

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor Muri and Members of the Town Council
From: Paul Loveless, Town Administrator
Date: November 12, 2021
Subject: Updates

Administration:

Upcoming Meetings:

Council Meeting – December 7, 2021, at 6:30 PM.

Zoom Invite: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81422847496>

Planning Commission – December 13, 2021, at 6:30 PM.

Zoom Invite: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87367708301>

Civil Service Commission – December 2, 2021, at 2:00 PM.

Zoom Invite: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89066822512>

Parks, Community Services, and Environment Advisory Board – November 15, 2021, at 6:30 PM.

Zoom Invite: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82349107235>

Public Safety Advisory Committee – November 17, 2021, at 6:30 PM.

Zoom Invite: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83774130250>

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

See Something – Say Something:

If you see something suspicious or if you have been a victim of a crime, please contact the Department of Public Safety. For in-process emergencies, call 911. For non-emergencies, please call either (253) 287-4455 or (800) 562-9800 or email crimetips@ci.steilacoom.wa.us.

Community Services:

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.

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

Code Compliance:

The Code Compliance Officer working in conjunction with the Department of Public Safety is focusing on junk vehicles, illegally parked/stored vehicles, boats stored on Town rights-of-way, derelict structures, and inspecting construction sites for erosion control measures.

Preservation and Review Board – Historic Property Inventory Update:

The Preservation and Review Board in planning on updating the inventory of properties within the Historic District and those outside the District that are of historical significance. A planning and scoping meeting is

currently being scheduled and individuals interested in volunteering for this project recruited. Watch the Town's official website and future updates for additional information.

Public Safety:

Over the past week, 98 Public Safety incidents occurred in Town, including the following:

Emergency and patrol incidents

- 8 medical aid responses
- 42 suspicious circumstance/security checks
- 8 responses for persons in crisis/welfare checks
- 14 traffic stops
- 3 responses for residential/business alarm activations
- 1 response for motor vehicle collision
- 1 arrest for driving under the influence

Crimes against persons

- 2 incidents of domestic violence/disturbance
- 2 incidents of sexual assault
- 2 incidents of assault
- 2 incidents of threats/harassment

Crimes against property

- 1 incident burglary
- 1 incident of vandalism
- 1 incident of trespassing

Catalytic converter thefts continue to plague our region. In one incident, the suspects completed the theft and fled the scene in under 60 seconds. Public Safety is actively pursuing investigative leads and partnering with neighbor agencies to locate those responsible for these thefts. 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>
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With autumn here, please remember to inspect heating appliances thoroughly before utilizing them.

One of the unique aspects of the Town of Steilacoom is our connection with local wildlife. Unfortunately, sometimes that interface occurs when wildlife is found injured or deceased. Please find the following resources regarding injured or deceased wildlife:

- City of Lakewood Animal Control: <https://tinyurl.com/d7n3hjzn>
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife: <https://tinyurl.com/579d8k6d>

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.

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.

Please visit our department website (<https://tinyurl.com/2bz3jzey>) for assistance with:

- Concealed pistol license applications

- Online crime reporting
- Anonymous reporting of suspicious activity
- Reporting of persistent traffic concerns

Public Works:

Streets and Storm:

Crew Emphasis:

The crew continued stormwater inspections for new developments; maintained storm facilities including drainage ditches and swales; blew and swept streets; responded to plugged catch basins and other storm related issues; and performed other maintenance activities.

Union Avenue Rainier Street Roundabout Project:

The contractor completed paving the parking lot of the Berry Dock; installed pedestrian curbing in the splitter islands at all four intersections; prepared for, formed, and poured the inner concrete apron of the roundabout; and performed other project activities.

Staff met with the contractor and representatives of Pierce County Ferries to coordinate the potential relocation of the ferry loading lanes during the upcoming construction of the outer ring of the roundabout. This work is tentatively scheduled for the week of November 29th through December 3rd.

Electrical:

Crew Emphasis:

The crew assisted the Water/Sewer Crew; met with representatives from BKI concerning the substation upgrade project; performed field verifications and responded to questions related to the substation upgrade project; repaired streetlights; and performed other maintenance activities.

Water/Sewer:

Crew Emphasis:

The crew inspected water and sewer services for lot 4 of Norberg Estates; assisted the Parks and Buildings crew with drains at Town Hall; cleaned up storm debris from around lift stations and wells; and performed other maintenance activities.

Parks, Buildings and Grounds:

Crew Emphasis:

The crew cleaned and repaired drain lines around Town Hall; cleaned gutters, drains, roof tops, parks and parking lots of leaves storm debris; and performed other maintenance activities.

Other:

Lakewood Police Request Assistance in Identifying Suspects in a Stabbing:

On November 6, 2021 at approximately 1:07AM, Lakewood Police received a call of a stabbing at the Oaktree Food and Drink located at 8011 Steilacoom Boulevard Southwest. Upon arrival, Officers located the 31 year old male victim in the parking lot suffering from stab wounds. Medical aid was requested and responding officers administered life saving measures until they responded. Unfortunately, the victim died from his injuries at the scene.





The investigation so far has revealed that the victim was in an altercation with three male suspects at the business. The altercation spilled out into the parking lot, which resulted in the victim being stabbed.

The three male suspects may have been at the Steilacoom Pub prior to arriving at the Oaktree. At least one of the suspects was overheard saying they were in the military. After the stabbing, the three suspects fled the scene in what was described as a “lifted” black Ford truck with blacked out accessories.

One of the suspects was described as a white male, 5’5”, stocky build and approximately 30 years old. The second suspect was described as a black male, 5’7”, medium build and approximately 21 years old. The third suspect was described as a white male, 5’7”, approximately 21 years old, medium build with dark hair and dark eyes. Attached are still photos of the three suspects.

Lakewood Police Detectives are asking anyone with information on this crime to contact the Lakewood Police Department. Tips can be called in to the lead detective at 253-830-5014 or the anonymous tip line at 253-830-5064. Tips can also be submitted anonymously via our website at the link below or through Tacoma-Pierce County Crimestoppers.

Lakewood Tip Submit

new.tipsubmit.com/en/forms/cityoflakewood.us/anonymous

Crimestoppers

www.tpcrimestoppers.com/leave-tip

Steilacoom Historical School District Board Passes Education and Operations Levy Resolution:

The Steilacoom Historical School District Board of Directors passed a resolution to place its replacement education and operations levy before voters on February 8, 2022. After receiving feedback from the community over the past several years about the importance of education funding combined with low tax rates, the district has created a plan that would increase the funding for the education and operation levy at the same time as it decreases the tax rate for bond payments.

If approved by voters, this would allow the district to decrease class sizes in its elementary schools and hire additional counselors to meet the needs of students. The district would also continue to use levy resources to support technology, sports and activities, school nurses, existing school counselors, and other school-based staff not funded by the state.

“We are committed to providing the best education for every student. We appreciate that our community shares that vision and understands the importance of enriching our students’ experience,” said SHSD Board Chair Dr. Jennifer McDonald. “Supporting this local levy will allow us to continue to create opportunities for our students to thrive.”

School Board Vice-Chair Sam Scott added, “Our focus is making decisions and providing resources in the best interests of our students, providing opportunities for the best possible, rigorous, and well-rounded education. The support our communities give us through our local levy enables us to continue making those opportunities available.”

Information about the replacement levy, including the proposed ballot measure and facts about what the funding will be used for can be found on the district’s website at www.steilacoom.k12.wa.us.

Steilacoom Historical School District No. 1 serves the communities of Steilacoom, DuPont, Anderson Island, Ketrion Island, and portions of Lakewood and unincorporated Pierce County.

Amtrak Cascades Service Resumes:

After intensive system testing, crew qualifications, and safety certification in partnership with Sound Transit and the Washington State Department of Transportation, Amtrak Cascades service will resume on the Point Defiance Bypass on November 18. The inland bypass parallels I-5 between the Tacoma Dome Station, Lakewood, JBLM, DuPont and Nisqually.

The first Amtrak Cascades train using the Bypass will leave Seattle at 7:22 a.m., arriving in Tacoma at 8:08 a.m. The first northbound train from Oregon will leave Eugene at 5:30 am and Portland at 8:20 a.m., arriving in Tacoma at 10:54 a.m. A total of eight trains – including Amtrak Cascades and *Coast Starlight* – will use the Bypass daily, with additional trains added in the months ahead as COVID restrictions ease. Operations in Tacoma will move to the new Tacoma Dome Station, near the Sounder and light rail stations on East 25th Street. Train tickets are available at AmtrakCascades.com, Amtrak.com, and in the [Amtrak mobile app](#).

To prepare for a safe and comfortable trip, Amtrak conducted crew qualifications in preparation for the resumption of service on the Point Defiance Bypass route. The training was conducted in coordination with Sound Transit.

“Amtrak is continuously improving safety for the benefit of our customers, employees, and the communities we serve” said Stephen Gardner, President of Amtrak. “We are ready to safely resume service on the Bypass consistent with the steps required by our host railroad, Sound Transit, the Federal Railroad Administration and our own Safety Management System.”

As the host railroad, Sound Transit required Amtrak to verify compliance with an array of safety requirements before resuming passenger rail service on the Point Defiance Bypass.

WSDOT and Amtrak remain committed to returning to the bypass and fulfilling federal grant requirements for increased reliability, less travel time, and the opportunity to add more trips between Seattle and Portland. Over the last four years, all involved agencies have worked collaboratively on the following:

- **Activated positive train control (PTC):** All passenger rail corridors in Washington, including the Point Defiance Bypass, have train control technology that will automatically slow or stop trains that are operating above permitted speeds.

- **Developed and implemented an Amtrak Safety Management System:** The Amtrak SMS Includes policies and processes to proactively identify and mitigate risks, enhanced reporting standards, expanded crew training, and redesigned safety training courses to create an improved safety culture and drive safety performance.
- **Implemented step-down speed restrictions:** Working with Sound Transit, progressive speed reductions were implemented to ensure trains operate at required speeds across the route.
- **Upgraded simulator programs:** High-fidelity simulators with route specific details and conditions were utilized to greatly increase training opportunities on the route.
- **Conducted extensive public outreach on railroad safety:** Our partners and Amtrak conducted outreach in communities surrounding the Point Defiance Bypass, including DuPont, Lakewood, Tacoma, and Joint Base Lewis-McChord, prior to the return of service. Amtrak, Sound Transit and WSDOT have implemented or are continuing to pursue all safety recommendations set forth by the NTSB.

Pierce County Library Explorer Series:

The Friends of Steilacoom Library and Steilacoom Historical Museum Association's November Explorer Speaker is Tacoma Community College President Emeritus Pamela Transue, who loves to explore! She will share her local journeys with us in a zoom presentation: **Walk With Me: What I Observed in Walking 1400 Miles Through Tacoma, on** Friday November 12th at 2:00 pm. Pamela loves travel and has visited all seven continents but also walks a new neighborhood every day. She will share her observations and favorite moments and places from her walking adventures in Tacoma, and perhaps some even closer, as her current walking paths are in Steilacoom.

To register for this presentation, go to the Pierce County Web Site (www.piercecountylibrary.org) click on calendar, then November 12, scroll to the program – Walk with Me and click on register. (You may register at any time before the program). A Zoom link will be sent to you on the day of the presentation.

If you are interested in becoming a member in the Friends of the Steilacoom Library, please contact Linda Collins at landjcollins@msn.com.

Steilacoom Historical Museum Holiday Store Opening:

The Steilacoom Museum Holiday Store will be open for shopping from November 13 through December 11 on weekends at 1801 Rainier Street, in Steilacoom. Hours are Saturdays 10-4 and Sundays 12-4. Stop by to find unique and exciting gifts and to support the Museum. Among the offerings are Advent Calendars, Steilacoom ferry ornaments, the Steilacoom Calendars and notecards, toys, books of regional interest, great stocking stuffers and special decorative holiday items will be featured. For many items, members will receive their 10% discount. Unique bird houses by George Rybolt will also be available.

On November 13, from 1-4 p.m., Susanne Bacon, local author and SHMA member, will have a book signing at the store. Her most recent books, *Greener Grass*, a new Wycliff novel, plus *Island in the Storm*, *Home From Home* and *Suddenly Snow*, an advent calendar story in 24 chapters, will be available.

2022 Steilacoom Calendar Available:

The new edition of the annual Steilacoom Calendar features photos of the Steilacoom area submitted by members of the community. They capture the landmarks and sights that are familiar to all of us who travel through Steilacoom but often at a particular moment in time when the lighting or details are particularly noteworthy and perspective is altered. They make great gifts for mailing to friends and family not lucky enough to live in this area. The proceeds benefit the Steilacoom Historical Museum Association. This year's cover is by Donna Herting. Forty-two other photographers contribute to the calendar as well. Several Steilacoom businesses are appreciated sponsors of the calendar. They are: SeaSpa, Custom Hardware Floors Inc., Norse & Sea, Blu Room Creative, Topside Bar & Grill, The Bair Bistro, Coffee Cabin, Quality

Dentistry, Steilacoom Pub & Grill, Daniel Gibbon of Edward Jones, Delish Bakery, Brenda Kelley of ReMax.

Calendars are available weekends from 10-4 on Saturdays and 12-4 on Sundays at the Steilacoom Museum Holiday Store at 1801 Rainier Street until December 11. They can also currently be purchased at Topsides's Coffee Cabin, and online at www.steilacoomhistorical.org Prices are \$12 each or 5 for \$50. Online purchases offer free delivery in the local area, or mailing can be arranged. Online customers will be contacted for method of pick up or delivery.

A new photo contest for the 2023 Calendar will begin in January. Watch for more details to be available then. Call the Steilacoom Museum at 253-584-4133 with any questions.

Section of Steilacoom Boulevard in Lakewood to Close at Length for Sewer Repair:

Pierce County's project to replace the broken sewer main and remove the bypass equipment in Lakewood along Steilacoom Boulevard is expected to begin within the next month.

The project is designed, and the materials and equipment have been ordered. The estimated arrival time of the materials is taking longer than normal due to supply chain disruptions.

Construction on Steilacoom Boulevard between Lakewood Drive SW and Gravelly Lake Drive SW is expected to take three months, and drivers can expect road closures during this period.

Learn more about the project at www.piercecountywa.gov/LakewoodSewerMain.

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

Questions – Contact Paul Loveless at 253.581-1912 -- Town's Official Website - townofsteilacoom.org.



**Steilacoom Kiwanis Foundation
Invites you to a Zoom Virtual**

Wine Hour

Friday, December 10th, 2021

6:30pm

Tickets \$50

Optional purchase of a charcuterie board \$25

From the comfort of your home, taste award-winning wines, learn the history, stories, and winemaking philosophies behind them.

Our featured Winery is



AIRFIELD

**The evening will also include a virtual
Live Auction & Dessert Dash**

**Wine bag pick up or delivery will be based on your address
and will take place on December 9th**