

# City of Port Townsend

NOVEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

## CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

**Mon, November 4:**  
**Regular Business Meeting**  
Public Hearings on Preliminary  
2025 Budget and 2025 Property  
Tax Levies

**Tues, November 12:**  
**City Council Workshop**  
2025 Capital Budget

**Mon, November 18:**  
**Regular Business Meeting**  
Capital Facilities Plan and  
Capital Budget

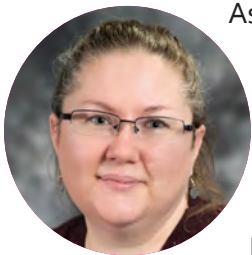
Meetings are held at 6 p.m.  
unless otherwise noticed,  
and are subject to change. Visit  
[cityofpt.us/calendar](http://cityofpt.us/calendar) for updates.



A mature Garry Oak makes a striking silhouette in early winter as part of our urban forest. Learn more about “the right tree in the right place” and what might be the best tree for your space: [cityofpt.us/planning-community-development/page/urban-forestry-trees-row](http://cityofpt.us/planning-community-development/page/urban-forestry-trees-row).

## INITIATIVES DRIVING POSITIVE CHANGE

### A message from Deputy Mayor Amy Howard



As Deputy Mayor, I'm honored to be part of several initiatives aimed at driving positive change in our community.

This year, I'm particularly grateful for three key efforts: the Equity, Access, and Rights (EAR) Advisory Board, the revised and renewed City Budget process, and the Washington Collaborative Elected Leadership Institute (WA-CELI).

The EAR Advisory Board, a crucial step in advancing equity in Port Townsend, has officially begun its work. The board is dedicated to creating a platform where residents can raise concerns, engage in dialogue, and shape policies promoting inclusivity. I had the privilege of working with City staff to interview the inaugural members before their appointment by City Council. Their dedication to social justice and community care is inspiring, and I'm eager to see the difference we can make together.

To learn more about the EAR board, please visit the City's website or attend one of their meetings.

Revising the City Budget process has also been a critical priority. Our budget is not just about numbers—it's about reflecting our community's values through smart resource allocation. Budgeting is challenging, especially with the state's requirement for a balanced budget, but we've made significant progress by starting early. The 2025 budget process began with work plan sessions in July. Last year, this proactive approach led to the success

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# A NEW COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

## A message from City Manager John Mauro



All of us depend on core City services like water, wastewater, transportation, and public safety. We often

don't think about what it takes or who is working hard to ensure those services are delivered, because they are expected to function. When they don't, we hear about it – and for good reason. These are services we need for basic health, safety, and mobility.

There are other City services like parks and open space, library resources, gathering spaces, arts and culture – all essential for a fun, active, socially-connected, high quality of life, and crucial to our community identity.

Providing these things is a joy for our team and the local agencies we partner with, but in our community

where many struggle to afford the core services, it's a challenge to get the balance right.

That's why we're proposing a change to how the City organizes some of our important community services: a combined Community Services Department that incorporates Parks and Facilities teams, the Library department, and adds an arts and culture element to oversee the PT Creative District.

The aim is for better, more integrated, more stable delivery of these services to our community. We're drawing creative inspiration from elements that provide a high-quality public service (like the library), building back some of the elements that have suffered from years of neglect (like parks and facilities), and recognizing an opportunity to play a more meaningful role in carrying forward the work of the PT Creative District in expanding living-wage opportunities for local artists.

Yes, combining forces helps solve a longer-term budget puzzle. And yes,

this approach is used in many other Washington communities of our size. But, perhaps more importantly, this synergy opens up new creative opportunities for how the City, our partners, and you can work together to enhance our community fabric and what makes our town so special – and ensure it can carry forward for generations to come.

You won't likely see many big changes on the ground right away. The day-to-day work of parks, facilities, and the library is intended to remain very similar to what it is today. It will also need to run its course through the 2025 budget process, underway now with City Council approval in December. As 2025 unfolds, we'll look to transition this combined department with an aim to make your experience with those services you love even better.

Reach out and let us know what you think – or if you have any ideas for how we get this right.

**John Mauro, City Manager**

## Councilmember letter, continued

of the Transportation Benefit District, which has already made a noticeable difference in our streets. With Public Works managing nearly \$45 million in capital projects, you'll see even more infrastructure improvements in the coming year. We know some streets still need attention, but we're committed to continuous progress. If you see our local street crew at work, please thank them—they're helping us cover more ground while keeping costs down.

Lastly, WA-CELI has been an enriching experience. As a member of the inaugural cohort, along with

Councilmembers Rowe and MickHager, I've gained valuable insights from elected leaders across Washington. This experience will help us better connect with residents and design a public engagement process that reflects how Port Townsend likes to participate, saving us money by doing more in-house.

I'm truly thankful to be part of these efforts and excited to continue working toward a more inclusive and vibrant future for our community.

**Deputy Mayor Amy Howard**

**LISTEN TO  
BREWOCRACY NOW!  
WEEKLY ON KPTZ**

Every Thursday from 12:30 - 1:00 p.m. you can tune in to local radio station KPTZ 91.9 FM to listen to *Brewocracy Now!* with City Manager John Mauro and KPTZ co-host Taylor Clark. Learn about current City projects and initiatives, and hear from special guests in the conversation. Send questions to [dj@kptz.org](mailto:dj@kptz.org) during the show. If you miss an episode, you can find an archive on KPTZ's website: [kptz.org/podcasts](http://kptz.org/podcasts).

# CITY UTILITIES: PROJECT UPDATES



Water Resources crew member, Ricky Talbot, digging in a meter box to expose a service line for inspection.

## Water Resources Service Line Inventory

The Public Works Department has just completed a federally mandated Water Service Line Inventory to determine if there are any lead lines used for service within the City. The Service Line Inventory included a randomized sample of approximately 350 homes in Port Townsend built before 1987 or where the building date was unknown. The selection criteria were based on the 1986 Amendment to the Safe Drinking Water Act which prohibited the use of pipes, solder, or flux that were not “lead free” in public water systems. The inventory analysis showed no lead service lines found in the sample and was submitted to the Department of Health by the deadline of October 16. Information about the inventory and its findings will be available on our website no later than November 15. For more information about the inventory, visit the Water Resources web page: [cityofpt.us/publicworks/page/water-resources](http://cityofpt.us/publicworks/page/water-resources).

## Water Street Sewer Replacement Project

The Water Street sewer main line, in the vicinity of Water and Grant Streets, collapsed in December 2022 requiring an emergency repair, and collapsed again near the ferry terminal intersection in September 2024. After the initial break in 2022, the City began applying for grants and low interest loans to fund a sewer main replacement. The Water Street Sewer Replacement project is a \$2.7M project scheduled to begin in January 2025 with approximately 8 – 10 weeks of construction. Equipment staging will begin mid-December. The project will rectify a decades-old issue common to asbestos concrete pipe, which deteriorates to mush when exposed to gases from sewage.

The project will extend the City’s existing Monroe Lift Station force main approximately 1,850 feet using an innovative method called “horizontal directional drilling,” or HDD. You can watch an informative video about HDD on the Water Street Sewer page of EngagePT: [cityofpt.us/engagept](http://cityofpt.us/engagept). This method of construction is commonly used to install pipe in areas not amenable to open trench construction, including environmentally sensitive areas and main thoroughfares like Water Street. The City will also replace approximately 1,830 feet of existing gravity sewer main via “slip lining,” which is the process of inserting a smaller pipe into the failing larger pipe.

The work is being planned for minimal impact and has been scheduled during a slower traffic season for Port Townsend and may require temporary road closures with a detour along Washington Street. Site work will include traffic control and noise mitigation. Questions regarding the Water Street Sewer Replacement Project should be directed to Project Manager Andre Harper, [aharper@cityofpt.us](mailto:aharper@cityofpt.us). Additional details will be made available once the project schedule is determined in December.



Contractors paving after the emergency repair of the Water Street sewer main in early September. The repair occurred in record time, minimizing traffic disruption for Wooden Boat Festival weekend.



The City is improving pedestrian accessibility through two grant-funded projects along Tyler and Lawrence Streets. The Lawrence Street project focuses on sidewalks and ramps between the Public Library and Tyler Street, including a new bus stop, rain gardens, bike lanes, trees, and rain garden plantings. The Tyler Street project includes sidewalk replacement this year, and repaving of Tyler from Lawrence to the Bell Tower in 2025. The projects are expected to continue through mid-December. Use the QR code to learn more.

# NOVEMBER AT YOUR PUBLIC LIBRARY

## Check out a Museum or Parks Pass

The Public Library has added passes to the Unusual Items Collection. So far we have Washington State Parks Discover Passes, a NW Forest Pass, Port Townsend Marine Science Center Family Passes and a pass to visit the Jefferson County Museum of Art + History and The Rothschild House. These provide free access to community resources and are available to check out.

## Author Talk with Margaret Mizushima

6:00 p.m., Thursday, November 7, Carnegie Room

Margaret Mizushima writes the award winning and internationally published Timber Creek K-9 Mysteries. She serves as past president of the Rocky Mountain Chapter of Mystery Writers of America and was elected 2019 Writer of the Year by Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers. She is the recipient of many awards and recently moved from Colorado to a home in the Pacific Northwest.

## Poems for the Time Being: A Reading and Conversation with Conner Bouchard-Roberts

5:30 p.m., Thursday, November 21, Carnegie Room

Join City Poet Laureate and other acclaimed local poets for an evening of poetry and conversation about the passage of this thing called time.



Announcing the Public Library's 30th Annual Uptown Gingerbread Contest! Free gingerbread kits will be available at the library from November 18 - 30.

Submissions will be accepted from December 1 - 8, and winners will be announced by December 20. This year's juror is Mayor David J. Faber!

## NEWS FROM CITY PARTNERS

### Fast Charge Your Electric Vehicle

The Climate Action Committee (CAC), an effort of the City, County, Transit, PUD, and many others is promoting the first fast chargers (level 3) in the county. They were installed this summer at 2409 Jefferson St., just off of Sims Way, thanks to a collaboration between the City and EVCS, with funding from WSDOT. The chargers can fill an EV in less than 30 minutes, depending on the vehicle. Not ready to make the leap to an EV, or only need access to a car occasionally? You can rent an EV through ZEV Coop EV Car share. Learn more at [ZEV.coop](http://ZEV.coop).

### Quimper Parks & Trees Foundation

It has been said, "The best time to plant a tree is twenty years ago, the next best time is today." The Quimper Parks & Trees Foundation was established this year with the mission to restore, enhance, and protect tree canopy in our parks and open spaces across the Quimper Peninsula. This new foundation is the result of many years of collaboration between community parks volunteers, the City of Port Townsend Parks team, and advocates for trees in our parks and open spaces. The group has partnered with Jefferson Community Foundation to manage the fund. Learn more at [jcfgives.org](http://jcfgives.org).



Did you know you can pay all City bills online? We now accept credit card payments via PayGov for Facility Rentals, Event and Banner Permits, B&O Tax and Specialty License Renewal, Parking/DUI tickets, and Planning and Community Development bills. Utility bills are payable via CivicPay, where you can sign up to view your utility usage history, set up automatic payments, and more.