

# City of Port Townsend

OCTOBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

## CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

**Mon, October 7:**  
Regular Business Meeting  
2025 Budget Presentation and  
Friends of the Library Month

**Mon, October 14:** City Council  
Workshop Meeting  
Quarterly Workplan Review

**Mon, October 21:**  
Regular Business Meeting  
Arbor Day Proclamation

Meetings are held at 6 p.m.  
unless otherwise noticed,  
and are subject to change.  
Visit [cityofpt.us/calendar](http://cityofpt.us/calendar) for updates.



Fall is the perfect time to plant. Participate in celebrating Autumnal Arbor Day by adopting a tree or shrub on October 26. Find details on the event in this newsletter and on our Facebook page.

## THE DEER WERE HERE FIRST

**A message from Councilmember Neil Nelson**

Contact Councilmember Nelson at [nnelson@cityofpt.us](mailto:nnelson@cityofpt.us).



I understand we have had several instances of aggressive deer doing harm to humans and pets. Aggressive deer menacing the good residents of Port Townsend. Please don't think I take this issue lightly. I don't. But as I recently sat and listened to a proposal to hunt deer and give the meat to food banks, I couldn't help

but think, "the deer were here first." It certainly appears that the deer population has increased in the 11 years I have lived here. But so has something else. People have increased 10% in the last 10 years. And in the same 10 years we continue to build more fencing that effectively reduces deer habitat. We build more houses and clear cut more areas... less place for wildlife to live. We have moved into wildlife habitat and now we are pondering how to manipulate the situation to suit our needs.

Here is the thing: we are always changing our environment for the worse with human impact. Emissions, buildings, microplastics, toxins, etc. We humans are destructive by just living. And now we are crowding out the natural world around us, and one proposed solution is... destroy it more? Really?

I don't have a solution, but surely, we are smart enough to figure out how to live with the deer population.

*Continued on page 3*

# BUILDING A BUDGET FOR COMMUNITY BENEFIT

## A message from City Manager John Mauro



Let's plan for an exciting future together and get great things done! That's a far more compelling way to start this

October column than "let's talk about the budget" – but they're essentially the same thing.

October is when the rubber hits the road on the budget, partly so that those roads get fixed, alongside every other service and project we all depend on. Read on to learn more about what the budget is, why it may be important (to you and to our community), when it gets assembled, and how you can play a role.

Simply put, a budget is an annual spending plan for expected revenue. Desired services, projects, and programs are always greater than what we can afford, so a budget is a way to make tough prioritization decisions about what to invest in for maximum community benefit. More complex are the myriad state and federal laws and requirements for how certain dollars can be spent, including why we cannot use water revenue to fix streets or why sales tax doesn't fund the library.

Over the summer, the City Council and staff drew together a strategic workplan for 2025. It gives us a head start in syncing up programs,

departments, and funding, a clear-eyed view on what we want to accomplish that we can build our 2025 budget from.

Stepping even further back, in 2022 and 2023, we did deeper, more long-term financial planning through our Financial Sustainability Initiative. Doing so helped set a general trajectory that informs the workplan which in-turn informs the budget. We can thank that (nationally award-winning) initiative with staff, community, and council involvement for greasing the wheels as we turn toward a far more strategic approach in our annual budgets. We did this for the 2024 budget (for instance, creating the Transportation Benefit District or a self-sustaining rotating fund for fleet replacement), and we'll be proposing similar key moves this year. Watch the short videos that help tell the financial sustainability story for streets, parks, and housing: [Youtube.com/@CityofPortTownsend](https://www.youtube.com/@CityofPortTownsend).

Even with the best planning and forecasts, the future is uncertain and the truth is we can't anticipate everything. Things constantly change on the larger scale: federal funding flows, state legislation, interest rates, consumer confidence, for instance. With that in mind, a few things we're thinking through on the negative side of the ledger: federal Covid funding ends and a debt payment from years ago that we paid down the last few years to free up funding for things like streets and parks comes back. On the positive side of the ledger, we have strong reserve balances across

all funds which allows us a few of those strategic key moves to build financial resiliency.

What's next? An opportunity for your involvement! This month, we will be taking initial department requests, revenue projections, and the fee schedule to City Council. This happens on October 7. The City Council will consider a proposed budget on November 4. The Capital Facilities Plan and capital projects get consideration on November 18. While Council could pass a budget that day, too, we aim to have things wrapped up in early December with a final Council vote on the balanced 2025 budget.

Keep a look out for our next Quarterly insert in the *Leader*, as we'll focus on the 2025 budget there. Also have a look at last year's Annual Report to get a sense of what we did in 2023 and how we wrapped up financially: [cityofpt.us/annualreport](https://www.cityofpt.us/annualreport).

Finally, I invite you to learn more on our website ([cityofpt.us/finance](https://www.cityofpt.us/finance)) and participate in the process. Every step of the way, you can submit public comment on any element of the budget (including what might be missing) and offer your thoughts on priorities. You can also let City Council know what you think by calling or emailing them directly. Since each step in the timeline is a further refinement of the final budget, weigh in now - the earlier the better. Let's get great things done!

**John Mauro, City Manager**

## JOIN A VIRTUAL COMP PLAN WORKSHOP

You're invited to a virtual workshop on October 23rd at 5 p.m. to participate in shaping the Comprehensive Plan. We want your perspective on community goals, how we can use land in the City, and your priorities as we chart a course for the next 20 years. You can register online at [pt2045planning.org](https://pt2045planning.org). We hope to see you there!

# STAFF SPOTLIGHT Winn McEnergy, GIS Analyst



Hi Winn! First of all, what is GIS?

“GIS, or Geographic information systems, are computer based systems used for capturing, creating, storing, and manipulating information relative to a specific location. This information is typically depicted as points, lines, polygons, or rasters on maps. GIS is a tool that is utilized in a variety of tasks that fosters understanding of how things relate to each other over space and time. In relationship to Port Townsend, GIS is used to support

the maintenance city infrastructure (streets, water, and sewer), develop maps, conduct analysis, and disseminate geospatial data.”

Winn's career has taken him from California to Washington working in organizations focused on marine science. Transitioning into public works is a new experience, offering exciting challenges in infrastructure mapping, data analysis, and storytelling through data. Outside of work you'll find him hiking around the area with his wife and dog. Say hi!

## HAVE YOU SIGNED UP FOR CIVICPAY?

Sign Up > New User Registration

### Account Information

Create your account.

Email \*

Confirm Email \*

Last Name or Business Name \*

Utility Account Number \*

Password \*

Confirm Password \*

Password must be at least 8 characters in length, and include three of the following:

- Lowercase Letters
- Uppercase Letters
- Numbers
- Special Characters (!, @, #, \$, %)

### Utility Bill Verification

A recent utility bill is required to fill in some of the information below.

Please make sure you enter the account number with all leading and trailing zeros and dashes.  
For example: 123456-123

COMPLETE REGISTRATION

The City of Port Townsend's new online utilities portal, CivicPay, gives utility customers up-to-date access to their account(s), including payment history and monthly water consumption reports, along with options for making automatic payments online through your credit card or bank. Even if you don't opt to pay online, we still

encourage you to create your account! You'll need your account number and last name or business name, which you can find on your bill.

**Visit [cityofpt.us/finance/page/pay-your-utility-bill](http://cityofpt.us/finance/page/pay-your-utility-bill) to learn more.**

## Councilmember letter, continued

minimize deer issues without killing them. Let's spend money on potholes, not on contraceptive salt licks that will wipe out God knows what. Let's try finding ways to


live with the deer. I think the more we can coexist in and with our environment the better off we will be. We should at least start with that idea in mind.

**Councilmember Neil Nelson**

## PARKING PILOT STUDY COMING TO DOWNTOWN


City Council has requested action on a 2004 Parking Management Plan with a pilot study on parking fees to be implemented in 2025. The Pilot Study Area and timing for implementation will be determined alongside the budget process this fall. Watch the Council Workshop on parking here: [tinyurl.com/4px84723](http://tinyurl.com/4px84723).

# PUBLIC LIBRARY, ARTS, AND PARKS EVENTS


An Evening with   
**JACQUELINE TRIMBLE**


Join poet and essayist Jacqueline Allen Trimble as she reads from *Old Enough*, a collection of essays by 21 women artists and writers, including Trimble herself, on aging and the creative life.



A Q&A will follow, led by Port Townsend Poet Laureate Conner Bouchard-Roberts.



 **October 2nd (Wed.)**

 **6:00pm-7:00pm**

 **Port Townsend Library**



## How Your City

# WORKS

City of  Port Townsend

**Everyday Public Safety with KT LaBadie**  
6 - 7 p.m., Thursday, October 24  
Public Library Carnegie Room

"Do I need a permit?" This is the most common question Code Compliance Officer KT LaBadie hears. The answer might not be what you think! Even if the code provides a direct answer, her philosophy in working with the community around code compliance is centered around public safety, public education, and community building. Skilled in conflict resolution, LaBadie has worked in the public sector for 14 years, three of them here at the City of Port Townsend. Bringing experience in public health and environmental health to her work in Port Townsend, she will share how city code creates a framework for working together as a community to keep each other safe.

## YOU'RE INVITED!

Join us to celebrate **Kate Dwyer, 2024 Angel of the Arts**, and **Tracy Grisman, 2024 Patron of the Arts**, at the 25th Annual City Arts Awards. These awards recognize individuals, artist collectives, and businesses that significantly contribute to the cultural enrichment of our community.

All are welcome to attend this free event, including an awards ceremony with Mayor David Faber, light refreshments, poetry, and a special announcement by PTAC Chair Lindsey Wayland. Bring a friend and come fete local arts and culture.

The City of Port Townsend Arts Commission  
invites you to the 25th Annual

## Angel & Patron Arts Awards

**October 3, 2024 at 5PM**

THE COTTON BUILDING  
607 WATER STREET, PORT TOWNSEND  
RSVP TO ARTSCOMM@CITYOFPT.US

## SPECIAL ARBOR DAY EVENT AT MOUNTAIN VIEW

*October 26, 11 a.m. at Mountain View Campus*

Join Emily Roberts from the WA State DNR for a demonstration on how to properly plant trees. After the tree planting the community is invited to participate in fun activities with prizes, and each household may select a tree or shrub to take home while supplies last. Over 100 varieties will be available and Instructions on plant care will be provided!