



Around Town

June 2020

From the Mayor's Desk

I hope you and your family are safe and well. Due to the current health crisis, the Town has cancelled its normal July 4th Celebration and the summer concert series. The Steilacoom Citizens' Fireworks Committee has also cancelled the finest fireworks show on the Sound. It is regrettable that one of the important community events cannot be held this year.

The Farmers' Market, however, will be held this summer. The Market starts on June 17 and will run through the end of August. Fresh produce, flowers, and packaged foods are just a few of the items to be had.

Sunnyside Beach Park and Saltar's Point Park will be open when the Governor moves to Phase II which is anticipated to be on or around June 1, 2020.

This is an important time of year for all of our graduates of Steilacoom High School and other nearby schools. Each graduate will have a unique and interesting story to tell. On behalf of the Town Council and Town staff, we wish them all the best and many successes in the future.

A big shout-out goes to the Steilacoom Garden Club for managing to hold their annual

Mother's Day Plant sale. The proceeds from the plant sale support the hanging baskets in Town, Christmas swags on local businesses, the scarecrow contest in October, and the Memorial Wreath for 42nd MP Bde at JBLM for Memorial Park. Thank you also to all who helped support their sale this year and in years past.

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was passed by Congress. The CARES Act provides fast and direct economic assistance for American workers, families, and small businesses, and preserves jobs.

The Town is in the process of entering into an agreement with the State of Washington to receive up to \$193,500. Funds were allocated based upon population.

Council approved a program that will provide funds in 5 areas:

1. Steilacoom household utility assistance.
2. Steilacoom business assistance.
3. Steilacoom resident rent assistance.
4. We Love Steilacoom food bank assistance.
5. Town of Steilacoom COVID-19 related expenses.

To apply, residents should access the Town website and download the appropriate application form. We are in the final coordination with the State and we anticipate, after Council approval and budget adjustment, distribution of the

CARES fund will occur in July and August.

As I write this, we are a very healthy community. Your efforts to ensure your and our residents' good health are greatly appreciated.

I ask you to continue to follow state directives and be safe. Support local business when you can!!

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

So many of our young people are missing out on important milestones as we navigate school closures. Our youngest daughter is dealing with the loss of some important milestones as a senior in college. She is now home with us, instead of enjoying her last quarter of school with her sorority sisters and will not be able to experience her college commencement ceremony. Personally, and professionally, I completely understand how difficult the current situation is for students and families.

Our Steilacoom High School Class of 2020 will not have the typical end-of-year experience like past graduating seniors, but we are working hard to make it special for them.

We recently held a graduation gear pick-up at SHS and had an incredible response of support from parents and teachers. Of our 224 graduating seniors, all but eight students were there to pick up their regalia.

Here are some of the ways in which we are recognizing the Class of 2020:

- We are using social media to highlight each senior athlete who missed their spring sports season.
- Our ASB purchased yard signs for all our seniors. You will see these great signs posted in yards throughout our communities.
- The SHS administrative team meets regularly with our Class of 2020 officers and their advisor, as well as parents and staff, to discuss strategies in support of students for the remainder of the year. A weekly video series, produced by SHS administration, answers student and parent questions and recognizes SHS Sentinels.
- We look forward to recognizing the seniors chosen by their classmates. These students best represent our PRIDE principles (Passion, Respect, Integrity, Dedication, and Excellence). Our team is also planning creative ways to host Senior Scholarship Night and the Class of 2020 Graduation ceremony.



Principal Mike Miller shared, “The support from the families, the continued engagement from our students, and teachers going above and beyond to continue to build relationships has been really inspiring to see. Our Class of 2020 is leaving a great legacy for the rest to follow. They are leading us through this with a lot of grace.”

We are incredibly proud of our students as they continue to stay engaged with schoolwork and represent our school community with resilient spirits.

Dr. Kathi Weight, Superintendent

SCHOOL NEWS

Please visit

<https://www.steilacoom.k12.wa.us>

for updates, FAQs, and resources related to the SHSD.

GARDENING WITH COVID-19

Governor Jay Inslee issued a Stay at Home warning on March 23 to slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). He also let us know that going for a walk, gardening, or going for a bike ride are essential activities. These activities are good for everyone’s physical and mental health. As we stay close to home, many residents that live in the Tacoma Smelter Plume area are spending more time outside in the yard and garden.

The Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department’s [blog](#) gives information on how to practice

healthy actions. Healthy actions are practices that reduce exposure to soil that may have lead and arsenic. Some quick tips for gardeners and landscapers can be found at <https://dirtalert.info/landscaping-and-gardening/>

While Ecologies’ and TPCHD’s program offices are not available for walk-in service, [Ecology](#) and the [Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department](#) are still available by phone and email to answer your questions.

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.

Steilacoom Troop 45261 is offering a food delivery service from the food bank to individuals deemed high risk in our local area. Deliveries are on Saturday mid-morning/ early afternoons.

Please contact: troop45261@gmail.com with your name, address, and phone number family size and number of individuals in each of the following age categories: 0-2; 3-18; 19-54; 55 and over.

PET WASTE

Please pick up after your pets and dispose of the waste appropriately.



The Steilacoom Farmers' Market will launch the 2020 season on June 17th, 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm in downtown Steilacoom. Bring your family and friends to meet new and familiar vendors and producers.

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.leevers@ci.steilacoom.wa.us for details.

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.

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.

ON-LINE UTILITY PAYMENT SYSTEM

Effective May 28, 2020, the Town is scheduled to "go-live" with an on-line utility bill payment option. See the Town's official website at townofsteilacoom.org for additional details.

SUMMER CAMP

The Town is currently recruiting for our summer camp program which will run from June 22 – August

14. Applications are available on the Town's official website.

Interested in attending Summer Camp? Information about Summer Camp is available on the Town's official website.

TO FLUSH OR NOT TO FLUSH

The growing popularity of disposable wipes, "Swiffer" type mops, and other items are causing problems in household plumbing and Town sewer pipes and pumps. It becomes costly to fix your plumbing or the Town's system.

Many products say they are flushable, but just because they go down the toilet does not mean they belong in the pipes. "Flushable" wipes do not break up like toilet paper is designed to do. Additionally, they can clog pipes or get caught in sewer pumps, causing messy backups and expensive repairs. The only things that should be flushed are human waste and toilet paper. Everything else should go in the trash. This would include disposable wipes, "Swiffer" type mop wipes, diapers, cat litter, facial tissues, paper towels, dental floss, and sanitary products. Many of these items wind around the moving parts of pumps causing them to bind up and stop working. Unless something disintegrates like toilet paper, put it in the garbage to save yourself and the Town.

Steilacoom – A Historic Community – Help Keep It Clean – Don’t Litter and please pick up after yourself or others

ANNUAL IRRIGATION SYSTEM TESTING

As the season changes, it is also that time of year to have your backflow prevention assemblies tested. These annual tests are required to ensure that the backflow devices installed on irrigation or fire systems are kept in proper operating condition.

A properly working backflow device ensures water does not “backflow” from non-potable sources such as irrigation system back into your plumbing or drinking water supply. The program ensures that used or non-potable water, or other contaminants do not enter our drinking water system by requiring that cross connection control devices (backflow prevention assemblies) are installed at potential sources of contamination. It also assures that customers continue to take the proper precautions to prevent this type of drinking water contamination through annual inspection and testing of these devices.

For additional information, contact Doug Hale at 581-1912.

If you are thinking of installing a landscape irrigation system on your property, we would like to remind you that a permit from the Town is required. Please contact us at [\(253\) 581-1912](tel:2535811912) to discuss the permitting and inspection requirements associated with your irrigation system installation.

FRAUD ALERT CORONAVIRUS

Scammers are taking advantage of fears surrounding the Coronavirus.

Here are some tips to help you keep the scammers at bay:

- Don’t click on links from sources you don’t know. They could download viruses onto your computer or device.
- Watch for emails claiming to be from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) or experts saying they have information about the virus. For the most up-to-date information about the Coronavirus, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO).
- Ignore online offers for vaccinations. There currently are no vaccines, pills, potions, lotions, lozenges or other prescription or over-the-counter products available to treat or cure Coronavirus disease 2019.
- Do your homework when it comes to donations, whether through charities or crowdfunding sites. Don’t let anyone rush you into making a donation. If someone wants donations in cash, by gift card, or by wiring money, don’t do it.

FIREWORKS

Possession and/or use of fireworks is illegal within the Town limits subject to fines up to \$250 and \$500 respectively.

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
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
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

Chamber of Commerce:

Steilacoomchamber.com

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.