

MARCH 2018

A Note from the Mayor:

City of Port
Townsend
NEWSLETTER



Mayor Deborah Stinson

WHERE DO MY SERVICES COME FROM?

We all receive services from different levels of government. The City of Port Townsend is one of 281 cities in Washington State and is the only actual “city” in Jefferson County. The primary responsibilities of the City are to provide for Public Safety (law enforcement, fire protection, emergency medical services) and Infrastructure (water, sewer, storm water, streets, sidewalks, trails, etc.). How the City goes about delivering on these responsibilities is best defined through the Community Direction Statement in our Comprehensive Plan.

The State and the County also provide services to residents in the City. What many people do not realize is that, like other counties, Jefferson County houses several Special Purpose Districts that include the City within their boundaries. Many of the services we enjoy every day are delivered by these unique districts and each comes with its own responsibilities and taxing authority overseen by an elected governing body.

The special districts that include the City within their jurisdictional boundaries (and their stated missions*) are:

- **Jefferson County Public Hospital District #2** (Jefferson Healthcare): Own and operate hospitals & other health care facilities, provide hospital & healthcare services
- **Jefferson County Public Utility District #1 (JPUD)**: Electricity and broadband infrastructure
- **Port Townsend School District No. 50 (PTSD)**: K-12 Education
- **Port of Port Townsend District**: Acquire, construct, maintain, operate, develop and regulate system of harbor improvements, rail and water transfer and terminal facilities; air transfer, or terminal facilities, other storage and handling facilities, create industrial development districts.
- **Joint City-County Housing Authority (Peninsula Housing - Clallam and Jefferson)**: Provide housing for low income persons
- **Jefferson County Conservation District**: Conserve soil resources, prevent flood water and sediment damages
- **Jefferson County Public Transportation Benefit Authority (Jefferson Transit)**: provide public transportation

* If you want to learn more about this topic, visit www.mrsc.org and search for ‘special purpose districts’.

As you can see, City residents receive a lot of services from these other entities; each has its own governance, staffing and funding source. And this list does not cover all the services provided directly by the County. So why am I sharing this? For one, it is to acknowledge that we understand that it can be confusing to know where to turn. The City is the one door most residents come through when seeking services or answers to questions or concerns. When it is not a City responsibility, our staff will politely redirect individuals to the appropriate entity where they can receive the most expedient and accurate information.

And remember when I stated above that the City is responsible for providing Fire and Emergency Medical Services? For over a decade, the City has provided for that service through a contract with an adjacent special purpose district, East Jefferson Fire and Rescue (EJFR). The City still collects the Fire and EMS, taxes but then send those funds to EJFR to provide the service. We believe the time has come to make this arrangement permanent by annexing the City into the Fire District boundaries. This annexation would give you direct representation through elected Fire Commissioners and would give them taxing authority within the City. That, in turn, will have implications for the City’s taxing authority, so we will need your permission to move forward through the form of a vote later this year.

Annexation is a rather complex topic and we want you to be able to make a fully informed decision. While we will do our best to use this newsletter and other outlets to provide details and gain input, I strongly encourage you to attend the Town Hall Meeting series announced under the “Save the Date” section of this newsletter. The first meeting will help re-affirm the above-mentioned Community Direction Statement. The second meeting will further explore how the State, County, City and Special Purpose districts interact, financially and otherwise. Those meetings set the stage for the third meeting where you will provide your City Council with guidance on choices this annexation presents. We hope to see you there.

Mountain View Commons

The City of Port Townsend is making improvements to the Mountain View Commons campus. The Mountain View Commons Improvement Project includes improvements to the main classroom building, as well as, to the Pool/Gymnasium building.

The work in main building includes new exterior stair and ADA entrance ramp; new automatic entry doors; interior upgrades to Food Bank and Working Image; remodel of selected Police offices; new flooring; and upgrades to the interior finishes in common areas. The work in the Pool building includes ADA door openers for the main entrances and the pool locker room entrances. The exterior of the building will also be painted, and the outdated fire alarm system will be replaced.



The Mountain View Commons Improvement Project is partly funded through a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the 2015 Mountain View Bond. This is the last phase of the work for the voter approved bond. The project was advertised for public bid in February 2018. Construction is slated to start mid to late March 2018.

Water Street Enhancement Project Update

The Water Street Enhancement Project construction is moving further west on Water Street. Water customers in the block of Water Street between Tyler and Taylor are now receiving their water through the new 12-inch water main. Fire service lines for the same block are also hooked up, and a new fire hydrant has been installed at the corner of Water and Tyler. Conduit in Tyler Street (for undergrounding power) has been placed as well. Traffic is one lane in the block of Water Street between Polk and Tyler Street, with flaggers directing vehicle flow. Over the next month, the following items will be installed: additional joint utility trench (for undergrounding power), the 12" water main between Polk and Fillmore, and new water service lines.



Please contact Project Manager Laura Parsons, P.E. if you have any questions: 360-385-3000 X2191.

Rainier Street Subarea Plan Update

As Winter turns slowly to Spring, flowers will start to blossom much like the Rainier Street Subarea Plan. The intent of the Rainier Subarea Plan is to create a neighborhood that supports the following aspirations: 1) A district that values the manufacturing of goods by small, independently-owned businesses, focusing primarily - but not exclusively - on hand-crafted goods; 2) A district that provides housing for residents of all economic levels, along with access to living wage jobs and services within the local community; 3) A district that promotes a business-ready area and that clearly articulates the City's regulations and design standards for both new development and redevelopment, with flexibility to adapt to changes in the economic climate; and 4) A district that respects the importance of protecting the environment and balances that priority with the need for job and housing opportunities.

During the Fall and Winter, AHBL, our consultant, has been working on taking all of the community, task force, Planning Commission and City Council comments to create the Subarea Plan and regulatory revisions needed to provide staff and community a clear pathway to this development opportunity.

This Spring, AHBL will provide the City with a draft of the Plan and regulatory revisions to share once again with the community, task force, Planning Commission and City Council. The regulatory revisions will provide more flexibility allowing for a wider array of development opportunities for property and business owners. In addition, a 3-Year Implementation Plan is being created to encourage development with the subarea neighborhood. And as we bask in the Summer sun, the Subarea Plan, regulatory revisions, and Implementation Plan will be ready for review and consideration by both the Planning Commission and City Council. A snapshot of how a year just flies by... Any questions regarding this project can be directed to Belinda Graham at bgraham@cityofpt.us

RELATED SPECIAL EVENTS (All Events Free!)

High & Hallowed: Everest 1963 Film Kickoff
Presented by the Port Townsend Film Festival

Featuring honored guests **Jim Whittaker** and **Dianne Roberts**
February 28 | Wheeler Theater, Fort Worden | 7:00 pm

Courage to Climb: Community Read Exhibit
Northwind Arts Center Juried Exhibit Opening

All Month | Northwind Arts Center | Reception March 3 | 5:30–8:00 pm

A 1956 Sailing Memoir: How Writer Ann Davison and
the Sloop *Felicity Ann* Sailed Into Women's History

March 8 | Carnegie Reading Room | 7:00 pm

Adventure Photography with Christian Coxen

March 15 | Carnegie Reading Room | 7:00 pm

PT Shorts – Reader's Theater – Dramatic Reading of Excerpts
from the Book by Performers from Key City Public Theatre

March 15 | Northwind Arts Center | 7:30 pm

Story Trail for Kids and Their Families

March 17 | Kai Tai Lagoon | 12:00–4:00 pm
Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Meet the Author: Leif Whittaker

March 29 | PT High School Auditorium | 6:30–8:00 pm

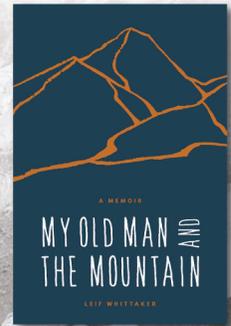
PORT TOWNSEND PUBLIC LIBRARY



LEIF WHITTAKER

My Old Man and the Mountain: A Memoir

An engaging and humorous story of what it was like to “grow up Whittaker”—the youngest son of Jim Whittaker and Dianne Roberts. With wry honesty, he depicts being a recent college grad, still living in his parents' home, and trying to find a purpose in life—until a chance encounter leads to the opportunity to climb Everest, just like his father did.



More info: 385-3181 www.ptpubliclibrary.org

Mer-Camp at Mountain View Pool

Join us for Two Day Mer-Camp at Mountain view Pool, March 26 & 27 from 1 to 5 PM. This special 2-day camp will help kids with new swimming skills and creative inspiration. Fun for girls and boys ages 5-12 years old. Call 360-385-7665 for more info. See you there!

Free Walking Tours -- “Sin at Sea Level: Historic Downtown Walking Tour”

A guide from the Jefferson County Historical Society will take you on a tour of Water Street. You'll hear tales of Port Townsend's rowdy seaport days, see beautiful historical architecture, and learn about some of the colorful characters who built the town in the 1800s and revitalized it as an arts community and counter culture haven in the 1900s. Join us Saturdays at 2 pm on March 3, 10, 17, and 31st. Meet at the Jefferson Museum of Art & History, 540 Water Street. Presented by the Jefferson County Historical Society in collaboration with the Port Townsend Main Street Program “Paving the Way to a Brighter Future” campaign. Visit www.ILovePortTownsend.com for more information.



Main Street Spring HUD Loan applications are due March 30, 2018 at 5 pm.

These funds can help property owners accomplish historic preservation goals and safety improvements in their buildings and are available to commercial buildings in Port Townsend's Downtown and Uptown Commercial Historic Districts. With these funds, building owners have painted the exterior of their buildings, repaired roofs, fixed staircases, re-pointed brick facades, installed windows and improved the safety of their buildings.

Visit www.ptmainstreet.org for more information and the application form.

Have you played Port Townsend Believe it or Knot?

Hidden throughout downtown are unbelievable facts about PT. Find 10 of them at participating businesses to be entered into a monthly prize drawing for \$100 in local gift certificates and a chance to win a grand prize of \$500 in local gift certificates. A fun excuse to come downtown, pique your interest in unbelievable facts (or fiction!) about the salty seaport of Port Townsend. Visit www.ILovePortTownsend.com for more information.

Save the Date

Garbage Service Spring Clean April 16-20 - More details will be in the April newsletter

Fire District Annexation - Town Hall Meetings

March 22, March 29 & April 5 6:30pm - 9:00pm at Fort Worden Commons.

We will be discussing how we got to this step and the many choices that were made along the way. We want to hear from you, and what your priorities are for this community.

Hearing Assistance is Available at City Meetings



Look for this hearing assistance symbol for City meetings and City-related events where equipment is available for your use. The City was awarded a \$2,000 Jefferson County Accessible Communities Act grant to assist with the purchase of two portable PA and hearing assistance systems. Equipment has been available for City Council and Planning Commission meetings, and we are implementing an expansion of its use for City government events at the Pope and Cotton Buildings and adult programs at the City Library.

The wireless listening assistance system includes pocket size receivers with adjustable volume control. In-ear buds, earphones, and a mono neck loop are available and those with "around the neck" loop systems may be able to plug those directly into the receiver. The FM receiver will not interfere with pacemakers. If you are planning to use an assistance device during a meeting in Chambers, please come a little early or call ahead if possible so we can be of greatest assistance prior to the start of the meeting. Staff from the Clerk's office are also happy to make appointments at any time if you would like to try out the equipment to see what will work best for you. If you have questions or would like to make an appointment, please contact the Clerk's office at 379-5083 or jsanders@cityofpt.us.

Notice: Incorrect Sewer Charge. Because of an error in our rate table, the City overcharged sewer customers in January. We've corrected the mistake, and sewer customers will get a lower sewer bill in February. The March bill will reflect the corrected rate. Please call the Utility Billing office at 360-385-2700 if you have any questions.

JAPAN-AMERICA GRASSROOTS SUMMIT September 2018

The Japan-America Society promotes a grassroots exchange of citizens from Japan and the United States. This year Washington State will host delegates that come from all regions in Japan. The Japanese delegates will be visiting Port Townsend from Thursday, September 20th until the morning of Sunday, September 23rd.

Port Townsend and the surrounding Jefferson County community was chosen as a host site. We will be recruiting 10 households to host our guests. People of all ages, including families will be visiting from Japan. There will be group activities and time for hosts to be on their own to create adventures for their guests.

For more information about this program please visit www.jassw.org.

We are recruiting Jefferson County residents who would like to host a homestay and for those who cannot host but would like to participate in the group activities with our guests. Please call Catherine McNabb at 360-379-5089 or email cmcnabb@cityofpt.us if you are interested in hosting, planning or participating in the events.

