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Lynnwood Parks Director upset in mayor for not following plan  
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New Swift Orange Line is now here!  
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Real News ⚡  
Real Impact

## New Swift Orange Line now open for business, on time and under budget



Federal Transportation Administration Acting Administrator Veronica Vanterpool (center holding scissors) at the Swift Orange Line ribbon cutting ceremony at Lynnwood Transit Center on Saturday, March 30, 2024. SOURCE: Community Transit.

By KIENAN BRISCOE

**LYNNWOOD**—Community Transit launched its new Swift Orange line with a ribbon cutting ceremony at Lynnwood Transit Center on Saturday, March 30. The Swift Orange Line is an 11-mile Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) expansion that connects Edmonds College in Lynnwood to McCollum Park & Ride in Mill Creek with stops at Lynnwood Transit Center, Alderwood Mall, Ash Way Park & Ride and Mill Creek Town Center.

“You cannot have a big-league economy with little league infrastructure. Thanks in part to historic federal investments, Community Transit is expanding high-quality service to connect residents to jobs, school, the store, recreational opportunities and more,” said Rep. Rick Larsen, Ranking Democrat on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

The new rapid bus service will also act as a premier bus-to-light rail connection in Snohomish County when the Link light rail extends to Lynnwood later this year. The bus also connects to the Zip Alderwood Shuttle, Swift Blue and Green Lines, Interurban and North Creek Trail, and other local and regional bus routes.

The Orange Line joins a network of rapid transit lines in Community Transit’s system including the Blue Line, that runs from Aurora Village Transit Center in Shoreline to Everett Station,

and the Green Line—that will be expanding in 2028 to run from Canyon Park & Ride in Bothell to Seaway Transit Center in Mukilteo—and the upcoming Gold Line, that will connect Everett Station to the Smokey Point Transit Center in Arlington starting 2027.

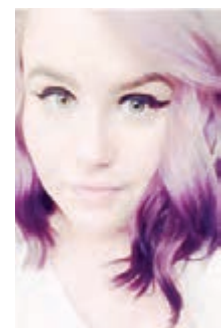
Community Transit’s BRT schedule will have buses arriving every 10 to 20 minutes, depending on the time of day. Signal priority technology and bus lanes keep Swift buses running quickly through traffic to usher its users to their destination more efficiently.

Continued PAGE 06 >>

## A mother’s cry for justice: Lynnwood woman dies from hit-and-run injuries

By KIENAN BRISCOE

**LYNNWOOD**—Lynnwood woman Taylor Druliner, 30, passed away at Harborview Medical Center on Saturday, March 31, from injuries sustained by a hit-and-run incident two weeks earlier.



Taylor Druliner

The hit-and-run took place on Highway 99, just south of the 148th Street Intersection, in Lynnwood, around 8:51 p.m. on March 19. The driver, and suspect, is still at large.

According to the Washington State Patrol, who are investigating the incident, the driver was speeding down the center lane going southbound. Druliner was crossing the Highway, east to west, when she was struck by the vehicle. The driver sped off and fled the scene without stopping.

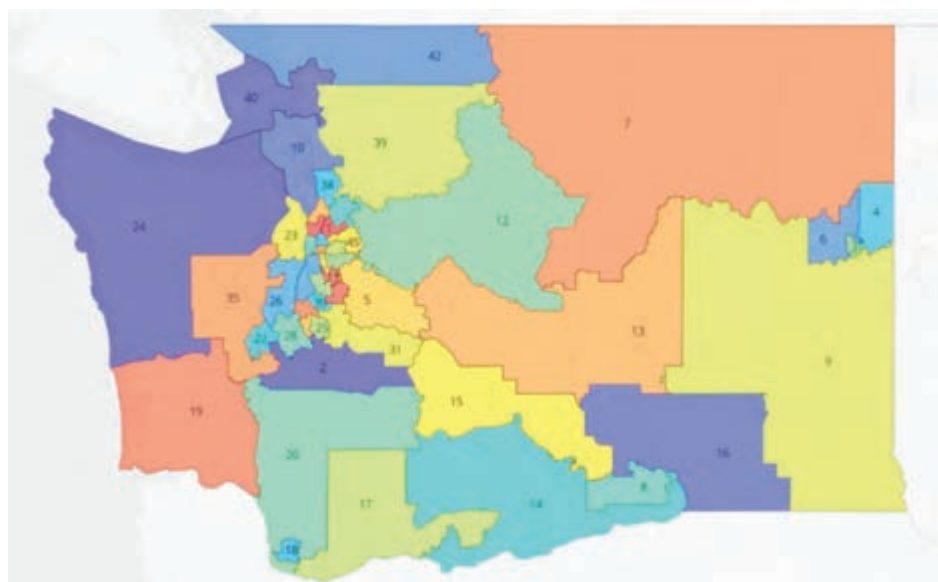
Continued PAGE 07 >>

## US Supreme Court denies request by Republican Latino voters to pause Judge Lasnik’s 2024 redistricting map

By MARIO LOTMORE

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**—An emergency application to United States Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan who is assigned to the Ninth Circuit Court, to stay the adoption of a redistricting map ordered by Judge Robert Lasnik of the District Court of Western Washington, was denied on Monday, April 2.

An emergency application for an injunction to the adoption of an alleged gerrymandered court-approved redistricting map ordered by Judge Robert Lasnik of the District Court of Western Washington, was denied on Monday, April 2, by United States Supreme Court Justices whom Justice Elena Kagan, assigned



The Lasnik-approved map that redistricts 13 legislative districts, scheduled to take effect this year if not overturned.

Continued PAGE 06 >>

# Shoreline mayor meets President at NLC

By KIENAN BRISCOE

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Shoreline Mayor Chris Roberts had the opportunity of personally thanking several federal partners at the National League of Cities event, including U.S. President Joe Biden, for making key infrastructure investments to the city and region.

The National League of Cities (NLC) is an organization comprised of over 2,700 cities whose leaders are focused on improving the quality of life for their current and future constituents.

The NLC’s mission is to “relentlessly advocate for, and protect the interests of, cities, towns and villages by influencing federal policy, strengthening local leadership and driving innovative solutions.”

This year’s NLC event ran from March 9 through March 12 in Washington D.C., also falling on the NLC’s centennial year, featuring workshops, panels, and opportunities for leaders across the country to network and share their successes and challenges.

“I’ve learned a lot from council members and other city members from across the nation [from this event],” Mayor Roberts told the Lynnwood Times. “Just one example: I went to a NLC event in Los Angeles pre-pandemic and there was a workshop there about the film industry and how to attract the film industry to your city. As the workshop went on a lightbulb went off in my head of how we could streamline the permit process to make it attractive for producers to film in the city of Shoreline.”

Mayor Roberts returned to Shoreline with his idea, introducing a more streamlined process for directors and film producers to film in the city. In 2023 alone there were approximately 98 film productions filmed in Shoreline—a product of just one idea that stemmed from attending an NLC event.

“It’s just networking, learning from council members across the country and seeing that cities large and small, east coast and west coast, have similar challenges. Each city has their own unique way of dealing with those problems, but we learn better when we collaborate,” said Mayor Roberts.

Mayor Roberts, who sits on the NLC Board of Directors and its Membership Committee, spent his first day this year attending committee meetings, he shared with the Lynnwood Times, with



United States President Joe Biden meeting with Shoreline Mayor Chris Roberts at the National League of Cities event in March of 2024. SOURCE: City of Shoreline.

his second day spent discussing rail safety and youth engagement with the Board.

On Monday Mayor Roberts had the opportunity to meet with both President Joe Biden and U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg to personally thank the two of them for their investments in the local region’s transportation infrastructure.

Mayor Roberts was chosen to meet with President Biden as a member of the Local Indigenous Leaders circle. Roberts is a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

Shoreline is set to receive a new Link light rail station with the Lynnwood extension opening later this year. The announcement of the extensions official opening date is set to be this Thursday.

Secretary Buttigieg included \$88.4 million for the Lynnwood Link Extension in his \$4 billion funding recommendations for the Capital Investment Grants (CIG) Program and Expedited Project Delivery (EPD) Pilot Program last month.

Additionally, the City of Shoreline recently received a \$20 million federal RAISE grant, which will help fund multimodal transportation improvements west of I-5, including an off-corridor bike network, a bicycle/pedestrian bridge across I-5 at 148th, and better sidewalks and a roadway.

Washington received approximately \$2 billion for Sound Transit’s Lynnwood and Federal Way light extensions as part of its Capital Investment Grant. Nationwide about \$4.5 billion will be

Kenmore, Bothell, and Kirkland—an embedded response to behavioral health issues the region faces.

Building on the success of the RADAR program, first launched in Shoreline in 2017, the Regional Crisis Response (RCR, pronounced ‘racer’) Agency is a newly formed, collaborative effort that provides consolidated and standardized regional mobile crisis response services for the five-city region.

The regional mobile crisis services provided by RCR begin with a person-centered approach focusing on compassionate and immediate crisis response, de-escalation, resource referral, and follow-up tailored to the specific needs of those experiencing behavioral health challenges.

The RCR program has 13 full-time staff, an initial \$5 million biennial budget, and deploys Crisis Responder Mental Health Professionals (MHPs) to serve community members in the region who are experiencing behavioral health crises. Just last Monday, on April 1, the Shoreline City Council heard a presentation from city staff on just how this program has been successful since rolling out.

Going forward the City of Shoreline’s big efforts for the remainder of the year is to finish its Comprehensive Plan, continue to leverage existing infrastructure and local investments to introduce more affordable housing, and all of the growth and opportunity that will come with the opening of light rail.

Mayor Roberts shared with the Lynnwood Times that what he, personally, is looking forward to the most about light rail opening in his city is how easy it will be to get to a Seattle Mariners game.

distributed from this grant this year.

“Sometimes navigating through the federal procurement system is difficult,” said Mayor Roberts. “So these opportunities to meet directly with federal officials is really helpful, especially for smaller systems who don’t work regularly with the federal government.”

The next day following meeting President Biden and Secretary Buttigieg, Mayor Roberts also attended a panel on expanding behavioral health services. He added it was a “packed agenda” and he really didn’t have an opportunity to do anything else, separate to the conference, other than visit with family who live in the D.C. area for one evening.

Many federal agencies also had mobile workshops which Mayor Roberts said the city of Shoreline did not take advantage of this time.

Within the last year, the city of Shoreline launched its Regional Crises Response Agency (RCR) program in partnership with Lake Forest Park,

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## LYNNWOOD TIMES

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# New Swift Orange Line is now here!



## By COMMUNITY TRANSIT

**SNOHOMISH COUNTY**—Community Transit’s Swift network is expanding. With the addition of the new Swift Orange Line, you can take the bus to even more destinations in the region!

Before you head out, check out what Community Transit has available to help get you where you need to go with our Destination Guides. These guides help you discover new destinations using public transit. No need to hassle with finding parking, traffic, or driving in the rain with our bus service that can take you all over Snohomish County.

Swift Orange Line gives you access to some of Edmonds’s, Lynnwood’s, and Mill Creek’s local businesses, parks, and more! Some of these include:

### Parks, trails & recreation:

- McCollum Park Forest Loop Trail and Athletic Field
- Mill Creek Sports Park
- Mill Creek Community Assoc’s Private Nature Reserve
- Martha Lake Park
- Spruce Park
- Stadler Ridge Park
- Pioneer Park
- Scriber Creek Park & Trail
- Scriber Lake Park
- Wilcox Park

*Beloved father, husband, and brother*

## William George Starbird

May 31, 1944 to February 5, 2024



Honorable military service from 1962-1965. As a soldier, he was a part of the Cuban missile crisis and was stationed at the Berlin Wall during this time. William was survived by his 2 sons Michael Wayne Starbird and Cory Spencer Starbird, 2 daughters-in-law, Brenda Starbird and Judy Pulling, two sisters Romona Tate and Sandy Hemen, and lifelong friend and former wife Arloa Gilmore. Nephew, Terry Tate, and niece, Colleen Sundquist. Granddaughter, Emily Anne Starbird.

William also known as “Bill” and “Buster,” was an avid outdoorsman in his early life, who enjoyed hunting, camping, and fishing. He was a sheet metal worker by profession and spent his entire life working at perfecting his craft until reaching his well-deserved retirement from the University of Washington in 2009. After retirement, He enjoyed working with dye sublimation and other hobbies such as CNC engraving and 3D printing. William spent the last 15 years of his life, living with his son Cory and daughter-in-law Judy until he passed on February 5th, 2024.

William George Starbird was a very well-respected man. he had a deep pride in the starbird family’s homesteading in the rural area of old mill town near Starbird Road. He was laid to rest with those family members on March 22, 2024. In the words of his oldest son, Mike Starbird, and for all of us left here without him.,” Dad, I reluctantly will place you with your beloved family for you to be home, but I will severely miss you. Truly the best father ever.” He will be reunited with his family at the cemetery at Starbird Road in Old Mill Town.

- City of Lynnwood Municipal Golf Course
- Gold Park
- Lynnwood Recreation Center

### Shopping centers:

- Alderwood Mall
- Mill Creek Town Center
- Lynnwood Square
- Lynnwood Crossroads

### Transportation connections:

- Lynnwood Transit Center

### Education:

- Edmonds College

The Community Transit destination guides also include community resources for riders to navigate to many different libraries and food banks in the region.

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# Lynnwood Parks Director 'disappointed' in mayor for not following succession plan

By KIENAN BRISCOE

**LYNNWOOD**—When former Lynnwood Parks & Recreation Director, Lynn Sordel, announced his retirement in November of 2023, he made it clear to council that he would deliver a comprehensive succession plan to be submitted to Mayor Christine Frizzell. But now the retired Lynnwood Parks & Recreation Director feels “disappointed” with Mayor Frizzell for neither following through on that plan, nor following its number one proposal regarding who would succeed as director in his place.

Sordel sat down with Mayor Frizzell in the middle of November to go over a drafted succession plan, that included a recommendation for who should fill his shoes as Director, as well as a proposed organizational chart which encompassed some suggested changes to the Department’s organizational structure. Each of these changes could be accomplished within the plan and with minimal impact to the city’s budget, he told the Lynnwood Times.

“This was very important information because I valued so much my team’s work. I was hoping for a seamless transition. I was hoping when I left things would move just as I was gone but I wasn’t gone,” said Sordel.

During that meeting with Frizzell, Sordel’s number one-listed priority was to transition Sarah Olson, Parks & Recreation Deputy Director, to fill in his role as Director.

“I felt very strongly about this because Sarah had been my Deputy for over a decade, had gone back to school got her Master’s. I had given her opportunities to grow in her job, take on more responsibility, she took over our capital programs, she took over the healthy communities,” Sordel told the Lynnwood Times. “Sarah was, to me, someone that was ready for the job, had been working with the community, was received very well by the council, by the community, and had earned the opportunity to take my job.”

In lieu of Sordel’s recommendation, Mayor Frizzell transitioned Parks Superintendent Joel Faber into the role of interim Director while keeping Sarah Olson in her role as Deputy Director. Faber was promoted to Recreation Superintendent by Sordel 14 years earlier.

“It’s hard to quantify Lynn’s legacy and immense impact on our community as our director. His dedication and passion for our Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts department can be seen and felt across our city. I am honored and excited to serve our community members and our employees in this interim capacity,” Lynnwood Parks and Rec Interim Director Joel Faber told the Lynnwood Times in an emailed statement.

Before Sordel submitted his report to Mayor Frizzell, he reviewed it with staff in the Lynnwood Parks & Rec Department for their support, including Superintendent Eric Peterson and, now interim Director, Joel Faber. Sordel knew Faber was going to apply for the open Director position, which he



Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Director Lynn Sordel. Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore.

encouraged while still recommending Olson for the position over him.

“He met the minimum requirements, but Sarah was more experienced, had put more time into herself to get her master’s degree, learning and doing more work in the community, getting engaged in the community and she is one of the most intelligent, brightest, and smartest individuals I have ever worked with,” said Sordel. “She did great work with the community with Parks Love, made council presentations, she was involved in the RFA work under Mayor Smith’s leadership, getting the Fire Department into the Regional Fire Authority.”

Sordel added that he felt extremely disappointed that there was no follow up from the mayor because he spent a “lot of work on this” and it was “extremely important to” him and his team.

The Lynnwood Times reached out to Deputy Director Olson, but she declined to comment.

“I made it very clear to [Mayor Frizzell] that this was a proposal that had been vetted through the team and I was very proud to present this and say this is how we can keep the organization moving forward in the direction that I think the council wants to go, where I think [the Mayor] wants to go, putting those people in those positions who were qualified, who were competent, and who could step in and continue to our thriving organization,” said Sordel. “I left [the succession report] with the mayor, she thanked me, and to this day I haven’t heard a word back since.”

The four proposed changes in Sordel’s report were affordable and did not require any additional resources. Some would have saved the city money with Sordel’s retirement, Olson stepping in as Director, and eliminating the Deputy Director position.

The elimination of the Deputy Director position would use its funding to create a new Planning Superintendent position who would oversee the department’s capital budget and long-range planning, among other things, according to Sordel. The other changes in Sordel’s report include the option to fill the Deputy position in the future as an internal promotion if there

I thought it was a very sound proposal that made a lot of sense, and it was the right thing for the organization,” said Sordel. “I believe I did a good job and at least got step one out of the way, to get the mayor to see the benefits of putting Sarah in the job and, once you have Sarah in the job, to do these other things because these other things are important to the department.

The decision to include the rest of Sordel’s proposed changes to the Parks Department falls on the City this spring when it deliberates its 2025-2027 budget. All of Sordel’s proposed changes could be absorbed through the department’s existing funds and would not require the council’s approval for additional money. Mayor Frizzell informed the Lynnwood Times that the decision whether Sordel’s changes will make it into the budget or not will come at a later date.

The interim position Faber is currently serving is a six-month term. The city does not always form an interim position when deciding on a director position, but it has happened in the past. Sordel, for example, took over as interim Director when he joined the Department back in 2007.

“[Faber] has a lot of work to do to take over these responsibilities, he’s going to need a lot of help from his team, but

was an assessed need, add the federal grant-funded Urban Forester position into Parks Division, and to reorganize the Parks Operation Division to create a smaller span of control for Superintendent Eric Peterson.

Peterson currently supervises 12 people which, Sordel believes, to be too large of a team to oversee and evaluate. Just one of the ways the division would be reorganized is to create a second Foremen position to alleviate some of the stress in supervising a large team.

“I put a lot of time and effort into this,

Continued PAGE 05 >>

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from page 5 **LYNNWOOD PARKS**

he's very competent and I know he'll do his best job," said Sordel. "I know Joel very well. I know he will give it his best work, his best effort, because he cares about the department."

It's unclear at the moment whether Mayor Frizzell will appoint Faber as Director after that six-month term is up or not. The mayor is solely responsible for the hiring of the position, not the council nor does the decision get the council's vote. The council, however, does have the ability to interview candidates and make their recommendations to the mayor who ultimately has final say.

"Joel Faber has more than two decades of experience serving our community with our Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts team and has been instrumental in our Recreation Center's success as Superintendent. His ability to lead, collaborate, communicate and strategize will be tremendous assets in his role as Interim Director," Lynnwood Mayor Christine Frizzell told the Lynnwood Times when asked why she appointed Faber as interim Director despite Sordel's recommendation.

The Lynnwood City Council was supposed to hold a three-hour Executive Session on March 18 to interview candidates for the open Parks and Recreation Director, as designated in its published agenda, but those interviews never occurred. Neither Sarah Olson nor Joel Faber was ever interviewed for the position.

On Tuesday, March 12, before the interview process was supposed to occur the city staff was told not to bring any

agenda items forward to allow three hours in an Executive Session for interviewing. That Thursday, Council President George Hurst and Mayor Frizzell reviewed the agenda for Friday's meeting. Council President Hurst noted that the normal process for interviewing candidates typically involves council receiving a binder which includes the applications of the three candidates—so that council members can formulate questions to be reviewed by Human Resources—but council members did not receive any binder. Council President Hurst was told by the Mayor's Office that the binders would be coming; but they never did, he said.


On Monday, March 18, Mayor Frizzell sent out an email stating some "issues have come up with the Executive Session" and called for a Council Leadership meeting at 5:30 p.m. At that meeting, the mayor said she decided not to move forward with candidate Olson and that she has appointed Faber as Interim. This was 30 minutes before the council meeting was scheduled to begin.

When council asked why this decision was brought up 30-minute before the meeting, the Mayor replied that she had made this decision a week ago but didn't want to put a damper on Sordel's retirement week, Council President Hurst informed the Lynnwood Times.

"My question to the mayor was, if you knew this last week, why didn't you just change the agenda? You're wasting time of the time of the council," said Hurst. "There were a lot of staff hours that were taken up to interview applicants."


Continued **PAGE 06** >>

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from page 1 **SWIFT ORANGE LINE**

“Everyone deserves reliable, affordable transportation and when the mobility of our community increases, we see our economy grow and thrive right along with it,” said Senator Marko Liias who chairs the Senate Transportation Committee. “I am passionate about expanding public transportation in Snohomish County and the Swift Orange Line is especially exciting because it means everyone will have the opportunity to get around more efficiently, no matter what their circumstances are.”

At Saturday morning’s event, dignitaries, community members, elected officials, and members of the Community Transit board gathered in honor of this momentous occasion before heading off to a Block Party celebration at Edmonds College.

Notable attendees included Federal Transportation Administration Acting Administrator Veronica Vanterpool, members of Washington’s federal delegation Representatives Rick Larsen (WA-02), Suzan DelBene (WA-01), and Kim Schrier (WA-08), Washington State Secretary of Transportation Roger Millar, Chair of the State Transportation Committee, Senator Marko Liias, State Representatives April Berg (D-Mill Creek) and Brandy Donaghy (D-Snohomish), State Representative and Snohomish County Councilman Sam Low (R-Lake Stevens) and Strom Peterson (D-Edmonds), Snohomish County Executive Dave Somers, Lynnwood Mayor Christine Frizzell, Mukilteo Mayor Joe Marine, Mountlake Terrace Mayor Kyoko Matsumoto Wright, Mill Creek Mayor Brian Holtzclaw, Snohomish County Sheriff Susanna Johnson, Snohomish County Executive Policy Officer Stephanie Wright, and Lynnwood City Councilmembers George Hurst, Julieta Altamirano-Crosby, David Parshall, Nick



Lynnwood Mayor Christine Frizzell at the Swift Orange Line ribbon cutting ceremony at Lynnwood Transit Center on Saturday, March 30, 2024. SOURCE: Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore.



State Representative and Snohomish County Councilman Strom Peterson (D-Edmonds) and Mountlake Terrace Mayor Kyoko Matsumoto Wright at the Swift Orange Line ribbon cutting ceremony at Lynnwood Transit Center on Saturday, March 30, 2024. SOURCE: Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore.

Coelho, and Shirley Sutton.

“Providing high-quality, frequent transit service is the best way we know to

get people where they need to go faster so they can work, visit family, receive healthcare and shop,” said FTA Acting Administrator Veronica Vanderpool

whose agency supported the project with \$68 million in grants. “President Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is making projects like the Swift Orange Line possible all over our country, and I’m so happy to be in Snohomish County to help make this new route a reality.”

“The new BRT will be helpful for all the working communities,” Councilwoman Altamirano-Crosby told the Lynnwood Times. “I want to thank our federal delegation, Representatives Laren and DelBene and all the hard work from the Community Transit team who are making Lynnwood a major transit hub.”

Community Transit CEO Ric Ilgenfritz was first to speak noting that 2024 will be a “huge year for transit in the Pacific Northwest” and he is excited to kick things off with the opening of the Swift Orange Line.

Lynnwood Mayor Christine Frizzell didn’t have far to travel, she said, walking to Edmonds College from her house Saturday morning and catching one of Community Transit’s newest electric buses to the Lynnwood Transit Center. Mayor Frizzell who is also a Community Transit Board member added that she looks forward to the expanded transportation service linking community members to vital resources such as jobs, education, and health care.

“It’s exciting to see all of the partners come together to really strengthen what we have in the community in South Snohomish County,” Rep. Strom Peterson told the Lynnwood Times adding that he’s looking forward to taking the bus up to Everett on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Continued **PAGE 07** >>

from page 1 **REDISTRICTING**

to the Ninth Circuit Court, referred the matter. As it currently stands, the Lasnik map will be implemented for the 2024 General Election.

The order from the court reads, “The application for stay presented to Justice Kagan and by her referred to the Court is denied.” There was no further explanation nor justification for the ruling.

The emergency request for a stay to the implementation of the lower court order on March 15 may have been denied but the litigants are expected to pursue final action by the U.S. Supreme Court which can take several months to years. Adoption of Lasnik’s redistricting map impacts 500,000 voters within the boundaries of 13 legislative districts—12 Republican and one Democratic—and redistricts out three Washington state senators and two House members, who are all Republicans, ahead of 2024 General Election; no Democratic lawmaker seats from either chamber will be impacted.

The court-ordered Lasnik map eliminates the Yakima Valley district that is a “toss-up” swing district and now gives Democrats a +14.4% district in same region. The Washington State Redistricting Commission maps, approved by the Washington Legislature on February 8, 2022, constructed a 73% Hispanic majority minority district with more than 50% of it being Hispanic Citizens of Voting Age Population (HCVAP).

Judge Lasnik, on March 15, agreed with plaintiff Susan Soto Palmer and seven others, who alleged that Legislative District 15 was drawn “to create the façade of a Latino opportunity district but in fact dilutes Latino voting power in violation of Section 2 of the federal Voting Rights Act.” The Lasnik map lowers the numbers of Hispanics from the current 52.6% to 50.2% (comparing LD’s 14 and 15) and redistricts out the first eastern Washington Latina elected Senator – Senator Nikki Torres – from her district.

The application for an emergency injunction to the Lasnik map was filed on behalf of Jose Trevino, Ismael G. Campos, Representative Alex Ybarra against Secretary of State Steve Hobbs, Susan Soto Palmer, Alberto Macias, Fabiola Lopez, Caty Padilla, and Heliodora.

Key points the lawyers for Trevino et al argued are that the District Court failed to analyze the causation of the Lasnik map adequately and that it is unconstitutionally gerrymandered.

“The evidence at trial made clear that racially polarized voting only existed in the Yakima Valley for partisan contests between White Democrats and White Republicans and disappeared in all other races lacking these conditions,” the emergency request for an injunction reads.

“The district court refused even to attempt to address how Senator Torres’s landslide victory was consistent with its

finding that Hispanic voters were denied equal opportunity on the basis of race... But the district court declined to even disclose Senator Torres’s over-35-point margin of victory over her White Democrat opponent—let alone analyze how such a landslide was consistent with vote-dilution caused by race.”

They further argued that the Lasnik map, resembling the shape of an “octopus slithering along the ocean floor,” further illustrates a “quintessential example of unlawful gerrymandering.” “Race-motivated district lines with ‘bizarre shapes’ are typically subject to strict scrutiny and presumptively unconstitutional... And as noted, court-drawn redistricting plans face even ‘stricter standards’ than those drawn by State legislatures themselves,” the injunction request reads.

The Plaintiffs’ key counterargument in its response to the emergency injunction was that the Trevino et al “never raised concerns that any of Plaintiffs’ proposed maps or the remedial map adopted by the district court would be an unconstitutional racial gerrymander. Instead, Intervenor complained that the maps were overtly partisan and further diluted Hispanic voting strength.”

Applications for an emergency action is addressed to a specific Justice, according to federal judicial circuit. Four general criteria, according to the U.S. Supreme Court, that an applicant typically must satisfy to be granted a stay are:

1. That there is a “reasonable proba-

2. That there is a “fair prospect” that a majority of the Court will conclude upon review that the decision below on the merits was erroneous;
3. That irreparable harm will result from the denial of the stay;
4. Finally, in a close case, the Circuit Justice may find it appropriate to balance the equities, by exploring the relative harms to the applicant and respondent, as well as the interests of the public at large.

In a press release by Latina Senator Nikki Torres (R-Yakima Valley), who represents Legislative District 15, center of the map dispute, she called Judge Lasnik’s order a “mockery of the Voting Rights Act.”

“The Voting Rights Act was supposed to empower affected minority populations,” she wrote, “This map DECREASES the number of Hispanics in the Majority Minority district and redistricts out the first Hispanic Senator in eastern Washington history.”

If the map stands, Republican Senator Torres along with fellow Republican senators Curtis King, who represents the 14th Legislative District and is the ranking Republican on the Senate Transportation Committee, and Brad Hawkins, who represents the 12th Legislative District and is the ranking Republican on the District Early Learning & K-12 Education, to be redistricted out.

from page 6 **SWIFT ORANGE LINE**

**Community Transit CEO Ric Ilgenfritz-SOURCE:** Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore.

“Lynnwood is a regional city and this firmly plants us at the center of Snohomish County in many ways. With Light Rail opening up soon, everyone is going to be pouring into town. It is going to be good for housing and quality of life...I am excited,” Councilman Nick Coelho told the Lynnwood Times.

The Swift Orange Line was an \$83 million project that received \$68 million from federal funds, including \$37.2 million from Capital Investment Grant funds and \$6.5 million of American Rescue Plan stimulus funding. The project also received \$5 million as part of the Connecting Washington pack-

age. An additional \$10 million came from local sales tax approved by voters.

Not only was the project completed on time and under budget, it also actually opened earlier than projected with original plans to open in October. Community Transit made the decision to open early so as not to interfere with the launch of the Lynnwood Link light rail extension in the fall.

Riders of the Swift Orange Line can expect upgraded features including 13 stops with rain shelters, additional seating, improved lighting, and real-time arrival and departure signage. Service begins at 4:15 a.m. on weekdays, 6 a.m. on Saturdays, and 7 a.m. on Sundays.

“We are eagerly looking forward to Link light rail arriving in Lynnwood later this year where it will connect with Swift service,” said Community Transit Board Chair and City of Snohomish Council President Tom Merrill. “With it comes opportunity — with light rail in place we can improve local service for our residents by redeploying the nearly one third of our service currently dedicated to commuting to downtown Seattle.”

from page 5 **LYNNWOOD PARKS**

Hurst also informed the Lynnwood Times that Sordel’s succession plan has never been shared with council despite repeatedly requesting to see it. The mayor has said that the matter is HR-related and doesn’t involve the council, Hurst said.

Council Vice President Julieta Altamirano-Crosby first requested to see Sordel’s plan last year but Mayor Frizzell, at first, told her there was no such plan.

“I’ve heard the mayor say comments like it wasn’t really a plan it was more of a suggestion but we’ve never seen

it so we don’t know,” said Hurst. “The city council has not received any official notice that she [has appointed Faber to Interim]. She sent out an email to the employees announcing the appointment of Joel as Interim Director, but she doesn’t give a timeline. Could this be indefinite? I don’t know. If Joel does a good job, does she just appoint him to Director superseding all procedures? It’s just a weird situation.”

The Lynnwood Municipal Code states: “at the conclusion of the initial administrative interview process, the mayor shall refer to the council at least three candidates for a city council confirmation process.” Mayor Frizzell informed

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the Lynnwood Times that following a public recruitment effort it was determined that there were not three qualified candidates to move forward for consideration, so she elected to name an Interim Director to shepherd the department through the upcoming busy season instead.

However, there were indeed three qualified candidates for consideration as Director or Lynnwood Parks & Recreation: Olson, Faber, as well as an applicant from out-of-state.

During Monday’s Business Meeting on March 25, Lynnwood City Council President Hurst, along with Council Vice President Altamirano-Crosby and Councilman Patrick Decker, agreed to considering a revision to Chapter 2.06 of the Lynnwood Municipal Code that governs the city council confirmation process for appointed officials and employees.

“Nothing in the process talks about interim appointments, I think we need to have that clarified,” President Hurst said.

from page 1 **HIT-AND-RUN**

The Lynnwood Times spoke with Druliner’s mother, Carol McKinnon, who believes that her daughter had been in a vehicle earlier with her boyfriend at the time when the two got into an argument. Druliner promptly exited her boyfriend’s vehicle and decided to walk home, crossing the street to gain distance from the situation.

McKinnon’s son, who was an emergency contact for Druliner, received an alert that night and the two of them immediately drove to the site of the incident where Druliner had already been placed on a gurney in route to Harborview Medical Center. She was unconscious and remained in a coma until her passing, he mother told the Lynnwood Times.

“I was completely devastated,” said McKinnon. “It’s the utmost importance we find this person so I can start grieving. I’m so angry but I need to stay focused. I feel like I’m in a holding pattern trying to find this person with not a lot of help, I feel, from the Washington State Patrol.”

Security camera footage from a local business captured a vehicle of interest—a dark colored Sedan, possibly a Toyota Corolla. McKinnon believes that there may be damage to the front of the vehicle, such as a cracked windshield or dent where it struck her



**Unknown vehicle involved in the hit-and-run collision in Lynnwood. SOURCE:** WSP daughter.

Druliner was transported to Harborview Medical in critical condition suffering a fractured pelvis, a broken leg, a fractured skull, and brain damage. She underwent emergency brain surgery that night and was put in Harborview’s ICU until her passing last Saturday from a brain hemorrhage.

McKinnon informed the Lynnwood Times that they were the fourth family at Harborview, within an 11-day period, who had a loved one hospitalized due to a hit-and-run in the area.

“That’s just one facility. It’s shocking and heartbreaking to see that people just don’t care about other people,” said McKinnon. “That’s my message;

slow down, care about other people, and think about what you would want if this was your family member.”

McKinnon took to social media the night of her passing writing that her daughter was an organ donor, which granted her a bit of “solace” knowing that her daughter will “live on through the people she will save” with her transplants.

The organ donation process took about two days before Druliner’s body was transported to the Snohomish County Medical Examiner’s Office. The hit-and-run is under criminal investigation. Once the Medical Examiner’s Office concludes their report, her family will begin planning for a celebration of life, McKinnon informed the Lyn-

wood Times.

“I’m just waiting until she can finally rest in peace,” said McKinnon.

Taylor Druliner was described by her mother as being a “really sweet individual” with a “beautiful smile.” She had worked as a dental coordinator for several years before recently being promoted to dental assistant at a local office. She was also creative and loved to craft, her mother added.

“She was shy, but she always seemed to draw people in to make them feel comfortable in any situation,” said McKinnon.

McKinnon is now calling on anybody and everybody to be on the lookout for the suspects’ vehicle so that she and her family can finally have some resolution.

“They destroyed a family, they took someone’s life. I just don’t understand how somebody is okay with that and is just going on with their life,” said McKinnon.

If you have details that could help solve this case, please contact Detective Daniel Cornick with the Washington State Patrol at (425)-508-0606 or via email at [daniel.cornick@wsp.wa.gov](mailto:daniel.cornick@wsp.wa.gov).

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