April 2026

City of Port Townsend UTILITIES NEWSLETTER

City of Port Townsend
Utility Billing

250 Madison St.
(360) 385-3000
9am–4pm M–Th
ptutilities@cityofpt.us

Info & Forms

cityofpt.us/finance/page/utility-information

Leak Check

Concerned you might have a leak? Visit *cityofpt.us/finance/page/water-leaks* for instructions on how to do a leak check. You can also request a City leak check for a $30 fee. Please call (360) 385-3000 or email *ptutilities@cityofpt.us*.

City of Port Townsend Public Works crew (from left) Dusty Robinson, Ricky Talbot, Wesley Wheeler along with Seton Construction crew Talon and Tristan fixing a waterline leak in early March. The leak was detected and fixed in a matter of hours.

Olympic Disposal Rates Increase

Effective April 1, 2026, Olympic Disposal rates will increase $1.98 per month. This increase is due to Jefferson County's recycling program changing and reflects the pass-through cost of processing and transporting recyclable materials. For more information, visit *jeffersoncountysolidwaste.com*. Note: garbage collection is required for customers located within city limits. Customers within city limits with an Olympic Disposal account may qualify for a discount through the Income-Based Discount Program. More information: *cityofpt.us/finance/page/utility-information*.

Join us at these City events and programs in April

• **Coffee Chat with the City Manager** heads over to Velocity Coffee at Northwest Maritime first Fridays through June 2026. Join John Mauro, neighbors, and friends from **9 – 10:30am on Friday, April 3**.

• April is Poetry Month! Join the **Poems of the Moment program** on **Thursday, April 9 at 6pm** at the Port Townsend Library. City of Port Townsend Poet Laureate, Rufina C. Garay and local poets will read poems that reflect observations, vulnerabilities, and "waypoints" of the moment. Rufina C. Garay is Port Townsend's second Poet Laureate.

• Attend the **Comprehensive Plan Community Celebration** on **Saturday, April 25 from 2 – 4pm** at the Port Townsend Golf Park to commemorate this milestone and share your dreams for the future of Port Townsend as part of a time capsule that will be opened in 2045.

SIGN UP FOR THE CITY'S E-NEWS:
tinyurl.com/2cb3dcac

Scan the QR code for the answer!

app.repd.us/porttownsend/en

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

"When will the Chetzemoka Park kitchen shelter be rebuilt?"

Before: Asphalt deterioration due to drainage on Hancock Street in 2024.

After: Ditching performed to fix drainage ahead of paving of Hancock Street.

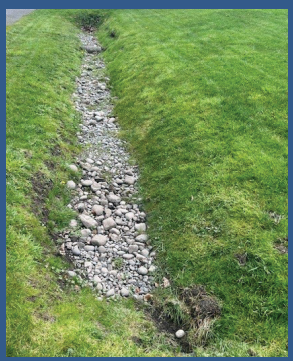
Street Operations Drainage

The largest contributor to street failure is inadequate drainage. Water that ponds or puddles along the edge of pavement weakens the subgrade that supports pavement.

Many of our streets are failing along the edge of pavement and the longer the street goes without resolution to the drainage the more the street will deteriorate. The above illustrations show how drainage impacts the roadway.

The City has begun to implement an annual ditching program that will address drainage along streets coinciding with street repair.

A well-maintained ditch allows water to flow unobstructed.



This ditch has been filled with rocks and debris, and both ends of the driveway culvert have been blocked. Water now runs down the street instead of the ditch.

How can property owners help maintain ditches?

Property owners should maintain roadside ditches by keeping them free of:

- debris
- leaves
- trash

This ensures unobstructed water flow. Avoid raking, blowing, or dumping leaves or grass clipping in the roadside ditches and culverts.

For more information visit *cityofpt.us/publicworks/page/stormwater.*

Mow the ROW!

Right-of-Way (ROW) is the public space that is between your property and the street. Property owners are required to maintain the public ROW. This gives City of Port Townsend street crews time to focus on street improvement and maintenance such as stormwater work, filling potholes, street repairs, and sewer inspections. Thank you to City residents for doing your part maintaining the ROW!

Required property owner ROW maintenance includes:
Vegetation and tree maintenance, litter and trash removal, and sidewalk maintenance including removal of snow and ice.

Public Works Department ROW responsibilities includes:
Most street surfaces, water and sewer utilities, stormwater infrastructure, including periodic maintenance of roadside ditches, and caring for or maintaining trees in downtown sidewalk planters

ROW Maintenance

- Mow grass: 12 in. or less
- Trim trees & vegetation (min. clearance of 8 ft. over sidewalks and 15 ft. over streets).
- Control and/or remove noxious weeds (permit required to apply herbicide).
- Meet the requirements for "minor landscaping" (as defined in PTMC 12.040.075C).
- Remove dead, diseased, or dying trees (permit required).

Learn more about maintaining the RIGHT-OF-WAY