

Events & Announcements

PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

Beacon Hill Festival

The Dearborn Park International Elementary School S.C.A.T.S (Seattle Cirque & Acrobat TeamS) performed June 4 at the 27th Annual Beacon Hill Festival. The popular festival featured a variety of entertainment, food and activities for families.

Community Calendar 2016

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SATURDAY, JUNE 11

1ST ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE WRAP UP: Join the Washington State Commission on African American Affairs, Representative Eric Pettigrew, Dr. Wanda Billingsley and others for a report back to the community of the recent legislative session from an African American perspective. 1 p.m. - 3 p.m., Martin Luther King, Jr. Baptist Church, 4519 NE 10th Ave., Renton.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15

MUSIC IN THE MINI PARK: A series of six music and dance performances expressing cultural traditions by local performers. 5 p.m. - 7 p.m., Lake City Mini Park, 12363 Lake City Way NE.

SATURDAY, JUNE 18

80TH ANNUAL SOUTH BAY GRANGE STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL: Vendors new and returning, entertainment, hamburgers, hot dogs, strawberry shortcake, bulk strawberries for sale and much more. This festival benefits our summer children's theater program. This festival is free for all. Noon - 6 p.m., South Bay Grange, 3918 Sleater-Kinney Rd. NE, Olympia.

SUNDAY JUNE 19

HALF PRICE DAD'S DAY: Bring your dad to the zoo for a wild time on his special day. All Dads will receive half-off general admission for their special day! 9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m., Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium, 5400 N. Pearl St., Tacoma.

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Plus+ report gave our staff [and] administration an edge we didn't have before."

Schools and partners interested in improving their FAFSA completion rates are invited to join this exciting effort.

OSAC is currently accepting applications for new FAFSA Plus+ sites, and encourages school districts, high schools, TRIO programs, Tribal Education Agencies, Indian Organizations, and community-based organizations to complete the non-competitive application at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JZ7FPRB>.

Seattle Briefs**Murray Sends Funding Plan for Additional Police Officers to City Council**

This week Mayor Ed Murray sent the Seattle City Council his proposed funding plan to finance the hiring of 200 new police officers and investments in the City's 911 call center as outlined in his 2016 State of the City address.

The proposal calls for an addition of 200 officers by the end of 2019, expanding the Seattle Police Department to the highest staff level in the history of the department. This level of expansion is in line with the police staffing study conducted by Berkshire Advisors.

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

The cost of the 200 additional 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 remaining \$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.
- 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.

Sen. Murray Announces New Vouchers for Homeless Veterans

Today, U.S. Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), a senior member of both the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development and the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, announced new resources to help homeless veterans secure stable housing and supportive services. Washington state will receive an additional 142 housing vouchers that will be distributed among housing authorities, part of \$38 million in grants to help veterans around the country.

The rental assistance announced today is provided through the HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Program which combines rental assistance from HUD with case management and clinical services provided by VA, a program Murray helped restart in 2008 and which she has continued to help fund every year since. Since 2008, more than 79,000 vouchers have been awarded and over 111,000 homeless veterans have been served through the HUD-VASH program.

County Council Recognizes LGBTQ Pride Month

The Metropolitan King County Council this week declared June LGBTQ Pride Month, celebrating the accomplishments and history of the region's lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer communities while acknowledging the challenges to their full participation in society.

Pride Month is celebrated in June in recognition of the June 1968 Stonewall Riots in New York, considered the start of the modern

movement for equal rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people.

While there have been a number of accomplishments in LGBTQ residents gaining the rights that most citizens take for granted, there are still challenges for their communities.

A number of states have challenged equity laws for the LGBTQ communities with the adoption of "bathroom protection" legislation that would prevent transgender residents from using the bathroom that corresponds to their gender identity.

In 2012, King County supported marriage equality legislation in Olympia.

In 2008, the Council sent an amendment to the King County Charter adding gender identity and expression to the anti-discrimination section to voters, who approved it with a 71 percent yes vote.

Seattle's annual Pride Parade will be held June 27.

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