



Around Town

August 2021

From the Mayor's Desk

So far it has been a very enjoyable Summer here in the Town of Steilacoom. A busy Farmers' Market, the Steilacoom Historical Museum Association (SHMA) Salmon Bake and now our summer concert series at Pioneer Park has returned. The newly renovated Pioneer Park bandstand (thank you Steilacoom Kiwanis) has had more than a dozen weddings and our Sunnyside Beach is usually at near capacity on the weekends. Another event which has statewide significance is the annual National Drive Electric Free event held each year in downtown Steilacoom the Saturday after Labor Day. This year's event (8th annual) is 11 September from 11 AM to 3 PM. In 2018, our Town hosted the 5th largest event out of 330 events in the country and the largest in the Pacific Northwest. To register to attend go to <https://driveelectricweek.org/event?eventid=2658>

In my 46 years of public service, I have learned that both the quantity and quality of communications leads to better outcomes. So, I will be reestablishing our Town's Public Safety Advisory Board and the Parks Advisory

Board. These Boards will be used to advise our Mayor and our Town Council on a plethora of topics. Council member Roger Neal has agreed to be the liaison for the Public Safety Board and council member Nancy Henderson for the Parks Advisory Board. How often they meet, the topics to discuss and meeting format will be determined by the Boards. There are many topics to discuss, but there are many areas of good municipal governance which need to be discussed in further detail than a Town Council meeting can accomplish.

If you are interested in being a member of either advisory board, please send me your name, address and in 100 words or less your interest and or talents you would bring to either committee. Send to my work email address dick.muri@ci.steilacoom.wa.us

Hope to see you around town.

Dick Muri, Mayor

Council Action

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

Town Offices
Town Council

Council Actions – July:

Council recently:

1. Awarded a contract to paint the interior of the building at 1715 Lafayette Street.
2. Adopted a prohibition on short-term rentals except B&Bs and guest houses.
3. Approved the 6-year Transportation Imp. Plan.

Message from the Superintendent

If your student attends one of our six schools, you have most likely participated in some of the family surveys we have sent out over the last several months. We work hard to focus our limited resources in ways that are both efficient and effective in addressing student needs. Based on our most recent surveys, here are the top three requests from SHSD families to consider when creating school district budgets:

- Lower class sizes – especially in our elementary schools.
- Additional counselors, social workers, and other staff to address the academic and social-emotional needs of students; and
- Adopt strategies and provide training to staff to assist all types of learners at every school.

Lowering class sizes significantly is not something we can achieve immediately. In order to lower class sizes, we will need to build a new school (to create more classrooms) and we will need additional funding (in order to hire more teachers). Lowering class sizes is a big investment. For example, lowering class sizes in grades K-3 by three students per classroom would cost over \$1 million per year. The district is excited to explore options to address class sizes in its next levy and bond issue, which are likely to be going to our voters in 2022 and 2023, respectively.

When it comes to addressing the academic and social emotional needs of students, we are targeting new investments in this area next year, with the use of both federal funding and repurposing existing funding.

Every school has adopted a new school improvement plan that focuses on social-emotional learning, academic rigor, and creating classroom environments that meet the needs of all students. The district has also refocused its efforts and resources to provide direct support to schools to meet their goals. We plan to continue to reach out to our families and students for feedback about how we are doing and where we can improve. If you do not have students in our schools, your voice is also important to us and we want to hear from you.

We regularly have surveys called “thoughtexchanges” and would love more community input in these exchanges. Follow us on Facebook to find out when these surveys happen or email us and we will happily add you to our direct email list for surveys.

Thanks to all of you for your continued support of our students and families. Strong communities are necessary for strong schools and our community is amazing.

Dr. Kathi Weight, Superintendent

SCHOOL NEWS

Please visit

<https://www.steilacoom.k12.wa.us>
for updates, FAQs, and
resources related to the SHSD.

PLANNING COMMISSION

On August 9, 2021, the Planning Commission will consider two matters; an update to the sign code and regulations on permanent supportive housing, transitional housing, emergency housing and emergency shelters required by new state legislation.

The sign code changes are due to a Supreme Court ruling that sign regulations must be content neutral, that is, the size and type of signage cannot depend on the message.

Permanent supportive and transitional housing would be added as conditional uses in the residential and commercial zones, with restrictions on the location of such housing. Emergency housing and emergency shelters would be added as conditional uses in the commercial zones as well. State law requires these changes no later than September 30, 2021.

Staff reports and proposed ordinance wording for both the sign code amendments and housing regulations will be posted on the Town’s website in advance of the hearings.

The hearings will begin at 6:30 PM using the Zoom platform. The Zoom meeting link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88018789134>.

SUNNYSIDE BEACH PARKING PASSES

Parking passes for Sunnyside Beach for Town residents are available at the Public Works facility from 8 A.M. to noon.

ENROLLMENT

Enrollment is now open for all grades K-12 for the Steilacoom Historical School District 2021-22 school year. If you are new to the area and have not yet enrolled your children, now is the time to contact the District to ensure your children are included in summertime communications and fall scheduling! Visit the District Enrollment page at <https://www.steilacoom.k12.wa.us/Page/4332>."

LIBRARY EXPLORER SERIES RETURNS

The Library Explorer Series of monthly educational and informative lectures returns on September 10, 2021, at 2:00 pm. These events sponsored by Friends of Steilacoom Library (FOSL) and the Steilacoom Historical Museum Association (SHMA) bring together community members to listen and learn. The September speaker, sponsored by Humanities Washington, is Dr. Eric Wagner, biologist and writer, speaking on “After the Blast: Mt. St. Helens 40 Years Later”, a compilation of biological, ecological and people impacts in the blast zone. To register for the Zoom presentation, please go to the Pierce County Library web site (www.piercecountylibrary.org) and click on the calendar tab at the top. Select September 10 from the calendar and register.

If you are interested in becoming a member in the Friends of the Steilacoom Library please contact Linda Collins at: landjcollins@msn.com.

2021 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

2021 was a year of challenges in our Town but we were fortunate to have a citizen who took the time to make life better for many.

Keith Snyder is being honored as Steilacoom's Citizen of the Year for 2021. Keith initiated major projects to improve the websites for both the Steilacoom Kiwanis and Steilacoom Historical Museum Association (SHMA). He took the lead in creating new ways of business for the day-to-day internet functioning of these organizations – always with a smile and team spirit. Keith also created a whole new way of "touring" SHMA's Wagon Shop with virtual interaction. Besides sharing his know-how with the tech stuff, Keith volunteered his painting and building talents to various projects around town, including SHMA's Storage Barn and the Town's refurbished bandstand. Keith was also willing to help individuals who needed his expertise in the new "Zoom" world of 2021.

What an honor it is recognize Keith for all he does for this community.

SUMMER CONCERTS

August 4th

Danny Vernon-The Illusion of Elvis

August 11th

Jessica Lynne- Country

August 18th

3 Legends Tributes to Jackie Wilson, James Brown & Michael Jackson

August 25th

Michael Powers - Smooth Jazz

DANCE INSTRUCTOR

The Studio - A Center for the Performing Arts is seeking an energetic dance instructor who is comfortable teaching beginner jazz/tap as well as some ballet. Hip hop is a bonus! We are a small recreational program partnered with Steilacoom Community Center that focuses on learning and performing our chosen craft. We offer ballet, tap, jazz, lyrical, art, theatre and musical theatre. Expect 2 - 4 hrs a week. Interested? Contact Ms. Mel at 253.480.4990 or thestudioacftpa@gmail.com

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Please keep your car engine off, doors locked and do not leave valuables in plain sight when your car is not attended.

Also, please remember to keep your home's doors and windows locked and notify Public Safety at the time if you see suspicious activity



The Steilacoom Farmers' Market – Wednesdays: 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm on Lafayette Street.

CODE COMPLIANCE - FENCES

If you are building a new or replacing an existing fence, please ensure it meets the requirements in SMC 18.20.080 and is on your property, i.e., does not extend into the Town's right-of-way.

TOWN OF STEILACOOM CONTACT INFORMATION

townofsteilacoom.org

Mayor

Dick Muri.....253 439-9797
dick.muri@ci.steilacoom.wa.us

Council Members

Fred Crumley.....253 584-4776
fred.crumley@ci.steilacoom.wa.us

Pete Franklin.....253 584-0808
pete.franklin@ci.steilacoom.wa.us

Nancy Henderson....253 584-7284
nancy.henderson@ci.steilacoom.wa.us

Marion Smith.....253 589-8534
marion.smith@ci.steilacoom.wa.us

Roger Neal.....253 691-6120
Roger.neal@ci.steilacoom.wa.us

Town Administrator

Paul Loveless.....253 581-1912
Paul.loveless@ci.steilacoom.wa.us

Public Works-Administration

1030 Roe Street.....253 581-1912
Utility After Hours 253 620-4123

Public Safety

601 Main Street.....253 581-0110
Emergency.....911
Non-Emergency ...253 287-4455
Animal Control.....253 830-5010
Anonymous Tips:
crimetips@ci.steilacoom.wa.us

Community Center

2301 Worthington St. 253 581-1076
Before and After School Prog.
Meal Site
Youth and Adult Classes

TOWN MEETINGS

Meetings are held at Town Hall unless otherwise noted.

Town Council:

1st and 3rd Tuesday 6:30 PM

Planning Commission:

2nd Monday at 6:30 PM

Preservation and Review Board:

4th Wednesday at 6:30 PM

Civil Service Commission:

1st Thursday - 2 PM at the Community Center.