

## Will voters remake the Olympia City Council in November?

Dan Leahy

Three stories were told about housing and homelessness as candidates vied for votes in Olympia's primary election. All three stories will be part of the general election.

**Three different narratives**

The first story comes from incumbent Council members Jim Cooper, Lisa Parshley and Yen Huynh. They say the solution to the housing crisis is to promote "more." Whatever the market is willing to build they will help facilitate: tax exemptions for builders; infill exemptions from environmental regulations; purchase and clean-up of proposed sites and gifts of buildings. While the developers will not build affordable housing, as supply eventually increases and buildings age, the wealthier will leave and the poorer will find something they can afford.

The second story comes from the real estate oriented contingent: Spence Weigand, Wendy Carlson, Robbi Kesler and Corey Gauny. They agree that "more" housing is the way forward, but two obstacles need to be removed. First, speed up the development process. There are too many fees, regulations and delays in the land turn-over process.

Olympia has a reputation of being unfriendly to business and this needs to change. The second obstacle is the presence of the drug-addicted and mentally ill homeless people living in encampments and creating a public safety hazard in the downtown shopping core. This contingent says there needs to be a more robust police presence and the homeless need to be removed from downtown to publicly controlled sites where they can get treatment.

The third story comes from the independent candidates: Talauna Reed, Dontae Payne, Tyrone Brown, Sarah Destasio and Bruce Wilkinson, Jr. They think the City pays too much attention to wealthy builders. Marginalized, working poor and working class people who rent need a voice on the City Council. They want the City or some public entity like a housing authority to build affordable housing now and protect renters from predatory practices.

They see a connection between the City's promotion of unaffordable downtown housing and the increase in homelessness. They don't want to normalize encampments, but they say inadequate wages and rises in the cost of living and rent contribute to homelessness. They want permanent housing solutions to keep lower-income people housed and in our community.



Photo by Dave Harris

**A high turnout, and on to the general election**

The City's voters responded to these stories with a high turnout in the

primary, casting 13,933 votes for a 37.6% turnout of the City's 37,038 registered voters. The number of voters is well above the approximately 11,000 voters who participated in

the 2019 primary. In addition, more than twenty of Olympia's precincts had a higher participation rate—between 40% and 54.8%.

The results for the primary election have become clear. Incumbent Jim Cooper and Spence Weigand will face each other. Incumbent Lisa Parshley will face Talauna Reed. Incumbent Yen Huynh will face Robbi Kesler. In the race for the open seat vacated by Renata Rollins, Dontae Payne will face Corey Gauny.

**Voters support an incumbent and a real estate agent**

The Cooper, Weigand, Brown race. Incumbent Jim Cooper, on the Council since 2011, is the longest serving Council member. He has the endorsement of current Council members Gilman, Madrone, Parshley and Rollins. Spence Weigand is a long-time real estate agent for Virgil Adams Realty. (Although tenant organizer Tyrone Brown came in third, his underfunded campaign attracted a surprising 2,524 votes on an expenditure of \$1,620.)

On the central issue of housing and homelessness, both Cooper and Weigand ran on a platform of "more" housing. Cooper has voted for every eight-year tax exemption for downtown market rate apartment buildings. He also voted for the West Bay Yards project on Budd Inlet which Weigand also supports. In fact, Weigand's real estate agency helped broker the West Bay sale. Weigand and Cooper both support the "miss-

► **City Council**, continued on page 10

## Quietly redefining "affordability" Olympia's low and middle-income renters won't be served by Boulevard Road project

**Helen Wheatley**

When the City of Olympia purchased park land at LBA Woods in 2016, it quickly moved forward with a plan to set aside ten non-forested acres fronting Boulevard Road to develop as affordable multifamily housing.

The City has now selected Vancouver-based Romano Capital to develop a project that will house "middle income families." According to the City, this translates to an annual income of \$54,000 to \$108, 000 for a family of four.

Romano Capital will hold a series of public meetings in September to solicit feedback on their proposal for 160 apartments, 20 townhouse units and a commercial center. (Some of the units will be sold at market rate. The City has yet to negotiate this with the developer.)

**Moving the goal post**

When The Olympian's Brandon Block reported on the development in July, Olympia project manager Amy Buckler cited a goal of "maximizing the number of affordable units for working-class families," which the City had described as between 60 and 80% of Area Median Income, or \$52,000 to \$69,000 a year for a family of four.

What happened between July and August to move the goal post so dramatically from "working class" to "middle income"?

One thing is for sure: Many Olympia residents don't meet the City's definition of "middle-income." This public project won't be for them.

**Minimum wage families left out by overestimation of income levels**

According to Buckler, the use of the term "middle income" refers to "Workforce Housing." This relies on a federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) formula where income limits are based on "area median family income" in the county as a whole.

The HUD figure for the median income for Thurston County in 2020 was \$90,200 for a family of four. The City set the income limit for the Boulevard Road project at 120% of that amount, or \$108,000. According to the HUD formula, to be "affordable" the cost of housing must be no more than 30% of income. This means that "affordable" housing

► **Low income**, continued on page 9

**Works in Progress (WIP)**, is a community newspaper based in Olympia, WA, that has been published monthly since 1990.

WIP's mission is to contribute to the struggle for justice across economic, social, environmental and political realms, and to expand participatory democracy across classes, races, and genders.

**Editorial policy**

Our priority is to focus on stories that are ignored or misrepresented in the corporate media, especially those that relate directly to our mission. We seek well-researched news stories, serious analyses of issues confronting our communities and accounts of personal experiences or reflections by local writers. We encourage articles that relate to the monthly theme, but material on other topics is also welcome.

Informed opinion pieces are accepted when accompanied by facts, examples and sources. We discourage writing where a key point is stated as fact when it's unproven or in serious dispute. Writing that stereotypes groups or categories of people won't be accepted.

Once we receive a submission, we may choose to publish it or not. While the views expressed in the material we print are those of the author alone, WIP aims to print material that is consistent with our mission. WIP reserves the right to edit all submissions for accuracy, length, and clarity of expression. We will work with authors if there is a need for editing that extends beyond those areas.

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# The 24/7 education channel

Back-to-school—the comforting seasonal phrase that conjures images of kids with backpacks, pencils and lunchboxes. We trot it out every year as a reminder that some things can be relied on to help us maintain a sense of continuity. Like so many other things, going back to school has taken on new meaning.

Being in the second year of a pandemic and witnessing the social upheaval of our sacred beliefs and institutions has us all rethinking what we've been taught, questioning the curriculum and even the educators, be it in government, law enforcement, environment or empire building. Oh yeah, and kids.

The lessons we learn vary with our experience. For some, old notions about law and order have been exposed as tools of separation and harm. These folks long for new, more inclusive pathways to learning, with fresh conclusions. For others the takeaway is to stay the course and follow established rules that might be unfair but which offer no surprises. For yet others, the notion of school is no longer useful. They pursue pathways to education without walls or outer authority. What looks like anarchy to some is for them a complete re-evaluation of the three Rs, where self-governing is as fundamental as reading, writing and arithmetic.

## THOUGHTS ON THE THEME

In this issue WIP asks readers to review the curriculum. If some stories seem redundant it may be because our City and County officials seem reluctant to familiarize themselves with the syllabus, let alone pick a major. Some can't even audit a free course offered by their constituents, as Dan Leahy shows in his analysis of the platforms of candidates advancing in the primary. The level of disregard for the student body begs for fresh interpretation and new faces.

Helen Wheatley's account of the City's shift in what defines affordable housing for Olympians is revealing. Will those who decide on the final development off Boulevard Road honor their originally stated goal of providing low and middle-income housing? Or will they be successful in substituting a new definition of what's affordable while we are still busy transcribing our notes?

On page four, new contributor Charlotte Persons records how attempts to halt construction of a warehouse in pristine farmland near Maytown Road have led the County to table the project until next year (until we forget about it, perhaps). This is why a new coalition of environmental advocacy groups has become necessary: to fight for the rights of our land, water, air and the humans and wildlife dependent upon them.

On page five, regular correspondent Esther Kronenberg documents a demand for the elimination of a Board whose actions serve boat owners while permanently damaging the lives—aquatic, air and land-based—that Black Lake supports. Check the Community Spotlight on page 15 for more events and advocacy groups offering workshops and special events..

The article on page six is like a back-to-school statistics class that looks at how loss of employment and housing in our area has contributed to record numbers of children classified as homeless. And while special agencies and laws have been created to count and serve them, parsing the actual numbers has proven difficult. A new program in Thurston County may help them find shelter and education within stable home situations they choose themselves. It can't come soon enough, since the moratorium on evictions will have expired by the time you read this.

For those in need of a refresher course, new writer Mindy Stokes reminds us that while we are all rightly protesting the hazards of being black in the United States, the ongoing horror of domestic abuse has taken a back seat in public awareness. Hard but required reading.

Even Lost in Space, the poem on the back cover of this issue, is part of the core curriculum: questioning private wealth, how it's acquired and how it's (laughably) spent. Our thanks to former Tacoma resident Leah Mueller for allowing us to reprint it.

Finally, there's the eye-opening history article that reminds us of a beloved teacher, the one who demanded our attention and forced us to think but rewarded our effort with deeper understanding. Excerpts from Richard Behan's article, originally appearing in *Common Dreams*, proves our government had a chance to accept the Taliban's surrender way back in 2001.

Except then we wouldn't have been able to fight for control of the Unocal pipeline that runs through Afghanistan. Historical footnote: 20 years and \$2.6 trillion later, we never achieved that goal. May future history books break with tradition and record the real reasons we invaded Afghanistan and the terrible price so many paid for so little in return.

If you'll allow us to torture the metaphor one last time, consider this: we can skip class and play hooky. We can make fun of the kids who study hard. We can take an incomplete or flunk out altogether. But the lesson remains: we can't escape getting schooled.

—LL



## Upcoming themes

**October: Reap what you sow.** How does this metaphor apply to the upcoming elections? Your garden? Your actions in the community? **Deadline: September 15**

**November-December: Gimme shelter.** Ever listened to the lyrics of this old Rolling Stones song? How does 'shelter' relate to the coming wet months, for you and for your housed and unhoused neighbors? What's "just a shot away" for you? **Deadline: October 10**

**January: Where do we find light?** Can you see it yet? What helped you navigate the dark time? **Deadline: December 17**

## Works in Progress is looking for a Distribution Coordinator

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members and when/if sites are replenished when empty

- Willingness to engage with businesses and organizations to introduce the WIP mission with the goal of increasing drop off sites
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# To Charlie

(In 4/4)

Listen

—a sharp snare cracks  
A simple rock fill strides down  
On the toms boom, daboom—boom.  
Right foot plows the kick—exactly.  
There’s wild prancing singing up front  
But built on this groove.

Do you ever wonder,  
How long in the pocket  
Can one stay?  
It’s a mystery,  
Only so much in the meter,  
Until the metronome runs out  
The tune ends,  
And its pendulum swing stops.

Of its beating heart inside  
Pounding in a garage band bleating  
Where I did meet him beneath,  
Our heart song rocked.  
The Time Keeper, dapper, grinning,  
To almost a grimace like Cozy, or Max  
Stopped counting time  
with his perfect straight fours.  
I heard him leave, he stepped down,  
With his set completed  
In London somewheres.



Listen

The fading, dirge drum beating  
syncopated eighths from a  
New Orleans funeral band fades  
With the Time Keeper marching  
Into joyful memory’s distance.

Bean  
24.08.2021

**Charlie Watts**, drummer  
for the Rolling Stones, died in  
London on August 24, 2021.

## Correction

An August article about Olympia’s Hearing Examiner, highlighted his role in a case where citizens were appealing a new zoning ordinance adopted by the City. The HEX had rejected the group’s appeal, leaving the ordinance intact.

The article pointed out that when the citizen group took their case to the next level (Growth Management Board), some elements of the ordinance were invalidated. In fact, the Board invalidated the entire ordinance—something that produced an outcome directly opposite the one produced by the HEX decision.

## Readers’ Alert— review a book! Get \$50!

WIP still has funds from our “Readers Review” grant. Each month we publish a list of books (see right column). If you’d like to be considered to review one of them, email us and put BOOK REVIEW in the subject line. We will buy the book (or reimburse you if you buy it) and pay \$50 if the review is accepted. If any of these books looks interesting, let us know. Or propose a book yourself.

*The Constitution of Knowledge*, Jonathan Rauch. Clear explanations of how and why disinformation spreads, showing how every

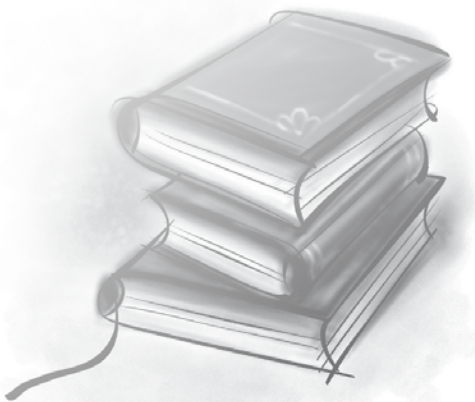
American can help defend objective truth and free inquiry necessary for a democratic culture.

*Conundrum*, Jan Morris. Trans is not new. This is the forthright and tender account of a 10-year journey (1964–74) begun by James Morris to becoming the woman Jan Morris.

*Waste: One Woman’s Fight Against America’s Dirty Secret*, Catherine Coleman Flowers. Flowers evolved from country girl to student organizer to champion of environmental justice to write this story of communities across America coping with criminally deficient housing and worse sanitation.

*Orca: Shared Waters, Shared Home*, Lynda Mapes. A tale of orcas and their habitat, intelligence and culture, told by an extraordinary story-teller and writer, accompanied by stunning graphics.

*No Good Men Among the Living: America, the Taliban, and the War Through Afghan Eyes*, Anand Gopal. In a couple hundred pages, lays out who, what, when and how of the US war through the lives and perspectives of three Afghans.



## Then this happened

**We ran out of license plates!** So many prisoners were released early (Covid) that there aren’t enough left to work the license-plate production lines. Beginning July 31, the Dept. of Corrections “increased staffing”?? and outsourced production to prisons in other states.

**Another loss for a public voice.** A Superior Court judge denied OlyEcoSystem’s opportunity to argue that a full environmental review should have come before the City Council signed a 15-year contract with developers of West Bay Yards. WBY, a 460-unit “urban village” proposed on the shore of Budd Inlet.

**Housing the homeless in under-used hotels** “has positive outcomes.” That’s the finding in a report from the UW. Too bad Mayor Selby didn’t see the report before she labeled as “domestic terrorists” the folks asking to use the old Gov-

ernor House hotel for a temporary homeless shelter last March.

**Once-decent jobs are being chipped away** as Providence Centralia looks to squeeze more work out of medical technicians trying to get their first contract. (If only the employees had the clout of developer Ron Newman who wrote his own contract for West Bay Yards—signed by the City Council without a peep.)

**Show me your papers!** If you’re taking the bus from Portland to Olympia you better have “documentation.” Customs and Border Police can stop and board buses without a warrant anywhere in the “100-mile border zone” to “ask” for proof of citizenship. Maybe those folks who define “freedom” as the right not to wear a mask could turn their attention to the right to travel free of fear of the authorities.

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Public outcry may have prompted delay

# County Commission postpones decision on Beaver Creek rezone

Charlotte Persons

In February 2021, when members of the public learned that purchasers of the large dairy farm once owned by the Doeblman family wanted to build a warehouse/distribution center, the outcry was immediate. The proposal for the parcel, located at 13333 Case Road SW in South Olympia, was to amend the Thurston County Comprehensive Plan so that a portion of the property could be rezoned as Rural Resource Industrial (RRI).

## Loss of farmland and animal habitat

Citizen concerns about the rezone request were numerous. Besides the loss of farmland, a busy warehouse could discourage animals' use of the east-west wildlife corridor from Capitol Forest to JBLM (animals can currently access a wildlife pass under I-5 at the Maytown exit (Exit 95) next to the farm).

## Increased flooding and groundwater contamination

Beaver Creek and its wetlands run along the rezone area. Extensive laying of impervious surface

roads might increase downstream flooding on neighboring properties along Maytown Road and/or contaminate private wells.

The creek has coho salmon that migrate upstream to spawn near



West Rocky Prairie. Stormwater runoff from roads or the project site could pollute Beaver Creek and kill fish, especially during heavy rain or flooding. Polluted runoff might also negatively impact the threatened Oregon Spotted Frog found in Beaver Creek and its wetlands.

## A delay and future opportunities to weigh in

The many negative comments submitted by organizations and citizens may have played a role in the March 24 Thurston County Com-

missioners vote to call the project a "low priority" on their 2020-2021 docket of items to consider.

It now appears staff will begin the review of this docket item in 2022, which could take a year to consider because the rezone area is large and the issues are complex.

Sometime in 2022 or even 2023, then, citizens will have one or two more opportunities to comment on the rezone request through written comment or oral comments at a public hearing. The first chance will be when the request comes before the Thurston County Planning Commission. If the Commission recommends approval, the public can comment again when it comes before the Thurston County Board of Commissioners.

*Charlotte Persons is a member of League of Women Voters Thurston County, a docent at Bigelow House Museum, and is on the board of Black Hills Audubon Society.*

To view comments previously submitted to the Commission, go to <https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/planning/planningdocuments/AttachmentA-PublicComments.pdf>.

**While some public comments favored a new warehouse near Maytown Road,** the majority were against the project.

"We believe the request is problematic for the following reasons: 1) converting the parcel to a non agricultural use is inconsistent with the county wide goal of no net loss of farmland; 2) it would be premature to consider this rezoning while the community driven review of agriculture docket item is under way; 3) the County does not need additional Rural Resource Industrial land; 4) the underlying zoning does not offer assurance that the land will remain in agriculture and although RRI would ensure it isn't developed at residential densities, it would almost certainly preclude ongoing agricultural activities on the property"



"[this is] a rural community and industrial uses don't belong here. There are millions of unoccupied square feet of warehouse in Lacey. Exit 99 is being built up with other large projects causing traffic increase, which drives residents down to Maytown exit. If semi trucks are added to that it'll be dangerous for commuters. Lacey warehousing traffic goes north so it doesn't have to drive through the County—putting a warehouse in South County will pull semi traffic through the entire county. Farmland is disappearing and converting 290 acres of it to industrial is in the wrong direction."



"Most of the jobs will be temporary jobs with no benefits, no vacation, rarely permanent... Warehouses in Lacey are constantly seeking workers—we can't even fill these jobs."



" We're facing a serious issue of cumulative impacts in South County. There are already traffic issues at Exit 99 with the Pilot truck stop and a new commercial center warehouse going in. People moved to this area expecting and treasuring the rural character, including farm land, forests, prairies and wetlands. This project would bring thousands of daily truck trips to a sensitive area, destroy farmland and put rural character at stake."



"What is so lacking in our current resources that could justify this warehouse?"

# Local advocacy groups converge to increase efficiency, leverage

Charlotte Persons

Local Good Governance is a new Thurston County coalition formed to make the advocacy work of environmental and affordable housing nonprofits more efficient and their voices stronger. The coalition is the brainchild of a small working group of League of Women Voters Thurston County (LWVTC) with support from Thurston Climate Action Team (TCAT).

Based on their experiences over the last three years, some members of the LWVTC believe the values of the commons and the public good are not being given equal weight compared to other pressures and influences by local governments in land use decisions. The coalition is an effort to remedy this situation.

The first meeting of the coalition was on August 4, and was attended by representatives of seven local affordable housing and environmental nonprofits. Discussion cen-

tered on prioritizing actions for the coalition. Some nonprofits want to focus on creating easier public access to local governments and on making the members' work less duplicative. They want to create a shared system of monitoring local governments' meetings, and post information on-line in a calendar or database format for summaries of those meetings and information on how citizens can comment on land issues or policies as they arise.

Other organizations are interested in a proactive Rights of Community/Rights of Nature campaign for a local watershed, river, or part of the shore.

The coalition is starting small but aiming big and invites participation by more organizations. The next local Good Governance meeting will be by Zoom on Wednesday, September 15, where discussion will evaluate the time and energy resources the coalition will have to pursue one or both of those goals. If your nonprofit organization would like to participate,

contact Charlotte Persons, LWVTC at [cpeople2u@gmail.com](mailto:cpeople2u@gmail.com) or Lynn Fitz-Hugh of TCAT at [lynn@thurstonclimateaction.org](mailto:lynn@thurstonclimateaction.org).

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Years of herbicide treatments and no end in sight

# Residents ask County Commissioners to dissolve the Black Lake Flood Control District

Esther Kronenberg

Black Lake District residents have submitted a petition to the Thurston County Commissioners asking for the dissolution of the current Black Lake Flood Control District (BLFCD).

More than 200 residents from across Thurston County submitted a supporting petition requesting that the County create a Lakes Management District in place of the BLFCD.

Despite years of toxic herbicide applications and a \$1.4 million dollar bond-funded alum treatment program, the BL Flood Control District actions have failed to address failing septic and stormwater pollutants entering Black Lake, or to protect the aquifer recharge areas and Strategic Groundwater Reservation of the State Capitol connected to the lake. Their actions have instead contributed to the long-term nutrient loading issue that is a primary cause of Black Lake's toxic algae blooms and deteriorating water quality.

Citizens for a Clean Black Lake (CCBL) has been trying since last summer to get the County to recognize that the BL Flood Control District was formed improperly and is incapable of solving lake-wide problems. The petitioners point to the State law that provides for Lake Management Districts as the mechanism to address precisely the problems plaguing Black Lake.

## What happens at Black Lake doesn't stay at Black Lake

In its initial challenge to the BL Flood Control District's proposal to levy a bond for an alum treatment to the Lake, the CCBL asked County Commissioners for a full environmental review to include other agencies with expertise to consider the broader picture of water quality impacts in the Black Lake Basin. Black Lake's importance to the larger community was recognized when it was designated as part of the State Capitol Strategic Groundwater Reservation (SGR) in 1986.

CCBL noted that Black Lake is in hydraulic continuity with Olympia and Tumwater's city wells and neighboring private wells. It overlies 16 Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas used by the City, the County and the State Capitol Campus, as well as the Strategic Groundwater Reservation.

Because of its connection to the north through the Black Lake ditch to Capitol Lake and Budd Inlet, Black Lake is subject to the federal Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act. These forbid the dumping of toxic chemicals into federally protected waters with species at risk of extinction, in this case, the salmon and Orcas of Puget Sound. Black Lake with its contaminants also drains south via the Black River through the Black Lake National Wildlife Refuge into Grays Harbor.

CCBL specifically sought consideration of alternatives to the use of herbicides and alum and a review of critical areas and impacts to County groundwater supplies. They cited several science-based studies by government agencies and private consultants hired by the BL Flood Control District, all of which concluded that stormwater runoff and failing septic systems were the major contributors to excess nutrient levels in the lake.

These nutrients caused the growth of aquatic weeds and algae, whose accumulation is not addressed by the District's annual use of herbicides or alum treatments, which only exacerbate contamination of the SGR.

## Why a Flood Control District when Black Lake doesn't flood?

The BL Flood Control District encompasses 179 lakefront parcels around Black Lake, including two County parks, a Fish & Wildlife public boat launch, and 587 upland parcels. It grew out of the Save Black Lake Coalition, a nonprofit composed primarily of lakefront property owners mostly concerned with damage to boat and watercraft engines. It was formed under a provi-

sion of state law covering districts that "provide diking, drainage and flood control facilities and services."

Black Lake does not flood; is not listed as a flood control district on the Municipal Research Services Center website as are others in the state; and does not appear on FEMA maps as flood-prone.

The stated purpose of the new District was to "keep lake water clean of ...invasive species and nuisance weeds that prevent lake enjoyment



The use of alum treatments in public waterways has initial benefits but long term adverse consequences.

and damage boat and watercraft engines."

The BL Flood Control District's purpose of "keeping lake water clean" is not recognized by the State as a function of a special district. But forming under the state's flood control statute (RCW 85.38) had a unique benefit. It allowed a 3-member board of lakefront property owners to make all decisions for the lake—with little public participation; oversight or input by the County; or adherence to the County's stricter Integrated Pest Management Plan.

## Black Lake's importance to the larger community was recognized when it was designated as part of the State Capitol Strategic Groundwater Reservation (SGR) in 1986.

## CCBL continues its effort despite approval of the bond levy

After the County Commissioners approved the bond and the tax increase on the basis of respecting the Flood Control District Board's "self-governance", the CCBL turned its attention to the Department of Ecology.

The Flood Control District obtains its authority from a permit issued through Ecology for an Aquatic Plant and Algae Management (APAM) National Pollution Discharge Eliminating System (NPDES). The permit ignored state and federal legal requirements as well as the impact on the Strategic Groundwater Reservation, and was issued without any SEPA /NEPA environmental review of the site.

## The Flood Control Board's APAM permit was granted improperly

CCBL asked Ecology to revoke the Board's APAM permit for the alum treatment. They argued that the Flood Control Board had as-

sumed the powers of the state legislature, which established separate and distinct purposes for flood control districts versus lake management districts. Ecology's own APAM permit fact sheet does not list flood control districts as entities with the legal authority to obtain APAM /NPDES permits for the actions noted above. Counties, however, can obtain such permits.

CCBL further argued that the permit was not granted on the basis of a site-specific environmental review. Instead, Ecology based its permit coverage on outdated non-project Ecol-

ogy documents that, according to the Citizens' group, were inadequate for the Flood Control Board projects.

Washington law requires the responsible official (in this case, the County) to complete an Environmental Impact Statement for any proposal that "significantly affects the quality of the environment," including impacts to wetlands and endangered or threatened species or their habitat. This was not done.

Ecology granted the permit solely on the basis of the Integrated Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan used to form the BL Flood Control District in 2012. The Aquatic Vegetation Plan described the project as limited to two years of herbicide treatment followed by the mechanical harvesting of weeds. CCBL argued that herbicide applications and alum treatments after 2014 would have required their own site-specific environmental review.

## A continuing commitment to the lake and its residents

When Ecology declined to revoke the alum permit, CCBL continued to organize residents. The task was made more difficult by COVID restrictions. Despite this, the petition gathered enough signatures from Black Lake District residents to meet the requirement for a public hearing on the request that the District be dissolved. County residents added their voice on a separate petition to the County Commissioners, also asking for dissolution of the Flood Control District, to be replaced by a Lakes Management District.

## The proper mechanism to remedy Black Lake's problems is a Lakes Management District

Lakes Management Districts (LMD) were established by the legislature to address not just the symptoms but the causes of eutrophication and deteriorating water quality seen at Black Lake

► Black Lake, continued on page 12



Getting an accurate headcount is essential

# A community effort to identify, support and educate our homeless youth

Lori Lively

Many people who qualify as homeless do not live on the street or solicit donations with a cardboard sign. They have full or part-time jobs, live in cars or tents, or lodge with others in dwellings designed as single family units. Among them are over 40,000 school-aged children in Washington, the equivalent of at least one unhoused child in every classroom.

Unhoused children are difficult to count. Without electricity or an internet connection, some families have given up trying to keep their kids in school. “It’s easier to send kids to a brick and mortar school and a lot harder to keep them attending when it’s online,” one spokesperson said. “We’ve been trying all summer to find these kids and get them coded as they should to be safe and secure. But that’s hard when you’re living in a car or tent,” a North Thurston School District (NTSD) representative said.

Educating unhoused children begins with identifying them. As the representative from NTSD told WIP, homeless families often don’t see themselves as homeless or needing assistance, affecting their children’s ability to receive services. “Parents may explain their living situations as temporary or intentional, like ‘we’re gypsies’ or ‘we just like living with Grandma and Grandpa.’ Children of homeless adults aren’t always visible, even to themselves.”

Challenges to gathering and interpreting data

Counties and school districts use at least two methods to track and fund unhoused children. Individual counties conduct a Point-in-Time count of homeless families every year. PIT counts also seek to identify causes of homelessness and help develop strategic planning to combat it. These reports are submitted to the legislature where they help to determine how much funding each county receives in support services for unhoused people.

Figures released by Thurston County’s PIT count suggest that homelessness among school age children in Thurston County decreased by approximately 59% from 2019 to 2021. A spokesperson from North Thurston School District said their figures indicate the number of unhoused students dropped from around 900 in 2019 to around 600 in 2020.

Both figures are misleading. Representatives for the school district say that the number of children experiencing homelessness, especially in the era of Covid, has not decreased. It’s just that many youth have disappeared from view altogether. The eviction moratorium, cited by Thurston County as a likely factor in the reduced number of homeless youth, may have given temporary respite to many families without permanent housing—but not for long.\*

The other method for tracking unhoused children relies on guidelines set forth by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act. The MV method also

seeks to identify homeless youth to help districts get more accurate head counts; to enroll those students in school and to help them find appropriate assistance and services.

Because of privacy restrictions imposed by HUD, along with the

up in PIT counts compared to McKinney-Vento coding.

A new program to provide care and support for school enrollment

This May, a local non-profit group, TOGETHER! launched “Host

as those for foster care, but how it will look and what it is designed to accomplish are different. For starters, after extensive matching, children choose the family they want to live with and can stay with that family as long as they like.

The program is supported by legislation that helped to overcome initial resistance to the unfamiliar model. Rinehardt created a host home coalition to educate members of both congressional houses, citing the success of other programs he helped start in school districts in Whatcom, King and Mason Counties and other rural districts in the state.

Civic organizers and school administrators in those areas vouched for the program. Rinehardt was ultimately able to convince lawmakers that TOGETHER! Host Homes would bring the same level of involvement to Thurston County.

Mobilizing the community

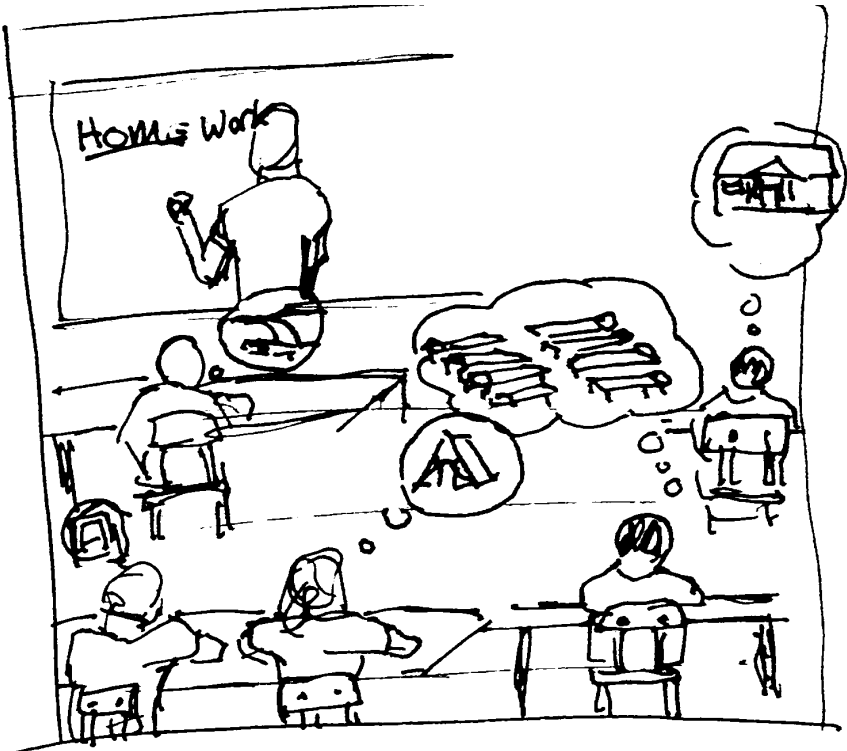
Gabriela Hyer, program development director for TOGETHER! Host Homes, describes the program as a community-driven effort: “We are mobilizing not only community re-sources, but our community in response to a need identified within the North Thurston and Tumwater School Districts,” she said.

Over 40 community organizations are partnering with Together! The roster of partners is long and wide: Lacey Rotary Club, North Thurston Education Foundation, City of Lacey, North Thurston School District, City of Tumwater, Tumwater HOPES, Tumwater Police Department, Tumwater School District, Community Youth Services, PiPE Olympia, Pizza Klatch, Family Education Support Services, DCYF-Thurston County, Community Services Division-Olympia CSO and Community Foundation of South Puget Sound. Olympia School District is not part of this pilot program.

Lori Lively is Managing Editor of Works in Progress.

To learn more about when host family applications will be accepted, contact Program Development Director Gabriela Hyre at GHyre@ThurstonTOGETHER.org or call Together! at 360.943.2230.

\*PIT’s website suggests the national eviction moratorium could explain the reduction in homeless students. When the extension on the moratorium expires in September, more families will probably be forced into homelessness and the number of unhoused students may rise to record levels.

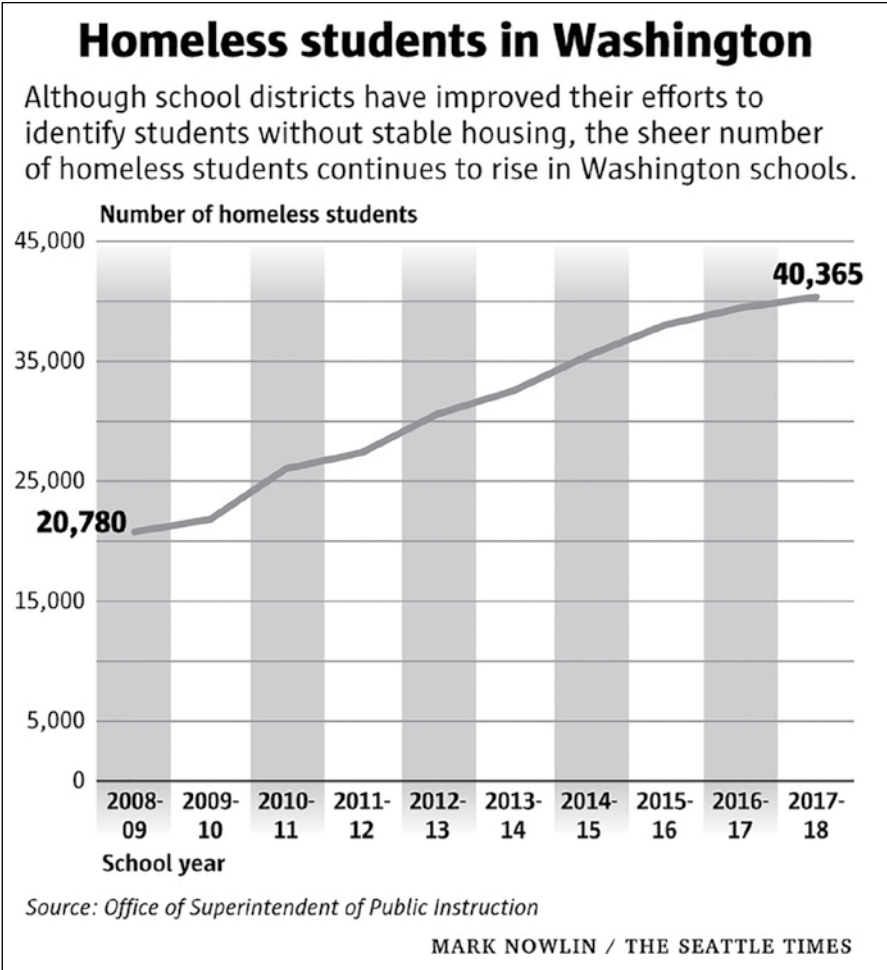


Original illustration for WIP by Jentzen Mooney

inherent challenges of counting kids without homes, the two systems paint vastly different pictures of homeless youth in Thurston County.

In the last census, seven children showed up in person for the PIT estimate in Thurston County. In

Homes,” a program to house unaccompanied youth who are not in the physical care of a parent or guardian. The program, which is scheduled to begin in January, aims to match unaccompanied high school students with host families to provide youth with an option for safe, affirming home-



the same time period, McKinney-Vento estimated around 576 homeless students from birth to grade 12 in North Thurston public schools. Students coded under the MV system are not necessarily counted by the PIT survey. This creates a problem when school officials are trying to help legislators understand why there’s a difference in the number of students who show

like housing along with consistent education opportunities.

In Thurston County the host homes project will target youth 14 – 21 years of age. Program creator Kim Rinehardt says the TOGETHER! project is distinctly different from foster care. The application process and background checks required will be at least as rigorous

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Some forms of violence are more visible than others

# Where is the outrage about domestic abuse?

Mindy Stokes

Another unarmed black man was killed at the hands of police last month. Marchers took to the streets, fists in air. The mother and father of the victim cried on TV. And countless other parents of black and brown bodies shuddered at the thought of this crime visiting upon their sons' heads someday.

Folks around the country are incensed about these killings, and I too am outraged. Law enforcement sworn to uphold the law and protect all citizens, use deadly force in unjustifiable ways and take life too often. We know this thanks to cell footage and body cameras. Even when law enforcement is aware there are witnesses, the urge to maim wins out. This open display of violence is an example of privilege. Individuals in our society that have had the full weight of the system behind them (courts, law enforcement, public opinion, laws, and policy) have not been held accountable because they haven't had to be. We are Appalled. Exhausted. Enraged. Grief-stricken. And we should be.

In Washington state, two women that I don't personally know were murdered too, but by intimate male partners. A reasonable person can assume the abuse didn't start with these crimes but instead ended with them. What did these women have to endure. How often, and how long before their batterers orchestrated their final deeds?

Where is the outrage for these women? Where is their march? Where are shouts for justice reform? Where are the tears? Where is the mass



organized effort to stop these murders? Do we lack a concerted community effort because women are the victims—or because the crimes are committed out of sight? Or both? There is no evidence except blackened arms and bruised ribs and dead bodies.

Do we lack a mass uprising because many still think it's women's fault because they should leave? What if they're victims simply because they're female? In the same way black men are victims because they are black? Cops are supposed to protect us. Intimate partners are supposed to protect us too.

Do these women come home to punches instead of cups of tea or glasses of wine? Imagine what survivors' lives are like. A batterer is a batterer all of the time, not just when he's hitting you.

Intimate partner violence steals life bit by bit until there's nothing left to take. My mom was battered physically, emotionally, mentally, and financially again and again. Her life was taken a little at a time; in the way she cried, stood with her arms across her body, in her voice, and in her inability to fight the misinformation coming from her husband who told her she was stupid and worthless. Over time, dignity and sanity faded too, never to fully return—even after she left.

Three of my aunts suffered domestic violence as well, and they are the ones that I know about. When I look at pictures of them in their early 20s, they are full of vitality and exciting futures, their eyes lit with promise. As time passed, those bright futures became distant yesterdays. They grew to have dark eyes without hope.

Our shared language needs to change from “Why doesn't she leave?” to “Why does he bat-

ter?” The onus must be on the one abusing. Remember, a batterer is a batterer all the time. Even on days he doesn't hit.

Crimes committed against female bodies accompany a narrative that blames the women. We would never blame a victim of robbery; it would be absurd. “Why did you take your money out of the bank? Why did you go to that bank in the first place? You must have been asking or even begging for the suspect to rob you!”

We need to have a paradigm shift and reframe how we talk about intimate partner violence. First, we begin with words because how we talk about something changes how we think about it. Followed by how we act.

I am not an essentialist. I don't know why men commit this crime at far higher rates than women. It could be biology or socialization or both. What I do know are the hard, cold facts, readily available through a number of resources.

I have witnessed men have the capacity to be loving, to be kind, to share, to protect, to love with equity. My father-in-law and brothers-in-law are some of the kindest men I know. They parent their children with genuine desire to provide the most loving household possible. And they love their wives too.

Let's live in a world where we abhor violence committed in the home behind closed doors as much as we hate violence in the streets or in the back of a police car. Let's recognize that all of this violence is predicated on the same principle: that black and brown bodies and female bodies are not valued as much as white and male bodies. All victim-survivors deserve our protection and kindness. All victim-survivors deserve our love. All victim-survivors deserve to be safe. All victim-survivors deserve to live.

*Mindy Stokes moved to Olympia from Oregon last year with her wife and daughter. She has been a high school instructor, directed college programs for students living with domestic violence, and currently works at Labor and Industries as an organizational change instructor. She writes, “Much of my craft centers on the violence committed against women because it is my lived experience. This violence has driven me to speak painstakingly and publicly about its effect on me, my family, my community, and the world. The things I write will not be easy to read, but I do so with love for the reader, because I want humans to treat one another better; ourselves better. And the only way to do this is to be honest about who we are.”*

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# The Taliban surrendered in 2001

Richard Behan

At a US Special Forces camp near Kandahar, Afghanistan, on December 5, 2001, the Taliban offered an unconditional surrender. They would disband and disarm: a military force would no longer exist.

**George W. Bush ignored the offer**

...and continued attacking the Taliban until the end of his term. If only in self-defense the Taliban fought back, eventually regaining the battlefield initiative. Obama fought the Taliban for another eight years and Trump for the next four.

Twenty years later, after the squandering of thousands of lives and trillions of dollars, President Biden withdrew American troops from Afghanistan—and drew angry criticism for the chaotic exit that followed.

**How perverse we have become**

We chastise President Biden for a messy ending of the war in Afghanistan and fail to indict George Bush for its illegal beginning.

Within ten days of taking office, the Bush Administration formalized a decision to invade Iraq. Long before 9/11 they scheduled an attack on Afghanistan. Neither proposed incursion had the slightest thing to do with terrorism: the objectives were preemptive access to Iraqi oil and a pipeline right-of-way across Afghanistan. 9/11 offered a spectacular and fortuitous cover: Bush declared a “war on terrorism” and launched two premeditated wars.

**Osama bin Laden was portrayed as an iconic terrorist**

... to be apprehended for his orchestration of 9/11. But George Bush from his first day in office, could have negotiated with the Taliban on their repeated offer to

render bin Laden to a third country. The Bush Administration refused the offer four times prior to 9/11 and once more five days later.

**Saddam Hussein - also an intolerable terrorist threat**

In February of 2003, Saddam Hussein offered to enter voluntary exile in Turkey, Egypt, or Saudi Arabia. Here was “regime change” handed on a platter to George Bush, but a peaceful one. The offer was brushed aside. George Bush needed terrorists, alive, at large, and in residence in Afghanistan and Iraq, to make his “war on terrorism” credible.

On October 7, 2001 the Afghan invasion was underway. Seven weeks later, on November 27, 2001, the President ordered his Defense Department to plan the invasion of Iraq (Seven months before Congress authorized it).

The goal was preemptive access to Iraqi oil. In 2011, after 9 years of occupation, the US left Iraq a failed state whose constants are communal violence, terrorism, poverty, political instability, social breakdown and economic failure. The holders of the biggest contracts for Iraq’s oil are Russia and China...

**Afghanistan lies in a state of seething chaos**

The staggering costs in life and treasure might have been avoided: violence in Afghanistan could have ended two months after George Bush turned it loose.

Anand Gopal, an American journalist, moved to Afghanistan in 2008, learned the language, and traveled the country freely for four years. He relates the Taliban’s surrender in his book, *No Good Men Among the Living: America, the Taliban, and the War Through Afghan Eyes*.

His back to the wall, Mullah Omar (leader of the Taliban) drew up a letter to Hamid Karzai, acknowledging his selection as interim president. The letter also granted Omar’s ministers, deputies, and aides the right to surrender.

On December 5, 2001 a Taliban delegation arrived at the US special forces camp north of Kandahar City to officially relinquish power... [The Taliban]...pledged to retire from politics and return to their home villages. Crucially, they also agreed that their movement would surrender arms, effectively ensuring the Taliban could no longer function as a military entity. There would be no jihad, no resistance from the Taliban to the new order.

The United States refused the group’s surrender, vowing to fight on to shatter the Taliban’s influence in every corner of the country.

Accepting the Taliban’s surrender would have been a great victory in the “war on terrorism”

But George Bush was fighting a war for oil and empire. Victory would pose a huge tactical difficulty: with no enemy to fight he would have to demobilize his forces in the Mideast and bring them home.

That he could not tolerate: the great prize, Iraqi oil, had yet to be won, so the fighting in the Mideast would have to be sustained—as a “war on terrorism”—until the invasion of Iraq could be planned, authorized by Congress, and sold to the American people. The Taliban’s offer was simply dismissed, and the fighting continued—for twenty years.

Now President Biden has called a halt in Afghanistan, in humiliating defeat.

The Taliban, who once offered to disarm and disband, have taken control of Afghanistan. The national media acknowledge the defeat, but trumpet “the end of America’s longest war” as recompense. That is grossly misleading.

**American military violence rages on in the “war on terrorism”**

US combat troops remain stationed in Iraq, Syria, Libya, Kenya, Somalia, Yemen, Jordan, Kuwait, Djibouti, Qatar, the UAE, Turkey, the Philippines, and Cyprus. We conduct counterterrorism operations in 61 additional countries around the world.

This madness is the legacy of the Bush Administration, and successive Presidents have done nothing to end it. Withdrawing troops from Afghanistan is a no-brainer tactical retreat, but bogus war plunges mindlessly ahead.

**President Biden, carpe diem**

Call the “war on terrorism” for the fraud it is and end it. Bring all the troops home, from everywhere.

*Richard W. Behan is a retired professor of natural resource policy at the University of Montana. He has written extensively about the nature of the wars George W Bush started. He can be reached at [rwbehan@comcast.net](mailto:rwbehan@comcast.net)*

*This article is adapted from Behan’s article in Common Dreams, Aug 18, 2021, under Creative Commons license (CC BY-NC-ND 3.0).*

## A quick win was not wanted...

**Seen from 2001**

“Rumsfeld rejects plan to allow Mullah Omar ‘to live in dignity’: Taliban fighters agree to surrender Kandahar”, Dec. 7, 2001, *New York Times*.

Afghanistan’s Taliban militia said Thursday that it had agreed to surrender its last remaining stronghold, the southern city of Kandahar, to a prominent anti-Taliban commander and would begin giving up its weapons on Friday.

But Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld immediately objected to portions of the deal that reportedly would allow the Taliban leader, Mullah Mohammed Omar, to remain in Kandahar to “live in dignity” in opposition custody, so long as he renounced terrorism. [www.nytimes.com/2001/12/07/](http://www.nytimes.com/2001/12/07/)

“Taliban surrender in Kandahar”, Dec.7, 2001, *The Guardian*

Mullah Khaqzar said the surrenders started early today after weeks of intense US bombing and advances by opposition forces. Mullah Omar had previously ordered his men to defend Kandahar to the death, but this position was changed yesterday when Mr Karzai agreed to guarantee Mullah Omar’s safety if he denounced terrorism.

Washington has made it clear that it will not accept a deal that allows Mullah Omar and other Taliban leaders to go free. [www.theguardian.com/world/2001/dec/07](http://www.theguardian.com/world/2001/dec/07)

**Seen from 2021**

“The war in Afghanistan has been lost for two decades”. Ryan Cooper, Aug. 14, 2021, [www.theweek.com](http://www.theweek.com) The Taliban tried to surrender in Dec. 2001. Donald Rumsfeld said no.

“The war in Afghanistan: how it started and how it is ending”, David Zucchino, Aug. 14, 2021, *NY Times*.

By December 2001, Osama bin Laden, the leader of Al Qaeda, and other top commanders had fled to safety in Pakistan, a nominal US ally. American forces did not pursue them.

Inside Afghanistan, American troops quickly toppled the Taliban government and crushed its fighting forces. In December 2001, the Taliban’s spokesman offered an unconditional surrender, which was rejected by the United States. [www.nytimes.com/](http://www.nytimes.com/)



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Lockheed Martin: 1,236% return


Northrop Grumman: 1,196% return

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General Dynamics: 625% return

Raytheon: 331% return

The military-industrial complex got exactly what it wanted out of this war.



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# Low income

From page 1

in the Boulevard Road project can cost up to \$2,700 a month.

With plenty of three-bedroom units on the market at less than \$2,700 a month, Olympia's "affordable" housing turns out to be what most people call market rate. Why not leave that to the private builders? Most newcomers are not settling in Olympia. Lacey alone accounted for half the population growth in the County last year..

## Over half of Olympia’s renters face unaffordable rents

Olympia's most recent public-private project, Merritt Manor on Martin Way, raises similar questions. Its income limits are set at the "working-class" HUD level of 60 to 80%. Two-bedroom units are being marketed at \$1,315 a month. The private sector also offers housing units at that price, which is "affordable" only to a family of four with an income of \$52,000 or more.

workers" who would fall into its "middle-income" family range, it isn't looking to house the Olympians who need help.

Since most families with children in the City's "middle income" range can still find single-family detached housing somewhere in the county, it isn't clear who the city and Romano Capital are targeting.

## Rethinking “affordability”

Much of the City's approach to housing traces back to its "One Community Plan" and the roadmap provided by Thurston Thrives, where supply-side production of housing units has been touted as the key solution. Yet the county is full of such units and they aren't helping Olympia's working poor.

Olympia's supply-side solutions don't build the below-market housing that Olympia renters need. Seattle went all-in on building for supply and increased its vacancy rate significantly. Seattle rents remain far out of reach for people living in the minimum wage and single parent universe. A King County study found that it would cost \$18 billion dollars to build the 44,000

"stakeholders" as initiatives like the redesign of the Martin Way corridor move ahead.

## Replacing lost subsidies is a job for state and local government

Besides embracing the watchword of housing stability, Olympia needs a more sophisticated approach to linking subsidy and affordability for the majority of its renters. For decades, federal support has been stripped away. It must now be restored.

The state must step in to help local governments to scale up directly, instead of leaving the job to public-private partnership and local entities such as Thurston Strong where results are inevitably uneven and inefficient, with little guarantee of equity of service.

## Planning for the needs of the majority of Olympia residents

Last spring, the state legislature passed an emergency shelter and housing bill that began to take on this problem. House Bill 1220 mandates that local governments "plan for and accommodate" affordable housing for everyone as an element of their comprehensive planning.

This means creating an inventory and analysis of "units for moderate, low, very low, and extremely low-income households" as well as emergency and supportive housing. Governments need to provide for all economic segments of the community, specifically including the full range of low and moderate-income households.

Since they aren't helping most Olympia renters anyway, it would be wise for the City to continue to focus on homelessness, push the pause button on its housing projects for "working class family" households, and pull the plug completely on building "middle income" units like the Boulevard Road project.

City officials in Olympia profess a new focus on resilience and equity in the wake of its recent upheavals. To make a real difference, this new outlook must be directed to the City's approach to planning for housing and transportation. There are many creative ways that these planning elements can be brought more in line with the needs of the majority of Olympia residents. Bringing truly diverse, local, and especially low-income voices on board, Olympia can develop a community engagement plan to provide the kind of guidance that would prevent mistakes like using the HUD metric.

Olympia can show the way. By rethinking engagement and considering the facts, Olympia can build projects that model how to target community support to where it is needed.

*Helen Wheatley serves on the Thurston Conservation District Board of Supervisors and several local volunteer organizations, where she tries to support a healthy and secure future for everyone.*



The housing development proposed by the City of Olympia will be built on land known as LBA Woods.

In 2017, the most recent year for which figures are available, 56% of renter households made less than \$35,000 and were "unaffordable" rent. They likely won't be moving into Merritt Manor. At \$7.55 per working hour, that "working-class" apartment would cost them more than 45% of their minimum wage income. Only housing at below-market rates could be affordable to these working families. .

## Who is the City targeting with its definition of “middle income?”

How can the city be so far off in its perception of its renters? Why do planners put City resources into building at market rate?

A big problem with relying on the HUD formula, is that it sets a standard based on county-wide incomes. Even before the COVID pandemic, City planners were assuming that Olympians make \$1,000 a month more than they really do. Olympia's poverty rate pre-COVID was about 72% higher than the county as a whole.

Adding to the problem for number crunchers, Olympia has a high level of income inequality that reliance on "median" statistics can't account for. According to a 2020 study commissioned by the City, almost two-thirds of Olympians were actually below the "median." Over half of renters were paying more than 30% of their income on rent. Compared to county-wide levels, Olympia has higher rates of male unemployment and female-headed households; a higher proportion of people who work in low-paying service jobs, and substantially lower home ownership rates.

When the city says that it is building the Boulevard Road project for the likes of "teachers, construction workers and many government

units needed by 2024 to provide housing affordable for everyone.

Until Seattle and Tacoma solve their own affordability crises, Thurston County will be pressured to serve as a property source for bedroom communities. These create high transportation carbon footprints with or without little "town centers" like the one that the City wants to see the Boulevard housing units pay for, as part of its project.

## Learning what will keep low-income renters in their homes

The COVID pandemic offered a mass experiment in providing alternative solutions based on the needs of renters themselves. It accelerated a shift in thinking about affordable housing that was already underway. There is more

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Local governments must build connections to renters and low income communities and learn what they require to stay in place.

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interest in linking housing costs to the amount residents actually earn and finding ways to promote equity by helping more people onto the ladder of intergenerational wealth-building through home ownership.

Avoiding displacement in the first place is one necessary solution. Local governments must build connections to renters and low income communities and learn what they require to stay in place. The voices of community residents need to be at the table alongside other

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# City Council

From page 1

ing middle” upzone, but Weigand feels the City “enables” homelessness. He’d like to see a “higher law enforcement presence” and believes the City creates too many barriers to the rapid approval of more housing developments.

Weigand raised \$58,414 in cash contributions, largely from downtown real estate and business interests. Fourteen individuals gave him \$1,000 each: Attorney Harold Carr and his wife Dorrie; Weigand’s real estate boss, Dennis Adams; Zach Kosturos from Prime Locations; the Koelsch family, owners of Memory Care facilities; Jim Phegley, owner of the Office Tavern; Bryan and Kathleen Kolb, owners of downtown retail and apartment buildings; Regan Miles, Vice Chairman of Unigen and Duane S. Moore, Governor of Manium LLC, which owns houses and apartments in the NE, as well

organized labor. The UFCW gave the most, followed by the Central Labor Council, Fire Fighters,

won 22 precincts, Parshley 18 and Carlson 12.

Lisa Parshley is seeking her second four-year term. Like Council member Cooper, she voted for eight-year tax exemptions for market-rate apartments in downtown Olympia, voted for the West Bay Yards development and voted to

*The Yen Huynh, Robbi Kesler and Bruce Wilkinson, Jr. race.* Incumbent Yen Huynh easily won the primary race with 7,440 votes, the highest vote of any primary candidate, winning in forty-three precincts. Huynh, appointed to a ten-month term in January 2021 to fill the seat vacated by Jessica Bateman,

## Primary Voting Participation

Registered Voters 37,038    Total Votes 14,020    Overall Participation Rate: 37.9%

Position 2	Robbi Kesler/Yen Huynh/Bruce Wilkinson	13,842
Position 5	Lisa Parshley/Talauna Reed/Wendy Carlson	13,687
Position 6	Corey Gauny/Dontae Payne/Sarah Destasio	13,983
Position 7	Jim Cooper/Spence Weigand/Tyrone Brown	13,876

(Source: Thurston County Auditor)

### Race Outcome by Vote

Yen Huynh	7,440
Robbi Kessler	5,343
Bruce Wilkinson	1,059
Dontae Payne	7,367
Corey Gauny	3,960
Sarah Destasio	2,656
Jim Cooper	5,778
Spence Weigand	5,574
Tyrone Brown	2,524
Lisa Parshley	4,905
Talauna Reed	4,505
Wendy Carlson	4,277

as downtown property on 4th Avenue.

Cooper, on the other hand, raised \$23,530, one-third of it from

State workers, Carpenters, Teamsters and SEIU. His other \$1000 contributors were the Progress for Public Safety non-profit run by Jason Berman and Alex Christiansen. Brandy Helms also gave \$1,000.

In the primary, Cooper was the victor in 32 precincts scattered across the City’s four quadrants. Weigand won 21 precincts, more than half of them in Southeast Olympia. Three of those were in the Southeast’s largest precincts (48, 09, & 35) located east of Boulevard Road and in the Ward Lake area.

### Another close primary yields an incumbent vs an independent

*The Lisa Parshley, Wendy Carlson, Talauna Reed race.* Like the Cooper/Weigand race, this primary was also close. The three candidates were separated only by a few hundred votes, as Reed

gift a burnt-out building downtown to a developer using the state’s “poor and infirm” language, plus granting him a 12-year tax exemption. She has the support of fellow Council members Cooper, Gilman, Madrone and Rollins. She raised \$27,828 including \$5,000 of her own funds and \$6,400 from organized labor: Teamsters, Fire Fighters, UFCW, Central Labor Council and State workers.

Wendy Carlson is not a part of the real estate industry, but nonetheless has their support. She received endorsement and funding from the Washington Association of Realtors Political Affairs Council and the Master Builders Affordable Housing Council. She also received financial support from Prime Locations’ Zach Kosturos; Dennis Adams from Virgil Adams Realtors and fellow candidates Spence Weigand and Corey Gauny.

She raised \$25,920 (just \$1,900 short of Parshley’s \$27,828). Carlson’s top priorities were helping the unhoused with drug and mental health resources, creating a police force people can trust and “modernizing the building process.” All but two of her twelve winning precincts concentrated in the SE, much like Weigand’s. She lost to Talauna Reed by 228 votes.

Talauna Reed is a representative of the independent forces in this campaign. She distinguished herself from both Parshley and Carlson by focusing on the wealthy themselves. She doesn’t want Olympia turned into a “playground for the wealthy” and wants developers to “pay their fair share.” She opposed the West Bay Yards project, wants to create a City Housing Authority that will build permanent housing for the homeless, to create “renter protection policies” and to establish a landlord registry to monitor “predatory practices.” She also wants funds directed to the Crisis Response Unit via “meaningful cuts” to the police budget.

Reed was endorsed by the Thurston County Democrats. She raised \$14,700 in individual endorsements—\$13,000 less than Parshley—yet won the most precincts, spread among all four quadrants of the City.

### Voters give an incumbent a bigger margin over the real estate oriented candidate

is seeking her first four-year term. She, like incumbents Cooper and Parshley, voted in support of the West Bay Yards project and voted to use the State’s “poor and infirm” provision to subsidize a developer. She also wants to “seek more pathways to reduce homelessness” and “strengthen police accountability.” She raised the second highest amount of all candidates, \$28,462. \$4000 came from two individuals in Springfield, Illinois and \$4,600 came from organized labor: Central Labor Council, UFCW, Teamsters, SEIU and State workers. The rest was from individuals.

### Candidates Rank in Voting

1. Yen Huynh..... 7,440
2. Dontae Payne..... 7,367
3. Jim Cooper..... 5,788
4. Spence Weigand ..... 5,574
5. Robbi Kessler ..... 5,343
6. Lisa Parshley..... 4,905
7. Talauna Reed ..... 4,505
8. Wendy Carlson..... 4,277
9. Corey Gauny ..... 3,960
10. Sarah Destascio ..... 2,656
11. Tyrone Brown ..... 2,524
12. Bruce Wilkinson..... 1,059

Robbi Kesler, a real estate oriented candidate, came in second to Huynh with 5,343 votes. Kesler received the endorsement and financial support (\$1,000) of the Washington Association of Realtors Political Affairs Committee, but her largest contributions came from her own donation of \$2,500 plus \$4,750 from tribal councils. These councils included the Jamestown S’Kallam, the Skokomish Tribal Council, Tribal Self Reliance, the Nisqually, Muckleshoot and Squaxin tribes.

Kesler stated her position on housing and homelessness in her application for the seat that Huynh was appointed to. She wants to “increase the availability of affordable housing” and create “more business-friendly” development requirements. One of her three main goals is to “address the public health issues associated with existing encampments of homeless persons, including a plan to remove trespassers from private property.”

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Thurston County Auditor



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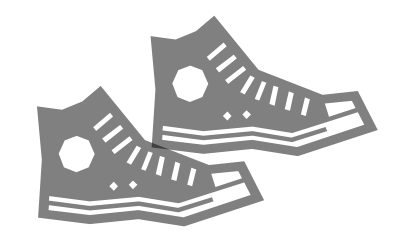
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City Council

From previous page

She believes that in conjunction with other local governments the City should “move the homeless population to government approved public sites.” Eight of the 10 precincts she won were in the Southeast, the same as those won by Weigand and Carlson.

In this race, the independent out-pollled everyone

Dontae Payne, Corey Gauny and Sarah Destasio. Dontae Payne was the clear winner in this contest to fill the seat vacated by Renata Rollins. He was endorsed by every member of the City Council, Governor Inslee and his boss, Congresswoman Marilyn Strickland. He raised a total of \$23,133 with the largest contributions from his partner, Jason Weigold (\$2,000) and organized labor (\$4,400).

He received 7,367 votes, the second highest of any candidate. He beat Corey Gauny, the second place winner, by 3,407 votes and Sarah Destasio by 4,711 votes. Payne won every precinct but two.

Payne wrote that two of his priorities were Housing/Homelessness and Public Safety. He stated that

increases in the cost of living, poverty and rising rents contribute to our homeless and houseless issue. With over half of our residents as renters, he agreed that it is getting more expensive to live here. He wants to “monitor the pace of home rental rates” while pursuing “missing middle” housing and expand the City’s Crisis Unit Response. He acknowledged that the community wants significant reform within the Olympia Police Department. He is in favor of body cameras, but opposes defunding the police which he has called “a convenient distraction from white supremacy.”

Corey Gauny will face Payne in the general election. Gauny is running in line with Weigand and Kesler. He wants to change the City Council because it “has failed to address the homelessness crisis competently, protect public safety or help make housing more affordable.” His number one priority is safety for the residents in neighborhoods, the downtown and parks. He wants to get help “for those struggling with substance abuse disorder and mental health” because they make up the “greatest number of offenders.” He also believes that the root cause of homelessness is mental illness and substance abuse.

In addition, while he supports the right to protest and civil disobedience, “the destruction of businesses and vandalism will not be supported by me.”

Gauny raised \$18,745, including \$1000 from the Washington Association of Realtors Political Affairs Council and another \$1000 from the N.W.P.I. LLC a real estate management corporation governed by Fred, Eric and Chris Carlson. His largest contributors were Fred and Barbara Finn (\$2,000) and their three LLCs for a total of \$2,850. Gauny also received \$500 from the Teamsters Legislative League.

Choosing five City Council members in November

The general election will be even busier than the primary with a total of five seats up for election, now including a contest between incumbent Clark Gilman and challenger Candace Mercer. All three of these narratives will still be present and up for vote: incumbents, real-estate oriented and independents.

Dan Leahy is a frequent contributor to Works in Progress. He also wants it noted that he contributed \$500 to Talauna Reed’s campaign.

Organized Labor In Olympia Primary 2021

Candidate	Union	Amount	TOTAL
James Cooper, Incumbent	UFCW Local 367 PAC Fund Thurston/Lewis/Mason Central Labor Clc. Olympia Fire Fighters WFSE Local 443 UFCW PAC NW Carpenters Washington Teamsters Legislative League Pacific NW Regional Council of Carpenters SEIU Health Care/1199 NW	\$2,000 \$1,900 \$1,000 \$1,000 \$ 500 \$ 500 \$ 500 \$ 500 \$ 250	\$8,150.00
Spence Weigand		\$	0
Tyrone Brown		\$	0
Lisa Parshley, Incumbent	UFCW Local 367 PAC Fund Thurston/Lewis/Mason Central Labor Clc. WFSE Local 443 Olympia Fire Fighters Washington Teamsters Legislative League	\$2,000 \$1,900 \$1,000 \$1,000 \$ 500	\$6,400.00
Wendy Carlson		\$	0
Talauna Reed		\$	0
Yen Huynh, Incumbent	Thurston/Lewis/Mason Central Labor Clc. WFSE Local 443 UFCW 21 Washington Teamsters Legislative League SEIU 775		\$4,600.00
Robbie Kesler		\$	0
Bruce Wilkinson, Jr.		\$	0
Corey Gauny	Washington Teamsters Legislative League	\$ 500	\$500.00
Dontae Payne	Thurston/Lewis/Mason Central Labor Clc. AFSCME Council 28 UFCW Local 21 PAC SEIU Healthcare/1199NW	\$1,900 \$1,000 \$1,000 \$ 250	\$4,150.00
Sara Destasio	SEIU Healthcare	\$250.00	\$250.00



# Black Lake

From page 5

and other lakes. These districts prescribe a management approach that promotes conservation and “long-term strategies that focus on reducing nutrient inputs from human activities.”

### A Lakes Management District is more democratic

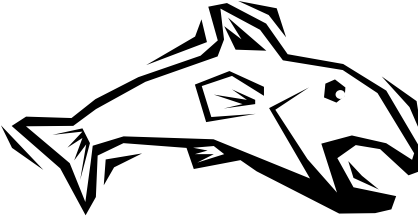
A LMD also provides for substantial public process in its creation and operation. The activities it will perform, the duration of its existence (up to ten years) and the rates that will be charged to finance them are spelled out at its creation and cannot be altered without further public hearings.

A LMD has a steering committee of 12 residents serving in a strong advisory role to the County Commission which has ultimate authority. The BL Flood Control District is controlled by a three-member Board elected once every six years. It is not accountable to the County,

When residents vote for a Lakes Management District, they know exactly what they are voting for and how much it will cost them.

By contrast, residents in the Flood Control District may not know what actions the District will take, or how much they will be assessed for those actions.

When the BL Flood Control District formed in 2012, residents were told the lake would be treated with herbicides for only two years with no mention of expensive and short-lived alum treatments. Yet they have been paying for annual



herbicide use and are now responsible for repayment of a bond for the next 20 years.

With this practice there is no end in sight. Each herbicide application creates yet more submerged rotting vegetation that increases the nutrient load in the lake, creating yet more algae blooms.

### A Lakes Management District is subject to environmental review

An LMD must consult with and consider the recommendations of the Department of Ecology, Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Fish and Wildlife. It has obligations to enhance

fish and wildlife and is eligible for matching grant funds and other financial resources not available to a flood control district.

A Flood Control District can act without considering impacts on the environment as it is exempt from both the State Environmental Policy Act and the County's Integrated Pest Management Plan. The BL Flood Control District regularly applies diquat, an herbicide the County has deemed too toxic for use.

The County justified their approval of the \$1.4 million alum treatment bond as a sensible short-term strategy to buy time for it to address the longer-term nutrient loading issue. A year later, the County has done nothing to address that issue.

*Esther Kronenberg is Co-Chair with Suzanne Kline of Citizens for a Clean Black Lake. Citizens for a Clean Black Lake (CCBL) is a grassroots organization that formed last summer through the efforts of longtime residents Suzanne and Gary Kline.*

*You can sign the petition to the County Commissioners to clean up Black Lake at <https://sign.moveon.org/petitions/clean-up-black-lake> or send an email to the Commissioners [county.commissioners@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:county.commissioners@co.thurston.wa.us)*

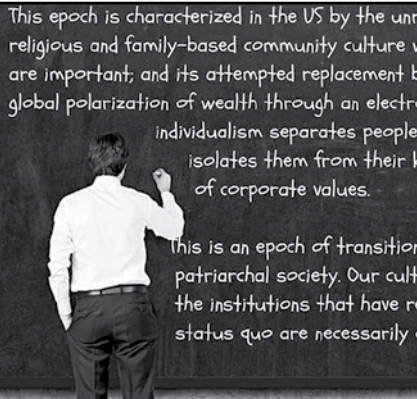
# Citizens for a Clean Black Lake Statement

The primary objectives of Citizens for a Clean Black Lake (CCBL) are to clean up and prevent recurring algae blooms and end the spraying of aquatic plants with dangerous and toxic chemicals. They seek to make the use of Black Lake enjoyable by all shoreline residents and citizens of Thurston County and beyond. Another goal is to protect the strategic groundwater reservation area designated by WAC 173-591 of which Black Lake is a part and the 16 Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas which it contains or overlaps.

In 2010, almost 5,500 people lived within the Black Lake basin boundaries. The population of the area is expected to grow by 12,300 people by 2035, an increase of 123%, with most of the growth forecast for the urban areas (city and urban growth area).

—from “Guiding Growth-Healthy Watersheds Black Lake Basin Water Resource Protection Study” TRPC 2015

<https://sign.moveon.org/petitions/clean-up-black-lake>



### About the cover

In 1994, students in the master's in public administration program at The Evergreen State College tried to characterize the future (our current) historical epoch. Few would argue their forecast, twenty-five years later, was inaccurate.

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Working the fields under a brutal sun

# In an overheating world, farmworkers should not pay the price

Lin Nelson

On Tuesday June 29, temperatures in Eastern Washington farm communities including Ephrata, Wenatchee and Yakima rose above their highest recorded levels, reaching 116 degrees in Ephrata and 113 in the other towns. Farmworkers in those communities and across the state endured the brutal heat with little protection or respite.

They are determined to change that. Farmworkers and their allies gathered in August at the Dept. of Labor and Industry (L&I) to demand attention to the dangers of extreme heat and exposure faced by outdoor workers.

Familias Unidas por la Justicia was the key organizer of the gathering, with folks from Strengthening Sanctuary Alliance and Columbia Legal Services in support.

### Farmworkers pay a price in life and health

At the L&I gathering a small altar was created to honor and remember Honesto Silva Ibarra who died of heat exposure four years ago in Whatcom County. Others who recently passed from heat exposure, exhaustion and related hazards were also remembered: Juan Carlos Santiago Rincon, Earl Edwards, Francisco Montiel, David Cruz, Jose Antonio Torres Bravo and more...

One speaker talked about agriculture as “extractive” -- extracting workers from their home communities to work here and workers quickly extracting food from hot and drying fields. Event organizer Edgar Franks put the crisis for farmworkers in context... “we’re at the brink” with climate change, with some paying a far greater and immediate price with their health and their lives.

Workers should not have to wait until it’s 100 degrees to be protected. Enforcement is critically important but too often overlooked.

Echoing the push for a “just transition,” Franks made it clear that we need to put farmworkers and other high-risk workers at the center of efforts to turn things around. Familias Unidas president Ramon Torres reminded us that farmworkers tend to start in the fields as children, and often work well into old age. They must compensate for the lack of decent pay by working for long, hard hours. Many endure with no or limited benefits, and face the risk of deportation if they’re not documented.

### Overdue rules for protection from heat and smoke

In early July, WA L&I had announced emergency rules on heat and wildfire smoke.

The Heat Rule establishes that at 100 degrees, employers must ensure a paid rest period of 10 minutes every two hours and provide shade for employees to cool down. At temperatures of 89 degrees or more, cool drinking water must be available, as well as information and training on ways to prevent overheating.

The smoke rule identifies ways to monitor air quality and provisions for protective gear and work schedule changes if air quality degrades significantly.

Both rules represent steps in the right direction; if only they had been shaped and activated years ago. The two emergency rules reflect the screamingly obvious: we can’t expect outdoor workers – those in agriculture, construction, firefighting, etc. – to serve as climate shock troops absorbing the worst on behalf of the rest of us.

### Concerns about enforcement and adequacy

Torres and Franks made it clear that they have concerns about the heat rule: workers should not have to wait until it’s 100 degrees to be protected. Enforcement is critically important but too often overlooked. There must be no retaliation against workers who point out heat risks. Farmworkers deserve hazard pay, especially in these conditions.

eral years. They have issued an updated petition corraling the energies of unions, health and justice organizations. The 9-page petition addresses the urgency of the issue and includes an overview of the science and of political roadblocks.

We need to stay informed, get connected and pressure the powers-that-be in government and



Photo by Bob Zeigler

Farm work has long been the terrain of injustice and struggle to right serious wrongs: child labor, exploitive serf-like working conditions, abuse of undocumented workers, big-ag exploitation of the immigration system, pesticide exposure, covid risks, poor housing, smoke from wildfires...and increasingly, extreme heat due to climate change.

the private sector to stop the exploitation of people on the front lines, whose work puts food on our tables.

Advocates are pushing for passage of the Asuncion Valdivia Illness & Fatality Prevention Act –named in honor of a man who died after picking grapes for ten hours straight: “Mr. Valdivia’s



Working in smoky fields in the Yakima Valley.

As slow as Washington state has been in responding to the obvious, WA, OR and CA are considered national leaders in addressing climate change and the impacts on outdoor labor through the emergency rules issued this summer.

### A national rule to protect health and safety of work in extreme heat

On the national front, there’s a push for a heat rule to be activated and enforced by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. OSHA was launched in 1970 -- a half-century and there is still no heat-rule in place. Public Citizen has been leading the charge over sev-

death was completely avoidable, yet his story is not unique” states Juley Fulcher, Worker Safety and Health Advocate for Public Citizen. (To voice support for this legislation, contact WA Senators Murray and Cantwell as well as Washington’s Representatives.

We need to stand by organizations like *Familias Unidas* that are shaping a movement in resistance both to the climate apocalypse and injustice toward workers. [A list of other organizations and resources can be found on line at [www.olywip.org](http://www.olywip.org) as part of this article.]

*Lin Nelson is a member of Olympia-based Strengthening Sanctuary Alliance.*



# Terrorism

In the last column, I reviewed the movie *Imperium* based on the experiences of undercover FBI agent Mike German who infiltrated white supremacist organizations, as related in his book *Thinking Like a Terrorist* published in 2008. Here we shall see how the author approaches the problem of terrorism, in contradiction to the way that terrorism had been handled and how in fact it still is being handled today.

German explains that terrorists are not mental misfits but rather are following a rational strategy which we don't understand, and he gives ways of dealing effectively with terrorist groups depending on the legitimacy of their cause.

German defines terrorist attacks as being "acts of war against unprotected citizenry." "Terrorism victimizes an entire nation, an entire population, an entire culture. It is a crime against humanity." However, we in the US are unable to see our own acts as terroristic. "The enemy engages in terrorism; we engage only in counterterrorism."

## LOOKING FORWARD

Dave Jette

"But the groups we consider terrorists don't regard themselves as terrorists either. ... They defend their actions as morally justifiable, necessary responses to oppression. Terrorists firmly believe they are the persecuted victims of an evil injustice, and [that] they have the right to resist their oppression by any means necessary. This confidence in the righteousness of their cause is what drives terrorist groups to write their manifestos and publish their declarations of war."

### For terrorists, terrorism is all about the message.

We're clear that terrorism constitutes heinous attacks on uninvolved civilians (rather than, for example, direct attacks on an occupying army). However, such attacks are carried out by rational human beings, just like us. Terrorists are not mentally ill, nor are they people who (to quote a theory propounded by a foremost proponent of the idea that terrorists are primarily driven by psychological factors) have a particular psychological mind-set called "terrorist psycho-logic" that compels them to engage in terrorism.

This expert believes that "a great deal has gone wrong in the lives of people who are drawn to terrorism," describing terrorists as "outcasts ... from the margins of society", with "personal feelings of inadequacy," who join terrorist groups simply "to belong," to feel "that what they did mattered," and to "heal their inner wounds by attacking the outside enemy."

Gross misunderstandings such as this prevent us from dealing with terrorism in a rational, effective way. Indeed, we do not even understand the strategy of terrorist groups, which is to wage a war of attrition, damaging the economic infrastructure and costing the government to spend huge amounts of money on maintaining security. They increasingly demonstrate the ineffectiveness and barbarism of the government they are attacking and claim the mantle of legitimacy

for their own cause in the eyes of more and more people.

Terrorists are quite aware of the fact that they are weak and the government is strong. Their strategy is to divide the populace into two components: "us" and "them." Governments fall into the trap of furthering this division by waging an indiscriminate "war on terrorism" which flouts its own proclaimed rule of law.

Accordingly, German distinguishes between "legitimately motivated terrorists" (such as the Irish Republican Army which fought against the British occupation of Northern Ireland) and "extremist terrorists" such as the Ku Klux Klan. The terrorist group wages its struggle on behalf of an "identity group" that may or may not actually be oppressed: the Catholics in Northern Ireland in the case of the Irish Republican Army, and all white people in the case of the Ku Klux Klan.

However, being "legitimately motivated" doesn't mean that the terrorist group legitimately represents its identity group or that using violence to redress its grievance is legitimate. "While these groups may claim a legitimate motive, if to achieve those ends they choose illegitimate means – extortion, violence, and other organized criminal activity – they are still terrorists."

But recognition by the government of the legitimate grievance does open the road to a negotiated political solution to the insurgency. Nonetheless, the government must strictly maintain control of security, while not using this as a substitute for addressing legitimate grievances.

Regarding "extremist terrorists," the government must maintain its legitimacy by adhering strictly to the rule of law, thereby thwarting the terrorists' strategy of obtaining an aura of legitimacy for themselves.

Trying captured terrorists in open court with full rights for the defense and incontrovertible prosecuting evidence makes clear the government's legitimacy. This of course was not true of the FBI's five COINTELPRO programs, targeting the Communist Party (initiated in 1956), the Socialist Workers Party (1961), White Hate (1964), Black Nationalists (1967), and the New Left (1968).

Because of the FBI's often immoral and sometimes illegal activities, most evidence gathered during COINTELPRO was ultimately worthless to a criminal prosecution and for mobilizing public approbation. The result was that COINTELPRO techniques were ineffective as well as being harmful to the rule of law—not the right way to deal with terrorism!

*Dave Jette writes this bi-monthly column and has been involved with Works in Progress since its beginnings. His three books are available at [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com): *A Reformulation of Dialectical Materialism, which incorporates feminist theory into a traditional Marxist framework*; *Beyond Classical Marxism, about socialism and how to bring it about in the US*; and *Looking Forward, mainly offering the columns that appear here over time*.*

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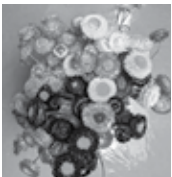
# Community Spotlight



## “A Place to Reflect”

Beginning **Monday, Sept. 6**

A corner of the NW neighborhood that was created as a place for people to gather, will be covered with flowers according to a design by Kathy Gore-Fuss and her team of artists and helpers on Sept. 5. It will be open for people to enjoy beginning on the 6th. Kathy's collaboration with artists to realize a vision of “unabashed beauty” serves as a metaphor for how we rely on one another, how we must trust again, how profoundly we are all connected. Half the flowers for the site (near Garfield Elementary School) are provided by a local farming family, Ojeda Farms and Kathy is doing some fundraising to be able to provide flowers at additional sites she has been invited to create.



## Become a gleaner in Thurston County

Sign up online at [thurstoncountyfoodbank.org/gleaning](http://thurstoncountyfoodbank.org/gleaning), or call 360-754-5703 x 104 or 105.

Gleaning is the collection of leftover crops from farmers' fields after they have been commercially harvested, or from fields where it is not economically profitable to harvest. It keeps us from wasting food at the same time we provide fresh produce to community members via the Food Bank. Fall is the best time to be out in the field, at work with neighbors, harvesting earth's bounty. \$11,900 pounds of fresh produce has been gleaned thus far in 2021.

## Walls can tell stories... with a little help

“Walls Tell Stories” is a series of guided walking tours for Olympia, part of a project originated by the Rachel Corrie Foundation and Art Forces. The walks reveal layers of Indigenous, labor, and immigration histories in Olympia that build on images in the Olympia-Rafah Solidarity Mural. The project supporters are working toward a matching grant from the Thurston County Historic Commission. They have raised over half the amount needed for the grant, and are hoping that the community will help raise the rest. The match is available through the month of September. The project will facilitate a thematic and interactive experience of downtown Olympia and re-imagine public space by lifting up histories that are not seen or have been forgotten. The tour will be available on iOS and Android phones, along with a mobile website.

## Orca Co-Op Books needs a member to join their Board

By **September 15**

This long-time, newly cooperatively owned and run bookstore in downtown Oly is adding a board member - possibly someone to fill the treasurer or secretary role, but that's not essential. Interested co-op members should email [board@orcabooks.com](mailto:board@orcabooks.com) with inquiries by September 15. From there they will get the ball rolling and commence a small election! The small board is composed of chill, easygoing folks who uphold the values of Orca Books. The board meets once a month on the third Monday at 2:00 pm over Zoom.

## MOSAIC: CIELO celebrates 25 Years!

Saturday, **Oct 16**, 7 pm, at home watch parties - fiesta en casa.- via zoom. Mark your calendars!

CIELO's anniversary celebration will close out Hispanic Heritage Month, and feature Latino leaders, artists and performers. Follow this link for more information [www.classy.org/event/mosaic-cielo-celebrates-25-years/e348901](http://www.classy.org/event/mosaic-cielo-celebrates-25-years/e348901) and check in as details are finalized. MOSAIC se estrena, cerrando el Mes de la Herencia Hispana. MOSAIC tendrá las fundadoras de CIELO, líderes latinos, artistas y músicos. Siga el enlace de arriba para obtener más información y regístrese cuando se finalicen los detalles.

CIELO Centro Integral Educativo Latino de Olympia provides support and resources for refugees and immigrants in the South Sound. A diverse staff offers classes, counseling, and advocacy services. Families and individuals from all nations are welcome. CIELO provee apoyo y recursos para refugiados e inmigrantes. Nuestro diverso personal ofrece clases, consejería e intercesoría. Familias e individuos de todas las naciones son bienvenidos.

## South Puget Sound Habitat for Humanity

Habitat Stores are looking for volunteers. South Puget Sound Habitat for Humanity has a store in West Olympia and one in Yelm. The stores accept donations of new, used and surplus building supplies, appliances and other home improvement items for resale to the general public at 40-90% below retail prices. The proceeds benefit Habitat's home-building programs. Volunteers work with store staff collecting and receiving donated materials, pricing and stocking items on the store floor, cleaning and organizing the store and assisting customers in the store. Volunteers can be as young as 14-17, with a parent or guardian waiver. 14 & 15 year olds must be accompanied by an adult. Visit [www.sphabitat.org](http://www.sphabitat.org) for the latest updates on operations and volunteer opportunities

## Consider becoming a member of the Thurston Community Land Trust

Community Land Trusts (CLT) create affordable housing by helping people buy a home, while the CLT purchases the land. Homeowners grow equity through steady price increases determined by the CLT, but still keep housing costs well below market rates. If the owner sells, they gain a profit, but it is constrained by the terms of the land deed held by the CLT.

Crucially, CLTs are governed by a board with representatives who are homeowners and members, retaining community control of the organization. The Trust is committed to multiple levels of democratically inclusive governance across organization or property, where appropriate, that balances needs of members, residents, and donors.

Thurston Housing Land Trust is a relatively new CLT operating in Thurston County. It has just made its first house available to a family who was otherwise priced out of the market. Stay tuned for the story in Works in Progress next month.

## Glen’s Parallax Perspectives

“Debunk the Fossil Fuel Industry's Phony Climate Remedies”

The fossil fuel industry shifted from “climate denial” into pretending to solve the climate crisis, but their proposals just mean more profits for them.. Our expert guest -- Jim Walsh, Senior Energy Policy Analyst for Food and Water Watch ([www.foodandwaterwatch.org](http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org)) exposes the “greenwashing” in their schemes for “cap and trade,” “offsets,” hydrogen, etc. Jim urges sharp, prompt reduction in fossil fuel use. The interview airs on cable channel 22 of Thurston Community Media ([www.tcmmedia.org](http://www.tcmmedia.org)) at 1:30 pm Mondays, 5:00 pm Wednesdays, 9:00 pm Thursdays. Watch the interview and get a summary of the program plus more information at [www.parallaxperspectives.org](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org) in TV Programs, Energy or Climate. Questions? Contact Glen Anderson, producer/host at (360) 491-9093 [glenanderson@integra.net](mailto:glenanderson@integra.net)

## Olympia Coalition to Abolish Nuclear Weapons

The Olympia Coalition to Abolish Nuclear Weapons will meet through Zoom video at 5:00 pm sharp on **Thursday Sept. 16**. We have productive and informative meetings on the third Thursday of each month.. Please join us! .Contact Glen Anderson (360) 491-9093 [glenanderson@integra.net](mailto:glenanderson@integra.net) in advance to get the link and the agenda.

## GarageBand for iPad

Meets **Saturday, September 11**, 10 am to noon, on zoom, \$45.

GarageBand for iPad is a workshop offered by TCMedia. Students check out an iPad at TCMedia facility, 440 Yauger Way SW Suite C in Olympia on Friday and bring it back on Tuesday. “Garageband” is a music production studio in one. It includes instruments, recording, mixing and effects. Participants will be introduced to music recording, composition and some music theory. iOS Production certification. Sign up here.

TC Media provides a community channel, facility space, production equipment and other services to support the development of community access television. They help residents and organizations in Thurston County to produce their own programs. For example Young Producers' Network provides digital media education to enable people aged 8 through highschool to develop critical thinking and other important life skills. Look for other workshops and opportunities at [www.tcmmedia.org](http://www.tcmmedia.org)

## Black Hills Audubon annual picnic - hopefully!

Saturday, **Sept 11**. Bird walk, 3:30, around the Olympia Marina.



Picnic, 5:00 pm at Rose Garden shelter #1 in Priest Point Park.

This will be the first chance for the Audubon Society to gather and visit with fellow birders since February 2020. Visit [blackhills-audubon.org/annual-picnic-2021/](http://blackhills-audubon.org/annual-picnic-2021/) for particulars.

(If Covid protocols change at the state level OR if there is wildfire smoke that warrants an air quality alert, this event will be cancelled. In that case, an announcement will be posted on the Society website and there will instead be a program speaker scheduled for Sept. 9.)

## It’s showtime!

Saturday, **Sept. 18**, 2 pm. Olympia Family Theater – 612 4th Ave E. Olympia.

Olympia Family Theater is conducting auditions for a variety show. It's the Lord Franzannian Royal Olympian Spectacular Vaudeville Show! Even if your act isn't fully developed, come on down and tell us about it! Produced by Elizabeth Lord and the non-profit BigShowCity Performing Arts Organization. Contact: Elizabeth Lord 360-250-2721, [Elizabeth-lord@hotmail.com](mailto:Elizabeth-lord@hotmail.com). Due to the pandemic, last year's show was compiled from videos submitted by Olympians. To see that Vaudeville Spectacular go to <http://www.professionaltalker.com/> and follow instructions! That's also the place to get details for the auditions.





Lost in space

for Jeff

In space, no one can hear you ask, “Do you have a Prime account?” at Whole Foods.

Nor can they offer free shipping with a thirty-day trial membership.

The *Washington Post*, with its endless chatter of neoliberal propaganda, fades into distant memory.

Just you, with your fishbowl helmet, framing your baldness like a translucent crown.

Fly into the outer reaches of the galaxy, colonize Mars into an enormous warehouse. No one will clock in late for their graveyard shift.

You won't need to count the days before your dividends arrive: that final billion dollar deposit, until you explode into

a magnificent supernova, molecules scattering their alms to a plundered and impoverished cosmos.

Somewhere, a woman orders underwear from a small online company. Somewhere, a programmer finds discount software at the last Radio Shack.

You are oblivious space dust, particles floating like dollar bills through the galaxies, one for each remaining star.

—from Poets Respond, Rattle Online Poetry Magazine  
June 2021

*Author Leah Mueller is a former resident of Tacoma, Washington. She writes “I was amused by the news that Jeff Bezos intends to fly a rocket into space. Despite my disregard for oligarchs, I can’t help but be impressed by the sheer hubris of his plan. The richest man in the world seems to be bored with his affairs on earth, so he seeks the ultimate thrill. I tried to imagine what it might be like for him to go into the cosmos and never return. Would it be a relief? What would happen to his empire? Would anyone really miss him?”*

Original illustration for WIP by Jentzen Mooney

# Works in Progress

## Advocating for social justice since 1990

This is a fast-paced but empty epoch characterized by increased access to largely meaningless and useless information, the ability to be highly mobile yet isolated, in which the pursuit of individual wealth and mass consumption are replacing appreciation for spiritual connection, critical thinking, a sense of community, art and other elements that often define culture.

This epoch is characterized in the US by the unravelling of a particular organizational, religious and family-based community culture where resources are local and kids are important; and its attempted replacement by a business culture based on a global polarization of wealth through an electronic sorting of information where individualism separates people from their own social thought and isolates them from their kids, who are trapped in “the mall” of corporate values.

This is an epoch of transition (i.e. a paradigm shift) to a post-patriarchal society. Our culture appears to be unraveling because the institutions that have reflected and served to maintain the status quo are necessarily changing because of new technology.

### INSIDE

Analyzing the candidates on police, housing & tax exemptions

Keeping domestic violence in view

Slippery definitions of affordability by the City

Protecting farmworkers from smoke, sun & changing laws