



Around Town

September, 2018

From the Mayor's Desk

I am very proud to tell you of the professional Steilacoom Public Safety response and their support in the early phase of the Horizon Air plane crash on Ketron Island. Our initial response was soon passed on to the Pierce County Sheriff and West Pierce Fire and Rescue who were at their very best as teams marshalled equipment along with JBLM Fire to move to Ketron from the Steilacoom dock. Within hours, the FBI and NTSB assumed control and are still at work as I write.

I am sure you have seen the SHSD busses out and about as of late August. The 2018/19 school year has begun with a terrific year ahead for our children. Please watch your speed as you drive and remember that Steilacoom Blvd from Hewitt to Far West Drive gets congested with traffic into the high school from 7 AM - 7:25 AM.

With the development and increasing interest in electric cars in the news, many auto makers are moving their mix of products to a greater number of electric car options. Steilacoom has been the center of the NW annual electric car week to bring different model electric cars and their owners together to allow the public to see the

cars and ask questions of the owner. On 8 September, the Chamber of Commerce and Steilacoom will host the 5th annual event downtown. You may not have known that the National Drive Electric Week (NDEW), September 8-16, 2018, is an annual nationwide celebration to heighten awareness of today's widespread availability of plug-in vehicles and highlight the benefits of all-electric and plug-in hybrid-electric cars, trucks, motorcycles, and more. We expect a mix of 100 vehicles of different types and auto makers to be displayed at the festival in downtown Steilacoom between 11-3 PM on Saturday, 8 September. Hundreds of events occur nationwide and the largest NDEW festival in the Pacific Northwest is here in our Town of Steilacoom. So if you are interested in learning more about our 5th annual event, contact NDEW "City Captain" Dick Muri (253-439-9797)(Dick@Muri.com) or go to

<http://driveelectricweek.org/event.php?eventid=1202>.

The Council continues to shape the budget for 2019/20. Your input is always welcome. Council meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM at Town Hall. One item to be discussed in Sept/October will be the past Council approved Transportation Benefit District (TBD) which was formed but not funded at the time. A TBD can place a \$20 fee on vehicle registration. The fee is only used for our non-grant eligible transportation projects.

Ron Lucas, 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

Message from the Superintendent

We are excited for the 2018-19 school year. The first day of school is Thursday, August 30, 2018, but prior to our students' first day; we are busy with professional development activities and workshops. The buildings are ready to go with several upgrades completed over the summer:

- Cherrydale Primary School became the new owner of a large piece of playground equipment, inherited from Chloe Clark Elementary. All interior hallways were freshly painted and an additional classroom space was created by removing an interior wall.
- Chloe Clark Elementary School outdoor play areas and parking lots were repainted and the Chloe Clark statue was given a thorough clean and wax.
- Anderson Island Elementary School's student drop-off area was repaired and repaved.
- Saltar's Point Elementary School received new HVAC rooftop units to improve heating and cooling services in the building.
- Pioneer Middle School parking lots received a fresh coat of paint and the gym and fitness room floors were recoated.

- Steilacoom High School has seen the most significant changes this summer with the remodel of the physical fitness rooms and gyms. The community will be invited to an Open House later this fall to show off the improvements.

Back to School Open House Information

Monday, August 27
Cherrydale Primary School
 4:30 - 5:30 pm
Saltar's Point Elementary
 6:00 - 7:00 pm

Tuesday, August 28
Pioneer Middle School
 4:00 - 5:00 pm
Chloe Clark Elementary
 6:00 - 7:00 pm

Kathi Weight, Superintendent

4th OF JULY

The Steilacoom Citizens' Fireworks Committee and Town would like to thank our corporate sponsors for their support of the 2018 fireworks show.

Gold Sponsors:

- Garrett Custom Homes
- Northwest Abatement Services

Bronze Sponsor:

- Quality Dentistry
- Friends of Fireworks:
- Sound Tax & Accounting
- Harriet Heyda
- Pacific Harbors Roofing
- French & Associates
- Extrusion Technology Group

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

PIERCE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM'S RESTORED LEVY

by Mary Getchell, Marketing and Communications Director, Pierce County Library System
mgetchell@piercecountylibrary.org

On the Nov. 6, 2018 general election ballot, Steilacoom voters will be asked to restore funding to the Pierce County Library System. Along with voters throughout unincorporated Pierce County as well as 14 other cities and towns annexed to the Library System, voters will cast votes for Proposition No. 1, a levy lid lift to restore the Library's System's regular property tax levy rate.

About the Restored Levy:

A restored levy would maintain library services and return the Library's levy rate to its full legal amount of 50 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value. This would be an increase of approximately 10 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property. To the owner of an average home assessed at \$320,000 this would be approximately a \$32 increase in 2019. This average assessed home value is based upon the average assessed home values in unincorporated Pierce County and the 15 annexed cities and towns in the Library's service area, based upon data from Pierce County and Case-Shiller Home Price Indices.

The restored levy is on the [November ballot](#) because costs to operate and maintain library services and libraries are

increasing at a faster and higher rate than revenues. In recent years, costs have increased by an average rate of 4-7 percent a year, while property tax revenues have increased at an average rate of 1-3 percent. Property taxes make up approximately 94 percent of Pierce County Library's revenue. State law limits local governments, including Pierce County Library, to an increase in property taxes of no more than 1 percent plus property taxes from new construction each year.

In 2006 voters passed the only re-authorized levy in the 72-year history of the Library System. The Library System has met or surpassed all levy promises with funding from the [2006 levy](#), which was projected to maintain services for up to six years. The Library has stretched that funding for 12 years.

Since 2006 the Library's service area population has grown by 16 percent to 602,000 people and the number of people with library cards has grown by 63 percent to 323,000 people. During this time the demand for library services has increased, too. The use of library materials – checkouts of books, movies, music and other items – has grown by 33 percent since 2006. During that same time, attendance in classes and events – such as story times and block play for kids, and technology and job readiness courses for adults – has increased by 79 percent.

Since 2009 to manage its budget, the Library System

eliminated, reduced, streamlined or did not offer services and deferred maintenance totaling \$20 million. Most notably in 2018, the Library cut spending on books and other materials, deferred facility maintenance and software system upgrades, eliminated downloadable and streaming movies, and ended the public's use of meeting rooms when the libraries are closed.

Impacts of the Restored Levy:

The restored levy would maintain services including open hours at 20 locations and online library resources; 1.5 million books, e-books, movies and other materials; staff to support learning with thousands of classes and events; computers, Wi-Fi and technology; and community spaces.

Without the restored levy, the Library System would further eliminate and reduce services including a 10 percent reduction in the hours libraries are open; a 14-21 percent decrease in the number of books, movies and other materials; and a 40 percent reduction in classes and events; as well as close two to three libraries.

Community Engagement, Comments, and Expectations:

In winter 2018, the Library System conducted public involvement activities to talk about funding and learn the public's top priorities for services. In spring 2018, a Community Advisory Committee, made up of community leaders, analyzed the Library's funding and input

from people. The committee recommended the Library System ask voters to restore library funding and maintain services to serve growing and changing communities.

Learn More at Open Houses:

Learn more about funding library services for growing and changing communities at **Coffee with Your Librarian** at 19 libraries. Stop by **Steilacoom Pierce County Library, Tuesday, Sept. 18, 2:30-4 p.m.** and talk with library leaders about the restored levy. Thanks to Friends of the Libraries for providing refreshments.

[More information: levy.pcls.us](http://levy.pcls.us)

CANDIDATE FORUM
28th District Candidate
Forum on October 25 from
6:30 PM to 8 PM at Town
Hall.



The Steilacoom Farmers' Market will conclude our season on August 29, 2018. The market runs 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm at the corner of Lafayette & Wilkes Street. Bring your family and friends to meet new and familiar vendors and producers. Thank you to all the vendors, individuals, and volunteers who supported the Market this year. Special thanks to the Kiwanis Club members for their support.

GARDEN CLUB

October Scarecrow Contest:

It's not too early to be planning for this year's October scarecrow contest. Get your thinking caps on and create a distinctive scarecrow to herald the fall season. To enter the contest, simply contact Mary La Tourelle at 253-221-1409 or Lafannin@msn.com and let her know the location of your scarecrow. There is no application form to fill out. Members of the Garden Club will judge the scarecrows based on four criteria: originality, workmanship, costume, and use of props. We will have a category for businesses/organizations and one for residences. Judging will take place on October 15 so make sure to have it done by then. Prizes will be awarded for winners in both categories.

Bulb-Out Maintenance:

Welcome to two young women who recently moved to Steilacoom and have volunteered to help maintain the planted bulb outs along Lafayette. Gretchen Daniels and her husband moved here three years ago from St. Louis and she works in the Financial Aid Department at Pierce College. Her husband is employed by the V.A. Jessica Harb and her husband arrived in early July from D.C. She works remotely for George Washington University on grants and contracts and her husband is in the Army. They will be stepping in to replace outgoing volunteers, Peggy Hansen, Patty O'Grady, Tracy Miles and Retta Gresham who have earned our thanks for keeping Steilacoom beautiful.

GUEST ARTIST PROGRAM

Stop by and see the art show! For the months of September and October, 2018, Pacific Gallery Artists members Barbara Beaver and Anne Doane will show landscape paintings at Steilacoom Fireside Gallery. The Guest Artist Series is 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).

2018-2019 BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE

2018-2019 Before and After School Care Now Enrolling! Located at Cherrydale Primary Open Every Weekday!

Club AM/PM

Full Time \$230/Month
Part Time \$185/Month

Combined

Full Time \$360
Part Time \$310

School Day Drop-in

\$25

No School Day Drop-in

\$40

Winter/Spring Break

\$170/ Week

\$40/Day Drop-in

Discounts

10% siblings

20% military

20% free/reduced lunch

*may not be combined

For details call 253-581-1076

DISABLED PARKING

Steilacoom Historical School District and Town staff continue to receive complaints concerning ineligible individuals utilizing spots restricted for disabled parking.

When confronted, individuals will frequently use the excuses that 1) I was only going to be a minute, 2) there isn't any other available parking close by, 3) no one else was using the spot, 4) I've lived in this community for a long time and will use whatever spot I want, 5) I'm involved with the activity that is occurring, or 6) I am eligible but my permit is in my other vehicle.

Illegal and/or improper use of a disabled parking spot or the clear zones between the spots even for "just a minute" (which is never just a minute) potentially denies a qualifying individual access to the facility or activity.

In order to legally use an appropriately marked disabled parking spot, the individual must have been issued and be displaying either the State issued license plate or placard. Failure to have either of these items on or displayed in the vehicle or illegal use of a disabled parking spot could subject you to a \$250 fine.

LEAVES AND FLOODING

When leaves clog storm drains, neighborhood streets can flood. Help prevent flooding by raking or sweeping leaves out of storm drains near your home and keeping the drains clear.

TOWN OF STEILACOM CONTACT INFORMATION

townofsteilacoom.org

Mayor

Ron Lucas.....253 588-6217
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Council Members

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

Pete Franklin.....253 584-0808
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Nancy Henderson....253 584-7284
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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
Administration
Planning, Building, Permits
Utility After Hours 253 620-4123

Public Safety

601 Main Street.....253 581-0110
Emergency.....911
Non-Emergency ...253 798-4721
Animal Control... ..253 830-5010

Community Center

2301 Worthington St. 253 581-1076
Before and After School Prog.
Meal Site
Youth and Adult Classes
Fitness/Exercise 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 at 2 Pm at the Community Center.