



Around Town

March, 2018

From the Mayor's Desk

Town and Puget Sound region residents have received the new property tax information on their home. Many likely have sticker shock based on the Legislature's work on education funding. I believe, as I write, that Steilacoom residents will experience growth in home values and an increase in the tax rate meaning an increased tax obligation.

Assessor Mike Lonergan authored an article in the TNT on Feb. 11, 2018, explaining the increase in the rates and the tax bill. This article may be found online. Additionally, the Pierce County Assessor's website has an excellent explanation of this year's changes. For Steilacoom, a comparison follows:

| | <u>VALUE</u> | <u>RATE</u> | <u>TAX</u> |
|------|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 2017 | 337,033 | 12.476900 | \$4,205 |
| 2018 | 372,162 | 12.7035631 | \$4,728 |

Tax Rate By Entity:

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|
| State: | 2.066966 | 1.881499 |
| State – School: | | 1.025274 |
| County: | 1.284826 | 1.183137 |
| Port: | 0.184100 | 0.183674 |
| Town: | 2.471243 | 2.270944 |
| EMS: | 0.476279 | 0.437726 |
| School – Bond: | 2.522033 | 2.467105 |
| School – M&O: | 2.614552 | 2.470055 |
| Conservation: | 0.048087 | 0.044281 |
| Flood Control: | 0.091721 | 0.082969 |
| Sound Transit: | 0.250000 | 0.227450 |
| Library: | 0.467080 | 0.429450 |
| Total: | 12.476887 | 12.706386 |

Please compare the recent year's County property tax "green card" to your new assessment information to best understand your tax bill.

I remind residents to plan for a Town-wide power outage on April 2 from likely 7 AM to 5 PM. The requestor for the outage, Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), our power provider, will be completing maintenance on the BPA substation that is required every few years. When their work is done, BPA will reenergize the Steilacoom system. This maintenance outage will also allow Town staff to complete scheduled or identified repairs.

Council continued the public hearing on potential changes to the Code for accessory buildings and structures to March 6th. Additionally, Council will be discussing at one of the March meetings a new nuisance ordinance for properties. Citizens are welcome to provide comments to Council.

Just days ago, the Town opened bids for construction work on 1st street and a sewer project on Pacific/Washington. Work will begin in late March or early April.

In 2019, primarily with grant money, the Town will improve safety by adding sidewalks and bike lanes from upper Steilacoom Blvd to the Puyallup Street curve. The work will begin with utility work, construction of retaining walls

in the Tunnel of Trees, add sidewalks and bike lanes. **The Town will hold an Open House on the early design work to gather your comments. On March 21, 2018, I will host a meeting at 6:30 PM.** We will have our design team, the arborist, and town staff with me to present the design plan and receive your comments. See you then.

It is my pleasure to congratulate the Steilacoom Kiwanis Foundation and Club for another successful Winefest. With the money raised, they will continue to support our schools and community in 2018.

Ron Lucas, Mayor

COUNCIL ACTION

Minutes to the Town Council meetings once approved are on the Town's website at: townofsteilacoom.org:

Town Offices
Town Council

GUEST ARTIST PROGRAM

Stop by and see the art show! Members of Pacific Gallery Artists Elaine Fister Erickson and Donna Graham will display their art at the Steilacoom Community Center from March 1 through the end of April as part of the "Guest Artist Series" hosted by The Town of Steilacoom. The art show is located at the Steilacoom Community Center, 2301 Worthington St., Steilacoom, WA. Hours: Monday – Thursday 9am – 7:30pm; Friday 9am – 4:30pm, (closed weekends and holidays).

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

It is exciting to see the consistent innovation in our schools to meet the needs of all learners. One of those most recent innovations is being funded through a Department of Defense Education Activity Grant the school district recently received. The grant is called the MASTER Project and is focused to increase math achievement as the district continues to strengthen our Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) programming to benefit students. The MASTER Project provides resources for mathematics curriculum, professional development for our teaching staff and new technology for our classrooms.

Through the MASTER Project, Mathematical Habits of Mind, will be the focus in elementary classrooms, continuing the excellent work of our secondary teachers in the SER2 Math Science Partnership grant. Over the next four years, teachers will participate in professional development around problem-based learning in mathematics.

This month, staff at Saltar’s Point Elementary School welcomed the delivery of an additional 252 Chromebooks, to their classrooms. Our 4th and 5th graders at Saltar’s Point Elementary, is the first school in Steilacoom Historical School District to achieve a 1:1 student to computer ratio. Over the past two years, Level 2 Certified Google Educators, Mary Snyder and Katelyn Griffin, created the

Steilacoom Google Academy. The Academy has trained teachers across the district how to implement Google Classroom and utilize the technology to maximize student learning.

Additional Chromebooks will be added during the duration of the 5-year DoDEA grant at our other schools. In partnership with district funding, the entire district will achieve a 1:1 student computer ratio by the end of the 2018-19 school year. We are so fortunate to have this incredible opportunity to benefit STEM programming and prepare our students for college and career.

Kathi Weight, Superintendent

TRANSPORTATION ISSUES IN SW PIERCE COUNTY

The SW Unit of the League of Women Voters of Tacoma-Pierce County and the Town of Steilacoom are co-sponsoring a public forum on transportation issues in SW Pierce County. Speakers from Pierce County Transportation Department, Sound Transit and others will address transportation levels of service and needs in the SW County area as well upcoming projects and what to expect.

The forum is 6:30 to 8:00 pm, Thursday, March 8, at Steilacoom Town Hall, 1717 Lafayette Street, Steilacoom, WA 98388.

Bring your questions and concerns about transportation in

SW Pierce, including DuPont, Steilacoom, Lakewood and University Place, as well as about Sound Transit.

For more information, contact Cynthia Stewart, stewdahl@comcast.net, League of Women Voters of Tacoma-Pierce County.

COFFEE WITH THE CHIEF

March 1, 2018

2 – 3 PM

Topside Coffee Cabin – 215 Wilkes Street, Steilacoom.

Please join Chief Rodriguez for coffee and some good discussion. There is not an organized agenda, just an opportunity to talk and ask questions! For more information contact Chief Rodriguez (253)581-0110.

MONOPOLY

The Kiwanis Club of Steilacoom is collecting the Monopoly board pieces being distributed by Albertsons and Safeway.

If you are not playing the Monopoly game yourself and would like to help the children in our community, please collect the game pieces that are distributed with your purchases. You can place your game pieces in a container at the Topside B&G/Coffee Cabin or in the container at the Public Works office.

Pet Waste

Please pick up after your pets and dispose of the waste appropriately.

EXPLORATIONS

Friday March 9th 2:00 pm
Feminism and Pop Culture
Media Scholar Amy Peloff
Explores some of the
fundamental principles of
feminist thought and asks why
we should care about popular
culture's presentation of these
concepts. Learn about
Feminism and how to critically
read popular media.

All programs are held at the
Steilacoom Community Center.

4 WAYS TO MINIMIZE YOU IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT

As we hear more about the
impacts of daily living on the
environment, climate change,
and carbon footprints, we
wonder how we can minimize
our impact on the environment.
While we recycle, conserve
water and energy, and walk or
ride a bike as often as we can,
there are other things we can do
in our daily lives to be more
responsible citizens. Our tips
for sustainable living will keep
your impact on the environment
to a minimum.

1. Commit to Sustainable Living as a Pet Owner

As a [pet owner](#), it can be
difficult to minimize your
impact on the environment
because you aren't sure how to
live a green life when
purchasing pet supplies, taking
care of flea and tick issues, and
keeping your pet safe outdoors.
With a little research, you can
find [eco-friendly dog products](#)
including beds, collars, leashes,

fencing material, and other
necessities.

Keep in mind that your dog will
be healthier and happier when
you use shampoo, tick and flea
remedies, and pet food and
treats that are all natural. Many
of the manufacturers of all-
natural pet products care about
the environment and use
packaging that is better for the
environment, too.

2. Switch to Eco-Friendly Cleaning Products

The amount of chemicals in
household cleaners is dangerous
for your health and the
environment. If you switch to
[eco-friendly cleaners](#), you will
reduce your exposure to
harmful chemicals. You also
will minimize the number of
chemicals going down your
drains and into the sewer and
water system. When you use
greener cleaning methods, you
reduce waterway pollution and
air pollution and reduce your
impact on ozone depletion and
global climate change. You'll
also find that many green
products use recyclable
packaging, which reduces your
plastic waste.

If you're not sure which
cleaning products are eco-
friendly, check out the
[recommendations](#) from The
Spruce. Consider switching to
eco-friendly dishwashing soap
and detergents and bathroom
cleaners, too. An alternative is
to make natural cleaners so you
know exactly which ingredients
go into them. Try cleaning with
vinegar, lemon, and baking
soda.

3. Reduce Your Plastic Waste

You may be surprised by how
much plastic you rely on each
day. In fact, if you take a look
around your bathroom and
kitchen, there's a good chance
that nearly every product is
packaged in or made of plastic.
You may have carried the
products home in plastic bags,
and you likely transport them to
recycling centers in those same
plastic bags.

If you want to significantly
minimize your impact on the
environment, be proactive in
[reducing plastic waste](#). Start by
taking stock of the bathroom
and kitchen. Stop using straws,
stop purchasing cleansing
products containing micro-
plastics, stop using disposable
razors, use glass alternatives to
bottles and other plastic
containers, and switch to
reusable bags, dinnerware, and
silverware. Recycle the plastic
items that you can, and find
creative uses for those that you
can't.

4. Get Your Community Involved in Sustainable Living Practices

As an individual, you can
minimize your impact on the
environment significantly. Just
imagine how much greater your
impact will be when you get
your community involved in
sustainable living. Towns and
cities across the nation are
coming together to help the
environment, and you can begin
by learning from their
examples. Some of the [greenest
places](#) on earth have sprawling

parks, efficient public transportation systems, public spaces for walking and community gardens, plentiful bike lanes, and comprehensive recycling and composting programs.

You don't have to run for public office to make a difference. Start by talking to your friends and neighbors about recycling and reducing their plastic waste. Look into existing community gardens or groups that work to create natural spaces to support the bee population. Host a Meetup or other informal meeting to inspire others to join your cause.

You can minimize your impact on the environment in nearly every way if you switch to eco-friendly cleaning products or make natural cleaners, reduce your plastic waste, commit to sustainable living as a pet owner, and get your community involved in sustainable living practices.

Submitted by Christy Erickson

CHOIR FUNDRAISER

The combined efforts of the Steilacoom School District Choirs will be hosting a fundraiser at Topside on Saturday, February 24th from 8:00am-10:00am. Proceeds from this event go towards the rental fee for Lagerquist Hall, PLU, one of the best venues for choral music in the state. Saltar's Point, Pioneer, and Steilacoom High choirs will be performing in this space on March 27th of this year and we rely on this fundraiser to help us pay for the concert hall.



The Steilacoom Farmers' Market will launch the 2018 season on June 20th, 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm at the corner of Lafayette & Wilkes Streets! Bring your family and friends to meet new and familiar producers, gather 'round the Community Corner to learn what's new around town, find new ideas on how to cook what's in season at a food demonstration, and see innovative works our local artists created for you! "Like" and "Follow" us on Facebook and stay tuned!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We're inviting residents, schools, and community groups to participate with us as Market Ambassadors on Wednesday mornings, afternoons, or evenings. Complete the application on our website and contact our Market Coordinator Crystal Baker at crystal.baker@ci.steilacoom.wa.us for details.

ANIMALS ON SCHOOL DISTRICT PROPERTY

Due to health and safety considerations, animals whether on or off leash, being led or ridden, alone or accompanied, are not allowed on School District property. This is particularly important on the play and athletic fields.

**KINDERGARTEN
ENROLLMENT**
Cherrydale Primary
Feb. 28 from 3 PM to 6 PM.

Town of Steilacoom Contact Information

townofsteilacoom.org

Mayor

Ron Lucas.....588-6217
Ron.lucas@ci.steilacoom.wa.us

Council Members

Fred Crumley.....584-4776
fred.crumley@ci.steilacoom.wa.us

Pete Franklin.....584-0808
pete.franklin@ci.steilacoom.wa.us

Nancy Henderson.....584-7284
nancy.henderson@ci.steilacoom.wa.us

Marion Smith.....589-8534
marion.smith@ci.steilacoom.wa.us

Roger Neal.....691-6120
Roger.neal@ci.steilacoom.wa.us

Town Administrator

Paul Loveless.....581-1912
Paul.loveless@ci.steilacoom.wa.us

Public Works-Administration

1030 Roe Street.....581-1912
Administration
Planning, Building, Permits
Utility After Hours...620-4123

Public Safety

601 Main Street.....581-0110
Emergency.....911
Non-Emergency798-4721
Animal Control830-5010

Community Center

2301 Worthington St. 581-1076
Before and After School Prog.
Meal Site
Youth and Adult Classes
Fitness/Exercise Classes

School District Website:

www.steilacoom.k12.wa.us.

Chamber of Commerce
SteilacoomChamber.org