

Events & Announcements



PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

Powell Barnett Park Fitness Zone

Four generations of the Barnett Family showed up for the Grand Opening of the Powell Barnett Park Fitness Zone on April 30. The new exercise equipment includes a Chest/Back Press, Twister, Elliptical, Ab Crunch/Leg Lifter, Cardio Stepper, Plyometrics, and Parallel Bars.

Seattle News Briefs

First Zika Case Reported in King County

King County’s first case of Zika infection was reported Wednesday by Public Health – Seattle & King County.

The illness was identified in a man in his forties who had recently been in Colombia, a country that has Zika virus spreading actively and is on the list of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) travel advisories.

This is the third case of Zika found in Washington state. All three cases were found in people who became infected while in countries that have current Zika outbreaks. With ongoing widespread outbreaks in the Americas and the Caribbean including Puerto Rico, the number of Zika cases among travelers visiting or returning to King County and elsewhere in the mainland United States will likely increase.

According to health officials, this Zika case does not pose a risk to the public in Washington state. Zika virus is primarily spread through the bite of infected Aedes aegypti and Aedes albopictus mosquitoes, or less commonly, through sexual contact with a recently infected man. The types of mosquitoes that transmit Zika are not found in the Pacific Northwest so local health officials do not expect Zika virus to spread.

Symptoms of Zika are generally mild and include fever, rash, joint pain and redness of the eyes. Symptoms typically begin two to seven days after being bitten by an infected mosquito. Many people who get Zika have no symptoms at all. There is no vaccine to prevent infection or medicine to treat Zika.

Zika infection is a very serious concern for pregnant women because of its link with a birth defect in newborns called microcephaly, an abnormally small brain and skull, and other poor pregnancy outcomes. Zika is also linked to Guillan-Barré Syndrome, a problem marked by muscle weakness and sometimes paralysis.

The CDC has determined that Zika can also be spread by an infected man to his sexual partners, even when he does not have symptoms or know that he is infected. It’s important for men who have traveled to an area with Zika to follow CDC’s guidance to prevent sexual transmission of Zika, even if they don’t feel sick.

Communicable disease experts at Public Health – Seattle & King County have been working with local health care providers to identify and evaluate potential Zika infections. To date, over 180 patients in King County have had blood samples sent to the CDC for Zika testing. The test reported today is the first to confirm Zika infection in a King County resident.

For more information, visit www.kingcounty.gov/zika and www.publichealthinsider.com.

Murray Proposes Funding Plan for Additional Police Officers

Seattle Mayor Ed Murray last week proposed a funding plan to finance the hiring of 200 new police officers and investments in the City’s 911 call center as proposed in his 2016 State of the City address.

Murray will finance the expansion of the Seattle Police Department through reprioritizing existing resources, identifying efficiencies and by increasing selected fees and taxes on Seattle businesses.

The addition of 200 officers by the end of 2019 would grow Seattle Police Department to 1,464 officers, the highest in the history of the department. This level of expansion is in line with the recently completed police staffing study conducted by Berkshire Advisors.

The cost of the new officers, improving the 911 call center and other information technology investments will cost \$37 million per year.

Murray is proposing to raise \$14 million in new revenues and fund the other \$23 million (nearly two-thirds of the necessary funding) from existing resources. Roughly half of the General Fund resources has already been approved by council for hiring additional police officers.

The proposed increases in taxes and fees on Seattle businesses are:

- 3.2 percent increase over two years in the existing Business and Occupation (B&O) tax rates, which have not risen since 1991, generating \$8.4 million per year. A retail business with \$1 million in revenues would pay an additional \$70 a year.
- Restructuring and increasing the City’s Business License fee, with fees increasing in five steps depending on the size of the business, generating \$5.8 million per year. The smallest businesses would see a license fee increase of \$25 a year.

Seattle is already on track to hire 120 additional officers by 2017, a commitment made the mayor made in 2014.

Incoming calls to SPD’s 911 call center call have placed a growing strain on the current system. Call center volumes have increased by 13 percent since 2010. The call center will be adding staff and making technology investments to handle the growing number of calls for service.

Other technology investments at the department include technology infrastructure to support body worn cameras for officers and a new time tracking tool to help manage officer overtime.

Dr. Joseph Williams Named to Top Information and Communication Technology Post

The Washington State Department of Commerce announced Monday that Dr. Joseph Williams will lead the state’s efforts to develop and grow Washington’s \$40-billion information and communication

Community Calendar 2016

cont’d from pg 4

music stuff. 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. 232 SE 80th. Free parking and PLEASE NO EARLY BIRDS.

SATURDAY, MAY 14

2016 WOMEN IN TRADES CAREER FAIR: The Annual Women in Trades Career Fair provides an introduction to the jobs, skills, and benefits of a career in trades. Participate in hands-on workshops, try out tools, meet employers and much more. Free admission, parking, onsite childcare. 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., NECA-IBEW Electrical Training Center, 16021 NE Airport Way.

54TH ANNUAL ST. JOHNS PARADE 2016: The parade theme for the Annual Parade is Joyful Living. We hope to see all there to watch the floats, drill teams, bands and horses. The parade starts promptly at noon in St. Johns.

SUNDAY, MAY 15

CELEBRATION TABERNACLE PRESENTS: THE KEFAS GOSPEL CHOIR OF DENMARK: The chorus was founded in 1975 and is considered to be the first Danish Gospel Choir. 7 p.m. Celebration Tabernacle, 8131 N. Vancouver Ave. The concert is free of charge and open to the public.

Seattle Metro

THURSDAY, MAY 5

JOB FAIR: FOR YOUTH 16 -24: Targeting opportunities youth ages 16 to 24 not working or in school. Information includes job interviews & on the spot offers, meet and interview with over 30 companies, create and improve your resume, get help with job applications and so much more. This is a free event. However, you must pre-register at www.100kopportunities.org/seattle.com. 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. WAMU Theater Century Link Field Events Center, 800 Occidental Ave. S.

SATURDAY MAY 7

FREE CHILDREN’S PROGRAM: JURASSIC GARDENS: Time travel in the ship and discover which plants date to the dinosaur times. Complete a garden related project to take home (all materials provided). 5 p.m. Pierce County Master Gardner Demonstration Garden, 2607 W. Pioneer Way, Puyallup.

MOTHER’S DAY CELEBRATION AT COUNTRY VILLAGE IN BOTHELL: Bring MOM out to Country Village for a Mother’s Day Celebration. She’ll love entering to win a special Country Village shopping spree. Visit every shop and enter in each one to increase her chances of winning. Lots of shopping and fun! 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., Country Village Shops, 23718 Bothell Everett Highway, Bothell.

SUNDAY, MAY 8

HALF-PRICE MOM’S DAY: Bring your mom to the zoo for a special day that will make her smile! Meets animals up close, watch the show put on by the Wild Wonders Outdoor Theater and much more. All moms will receive half-off general admission. 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium, 5400 N. Pearl St., Tacoma.

FRIDAY, MAY 13

THE HOMETOWN BAND FREE SPRING CONCERT IN PORT ORCHARD: Join The Hometown Band at their annual spring concert. Show tunes, classics, marches and lots more! 7 p.m. – 9 p.m., Port Orchard Methodist Church, 725 Kitsap St., Port Orchard.

SUNDAY, MAY 15

PUGET SOUND STARTS HERE FAMILY FUN DAY: Environmental Educators from around the area join together to host this event. Offering hands-on activities, lessons, games and entertainment related to water quality and the environment. 10 a.m., Foss Waterway Seaport, 705 Dock St., Tacoma.

technology (ICT) industry sector, which employs nearly 200,000 people in some 14,000 ICT companies.

A former executive with Microsoft and Sun Microsystems, Dr. Williams was recently the Dean of the School of Business, Government and Economics at Seattle Pacific University.

In this new role, he will serve as strategic adviser to the Governor, and primary point of contact for technology companies interested in doing business and expanding in Washington state.

Dr. Williams has extensive experience working with angel investing and software-as-a-service (SaaS) companies and customers on the business models and economics of cloud computing.