

UTILITIES NEWSLETTER

City of Port Townsend Utility Billing

(360) 385-3000
ptutilities@cityofpt.us

Info & Forms



cityofpt.us/finance/page/utility-information

Income-Based Discount

The City offers a sliding-scale Income-Based Discount to qualifying utility households. Find a form on our Utility Information page, QR code and link above.



Happy November! Daylight savings ends November 2, ushering in winter months. Stay safe and warm!

Irrigation Rate Update

Irrigation water rates will return from summer to winter rate pricing, effective November 1. If you are an irrigation water customer, the rate will be reflected on your November 30 bill. The price per 1,000 gallons consumed will go from \$9.83 to \$5.61 for customers inside city limits and from \$11.80 to \$6.73 for customers outside city limits. For a current rate table, visit: cityofpt.us/finance/page/utility-information. Please note that all rates are set to increase annually, with the next increase set for January 1, 2026. More information will be available before the end of the year.

Join us at these City events and programs in November



Sign up for the City's E-News! The City of Port Townsend now sends a monthly e-newsletter. Stay up to date on City projects, events, and ways to engage in the future of Port Townsend when you sign up. To join the mailing list, visit tinyurl.com/2cb3dcac.

- **Coffee Chat with the City Manager** continues first Fridays, at Marina Café in Boat Haven through December. Have you had their famous blueberry muffins yet? Join John Mauro, neighbors, and friends from **9 – 10:30am on November 7**. Bring your curiosity!

- Be sure not to miss Conner Bouchard-Roberts's final public program as City Poet Laureate and celebrate his two-year tenure. ***Poems for the Time Being: A***

Reading and Conversation will be held on **Thursday, November 13 at 5:30pm** at the Port Townsend Library Carnegie Room. Join featured readers Tim McNulty, Joseph Bednarik, Crystie Kisler, and Justine Pratt for an evening of poetry and conversation, and learn who the 2026-2027 Poet Laureate will be! Enjoy musical accompaniment by Ambient Juncos. The program is free and appropriate for all ages, thanks to

The Friends of the Port Townsend Library.

- November is a big month for public meetings around the **City Budget and Comprehensive Plan Update**. You can review these key documents and provide feedback to City Council through public comment and testimony. Find the full list of public meetings for November at cityofpt.us/calendar and submit public comment at: publiccomment.fillout.com/cityofpt.



Great Blue (Matt Babcock, 2015) and Heron Weather Vane (Russell Jaqua, 1995) are two of Port Townsend's public art installations. The program that funds projects like these has been expanded to include utility projects.

1% for the Arts

City Council recently adopted a new version of the 1% for the Arts code (PTMC 3.50) to include utility projects. This means more public art for Port Townsend!

1% for the Arts is a program used by cities around the country to fund artistic production. It dedicates 1% of capital projects (i.e. construction or major infrastructure) to public art so that as municipalities build and grow, they also provide opportunities to bring more art to their communities. Under the updated code, eligible capital construction projects over \$75,000 will dedicate 1% of their budget to art. In the past, utility projects were not eligible, meaning many of the City's capital investments were not supporting this program. In fact, only 30% of the current public art collection was funded through the former 1% for the Arts program, and it has not supported a project since 2015, when it was used to commission *Great Blue* in Uptown.

For more information go to, cityofpt.us/bc/page/arts-commission-o.

Winterization Season

Plan now for winter months! Pipes can burst in cold weather when water flowing through them freezes and expands. To avoid high utility and plumbing bills, prepare before a cold snap. Check for cracks and wrap exposed pipes with pipe insulation, heat tape, or newspaper. Drain outdoor pipes and disconnect and drain garden hoses. Shut off water supplies to outdoor faucets and cover faucets with a hose bibb. Plan to keep your home at a consistent temperature (min. 55 degrees Fahrenheit) to prevent pipes from freezing. During a deep freeze, consider using a space heater in areas without wall heaters or located away from your HVAC system.

Planning to leave for an extended period? Consider turning off the main water supply. You can reach out to us at ptutilities@cityofpt.us or call (360) 385-3000 to request that a member of our Water Distribution Crew turn your water off at the meter (\$30 fee).

Managing Stormwater

Utility customers living within City limits are billed monthly stormwater fees. These funds help support City stormwater management.

Stormwater management is essential to streets maintenance and preservation. Why? Water on roads = road surface destruction! We have a team of experts at the City for stormwater system design and construction, and they are frequently tackling stormwater issues first before repaving or patching streets.

The upcoming **Mill Road and Discovery Road intersection project** is a great example. On October 20, City Council approved additional funding for an expanded streets improvement project on Mill and Discovery, which has a highly deteriorated street surface that partially floods during rainy periods.

This \$315,000 project (with \$34,710 from the Stormwater Utility Capital Fund) includes "hot spot" pavement repair, a targeted fix on the worst sections of road where pavement has broken or failed, along with drainage and stormwater improvements.

The project will reshape the roadway, add ditches, and install stormwater drainage so that surface water is properly managed. Drainage, if not handled correctly, accelerates pavement failure. Integrating these improvements with the pavement repair is essential to completing a repair that will last, an effective and efficient use of taxpayer funds.

The City has hired Seton Construction for the project, which will be completed before the end of the year. Stay up to date at cityofpt.us/engagept/page/current-transportation-projects.