

City of Port Townsend

AUGUST 2024 NEWSLETTER

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Mon, August 5:
Regular Business Meeting
Appointment for Council
Position 2

Mon, August 12: City Council
Workshop Meeting
Comprehensive Plan Studio
Report and Process Overview

Mon, August 19:
Regular Business Meeting
Special Presentation: Employee
Engagement Update

Meetings are held at 6 p.m.
unless otherwise noticed,
and are subject to change.
Visit cityofpt.us/calendar for updates.



Visit PT2045planning.org/get-involved to learn more about upcoming Comprehensive Plan participation opportunities, including the Port Townsend Farmer's Market on August 17.

WHAT DOES "AFFORDABLE HOUSING" MEAN?

A message from Mayor David Faber



In the February newsletter I wrote about coming together to do the hard work of addressing our community's

challenges, whether it be streets, public recreation facilities, or attainable workforce housing. For housing, we are in an "all-hands-on-deck" crisis, where we'll all need to give a little extra and accept some

compromises if we hope to succeed. We have serious need for housing that is affordable for everyone from firefighters to baristas.

Though we all use "affordable housing" casually as part of our community vernacular, in governmental projects, contracts, or leases, the term "affordable" is technical and is specifically used to describe housing targeted exclusively at very low incomes. While people with very low incomes are in obvious

and significant need of housing, "affordable housing" is not available for the wider range of need from people like nurses, teachers, or firefighters who currently cannot afford to live in Port Townsend. There is no accepted governmental term for that sort of housing intended for lower & middle income working families, and that sort of housing is essential if we hope to maintain a functional society.

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COMMON GROUND FOR THE COMMON GOOD

A message from City Manager John Mauro



August's warm, bright days and awesome array of events and activities provide irresistible chances for us

to find and deepen connections to each other and to this place. It's like medicine for the lose-lose divisiveness and discord we may sense at the global level – or maybe even here in PT. Whether it be due to global strife, national political uncertainty, rampant misinformation, or persistent injustices, I know many people are on edge and simply talking past each other. Have we lost our ability to find common ground or even to engage civilly with those we disagree with?

Lieutenant Governor Denny Heck took action on this growing concern when he kicked off the Project for Civic Health. It's a state-wide initiative, one that Deputy Mayor Amy Howard has participated in alongside elected leaders from around Washington, and one that I'm speaking about at the annual



Join John at The Nest, 1119 Lawrence St., for connection and conversation, Aug. 2 and Sept. 6.

city management conference this month. The Lieutenant Governor is giving the keynote presentation at the conference, presenting his initiative and the corresponding report, "Common Ground for the Common Good." The report gets right to the point: "Too much of our public discourse has devolved into a verbal cage match with no rules." I'm sure you're aware that it goes beyond verbal too. Sadly, the anger and personal attacks are not hard to find regularly in our social media landscape – or in the print media for that matter.

It doesn't have to be this way. We are a community with the promise,

passion, and power to stand up for a more civil, productive, and engaging way of relating to each other. Each one of us can play a positive role. Have a read of the Lieutenant Governor's powerful and succinct report here: ltgov.wa.gov/civic-health-report. It contains some tough truths and encouraging solutions. Or better yet, take the time to listen authentically to someone you don't agree with and practice the art of understanding and building stronger relationships. Only together can we inject civility and understanding into the current heated political context. In doing so, we all win.

John Mauro, City Manager

Mayor's letter, continued

Technicalities aside, I want this community to do everything it possibly can to build housing targeted at and made affordable to our wider range of need. That will take planning and pulling together to achieve

common goals, working hard to make our community stronger, lending your voice to the comprehensive plan periodic review, and shifting to an open mindset about initiatives that support needed housing even when—or especially when—it may require us to compromise a bit more.

Mayor David J. Faber

JOIN PTPD FOR NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Held on the first Tuesday of August every year, this national event is an opportunity to meet your neighbors and connect with the Port Townsend Police Department in your neighborhood. Want to host a gathering for National Night Out on August 6? Send an inquiry to Sgt. Kamal Sharif, ksharif@cityofpt.us.



We're celebrating the long tenures of our wonderful City staff! From left to right: Suzanne Wassmer, Associate Planner, 25 years; Sarah Tiffany, Project Accounting Specialist, 19 years; Brenda Kay Burke, Crew Chief Apprentice Facilities, 15 years. Congratulations to Suzanne and Sarah on your retirement! We all wish you well.

WATER RESOURCE CONSERVATION

What a beautiful summer we have been enjoying: long days, sunny skies, and dry... What about our water supply? As the snowpack wanes, the City's water consumption increases. It is peak season for visitors and festivals, bringing vitality to Port Townsend. These elements as well as irrigation, outdoor cleaning, and personal hydration are naturally on the rise when the stream flows are falling.

The City's drinking water comes from the Big and Little Quilcene Rivers.

Water stored in Lords Lake reservoir provides water when low stream flows or storm events limit water withdrawals from the rivers. Lords Lake contains enough water to sustain us for approximately two and a half months. Typically, precipitation and snow pack in the Olympics provide ample stream flows to supply most needs until early September. Water stored in Lords Lake helps to supply demand until autumn rains restore stream flows. This summer, the rivers are experiencing diminished stream

flows earlier than in an average year. **What can we do to conserve our water resources?** An important part of water conservation is using common sense, ensuring leaks don't go unnoticed, and asking ourselves, 'Are we using water in an efficient manner?' You can find a few useful tips for getting the most out of our water as we endeavor to conserve this precious resource, on our website: cityofpt.us/publicworks/page/water-conservation-tips

UTILITY BILLING NOTICE

The Finance Department is excited to announce that we have upgraded our billing system! We appreciate your patience and understanding as we navigate the changes. See below and visit our website to learn more.

A note on last month's (June 30) bills: approx. 1,000 bills were generated incorrectly in May and did not include

water consumption due to an import error with one of our hand-held meter readers. These charges were retroactively added on June statements as "Additional Billing." We apologize for the confusion. To help with communicating future issues to customers, we have an e-mail list for alerts regarding utility bills. Sign up at cityofpt.us/newsletter/subscriptions. We have waived late fees due to our software upgrade and billing issues, but please note that late fees will be reinstated in August.



CivicPay - sign up today to view and pay your utility bill online!

Our new utility bill payment system means easier access to your account and fewer delays in receiving your bill. Visit cityofpt.us/finance/page/pay-your-utility-bill to learn more about this new service, and contact ptutilities@cityofpt.us with questions or guidance.

JOIN US FOR AUGUST EVENTS AT THE LIBRARY



**ADVENTURE
PHOTO & ART** GALLERY

An eclectic mix of art will be on display, featuring the local talent of kids & teens within our community.

Aug 23
5Pm-6Pm

Find all the youth and adult programs offered at the Public Library and around the community on the Library's website: ptpubliclibrary.org

Plants from Ancient Folklore 1 - 2 p.m., Wednesday, August 7 Pink House Meeting Room

Do some plants have magical powers? Learn about the history and lore of plants used to heal, protect, cast spells, and convey messages. Paint a compostable pot with traditional mystical symbols (or create your own!) and then plant your magical seeds. Master Gardener volunteers will be on hand to guide you in your successful planting. Ages 12-18.

Discovery Bay Wild Bird Rescue 1 - 2 p.m., Thursday, August 8 Chetzemoka Park

Meet and learn about some of the raptors recently rescued by Discovery Bay Wild Bird Rescue. Ages 7-12.

Survival Skills, Campfires, & More! 1 - 2 p.m., Wednesday, August 14 Teen Room

Learn basic survival skills with Scott Brinton from CedarRoot. This workshop will include everything from braiding rope with plants to successfully building and maintaining a campfire in the wilderness. Ages 12-18.

Poems for the Time Being: A Reading and Conversation 5:30 p.m., Thursday, August 29 Carnegie Room

Join Port Townsend's Poet Laureate, Conner Bouchard-Roberts, and other acclaimed local poets for an evening of poetry and conversation about kindness and our experiences of time.

Introduction to MacOS 4:30-6 p.m. Thursdays, August 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 Pink House Meeting Room

Join Digital Equity Navigator Jamie Pena for this introductory course to Apple's operating system, MacOS.

8/1 - Finding and Opening Applications
8/8 - Navigating Finder
8/15 - Managing Applications
8/22 - Productivity apps
8/29 - System Updates, Accessibility, and Troubleshooting

Registration is not required. Participants will need to bring their own devices or can follow along. Library-provided laptops will not be available for this course.



The event readerboard on Sims Way is now available to promote your Jefferson County community event! Go to jeffcopromo.org for the new online reservation system to feature community events & nonprofit activities. Now booking through January 4, 2025. Reservations are first come, first served, cost \$100 per side for one week, and must be reserved in advance to guarantee your event promotion.