

City of Port Townsend

UTILITIES NEWSLETTER

August 2026

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

Check Fire Danger

Stay safe this summer by monitoring and following current burn restrictions. Visit: co.jefferson.wa.us/1687/Office-of-the-Fire-Marshall



Ever been curious to see how a mural is painted? Keep your eye on the skate park this summer and fall to watch it transform into a work of art. Above is part of the concept design by local artist Jesse Joshua Watson. To participate or offer thoughts on the final design, visit ptcreativedistrict.org/skatepark

Update Your Contact Information!

Utility Billing is working to integrate regular email updates and phone calls for Past Due/Shut Off notifications, Income-Based Discount communication, leak notifications, account close outs, and more. Many of our accounts have numbers no longer in use and no email addresses on file. Customers are encouraged to update their contact information to avoid delayed notification by mail of important account notifications. To make sure your contact information is up-to-date, please email to ptutilities@cityofpt.us with the subject line: Update Contact Information. In the body of the email, include: Account name, Service address, account number, email address, phone number(s), and billing address. Thank you!

Join us at these City events and programs in August

• **Coffee & Conversation with the City Manager** is at the Fort Worden Commons Patio at Fort Worden State Park this month. Join John Mauro, neighbors, and friends from **9 – 10:30am on Friday, August 7**. Let's give John a hearty send-off! We'll update the community on the continuation of this program as soon as information is available. Thanks for your participation & great conversations all these years. And special thanks to all our host venues.

• **Connect with the City at the Farmers Market** this summer. City

Councilmembers and staff will host a City table to connect with the community on **August 15**. Bring your market basket for fresh veg and bring your curiosity for the City's work.

• Come out to the **Concerts on the Dock on Thursday, August 27**, and ride your bike! We'll be celebrating the installation of new, covered bike parking adjacent to the Cotton Building with a special ribbon cutting.

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

"How does the City budget work?"

Answered by
City Manager John Mauro
& Finance Director Jodi Adams
Part of the "How Your City Works" video series on YouTube. Subscribe to get notifications when new videos drop!

Current Fire Risk: High



Due to current atmospheric and field conditions, a declaration of high fire hazard is now in effect according to The Jefferson County Fire Marshal and the Jefferson County Fire Chiefs.

During a declaration of High Fire Hazard:

- Use of charcoal briquettes is prohibited, except for commercially made listed and labeled barbeque devices located and used at a residence.
- Target shooting outside of gun ranges, and use of exploding targets or incendiary ammunition is prohibited. Hunting is allowed in open areas.
- The discharge, manufacture, sale, storage, or transportation of fireworks is prohibited.
- Outdoor burning is restricted; no recreational burning (campfires).

For updates on fire restrictions and safety guidelines, please visit the Jefferson County Office of the Fire Marshal website at: www.co.jefferson.wa.us/1687/Office-of-the-Fire-Marshal.



Lords Lake Reservoir pictured in summer 2024. Drawdown of Lords Lake Reservoir this year began on July 22, 2026. This is several weeks earlier than in an average year. .

City Issues Voluntary Water Conservation Notice

Water supplies in the Quilcene Watershed below average

The City of Port Townsend has issued a voluntary water conservation notice to the community for households, businesses, and industrial water use. The City of Port Townsend relies on precipitation in the Olympic Mountains to meet our municipal and industrial water needs. Flow in the Big Quilcene River, our primary water source, is typically sustained by the snowpack through July. By early September it is often necessary to utilize water from Lords Lake, a 500-million-gallon storage reservoir, when low stream flows limit water withdrawals from the rivers.

Dry conditions this year have accelerated depletion of the watershed snowpack. Drawdown of Lords Lake Reservoir this year began on July 22. This is several weeks earlier than in an average year. While precipitation may minimize reservoir drawdown at times, the City is asking customers to voluntarily conserve water until autumnal rains replenish flow in the rivers. The PT Paper Company (Mill) uses a large proportion of the water supply and has implemented a number of additional conservation measures to reduce water consumption. Should the Lords Lake Reservoir empty, the Mill will be required to curtail operations or shutdown.

The City thanks water customers as well as the Mill for conservation measures that help reduce water use each fall when Lords Lake and stream flows are at their lowest. The City also appreciates ongoing water conservation efforts throughout the year to help reduce our community's overall consumption.

Find water conservation tips on our website: tinyurl.com/546nnedd

For more information on the Olympic Gravity Water System see: tinyurl.com/mvnnfycn

For data on stream flow, see USGS Current Conditions: tinyurl.com/3ejdpah2