who were deported back to their native country.

Washington state Representative Cindy Ryu (D-Lynnwood) speaking on the “A Conversation with Korean American State Legislation” panel at the 2022 Korean American Grassroots Conference in Washington, D.C. Source: Korean American Grassroots Conference Facebook page.

In 2017, Philip Clay, 42, was found dead in Seoul, South Korea, by apparent suicide. Clay had been adopted to an American family in the 1980’s and,



Mukilteo Councilman Jason Moon (right) with Republic of Korea Ambassador to the U.S., Cho Tae-yong (left) at the 2022 Korean American Grassroots Conference. Source: Jason Moon.

after a struggle with drug addiction and problems with the law, was deported back to Korea in 2012. Clay was one of multiple people brought to the United States as an adoptee deported back to South Korea as an adult.

In 1979 the Holt Children’s Services brought over a three-year-old who was given the name Adam Crasper. In his 40’s, Crasper learned that due to an oversight in the adoption process, he was not a U.S. citizen and would be deported back to Korea. Crasper was left alone without U.S. citizenship after his adopted family was charged with child abuse. He was later sentenced to two years in prison after being caught attempting to steal the only two items he brought with him to the United States: a pair of shoes and a Korean bible. Based on this, and some other criminal charges, Crasper was deported back to Seoul, after 38-years living in the United States, not speaking the language,

and leaving his wife and daughter behind in the states.

The Adoptee Rights Campaign estimates that 112,000 Korean children were adopted by US citizens in the last 60 years. Out of these, 20% of adoptees who are now adults are living in the U.S. without citizenship, in danger of deportation.

After attending the first session, Councilman Moon and colleagues were divided into groups by state to work on core issues, role plays, and to input from elected officials to provide direction for their meeting on Capitol Hill the following day.

The next day, each group met with their respective Congressional leaders, having lunch together in the Capitol Building, and were met by special guests including Rep. Rick Larsen (WA-02), Rep. Josh Gottheimer (NJ-

05), and Rep. Bill Pascrell (NJ-09), to name a few.

That evening KAGC hosted a Gala that hundreds attended including the Republic of Korea Ambassador to the U.S., Cho Tae-yong. Numerous mayors, Senators, Congressional members, and other leaders also gave special remarks and appearances at this event.

When Moon arrived at the airport to head back to Mukilteo, he learned his flight home had been canceled due to mechanical issues and only three of the over 100 passengers were able to secure flights home before the next day. Moon was lucky enough to reserve a flight to Chicago and transfer to a flight to Seattle.

“[it was the] worst experience ever,” Moon told the Lynnwood Times. “Pure chaos and frustration as [the] 100 plus people tried to rebook their flights. The flight crew and captain were helpless as they stood next to the desk trying to calm people down. The worst part was trying to get assistance with our newly booked ticket and trying to figure out how we could get compensated for lost bags and the canceled flight. [I] found out that Pete Buttigieg had a similar experience and is now pushing for change which we desperately need.”

This year was Councilman Moon’s first year attending KAGC and third time visiting D.C. Although his time was spent mostly working and volunteering, he told the Lynnwood Times next time he returns to D.C. he wants to go on a midnight stroll to see all of the landmarks on an electric scooter.

“I hope to continue to be a resource and mentor for those who are passionate about politics or about their Korean/Asian American Identity,” Moon told the Lynnwood Times.

from page 1 KOREAN APPRECIATION

city relationship in the near future.

“A number of countries have come to me, within my three terms, asking for a sister city relation but it never really made sense to me - you look for a strong connection for that to happen,” Mayor Joe Marine said. “A couple of individuals came to me and said we need to have a sister city with South Korea, and that makes perfect sense, because we are very proud of our Korean American community here in Mukilteo,” said Mayor Marine.

A sister city is a long-term relationship between two communities in two countries. A relationship is officially recognized after the highest elected or appointed official from both communities sign off on an agreement to become sister cities.

It was President Dwight Eisenhower who created the concept of sister cities in 1956, via the Sister Cities International organization, to promote citizen diplomacy.

By forming relationships, Eisenhower believed that people of different cultures could understand, celebrate, and

appreciate their differences and build partnerships that would lessen the chance of future world conflicts. There are currently three cities that are being considered which Councilman Moon began touring Sunday. Moon told the Lynnwood Times that the city is looking for a sister city that aligns with Mukilteo’s love for academics and possibly positioned on a port.

Once Mukilteo settles on a South Korean sister city it will be the second Snohomish County city with a sister city to South Korea, second to Lynnwood, whose sister city is Damyang.



Lynnwood awarded \$25 million grant for Poplar Way Extension Bridge over I-5

By MARIO LOTMORE

LYNNWOOD—On Tuesday, August 16, Rep. Rick Larsen (WA-02) met with Lynnwood Mayor Christine Frizzell and other City of Lynnwood officials to tour the future site of the Poplar Way Extension Bridge.

“Representative Rick Larson has just been amazing,” Mayor Frizzell told the Lynnwood Times when asked to share the relationship between the City and its federal partners. “He’s been here a few times with us on this and other projects. He’s invested in Lynnwood.”

On August 9, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) awarded a \$25 million grant to construct a new six-lane, multimodal bridge over I-5 in Lynnwood, between the intersections of 196th Street SW (State Route 524)/Poplar Way and 33rd Avenue W/Alderwood Mall Boulevard. DOT awarded the funding through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grant Program.

Rep Larsen shared that his office has an ongoing practice of proactively reaching out to cities and counties to remove barriers and understand “what are their priorities.”

“My philosophy has been that I’m not in the business of telling cities what



(L-R) Lynnwood City Engineer David Mach, Director Bill Franz, Mayor Christine Frizzell, Rep. Rick Larsen, Director David Kleitsch and Karl Almgren at the future Poplar Way Bridge construction site.

their priorities ought to be,” Rep Larsen told the Lynnwood Times. “We’re trying to bring tools and resources to help the cities achieve their goals for their citizens and constituents.”

Mayor Frizzell added, “We [Lynnwood] represent less than 8% of the population, but we produced over 30% of the sales tax in the county. People come here for a reason. They come here to shop, they come here to work, they come here to play. We need to be able to help them move around our city

better.”

City engineer David Mach told the Lynnwood Times that the Poplar Way Extension Bridge will not only improve safety for vehicles navigating to Lynnwood destinations it will also alleviate congestion and backups on the 196th Street SW off-ramps and overcrossings.

“I think the numbers were around 30,000 cars per day,” Mach said when asked how many vehicles are expect-

ed to utilize the new bridge. “Those are trips that are currently driving our streets on all our other bridges and crossings. So, this project will reduce the congestion.”

The standard concrete bridge is wrapping up the design stage and a right of way acquisition and is expected to break ground in 2024 and take a year-and-a-half to build. The City still has to place a call for construction bids and is in the process of applying for additional grant funds.

The total cost of the bridge is projected at approximately \$50 million. In addition to the RAISE grant, the City was awarded \$10 million by the state earlier this year and plans to allocate up to \$7 million in city funds for the project.

In total, U.S. Dept. of Transportation awarded more than \$2.2 billion to 166 infrastructure projects throughout the county of which Washington state was awarded \$97.74 million in RAISE grants in 2022.

Other jurisdictions in 2022 throughout Washington state receiving the RAISE grant include:

- Whatcom County, Lummi Island Ferry Replacement and System Modernization Project, \$25,000,000

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Lynnwood Public Works: Building a better Lynnwood



196th Street widening project taken on June 2, 2022. Source: Lynnwood Public Works.

By KIENAN BRISCOE

LYNNWOOD—The Lynnwood Public Works Department had a busy year in 2021 with many more projects coming through in 2022 and beyond!

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.”

His Department’s focus for capital projects involve completion of 196th Street Improvement Project, Poplar Way Bridge Extension, 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.

For the latest citywide Lynnwood Pub-

lic Works updates, follow them on twitter: @lynnwoodstreets.

196TH STREET CONSTRUCTION

Source: Lynnwood Public Works.

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.

On August 9, 2022, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) awarded a \$25 million grant to the new six-lane, multimodal bridge project. The funding was awarded through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grant Program, which enables communities of all sizes to carry out projects with significant local or regional impact, thanks to the efforts of Representatives Rick Larsen (WA-02) and Suzan DelBene (WA-01).

“This investment is great news for Lynnwood and surrounding communities after years of working with local leaders and stakeholders to secure funding,” said Rep. Rick Larsen (WA-02). “The Poplar Way Bridge creates more jobs and opportunity for residents and businesses while reducing congestion and carbon emissions and building a more equitable transportation system

for all.”

“This bridge project has been years in the making,” said Rep. Suzan DelBene (WA-01). “The I-5 choke point creates huge delays for commuters. Building this new connection will alleviate congestion and help us accommodate the growing population in the area.”

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.

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.

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Mukilteo Public Works continues to serve its residents

By **KIENAN BRISCOE**

MUKILTEO—Despite a challenging couple of years that included staffing shortages, supply chain issues, and a global pandemic, the Mukilteo Public Works Department has been busier than ever serving residents with much needed improvements.

Continuing through the last half of 2022, the Department's priorities continue to be staffing in both operations and engineering due to attrition, following the Stormwater Comprehensive Plan, and improvements to make streets and pathways more accessible. In addition to adding sidewalks and ADA compliance pathways, the Department is currently working on adding a topcoat of slurry seal to the City's pavement – an overlay of very fine rock and oil.

2022 YEAR-TO-DATE ACHIEVEMENTS



Matt Nienhuis

Just this year the Department succeeded in building a new Decant Facility at the Public Works Shop, which will help and restore water quality in Washington by

reducing stormwater impacts from existing infrastructure and development. The Decant Facility has been needed for years in order to be in compliance with NPDES Stormwater Permits. Matt Nienhuis, Public Works Director for the City of Mukilteo, told the Lynnwood Times. Another bonus is that the project was funded by a grant from the Washington Department of Ecology.

“To finally get that completed and operational, to finally put our vector debris and our sweeper debris in a proper place so it can be properly disposed – that’s a big win,” Nienhuis said.

Some other big wins this year, according to Nienhuis, have been the Harbor Reach Corridor Project and a new drainage system on 60th Avenue, which will be fully operational by this winter. The Department also repaved Harbor Pointe Boulevard adding ADA ramps and a new sidewalk between Second and Third Avenues off Route 525, which was also funded by a grant from the Transportation Improvement Board (TIB).

The 76th Pedestrian Improvement, also grant funded through the Safer Routes to School Program, is also nearly complete although its new Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon (HAWK) is awaiting final approval from WSDOT.

“One of my big pushes as Director is sidewalks, ADA ramps, basically mobility-type things. So getting that done and also ADA ramps off Harbor Pointe Boulevard on 50th and 51st, those are important things for mobility – moving people and not just cars,” Nienhuis said. “You can’t make everything ADA compliant but it’s taking those top priorities and working on them as we can, and doing some of this work with our crew saves the city a lot of money be-



Mukilteo Public Works crew installing sidewalks on Harbour Pointe Blvd on August 2, 2022. Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore.

cause to contract that out is very expensive.”

POST-PANDEMIC IMPACTS

While the Department has gotten over the hump of the COVID outbreak, the pandemic is still impacting the Department drastically mainly as it pertains to material acquisition and staffing.

The Department has learned to order materials ahead of time but even that can be difficult to do depending on funding, Nienhuis informed the Lynnwood Times providing the example of the newly approved generators for Mukilteo Fire Stations. The generators were ordered this past January but will not arrive until next year so the Department will have to budget for them out of next year's budget.

“Anything concrete, as far as big culverts or detention tanks, you’re running around six to eight months out,” Nienhuis said.

The Department has resorted to stockpiling materials such as salt and sand before the winter months hit since the materials won't go bad and are typically hard to come by during winter months. To account for inflation and rising material costs, the Department had to increase their contingencies when budgeting for materials.

“It’s just coming together as a Public Works crew to solve those problems. That means a lot of twelve-hour shifts, not playing with our kids in the snow, it means sweeping, it means fixing potholes and things like that,” Nienhuis explained.

Material acquisition is still an ongoing issue but one of the major challenges at COVID's height was staffing. While the Department is proud to announce there were no layoffs or furloughs there was still a challenge of keeping teams isolated if there was any exposure to the virus.

“I think we’ve come out of COVID very successful; we’ve been able to get projects done that have been on the books for a long time. Public Works is very resilient in what we do and we’re committed to serving our residents even through challenges. Pretty much

all of our projects have been come within budget, we’ve been able to take care of the parks and the waterfront and do our daily tasks. It’s really just a commitment to customer service and provide value to tax dollars. We’re here to provide that service,” Nienhuis told the Lynnwood Times.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR MUKILTEO PUBLIC WORKS?

A common concern brought to the Public Works Department is flooding at Lighthouse Park, particularly during the winter. To address this, the Department has recently installed new tide gates which will not completely allevi-

ate flooding but will alleviate saltwater coming through the system, Nienhuis explained.

Public Works also recently installed solar panels at Rosehill Community Center, the first solar panels on a city building in Mukilteo's history. They were installed just two weeks ago and were brought online this week.

The Chennault Beach Drive Drainage Improvements is also entering its design phase this year with construction beginning in 2024. The project will be completely grant funded and involve all new ADA requirements and a crosswalk to the Girls and Boys Club.

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“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.

POTHOLES

Lynnwood Public Works filled a total of 231 potholes last year and are reviewing new strategies to preserve the city's roads long term leading up into colder months this winter, recently at-

tending 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.

To learn more about potholes, check out the Lynnwood Times article, “Insurgence of potholes: Where did they come from and what is the Snohomish County doing about it?”

OTHER 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

In 2021 Lynnwood Public Works:

- Pumped 4.31 million gallons of sewage
- Incinerated 2.8 million pounds of solids
- 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

Port of Everett acquires Mukilteo Landing parcel for \$3.5 million to redevelop the Mukilteo waterfront

By MARIO LOTMORE

MUKILTEO—The Port of Everett Commission has authorized the strategic property acquisition of the former Mukilteo ferry terminal holding lanes to preserve the property for the future redevelopment of the Mukilteo waterfront.

The Port is purchasing the 0.89 acres, located across from Ivar's at 707 Front Street, from Mukilteo Landing LLC to ensure the site's optimal development potential strikes a balance with the community's desires for the future of the waterfront.

"Mukilteo Landing LLC is pleased that the Port of Everett had the vision to incorporate the property as a significant and strategic piece of the developing Mukilteo Waterfront Plan," said Patrick McCourt with Mukilteo Landing LLC.

In June, a unified vision and set of guiding principles for the redevelopment of the Mukilteo waterfront was approved by the Port and City after extensive public outreach. The next step is to determine a partnership agreement to allow the planning process to move forward. The planning area stretches from Lighthouse Park to Edgewater Beach.

"This acquisition is consistent with the unified vision for the waterfront adopted by the Port Commission and Mukil-



The 0.89-acre parcel of land purchased by the Port of Everett in front of Ivar's in Mukilteo, Washington. Source: Mario Lotmore/Lynnwood Times.

teo City Council," Port Commissioner Tom Stiger said. "This is certainly a step in the right direction. The community will be well-served as the Port works with the City of Mukilteo to redevelop the waterfront."

The Port is buying the property for \$3.5 million. It will pay \$1.5 million at closing and the remaining \$2 million over a 10-year period. The sale of the property is slated to close on Sept. 2.

As part of the purchase and sale agreement, Mukilteo Landing will perform sealcoating, striping and landscaping at the site to support a temporary park-

ing lot to meet waterfront user needs as the planning process evolves. A total of 99 parking spaces are expected to open shortly to the public.

"This interim parking solution is merely a tool to get people access to the waterfront until a plan can be developed, approved and constructed," Port of Everett CEO Lisa Lefeber said. "The Port has been, and continues to be, committed to ensuring the Mukilteo waterfront is a vibrant community asset."

The site used to be leased by Washington State Ferries for the ferry holding lanes until the new ferry terminal

opened in 2020.

"I'm looking forward to this continued partnership with the Port to realize our vision for the waterfront," Mukilteo Mayor Joe Marine said. "I'd also like to thank the Council for approving the ordinance that allowed the Port to move forward with the acquisition. It's only by working together that we'll achieve tangible results on the waterfront."

OTHER MUKILTEO WATERFRONT NEWS

The Port continues to make improvements at the parklet next to Ivar's. The project is being done in phases as the supply chain allows. This has become a great viewing point for the recent increased activity of gray whales in the Salish Sea.

NOAA, which decided not to move forward with their new research center in Mukilteo, has issued their contract for the demolition work at their former research station. The work is expected to be underway within the next few weeks. The transfer timeline to the Port hasn't been determined.

Learn more about the Mukilteo waterfront redevelopment project at www.portofeverett.com/mukilteo.

Mill Creek's DRCC site: 19 acres of potential

By KIENAN BRISCOE

MILL CREEK—Most of the City of Mill Creek has been developed out but there are at least 19-acres that have not. The City acquired this acreage, spread across four parcels of land adjacent to Mill Creek Sports Park – the Dobson, Remillard, Church, and Cook (or DRCC for short) sites – over the last 15 years and are currently in the process of figuring out what to do with it.

Although the properties were purchased 15 years ago, the City has only begun its planning last year and due to some setbacks like COVID and prioritizing the Mill Creek Fire Annex, are now moving forward with site planning after securing some state funds.

During the last legislative session, state representatives were able to secure about \$200,000 for the City to use during its next steps in planning for the DRCC properties. The money was placed in the state's capital budget as part of its mid-biennium budget adjustment. The City is planning to use these funds for additional community surveys, additional in-depth needs analysis, and working with a consultant to determine further what might be planned and developed for the DRCC site.

"I'm really excited about the DRCC and where we're moving with the property," Stephanie Vignal, Mayor Pro-Tem for the City of Mill Creek said.

The City is leaning towards utiliz-



Source: City of Mill Creek.

ing the land for something all of Mill Creek's community can use, such as ballfields or a recreation center, or for educational, entertainment, commerce, or municipal uses.

A survey was conducted last year, March 15 through March 31, to ask the public their thoughts and the findings were published just a few months ago. The brief survey that consisted of 11 both closed and open-ended questions

received 1,210 participants of which approximately 60% were Mill Creek residents.

Many of the participants believed Mill Creek lacked performing arts, dog parks, swimming pools, senior centers, parks, library, sports parks, disc golf, and a community center as far as amenities go. When asked how satisfied survey participants were with aspects of living, working, or visiting Mill

Creek (on a scale of 1 to 5) the average participant was least satisfied with the City's arts and cultural arts amenities, and most were satisfied with the City's safety and security.

"I'm not super artsy, but I also can't think of anything in Mill Creek that has to do with arts unless it's through school or a private business," one survey participant wrote. "A small children's theater or dedicated place for performances, speaks, etc. would be nice...like the Lynnwood Convention Center or the Rose Hill Community Center in Mukilteo."

As far as what the public would like to see the DRCC used for: 64% preferred the land to be used for recreational purposes (like a park or playground), 43% preferred it to be used for cultural arts (such as performing arts) or other public use such as a community center or library, 13% preferred the City not develop the land at all, and just 4% preferred it to be used for municipal or lodging (such as hotel) purposes.

Another common theme participants wished to see was the land be able to be used by a variety of age groups and backgrounds.

"[I'd like to see] a place to recreate. A welcome area for sports, kids to play, farmers market, walking trails, music concerts for local artists and schools, a building with multi-use space to accommodate interested parties," another survey participant wrote.

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Not all heroes wear capes, some wear biker jackets

By KIENAN BRISCOE

SNOHOMISH—Hollywood depictions of bikers over the years have helped perpetuate the stereotype that biker gangs are violent outlaws who spend their time between rides frequenting dive bars and running guns. While these clubs only make up 1% of Motorcycle clubs in the country, according to the American Motorcycle Association, even the most infamous MC's come together with the rest to support the Guardians of the Children (GOC) – a nonprofit organization focused on using motorcycles as a tool for children to overcome child abuse.

Members of Guardians of the Children are motorcycle enthusiasts who “adopt” recovering victims of child abuse, aged 0-17, into their family as “Little Guardians.” Some of the services they offer include escorting Little Guardians to court, attending school events at their request, and providing protection and support to create a safe space where the child can gain the confidence needed to process their trauma.

GOC's mission, in short, is to improve the quality of life in their community by educating the public and making them aware of the steps to take to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to the reality of child abuse.

Typically, families will contact GOC



Joe “Huckleberry” Wardlaw (center-right), President of Guardians of the Children Cascade Chapter with members at the Second annual Xtreme Couture G.I. Foundation poker run at the Evergreen Speedway in Monroe on Saturday, June 25, 2022. Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore.

with their concerns and the organization will respond to gather more information about the situation to see if it aligns with their mission statement. GOC will first make sure there is consent from the legal guardian and if anything is moving forward with the criminal justice system. The next step is meeting with its board to discuss the situation at hand and assigning two “Primaries” – fully patched members of the chapter who are local to the family and qualified to meet their needs.

As to not overwhelm the juvenile victim, the assigned Primaries spend their first meeting talking, playing games, and letting the child know that the organization is there for them. These initial meetings can take as little as 30 minutes to as long as three hours, Joe “Huckleberry” Wardlaw, founder and President of the Cascade Chapter of GOC, told the Lynnwood Times.

“Each kid’s needs really vary. We’re just another tool in the toolbox to help empower kids to not be afraid,” Wardlaw said.

After the child meets with these two Primaries, the board begins their “adoption” process and gathers club members together to meet with the child at a public space, such as a park, to show that they have a group of bikers supporting them and keeping them safe. At this meeting the child is presented a biker vest etched with their chosen road name and a few patches. The victim’s siblings, who may or may not be victims themselves, also have the option to be “adopted” and receive a vest with their chosen road name.

Coincidentally enough, Wardlaw first discovered the organization by watching Jeff Tremaine’s 2013 Jackass spin-off, *Bad Grandpa*, starring Johnny Knoxville.

In one of the film’s scenes, Knoxville (playing the part of an 80-year-old man) reunites his grandson with his estranged father in a North Carolina bar. This bar also happens to be the gathering place of an NC chapter of GOC who immediately take interest in the father’s verbally abusive nature toward his son.

The scene was shot in a hidden camera-style where the only people in on the joke were the actors and a couple GOC chapter leaders. In other words, the GOC member’s reactions were authentic.

Wardlaw saw this scene and was so impressed with GOC’s way of intervening, that he reached out to the organization about starting his own chapter in Northern Washington. He found ten likeminded individuals in the biking community and began the Cascade chapter in 2017, which stretches from Seattle to the Canadian border.

Wardlaw was no stranger to the concept, having been a prior member of

Bikers Against Child Abuse (BACA), a similar organization with slight differences, that laid the groundwork for GOC to form in San Antonio, Texas, by former BACA member Ruben Cano in 2006. The organization has since grown to 54 chapters across 19 states, as well as 6 chapters in Canada making it, technically, an international organization.

Both BACA and GOC have similar philosophies with the intake of families, but the difference lies in that BACA will typically withdraw after the child has undergone the criminal process to not be a reminder of the child’s trauma, Wardlaw told the Lynnwood Times.

“It’s a great philosophy to have [but] Guardians of the Children sees it a different way. We look at it as once a child is abused, they’re going to carry it with them their entire life,” Wardlaw told the Lynnwood Times. “We stay in that child’s life as long as the family wants us to.”

Another difference between GOC and BACA, Wardlaw noted, is GOC involves the entire family, not just the children, because, he explained, child abuse damages the family at large.

“We adopt the whole family; we don’t just adopt the victim of the crime because child abuse affects the whole family. The parents are damaged, the grandparents are damaged, [and] the siblings are damaged,” Wardlaw said.

Wardlaw continued that once these children are at least 18 years of age they are given the opportunity to apply to become members themselves, helping future families through the process, which many of them do.

“We’re not counselors, we’re not lawyers, [although] our members are from varying backgrounds... We have members that are attorneys, we have members that work for the water district, Microsoft, Boeing, different organization. [But] The services Guardians of the Children provide is we advocate for these children and if they’re looking for resources we try and help them find them,” Wardlaw said.

Just some of these resources include partnerships with local organizations such as Compass Health, Providence Medical Center, and Dawson’s Place.

“I’ve always given back to my community, and I love what we do. There’s nothing better than seeing a kid that is petrified, all the sudden be confident to go into a courtroom and tell their story about what happened to them, so that we can stop these people doing this to kids,” Wardlaw said.

As a certified 501(c) nonprofit, private donations make up most of Guardians of the Children’s funding. The chapter holds multiple fundraisers throughout the year, such as awareness motorcycle rides with auction items, and meetups at bars and restaurants.

This upcoming September the Cascade Chapter will be holding a fundraiser at Hops and Drops in Snohomish. Wardlaw shared that he will notify the Lynnwood Times when the exact dates for the event have been confirmed.

Mukilteo awarded \$65,000 grant for mental health professional

By KIENAN BRISCOE

MUKILTEO—The City of Mukilteo was the recipient of a \$65,000 matching grant towards the funding of an Embedded Social Worker through Snohomish County’s Shelter & Behavioral Health Partnership Program.

In February, the Mukilteo City Council unanimously passed an \$65,000 agreement with Compass Health to provide a 20 hour/week Embedded Social Worker through the company’s Community Transitions Program. The partnership with Compass Health provides a mental health professional to engage with individuals experiencing homelessness and/or in behavioral health crisis.

“The Mukilteo Police Department is excited to partner with Snohomish County to help fund the first two years of our Embedded Social Worker Program,” Mukilteo Police Chief Cheol Kang wrote in a statement to the Lynnwood Times. “By integrating a trained social worker with our staff, we will be more equipped to responding to individuals experiencing behavioral health and substance abuse concerns and connect them with needs-based services and support.”

The Shelter & Behavioral Health Partnership Program grant is good for two years (2022 – 2023) and matched the City’s current allocation of American Rescue Plan Act funds reducing the contract cost by 50 percent for up to \$65,000 over the course of two years.

“Having a dedicated case manager helps guide individuals through a complex path and allows our staff to

address other emergent and priority calls for service,” Police Chief Kang explained as the value an Embedded Social Worker brings to his staff.

Compass Health first implemented the Community Transitions model in Snohomish County in 2016, through a partnership with South County Fire and expanded to a second partnership with the Lynnwood Police Department and Mountlake Terrace Police Department in 2020, both of which were sponsored by a grant from the Verdant Health Commission. The organization also recently established a new Community Transitions partnership with the City of Edmonds, which expands the program to five area communities.

“We created the Community Transitions program to provide an alternative solution for connecting individuals with behavioral health services and resources, helping to shift away from high-frequency use of emergency services and toward more appropriate, recovery-oriented pathways,” said Charissa Westergard, Director of Healthcare Integration at Compass Health, who developed Community Transitions. “This program is a key tool to meeting the needs of people facing mental health, substance use or housing challenges – and we’re looking forward to collaborating with the Mukilteo Police Department to take this step forward.”

In addition to these Community Transitions programs, Compass Health offers a range of community response services across the region. The agency’s

Continued PAGE 14 >>

Inslee rescinds over a dozen COVID proclamations as CDC updates guidelines for students in schools

By MARIO LOTMORE

To download or read the rescinded proclamation, scan QR code to the right.



OLYMPIA—Governor Jay Inslee rescinds 13 COVID-19 proclamations under his emergency authority according to proclamations released on August 5 and signed on July 29. All the rescissions take effect at 12:01 a.m. on October 27, 2022.

The rescissions relate to Long-Term Care facility guidelines, and the reinstatement of various policies and statutes including non-urgent medical procedures, licensure requirements, Medicaid admittance eligibility, Family Emergency Assistance Program eligibility, and much more.

The justification to rescind the decrees according to the amended proclamations are the “recent advances in medicine” including COVID-19 boosters and antivirals. It also states that “health experts and epidemiological modeling experts believe that as a state we have made adequate progress against COVID-19 to rescind and/or modify amendatory proclamations related to specific health issues.”

Violators of the rescission that take effect in late October may be subject to criminal penalties pursuant to RCW 43.06.220(5).

On Thursday, August 11, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated its K-12 guidance for schools to support safe in-person learning. Below are the latest updates:

- Removed the recommendation to cohort: The act of keeping groups of students together throughout the day to minimize contact with others.
- CDC no longer recommends routine screening testing in K-12 schools. Schools can consider screening testing to focus on high-risk activities during high COVID-19 Community Level or in response to an outbreak.
- Removed the recommendation to quarantine, except in high-risk congregate settings.
- Schools no longer need to implement “test-to-stay” policies. Students who have been exposed to the virus now fall under the same guidance as adults regardless of vaccination status.
- Added detailed information on when to wear a mask, managing cases and exposures, and responding to outbreaks
- To view the Department of Health releases updated COVID-19 guidance for K-12 schools & childcare, click here.

20-74.4: Behavioral Health Association, Children’s Long-Term Inpatient Program and Residential Treatment Facilities – Operations and Visitation

According to the latest sequence, 20-74.4, Proclamation 20-74 is terminated and rescinded effective 12:01 A.M. on October 27, 2022.

The rescission terminates BHA-issued guidance requirements for the following Behavioral Health Administration facilities:

- State-operated adult psychiatric facilities including Western State Hospital, Eastern State Hospital, and the Child and Study Treatment Center – RCW 72.23.020, RCW 72.23.010(9).
- The Special Commitment Center on McNeil Island – RCW 71.09.020(19)
- The King County Secure Community Transition Facility – RCW 71.09.020(15)
- The Pierce County Secure Community Transition Facility on McNeil Island – RCW 71.09.020(15)
- The Fort Steilacoom Competency Restoration Program, Residential Treatment Facility – RCW 10.77
- Maple Lane Competency Restoration Program, Residential Treatment Facility – RCW 10.77 4
- Yakima Competency Restoration Program, Residential Treatment Facility – RCW 10.77 20-66.6 Long-Term Care – Operations and Visitation

Operations of the Children’s Long-Term Inpatient Programs (CLIP) facilities will no longer be required to comply with HCA-issued guidance documents and DOH-issued guidance documents for Residential Treatment Facilities (RTF) also will no longer be required for operations starting October 27, 2022.

20-66.6 Long Term Care – Operations and Visitations

According to the latest sequence, 20-66.6, Proclamation 20-66 is terminated and rescinded effective 12:01 A.M. on October 27, 2022. The original order was required on August 12, 2020.

The proclamation restricting visitations to Long-Term Care facilities, according to the decree, was implemented with the intention to save lives of seniors in “congregate settings.”

“The risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19 appears to be higher in those members of our population who are 60 years of age and older and those with chronic health conditions; and ...facility residents, staff, vendors, and visitors can introduce COVID-19 into the facility and start an outbreak or spread an existing outbreak into a new population,” stated in the initial proclamation.

The following facilities listed below are no longer required to comply with the guidance documents for (a) certified community residential services and support, (b) adult family homes, assisted living facilities & enhanced services facilities, and (c) nursing homes and intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities, as of October 27, 2022:

- Intermediate Care Facilities – 42 CFR 483 subpart I and WAC 388-835, WAC 388-837
- State Operated Living Alternatives – RCW 71A.12
- Nursing Facilities – RCW 18.51 and RCW 74.42

- Assisted Living Facilities – RCW 18.20
- Adult Family Homes – RCW 70.128
- Enhanced Service Facilities – RCW 70.97

20-65.6 Long Term Care – Workers, Facilities, and Resources

According to the latest sequence, 20-65.6, Proclamation 20-65 is terminated and rescinded effective 12:01 A.M. on October 27, 2022.

The initial proclamation addressed various laws relating to Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities such as training requirements, staffing requirements, Medicaid admittance eligibility for individuals, etc. – see initial Proclamation 20-65 for details.

20-59.9 Department of Health – Temporary Practice Permits

According to the latest sequence, 20-59.9, Proclamation 20-59 is terminated and rescinded effective 12:01 A.M. on October 27, 2022.

The initial proclamation allowed the issuance of “a Temporary Practice Permit” authorizing workers in the healthcare industry “to practice the profession pending completion of documentation that the applicant meets the requirements for a license and is also not subject to denial of a license or issuance of a conditional license.”

The goal of the initial proclamation was “to prevent a shortage of licensed health care providers by modifying the eligibility for Temporary Practice Permits of recent graduates from professional programs in dentistry, pharmacy, and dental hygiene.”

Details of Proclamation 20-59 waived and suspended portions of the licensing and administrative statutes and rules relating to the issuance of Temporary Practice Permits (TPP) for healthcare workers who have recently graduated from professional health care programs.

Healthcare workers with a TPP in dentistry, pharmacy, and dental hygiene must meet the statutory requirements of their profession to practice as of October 27, 2022.

20-52.11 Statewide COVID Proclamations Relating to Long-Term Care

According to the latest sequence, 20-52.11, Proclamations 20-06, 20-10, 20-16, 20-17, 20-18, and 20-52 are terminated and rescinded effective 12:01 A.M. on October 27, 2022.

The policies and programs from the COVID Proclamations listed below are impacted as follows:

- Family Emergency Assistance Program will no longer be expanded to include individuals and families without children
- Removal of visitation restrictions and prohibitions to Long-Term Care facilities – see 20-16 and 20-17 for details
- Addresses various laws relating to Nursing Homes and Assisted Liv-

ing Facilities such as training requirements, staffing requirements, and Medicaid admittance eligibility for individuals – see 20-10 for details

- Removal of visitation and resident isolation restrictions and visitation logs can be destroyed after 30 days for Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities – see 20-06 for details.

20-36.11 Department of Health – Health Care Facilities and Hand Sanitizer

According to the latest sequence, 20-36.11, Proclamation 20-36 is terminated and rescinded effective 12:01 A.M. on October 27, 2022.

The policies and businesses listed below are impacted as follows:

- Person practicing pharmacy or institute or operate any pharmacy must again be licensed
- Shopkeepers will no longer be considered a licensed pharmacist
- Manufactures of drugs will again have to pay licensure fees
- Medical facilities will once again be required to notify the Department of Health of adverse health events and medical errors within 48 hours and submit a report within 45 days of the event
- Reestablishing licensure requirements to operate a hospital within Washington state

20-32.12 Department of Health–Health Care Workers

According to the latest sequence, 20-32.12, Proclamation 20.32 is terminated and rescinded. As of 12:01 A.M. on October 27, 2022, the reinstatement of all healthcare worker licensing requirements goes into effect.

20-24.4 Restrictions on Non-Urgent Medical Procedures

According to the latest sequence, 20-24.4, Proclamation 20-24 is terminated and rescinded. As of 12:01 A.M. on October 27, 2022, health care services, procedures, and surgeries for all non-urgent medical procedures are reinstated in all hospitals, ambulatory surgical facilities, dental, orthodontic and endodontic offices throughout Washington state.

WHAT MATTERS TO YOU?

The Lynnwood Times wants to know what issues you would like us investigate Email editorial@lynnwoodtimes.com.

from page 13 MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL

Snohomish County Triage Center, located in Everett, enables law enforcement officers to drop off individuals who need crisis intervention and stabilization, helping to avoid alternative options such as jail or trips to the emergency department.

To learn more about Compass Health Community Transitions, please visit compasshealth.org/services/community-transitions/

Rising Interest Rates Shouldn't Discourage Income Property Owners

By **JOHNNY SMITH**



Johnny Smith

The list of considerations can be long when buying an income property in the Puget Sound region. Whether it's a multifamily, small commercial or mixed-used property,

income property buyers must understand the risks and rewards that come with this specific type of purchase. If that weren't enough, the math on investments is changing as The Federal Reserve continues to raise rates in response to inflation and other economic inputs.

There's no question that as the rates for conventional mortgages are on the rise, even the boldest income property investors are feeling cautious about the market.

Income property investors need not be fearful however, as the right set of strategic tools can help make the best of their investments. Especially for those in the market to invest in 1 – 4 residential properties – single family homes, duplexes, triplexes and fourplexes – there are still competitive ways to finance your investment without paying premium rates.

One consideration is the Adjust-

able-Rate Mortgage (ARM). As conventional rates continue to rise, many are turning to ARMs because of the lower rates they offer for a fixed period of time – usually 5, 7 or 10 years – compared to a conventional 30-year fixed mortgage.

Not all ARMs are created equal, though, and income property investors should consider some basic guidance to get the most from their strategic investments.

3 KEY STRATEGIES FOR GETTING THE MOST OUT OF YOUR ARM

1. Understand your lender's interest rate ceiling.

A well-known risk of ARMs is that at the end of the fixed-rate period, ARM loans are subject to rate adjustments, which can be significantly higher than the original ARM rate.

There is a wide range of options for how a lender increases interest rates after the initial fixed period is complete, in addition to how much the rate can adjust over the entire lifetime of the loan. Some banks allow a modest increase at initial adjustment, while others may default to an initial increase up to the lifetime cap. The lifetime cap is the maximum interest rate allowed on an adjustable-rate mortgage, which most lenders set at 5% or 6%.

Look for a bank that keeps the initial adjustable interest rate ceiling low. For example, some lenders cap the maximum loan rate increase to 2% after the initial fixed period.

2. Gain a clear view of pre-payment penalties.

Often times with an ARM, investors choose to pay off their mortgage early to take advantage of low fixed interest rates. If a loan is paid off or refinanced during the prepayment penalty period, investors could owe additional fees or a penalty, which is typically a percentage of the outstanding loan balance.

Some lenders offer pricing options that do not include prepayment penalties. Take the time to understand your bank's approach to pre-payment penalties in their loan agreements. If they only offer rates with a pre-payment penalty, investors have options and should look for a lending institution that has options for penalty-free pre-payment of their loan.

3. Compare community and larger lending institutions.

Large, nationwide banks and lenders can compete in the consumer lending market with attractive rates. But community banks, like Pacific Crest Savings Bank and others in our area, offer several advantages beyond

rates alone for investors looking to structure unique financing packages – while also keeping the bank's assets in the local economy.

Investors with complex circumstances may find that with a community bank, the lender may understand their clients' needs more intuitively, and are able to close deals more quickly because decision-making happens on a local level.

Community banks also often have flexibility to tailor their products and services to clients' needs and are motivated by working collaboratively to propel growth among small businesses in the local area.

Even as the list of considerations for income property investors gets longer, there's still plenty of opportunity to be successful in the Pacific Northwest. From single family residential to small commercial real estate and everything in between, there are financing options that will fit both short and long-term needs for local investors.

Johnny Smith is a vice president and residential loan officer at Pacific Crest Savings Bank, a local and independently owned savings bank headquartered in Lynnwood, Washington, that has served Northwest businesses and individuals with personalized banking and lending services since 1984. Learn more at www.paccrest.com.

from page 4 **IRA**

challenge is testing supplies for seniors," Vessey said. "Anytime we can reduce barriers to diabetic medications, that is a good thing."

After his tour of the remodeled Community Health Center of Snohomish County in Everett, Rep. Larsen discussed with Vessey how the extension of the ACA subsidies in the Inflation Reduction Act will mitigate the risk to thousands of patients losing their Apple Health coverage who will no longer be eligible in Washington state when the Public Health Emergency (PHE) expires.

"The one that I think has the biggest impact for some of our patients in particular is, as you know, with the Public Health Emergency. These 90-day exchange extensions continue to delay the redetermination process for individuals," Vessey said.

He added, "So, I think the timing of continuing those subsidies pairs really

well with what is happening in the nation with Medicaid, individual states and the PHE."

Because of the Public Health Emergency declaration for COVID by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, patients are experiencing delays in the redetermination process for their coverage. However, Community Health Center has been proactively partnering with managed care organizations and helping patients get into ACA certified insurance plans.

On Monday, the Community Health Center of Snohomish County in Everett located at 4201 Rucker Avenue reopened providing newly added dental, physical therapy and pharmacy services that was partially funded by a \$2,492,432 Health Center Infrastructure Support Grant through the Health Resources and Services Administration.

Community Health Center of Snohomish County is a nonprofit, federally qualified health center. It provided medical, dental, pharmacy,

behavioral health and additional ancillary services to tens of thousands of Washingtonians in 2021. In a recent press release on protecting the funding for community health centers, Vessey shared that facilities like his lowers health care costs by \$24 billion a year, reduce rates of chronic diseases and stimulate local economies.

Trica Neuman, a senior vice president at the Kaiser Family Foundation and director of the foundation's program on Medicare policy, praised the Senate Democrats for passage of the IRA in a tweet.

The Kaiser Family Foundation is a nonpartisan nonprofit organization that focuses on national health issues and policy.

President and CEO Stephen J. Ubl of the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) – an advocacy group of senior leaders from the world's leading research-intensive biopharmaceutical companies – chastised the legislation

in the Inflation Reduction Act that authorized CMS to negotiate prices for prescription medicines. He called on House Democrats to reject the IRA arguing that "Once the government can set prices for life saving medicines, it will demand even more control over the health care of American patients."

When asked to address PhRMA CEO's criticism of IRA, Rep. Larsen was quick to point out the advocacy group's conflict of interest.

"I'm not surprised that the industry association representing large pharmaceutical companies doesn't want Medicare to negotiate lower prescription drug prices for seniors," Larsen told the Lynnwood Times. "The overall benefit for seniors is going to far out way any criticisms from big companies... it's about time that we we succeeded in giving Medicare the right to negotiate prescription drug prices."

The House vote to approve the IRA is expected this Friday with President Joe Biden signing the bill this weekend.

from page 12 **MILL CREEK DRCC**

The City put out its Request for Qualifications (RFQ) from consultants to help it craft a Master Plan and the Statements of Qualifications (SOQ) from interested vendors are coming in now. Staff will evaluate each proposal and speak with potential vendors to select the vendor or team of vendors that can help us develop the master plan over the next 12 to 18 months.

"We anticipate that the Master Plan will provide general information about the capacity of the site and the site development requirements like wetland

protection, stormwater infrastructure, and frontage improvements required for any development," said Mike Todd, Public Works Director for the City of Mill Creek.

The planning effort will also look at possible funding approaches and a sequence of projects that will build out an adopted Master Plan over a period of years. Assuming staff receives responsive SOQs from vendors in August and can vet those vendors, Council will be asked to authorize the City to enter into a contract with the selected vendor as early as late September. The actual work on the plan, including public outreach and discussions with

possible partners, would begin shortly after that.

from page 9 **POPLAR WAY**

- Spokane, Pines Road/BNSF Grade Separation Project, \$21,689,221
- Bothell, Bothell Way NE Multimodal Improvements, \$19,000,000
- WSDOT, Reconnecting I-90 Communities, \$5,000,000
- Pullman, Airport Road Multimodal & Regional Access Improvements, \$1,050,000
- WSDOT, Heritage Connectivity

Trails - Phase 1, \$1,000,000

RAISE is a federal program dedicated to investing in critical road, rail, transit, and port projects across the United States. The bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which was passed by the House and signed into law in November of 2021, increased funding for the grant program to a total of \$7.5 billion.

"We're continually scrubbing the infrastructure bill that we passed last year to find more funding opportunities for our cities," Rep. Larsen said.

from page 3 LYNNWOOD CC

dation to seek Council authorization to approve the following Convention Center Use Day Requests:

- WAGRO Day of the Dead Celebration, 10/29/22, 8 hours, full day
- Pacifica Chamber Orchestra Classical Music for All, 1/21/23, 1 hour, half day
- International Women's Day Break the Bias, 3/4/23, 4 hours, full day
- Verdant Community Verdant Cares, 11/5/22, 3 hours, half day

The council's vote to authorizes the Mayor or her designee to approve, coordinate, and execute contracts with the Lynnwood Convention Center utilizing the City's LCC Use Days provided for in the interlocal agreement with the Lynnwood Public Facilities District for the aforementioned events.

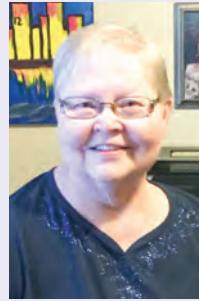
Council Vice President Smith moved to approve each usage separately. WAGRO's Day of the Dead Celebration was seconded by Councilman Patrick Decker and passed with all council members voting in favor except Councilwoman Altamirano-Crosby who abstained, Verdant Community Verdant Cares was seconded by Councilwoman Altamirano-Crosby and passed unanimously, and Pacifica Chamber Orchestra was also passed unanimously.

The International Women's Day Break the Bias event, however, Smith motioned to postpone until council's Work Session September 6 to allow more time to better understand what the event will encompass. After Smith's motion passed unanimously, he then motioned to reserve the date of March 4 for the event in order to avoid the organization missing out on the potential date. This motion was also passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

Council also unanimously approved the following consent agenda items:

- Approved a limit increase for contract 3463 for the provisions of legal services related to EPA compliance issues at the Waste Water Treatment Plant in an amount not to exceed \$340,351
- Grant final acceptance of the work performed under the contract for 48th Avenue Sewer Main and 200th Street Water Main Improvements project, subject to appropriate State and Federal agencies and ultimately release of retainage to the Contractor. The total final payment of the contract is \$909,636.48 which was previously awarded to Kamis Construction, Inc. on August 10, 2020.



**In Loving Memory of
"Kristi Sue Hillshafer"**

Kristi Sue Hillshafer was born on August 15, 1951, in Great Bend Kansas at Saint Rose Hospital to Betty and Harold Schiewe, along with her older brother Leslie. Kristi and family lived in Ellinwood, Kansas. She married Tom Hillshafer and had two daughters; Julie and Amy.

Kristi lived in Ellinwood Kansas, Denver Colorado, Edmonds, Lynnwood, and Smokey Point area of Washington State.

She was very well known in the Property Management world in Seattle. Working for Trammel Crow and for Vulcan. She was known by her co-workers as the "office Mom" and was missed when she retired.

In retirement Kristi was an advocate of the Manufactures Housing Association (AMHO) and was the accountant for the nonprofit housing community where she lived in Lynnwood.

Kristi Sue Hillshafer has now joined her loving family that have preceded her to their heavenly home: Mother Betty, Father Harold, Brother Leslie, and her second mom Aunt Lucille McLaughlin.

Kristi, your earthly family miss and love you very much.



**In Loving Memory of
"Arthur O. Petty"
USMC, SgtMaj (Ret.)**

Arthur O. Petty, USMC, SgtMaj (Ret.), born Aug. 8, 1922, passed away in his Woodbury, TN home on Jul. 22, 2022.

He lived in Washington from 1968-1989, founded VFW Post 8870 in Edmonds, worked for Federal Reserve Bank in Seattle, and member of Alderwood Church of Christ.

For more information: www.gentrysmithfuneralhome.com

The City of Mill Creek Presents
PARTY IN THE PARKS

Join us for games, food and fun in the sun!

- Highlands Park Thursday, June 30 | 5-7pm
- Heron Park Thursday, July 28 | 5-7pm
- Freedom Field Thursday, August 25 | 5-7pm

millcreekwa.gov/cityevents
communications@millcreekwa.gov

LIGHTHOUSE FESTIVAL
Mukilteo Washington

Song & Poetry Slam Competition

Here is your chance to create a piece that represents Mukilteo to be the City's song or poem

\$10 Entry Fee
2 PM Sept 11, 2022
Submissions due by Sept 4th!

Register at <https://mukfest.com/> or scan the QR code

Run-A-Muk 5K/10K Aug. 27

Volunteers Needed!

Learn More: MUKFEST.COM

Parade
Marketplace
Children's Area
Beer Garden
Salmon Bake
Food Vendors

LIGHTHOUSE FESTIVAL
Mukilteo Washington

SEPTEMBER 9-11, 2022
LIGHTHOUSE PARK

COME HELP US CELEBRATE THE CITY OF MUKILTEO'S
75TH YEAR!

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