



Around Town

January 2023

From the Mayor's Desk

As we begin 2023, I am very optimistic for our Town of Steilacoom.

Our Public Safety Department continues to grow and improve their capability to serve our 6,700 citizens. A special thanks to the leadership of Chief Tom Yabe who has been serving us for 17 years and our two police sergeants Chris Bailey and Larry Whelan.

Our Public Works Department led by Mark Burlingame finished 2022 with a lot of infrastructure improvements and plans for a very active 2023 and 2024. A lot of our most important Town owned and maintained infrastructure is underground; to include electrical, water, sewer and storm drain lines. We also coordinate closely with the companies that own natural gas, phone, and internet cable lines.

One project being developed and one of the top priorities for us is the Garrison Springs Creek and Chambers Bay estuary restoration project at the former Abitibi paper mill site. This multi-million dollar effort started with a conversation with Congresswoman Marilyn Strickland and her staff earlier this year. I want to thank

Marilyn and her staff for all their efforts to secure major funding for this project which will ultimately restore salmon habitat and our Puget Sound Orca population.

There is a lot of very interesting information about his project which was presented by the site development team to our Kiwanis club on 1 December 2022. It was recorded and is worth watching this 20-minute presentation. Go to <https://tinyurl.com/GarrisonSprings>

The 20-minute presentation starts at the 13-minute mark of the meeting (you can fast forward!). More to follow in future "Around Town" newsletters as this very important multi-year restoration effort makes progress.

Stay safe - stay well,

Dick Muri, Mayor

Council Action

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

Council recently:

1. Selected a stormwater sub-basin for potential future projects.
2. Approved the 2023-2025 CBA for the Public Works Teamsters.
3. Updated the School Impact Fee amount.

SCHOOL NEWS

Please visit

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

A Message from the Superintendent

We are all so fortunate to live in a place with such a strong sense of community and tremendous generosity. I can't imagine another place where I would rather work and live.

Over the past few months, our school board has recognized some individuals and organizations who have exhibited that generosity and helped to create stronger connections between our community and our students. Our Board recognized: The Veterans of Foreign Wars American Legion Post 265 for their ongoing support of the Anderson Island Elementary School students and the community. They purchase new school shoes for students each year, provide support to the Science Technology Engineering and Math Program, and beyond the elementary school, they support students to participate at the State Competition. They also regularly hold fundraisers to support students in other ways. Thank you, VFW 265!

Virginia Mince, owner of Mince Mercantile, employs several high school students in her business, helping to connect our students to the world of work and their community. She never hesitates to provide substantial contributions to our hosted school events. Virginia is a wonderful community member and a strong advocate for our kids and local businesses. Thank you, Virginia!

Topside Bar and Grill owners, John and Niki O'Reilly, go above and beyond to support our school district families and students. They are both actively involved with our District's Career and Technical Education Advisory Committee and support students and school groups by sponsoring a wide range of creative activities. Their passion for our community and for student success is appreciated. Thank you, John and Niki!

In addition to expressing our deep appreciation for these individuals and groups, our Board also made the decision to place a bond proposition on the February ballot. Because our community is so great and people love to live here, we have outgrown our elementary schools, our high school stadium, and our performing arts center. We also have several other needs to address in order to ensure our students continue to benefit from great learning spaces. Ballots do not arrive until January, but the holiday season may be the perfect time to visit our website and learn about what is on the ballot. Please reach out to us if you have any questions.

I hope you have an amazing holiday season filled with joy.

Dr. Kathi Weight, Superintendent

***IN NEED OF CLOTHING,
SHOES, BLANKETS?***

Shop at the Steilacoom
Community Church
Compassion Closet
Saturdays 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM.

All clothing is clean and in good shape. Some items are brand new. All sizes. All items are free of charge.

TREE-CYCLING

The annual Christmas Treecycling Drop-Off will be held on January 7th, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Public Works (1030 Roe Street) utility yard. The annual event serves as a primary community recycling event and fund-raiser for Steilacoom Boy Scout Troop #71. A suggested minimum donation of \$3.00 per tree will be collected in support of the Scouts.

We can only accept Christmas trees that have been cleaned of all decorations including lights, tinsel, garland, nailed-on bases, etc. **Sorry, no flocked trees, wreaths or other vegetation accepted at this event.**

Residents who subscribe to the curbside yardwaste recycling may cut up their cleaned trees and place them inside their yardwaste cart for pickup on their regularly scheduled day.

Recycling your tree through our annual event supports both our community conservation efforts and the Scouts from Steilacoom Troop #71. Thank You and Happy Holidays!

WLSA FOOD BANK

The We Love Steilacoom Association operates the Food Pantry/Bank at Steilacoom Community Church, 1603 Rainier Street, Steilacoom, Washington. Hours of operation are 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM on Saturdays. If you are experiencing temporary or ongoing financial challenges and/or food instability, please avail yourself of this resource. Additional information may be obtained by contacting Paul Loveless at 253.581.1912 or paul.loveless@ci.steilacoom.wa.us

***EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS TIPS***

It's that time of year where we thought it might be helpful to review some emergency preparedness safety tips. As with any major emergency, you need to take responsibility for your own safety and be prepared to sustain you and your family for 72 hours. Primary concerns are loss of heat, power, telephone service, and a shortage of supplies if storm conditions continue for more than a day.

It is suggested that **at a minimum** you should have the following items on hand to sustain you and your family during a winter storm emergency:

- A. Flashlight with extra batteries.
- B. Battery-powered NOAA Weather radio/portable radio to receive emergency info.
- C. 3-day supply of non-perishable food and water (1 gallon per person per day).
- D. Extra clothing, blankets, moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation.
- E. Extra prescription medicines, glasses, baby items, and pet food.
- F. First-aid supplies and a fire Extinguisher.

Avoid travel if at all possible during a major storm. If you must travel, do so during daylight and watch out for emergency crews working in and along the roadways. If you have an automatic garage door opener, learn how to manually open your garage door before the power goes out.

Do call us to let us know your power is out; **please do not** continually call for updates.

We understand your frustration; please know that as soon as the problems are fixed and it is safe to do so, the power will be restored.

If you haven't done so, now is the time to put together your emergency supply kit. And remember, due to the danger of falling trees, limbs and branches, taking your dog for a walk or going for a stroll in a high windstorm can be a deadly decision; please consider the consequences before you venture out in a winter storm.

ATM SERVICES

ATM services are available at the Public Works Facility, 1030 Roe Street, Steilacoom, WA during normal business hours – 8 AM to Noon Monday through Friday.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

An informational survey has been posted to the Town's official website at: <https://townofsteilacoom.org/DocumentCenter/View/3198/First-Survey-2024-Comprehensive-Plan-Update>

Help us know your priorities by taking our kick-off survey by January 31, 2023. This is the first of many steps in a two-year process to update the Town's Comprehensive Plan and there will be more opportunities for providing feedback and engaging with this process. Follow the link to the survey. When you are done, you can email it to comprehensiveplan@ci.steilacoom.wa.us or print it out and drop it off at the Public Works Building, 1030 Roe Street. Thank you!

CAR WASHING AND WATER QUALITY



When it comes to water quality, keeping your car clean is better than letting the rain rinse heavy metals, oil, and toxic chemicals off your car and, ultimately, into the Puget Sound. This toxic mix of chemicals has a deadly effect on aquatic life.

How you choose to wash your car is also important. When you wash your car in your driveway, the soap and chemicals can go into the storm drain, polluting our streams, rivers, and the Puget Sound. Citizens of the region can help decrease water pollution caused by run off from cars by taking their car to a professional car wash or by washing their car over gravel or lawn.

With over 3 million cars in King, Pierce, Thurston, and Snohomish Counties, it's widely recognized that cars contribute significant pollution to the Puget Sound. Three million cars contribute an estimated 9,194 gallons of gasoline, diesel, and motor oil, 19,355 pounds of phosphorous and nitrogen, 2,903 pounds of ammonia, and 1,451,613 pounds of solid waste into our waterways annually.

Professional car washes use oil/water separators that remove pollutants, which are ultimately

pumped out and properly disposed of, and their wastewater is discharged into the sanitary sewer. In addition, professional washes use minimal water, compared to home car washing; though washing your car at home over gravel or the lawn allows polluted water to absorb into the ground and keeps it from running into the storm drain. For more information, contact the Puget Sound Car Wash Association, 6351 Seaview Ave. NW, Seattle, WA 98107-2664, phone 206.622.8425 or by email at carwashassoc@qwestoffice.net.

RECYCLING CENTER

This is an all-too-common occurrence at the recycling center near the Center.



The recycling center is emptied twice per week. There is signage present that indicates items/materials are not to be left on the ground.

When materials are left on the ground, in addition to being unsightly, subject to the weather, and the source for debris being spread by the wind, it falls to Town staff to clean up the area at the expense of performing other duties.

The recycling center is a privilege, not a right. If this problem persists, the recycling center will be removed.

How to Proactively Prepare for a Blizzard

Winter storms can range in severity from a moderate snow fall over a few hours to a blinding blizzard that lasts for several days. Blizzards are severe winter storms that are defined as a combination of blowing snow and winds (in excess of 35 mph) – often resulting in very low visibilities. Being prepared for a winter storm is critical, as strong winds paired with heavy snow accumulation can paralyze a city, strand motorists, stop the flow of supplies and disrupt emergency services. A lot can happen when a dangerous winter storm strikes:

- Street and Interstate closures
- Loss of internet and cable
- Power outages

Severe weather preparation is key. Read on for ways to keep yourself, your family and your **home warm and safe** before a blizzard strikes.

Preparing for a Blizzard:

Here are some items to have on hand so you are prepared when the snow starts falling hard:

- Shovels or a snow blower: Have a few shovels in case you need to dig your way out.
- Stock up at the grocery store: It's a good idea to have a three-day supply of water and food on hand in case your power is wiped out by a big winter storm. While you're there, grab some salt/sand for your driveway and sidewalk!
- Extra blankets and warm coats: Keep these items on hand for each family member as a blizzard safety precaution. You don't want to be left in the cold if your power is taken out.
- An emergency radio and extra batteries: If you don't already have an emergency radio, now is a good time to get one. They're affordable and readily available and will keep you

updated on weather alerts and winter storm warnings.

- **Car safety kit:** Traveling during a blizzard is highly discouraged but if you must, it's vital to have a car safety kit with you. This kit can include things like extra blankets and warm clothing, a flashlight, a shovel, a windshield scraper, and water and snacks. Even if you aren't traveling during the storm, it's still a good idea to put together a car safety kit, weather can be unpredictable! Be sure to **winterize your car** in case you need to be out during the storm.

What to Do During a Blizzard:

Here are some tips and tricks to help keep you safe.

- Tune in to a weather radio station or other local news channels to keep up to date on the winter storm.
- Bring your pets inside during severe winter weather and move other animals or livestock to sheltered areas.
- If you're concerned about your pipes freezing, running the water, even at a trickle, can help prevent frozen pipes.
- Keep your thermostat set to the same temperate during the day and night. This can help **prevent frozen pipes**.
- Open your kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors to allow warmer air to circulate around your plumbing.
- If your home loses power or heat during extreme cold, go to a designated public shelter.
- Avoid driving in harsh winter conditions. If travel is necessary, make sure you have a car safety kit with you.

Now that you're ready to handle that winter storm headed your way, stay inside, sip a warm drink, and watch the snow fall.

TOWN OF STEILACOM 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

Liz Grasher.....253 316-3709
elizabeth.grasher@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

Town Council:

1st and 3rd Tuesday 6:00 PM

Planning Commission:

2nd Monday at 6:00 PM

Preservation and Review Board:

4th Wednesday at 6:00 PM

Civil Service Commission:

1st Thursday - 2 PM.

Parks and Community Services

Advisory Committee:

3rd Monday – 6:30 PM.

Public Safety Adv. Committee:

3rd Wednesday – 6:00 PM