



Around Town

March, 2019

From the Mayor's Desk

Wow....the weather in February was challenging. The snow just landed in waves. If any positive existed it was that the major storms occurred over a weekend. The Town experienced very few issues because of each citizen's efforts.

The Town's snow and ice control plan prioritizes: school bus routes, Pierce Transit bus routes, arterials, hills and other main streets, known high use or problematic areas, collectors, and then residential streets as time and resources allow.

Town road crews worked to apply brine to the bus routes, arterials, hills, and known problematic areas starting Thursday and continued through the weekend. Starting Friday, 8 February, crews worked into the night and were back before 4 AM each day clearing the snow from the main arterial roads and other roads as time and resources allowed. As always, it is difficult to reach out to clear each side street early. After the snow stopped and the rain began, crews were able to spend more time plowing and clearing side streets. Thanks for being prepared and staying safe!

Each year, the Council reviews and approves utility and road work projects. As 2019 begins, we have completed the bid process for a utility project upgrading sewer, water, and storm in the Washington Street & Pacific Street improvements. Our engineer's estimate was \$820K. Following our strategy to advertise and bid early...16 contractors submitted sealed bids. The successful bid was at \$643K. Work begins now. The major project in 2019 has been planned for more than six years.....the Steilacoom Boulevard or Tunnel of Trees project. As I write, the project is out for bid. Bid opening was February 21. This project will be a traffic disruptor in the Tunnel of Trees for periods of time. I will give more detail next month.

Let me describe what you will see. First, an arborist has completed a tree assessment which includes a picture booklet detailing every tree in the corridor. Some trees being removed are on the uphill or south side of the road. These trees are either documented as diseased or in the right of way and will be removed for building small retaining walls. Second, trimming of additional trees in the corridor to improve the long term health of the tree will take place. Third, early clearing work begins in the specific Tunnel of trees area with daily traffic control. The Tunnel of Trees project includes new utilities, sidewalks and bike lanes on both sides, storm water improvements, and a new asphalt roadway. Work will begin soon and is scheduled through October.

Our next task after construction will be to engage our arborist to recommend a plan to Council to ensure the health of the trees in this special area....the Tunnel of Trees.

Funding for this project comes from a combination of Federal, State, and local funds.

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

GUEST ARTIST PROGRAM

Stop by and see the art show!

Two members of Pacific Gallery Artists, Ed Kane and Brenda Fick, will show their work at Steilacoom Fireside Gallery during the months of March and April 2019.

Photographer, artist and designer, Ed Kane, also a volunteer and former chairman of the Lakewood Arts Commission, will display his art and photography. Brenda Fick will display paintings.

The "Steilacoom Fireside Gallery" is located inside the Steilacoom Community Center, 2301 Worthington St, Steilacoom WA. Gallery Hours: Mon – Thurs 9:00 am – 7:30 pm; Friday 9:00 am – 4:30 pm; closed weekends and holidays.

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Full-day kindergarten, at no cost to families, is offered at all three of the district's primary schools; Cherrydale Primary, Chloe Clark and Anderson Island Elementary Schools.

The district offers outstanding early learning programs that are developmentally appropriate and academically rigorous. All kindergarten programs are student centered, offer content with hands-on learning experiences and are taught by staff who establish strong relationships with families.

A Kindergarten Enrollment Session for Cherrydale Primary School will be held on Wednesday, February 27th between 4:00 and 6:00 pm. Staff will be available to answer any questions and help families complete the enrollment process. Enrollment packets will be made available at this enrollment event and families can also find kindergarten materials online at www.steilacoom.k12.wa.us/Page/4179

Cherrydale Primary School is located at 1201 Galloway Street, Steilacoom, WA.

All incoming kindergarteners must be five years old on or before August 31st, 2019.

If not able to attend these sessions, please visit the district website for more details or stop by the Student Enrollment Office at 511 Chambers Street, Steilacoom. Enrollment is accepted year round.

Kathi Weight, Superintendent

PIERCE COUNTY READS

The Pierce County Library System launches a Year of Reading, starting with Pierce County READS showcasing bestselling author Kristin Hannah, author of "The Great Alone" and "The Nightingale." "In the past year we heard a lot from people in our communities – about what they wanted from their Pierce County Library. We heard very clearly that people here love to read, and they want their Library to offer them access to reading and lots and lots of books!" said Library Executive Director Georgia Lomax. "That's why we are declaring 2019 A Year of Reading, with Pierce County READS kicking off a year of good stories and amazing authors."

Pierce County READS events will also include several book discussions. Pierce County READS brings together Pierce County residents to engage, read and talk about great books. This winter's selection, "The Great Alone," explores the untamed and unpredictable world of 1974 Alaska while Hannah's other award-winning novel, "The Nightingale," tells of love and strength in the face of World War II. Both books are making the leap to the big screen as major motion pictures.

Hannah, a local author, with an international following, has a worldly view and talent for writing that takes readers to a different time and place. The Pacific Northwest native and former attorney, has written

more than 20 books during her career including "Firefly Lane," "Night Road" and "Winter Garden."

The Library System is declaring 2019 A Year of Reading, to help people offset the pressures of daily life and help them relax. A Year of Reading will include author visits, personal reading shoppers in libraries and online through the Library's My Next Read service, e-newsletters with reading recommendations, Read with a Dog to build children's reading skills, and other ways to engage and connect people with reading.

Pierce County READS events are free thanks to the generous sponsorship of the Pierce County Library Foundation.

For more information on this winter's featured author, Kristin Hannah, her books and upcoming Pierce County READS events visit www.piercecountyreads.org.

WINEFEST - 2019

On behalf of the Kiwanis Club of Steilacoom, thank you to all of the participants, sponsors, and vintners who made this the best Winefest ever.

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.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

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 portable radio to receive emergency information.
- C. 3-day supply of non-perishable food and water (1 gallon/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 wind storm can be a deadly decision; please consider the consequences before you venture out in a winter storm.

CHORUS AND CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Steilacoom Community Church will be hosting a large festival chorus and chamber orchestra for a very special performance of the Dan Forrest Requiem for the Living on April 19th Good Friday and we are looking for more singers!

The church choir is already about 35 singers strong and we are opening our doors to the greater Steilacoom Community for anyone who would like to join in this project!

This requiem differs from traditional settings in that instead of being a prayer for the dead, this one is a prayer of hope for those left behind, a very fitting setting in the context of Good Friday. This is going to be a very powerful evening that everyone involved will carry with them for a very long time!

The rehearsal commitment is not too intensive and does allow for some flexibility. There will

be just four rehearsals from 1 PM – 4 PM on the following dates: 3/10, 3/24, 4/7, 4/14, along with one dress rehearsal on Thursday, April 18th from 7 PM – 9PM. The performance will be on Friday, April 19th at 7:00 PM. All rehearsals and the performance will be at Steilacoom Community Church. Please reach out by phone or email if you would like to join us for this amazing event!



The Steilacoom Farmers' Market will launch the 2019 season on June 19th, 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 Allison Leever at allison.leevers@ci.steilacoom.wa.us for details.

DON'T MAKE A POOR CHOICE

As many of you already know, the pedestrian railroad overpass at Salter's Point has been reopened. Unfortunately, many people have been finding other ways to reach Salter's Point during and after posted hours and they involve trespassing on private railroad property. This is illegal and very dangerous as the trains move quickly on the high speed curve at Salter's. Poor choices by pedestrians around tracks unfortunately result in hundreds of fatalities and serious injuries each year in the U.S. Washington Operation Lifesaver urges you to please follow these important safety tips around trains:

1. Trains operate on any track, at any time and in any direction. Most trains do not run on a schedule and, unlike automobiles, do not travel on the right hand side all the time.
2. Trains cannot stop quickly. Trains travel at high speeds through the Steilacoom area and take a mile or more to stop. By the time a locomotive engineer sees you, it's too late to stop in time.
3. Trains create optical illusions. Because of its size, an oncoming train always appears to be approaching slowly when in fact can be closing the distance to you at 100 feet per second or faster.
4. Two tracks can have two trains. Many people have been killed by not being

aware a second train is approaching at the same time or just after the first train on another track.

5. You cannot always hear an approaching train. The geography of Puget Sound makes it difficult to hear approaching train noise. Some trains have locomotive power at the rear instead of the front and are very quiet. Continuous welded rail with no joints to make a clickety-clack sound also make it difficult to hear an approaching train.

Make the right choice around train tracks – Stay Off, Stay Away, and Stay Alive!

For more information about being safe around trains, please visit Operation Lifesaver at www.oli.org.

HOOPS FOR HEROES

It is AUSA – DuPont Steilacoom Chapter's 4th Annual Hoops for Heroes. This year's event will be held at the SHS gym on March 7th starting at 6:30 PM.

RECYCLE IT

Be green, don't trash it! Recycle your ink and toner empties at Steilacoom Public Works at the front door entrance and also at the Steilacoom Community Center at the lobby reception window shelf. All proceeds go to supporting the Cherrydale School students for supplies & teachers' learning aids via the Friends of Cherrydale Woods

***GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE –
DONATE BLOOD
253.383.2553***

TOWN OF STEILACOM CONTACT INFORMATION

townofsteilacoom.org

Mayor

Ron Lucas.....253 588-6217
Ron.lucas@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
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.