# 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

**Download Billing History**

Find your 2025 billing and payment history on CivicPay under your "Activity." View history and individual billing statements. Visit *cityofpt.merchanttransact.com.*

*Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 8, 2026. Spring forward!*

## Happy Spring!

Warmer weather brings gardening season, and also possible leaks. Excess water consumption can be caused by something small like a hose accidentally left on or not fully turned off after a day of gardening. Concerned you might have a leak, or want to check for one? Visit *cityofpt.us/finance/page/water-leaks* for instructions on how to do a leak check yourself. You can also request a City leak check for a $30 fee. Please call 360-385-3000 to schedule!

## Join us at these City events and programs in March

• Join Mayor Amy Howard and City Manager John Mauro for the **Annual State of the City event, March 4, 5:30pm** at the Port Pavilion.

• **Coffee Chat with the City Manager** continues at Coyote and Crow Restaurant at the Port Townsend Golf Park through March. Join John Mauro, neighbors, and friends from **9 to 10:30am, Friday, March 6**. Coffee with the City Manager will head to Velocity Coffee April through June, first Fridays.

• March is officially Reading Month! Join the annual **Community Read** with the Port Townsend Public Library. This year we are reading *Ian's Ride: A Long-Distance Journey to Joy* by Karen Polinsky. This true story examines how we exist in our bodies, adapt to and overcome adversity, and what it means to push our limits. Find all the details at *ptpubliclibrary.org*.

• Attend the **Jefferson County Connectivity Summit March 27 – 29** at Fort Worden to connect with community, meet local leaders, and share your voice about the future of Port Townsend and Jefferson County! Visit *theproductionalliance.org/connectivity* to learn more.

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

*app.repd.us/porttownsend/en*

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

**"What is the Income-Based Discount Program and how do I know if I am eligible?"**

*Urban Forestry Fee revenue can be used for tree planting and replacement, pruning and maintenance, hazardous tree removal, and protecting tree health.*

# Urban Forestry Billing Correction

Stormwater Utility account holders with impervious surface area exceeding 3,000 sq. ft. will see an increase in the Urban Forestry Fee beginning with the February 28, 2026 billing statements. Prior to this date, these accounts were billed the flat fee only due to a billing error (see Ordinance 3332). The fee, first introduced April 1, 2024, was incorrectly charged as a flat rate per account instead of scaling with impervious surface area like the Stormwater Fee. Accounts at 3,000 sq. ft. or less were billed correctly, but larger properties were undercharged. The City estimates that about $25,000 total was not collected over the almost two-year period. The issue has been corrected going forward, but the City will not be backbilling. Read on for more information.

## Urban Forestry Fee Q & A

**What is Urban Forestry?** Urban forestry is the City's work to plant, care for, and manage our urban trees to improve our canopy. Trees support stormwater management by absorbing rainfall and slowing runoff. Urban Forestry Fee revenue is restricted and can only be used for tree planting and replacement, pruning and maintenance, hazardous tree removal, and protecting tree health.

**Why impervious surface area?** Impervious surface area (hard surfaces like roofs, driveways, street pavement and gravel areas) doesn't soak up rain, so water runs off into storm drains, ditches, and drainage ways. Properties with more of these surfaces create more runoff and put more demand on the stormwater system. Even stormwater that does not make it to the storm drainage system impact our environment such as recharging wetlands. Urban Forestry mitigates the impacts of development on stormwater

**How much will my bill increase?** The 2026 Urban Forestry Fee is $0.75 cents. If impervious surface area exceeds 3,000 sq. ft., total square footage is divided by 3,000 and multiplied by $0.75 for the monthly rate. This fee is considered part of the Stormwater services total monthly base fee.

*Check availability*

# Compost Available!

## Get your gardens ready for spring with City compost, now available!

Stop by Tuesday, Wednesday or Friday, 12-3pm, 603 County Landfill Road at the Transfer Station. Note if you are dropping off yard waste, construction materials and plastics are not acceptable material. Check the website before going to make sure compost is still available: *cityofpt.us/publicworks/page/compost-facility*

# Recycling Changes

"Single stream" recycling is being considered as an option by City staff and City Council for efficiency in recycling services. That means there would be one larger bin for plastic bottles, tin and aluminum cans, and paper, including cardboard (no more sorting of these materials), and one bin for glass (still needs to be sorted). Stay tuned in future monthly enewsletters and the Utility newsletter.