



MARCH CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS:

03/06/23: Business Meeting
03/13/23: Workshop Meeting
03/20/23: Business Meeting

Meetings are subject to change. Please view our website calendar for an up-to-date meeting schedule: www.cityofpt.us/calendar

Earth Day is April 22, 2023

Volunteers Needed!

Earth Day is celebrated around the world on April 22nd each year. Locally, the Port Townsend Main Street Program staff and dedicated volunteers go out and spruce up downtown in preparation for spring. Projects can include extensive weeding at Adams Street Park, planting new shrubs, adding to the planters at Tyler Street Plaza and cleaning street furniture. If you are interested in volunteering to help beautify Port Townsend, please email us at: admin@ptmainstreet.org.



CITY OF PORT TOWNSEND
250 MADISON STREET
(360)385-3000
WWW.CITYOFPT.US

A NOTE FROM COUNCILMEMBER BEN THOMAS

It's time to start baking cookies.

Let me explain. No, there is too much. Let me sum up. The tide of migration in our country has always flowed westward, but with climate concerns, we find it surging to the north. In fact, the arrow of this flow is pointing right toward us. And as the only municipality in our county in a state that sought to focus growth on density over sprawl with the Growth Management Act, we find ourselves standing in the "You are here" spot on the map of population growth.

It's natural to want to stem the tide of growth, to hang out a closed sign and roll up the welcome mat, to cut the mooring lines on the floating bridge and let the sucker float on out to sea.

But the world isn't going to pass us by. The pressure will continue to build until it overwhelms our best defenses. We've used a Byzantine development code – as patchwork as a beaver's dam – to stop the flow and frustrate builders and homeowners alike. But it's helped lead us to the brink of unviability as a community.

The good news is that we've left room for controlled growth in our empty lots and even in our own backyards. Our challenge now is to master the difficult art of growth with affordability, by building homes that are attainable for rent and ownership by people who actually earn their living in our town.

By embracing this organic, fleshing out of our neighborhoods, we can encourage smaller dwellings that are efficient in design and tread lightly on the land rather than forest-clearing suburban developments of "Victorian-themed" mini McMansions dotting a sea of summer-browned lawns.

Gentle density infill won't ruin your neighborhood. Crime goes up when we push people to the edges, not when we welcome them into a strong neighborhood of people who know each other's names and aren't afraid to borrow a cup of sugar. Don't peek warily through the blinds, bake a trayful of welcome-to-our-neighborhood cookies. You may be welcoming someone who was nearly forced to leave, but instead found a way to stay.

Your City Council is currently working on changes to the development codes to streamline smart growth. We're trying to be as thoughtful as we can, but we welcome your input. This is your town. Please share with us your ideas for growing without losing what's special about living here. Opportunities for project engagement are listed in the PCD Housing Update on page three of this newsletter.

PT MAIN STREET LOAN PROGRAMS

Spring Deadline March 15, 2023

The Port Townsend Main Street Program offers two loan options for Commercial Historic Districts:

HUD Low-Interest Loans are available to rehabilitate commercial buildings in Port Townsend's Commercial Historic Districts; and

LENT Low-Interest Loan Program is available for Port Townsend Commercial Historic Districts' businesses to offset some financial impacts businesses endure from emergency situations, though business development proposals will be considered.

Learn more at: ptmainstreet.org/business-resources/loan-programs/

A NOTE FROM CITY MANAGER JOHN MAURO

Welcome New City Staff

I've written this before, and it's even more true today: our people are the City organization. Whether you count on reliable water quality, streets maintenance, 24/7 police services, circulation of library materials, or a wide-range of other services, they get done because of our City staff.

Our team works hard, works together, and is committed to public service. They've contributed to building this community and continue to maintain and improve it for the future. It's been a challenging few years for recruiting and retaining staff, not just at the City but in almost all cities and industries. I'd like to celebrate the arrival of new staff and staff promotions the first quarter of this year and introduce them to you:



- Alexis Gray and Rachel Leonard have joined us with relatively new, Gretchen Harmon as Public Experience Liaisons, present at the City Hall front desk;
- Anthony Boruch-Comstock started last month as a Library Assistant,;
- Robin Hill has been promoted to Permit Coordinator;
- Jeff Kostechka started in January as our Assistant City Engineer;
- Amber Long has been promoted to Interim HR Manager while we recruit our next People & Performance Director;
- Michael Spears has been promoted to Public Works Water Resources Operations Manager;
- Naomi Stern has been promoted to Utility Billing/Collections Specialist; and
- Officer Hunter Welch was sworn in to the PT Police team in January, and joins a team rebuilding after many years of understaffing.

We are also advertising for positions in planning, communications/marketing, streets, parks, and other areas – you can see current listings at: <https://cityofpt.applicantpool.com/jobs>

I've really enjoyed meeting and getting to know each of our new team members and I know you will too. If you see or talk to them, please welcome them to their new roles – and remember to thank them for the hard work that they do for us all.

HEALTHIER TOGETHER AQUATICS CENTER FEASIBILITY STUDY

Please come and share your ideas. The City of Port Townsend will host Open House #1 for the Healthier Together Aquatics Center Feasibility Study on Tuesday, March 14th from 6:00-8:00pm. Childcare pending, please check the website for details.*

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Carrie Hite – Director of Parks and Recreation Strategy
360.379.2979
chite@cityofpt.us

PROJECT WEBSITE:

<https://cityofpt.us/engagept/page/healthier-together>

*An Online Open House will be offered on Thursday, March 16th from 6:00 - 8:00pm. More information will be available on the project website in the coming weeks.

PROJECT GOAL:

The goal of the Healthier Together Feasibility Study is to reengage previous partners and the community to establish a health and wellness center with a modern aquatic component. This study is the first step in providing long-term infrastructure and opportunities for improving community health and wellness by building on previous collaborative efforts and meeting the evolving needs of our community.

OPEN HOUSE

TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2023 | 6:00 - 8:00 P.M.

FORT WORDEN CONFERENCE AND EVENTS CENTER
200 BATTERY WAY
PORT TOWNSEND, WA 98368



PCD HOUSING UPDATE

The recently rebranded Department of Planning and Community Development (PCD) is working to simplify the permit process and encourage more housing into the development pipeline. Our Tactical Infill Housing project approaches its final stage in March. Staff will present draft code amendments and hold public hearings with both, the Planning Commission and City Council. They will review zoning code changes to unlock barriers to inspire affordable, dense, quality infill development in the community such as; apartments, townhomes, and cottages, which are typically smaller scaled and can cost less to construct than traditional detached single-family homes.

The project's goal is to increase predictability and decrease risk for local small builders by removing barriers that currently exist in City Code. These changes are meant to ease the path to ownership model, building permit, and design process. Techniques will be reviewed, such as; simplifying cottage housing design standards, revising setback standards to allow attached units, allowing both - attached and detached Accessory Dwelling Units in one lot, and a new unit lot subdivision tool that provides an alternative to a condominium model for cottage housing and townhome lot subdivision.

The following dates are future opportunities for project engagement:

- March 9, 6:30 p.m.: Planning Commission Hearing of proposed amendments
- March 20, 6:00 p.m.: City Council Hearing of proposed amendments and potential action
- March 27, 6:00 p.m.: City Council Special Meeting of proposed amendments and potential action



Learn more about this project by visiting the project website, or scanning the QR code above:
<https://cityofpt.us/planning-community-development/page/residential-building-capacity>

PCD is kicking off the Evans Vista Neighborhood Master Plan with Thomas Architecture Studios leading the project team. The team presented to City Council February 21, 2023, to provide project vision and goals, property location, scope, economics and diversity, and expected public participation. This project is a rare opportunity for the community to shape exactly what is needed. Funding from the state, federal and county government for planning, property purchase, and sewer development has been secured.



Learn about the project by visiting the project website, or by scanning the QR code to the right:
<https://cityofpt.us/engagept/page/evans-vista-housing-development-master-plan>

VEGETATION CONTROL

The February newsletter introduced the changes to our streets maintenance program in an effort to prioritize pavement repair. There is no doubt that our streets need quite a lot of TLC. As spring is just around the corner and the grass and bushes are ready to sprout their spring growth, the City is reminding all property owners to stay ahead of the vegetation along all abutting rights-of-way.

The majority of adjoining property owners maintain vegetation along their property frontage already. **This year, the City will not mow right-of-ways between the street and the property line for all areas fronting private property. Mowing will only occur in front of city properties and along the bluffs on Washington Street and Water Street.**

Please visit our website for more information and a link to an online map illustrating where the City will mow:
<https://cityofpt.us/publicworks/page/streets-maintenance-and-collections>

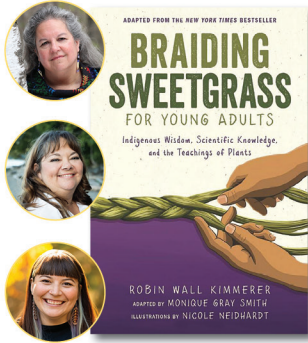
Please keep grass mowed and brush cut back from the street and sidewalks for the safety of all and stewardship of the right-of-way. Thank you for doing your part!

PORT TOWNSEND PUBLIC LIBRARY

COMMUNITY READ
2023

ROBIN WALL KIMMERER

ADAPTED BY
MONIQUE GRAY SMITH



“From the very beginning of the world, the other species were a lifeboat for the people. Now, we must be theirs.”

– Robin Wall Kimmerer, author of *Braiding Sweetgrass*

This year's Community Read is in person and online. Learn more about how to access all the programs at www.ptpubliclibrary.org or for more information call 385-3181.

RELATED SPECIAL EVENTS (All Events Free!)

Northwind Art Presents:

Seeds Are Postcards from the Land – a Community Art Project

March 1–31 Port Townsend Public Library In Person

Native Peoples of the Olympic Peninsula Education Trunk from JCHS

March 1–31 Port Townsend Public Library In Person

StoryWalk – *When We Are Kind* – for Kids and Their Families

March 1–31 Kah Tai Lagoon In Person

Book Lovers' Café

March 6 via Zoom 2:00 pm Online

Artist Talk with Nicole Neidhardt

March 9 via Zoom 6:30 pm Online

Community Book Discussion at The Castle

March 16 Manresa Castle Hotel 8:00 pm In Person

čičmáhán Trail Walk

March 18 Chetzemoka Park 1:00 pm In Person

PTFF Indigenous Animation Screening at the Rose Theatre

March 25 Rose Theatre 11:00 am In Person

Meet the Author, Monique Gray Smith

March 28 Northwest Maritime Center 6:30 pm In Person

SPONSORED BY



... and our many community partners



LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY SALE

Saturday, March 18, 2023

NEW TIME!

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

(Early entry for members of the Friends at 9 a.m.)

Port Townsend Community Center

620 Tyler Street

Please join us for a wonderful selection of books and media for all ages.

Shop and help support Library programs.



Helping our library do more

Teen Pizza Party - Wednesday, March 8, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Join us for an afternoon hangout with friends! Eat free pizza, play Nintendo Switch games, and learn about upcoming library programs for teens. Event will be held in the Pink House from 1:30- 3:30 p.m. Open to grades 7-12. Generously supported by the Friends of the Port Townsend Library.

Website: <https://ptpubliclibrary.org/library/page/teen-pizza-party-0>

Teen Space - Wednesdays, March 15 - May 31, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

The space is yours on early release Wednesdays! Play games, make crafts, and hang out with friends. Snacks provided. Open to grades 7-12. Teen Space will be held in the Pink House from 1:30- 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday afternoons, March 15- May 31. Generously supported by the Friends of the Port Townsend Library.

Website: <https://ptpubliclibrary.org/library/page/teen-space>