



Around Town

November, 2018

From the Mayor's Desk

It is just days before the November 2018 General Election, I ask you to review the General Election Pamphlet. If you haven't returned your ballot, the Pierce County Auditor has a location to deposit your completed ballot at the Steilacoom Library....Let's Vote!!

The Council approved a staff recommendation to increase property tax by approximately 1% for both the general levy and the Emergency Medical Service (EMS) levy. The general levy funds police, fire, parks, street maintenance and other general governmental operations. The EMS levy funds a portion of our contract with West Pierce Fire and Rescue to provide Advanced Life Support (ALS) medical care. WPFRR responds and transports between 25 and 35 residents each month to hospital care. Additionally, they respond to other medical calls for service that do not require transport.

Council also approved amendments to the 2017-2018 Biennium Budget which was executed in accordance with their directives and adopted the 2019-2020 Biennium Budget.

Thank you to all who attended and for SHMA for holding the absolute best Apple Squeeze (if somewhat damp) in the Northwest.

Next time you are at Sunnyside Park, take a look at the new roof on the pavilion. Members of the Kiwanis Club replaced the roof this month. Please join with me in thanking them for this and all of the other things that they do for the Town and for kids in the community.

The School District hosted a cultural exchange this last month with students coming from Sichuan province in China. This was the return trip from when our students visited China last year. A great time was had by all and many new friendships formed. Thank you to the host families who helped make this happen.

As the rains begin, we ask for your help in bagging up yard leaves so they don't get to the drains in the streets. As always, our street sweeper will be active in the coming weeks.

Lastly, as a safety note....continue to secure your homes and lock your cars. Most of the reported car prowls and losses were from unsecured vehicles. Simply because the vehicle is in your driveway or in front of your house does not mean it could not be a target. Always call 911 for Steilacoom officer assistance when you are concerned or you see unusual activity. The police are trained, very skilled and always professional.

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

Our school district has hosted several successful community events this fall.

Chief Rodriguez partnered with us to host a "Firearms Safety" night for parents. We held this informative event at Saltar's Point Elementary School. Chief Rodriguez was able to provide information regarding safe gun storage and handling, as well as tips on how to talk to children about firearm safety. Our work around keeping our students safe remains our top priority.

The district's screening of the documentary, *Angst* was a popular community event. *Angst* is a 56-minute film, produced by IndieFlix Foundation. It explores anxiety, its causes, effects and what we can do about it. Anxiety disorders are the most common mental health challenge in the U.S., impacting 54 percent of females and 46 percent of males, with age seven being the median age of onset, according to the World Health Organization. While anxiety disorders are highly treatable, only one-third of those suffering receive treatment. The goal of the film is to create a global conversation and raise awareness around anxiety.

Ron Lucas, Mayor

Angst features candid interviews with kids and young adults who suffer, or have suffered, from anxiety and what they've learned about it. The film also includes discussions with [mental health experts](#) about the causes of anxiety and its sociological effects. We proudly held two evening screening events, both with high attendance. The film was also shown to all Steilacoom Historical School District staff and our secondary students. Following the screening events, we provided a panel discussion with local experts, as well as resources for families. This community event was funded through our Department of Defense Education Activity grant, which focuses on social and emotional health of our students. As a district, we hope to continue the important conversations around social and emotional learning, as we work to positively impact our children's healthy development.

Kathi Weight, Superintendent

BETTER ROADS, CLEANER STREAMS Six Simple Steps to Clean Water

1. Help Keep Pollution Out of Storm Drains. Never dump anything down a storm sewer.
2. Never Fertilize When it's About to Rain.
3. Carefully Dispose of Chemicals and Oil. Don't top off when you fill up your tank.
4. Clean Up After Your Pet. Dispose of waste in a trash can.
5. Practice Good Car Care. Fix leaks promptly and wash your car on the grass or at a car wash.
6. Properly Dispose of Travel Trailer Waste.

SCARECROWS

The Steilacoom Garden Club sponsors its annual Scarecrow Contest in October. This year there were several fun and imaginative entries. Winners in the residential category were Christine Mrozeck and Keely Silva-Glenn for their capsized pirate ship, complete with sea monster tentacles, and Kristin Haskins for her whimsical and detailed "The Cro(w)chet Club." Honorable mention was awarded to Ann Genn, Alex Chaney and Cassidy for their "Girl Scouts roasting marshmallows." In the business/organization category, the winner was the Sea Spa located on Rainier St. Other entries included a headless surfer, three scarecrows in a potato bag race at the finish line and a scarecrow doing a handstand.

SCOUTING FOR FOOD

Boy Scout Troop 71 will be in your neighborhood collecting non-perishable food items on Saturday, November 3rd, beginning at 8 am. Please have your donation visible from the street for pickup and delivery to the We Love Steilacoom Food Pantry located at Steilacoom Community Church. Bags will be delivered to your doorstep on October 27th.

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.

PET OWNERS

PET OWNERS - IF YOU HAVE NOT TRAINED YOUR PET TO PICK UP AFTER THEMSELVES, GUESS WHAT? IT'S YOUR RESPONSIBILITY!

When you are out walking your pet and enjoying the beautiful views, parks, trails, greenbelts, etc, please don't be one of the inconsiderate pet owners who does not pick up after their pet. This failure forces the rest of us who wish to enjoy the same surroundings to tip toe around the mess created by you and your pet. PLEASE pick up after your pet at all times. The Steilacoom Municipal Code defines all the rules and fines for pet violations. No homeowner shall permit his or her dog, cat or other animal to create unsanitary conditions anywhere on common properties. Please be accountable for your pet.

OUTDOOR FEEDING

Feeding animals outside may have many potential adverse impacts on yours and your neighbor's property. Town staff is receiving an increasing number of complaints concerning raccoons, feral cats, crows, mice/rats, etc. These animals can pose health and in some cases safety issues.

If you wish to feed your own pets outside, please ensure the food is located inside an enclosure which is inaccessible to large animals. Please do not leave food out between the hours of 6 PM and 6 AM. Additionally, please do not put food out for animals that are not your own.

LEAVES AND FLOODING

Leaves can combine with heavy rains to cause problems. Leaves in street gutters can clog storm drains, potentially causing flooding of neighborhood streets.

Citizens can help by promptly removing fallen leaves averting potential flooding and pollution to local creeks may be prevented. Everyone should check storm drains near their property to make sure they are free of leaves and debris, and they should rake leaves away from storm drains and dispose of them with the yard waste. Do not remove the grate!

Street sweepers cannot pick up large piles of leaves, so please do not rake or blow leaves from your property into the street.

CHRISTMAS TREES.

Scout Troop 71 will be selling Christmas trees on the multi-purpose court located in downtown Steilacoom from November 24th through December 16th.

SHS SWING DANCE

The SHS Music Boosters present the SHS Swing Dance on November 8 in the SHS Commons. Lessons are from 5:30 to 6:30 with the dance from 6:30 – 8:00. Come learn to swing dance from an experienced instructor (T-Town Swing) and then practice your new skills to music provided by the SHS Jazz Band. Admission is \$10 with proceeds benefiting the Jazz Band.

CAMPBELL'S SOUP LABELS AND BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

The Steilacoom Historical School District collects Campbell's Soup labels and Box Tops for Education to use for supplementing classroom equipment purchases. You may help by saving these items and dropping them off at any Steilacoom school.

FUN WITH FITNESS

Come enjoy an hour of exercise with a variety of upbeat music to keep you motivated. Classes include low impact aerobics; core strengthening, balance and resistance exercises as well as stretching. Instructed by Christine Eberlein on Monday and Wednesday from 4:40 – 5:30 at the Community Center.



ESSENTIAL END OF SUMMER HOME PREPARATION

A change in the seasons means a change in how homeowners treat their house and surrounding property. Each season presents unique challenges, and with summer's end rapidly approaching, preparations for autumn must be made. Many of these preparations are targeted to prevent any number of perils that winter may bring, which means you are taking care of two seasons with one home preparation checklist.

Check Safety Equipment:

The change of seasons from summer to autumn, and to a greater extent winter, brings with it drastic drops in temperature. As a result, most families will find themselves lighting fires routinely, whether indoors or out. Because carbon monoxide is released when virtually any substance is burned, it is imperative that homeowners ensure their carbon monoxide detector is functional before autumn arrives. Not paying attention to this gas, virtually undetectable to the human sense, could have great consequences.

In the same vein, the prevalence of in-home fires in the winter necessitates that the smoke detector has fresh batteries and functions properly. ABC News provides a quiz that is intended to alert homeowners to their own fire safety practices, and it is worth the time if you anticipate using the fireplace regularly during the cold months.

Get Some Cleaning In:

If you thought cleaning was only for the springtime, think again! Before cold weather sets in, take a look around your yard and address any issues that have lingered since the beginning of the summer. If your shed is looking a little cluttered, get rid of a few unnecessary items so you can make room for that spiffy new garden rake or snow shovel. Also, if you have a garage, consider giving it a little of your undivided attention. Is that area looking particularly grungy? Consider picking up a backpack vacuum to help you navigate your garage with ease

(and bend over a lot less!) while making it look fantastic before it's too cold to clean up any messes you left before over the summer. With its longer cords and larger capacity, it's a must-have item when you're dealing with an area that can get as dirty as a garage.

Save Yourself from Undue Hassle and Bills:

While safety equipment such as fire and carbon monoxide detectors are of the utmost importance, preparation that may save you from massive bills and stressful mid-winter repairs is also critical in the end-of-summer home preparation process. Home Gather recommends checking infrequently visited spaces, such as attics and basements, in search of cracks and air leaks which could prove costly and even dangerous as the snow piles up and cold drafts intensify.

Make sure to replace air filters and to keep plenty on hand to ensure that your heater does not work harder than it needs to. In addition, sand and fill any holes in your walls, and conduct a thorough scan of doors and windows for any indication that seals to the outside are compromised. Lowe's provides a handy guide for the application of weather-stripping, which should be applied to all doors and window frames in which leaks are detected.

Those who live in harsh winter climates should prepare for the worst when it comes to their plumbing. Many a helpful video is available to provide hands-on

instruction on how to apply antifreeze to pipes, a step that could prevent a disastrous leak during what is already the most miserable time of year.

It cannot be emphasized enough that the roof should not be neglected. In fact, any post-summer house prep list worth its salt will alert the reader to the necessity of inspecting and fixing a roof that may be prone to leaks. In addition, it is recommended that fresh paint be applied to the home where possible, as you will be in no mood to take care of this upgrade when the outdoor temperatures become arctic.

Psych Central reminds us that taking care of tasks proactively, instead of waiting until it is too late, has significant mental benefits, so don't neglect pre-autumn and winter house care until it is too late and far more stressful.

The thought of winter's bitter cold alone is enough to make one shiver. With that in mind, take a moment to consider the idea of conducting winter home maintenance at the peak of the cold season. It is distasteful, to say the least. For this reason, winter home prep must be taken care of before autumn, especially considering the expansive array of considerations which must be weighed. From safety equipment to proactive maintenance on walls, windows, doors, and the roof, nothing can be overlooked when it comes to prepping for the frigid months of the calendar year.

TOWN OF STEILACOM CONTACT INFORMATION

townofsteilacoom.org

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Council Members

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Town Administrator

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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.