

June 2017



# A Note from the Mayor:

I've always believed that communicating with residents is essential for local government to serve its community. Your City is committed to providing both information and services so that you can be involved with the issues that matter to you. Ultimately, the City works most pridents know what we are working on and how they can make their veices heard

effectively when residents know what we are working on and how they can make their voices heard.

A project is now underway at City Hall to broaden and improve the ways we share information, with the goal of enhancing access for everyone. As we all know, technology is changing the way our society communicates. We are exploring if there are tools—such as Facebook or Twitter—that we could use to make accessing information about local government easier for residents.

Your voice is crucial in this process, and we want to hear from you about what's working, how we can improve, and how we can better reach you around the issues you care about. Next month we will launch an online survey to gather your input. Please look for a link to that survey in the July newsletter.

Evolving the way we share information is critical to maintaining the democratic process and providing quality services. We will need you to help us get it right.

In the meantime, you can learn more about the issues your City is addressing through our website (http://www.cityofpt.us) and our public access channel (http://porttownsendtv.blogspot.com).

We look forward to your feedback in the future!

# Did you know? - PARK HISTORY THEME

Chetzemoka Park was built by nearly 200 community volunteers in 1904, establishing itself as Port Townsend's first public park.

Sather Park was once the site of what was intended to be an elegant 3-story hotel called the Mountain View. Construction began in 1886 but was never finished and the abandoned building blew down in a windstorm in 1916.

Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park was connected to the Puget Sound by open water until 1930 when Sims Way was constructed across the mouth of the lagoon, and half of it was filled in with dredge spoils in 1963 from an expansion of the boat haven.

The Bell Tower was built in 1890 to house a 1,500 lb. brass bell and a fire engine. The bell was rung in a coded manner to alarm the community and identify the location of a fire.

## Exercise caution when approaching police or fire emergency zones

Many motorists may be unaware that Washington Law mandates that drivers must proceed with caution and yield the right-of-way when approaching emergency vehicles.

Whether approaching a stationary fire truck, ambulance, police patrol vehicle or tow truck displaying flashing lights, RCW 46.61.212 clearly states that drivers must proceed with caution and yield the right-of-way by safely making a lane change or moving away from the area occupied by an emergency vehicle.

The Revised Code of Washington (RCW) further states that anyone approaching an emergency zone in a manner that could endanger emergency responders or property "is guilty of reckless endangerment of emergency zone workers," and such a violation is "a gross misdemeanor." The offense could result in a sixty-day suspension of a driver's license, a permit to drive or nonresident driving privileges of a person convicted of reckless endangerment of emergency zone workers.

Drivers are urged to slow down and proceed with extreme caution when approaching an area where emergency vehicles are parked. It's the law.

### RULES OF THE ROAD: "FOR SALE" SIGNS

The long days of summer seem to hold the most promise for selling garage sale items and real estate. If you are having a garage sale or offering to sell, lease or rent your property this summer or any time of the year, please follow these Port Townsend Municipal Code rules when putting up signage:

• Garage Sale signs have the 3-3-3 rule: garage sale signs may not be displayed more than 3 times in any 12-month period for direction to a sale on the same premises, they may be up to three square feet in size, for three days, and up to three signs may be placed on the property or in nearby rights-of-way (i.e. the open or unopened street next to your property).

• Residential real estate signs may be up to 4-1/2 square feet in size, but only one sign may be placed on the property (or right next to the fence). Even though some properties are off the beaten track, directional signs pointing down the street are not allowed except during an Open House when you can have signs up to three square feet in size in nearby rights-of-way.

• Signs in the right-of-way must be self-supporting. Use signs with wire legs or wooden sticks that you can temporarily secure into the ground. Place them on the private property side of utility poles, fire hydrants and sidewalks where they are out of the way of motorists and pedestrians. Please do not attach signs to utility poles or traffic signs!

Thank you for doing your part to reduce sign clutter by promptly removing all signs after your sale. Contact Suzanne Wassmer in the Development Services Department with questions – (360) 379-6573 or swassmer@cityofpt.us.

# Summer Reading Is Fun for Every Age - by Melody Sky Eisler, Library Director

Last summer, the library expanded our Summer Reading program: We included adults who, just like kids and teens, kept track of the number of hours they spent reading. For kids and teens, we know that reading for as little as ten hours in the summer helps prevent the dreaded "summer slide." For our 2016 Summer Read program, we set an ambitious goal to see if participants could read at least 10,000 hours. Our community triumphantly surpassed that goal by reading more than 13,000 hours! What enchanted me the most last summer was the delight I saw from our adult participants—some of whom read over 200 hours.

As librarians, we want you to spend the summer reading for pleasure and reading what you love. After all, the joy of reading whatever you want is part of what makes summer reading special. So this summer, just like last summer, kids and teens who read 10 hours will receive a free book; after 50 hours, they will get a T-shirt designed by local artist Annalisa Barelli. And adults who read 100 hours will get that T-shirt too.

We are planning an exciting 2017 Summer Reading program, structured around the theme Build a Better World, with fun activities for the whole family and patrons of all ages. We are again setting a 10,000-hour goal, and we urge everyone to sign up for the fun. What could be better than reading for pleasure and earning a beautiful T-shirt? I smile every time I see a patron wearing last summer's T-shirt because it is an emblem of the love of reading.



This year's Summer Read runs from June 20 through August 11, 2017. Happy reading!





Are you and your kids ready for Summer swimming? Mountain view Pool offers several different swim lesson options to get your kids water ready. Already a good swimmer? Come in for open swim, lap swim, or join the Redfins Swim Club (ages 5-17). Check out our Summer schedule at cityofpt.us/pool for all our great offerings or call 385-7665 for more info.

Thank you to these donors who, together with those recognized in the April newsletter, contributed \$3,425 to support Mountain View Pool swim lesson scholarships through the JeffCo Aquatic Coalition Be A Lifesaver campaign.

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#### 360-385-POOL(7665) • www.cityofpt.us/pool • 1925 Blaine St



#### 2017 "Old School" 4th of July - Fort Worden, Port Townsend

Mark you calendars for the biggest and best party of the year!

The "Old School" 4th of July is coming back for a 3rd round of community collaboration and celebration! Tuesday, July 4th - 4PM - 10PM

Fort Worden State Park • 200 Battery Way, in Port Townsend, WA

Featuring live entertainment, food vendors, beer garden, hot air balloon, field games, free root beer floats, miniature golf, tug of war and a glorious display of fireworks!

The "Old School" 4th of July is a huge production and truly requires the entire community to bring it to life. Please consider playing a role on the team:

To become a vendor, contact: Daniel Milholland daniel@thunderbullproductions.com To volunteer, contact: Emily Henry - emily@weareugn.org To sponsor, contact: Teresa Verraes - director@jeffcountychamber.org

HUGE THANKS to major event partners! Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce, Thunderbull Productions, The City of Port Townsend, East Jefferson Fire and Rescue, Fort Worden Public Development Authority, WA State Parks, the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department and the primary event sponsor 1st Security Bank!

For more information visit: https://jeffcountychamber.org/4th/



**"TASTE OF PORT TOWNSEND"** ~ Sample ~ Sip ~ Mingle

It's going to be delicious!



Get ready for one of the tastiest events of the year--The "Taste of Port Townsend 2017" is set for Thursday, June 15th at the Northwest Maritime Center, 431 Water St., from 5-8 pm.

Guests will enjoy delicious samples from 13 restaurants and dessert spots, two breweries, two wineries, three cideries, plus tea and coffee. "We are showcasing the fantastic flavors of Port Townsend at The Taste of Port Townsend. This Main Street fundraiser celebrates Port Townsend's exciting culinary scene—complemented by hand-crafted, artisan beverages," says Sandy Spencer, board member of the Port Townsend Main Street Program. From savory salmon bites, wood-fired pizza, lamb meatballs, chili coconut seafood boil, salad, sushi and scrumptious desserts, the many tastes will delight your palate. Ticket sales benefit the Port Townsend Main Street Program, a 501c3 nonprofit dedicated to the historic districts, Uptown and Downtown.

This is a 21+ event, please bring valid ID. For more info, visit ptmainstreet.org

#### Tickets:

•\$50 Food & Alcohol Tastes •\$35 Food Only Tastes



•Tickets purchased by June 12th get

early entry at 5 pm. Tickets sold at the door, beginning 6 pm (space available basis).

Tickets on sale now at www.eventbrite.com & Safeway, 442 W. Sims Way

## **Port Townsend Library**

#### **Book Sale**

Port Townsend Community Center Saturday June 3, 9:00am - 3:00pm

#### Summer Reading Kick-off!

Port Townsend Library - 1220 Lawrence St. Tuesday, Jun. 20, 2:00-6:00

Join us for our Summer Reading opening event! Sign up for Summer Reading, decorate the sidewalk with chalk drawings. enjoy yummy snacks and live music, make a flower-seed bomb, and settle in for stories with local storyteller Aimee Ringle.

#### El Deafo, Performed by Book-Jt Repertory Theatre Cotton Building

#### Thursday, Jun. 22, 4:00-5:15

Join us for a live theatre performance of the popular and poignant graphic novel, El Deafo, performed by Seattle-based Book-It Repertory Theatre. In her 2015 Newberry Award winning book, El Deafo, Cece Bell chronicles her hearing loss at a young age and her subsequent experiences with the Phonic Ear, a very powerful-and very awkward-hearing aid. This is a not-to-be-missed family event for ages 6 and up.

#### Art in the Library - Opening Reception

Port Townsend Public Library - Carnegie Reading Room Friday, Jun. 23, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.



# **Critical Areas Update in Progress**

Wetlands, frequently flooded areas, landslide hazard areas are just a few of the natural areas that the City of Port Townsend regulates for the benefit of public health, safety, and welfare. The City is required to regulate these areas under the State Growth Management Act. According to the Department of Ecology, "The protection of critical areas is essential to preserving our natural environment and protecting the public's health and safety. Protecting critical areas helps reduce exposure to risks, such as landslides or flooding, and maintains the natural elements of our landscape. Critical areas provide a variety of benefits: enhanced water quality, wildlife habitat, and managed flood risks, to name a few. Protection of critical areas is necessary to preserve these benefits and to reduce the hazards associated with some critical areas. The functions and values of critical areas, once lost, can be costly or even impossible to replace." (Ecology Critical Areas Assistance Handbook: 2007)

Updates to the critical areas ordinance (CAO) are part of the periodic update required under the Growth Management Act (GMA) (RCW 36.70A.130). In this update, the City intends to amend regulations for consistency with Best Available Science as required by the State and modify problematic and unclear sections of the code.

#### Comments welcome:

Public involvement is vital and we hope that you will share your input by providing comments, attending meetings and learning more about the critical areas ordinance update. As we progress through the adoption process draft amendments will be continually refined. For the most recent draft and meeting schedules please refer to the City's website. Critical areas ordinance (CAO) - Amendments to the CAO will be processed in 2017.

#### There will be several opportunities to provide input:

1) Comment on the initial draft on or before July 10, 2017. Submit written comments on the public review draft of the CAO available via the City's Website at http://www.cityofpt.us under "Latest news". Although comments are accepted throughout the process, we are seeking early comment on this initial draft. Send comments to: City Clerk at 250 Madison Street, Suite 2, Port Townsend, WA 98368. Or via email at: jsanders@cityofpt.us. Please indicate Subject: CAO Initial Draft

2) Attend the public meetings and hearings before Planning Commission and City Council at which time you may offer verbal comments/testimony. Meeting announcements are submitted for the "Government Meetings" section of the Port Townsend & Jefferson County Leader and posted on the City's homepage under teh meetings calendar.

3) Use eComment on the City's website: http://cityofpt.us/video.html

4) You may submit written comments at any time to the City Clerk at 250 Madison Street, Suite 2, Port Townsend, WA 98368. Please indicate Subject: CAO Update

For more information, contact Planning Manager Judy Surber at jsurber@cityofpt.us or 360-379-5084.

# **Capital Projects Update, Water Treatment Plant**

The water treatment plant has been operating since late January, providing highly filtered water to the community. Still there is much work to be done to have a fully operational facility. Recently, the main access road off 20th Street was paved, landscaping placed, and the old reservoir drained and demolished. Work continues on fine tuning the filters, completing a fire booster pump station for the City's high zone distribution, cleaning up the site, and completing the extensive paperwork required to close the construction contract.

The paved trail along the east side of Rainier Street from Discovery Road to the intersection of Howard Street and 20th Street will remain open.







Port Townsend

360.379.5047 • citycouncil@cityofpt.us • www.cityofpt.us

