

Works in Progress

Volume 30, No. 2

Serving the Olympia community and the cause of social justice since 1990.

August 2019

How soldiers into farmers grow

Penny Dex

A new trade enterprise is offering local vets a shot at agricultural entrepreneurship using an innovative business model that its creators say will eventually be self-sustaining, able to cede land and graduate a new generation of farmers every five to seven years.

Veterans are invited to apply for membership in the Veterans Ecological Trade Collective (VETC), a small business incubator that includes free lifetime access to campgrounds, a fishing pond, hiking trails, wildcrafting programs, community gardens, and more.

Qualifications for membership are simply to be a veteran of military service or be sponsored by one, and to obtain a Permaculture Design Certificate from a course led by a PINA (or other approved) professional association of Permaculture instructors.

The essential prerequisite for the VETSCAFE incubator is a two-week, 80-hour intensive Permaculture Design course in Rochester, Washington from August 16 to September 1.

"As climate change increases the severity of weather and alters microclimates and growing seasons in our region," says Army veteran and VETC Board President Patricia Marienthal, "it becomes clear that a one-size-fits-all answer to farming reduces productivity. Permaculture accounts for the specific challenges and features of every piece of land and deals with each aspect in a way that optimizes production."

Following the course, members can work with Enterprise for Equity's Agripreneur and qualify to open a business at the equity site incubator. Applicants submit a business plan which is vetted by the stewardship committee. If approved, the applying member will receive up to \$25,000 in startup funding. If accepted, the applicant becomes a site operator and member of the stewardship committee.

Plans for an incubator were sparked when Fremont Docks LLC donated 120 acres to VETC. Stewardship committee members Marienthal and Deston Dennison agreed that whatever they created would give veterans working the land a chance to eventually become landowners. In five to seven years VETC will, working with the Northwest Cooperative Development Center, South of the Sound Community Farmland Trust, and other valued partners, have a mechanism of transferring most of the property (60 – 90 acres) to the Stewardship Committee Members. VETC will, by that time, have secured new property, and be engaged in repeating the process with

a new cadre of farmers.

"Access to land is the primary obstacle to aspiring farmers. Despite local resolutions, codes, and ordinances, we are still losing farmland and farmers in the South Sound. Farm wages have been stagnant for 30 years," says Deston Denniston, an Army veteran

who holds a Masters in Agricultural Science from Washington State University. Denniston is a graduate of The Evergreen State College at Tacoma and is co-founder Executive Director of VETC.

"Thurston County farms are in trouble, and when farms are in trouble, every-

one is in trouble," Denniston said, urging veterans to help reverse that trend with membership in the new collective.

Penny Dex served the US Army from 2004-2008. She is now a veterans advocate and VETC Board President. She can be reached at 503-422-7361. Register for VETSCAFE no later than August 9 at info@vetscafe.org. See more photos of projects from VETSCAFE on page 9.



Missing Middle:

Will city officials miss this new chance to engage the community?

Bethany Weidner

Over the objection of many residents, in November of last year the Olympia City Council adopted a zoning ordinance known as the Missing Middle (MM). The ordinance envisioned an era of new multifamily housing development in older, low density neighborhoods of Olympia.

During the public comment period before adoption of the ordinance, residents of those neighborhoods submitted research, testimony, letters and other material in an effort to warn the staff of errors in their assumptions and to recommend a more measured approach.

These concerns were evidently dismissed. Still determined to be heard, citizens formed a group and called it Olympians for Smart Development and Livable Neighborhoods (OSD). They raised funds and hired an attorney to appeal the city's action to the Growth Management Hearings Board.

Early in July, the GMHB invalidated the MM ordinance, citing a number of the very elements the residents had tried to alert the city to. The ordinance violated the city's Comprehensive Plan by ignoring the ceiling it set on density levels. Staff also failed to consider the way construction under the ordinance could overburden infrastructure like storm drainage, sewers, parking and undermine neighborhood capacity. The Board ordered the city to come back with a plan to remedy the defects in the ordinance by December.

So far, the City Council hasn't publicly discussed the significance of the findings nor indicated an interest in working with citizens to remedy the defects identified by the GMHB. Instead, their attorney announced that the city would ask the Board to reconsider its decision. In his words, "Boards can make errors."

How did we get here?

Although the concept of the "Missing Middle" originated with planners in California, the words appeared first in Olympia in a Downtown Strategy Toolbox commissioned by the city in 2015. The "Toolbox" consultant recommended that the city "Move forward with the "missing middle," saying they should "evaluate opportunities to increase density in areas where neighborhood resistance is low and services and infrastructure are in place to support higher density." Translated, that meant close-in neighborhoods with older homes occupied by people with modest incomes.

The Community Planning and Development Department (CP&D) moved ahead on the consultant's recommendation, developing a proposal and selecting people for a workgroup to serve as their sounding board in March of 2018. It was presented as an

► **Middle**, continued on page 5

Works In Progress

Works in Progress (WIP) is a community newspaper based in Olympia, Washington and published monthly. The paper was established by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition which published the first issue in May 1990.

Our mission. The aim of WIP is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on justice in the economic, political, environmental and social realms and across classes, races and genders.

How WIP is supported. First and foremost, WIP depends for survival on the contributions and participation of writers, activists, students, organizers, and other members of the community, broadly defined. We also receive support from the Workers' Defense Fund whose purpose is to strengthen organizations that engage in struggle against the powerful for the empowerment of the powerless.

Guidelines for writing for WIP. Our priority is to focus on stories that are ignored or misrepresented in the mainstream media, especially those that relate directly to our mission. To this end, we seek well-researched news stories, serious analyses of issues confronting our communities and accounts of personal experiences or reflections by local writers.

Informed opinion pieces are welcome, especially when accompanied by facts, examples and sources. Writing that stereotypes groups or categories of people will not be accepted for publication.

We discourage writing where a key point is stated as fact when it is unproven or in serious dispute. Once we receive a submission we may choose to publish it, or not. Articles can relate to the theme but material on other topics is important. Editing that extends beyond that needed for clarity will be reviewed with the author who always has the option to withdraw a piece. While the views expressed in the material we print are those of the author alone, WIP typically will favor material that is consistent with our mission.

Submitting your writing. Your piece should be submitted in the following manner: Send an email to olywip@gmail.com with the word SUBMISSION as part of the subject line. Attach your submission as a word document (formatted as indicated below). Include your name, a brief bio to run and where to contact you. Ideally, your writing will offer a unique progressive perspective and appeal to local and regional readers.

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Sunday, August 18

olywip@gmail.com

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Sunday, August 25
115 Legion Way SW

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Asa Benson-Core

Who’s running the show?

Let us give some thought to the idea of how a city gets built. And who has the power to shape how that city gets built. Sometimes it is possible to discover some of the steps that lead to something like the “Missing Middle”—where the idea came from, who managed the “citizen workshops” But you may not necessarily be able to put your finger on who had power to envision and create those results and get all those people to become cheerleaders for the idea.

It's not the city council or mayor. Their job comes after the fact. The deed's already done when it comes before the council—who will invariably vote “aye.” There is someone behind the facade of democracy, who is wielding power and brokering how these deals get done.

Robert Caro tells a story about a bridge being considered in New York State. Every elected official (including Rockefeller and Albany) thought this

bridge was a very bad idea. Caro went and interviewed all these people as a reporter for *Newsday* in his early days. All of them thought it was a bad idea and so Caro wrote that in his piece. He

Upcoming themes

September theme: What future are we creating? We hope for your experiences, reportage, art and more, focused on areas where the future is at stake: education, healthcare, the air we breathe, the water we drink, the rewards to work, the resilience of families, microbes, antibiotics... Let us hear from you. Deadline for submissions: August 18. Attach a word document and send it to olywip@gmail.com.

October: The rest of the world. Deadline: September 22.

November: Winning and losing

thought the bridge was a dead issue.

A couple of weeks later someone called him from Albany. They said he'd better come up there. All of a sudden everyone was behind this bridge. Everyone said what a great idea it was. The state was even going to fund its construction. Eventually, Caro learned that Robert Moses had visited Rockefeller and many others. Caro saw that this was someone who was not elected to any office, yet was able to change minds to turn this bad idea of a bridge into a good idea that people could support and build.

Caro said that this experience was the seed that grew into his book on Moses: *The Power Broker*.

In Olympia we have to think harder and dig deeper to understand who is shaping our city and to what purpose. Anyone?

MB with BK

Then this happened...

Port of Vancouver thriving under new Commissioner leadership

Last year, WIP reported that citizens of Vancouver WA had elected a second opponent of oil terminal development to a seat on their Port Commission. With a two out of three majority that was able to change the direction of the Port. The same two members just approved a policy that states. “The port chooses not to pursue new bulk fossil fuel terminals on port-owned industrial property.” Community activists heralded the decision as a win for embracing community safety and livability and for fighting global climate change on the local level.

And this redirection of the Port business is bearing other fruit. This June, Longshoremen unloaded 198 49-meter Vestas wind turbine blades at the Port, bound for PacificCorp's wind project near Dayton WA. The shipment set a record—the largest-ever volume of wind turbine blades shipped on a single vessel.

Climate crisis, anyone?

Producing, transporting and liquifying natural gas is acknowledged to produce high levels of carbon, but due to technology and new fields, it's now possible to produce an abundance of natural gas. Getting it to far away markets means liquifying it. Back in February, WIP reported on plans for new LNG terminals in the Pacific Northwest. The Puget Sound Clean Air Agency just made a preliminary determination that Puget Energy's proposed LNG terminal in Tacoma meets environmental regulations. The usual “public comment” period and hearing will follow this fall. Similarly, Canadian environmental regulators in British Columbia gave Canada LNG the go-ahead for its proposed four-train LNG export terminal near Kitimat, BC. Canada LNG is a consortium of some of the most profitable multinationals in the world. Those projects had been stalled until the government put together a package of tax exemptions and electric rate reductions worth an estimated \$5.35 billion.



The City of Olympia has for several years invited artists from Washington and Oregon to loan original outdoor sculptures for display for one year in the area of Percival Landing. At some point, the public is invited to cast votes for one of the sculptures which the city then may display in front of City Hall. Just now, the pig shown in this photograph is on display. Although the pig is wearing a ruffle reminiscent of someone who might be in or serve as a comment on, government, surely that's not the intent. Photo by Paul Peck

The Trump Administration: Regulating farm-workers, deregulating farm businesses

In the July WIP, we reported that the state of Washington had created and funded a new office to ensure that businesses lived up to federal laws prescribing protections for temporary agricultural workers (guest workers) hired under H-2A rules. Agricultural operators are allowed to bring in these temp workers only when there are not enough farmworkers available locally.

Ag businesses favor using guest workers because they are captive and subject to lower pay, while residents who do farm work can demand a living wage. They are captive because they're brought in solely to work for one owner and subject to instant deportation if that owner decides they are too demanding...or something.

Surprise! Just as the state of Washington is gearing up to put teeth into the federal protections—the Trump administration is taking them away. The Department of Labor has published

regulations that would give businesses more leeway to hire more guest workers—potentially taking jobs that would have gone to Washington farmworkers, and paying lower to put downward pressure on local wages. Businesses would also be able to by-pass the federal inspections that ensure safe housing and medical care in favor of “self inspection.”

At the same time, the new proposal would regulate our farmworkers' ability to apply for jobs making it harder for Washington's them to apply for and get jobs—especially skilled farm jobs—each summer. Other elements of the proposal also give agricultural businesses more power create other obstacles to employment for our local farmworkers.

To learn more or send comments, search for United Farm Workers Trump H-2A proposal.

Who’s running the show?

Men from the corporate sector running the show at NLRB

News sources

The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) was established by Congress in 1935 as an independent federal agency to protect the right of private sector employees to join together, with or without a union, to improve their wages, benefits and working conditions. The NLRB oversees hundreds of union elections and investigates thousands of unfair labor practice charges each year.

In reality, the independence of the Board depends on who is selecting the board members. With Donald Trump's administration choosing the nominees, the NLRB looks to act as a backer for employers, rather than as the protector of private sector employees that the 1935 Act intended.

Trump has replaced Obama appointees with men from the corporate sec-

tor: Chair John F. Ring, was a partner at the law firm Morgan, Lewis, Bockius. That firm served as tax counsel to Donald Trump since 2005 and represents three-quarters of the Fortune 500 companies. William J Emanuel was a shareholder in Littler Mendelsohn, a law firm exclusively devoted to representing management in employer litigation. Maurice E. Kaplan started out with a business law firm in Missouri and later served as counsel to Republican led congressional committees and OSHA. The remaining Obama board member is Lauren McFerran, who served as counsel to a Democrat-led Congressional after working as a medium-sized DC law firm whose focus was representing labor organizations. When her term expires in December 2019 there will likely be a fourth employer-oriented appointee.

The new Trump board has quickly turned to reversing rulings that de-

fended workers. They overturned a ruling that made it easier for a union to form a small bargaining unit deli workers at a grocery store, for example. They're reviewing a decision that determined a company was responsible for the labor violations of its contractor or franchise operator. Another case slated to be overturned is one where the NLRB ruled that graduate assistants working at private universities are covered under the National Labor Relations Act and are allowed to form unions. A third ruling opposed by employers had deemed illegal an employer's effort to force an employee to mandatory arbitration and forbid them to join a class action challenging violations. (This decision has already been overturned by a Supreme Court ruling that corporations can force workers to waive their right to join a class action suit.)

A cruel, greedy worldview is in charge

Glen Anderson

This issue of Works in Progress asks who is in charge. Actually, the question is *what* is in charge. For several decades a destructive worldview has dominated the US and some parts of the world. We need to replace that with the opposite worldview.

A “worldview” is the overall perspective from which someone—or a group of persons or society as a whole—sees and interprets the world. A “worldview” reflects assumptions and beliefs about what is real—and therefore about what we should do. The way you see the world will largely drive how you interact with the world. It will drive you either to reinforce or to change the status quo.

A person who believes the world is inherently cruel and unjust will likely behave cruelly and unjustly in order to cope with it. But a person with a worldview based on the assumption that people are capable of goodness will work to solve problems and make the world a better place—more peaceful, fair and sustainable.

Therefore, in addition to working specific issues, let's confront the dominant worldview at the macro level. Our better worldview will provide context and support for our work on specific issues.

A cruel and short-sighted worldview dominates the US and controls foreign and domestic policy, our economic

system and other aspects of our nation. Its assumptions and premises include these:

It’s a tough world out there.

- You've got to look out for #1, arm yourself and use violence to get your way.
- Success means dominating other people and other nations.
- You win by conquering and using all of the natural resources.
- Decent people want to replace that worldview, so we can create a humane and sustainable world:
- Affirm every person's inherent worth, dignity and equality.
- Make sure everybody's needs are met.
- Practice nonviolence.
- Respect nature and natural environments.

The dominant worldview assumes “might makes right” and legitimizes violence. It assumes scarcity and greed (instead of sharing), competition (instead of sharing), polarization and fear (instead of welcome and inclusion), militaristic foreign policy (instead of peace), punishment (instead of rehabilitation). governments and economies that serve powerful elites (instead of the broad public interest). It abuses the environment (instead of interacting sustainably with nature).

Ordinary people’s incomes peaked in 1976 or 1977. The right wing has hijacked people's anger and fear about

economic loss and turned it on other victims instead of the real culprits: abusive capitalists.

Polarization into “us” vs “them” hurts people and society. Some politicians use “divide-and-conquer” tactics to oppress certain groups. The dominant worldview includes “the arrogance of power,” a main aspect of US foreign policy and endless, unwinnable wars that promote violence ..

What is the role of government?

The dominant worldview prevents government from solving problems, so Big Business can control and abuse everything. In contrast, ordinary people want government to protect us from exploitation and pollution, and to provide broadly useful services. We need good laws, regulations, and services—and a progressive tax system so the richest people pay their fair share.

Recently—especially with Trump and Republican dominance—we're experiencing more greed, corruption, entitlement, divide and conquer, racism, sexism, blatant lies, attacks on nature, attacks on democracy, attacks on an independent free press, and so forth..

Many Democratic leaders also are subservient to Wall Street, militaristic foreign policy, and other aspects of the dominant worldview. As a result, these Democratic leaders fail to take strong actions to expose Trump, hold him accountable, or mobilize public opposition that could protect us from his fascist policies.

Each worldview promotes a very different result in how we conduct society and interact with the rest of the world.

Most Americans think our nation is “on the wrong track” given the dominance of the destructive worldview. We must replace that worldview with one that is humane, compassionate, peaceful, fair to everyone, and environmentally sustainable. Actually, most people have better hearts and better sense. My blog offers many resources on the topics discussed in this article. Especially see items in the category “Our Current Political Crisis.”

Glen Anderson has volunteered for peace, social justice, and nonviolent grassroots organizing since the 1960s. He writes, speaks, and conducts training workshops on a wide variety of topics. His blog is www.parallaxperspectives.org

A rural listening tour by young people on the move

A decade and more ago, timber corporations left Grays Harbor—but the people who had given their lives to the timber industry stayed. They stayed in towns where there were no jobs, little housing, few public amenities. They have weathered many storms and taken care of each other for years.

Four years ago, they embarked on their own effort to revive the county. Harbor Roots is a Community Supported Agriculture program that was started by and for those left behind. Their goal, outlined on their website (www.harborroots.com) is to create a new story for Grays Harbor. They are reclaiming their right to produce fresh food, to foster sustainable use of the land, and to build an economy that benefits all, not just the few at the top.

And Harbor Roots has already produced more than food. Some of the people from Harbor Roots have started another organization, called Firelands Together. Their goal is ambitious: to build working people's power to fight for a Green New Deal that can help restore rural economies for generations to come. Here is how they describe their situation:

“Throughout rural and small-town Washington, so many of us feel stuck between putting out the fires of daily crisis and the fires creeping over the hills each summer, coating our lungs with smoke. Firelands Together is for all of us who feel like we spend our days putting out fires—whether it's how to make rent, or who's going to watch our kids, or how we're going to pay for groceries or how to make that paycheck stretch to next month. We deserve better than that. Firelands Together is dedicated to building a stable, healthy, thriving future for our region.”

Consequently, Firelands Together has started a Cost of Living survey and listening tour to hear from families in several counties across the state.

Why “Firelands”?

On their Facebook page, organizers of Firelands Together allude to the double meaning within the name “fire lands”: first, they are focusing on areas of WA affected by the recurring wildfires that are starting earlier and getting stronger each year. Second, within that geography, Firelands Together wants to connect with people who find themselves in a perpetual state of putting out fires in their daily lives, like how to pay rent or to find and pay for health care. In their words, through this listening tour, Firelands organizers want “ to hear from people what makes it the hardest to make ends meet, who they think is responsible for our struggles, and what solutions would make the most difference for them and their community.”

The information in this article comes from the Harbor Roots and Firelands Together websites, and the Firelands Facebook page. You can contact Harbor Roots at harborrootsfarm@gmail.com.



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perspectives

Exempting the wealthy and raising the property tax burden while flooding, choking and closing

Dan Leahy

Council member Lisa Parshley made a motion at the November 27, 2018 City Council meeting. Council member Jessica Bateman seconded the motion. All the other Council members voted “aye” —Cooper, Gilman, Jones, Rollins and Selby.

With this motion, the Council approved an eight-year property tax exemption for Pat Rants' 28 unit luxury condominium project at 320 Columbia in downtown Olympia with prices between \$750,000 and \$1.4 million dollars for each individual condo.

What did this mean for Pat Rants? It meant he would not have to pay property taxes for eight years on the building's estimated housing value of \$28,374,305. At the present millage rate of 12.26, this means he would not pay \$2,782,921 in taxes over the next eight years. What does this mean to those who pay property taxes on our

homes or in our rents? It means we would pay the \$2,782,921.

How does the Council approve something like this in the midst of a homeless crisis, with rising downtown rents for low income and moderate income people?

This is how. Leonard Bauer, Deputy Director of the City's Community Planning and Development department, explained it to Pat Rants in an email just before the November 27th vote. “Please note this item is proposed for the Council's consent calendar, which is a list of agenda items that are more routine and not expected to generate debate among the council members.”

Even though any Council member could have moved Mr. Rants request to the regular agenda for a public discussion, no one did. There was no discussion, no debate. Exempting wealth was just “routine.”

Choosing to offer property tax exemptions

State law allows municipalities to adopt various tax exemption programs. The multifamily housing tax exemption (MFTE) program is authorized under RCW 84.14, which contains certain conditions that have to be met.

City Council members first voted MFTE provisions into the Olympia Municipal Code in August of 1997 with a 10-year property tax exemption for downtown multifamily projects. Council members voted to amend provisions of the program in December 1997, to add new residential target areas: Eastside (4th/State corridor between Eastside and Fir) and Westside (Harrison Avenue between Cushing and Foote).

The state legislature later revised the blanket 10-year authorization to permit cities to adopt exemptions for market-rate housing to last 8 years; and for affordable housing to last 12 years. The Olympia City Council adopted 8- and 12-year exemptions into its code in January 2009 -- along with some additional changes to target areas where the exemptions would apply.

In April and December of last year (2018), the Council's Land Use Committee members (Gilman, Parshley, Jones) discussed potential additional areas that might be made eligible for the exemptions.

In this manner, the Council approved eight year property tax exemptions for four of Walker John's projects: Franklin Lofts at 600 Franklin, Campus Lofts on 12th Avenue, 321 Lofts on Legion Way and Annie's Lofts at 322 5th Avenue. Then, in addition to the Rants approval, the Council approved eight year tax exemptions for Shou Lou's 123 4th Avenue and Mike Auderer's 924 State Avenue E.

What does this mean to those who pay property taxes? With the approval of these seven exemptions, the Mayor and City Council exempted \$63,078,639. Using the present millage rate of 12.26, this means that we would pay \$773,336/year or \$6,186,690 over eight years. Now that the Rants Group has canceled their Percival Condos, it means we will pay \$425,471/year or \$3,403,768 over eight years.

However, more requests for your tax dollars are on their way to the Council. The 144 unit Harbor Heights Luxury residences near the Farmers market on Capitol Way have requested an eight year exemption. Walker John has four more that are no doubt headed for Council largesse: the 86 unit Westman Mills on 510 State Avenue NE, the 44 unit Market Flats at 312 Capitol Way, the 60 unit at State and Columbia, and the 44 unit Laurana at 210 State Avenue.

As we witness the gentrification of downtown Olympia with new publicly subsidized market rate and luxury housing for the City's high-end clientele, there is another “routine” that is facilitating all of this. It has to do with the term “significance.”

I think most of us would say something significant is happening to downtown:

exacerbation of homelessness in the midst of publicly supported luxury and market rate housing complexes. But, in fact, according to the Mayor and City Council, nothing significant is going on. It is all “non-significant.” The State's Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) requires the City to make a “threshold determination” on development projects. The City could say a project will have a significant effect on the environment and therefore order a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This Mayor and City Council do not see it this way.

The City's Community Planning and Development department, headed by Keith Stahley and Leonard Bauer, has ruled that these downtown market rate and luxury housing complexes totaling 788 residential units with 743 on site spaces for cars and 90,000 plus square feet of associated new retail and commercial spaces packed into a downtown core have no environmental significance.

What is truly amazing is that while the Mayor and Council say there is no environmental significance to any of this, they ask the Legislature for funds because: “Olympia's downtown is vulnerable to widespread flooding, choking vital transportation corridors

Olympia’s downtown core Mayor and council’s property tax: exemptions, requests, possibilities							
Location	Name	Units	Stories	C	Retail sf	LLC & Governor	8 yr. Property Tax Exempt
500 Columbia Not complete	Harbor Heights Columbia Place	144	7	259	58,000	500 Columbia Pl LLC. J.Brent McKinley	Vine Street Investors LLC to Columbia Pl LLC Requested exemption. 5/26/2019
123 4th Ave. @Columbia Complete	123 4th Ave.Bldg (vacant retail)	138	7	120	7,458	Columbia Heights Partners, LLC. Shuo Lou. Tukwila	Mayor/Council exempted \$23,182,900. 4/7/2015.
410 5th Ave Not complete	Views on Fifth	138	9	139	4,858	Views on 5th LLC. Brogan, Gorban, EmilyKhodorkosky	17-2528. Approved by Hearing Examiner(HEX) 1/25/18. No request yet.
510 State NE Not complete	Westman Mill (near children's museum)	86	4	73	8,500	Port of Olympia. 3rd Gen Investments LLC. Walker John	Lease agreement with Port. for land. Approved by HEX 5/4/18. No request yet.
114/116 4th Not complete	State & Water (2 parking lots)	60	5	39	2,968	Urban Oly 9 LLC Walker John	Paid \$1m 8/22/18. Infill Exempted from SEPA review. No request yet.
400 Adams SE Complete	Annie’s Flats @ 5th Avenue.	48		23	SF?	Urban Olympia 4 LLC. Walker John	Mayor & Council exempted 11/21/2017.
210 State St. Not complete	Dockside Flats “Laurana” (Les Schwab)	44	3	39	6,400	Urban Olympia 5 LLC. Walker John	Purchased for \$1.9 million 12/15/16.App'd HEX 4/6/18. No request yet.
312 Capitol Not complete	Market Flats (parking lot)	44	5	18	2,086	Urban Olympia 7 LLC.Walker John	Historical Downtown Square LLC quit claim. 10/16/18 No request yet.
512 12th SE @ Jefferson Complete	Campus Lofts	43	4	42	0	CSV CDOW SK, LLC Dow/Kwok. Walker John.	Mayor/Council exempted \$5,272.072. 5/17/2016. 3rd Gen. (Walker John)
321 Legion Complete	321 Lofts @ Adams	36	4	33	0	Urban Olympia 3 LLC. Walker John	Mayor/Council exempted \$4,549,800. 5/17/2016.
322 Columbia Canceled	Percival Condos	28	7	2fl		Rants Groups.	Mayor/Council exempted \$28,374,305. 11/27/18.
600 Franklin Complete	Franklin Lofts	19			SF?	Urban Olympia 3 LLC. Walker John	Mayor/Council exempted \$1,699,562. 12/16/14
924 State E. Complete	924 State E.	4			0	924 State LLC Mike Auderer	Mayor/Clc exempted 5/9/17 Amount unknown.
TOTAL	13 Buildings	788		743	90,270	Walker John has 8 of the 13 buildings.	Mayor/Clc approved 7, so far. Exempted: \$63,078,639. We pay \$6,186,690. 8yrs **
C - on-site parking. ** Without Rants' Condos, we pay: \$3,403,768							

Did tax exemptions bring us Olympia’s downtown apartment boom?

Candidates answer:

The history of Olympia’s downtown property tax exemption indicates that this subsidy has little or nothing to do with the current construction downtown. The City of Olympia has had a tax exemption available since 1997. No strings attached—the only requirement was to build housing in the downtown core.

An exemption that produced nothing for years

Even with the city’s offer of this tax subsidy, no market-rate housing developer was prompted build downtown for 17 years. Only in 2015, almost 20 years later, did investors appear—because they had decided that the market was right new market-rate properties downtown.

Naturally, they are happy to accept a tax contribution from local taxpayers, but that was not their reason for deciding to build. In fact one developer, Rants, cancelled a luxury project after his tax exemption was approved because “there just wasn’t the demand.”

A responsibility to other taxpayers

Should this tax exemption for market rate housing be continued in light of its irrelevance? Add to that the fact that the exemption does nothing for affordability yet shifts millions of dollars onto other property tax payers, and the question is acute.

A chance to evaluate Council candidates’ positions

The South West Olympia Neighborhood Association (SWONA) has for

several years asked candidates for the Olympia City Council to state their position on a current issue. This year it was city’s the 8-year tax exemption for multifamily market rate housing downtown.

What they said

Ten candidates responded. Three of the challengers (Booth, Cornell, Humbert) would end the exemption primarily because it shifts more of the burden of an already regressive tax from business to residents—with nothing to show for it. Five (Bateman, Clerget, Jones, Madrone, Selby) attributed the current expansion of market-rate housing to the exemption but thought it could be modified - maybe tied to affordable housing or other benefits.

One (Ross) would keep it for a vibrant downtown and one (Goldenberg) would reserve judgement til elected.

What they left out

Only one candidate knew that a 12-year tax exemption has long been available for downtown multifamily housing if 20% of the units qualify as “affordable.” No downtown developer thought that four more years of tax exemption was worth making a fifth of the units affordable. Finally, no candidate other than those who advocated ending the exemption talked about the cost of shifting the burden to other property taxpayers.

You can read each candidate’s written response online at www.olywip.org.

Missing middle

From page 1

exciting opportunity to accommodate 20,000 new residents in a “diversity of housing types” close to downtown.

It was presented the same way in November at two open houses for the general public. In February of 2019, the CP&D staff produced a checklist indicating that the ordinance would have no significant impact on the environment, including infrastructure elements. A month later there was a hearing before members of the Olympia Planning Commission. The ordinance remained largely unchanged through its adoption by the City Council, putting it into effect at the end of 2019. The research, arguments, recommended changes by members of the public—all had fallen on deaf ears.

“Density” as a magic word

Claims for the benefits of the Missing Middle ordinance rest entirely on the assertion that “increasing density” is an unalloyed good. Supporters of the ordinance have an almost religious belief in the wonderful world that will be ushered in by eliminating height limits, lot coverage, setbacks, parking requirements, owner occupancy requirements and removing obstacles to real estate de-

velopment in established older neighborhoods of the city.

A supporting letter signed by 40 politicians, realtors, public officials and others proclaimed that the ordinance would bring vast improvements in the environment and in the prospects for small businesses. It would add to homeowners’ income, and to the safety of neighborhood streets, turn people into walkers and bus-riders, and

The notion that new market-rate housing will contribute to affordability in established neighborhoods is contradicted by the actual results of lifting zoning requirements

even strengthen families. Adoption of the ordinance would “enhance affordability ...by bringing the private sector more strongly into the mix”

Reality vs magic

Others who also agreed that dense development is important, nonetheless examined the city’s proposal in detail. They found that key elements of the

ordinance violated the city’s Comprehensive Plan, failed to consider environmental impacts, promised to create parking nightmares and would undermine neighborhood character – all without doing anything to make housing more affordable. Far from it: instead, the changes were more likely to usher in a future of gentrification that would transform the modest neighborhoods where housing was still in reach of first-time buyers.

The notion that new market-rate housing will contribute to affordability in established neighborhoods is contradicted by the actual results of lifting zoning requirements on behalf of private sector housing investment. New units produced under MM will clearly be rented and sold at market rates—rates that already burden Olympia buyers and renters. Recent studies make clear that market rate new construction also contributes to higher prices for surrounding neighborhoods, further raising rents and property taxes,

Support based on misconceptions

The CP&D staff repeatedly acknowledged that nothing in the MM is geared to greater affordability. Yet they fostered belief in the idea that the MM would make housing more affordable because: “the law of supply and demand:” more housing units would mean less expensive housing. One result is that a lot of people wrongly think that the MM ordinance is about affordability.

The staff also fostered other misconceptions. According to CP&D department Deputy Director Leonard Bauer, spearheading the effort, types of housing allowed in neighborhoods would change, but legal density limits would not. A member of the OSD group applied the density-enhancing provisions and discovered that the changes allowed new levels of density well in excess of legal limits. Others studied how reduction of off-street parking requirements would actually work, surveying current on-street availability and running MM scenarios that indicated streets would be overwhelmed with cars.

Why ask for public comment?

These findings and others challenged the promotion of the MM as bringing about a “bright future” for Olympia’s older neighborhoods – a future of “livable and affordable neighborhoods, pedestrian oriented streetscapes, a healthy natural environment and a thriving economy.”

Citizens presented their findings in “comments” to the City as part of the

routine public process. The group also provided recommendations as to how the MM could be adopted with modifications that reflected how the City’s Comp Plan identified incremental ways to increase density and incorporate new residents into close-in areas of the city

News coverage and a further hearing at City Hall made it clear that the MM ordinance was very controversial. Instead of responding to the substance of the comments and the concerns of many residents critical of aspects of the ordinance, it became standard to vilify those making them. Maybe this was predictable coming from people who had an interest in removing zoning restrictions and those whose belief in the virtue of the proposition overlooked the details.

There must be a better way

Had the city staff chosen to take seriously the input by citizens who spent hours in analyzing the effects of the MM and providing their findings to the city, a lot of money would have been saved. Olympians for Smart Growth raised over \$35,000 to hire an attorney; the city has already spent over \$45,000 to defend the staff’s handling of the ordinance.

While candidates running for office and elected officials at their post in City Hall continuously tout their desire to be “partners with the public” in shaping our city, their actual behavior and implementation of opportunities for partnership contradicts those statements. It is the case that public trust in government to do the right thing – which in the 1960s ran over 70% – has continued to fall – polling around 40% around the year 2000 and about 20% today.

Partnering with the community

The Growth Management Board’s decision gives Olympia’s elected leadership an opportunity to remedy declining trust by partnering with the informed and committed citizens. Will they avail themselves of it? To echo the city’s attorney who observed that “Boards make mistakes” -- so do city planners and council members.

Bethany Weidner worked for elected and appointed officials IN Washington DC and in Washington state. She graduated from Burlington-Edison High School in 1964.

You can read the GMHB findings as well as the text of the letter from Olympia leaders predicting a glowing future under the Missing Middle ordinance, at Works in Progress online at www.olywip.org.

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Getting wise to the smartgrid, part two

Leslie Shankman

.Citizen opposition efforts blocked and criminalized

"We the undersigned scientists, doctors, environmental organizations and citizens from 187 countries, urgently call for a halt to the deployment of the 5G (fifth generation) wireless network, including 5G from space satellites. 5G will massively increase exposure to radio frequency (RF) radiation on top of the 2G, 3G and 4G networks for telecommunications already in place. RF radiation has been proven harmful to humans and the environment. The deployment of 5G constitutes an experiment on humanity and the environment that is defined as a crime under international law."
5gspaceappeal.org*

Part One of this article cites enough credible scientific data to suggest an immediate halt or at least pause of 5G deployment until more studies are done and other aspects considered, such as security, privacy, property values, military use of phased array for radar and weapons, and potential interference with weather tracking, and environmental and health issues for all living things.

However, in the United States, the FCC has structured regulations to prohibit local municipalities from stopping 5G installation. This is also what citizens of other countries are finding as they try to halt 5G installations. There is an overriding force of political and corporate will working towards the creation of a 5G grid around the globe.

In Switzerland, for example, ordinances against 5G installation were passed in four regions (representing 1.5 million people). Despite that, Swisscom, a majority state-owned company, ig-

We the undersigned scientists, doctors, environmental organizations and citizens from 187 countries, urgently call for a halt to the deployment of the 5G (fifth generation) wireless network, including 5G from space satellites."

nored these laws on April 17, 2019, when they activated 5G stations in 102 locations.

Thanks to longtime U.N. staff member and whistle-blower Claire Edwards, disclosure about 5G and its considerable risk for humanity is occurring within the United Nations. She submitted "The International Appeal to Stop 5G on Earth and in Space" which is a fully referenced document, citing over a hundred scientific papers among the tens of thousands published over the last 80 years on the biological effects of electromagnetic radiation. Edwards' appeal can be found at www.5gspaceappeal.org.

Deregulation and the global race to own 5G

Since becoming the chairman of the FCC in January, 2017, Ajat Pai, who was associate general counsel at Verizon from 2001-2003 , has been working steadily to deregulate the FCC. As early as May 5, 2017, in a review of Pai's first 100 days, The Washington Post noted, "... Pai is establishing himself as the vanguard for a wave of deregulation that could set the tone for the industry for years ...

... allowing telecom and cable companies to act more easily in their own interests has been a consistent theme of Pai's early tenure ...

... Pai has resisted using the FCC's rule-

making powers to regulate the broadband industry, preferring instead an after-the-fact approach that investigates and penalizes allegations of consumer abuse by companies."

At a press conference on April 12, 2019, Trump and Pai laid out several initiatives designed to accelerate the U.S. role in the "5G race" and illustrates the thinking that gives the coming of 5G the quality of a tsunami. "It's all about 5G now," Trump told the audience... "The race to 5G is on and America must win, it's a race our great companies are now involved in." Trump said that a secure 5G network will transform how everyone communicates and will create astonishing new opportunities in America, and "We cannot allow any other country to out-compete the United States in this power industry of the future." Other references were made to the fierce competition between the US and China with 5G.

The press conference also announced the FCC's plan to hold the largest spectrum auction in U.S. history, offering up new bandwidths to wireless carriers. The planned auction is set to commence on December 10, 2019. In addition, the FCC also proposed a \$20 billion fund to expand broadband in rural America over the coming decade. The necessary placing of 5G cellular bases at every 500 feet could be quite a challenge in rural areas.

Local governments in a bind

Using the rational that the "race to 5G" justifies removing costly regulatory obstacles, in 2018 the FCC adopted regulations limiting the ability of cities and states to regulate 5G considerations. The FCC deregulation and changes made to date effectively do not allow a city to say no to 5G. These regulations began taking effect on January 14, 2019, and include:

- Localities cannot block the use of small cell sites (e.g., pole attachments) needed for the deployment of 5G,
- Limits on the type and amount of fees cities and states may charge,
- Limited time periods, known as "shot clocks," to as low as 60 days for cities and states to authorize proposals. If the locality does not respond within the time period, authorization is automatic,

Limits on non-fee requirements cities and states may charge

It would not be an overstatement to say that 5G-related lawsuits from the different sides are flying like bullets. Some cities, such as Portland, Seattle, Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Jose and Bellevue (Wash.) have filed lawsuits against the FCC, primarily challenging the FCC overreach. These suits ask the 9th Circuit of the U.S. Court of Appeals to review FCC rule changes.

In addition to various other state, city and county suits, a citizen's suit was filed in Santa Fe, N.M., against the city of Santa Fe and the U.S. government for violating due process and the U.S. Constitution. AT&T is suing the FCC for not adopting a remedy for instanc-

► **Smartgrid**, next page

What if Olympia owned its own electric utility?

Mike Pelly

Lower electric rates

Public utilities are able to buy power directly from Bonneville power (BPA) at rates lower than what Puget Sound Energy (PSE) pays wholesale. PSE marks up their wholesale price and retails the power to their customers. Public power residential customers pay about 10% less for their power. Commercial customers pay about 20% less for their power under public power ownership.

Local ownership and control

Local ownership secures long term control over price spikes and inflation. It is more reliable, also, because employees can live nearby. Line crews are more familiar with the infrastructure and are often quicker to get on the job and get the power back on in natural disasters and emergencies. Currently in these situations PSE pulls in crews from other, distant private utilities, many out of state. This slows down response times even further while waiting for these crews to arrive and begin repair work. Typically PUDs sustain far less damage and down time in storms than PSE because they take better care of their equipment and have more rigorous line maintenance schedules.

Benefits are dependable

Employees of publicly owned utilities can access the Peers 2 and 3 retirement plans and insurance benefits that other state, municipal and school employees are entitled to.

Mutual aid agreements

Utility line and maintenance crews of a publicly owned utility can quickly assist others when they are hit hard during times of ice and wind storms. Fortunately the city of Olympia is virtually surrounded with other public utilities like Mason county PUD 1 and 3, Grays Harbor PUD, Lewis county PUD, Centralia Power, Tacoma Power and Light. Even the towns of Lakewood and Steilacoom have public power utilities. PSE has never taken advantage of the opportunity to sign

onto Mutual Aid Agreements with local PUDs and thus PSE customers end up paying more in 'Act of God' charges and in longer wait times while they haul in other private utility line crews to fix their storm-damaged lines.

Low income assistance

A publicly owned utility can implement programs assist low income customers. Seattle City Light offers a 60% discount to low income customers.

Reduction in fossil fuel use

Bonneville is currently powered 90% by hydroelectric generation, so eliminating PSE as Olympia's power provider will get us off the 59% fossils by PSE virtually overnight (37% coal, 22% natural gas). A 2014 study found PSE produces over 11 million tons of CO2 annually, more than any other utility in Washington state.

Funding

Paying to transition away from PSE can be accomplished by selling municipal bonds. A process identical to how the city raises funds for parks, schools and other improvements. The city with its very good credit rating would have the advantage of being funded at lower interest rates than PSE ever could hope for.

After the transition is completed the city could then issue tax exempt bonds to pay to update PSE's old worn out and obsolete equipment.

Financial savings

Transitioning to a city owned public power provider would save our; school

district, City government, state offices, The Port of Olympia and residential and businesses large amounts of money over the years to come.

Other municipalities with city utilities

Are there examples of how city utilities work we can examine? Richland Washington's City utility with 22,000 ratepayers (customers) is the same as Olympia's—22,000 ratepayers. Closer to home we find Seattle Power and Light, Tacoma Power, Centralia City Light, as well as the county-run PUDs mentioned earlier.

The city of Ellensburg, with 7,400 customers, runs its own utility, which provides both electric power and natural gas to their customers similar to PSE in Olympia. City utilities work with large cities like Tacoma (97% fossil free) and Seattle as well as small ones like Centralia (98.6% fossil free), along with Steilacoom (98.5% fossil free) with their 2,756 customers.

Puget Sound Energy will go to great lengths and spend vast sums of their customers' money to retain their UTC-guaranteed 9% rate of return. Who wouldn't? Just remember this next time a glossy mailer arrives or you receive an offer for a free refrigerator upgrade from PSE: it's your money as a ratepayer that they are spending.

Mike Pelly's interests include busting up oil companies and transitioning from fossil fuels to 100% clean renewable energy as soon as possible. Currently a high school paraeducator, Pelly supports providing the public with education about the benefits of a completely plant-based diet. He is a frequent contributor to Works in Progress.

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Smartgrid

From previous page

es when a state or local government fails to act on a request for small cell installation within a reasonable time. The NRDC (Natural Resources Defense Council) has also challenged the FCC ruling in court.

Portland, Oregon Mayor Ted Wheeler and his city administration have gone further, saying no to 5G installation, citing health concerns as well as the overreach by the FCC. Articles outlining Portland's stance explain that the franchise fees that cities can charge on each cellular installation are capped at \$270 per year under the new FCC rules. Some cities currently charge as much as \$3,000 to cover necessary costs.

For example, if multiple cell installations from different telecoms (Verizon, T-Mobile, Sprint, etc. might each have a cellular base using phased array frequencies on every pole) require that a larger pole be installed, the city will incur costs of well over \$270 per installation. Wheeler said the FCC caps could cost Portland \$9.5 million a year in lost revenue and characterized the FCC rules as “something of a land grab against local infrastructure”

Growing congressional concern
Some congressional action has been taken to try to counter the fast pace of the 5G rollout. In a letter of December 3, 2018, Senator Richard Blumenthal (Conn.) and Congresswoman Anna Eshoo (Calif.) asked the FCC to provide scientific documentation about the safety of 5G.

At a press conference also convened on that date, Blumenthal and Eshoo had Blake Levitt, a highly respected medical and science journalist and communications director with The Berkshire-Litchfield Environmental Council summarize the issues. She has looked at the environmental effects of radiofrequency technology for many decades and her book *Electromagnetic Fields* is considered a bible of

EMF information. In her presentation, she also noted that Norm Alster, who wrote a paper for Harvard's Center for Ethics, described the FCC as acting more like “an industry cheerleader than a regulator.” Norm Alster's paper is titled FCC: Captured Agency (this page).

On January 15, 2019, Congresswoman Eshoo introduced H.R. 530, the Accelerating Wireless Broadband Development by Empowering Local Communities Act of 2019. This legislation addresses overturning the new limiting FCC regulations which constrict local authority. On April 15, 2019, Oregon Congressman Peter Defazio sent a letter to Ajit Pai asking the FCC to answer three specific questions regarding 5G safety and also requesting that the agency be transparent with the American public.

Social media platforms are lighting up around the globe sharing information and news about local actions and struggles. To become more informed and connect with others, join the Facebook groups Stop 5G Bellingham and Stop 5G International. And there are many more Facebook groups from other locales that serve to cross-pollinate with on-the-ground feedback. Americans for Responsible Technology and EMFactsConsultancy

expressed concern about installation going forward. Each telecom has a different schedule for installation in U.S. cities, and, while a number of cities have already been equipped with 5G

Those people are THE most honored people in our history. The people who failed to do so are among the most despised people in our history. I am not at all sure we will have historians to record us 100 years from now or even 30 years from now, given the direction in which we are heading. But if we do, rest assured that these are the standards by which we will all be judged.”

It is time for all of us, both citizens and elected officials, to come together as David facing Goliath. Locally, as we enter an election season, we must ask our candidates and our currently seated representatives — “Are you willing to be David with us?”

Leslie Shankman became aware of 5G in early 2019 when a friend in Taos, NM became debilitatingly ill from a 5G cell box placed on her property, forcing a move. Currently a writer and editor, Shankman has worked in business, lived and worked at a yoga institute, and assisted seniors with living and dying. She has lived in Bellingham since 1993.

This article first appeared in the June issue of Whatcom Watch and is supported by almost 30 references, all of which are available at olywip.org.

**A personal version of this petition, directed to the United Nations, World Health Organization, European Union, Council of Europe and governments of all nations, can be signed at 5gspaceappeal.org.*

The FCC deregulation and changes made to date effectively do not allow a city to say no to 5G.

also put out informative posts individuals can sign up to receive. The Cellular Phone Task Force and Physicians for Safe Technology are good sites to check.

In 2018, the Bellingham City Council voted yes to granting the necessary franchise to telecoms for 5G installation. While 5G installation in Bellingham has not actively started, to date our elected officials have not

cellular bases, the complete 5G rollout is expected to take until 2022 and possibly beyond.

Unfortunately, the conclusion of WSU Professor Emeritus Martin Pall, Ph.D., regarding the 5G roll out is all too relevant:

“There have been certain points in our history where people have stood up to strong destructive forces against what often appeared to be insurmountable odds.



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port report re:port

The biggest loser

Esther Kronenberg

The Marine Terminal

One of the questions for our Port Report series is whether fees and charges that the Port collects from users of their business services produce revenue sufficient to cover their cost. This month's Report will try to shed some light on that question as it relates to the Port of Olympia's biggest business enterprise—the Marine Terminal.

One dominant client

The Marine Terminal's main activity is exporting logs—primarily for Weyerhaeuser, but also for Port Blakely Tree Farms. The Marine Terminal occasionally has handled gold ore from Europe, windmill blades from Brazil, organic grain from Turkey and heavy-lift cargo from Asia. It sends cattle to Vietnam, and recently ended a controversial contract to import materials used in fracking. But the lion's share of the Port's Marine Terminal business activity derives from Weyerhaeuser and its logs.

A small port, uncertain volumes

Weyerhaeuser is the largest private owner of timberlands in North America, with earnings of almost \$450 million in revenue just from its 2017 Northwest log exports. The Port's logs are destined mostly for China, Japan and South Korea. The volume of log exports has declined ever since 2014-16; and despite a recent contract to import logs from Alaska for transport to mills in Packwood and Morton, the volume of logs moving through the Port is projected to remain flat at 2017 levels. Whether even those levels will be maintained is an open question.

Losing money on the Marine Terminal

Do the fees charged Weyerhaeuser and other exporters cover the cost of the services, equipment and facilities the Port provides? According to their 2019 budget, the answer is a resounding “no.” The chart below shows the Port's operating revenues and operating expenses plus allocated administrative, depreciation and interest costs. The Port loses money in each area of its operation—but the Marine Terminal is by far the biggest loser, with a negative 37% margin loss over the last 3 years.

Even using the best assumptions of future revenue, the budget shows a loss of \$2 million from Marine Terminal operations. Projecting \$3.47 million in operating revenue in 2019, after expenses and overhead, the Marine Terminal is left with \$94,000. Include depreciation of \$1.4 million on associated assets, and the Marine Terminal's operating loss alone comes to \$1.3 million in 2019. There were similar loss figures in 2017 and 2018. (A future Report will outline additional costs associated with the adverse impacts of Weyerhaeuser's operations on water quality in Budd Inlet.)

Investing in new equipment

But operating losses are only part of the picture. In 2018, the Port used

71.5% of its capital investment budget, totaling \$1.8 million, to buy 2 log loaders for the Marine Terminal. The Port refinanced its debt to cover the cost of the loaders, on the basis that they would improve productivity. Instead, the loaders were actually used only 78 hours in 2018—far short of the 205 hours projected by advocates of the purchase.

Interest and depreciation associated with equipment purchased for the terminal, including the log loaders, amounts to \$819,000 for 2019, which brings the Port's loss attributable to the Marine Terminal to a hefty \$2.13 million.

Who makes up for the losses?

The Washington Public Ports Association describes ports as “a public entity with a profit motive.” Ports are not required to turn a profit, but their “primary goal is economic development for its community with the end result of job creation.” They are permitted to tax residents because their investments are supposed to benefit the larger community. The Port's Marine Terminal losses of \$2.13 million, in combination with losses in every other budget category, are covered by an annual contribution of \$6.28 million in property taxes collected from

the residents of Thurston County. The Port of Olympia's tax levy accounts for more than 50% of its annual operating revenues of \$11.4 million. This is far in excess of the usual 19% found at the top 15 Washington ports. So we ask: is there a benefit to the larger community commensurate with this subsidy?

It worked in the 1980s

Two Port Commissioners, McGregor and Downing, assert that Marine Terminal clients fully pay their way for Port services and provide enough revenue to turn a profit for the Port and Thurston County. (They would like to exclude depreciation from the calculation of operating revenue.) They defend the purchase of log loaders for Weyerhaeuser, claiming that the equipment will pay for itself over the next 20 years. They point to Port literature that describes a “multiplier effect” that produces business activity supporting “nearly 5,000 family-wage jobs + \$100 million in wages + \$20 million in local tax revenue.”

But even if it the Port were to ignore good accounting practices, the cash outlay for interest on Marine Terminal equipment still wipes out the income earned. And the prognosis for log exports indicates that new loaders are more likely to sit idle on the dock than to “pay for themselves.”

A third Commissioner, EJ Zita, has questioned the expenses associated with the Marine Terminal. She believes the port has a fiduciary duty to ensure public assets benefit the common good above private interests' and has advo-

cated for reviewing rates and charges at the Marine Terminal. The accuracy of the “multiplier effect” on job creation has also been questioned, among other reasons, it includes employees of leased properties in its calculations.

Taking up tough challenges

Commissioner Zita has also asked for an independent financial consultant to strategize how the Port could get a good return on investment to the public, including identifying new opportunities that would offer good wages while adding jobs through such options as incubator hubs, food hubs and light industrial activities, for example. Given the persistent steep losses on the Marine Terminal business and the uncertain future of log exports, the Port could benefit from such an analysis. The Port's own Vision 2050 survey suggests possible new investments for the common good.

Environmental concerns topped the list with 84% of respondents wanting the Port to sustain legacy pollution clean-up projects in Budd Inlet. Other high priorities selected were 1) working with the City of Olympia to create a more welcoming downtown, 2) adding amenities and access along the waterfront, 3) pursuing green energy production alternatives, 4) supporting family wage jobs, 5) exploring ferry, water taxi service and regional air commuter service, and 6) providing transparency in budget planning.

Maintaining the Marine Terminal cargo functions and looking for ways to leverage more tax levies garnered the least support in the survey.

Esther Kronenberg is a member of the Observer Corps of the League of Women Voters of Thurston County.

Port of Olympia Management Income Statement 2019 Budget

	Airport & New Mkt	Swantn Marina	Marine Terminal	Props	Stormwater Facility	General admin	2019 Budget
Operating Revenues	2,752	3,200	3,475	1,467	884		\$ 11,778
Operations & Maintenance Expenses	(1000)	(2,116)	(2,672)	(720)	(800)		(7,308)
Contribution Margin	1,752	1,084	803	747	84		4,470
Administration Expenses	(716)	(711)	(709)	(707)	(51)		(2,894)
Operating Expenses	(1,715)	(2,827)	(3,381)	(1,427)	(851)		(10,202)
Operating Income before depreciation	1,036	373	94	40	33		1,576
Depreciation	(573)	(596)	(1,407)	(368)	(162)	(284)	(3,390)
Operating Income (loss)	463	(223)	(1,313)	(328)	(129)	(284)	(1,814)
	16.8%	-7.0%	-37.8%	-22.4%	-14.6%		-15.4%
Nonoperating Revenue (expenses)							
Bond Interest Expense net of premium	(97)	(177)	(677)	(322)	(122)	(216)	(1,611)
Interest income						95	95
Forest Board & Leasehold Tax						120	120
Bank interest expense						(76)	(76)
FTZ Revenue & expense, net						1	1
NonOperating revenues						15	15
NonOperating expenses						(187)	(187)
Grant income						275	275
Depreciation on grant assets	(387)	(62)	(142)				(591)
Settlements							
Nonoperating revenues (expenses)	(484)	(239)	(819)	(322)	(122)	26	(1960)
Income (loss) before tax levy & uses	(21)	(462)	(2,132)	(650)	(251)	(258)	(3,774)

Source:<https://www.portolympia.com/DocumentCenter/View/3288/2019-Detailed-Budget-Adopted-11-26-2018>

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Sustainable farming: climate support everybody can agree on

Kyle Murphy

Climate change in Washington State has long been a divisive issue cutting deeply across partisan lines. Debates rage over the cost of fuels, the growth of clean energy, and how we can distribute the benefits of an ever-cleaner economy most equitably.

Emerging from this divide, however, is a new front. Last year, the legislature considered SB 5947, which showed that we can achieve bipartisan cooperation on addressing climate change through a key sector: agriculture.

Modern agriculture accounts for nine percent of nationwide emissions, and our farmers are directly impacted by climate-related events—such as heat waves, fires, and droughts. Thus, improving sustainable farming practices

Exempt

From page 4

and closing our business district.”

There is a new book by Indian author Amitav Ghosh titled “The Great Derangement.” There is no better example of this “derangement” than the City Council’s stoking of downtown building in the exact area vulnerable to flooding, choking and closing while at the same time acknowledging the dangers of climate change.

On July 10, 2019, the State’s Growth Management Board invalidated the Mayor and City Council’s unanimously approved Missing Middle’s 192 page Ordinance 7160. Even this Board, which is pro-growth and pro-infill, could not ignore the City’s inadequate “environmental checklist” in which Stahley and Bauer’s department replied “nearing 50 times with statements such as the question did not apply” to the Missing Middle ordinance.

Has the City ordered a new environmental checklist subject to public review and begun a rewrite of the Ordinance based on a new and accurate assessment of the Ordinance’s effects on neighborhood lot size density, stormwater run-off, parking congestion and neighborhood character? No. And there’s more.

Turns out the Mayor and City Council had been lobbying the State Legislature to pass a bill that would prohibit neighborhoods from appealing City actions, like the Missing Middle ordinance, to the State’s Growth Management Board. And they were successful with passage of ESSB 1923.

There seems to be little doubt that what Samuel Stein in his book, *Capital City*, calls the “Real Estate State” is in full control of our Mayor and City Council. Whether downtown with its tax exemptions or in our neighborhoods with their Missing Middle incursions, the current Mayor and City Council are not about housing as such, certainly not affordable housing, but about the turn over of land for the benefit of the real estate industry and their capital investors

Dan Leahy grew up in the Irish-Italian-Hungarian working class neighborhood of Seattle’s Queen Anne Hill, now turned into a rich man’s automobile park with homes that rent for \$4200/month or are bulldozed for four story, million dollar condos that no working class person could afford. It’s the working class who is now “missing.”

can not only help our farmers become resilient in the face of a changing climate, they can also be an essential part of the solution.

SB 5947 would create a grant program for sustainable farms and field practices so that farmers are able to adopt carbon-reducing and sequestration methods. The grants created would reward reducing carbon emissions generated through farming and ranch processes from fertilizers to fuels; reward adopting regenerative farming practices, like no-till, cover-cropping, manure and compost, and biochar additions; and reward agroforestry which is the addition of perennial trees and shrubs that increase carbon sequestration on agricultural and ranch settings.

Led by Senators Schoesler (R) and McCoy (D), SB 5947 is one of the first and only climate bills to be introduced with equal numbers of Republicans and Democrats, 16 in total. But it isn’t only political leaders supporting the sustainable farm and field bill. Many organizations back it including: Carbon Washington, WA Association of Conservation Districts, American Farmland Trust, Tulalip Tribe, PCC Community Markets, The Nature Conservancy and more.

Despite bipartisan support, the bill stalled last year when committee Chair Brian Blake declined to advance the bill, in part due to objections from the Farm Bureau. The Farm Bureau’s opposition was surprising given the outwelling of support from actual farmers testifying in favor of the bill.

Although Sam Hunt from the 22nd legislative district did vote for the proposal, there are others in the 2nd, 20th and 22nd and 35th who did not. To help increase the likelihood of passage next year, calls from those of you who live in one of those districts can help push this over the line.

To ensure we pass the bill in 2020, we are launching a campaign focused on cultivating more interest among farmers and rural communities. We want to strengthen the bill and represent the people of Washington by collecting input from organizations and communities across the state for the 2020 legislative session. By working together, we will be able to secure a sustainable future that benefits our state and our nation.

Kyle Murphy is Executive Director of CarbonWA. He can be reached at kyle@carbonwa.org or 360-704-0484.



Sun Break Records

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by Greg Black & the Planetary People

When was the last time you bought a CD at Rainy Day or New Traditions? ***Rising, In the Wind,*** and ***A Lot Like You*** are available at **Rainy Day Records and New Traditions**

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greg2light@hotmail.com

you write to WiP

An open letter to Patty Murray

Help!

I am not an economist. It should not be necessary for all of us in America to be “national debt economists.” This is why we have a—branch government. To oversee our budget—our tax dollars. Unfortunately one of the parties, the supposedly fiscal conservative Republicans, with the help of lobbyists and corporations and a bloated military industrial complex has literally drained the coffers (not the swamp) for their own wealth and wealth being. Pure greed.

Now, America, if you are paying attention, is in a fiscal, environmental and consequently...health crisis. It is hard to have the time to analyze or see the light (or dark) at the end of the tunnel for those still working and paying taxes to support their families and an increasing heap of consuming dead wood.

As the 1% is excused from paying their fair share this makes it increasingly difficult for those paying more than their share. A system clearly not sustainable.

So although I am not an economist, I do know our economy has gone awry!

I feel it. When a pound of butter and a nutritious loaf of bread cost \$10 (or more) and a median priced fixer-upper house in Olympia, WA, lists at \$345,000, we have a problem.

It is not clear to me which people are doing great in Donald Trump’s world but I am thinking probably it is that top 1%-flying high. Those top five big Oil Giants who make more money than the rest of us combined. Or possibly it’s the Insurance Industry, which comes in earning second place?

Certainly it is not the people I know and see each day. These people are hoping for world peace, for some “new age” Boston Tea Party, a resistance, or at the very least a 21st century Robin Hood to get our money back for us...the money we lost in the 2008 Freddie & Fannie Wall Street predatory thievery.

Remember that? It’s coming ‘round, again. What are we to think? This time we have no more blood to give here in economically challenged America...no more houses to forfeit—that’s the truth!

*Carol Seaman, A displeased citizen
Aberdeen, WA 98520*



Six months ago, in Grays Harbor County

Six months ago, in the February 2019 issue of WIP, Linda Orgel reported on a meeting Congressman Derek Kilmer held to discuss economic development in Grays Harbor County. Orgel’s aim in writing was to question the dominant paradigm imposed on rural areas in the name of economic development. She stated her concern that, without critical reflection and organizing, the renewed push for economic development in Grays Harbor County would be framed in opposition to good jobs and a healthy environment. Orgel wrote, “rural areas, which are often depressed areas where people have fewer options for work also often contain the last vestiges of an unspoiled natural environment. Thus rural communities become battlegrounds for “jobs vs. environment.”

As evidence for her position, Orgel cited state lawmakers’ willingness to blame their inability to properly fund public schools on a choice to put protecting the endangered Marbled Murrelet over jobs, the same false dichotomy employed with the Spotted Owl.

New project begins in Grays Harbor County

This summer, a new non-profit organization is in the process of eliciting dialogue about economic development not opposed to living-wage jobs or to healthy ecosystems. Firelands Together (see column pg. 3 for more information) has designed a Cost of Living Survey to ask Washingtonians what their key concerns are. Along with those concerns, the survey also asks Washingtonians how they would design a New Green Deal for our state.

In addition to the survey,, Firelands Together staff are conducting listen-

ing tours in selected communities, and posting updates on their Facebook page. Below is a sample from a recent community are posting updates about this listening tour on their Facebook page, including this one from July 2:

“More photos from our Cost of Living listening project—we are hearing about what makes it so damn hard to make ends meet, and what we all can do about it. We’ve heard that people are ready for more good jobs that cultivate our forests and fisheries for generations to come, that put people to work fixing up and building housing we can afford, that support us all to have access to good health care, that help working families access affordable childcare, and more. Thank you to all who offered your voice! It starts with us.”

“Más fotos de nuestro proyecto de Escucha del Costo de Vida: escuchamos lo que hace que sea tan difícil llegar a fin de mes con tantas cuentas, y lo que todos podemos hacer al respecto. Hemos escuchado que las personas están listas para más buenos trabajos que cultivan nuestros bosques y pesquerías para las generaciones venideras, que ponen a la gente a trabajar arreglando y construyendo viviendas que podemos acceder, que nos ayudan a todos a tener acceso a una buena atención médica, que ayudan a las familias trabajadoras a acceder a guarderías asequibles, y más. ¡Gracias a todos los que ofrecieron vuestra voz! Comienza con nosotros/as...”

To find out more about the Firelands Together project, check out their Facebook page. You can find the Cost of Living survey at FirelandsWA.org.

“Are you going to just stand by?”

The WIP Publishing Committee

Willem Van Spronsen, 69, was shot and killed around 4 am on July 13 by police officers outside the Northwest Detention Center, a private immigration detainment facility in Tacoma, WA.

We are printing his statement, made public after his death, because reading it forces us to think about the way our government is persecuting those it deems inferior—and to ask what is our responsibility for that? It makes us conscious. The behavior of “good Germans” that facilitated a descent into barbarity. How do we avoid being “good Americans?” Even though we disagree with his way of responding, we accept that we must answer the question.

Van Spronsen grew up in the shadows of the Nazi occupation of Europe. He had, as he put it in his statement, an “unshakeable abhorrence for injustice.” In keeping with his beliefs, he wrote, “I promised myself that I would not be one of those who stands by as neighbors are torn from their homes and imprisoned for somehow being perceived as lesser.”

Accounts of what Van Spronsen was doing outside the detention center vary. According to the Tacoma-based grassroots collective, *La Resistencia*:

Based on available information, including the police scanner recording, Willem Van Spronsen, the protester killed, appears to have been targeting not the detention center itself, as has been widely reported in the media, but the parking lot across the street from the detention center which houses the NWDC’s transportation infrastructure.

This infrastructure includes a fleet of buses that transports immigrants to be caged at the detention center, and that transports immigrants from the detention center to the Yakima Airport, from which they are deported. Mr. Van Spronsen was apparently trying to set the deportation buses on fire when he was shot and killed.

Police reports and officials from the Northwest Detention Center claim Van Spronsen was trying to blow up a propane tank, an action that had potential to cause significant harm to employees and detainees.

Those who knew Van Spronsen, including friends, neighbors, and fam-

ily members, disagree. They point out that Van Spronsen’s actions occurred about six hours after a peaceful demonstration against ICE had ended, at a time when few if any other people would be around. Van Spronsen’s actions occurred on the one-year anniversary of a hunger strike conducted by people inside the Center and a parallel encampment of protestors outside of it. They also point out that

Van Spronsen’s actions occurred in the context of Trump’s declaration that ICE officials would be rounding up and arresting immigrant families—women and children included.

Friends and family stated that they believed Van Spronsen knew he would be killed for his actions. Van Spronsen alludes to this likelihood as well, through his reference to the Italian folksong *Bella Ciao* which was adopted as the anthem of the Italian Resistance in their struggle against Nazi German forces.



Photo by Mike Pelly

This is Willem Van Spronsen’s statement

“there’s wrong and there’s right.
it’s time to take action against the forces of evil.
evil says one life is worth less than another.
evil says the flow of commerce is our purpose here.
evil says concentration camps for folks deemed lesser are necessary.
the handmaid of evil says the concentration camps should be more humane.
beware the centrist.
i have a father’s broken heart
i have a broken down body
and i have an unshakable abhorrence of injustice.
that is what brings me here.
this is my clear opportunity to try to make a difference, i’d be an ingrate to be waiting for a more obvious invitation.

i follow three teachers:
don pritts, my spiritual guide, “love without action is just a word.”
john brown, my moral guide, “what is needed is action!”
emma goldman, my political guide
“if i can’t dance, i don’t want to be in your revolution.

i’m a head in the clouds dreamer, i believe in love and redemption.

i believe we’re going to win
i’m joyfully revolutionary. (we all should have been reading emma goldman in school instead of the jingo drivel we were fed. But i digress.) (we should all be looking at the photos of the YJP heroes should we falter and think our dreams are impossible, but i double digress. fight me.)

in these days of fascist hooligans preying on vulnerable people on our streets, in the name of the state or supported and defended by the state

in these days of highly profitable detention/concentration camps and a battle over the semantics,

in these days of hopelessness, empty pursuit and endless yearning

we are living in visible fascism ascendant. (i say visible, because those

paying attention watched it survive and thrive under the protection of the state for decades [see howard zinn, “a people’s history of the united states.”] now it unabashedly follows its agenda with open and full cooperation from the government. from governments around the world.

fascism serves the needs of the state serves the needs of business and at your expense. who benefits? jeff bezos, warren buffet, elon musk, tim cook, bill gates, betsy de vos, george soros, and need i go on? let me say it again: rich guys, (who think you’re not really all that good,) really dig government, (every government everywhere, including “communist” governments,) because they make rules that make rich guys richer. simple. don’t overthink it.

(are you patriots in the back paying attention?)

when i was a boy, in postwar holland, later france, my head was filled with stories of the rise of fascism in the 30’s. i promised myself that i would not be one of those who stands by as neighbors are torn from their homes and imprisoned for somehow being perceived as lesser.
you don’t have to burn the mother-fucker down, but are you just going to stand by?

this is the test of our fundamental belief in real freedom and our responsibility to each other.
this is a call to patriots, too, to stand against this travesty against everything that you hold sacred. i know you. i know that in your hearts, you see the dishonor in these camps. it’s time for you, too, to stand up to the money pulling the strings of every goddamn puppet pretending to represent us.

i’m a man who loves you all and this spinning ball so much that i’m going to fulfill my childhood promise to myself to be noble.

here it is, in these corporate for profit concentration camps.
here it is, in brown and nonconforming folks afraid to show their faces for fear of the police/migra/proud boys/the boss/beckies...
here it is, a planet almost used up by the market’s greed.

i’m a black and white thinker.
detention camps are an abomination.
i’m not standing by.
i really shouldn’t have to say any more than this.

i set aside my broken heart and i heal the only way i know how- by being useful.
i efficiently compartmentalize my pain...
and i joyfully go about this work.
(to those burdened with the wreckage from my actions, i hope that you will make the best use of that burden.)

to my comrades:

i regret that i will miss the rest of the revolution.
thank you for the honor of having me in your midst.

giving me space to be useful, to feel that i was fulfilling my ideals, has been the spiritual pinnacle of my life.

doing what i can to help defend my precious and wondrous people is an experience too rich to describe.

my trans comrades have transformed me, solidifying my conviction that we will be guided to a dreamed of future by those most marginalized among us today. i have dreamed it so clearly that i have no regret for not seeing how it turns out. thank you for bringing me so far along.

i am antifa, i stand with comrades around the world who act from the love of life in every permutation. comrades who understand that freedom means real freedom for all and a life worth living.

keep the faith! all power to the people!
bella ciao

audio manifesto: theSuper8.band-camp.com

don’t let your silly government agencies spend money “investigating” this one. i was radicalized in civics class at 13 when we were taught about the electoral college. it was at that point that i decided that the status quo might be a house of cards. further reading confirmed in the positive. i highly recommend reading!

i am not affiliated with any organization, i have disaffiliated from any organizations who disagree with my choice of tactics.

Mi son alzato

O bella ciao, bella ciao,
bella ciao, ciao, ciao
Una mattina mi son alzato
E ho trovato l’invasor
O partigiano, portami via
O bella ciao, bella ciao,
bella ciao, ciao, ciao
O partigiano, portami via
Ché mi sento di morir
O partigiano
Morir
Ciao, ciao
Morir
Bella ciao, ciao, ciao
O partigiano
O partigiano
Bella ciao, ciao, ciao
E se io muoio da partigiano
O bella ciao, bella ciao,
bella ciao, ciao, ciao
E se io muoio da partigiano
Tu mi devi seppellir

Strike while the iron is hot: #divestfromice victories and the movement ahead

Olympia Assembly

As the Abolish ICE movement erupts again, private prison corporations that contract with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to detain migrants are feeling the heat. GEO Group and CoreCivic, who together exert near duopolistic power over the private prison sector, have been hit by a wave of bank divestments. In the last few weeks, some of the industry's leading lenders, Bank of America, SunTrust and BNP Paribas (parent company of Bank of the West) announced plans to cut ties with private prisons. They join JPMorgan Chase and Wells Fargo, who agreed to cease further financing the companies in March 2019.

The majority of immigrant detainees (about 70%) are imprisoned in detention centers operated by private prison companies like CoreCivic and GEO Group. These companies are structured as Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs), which makes them particularly reliant for financing on large financial institutions and vulnerable to credit loss. Stocks in the industry are dropping, with CoreCivic down 27% and GEO down 22% over the last month. As GEO leadership admitted in May, divestment jeopardizes the industry's future.

The divestments have roughly correlated with a groundswell of rebellion. Large swathes of US society are recoiling in the face of the draconian xenophobia of the Trump administration, particularly after revelations detailing conditions endured by migrant children in mass detention. Never Again Action and Movimiento Cosecha have revived the disruptive spirit of Occupy ICE from a year ago, launching new rounds of blockades at detention centers, ICE Field Offices and the offices of political leaders.

In mid-June Block-the-Wall Network and Olympia Assembly called for a week of action against ICE profiteers from July 8 to July 12. Identifying pri-

vate prisons as a weak link within the deportation and detention infrastructure, the call urged coordinated direct action to shut down bank branches of Bank of America, PNC Bank, SunTrust

Before the week of action began, Bank of America divested, SunTrust divested on July 8, and Bank of the West followed suit on July 12.

and Bank of the West. Before the week of action began, Bank of America divested, SunTrust divested on July 8, and Bank of the West followed suit on July 12. PNC remains invested as of this writing.

During the week, Bank of the West branches were shuttered on multiple occasions in Seattle and Portland, anarchists took action against PNC in NYC and Asheville. ICE-tech collaborators Microsoft, Amazon and Palantir all faced protests. Phone zaps were also organized against PNC and Bank of the West branches. Although much credit must be extended to longstanding divestment campaigners, the intervention of anti-authoritarians advancing an explicit direct action strategy into the movement could have served as the last straw for some financial firms.

Widespread and targeted disruption can also likely explain the failure

of Trump's promised mass ICE raids to materialize. Here, the sabotage of transportation infrastructure at the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma, WA by Willem Van Spronsen warrants specific mention, while the movement generally can be credited with producing a hostile environment for ICE and Border Patrol agents. The true tactical diversity - from blockades, sabotage and divestment to popular education, mass marches and mutual aid - of Abolish ICE has been its greatest strength. This fluid repertoire of action has permitted participation of various form and allowed Abolish ICE to evade capture by NGOs or the Democratic Party. Divestment has been but one crucial element of this movement.

A list of sources, including links, can be found with the article at our website, www.olywip.org.

Ending the homeless cycle one life at a time

Ara Morgenstern

Stand Up for Kids aim to help Thurston County's vulnerable youth through a unique approach to support. This entails more than just handing out resources and saying, "God bless you"—not that this isn't also productive. But much more is needed at this time because the homeless population is under attack.

Stand Up for Kids is a national non-profit organization with a local chapter here in Olympia existing since 2010. The Olympia chapter was awarded Program of the Year in 2018 by the Olympia City Council and serves all of Thurston County.

Stand Up for Kids works with youth 24 and under. Volunteers for the organization aim to make connections and form relationships with the youth. In this way, they can establish peer counselling with the youth. With these long-lasting relationships in place, Stand Up ensures that the youth is guided and helped every step of the

way when they need it. They aim to solve the problem long-term through continued support.

In many counties and cities, it's considered a crime to camp on public property. Many of these laws are since reversed or remain unenforced due to a recent court ruling in Idaho that such laws are unconstitutional.

However, the issue of stigma remains. At city council meetings, the stereotypes fly out from concerned families, mostly parents that don't want their children exposed to the assumed dangers, such as violence, substance abuse, and sex trafficking. Some of these dangers do exist—there are a number of these issues within the homeless population—but it's a smaller amount than most of society thinks and cutting off the homeless population from society is not going to solve the problem.

Generally speaking, these dangers are exaggerated and applied to the homeless population exclusively even though the same problems exist in the housed population. It is essential to address the problem, not the symptoms and to not hide the problem.

Homelessness is a complex issue involving available housing, job security, wages, abuse, and many other factors. Many people attempt to simplify the issue to laziness or unwillingness to work within society, but this is inaccurate. Many homeless people have jobs. Others are refused jobs due to a criminal record or other reasons.

Whatever the case, it's essential to recognize that Olympia's economy doesn't support the State's minimum wage as a living wage. Expensive housing drives people out of their homes regardless of their employment status. Other times, the person never learned from anyone how to properly take care of their space, and they get evicted. It's additionally difficult to secure housing when you often need references and a solid credit history, something generally lacking in the homeless population.

The conditions that homeless people face aren't friendly. While on the streets, people face exposure to disease, sexual and physical assault and more. Many privileged people with homes would claim that those condi-

tions exist because of the climate the homeless population made for themselves. This might be partly true, but blaming the victim never solved anything. Not to mention, several homeless people report harassment from housed people on the grounds that they're homeless.

These conditions don't have to be the reality people face. Many organizations in downtown Olympia provide temporary or long-term support and assist in the process of getting homeless people into homes. Mama Dee's and Crazy Faith provide street meals, Rosie's Place and the Purple House provide shelter overnight, Interfaith Works is currently working on setting up a site for transitional housing on Martin Way, and the National Runaway Safeline provides a line to call at any time and day for help, counselling and advice.

What happens to people that don't know how to access these resources or are too embarrassed to accept help? They often find themselves far worse off than the already poor conditions homeless people face. Youth are the least likely to seek these available resources and are thus left in more vulnerable positions than most of the homeless population.

However, there is hope for even the most vulnerable. Nina is one of the youths Stand Up for Kids consistently works with. She connected with Stand Up for Kids in August of last year. She was attracted to the idea of peer counselling, and Stand Up regularly works with her, checking in regularly and offering services.

Nina fled to the streets with a history of abusive situations in foster care and later with her abusive biological mother. Although Nina goes through many ups and downs in her life journey, she remains hopeful for what her future holds. Stand Up for Kids is standing right beside her every step of the way.

If you or any youth you know may be in need of services, please feel free to call Stand Up for Kids at (253)331-3490 or message the Olympia chapter's Facebook page. If you wish to help the homeless population you may donate to Stand Up for Kids online and choose your local chapter.

Ara Morgenstern is a white, queer, and nonbinary student at The Evergreen State College studying writing. They live in Olympia with their cat.

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Students rally on climate resolution before vote leads to ratification

An urgency to address climate change by a group of tenacious middle and high schoolers was on display July 13 when about 50 people gathered for a rally at the state capitol to share their hopes and fears about life during climate uncertainty, calling listeners to stay engaged in the struggle despite battle fatigue.

Eight student members of Climate Conscious Youth of Olympia (CCYO) and two city council members addressed Olympia's unfinished readiness plan known as the Climate Inheritance Resolution, an item on the city's agenda which was slated for vote ten days after the rally on July 23.

In a nightmare scenario echoed by other speakers, Hollen Foster Grahler, a senior at Olympia High School, spoke of staying up late at night, “frantically searching for a solution to the climate crisis,” noting the universal feeling of overwhelm is better served with action.

Riona Keenan-DeVargas agreed, cautioning “we can’t just kick the can down the street and hope someone else deals with it. We are the ones who need to shake the industries, the politicians, the world - awake. We now have the choice to create a planet that we can all be proud of, with clean soil, air, and water, our planet, the perfect home for all life on earth.”

Although the earth's "case of the humans" is definitely getting worse, Daniel Sherfinsky challenged, we can transform our fear and depression about environmental collapse by remembering our part in "the beautiful worldwide movement" to save it.

The time for debate has passed, said Kaylee Shin. It's time to pick an issue like climate change, make it personal and "dive deep."

Voicing her appreciation for their young colleagues, city council members Lisa Parshley and Nathaniel Jones praised CCYO students for keeping pressure on them the last two years in order to ratify the climate resolution agenda item. After the rally, Parshley recalled meeting with Kaylee Shin and Leah Major (a Reeve's eighth grader at the time) this spring to modify the resolution to work with existing regional agreements for Lacey and Tumwater.

"Olympia is up there with top cities in what's already being implemented for climate change. For the most part we do a great job. But we hadn't moved on the climate resolution. The kids pushed us on it. They took the lead. I

mean it when I say these guys inspired me. It took two years but they never gave up and I don't think it would be coming to a vote if they had."

Updated at presstime: On July 23, 2019, the Olympia City Council made history by voting to pass the Climate Inheritance Resolution as drafted and proposed by the Olympia High School Climate Action Club. This resolution calls for net zero carbon emissions by 2040, as opposed to the region's current plan, which calls for an 85% reduction of 2015 levels by 2050. The 85% plan doesn't offer what has been deemed scientifically necessary to address climate change.

Other student viewpoints expressed at the CCYO rally:

- ▶ The New Green Deal is the best idea anyone has had so far. Beat it or step aside.
- ▶ Research a company's ethics before you patronize them.
- ▶ Give vegetarianism a try. Put down the beef.
- ▶ Imagine it's you and your relatives who are in danger, not just polar bears on ice floes.
- ▶ When you lose heart don't give up. Focus on the earth's beauty. But also, don't ignore the decimation that's all around you.



Photo by Dan Leahy

Up close and personal with whale Baleen and vertebrae and more at the Estuarium Sound Cruise

This September 15, the Estuarium is celebrating 11 years of its SSEA, the Sound Cruise! Join them for an amazing day on the water, discussing large marine mammals and enjoying tasty treats and a no host bar. Enjoy a day aboard *My Girl* celebrating our unique and beautiful estuary ecosystem. Expand your knowledge of Puget Sound's majestic marine mammals with guest speaker Casey McLean, Executive Director of SR3 (Sealife Response, Rehabilitation and Research), and Veterinary Nurse.

When: September 15, 2019, 1-5 pm Where: Port Plaza Dock, Olympia

Tickets and information available
on the Estuarium website at **www.
SSEAcen.org/sseathesound/**

\$85 non-members (\$100 after September 8)—\$75 members (\$90 after September 8)



The Puget Sound Estuarium's mission is to foster learning opportunities that inspire people of all ages to connect with, protect and enjoy the unique estuary environment of south Puget Sound. Their motto is "Explore—Connect—Inspire!" Their programs include Estuarium, Meet the Beach, K-12 Education, Pier Peer and Connecting the Community. They create opportunities for the public to learn about estuaries, geology natural and cultural history, marine life and the human impacts on Puget Sound.

Lesson #3: Rethinking Everything

Before we can think about “sustaining” the world for the future, we must actively repair the environmental and social damages inflicted by our precursors, from which we have benefitted comprehensively. As designers, planners, and clients of the built environment, we need a more integrated, accountable and proactive approach, one that strives for the understanding, restoration and enrichment of the natural systems within which human society is integrally embedded and upon which our survival is wholly dependent.

—Sarah Ichioka,
environmental and social
impact consultant.

water is life

Who’s running the foreign policy show?

Will the B-Team achieve its goal of war with Iran?

Jake Johnson

With the United Kingdom and Iran in the midst of a tense and dangerous standoff after the tit-for-tat seizure of oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz, international observers are warning that the British government has fallen into a trap set by hawkish US national security adviser John Bolton that could lead to a devastating military conflict.

Secretary Bolton acts surprised

After British commandos early in July swarmed and detained Iran's Grace 1 oil supertanker in waters east of Gibraltar, Bolton applauded the move as "excellent news" and said "America and our allies will continue to prevent regimes in Tehran and Damascus from profiting off this illicit trade."

Simon Tisdall, foreign affairs editor and commentator for The Guardian, wrote that:

"Bolton's delighted reaction suggested the seizure was a surprise. But accumulating evidence suggests the opposite is true, and that Bolton's national security team was directly involved in manufacturing the Gibraltar incident. The suspicion is that Conservative politicians, distracted by picking a new prime minister, jockeying for power, and preoccupied with Brexit, stumbled into an American trap."

US surveillance and tip off for the UK

Shortly after British forces seized Grace 1, Spanish Foreign Minister Josep Borrell said the UK's capture of the tanker was carried out under orders from the United States.

Tisdall pointed to a story in the Spanish newspaper El Pais, which reported that the Iranian tanker "had been under sur-

veillance by US satellites since April."

"Although Spanish officials said they would have intercepted the ship 'if we had had the information and the opportunity,' Spain took no action at the time," Tisdall wrote. "But Bolton, in any case, was not relying on Madrid. The US had already tipped off Britain.

Bolton was among the officials urging Trump to retaliate with airstrikes.

On 4 July, after Grace 1 entered British-Gibraltar territorial waters, the fateful order was issued in London - it is not known by whom - and 30 marines stormed aboard."

A predictable reaction with unknown consequences

The UK's seizure of Grace 1 - denounced by the Iranian government as an act of "maritime piracy" - led Iran to counter on July 19 by capturing a British tanker in the Strait of Hormuz, ratcheting up tensions in the Persian Gulf and prompting the British government to warn of "serious consequences" if the tanker was not released.

The perilous standoff is precisely the outcome Bolton was seeking. "The Bolton gambit succeeded," Tisdall wrote. "Despite its misgivings, Britain has been co-opted on to the front line of Washington's confrontation with Iran. The process of polarization, on both sides, is accelerating. The nuclear deal is closer to total collapse. And by threatening Iran with 'serious consequences,' without knowing what that may entail, Britain blindly dances

to the beat of Bolton's war drums."

Bolton and his B Team

Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif offered a similar assessment in tweets on Sunday. Having failed to lure Donald Trump into War of the Century, and fearing collapse of his B Team, Ambassador John Bolton is turning his venom against the UK in hopes of

dragging it into a quagmire."

The "B Team" refers to Bolton, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed.

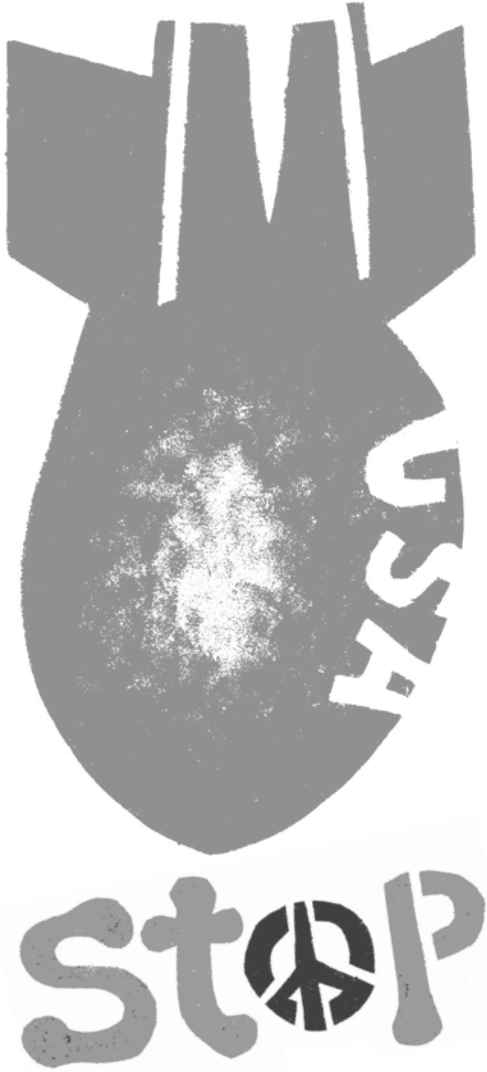
Bolton in particular has been at the center of escalating military tensions between the US and Iran, which were sparked by Trump's decision last year to violate the Iran nuclear accord.

A pattern of provocation

Last May, Bolton used the routine deployment of a US bomber task force to the Middle East to threaten Iran with "unrelenting force." After Iran in June shot down an unmanned US drone that it said violated its airspace, Bolton was among the officials urging Trump to retaliate with airstrikes. The President approved the strikes then backed off at the last minute.

Trita Parsi, executive vice president of the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft, warned that by following Washington's orders in the Gulf, the UK is repeating the mistakes it made in the lead-up to the US-led invasion of Iraq. "In 2003, the UK broke with the EU and foolishly sided with Bush over Iraq. London not only devastated the Middle East, it also undermined the EU," Parsi tweeted. "Now, the UK is doing Bolton's bidding and allowing him to make the UK/EU collateral damage in his war plans with Iran.

This article was adapted from "The Bolton Gambit Succeeded," by Jake Johnson, staff writer at Common Dreams, published on July 22, 2019. It appears here under Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 License. You can read the original at <https://www.commondreams.org/news/2019/07/22/bolton-gambit-succeeded>.



Nominations open for 2019 YWCA Olympia womxn* & business of achievement

25th Annual Event Features Special Guest Ijeoma Oluo

(OLYMPIA, Wash.) – YWCA Olympia is pleased to announce that nominations for their Annual Womxn & Business of Achievement awards will be accepted from now to Friday, August 23, 2019 at 5:00 pm.

Established in 1994, the YWCA Olympia Womxn of Achievement Award is one of the most prestigious honors for womxn and businesses in the South Sound and seeks to center and recognize the accomplishments, professional contributions, and public service performed by womxn in the community. The Womxn of Achievement

award recognizes those who embody outstanding leadership qualities, are exceptionally committed to their community and/or profession, and live or work in the greater South Sound area. Our Honorees are working to eliminate racism and sexism to empower womxn, have advanced the political, social and/or economic status of womxn and girls, and embody the YWCA's vision of a world where all people are valued, live free from oppression, and thrive in a just society.

YWCA is also seeking nominations for employers who are actively working to create a more equitable workplace. We encourage nominations for both private and public employers as well as large and small companies in the South Sound (Thurston, Mason & Lewis Counties).

This year's special guest is Ijeoma Oluo, a Seattle-based writer, speaker, and Internet Yeller. She's the author of the *New York Times* Best-Seller *So You Want to Talk about Race*, published in January by Seal Press. Named one of The Root's 100 Most Influential African Americans in 2017, one of the

eliminating racism
empowering women

ywca

Most Influential People in Seattle by *Seattle Magazine*, one of the 50 Most Influential Women in Seattle by *Seattle Met*, and winner of the of the 2018 Feminist Humanist Award by the American Humanist Society, Oluo's work focuses primarily on issues of race and identity, feminism, social and mental health, social justice, the arts, and personal essay. Her writing

has been featured in *The Washington Post*, *NBC News*, *Elle Magazine*, *TIME*, *The Stranger*, and the *Guardian*, among other outlets.

When is the event?

The Annual Womxn of Achievement Celebration will take place on Saturday, November 2 at South Puget Sound Community College.

When can I nominate someone?

The nomination portal will open on July 25 and will consist of three questions which can be completed on the agency website (www.ywcaofolympia.org) or in a Word document.

When will tickets go on sale and where can I get them?

Ticket information will be available online at under Events (2019 Womxn of Achievement). All proceeds benefit YWCA Olympia.

For more information Contact Cherie Reeves Sperr, Development Director at 352-0593 / crsperr@ywcaofolympia.org

**YWCA is using the "label" womxn to encompass a broader range of identities than woman and is based on self-identity*

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Earth might have a future if we summon one trillion trees and build climate-resilient cities

Brian Oaster

In decades past, we were taught to save the trees. As it turns out, it is we who need the trees to save us.

The most current report from the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) recommends adding a billion hectares of additional forests to the earth's surface to help slow the runaway train of atmospheric degradation.

Now, new research conducted by the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich finds that we have enough space to plant a trillion trees, or 0.9 billion hectares of forests, an area roughly the size of the United States, without even infringing upon existing urban centers or farmlands.

We already have room for all these new forests

The team, led by ecologists Jean-Francois Bastin and Tom Crowther, examined 80,000 satellite photographs of existing forest coverage across the Earth's surface. They looked at the remaining landmasses according to soil conditions and climate characteristics to define what kinds of forests could go where.

The nations with the most room for reforestation projects are, not surprisingly, those with an abundance of landmass: China, Russia, the US, Canada, Australia, and Brazil.

Large scale reforestation could, in the coming decades, soak up 205 gigatons of carbon from the Earth's atmosphere. That's about five times the amount of global carbon emissions produced during 2018, and two-thirds of all human-based carbon emissions since the 1800s.

Crowther calls it "by far—by thousands of times—the cheapest climate change solution", and the most effective one. Current trends forecast a rise of 1.5° C

to arrive by 2030. Restoring a billion hectares of forest could help postpone that until 2050. It's not a substitute for reducing fossil fuel emissions, but it will buy us some time. "None of this works without emissions cuts."

Cautious voices remind us there's no substitute for halting emissions

"Restoration of trees may be 'among the most effective strategies', but it is very far indeed from 'the best climate change solution available', and a long way behind reducing fossil fuel emissions to net-zero," says Oxford Professor of Geosystem Science Myles Allen, who was not involved in the study.

"Yes, heroic reforestation can help, but it is time to stop suggesting there is a 'nature-based solution' to ongoing fossil fuel use. There isn't. Sorry."

change," she said, but called the analysis "admittedly simplified" and cautioned that "we shouldn't take it as gospel."

New forests will regenerate biodiversity

New forests and reforestation will have positive ecological consequences beyond just creating widespread carbon sinks. They will also increase wildlife biodiversity.

Right now, 80 percent of the earth's biodiversity is protected by indigenous communities who make up only 5 percent of the human population. Reforesting and protecting bio-

diversity will also mean protecting indigenous people.

But even if reforestation is successful,

coming 'climate apartheid', wherein the wealthy have access to protection from the consequences of climate change, while the rest of the world suffers for it.

"Even if current targets are met, tens of millions will be impoverished, leading to widespread displacement and hunger," said Philip Alston, UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights. "Climate change threatens to undo the last 50 years of progress in development, global health, and poverty reduction," Alston said. "It could push more than 120 million more people into poverty by 2030 and will have the most severe impact in poor countries, regions, and the places that poor people live and work."

The irony of this is that those who are primarily responsible for causing climate change will be those who won't have to suffer for it. "Per- versely, while people in poverty are responsible for just a fraction of global emissions, they will bear the brunt of climate change, and have the least capacity to protect themselves," Alston said. "We risk a 'climate apartheid' scenario where the wealthy pay to escape overheating, hunger, and conflict while the rest of the world is left to suffer."

Many residents of Bangladesh, for example, a country under pressure from an influx of Rohingya refugees from Myanmar, will likely move from dangerously low lying areas to towns farther inland where the impact of climate change is less immediate.

The International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCD) in Dhaka is developing a plan for "climate-resilient, migrant-friendly cities, and towns" to address the intersecting crises of climate change and refugee migration. The ICCD has identified inland towns that could triple in size and support the traditional cultural practices of migrants and refugees.

The green elephant in the room

Climate-friendly cities and vast reforestation could help soften the impact of climate change. But the elephant in the room is still that the responsibility for emissions, ecological destruction, and climate change falls largely on the US military and a handful of private companies. If we're going to stop them, we're going to have to do more than just plant a trillion trees.

But widespread reforestation, combined with intelligent urban planning to support migration, could help usher us into a more sustainable future. We spent the last two hundred years cutting down the trees. We need them to come back now.

Brian Oaster is a tribal member of the Choctaw Nation, Brian grew up in the Silicon Valley under the technological mentorship of Steve Wozniak. He's lived, worked and traveled all over the world, and now writes and makes films in the Pacific Northwest.

Reprinted from Indian County Today. The article originally appeared in Etal. media

Heroic reforestation can help, but it is time to stop suggesting there is a 'nature-based solution' to ongoing fossil fuel use. There isn't. Sorry.

Laura Duncanson, a carbon storage researcher at NASA and the University of Maryland in College Park, who was also not involved in the research, agreed. "Forests represent one of our biggest natural allies against climate

that doesn't mean there won't still be fallout for human populations.

World leaders prepare for a 'climate apartheid'

The United Nations has warned of a

Two readers posted online comments—Will Kaiser Woods become a playground for mountain bikers?

I suggest you take a look at the parks that Evergreen has completed in the past few years and your concerns will be no more. They train the volunteers well and there are no issues with building trails in any location. They have helped fix hiking trails that have fallen into disrepair due to lack of or improper maintenance. As with any group, there are those that can ruin it for others, but this is not the majority in any group and projects like this should not be shut down due to the concerns of a minority group. If that were to happen, nothing would ever get done, improved, or changed.

—Andrew Campbell

I am one of the park stewards Evonne mentioned in the article. Like Evonne, I was also stunned to find out about the extensive planning already occur-

ring. Not only do I live in Ken Lake, but as the park steward I would expect that I would be contacted very early on in this process. I know the park very well and I am a mountain biker. It is not suitable for a mountain bike only park.

There are four issues that must be addressed before any development, re-

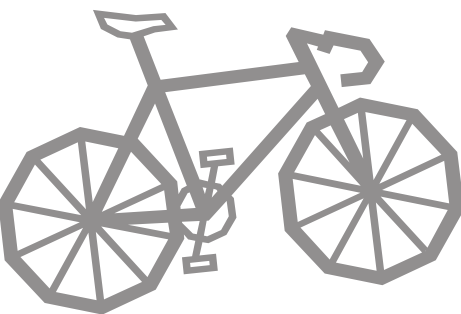
gardless of trail type, can occur. These are the following: buffers around the wetlands, runoff into Westbrook and Ken lake, location of a parking area outside of Westbrook, and toilets. The first two issues preclude the development of trails "in any location" in the park.

Regarding the Ken Lake board, they have not staked out a position in large part because there is at present nothing specific to take a position on. The original proposal has not been presented as a final proposal. When there is a final proposal, I and others will be pressing the board to take a position.

Given some of the comments by mountain biking organizations that I have read, I have wondered whether they have been to the park. You can see these comments on the OPARD website. I suspect not.

FYI: This area, now a city park, has been used by people hiking and mountain biking from Westbrook and Ken Lake for decades.

—Bruce Treichler



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An icon of a computer keyboard key with the letters "Esc" on it.

An icon of a pencil, oriented vertically.

Some Olympians and their overlapping connections

Our roving researcher

Any organization can be thought of as a pyramid: the base, the largest area, is made up of low to mid-level employees who go about their jobs, doing whatever the level of managers above them dictates. It is only at the very top of each pyramid, the capstone, where CEOs and board chairs sit, that the deepest truths of that organization's agenda could be known.

Now imagine a cluster of pyramids representing banking, insurance, military, real estate, finance, government, etc. Atop each pyramid sit a few people – the same people on each capstone! The CEO of one corporation is on the board of three others. In other words, power begets power. The same few individuals hold great power over our lives.

Do things run in a similar fashion at the local municipal level? Below is a snapshot of some of the most connected people in Thurston County. Often, wealthy individuals overseeing large budgets and/or workforces, real estate dealings and holdings, military and/or government contracts. Many know each other and have business dealings with one another. The fun lies in determining where they intersect.

- **Fred Goldberg**—Board Member and Owner of Saltchuk Resources (which owns TOTE Maritime having a major interest in the LNG facility that was planned for Tacoma, Foss Maritime, Aloha Air Cargo, and many other shipping/distribution companies, with annual revenues of \$2.7B), longtime Board Chair of Panorama, Board Member of Columbia Bank (with more than \$12B in assets), longtime Board of Trustees member (currently Vice Chair, formerly Chair) of The Evergreen State College (TESC), and Board Member of Initiative for Global Development
- **Denny Heck**—US Congressional Representative for District 10, net worth estimated over \$7M, co-

founded Intrepid Learning Systems (sold partially to Xerox in 2014 and the remainder sold to VitalSource in 2017), co-founded TVW in 1993, and early investor in RealNetworks

- **Doug Mah**—Owner of Doug Mah & Associates (clients include FORMA Construction, Thomas Architecture Studios, SCJ Alliance, Network Communications International, The Boys and Girls Club of Thurston County, TOGETHER!, The Roundtable of Thurston County, The Port of Olympia, Cheryl Selby, Joe Downing, and Chris Lanese), former Mayor and former City Council Member of Olympia, Board Vice Chair of Capital Medical Center (owned by RCCH HealthCare Partners), Board of Trustees Chair of South Puget Sound Community College (SPSCC), longtime Board Chair of Washington State Employees Credit Union (WSECU), Lobbyist (or head of Public Policy Division) of Thurston County Chamber of Commerce, Board Member of Thurston County Food Bank, Club Service Chair and Political Candidate Forum Facilitator for Gateway Rotary, and Thurston Mason Advisory Council Member for Bloodworks Northwest
- **Ralph Munro**—Former Secretary of State of Washington, Board Member of Panorama, Board Member of TVW, Board President of Shared Strategy for Puget Sound, Member of Mainstream Republicans of



Washington, Former Board of Trustees Member of Western Washington University, Former Co-Chair of the International Taskforce of the Council of State Governments, Former President Seattle Rotary, Former Board Member of Thurston First Bank (now merged with Commencement Bank with over \$300M in combined assets), Former Board Member of Prepared Response, Inc (acquired by Venuetize in 2017), and many other former Boards

- **Cheryl Strange**—Washington Department of Social & Health Services Secretary (with over \$7B annual budget and over 18,000 employees), former CEO Western States Hospital, Former Assistant Director for DSHS Mental Health Division
- **Steve Hall**—City Manager of Olympia, Former Assistant City Manager of Olympia (with over \$150M annual budget), Member (or Former Member?) of Olympia Kiwanis
- **Karen Fraser**—Former Washington State Senator for Legislative District 22, Former Thurston Coun-

ty Commissioner, Former Mayor of Lacey, Board of Trustees Chair of The Evergreen State College (TESC), Board of Trustees Member of Humanities Washington, Board Member Olympia World Affairs Council, Advisory Board Member of UW Evans School of Public Policy & Governance, Former President of Washington State Association of Counties, Former Adjunct Faculty at TESC, and many other Former Boards

- **Charles Strader**—CEO and CFO of Panorama (around 400 employees)

- **Jon Tunheim**—Thurston County Prosecuting Attorney, Board President of United Way of Thurston County, Board of Regents Member and Past Chair of Leadership Thurston by Thurston County Chamber of Commerce, Member of Olympia Rotary, Former Board Member of Childcare Action Council, Former Board Member of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwest Washington, Former Board Member of Family Support Center of South Sound, and many other Boards

- **David Schaffert**—Longtime President/CEO of Thurston County Chamber of Commerce, Coordinating Council Chair of Thurston Thrives, Board of Regents Member of Leadership Thurston, Board Member of United Way of Thurston County, Board Member of Pacific Mountain Workforce Development Council, Port of Olympia Vision 2050 Taskforce Member, Board Member (or Former Member?) of Thurston Transportation Oriented Development, and Former Lobbyist (or Director of Governmental Affairs) of Olympia Master Builders

- **Roger Millar**—Washington State Department of Transportation Secretary (over 7,000 employees)
- **Sam Reed**—Former Secretary of State of Washington, Former Thurston County Auditor, Founding Board Member and Chair Emeritus of Mainstream Republicans of Washington, longtime Board Member and Board Chair of TVW, Member and Former President of Olympia Kiwanis, Former Board of Trustees Member of Washington State Historical Society, Former President of Ballet Northwest, and many other Boards

- **Brian Vance**—Board Chair of Heritage Financial Corporation (over \$5B in assets), longtime Former CEO of Heritage Bank, and Former Board of Trustees Member of SPSCC.

This list was created by an Olympia native whose hobby is finding connections.

Insights for effective grassroots organizing

None of the positive changes that have improved our nation's political or social lives were gifts from Congress or big business.

Women's right to vote, labor unions, environmental laws, civil rights advances for many kinds of people, and other accomplishments were won only because of smart, courageous nonviolent grassroots organizing.

The August 2019 episode of "Glen's Parallax Perspectives" will help you become more effective in working for the political, economic and social changes you want to see.

This month's interview features three experienced grassroots organizers—Holly Gwinn Graham, Bob Zeigler, and Glen Anderson—sharing insights that will strengthen your ability to organize.

Glen summarizes a profoundly democratic model of putting "We the People" on top, as Jefferson and our nation's founders had intended. This validates the strategy of using

grassroots organizing to build movements to solve social, economic and political problems on an ongoing basis, rather than assume that occasional voting can suffice.

All three briefly discuss nonviolence as a crucial method as well as our goal for society. We emphasize and share examples of bringing more kinds of people into movements, using arts and music, being proactive and creative, devising smart outreach strategies and communicating with the public.

Watch on your computer or on TCTV

Everyone can watch this interview or see a summary of what we said (plus get a list of links to further information) through Glen's blog, www.parallaxperspectives.org. Cable TV subscribers in Thurston County can watch on Thurston Community Television (TCTV) Mondays at 1:30 pm, Wednesdays at 5:00 pm, and Thursdays at 9:00 pm. Questions? Contact Glen Anderson, at (360) 491-9093 and glenanderson@integra.net

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Special Events

Sasquatch revealed!

Aug 1-31. 10 am to 4 pm. Lacey Museum and Lacey City Hall. For thousands of years, Sasquatch has been an important part of Native culture. In the last two centuries, it has become a part of the wider cultural phenomenon as non-Natives also reported its existence. Be prepared! There may be a sasquatch in your future.

Night out for Safety and Liberation

Tues, Aug 6, 6 - 8 pm. YWCA Friendship Hall, 220 Union Ave SE. Out, which centers its definition of safety a response to the traditional National Night around policing activities. We will share dinner and conversation, discuss what "safety + liberation" means for our communities RSVP to Tatomya at twimbish@ywcaofolympia.org. FREE. To learn more, please visit nosl.us

Economic Investment Initiative

Tues, Aug 6 to Thurs Aug 8. South Puget Sound Community College, Mottman Road

Help for veterans transitioning back to civilian life. Town Hall to raise concerns; Claims Clinic; Benefits Fair; Jobs Fair; workshops and presentations. Go to https://spsc.edu/events-calendar and search for the initiative. FREE

Grand Oly Opry

Sat. Aug 10, 7:30 pm. Rhythm and Rye on Capital Way.

Benefit for Interfaith Works featuring Oly Mountain Boys, Anne Shepherd, Rock Candy Burlesque and more. \$10 donation suggested.

It takes a farm to throw a party!

Sat, Aug 10, 5 pm, The Farm, 2406 Delphi Rd SW

Music and signature cocktails, a catered farm to table dinner, live auction, comedy and farm tours. Tickets \$35 - \$100; google for "It takes a farm to throw a party" and select "GiveLively,"Fundraiser by Nature Nurtures Farm

Stories in the Dark

Sat, Aug 10, 7 pm, Priest Point Park, 2600 East Bay Drive

Family stories at 7:00 pm followed by a break and more spooky and dramatic stories for older kids and adults. South Sound Story Guild. FREE

Sierra Club picnic

Wednesday, August 14, 5-7 pm, at Priest Point Park, Kitchen 1.

The Club provide the basics, and side dishes are welcome. Endorsed candidates will be allowed to make brief (1-2 minute remarks). Other "green groups" may also bring campaign literature and materials.

Family Movie Night

Wed. Aug 14, 6 pm at the Olympia Center, 222 Columbia Street

Trolls, an animated musical adventure. Bring pillows & sleeping bags. \$5 individual, \$10 family. Pizza available for extra \$. Benefit for the Pizza Klatch.

Ice Cream Social

Sat, Aug 17, 2 pm. Decatur Woods Park in West Olympia

Join us for ice cream/sorbet and lawn games, and learn a little about Slow Food. Hosted by Slow Foods Olympia. FREE.

Olympia Indivisible picnic

Sun, Aug 18, 4-8 pm. Priest Point Park 2600 East Bay Drive NE, Shelter #1
Save the date - bring yourself, family, and friends to the Second Annual Olympia

Indivisible Picnic!

Old-fashioned and family-friendly. Meet your fellow Indivisiblers!!

OlyStory: Fighting Back

Tues, Aug 20, 7 pm, Rhythm and Rye, 311 Capitol Way N

Story Slam for over 21.

Share stories based with theme: Fighting Back. Suggested donation: \$5 - \$10.

Stonewall YouthGlitter Camp

Mon, Aug 26, 4 pm to Thurs, Augs 29, Starts at 1 pm/ Sound View Camp and Retreat Center, 8515 Key Peninsula Hwy SW, Longbranch, WA. Youth-led workshops, open mic, nature walks, storytelling, and sitting by a cozy fire; anti-oppression and self-care centered activities. \$170 per person, or pay what you can. Sign up at the Stonewall Youth website.

Waking up to this life

Fri, Aug 30, 6 pm to Augt 31, 5 pm. Friends Meeting House, 3201 Boston Harbor Road NE.

Explore Buddhist principles and practices for waking up to everyday life. Some practices for healing the Heart-Mind in everyday life. Free. Register by googling "Waking Up to This Life."

Inaugural Letter writing meet-up

Sat, Sept 7, 10 am to 1 pm. The EcoHouse, 211 Adams Street, SE.

Check in at 10:00. Opening ceremony at 11. Cut the Inaugural Ribbon, coffee, raffles at 11-11:12:00. Prizes - stationery sets pencil holders shirts and ??? 12-1:00 letter writing! Use vintage typewriters, unique paper and envelopes! And the Mail Art Lover will lead you to create beauty out of junk mail! South Sound Letter Writing Society

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Think you're WiP material? Read through our mission and guidelines on page 2. If that describes your kind of writing, send us a sample! We can't pay you but we'll help with editing and get your issue in front of thousands of readers.

August 2019

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Works In Progress



August 2019 – Works In Progress – August 2019