

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Mayor Muri and Members of the Town Council  
**From:** Paul Loveless, Town Administrator  
**Date:** August 13, 2021  
**Subject:** Updates

### Administration:

#### **Upcoming Meetings:**

Council Meeting – September 7, 2021, at 6:30 PM.  
Zoom Invite: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89562736033>  
Planning Commission – October 11, 2021, at 6:30 PM.  
Zoom Invite: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81526348831>  
Civil Service Commission – September 2, 2021, at 2:00 PM.  
Zoom Invite: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86073730007>  
Preservation and Review Board – August 25, 2021, at 6:30 PM.  
Zoom Invite: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84505960951>

(\* ) Meetings are being conducted via Zoom. Additional information is on the applicable meeting's agenda.

#### ***Burn Ban - Red Flag Event:***

RED FLAG EVENT - ALL outdoor burning including recreational and cooking fires (except a gas grill) during this Red Flag Event is prohibited until the Red Flag Event is over as determined by the National Weather Service. See the Pierce County Fire Marshal's website at <https://www.piercecountywa.gov/982/Outdoor-Burning> for additional information.

#### ***Heat Advisory:***

The NWS has issued an Excessive Heat Warning for Pierce County from 8/11/2021 12:00 noon to 8/14/2021 7:00 PM. Dangerously hot conditions with temperatures rising into the mid-80s to lower 90s today, 90s to near 100 degrees Thursday and Friday. Highs will still be near 90 Saturday. Extreme heat will significantly increase the potential for heat related illnesses, particularly for those working or participating in outdoor activities.

Some precautionary / preparedness actions are to remind staff to drink plenty of fluids, stay in an air-conditioned room, stay out of the sun, and check up on relatives and neighbors. Young children and pets should never be left unattended in vehicles under any circumstances. Take extra precautions if you work or spend time outside. When possible, reschedule strenuous activities to early morning or evening. Know the signs and symptoms of heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Wear lightweight and loose-fitting clothing when possible.

To reduce risk during outdoor work, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration recommends scheduling frequent rest breaks in shaded or air conditioned environments. Anyone overcome by heat should be moved to a cool and shaded location. Heat stroke is an emergency! Call 9 1 1. More information: <https://inws.ncep.noaa.gov/a/a.php?i=60646335>

#### ***Town-wide Garage Sale:***

The annual Chamber of Commerce Town-wide garage sale is Saturday with many sales starting on Friday. Please be aware of driving and unusual parking challenges throughout Town and watchout for pedestrians.

### ***Sunnyside Beach Closed to Water Recreation Activities:***

Sunnyside Beach remains closed to water related recreational activities due to sewer line break in the City of Lakewood on July 20, 2021. Up to 450,000 gallons of raw sewage escaped the Pierce County sewer system, flowed into Flett Creek which flows into Leech Creek which flows into Chambers Creek which flows into Chambers Bay which flows into Puget Sound near Sunnyside Beach. The Tacoma Pierce County Health Department is monitoring and testing the water at the beach and will advise the Town when it is safe to reopen. In the meantime, the Sunnyside Park remains open for recreational use.

### ***Open Positions:***

Town of Steilacoom Crew Leader (Streets/Stormwater):

The Town of Steilacoom is recruiting for the Streets/Stormwater Crew Leader position. Six years' experience in construction/maintenance of streets/storm drains. Reviews plans/inspects construction projects. Prepares work orders, reports, and supervises assigned personnel. Performs physical labor as necessary. The full job description and application are available on the Town's official website at <https://townofsteilacoom.org/234/Employment> or may be obtained by calling (253) 983-2053. The position will be open until filled. First review is 7/28/2021. The Town is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

### **Green Stormwater Mini-Grants Now Available**

The Pierce Conservation District (PCD) is pleased to offer **Green Stormwater Mini-Grants** to landowners and community groups in the Commencement Bay, Chambers Creek, and Lower Puyallup River Watersheds for projects that reduce polluted stormwater runoff entering our local waterbodies.

When rainwater falls on impervious surfaces (buildings, roads, and lawns), it doesn't get absorbed by plants and cleaned in the soil. Instead, it flows over these surfaces and picks up pollution along the way, creating a toxic soup that flows untreated into local creeks and streams, and eventually into Puget Sound. Scientists estimate that **75% of pollutants** in Puget Sound come from stormwater runoff.

Because stormwater runoff comes from all our neighborhoods and communities, individual actions can add up to make a big difference in improving our water quality, protecting public health, and recovering endangered wildlife.

This green stormwater program helps landowners and community groups complete projects that capture stormwater runoff so it can be slowly infiltrated into the soil, not sent down our storm drains. These projects benefit urban ecosystems while also meeting landowner goals. Grant recipients can **receive up to \$4,000** to plant rain gardens, remove excessive pavement, create urban habitat, and/or collect rainwater in large tanks. **Apply today** and get started with a free site visit from the Pierce Conservation District staff to talk about your project options. Contact PCD to set up your site visit today. Applications for the current grant round are **due October 29, 2021**. <https://pierccd.org/629/Green-Stormwater-Mini-Grants>

### ***Wildland Fire Smoke Safety Precautions:***

With the wildland fires in the State, you may ask yourself: "How can I stay safe with smoke in the air?"

1. Keep indoor air as clean as possible if you are advised to stay indoors.
2. Keep windows and doors closed.
3. Run an air conditioner but keep the fresh-air intake closed and the filter clean to prevent outdoor smoke from getting inside.
4. Check air quality reports.
5. Limit outdoor time.
6. If you do go outside, wear an N95 or better rated mask.

### ***Town of Steilacoom Website Photos:***

The Town of Steilacoom is considering updating photos on the Town's official website. If you would like to contribute photos for consideration, please send them to [paul.loveless@ci.steilacoom.wa.us](mailto:paul.loveless@ci.steilacoom.wa.us). The image size in pixels is 978 wide by 337 high. Images may be larger than that but will be cropped.

### ***Farmers' Market:***

The Town of Steilacoom's 2021 Farmers' Market continues every Wednesday through August. The Market runs from 3 PM to 7 PM along Lafayette Street between Pacific Street and Main Street and Wilkes Street between Lafayette Street and Commercial Street. Those streets will be closed from noon through 8 PM.

### ***Summer Concerts:***

The 2021 Summer Concert schedule is:

- August 18th      3 Legends Tributes to Jackie Wilson, James Brown & Michael Jackson
- August 25th      Michael Powers - Smooth Jazz

Concerts are held at Pioneer Park in downtown Steilacoom and start at 6:00 PM. The 2021 schedule is also available on the Town's official website. No alcohol, marijuana, or fireworks are allowed in the park. If you bring an animal, it must be on a leash (not voice control) and well behaved in crowds.

### ***Pierce County Rental and Utility Assistance Program:***

Information on Pierce County's rental and utility assistance program may be found on the Town's official website at <https://townofsteilacoom.org/292/Covid-19-Information>.

### **Community Services:**

#### ***Summer Camp:***

Registration for the Steilacoom Summer Camp programs is open. Camp will be for grades K-5, Monday-Friday from 7 AM to 5 PM at Cherrydale Primary School. Camp will be conducted in partnership with Pierce County Parks and Recreations' Kids Need to Play initiative which will allow participants to qualify for a 90% discount from the regular rate thus a week of camp will only cost \$30. Spaces are limited. For additional information or to register, call 253.581.1076. <https://townofsteilacoom.org/156/Youth-Programs>

#### ***Before and After School Care:***

Registration is now open for the Town of Steilacoom's Before/After School Program for 2021-2022. Club AM and PM is offering before and after school care for Kindergarten - 5th Grade school students every day with the exception of national holidays.

- o Location: Cherrydale Elementary
- o Pre-registration is required and payments can be made online, by phone, or by check.
- o Multiple child discounts are available as well as Military and Free/Reduced Lunch qualified students.
- o Discounts cannot be combined.
- o Part-time and full-time rates now available!

Additional information and registration is available on the Town's official website at <https://townofsteilacoom.org/156/Youth-Programs>.

### **Community Development:**

#### ***Public Notices for Applications:***

On a trial basis, we are posting public notices for development applications on the Town's official website at <https://townofsteilacoom.org/>. Current applications are:

1. A Notice of Development Application has been filed for a Guest House (one room short term rental) at 2410 Western Road.
2. The Construction Notice for the Union Avenue and Rainier Street Roundabout Project.

### ***Code Compliance:***

The Code Compliance Officer working in conjunction with the Department of Public Safety is focusing on junk vehicles, illegally parked/stored vehicles, fences, and derelict structures.

### ***Public Safety:***

Over the past week, 120 Public Safety incidents occurred in town, including the following:

#### Emergency and patrol incidents

- 13 medical aid responses
- 34 suspicious circumstance/security checks
- 6 responses for persons in crisis/welfare checks
- 33 traffic stops
- 5 responses for commercial/residential alarms
- 4 animal-involved incidents
- 3 responses for nuisances (noise complaints, parties, etc.)
- 2 parking enforcement responses.

#### Crimes against persons

- No significant events to report.

#### Crimes against property

- 1 incident of fraud/identity theft
- 1 motor vehicle theft.

This past week, our community has suffered its third catalytic converter theft in 10 years, but the second such incident this month. Additional information about catalytic converter theft, to include tips to protect against theft, may be found here:

- <https://tinyurl.com/3rb8yzm6>
- <https://tinyurl.com/27v2a6ve>

Earlier this week, one of our officers attempted to stop a vehicle for a traffic violation. The vehicle fled recklessly and at a high rate of speed, and our officer did not pursue the vehicle. Officers later discovered the vehicle after it had been abandoned, and subsequent investigation determined the vehicle was stolen.

Also this week, one of our residents fell victim to fraud when they were encouraged to purchase gift cards to for a telephone caller. Most legitimate businesses and industries will NEVER ask for payment via gift card. If you have doubts regarding such a request over the phone, a safe practice can be to hang up on the individual that called you, research the direct customer service phone number for the business yourself and call directly and inquire about any account issues.

The lobby of Public Safety is now open, Tuesdays through Fridays, from 9:00 am until 12:00 pm. Staff remain available by phone and appointment from 1:00 pm until 5:00 pm.

As temperatures continue to peak through the summer, please remember that young children and pets can quickly suffer serious injury when left in hot vehicles. Please call 911 immediately with any safety concerns involving these circumstances.

With summer here, please find the following information regarding recreational fires within the Town of Steilacoom:

- For concerns regarding the safety of a fire, please call 911.
- For concerns about air quality related to a recreational fire, please call the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency at (800) 552-3565, or visit <https://pscleanair.gov/>
- For additional information, please West Pierce Fire and Rescue at: <https://tinyurl.com/2md3h2j7>

The non-emergency dispatch telephone number has changed. To reach a police officer NOT during an emergency, please call either (253) 287-4455 or (800) 562-9800.

To anonymously report suspicious activity, please email the department at [crimetips@ci.steilacoom.wa.us](mailto:crimetips@ci.steilacoom.wa.us).

To report persistent traffic concerns, please submit the following information via email to the department at: [traffic@ci.steilacoom.wa.us](mailto:traffic@ci.steilacoom.wa.us).

Location of concern.

Time of day when the concern occurs.

Description of the concerning behavior.

Online crime reporting remains available. Please visit our department website for more information: <https://townofsteilacoom.org/160/Public-Safety>.

### **Public Works:**

#### ***Streets and Storm:***

Crew Emphasis:

The crew continued refreshing pavement markings; mowed and maintained storm water ponds and swales; cleared, graded and graveled additional parking areas on 7<sup>th</sup> Street adjacent to Perkins Park; inspected the roundabout work; and performed other maintenance activities.

Union Avenue Rainier Street Roundabout Project:

Starting July 6, 2021, construction started at the Town of Steilacoom – Union Avenue and Rainier Street Roundabout. The project will take approximately 100 working days to complete. The Town of Steilacoom, Pivetta Brothers Construction, and various other contractors will be working on a 5-legged roundabout at the intersection of Union Avenue, Rainier Street, Martin Street, and the entrance to the Pierce County ferry loading lanes. Every effort has been made to provide a safe and accessible work zone for the residents and visitors in these areas. You can expect intermittent roadway closures and delays during construction hours. Local access and services such as waste collections will be maintained. If any unforeseen problems do arise, please contact Ken Cox or Mark Burlingame with the Town of Steilacoom at 253.581.1912 or Nathan Walker with Pivetta Brothers Construction at 253.862.7890

Construction hours are anticipated to be Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. There will be construction signs, barricades, and traffic control employees along the construction routes to help traffic get to their destination. We apologize in advance for any inconvenience this may cause. Please use alternate routes and avoid this intersection if possible. Information on the project may be found on the Town's official website at: <https://townofsteilacoom.org/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=331>

The contractor continued work on the southeast corner near Steilacoom Street and the Pub and Grill including paving and roadway restoration. The contractor commenced demolition activity in the northeast corner near the Berry Dock ice cream shop. This work will continue throughout next week.

#### ***Electrical:***

Crew Emphasis:

The crew continued restoration work related to last week's power outage in the vicinity of 5<sup>th</sup> and Wallace Street; installed an alternate power feed for streetlights in support of the roundabout project; installed permanent power in the 700 block of Stevens Street; and performed other maintenance activities.

#### ***Water/Sewer:***

Crew Emphasis:

The crew coordinated required lead and copper sampling at 20 locations throughout Town; installed a pavement rated sewer cleanout cover in support of the roundabout project; inspected new water and sewer

services in the 30 block of Silver Beach and the 1500 block of Euclid Street; continued hydrant maintenance; mowed and maintained grounds around lift stations and wells; and performed other maintenance activities.

***Parks, Buildings and Grounds:***

Crew Emphasis:

The crew repaired a faulty solenoid at Cormorant Park; mowed and maintained park facilities; watered flower baskets; supported the Farmers' Market; supported the summer concert; completed concrete work for an Eagle Scout project, bench installation, at Webber Court; and performed other maintenance activities. Additionally, the painting contractor completed his work at the SCC offices. Staff continues to work on other punch-list items.

**Other:**

***Steilacoom Historical School District Enrollment Open:***

Enrollment is now open for all grades K-12 for the Steilacoom Historical School District 2021-22 school year. If you are new to the area and have not yet enrolled your children, now is the time to contact the District to ensure your children are included in summertime communications and fall scheduling! Visit the District Enrollment page at <https://www.steilacoom.k12.wa.us/Page/4332>.

***Pierce County Library Explorer Series:***

The Library Explorer Series of monthly educational and informative lectures returns on September 10, 2021 at 2:00 pm. These events sponsored by Friends of Steilacoom Library (FOSL) and the Steilacoom Historical Museum Association (SHMA) bring together community members to listen and learn. The September speaker, sponsored by Humanities Washington, is Dr. Eric Wagner, biologist and writer, speaking on "After the Blast: Mt. St. Helens 40 Years Later", a compilation of biological, ecological and people impacts in the blast zone. To register for the Zoom presentation, please go to the Pierce County Library web site ([www.piercecountylibrary.org](http://www.piercecountylibrary.org)) and click on the calendar tab at the top. Select September 10 from the calendar and register.

If you are interested in becoming a member in the Friends of the Steilacoom Library please contact Linda Collins at [landjcollins@msn.com](mailto:landjcollins@msn.com).

***Hand Sanitizer Gel:***

Hand sanitizer gel in 1-gallon containers is available at the Community Center or the Public Works facility free to Town of Steilacoom residents. Limit one per family per week.

***Kayak Rentals:***

KayakShare.com is a new self-serve kayak rental available at Sunnyside Beach Park in Steilacoom in cooperation with the Town. You may reserve in advance or rent on the spot (when available) during daylight hours year-round by going to KayakShare.com. See KayakShare.com for details, make sure to wear a lifejacket, and have fun!

***Joint Statement from Local Health Officers Regarding Need for Masks in Indoor Public Spaces***

The health officers representing all 35 local health jurisdictions in Washington state have joined together to pass on their best public health advice to protect you, your family, and our communities. We recommend all residents wear facial coverings when in indoor public settings where the vaccination status of those around you is unknown. This step will help reduce the risk of COVID-19 to the public, including customers and workers, help stem the increase in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations in many parts of the state and decrease the spread of the highly contagious Delta variant. Vaccinations are our best defense against COVID-19 and are safe, effective, and readily available for everyone age 12 and over. Please get yours immediately if you are not already vaccinated.

## **FAQS**

### **Where does this apply?**

We encourage you to mask up in public indoor spaces if you're older than 2. That includes anywhere the public can enter freely. If you're indoors and not sure those around you are vaccinated, we encourage you to mask up. Masks add another layer of protection if you're vaccinated. And if you're not, they help prevent you from spreading COVID-19 to others.

### **What does this mean for businesses?**

This is not a new business mandate. Businesses must still follow statewide mask requirements and require masks for unvaccinated people in public indoor spaces. Businesses should ask people to mask up indoors to help protect staff and customers.

### **How will you enforce this?**

This is not a mandate. It is a recommendation from health officers to keep the community as safe as possible. We offer resources to businesses, like signage to remind customers and workers to mask up.

### **If the vaccines are so effective, why do vaccinated people need to mask up?**

This does not change the fact vaccines are highly effective. No vaccine is 100 percent effective at preventing illness. If you're fully vaccinated, you're less likely to become ill with COVID-19, and much less likely to become hospitalized or to die if you do. Still, vaccinated people can get infected. So even though you're much less likely to get COVID-19 or have a severe illness if you're fully vaccinated, you still can get sick and spread it to others. Well-fitting, multi-layer cloth face masks reduce spread of infectious droplets by up to 70-80%. They also reduce the risk of inhaling those droplets by up to 50%. As case rates rise from the highly contagious Delta variant, masks provide extra protection. Vaccination, masks, ventilation and hand hygiene help prevent illness and protect businesses.

### **Does this align with requirements from CDC and DOH?**

This recommendation doesn't contradict CDC or DOH. CDC, DOH and local public health officials agree COVID-19 vaccines and masking are effective at reducing spread.

Questions – Contact Paul Loveless at 253.581-1912 -- Town's Official Website - [townofsteilacoom.org](http://townofsteilacoom.org).