

City of Port Townsend

JUNE 2024 NEWSLETTER

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Mon, June 3:
Regular Business Meeting
Fort Worden PDA
Strategic Planning

Mon, June 17:
Regular Business Meeting
East Jefferson Fire and Rescue
Interlocal Agreement

Meetings are held at 6 p.m.
unless otherwise noticed,
and are subject to change.
Visit cityofpt.us/calendar for updates.



Engaging in the Comprehensive Plan Vision Workshop on May 9.

ROOTED IN EQUITY AND ACCESSIBILITY

A message from former Councilmember Aislinn Palmer



When I moved to Port Townsend in 2016, I did not know anything about Comprehensive Plans or how they affect our lives.

I was involved in housing activism and kept hearing about how zoning and regulations were impacting the housing crisis, but it wasn't clear to me then how anyone participated. The Port Townsend plan update was over before I figured it out, but

I was able to attend a few public meetings for the Jefferson County plan update, and it inspired me to keep getting involved. When I joined the Port Townsend Planning Commission in 2018 the breadth of the Comprehensive Plan finally took shape for me, driving home how the next update would mark an incredible opportunity to shape the next 20 years of development in Port Townsend. Our Comprehensive Plan can be rooted in concepts of equity and accessibility, rather than exclusion and extraction, if we want it to be.

That update is happening now, and the process is more transparent and accessible than any previous update. The current staff are world-class in both skill and compassion – they are capable of meaningful, groundbreaking work that can both change the course of Port Townsend and be an example for other communities throughout the state, where the time and cost of code updates often necessitates copying others. Port Townsend may be small compared to other jurisdictions, but it is perfectly situated to lead on these issues. *Continued on next page*

City Hall ♦ 250 Madison St. ♦ Mon-Thu, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. ♦ 360.385.3000 ♦ cityofpt.us

Happy Pride Month from the City of Port Townsend!

CELEBRATING ACCOMPLISHMENTS

A message from City Manager John Mauro



Our community knows how to celebrate and have fun. It's part of the joy of living here and it happens regularly throughout

the year. The City team plays a key role in ensuring events are safe and successful – but we don't often organize many of these celebrations ourselves.

This month is different. We're throwing a party to celebrate the completion of the Discovery Road project. It's been a long road (0.6 miles and six years in the making) – but we're nearly there.

On Saturday, June 15, we invite you, your family, and your friends to experience and explore this remarkable neighborhood streets project. We'll provide food, drinks, music, games, and a few surprises. Let's celebrate together one of Port Townsend's biggest transportation projects in our history!

Taking on a multi-year, large, and complex project like this took sustained collaboration within our teams, with important agency partners, and with our federal

DISCOVERY ROAD
Ribbon Cutting Celebration

BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY TO CELEBRATE THIS
REMARKABLE NEIGHBORHOOD STREETS PROJECT!

**SATURDAY
JUNE 15, 2024
2:00 PM**

on the lawn
AT THE SAN JUAN
BAPTIST CHURCH
1704 DISCOVERY RD

City of Port Townsend

Come to the party using all your modes of movement! Skates, bikes, scooters, rollerblades, dancing shoes, unicycles...

In partnership with The Production Alliance

Food
Drinks
Community
Music
Games

The poster features a yellow and pink background with large white arrows pointing towards each other. At the bottom, there is a silhouette of a family enjoying various active transportation modes: a person walking a dog, a person pushing a stroller, a person running, a person on a bicycle, and a person on a wheelchair. The text is centered and uses a mix of bold sans-serif and elegant script fonts.

and state funding agencies (most of this \$5.5 million project was grant-funded). It also took regular coordination, communication, and collaboration with community members who live nearby and all of us who use Discovery Road regularly. The project has been a fusion of intense planning, deep engagement, piles of paperwork and reporting, and frequent trouble-shooting – and much of that was before the first shovel went into the ground!

It's been satisfying and inspiring to watch the construction make

daily progress on the sidewalks, bikeway, enhanced pedestrian crossings, landscaping, street lighting, stormwater, and wetland enhancements. Each step forward confirms that this small community can do big things if we think big, plan ahead, enthusiastically collaborate, and word hard.

Thank you for your patience as we head toward the finish line together and take on our last task: the celebration!

John Mauro, City Manager

Councilmember letter, continued

Bittersweetly, there is also an opportunity for an enterprising community member to jump in and shape policy direction on this plan update, as I have resigned from my position on City Council due to relocation.

Information on how to apply to serve out the remainder of City Council Position 2's term is at cityofpt.us/citycouncil and everything you need to know about the Comprehensive Plan update can be found at pt2045planning.org.

Aislinn Palmer



Engage in the Comp Plan and Active Transportation Plan at the Discovery Road Celebration, taking place at 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 15 at the San Juan Baptist Church lawn on Discovery Road. pt2045planning.org



**With spring rains and sun,
it's time to MOW the ROW!**

ROW stands for Right-of-Way and it's the public space between your property and the street that property owners are responsible for maintaining. Street crews mowing our city right-of-ways went from 1,800 hours

in 2022 to 140 hours in 2023. This means street crews can now focus more time on street improvements and maintenance, like stormwater work, filling potholes, street repair, and sewer inspections. Thank you, city residents, for doing your part maintaining the ROW! What to learn more about the ROW? Find resources here: tinyurl.com/252u6dzf.

PARTNERSHIPS SPOTLIGHT

Visitor Information Services take a collaborative approach for 2024

Fort Worden Hospitality, Port Townsend Main Street, and Key City Public Theatre have come together to provide information services to visitors and residents in Port Townsend this year. After the closure of the Port Townsend Visitor Center, previously operated by the Chamber of Jefferson County, the City's Lodging Tax Advisory Committee (LTAC) discussed a new, collaborative model that could quickly be mobilized to support visitors to Port Townsend. These three key partners will continue to provide essential services to travelers in traditional and

non-traditional ways. Fort Worden Hospitality will leverage its 7-days-a-week front desk to help direct visitors to the sights and scenes of PT, and Main Street will employ an innovative bike cart and friendly greeter to serve people at downtown gathering places on weekends. Key City Public Theatre will service the event readerboard you see as you head into and out of town along Highway 20.

LTAC's vision of sustainable tourism is to reinvest community resources to enhance the lives of both residents and visitors. If you are at Fort Worden, or spending time downtown, check out the maps and information offered by these services and provide your guests with new resources, or explore your big backyard in a new way.

STREETS UPDATE

Tyler & Lawrence Street about to ramp up!

This summer, work on Lawrence and Tyler Streets in Uptown Port Townsend will begin, a project that will remove barriers to access in the Uptown Business District. The project, anticipated to begin construction in August, will include paving and installing new ADA compliant wheelchair ramps on Tyler Street, repairing sidewalks and installing bulbouts and wheelchair ramps on Lawrence Street, and installing a new bus stop at the corner of Lawrence and Tyler.



[See more information](#) and stay up to date with work on Lawrence and Tyler Streets.

**CITY HALL
CLOSED
JUNE 19**

City Hall will be closed on Wednesday, June 19 in observance of Juneteenth. Regular business hours are Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. City Hall is closed to the public on Fridays. If you need to drop off a Utilities payment or application, please leave it in the secure dropbox located to the right of the City Hall entrance.

How Your City

WORKS

City of  Port Townsend

How Streets Are Built

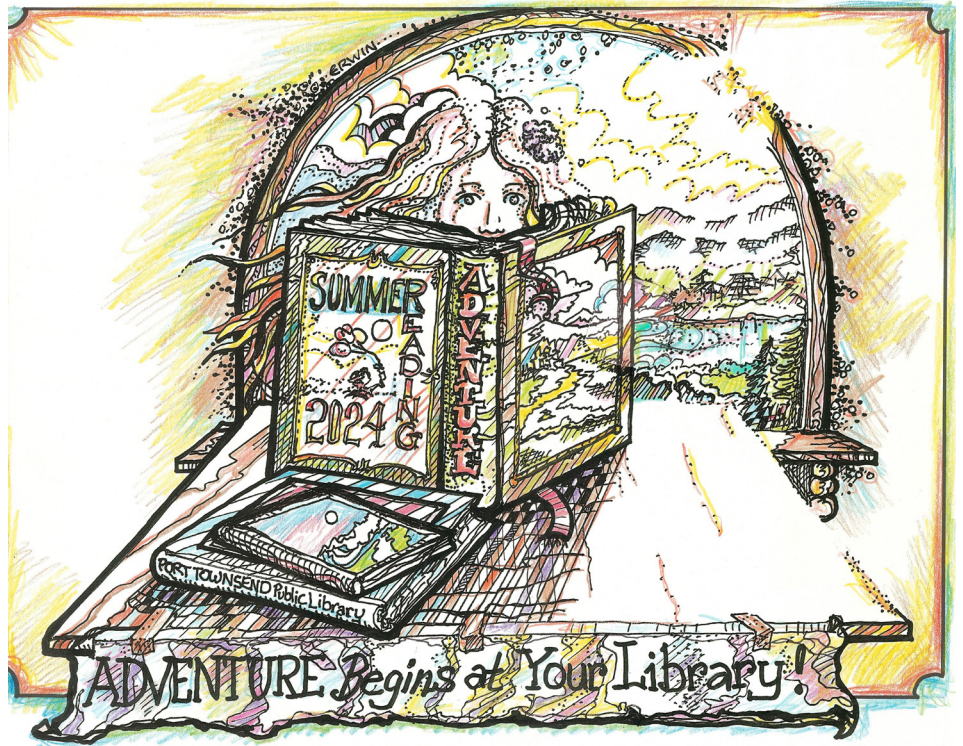
7 p.m. Thursday, June 27
Carnegie Reading Room
Port Townsend Public Library

Public Works Director Steve King and Public Works Project Manager Tyler Johnson provide an interactive presentation on city streets. Did you know the City has over 80 miles of streets to maintain? This informative talk will cover the idea of a Roman Road, the history of streets in PT and how our street system has evolved over time, including answering the question, "What is Alligator Pavement?!" Steve and Tyler will cover the types of equipment and operators used in street construction, the phases of street construction, and why "Complete Streets" with access for people using all modes of movement, matter. Using lots of photos and maps, this engaging talk will illuminate these essential and fascinating pathways through our community – our streets!

How Your City Works is a multi-part program series focused on telling stories around how the City works in a fun and educational format.



New Video! Watch "How Streets Are Built" on YouTube. Our new series of videos launch every few months, coupled with ongoing programming at the library.



Track your reading hours (50 hours for kids/teens and 100 hours for adults) to earn a t-shirt featuring art by local artist Erwin Dence.

SUMMER READING 2024

The Port Townsend Public Library invites you to participate in the 2024 Summer Reading program! The program includes self-paced reading challenges, programs, live performances, prizes and more. Reading challenges for kids, teens, and adults run from June 1-August 31. Below are a few highlights taking place in June. For more info visit ptpubliclibrary.org.

Yoga Storytime with Dani Dent

1-3:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 19
Chetzemoka Park. Ages 0-12.

We'll bring stories to life using breath, music, and movement, building early literacy skills along with healthy bodies.

Children's Book Fest

5-6:30 p.m., Thursday, June 20
Port Townsend Public Library

Join us for an evening of stories, arts and crafts, and book signings with children's book authors Faith Pray, Lily LaMotte, and Dori Butler.

Fairy House Workshop

1-2 p.m., Friday, June 28
Pink House Lawn. Ages 7-12

Help us transform our library pathway into a magical fairy garden! Enjoy an afternoon of storytelling and fairy exploration with Children's Book Author, Pheobe Wahl. We will be reading her book *Backyard Fairies* and then using natural and upcycled materials to construct fairy houses. Materials may include bark, twigs, shells, feathers, flowers, leaves, buds, and berries.

SUMMER RATE CHANGE

Irrigation water has returned to Summer rate pricing, effective May 1, 2024. The price per 1,000 gallons consumed will go from \$4.57 to \$9.55 (inside city limits) and from \$5.48 to \$11.46 (outside city limits). If you are an irrigation water customer, you will see this change reflected on your May 31, 2024 billing statement.