

Planning MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor Muri and Members of the Town Council
From: Paul Loveless, Town Administrator
Date: June 30, 2023
Subject: Updates

Administration:

Upcoming Meetings:

Council Meeting- July 18, 2023, 6:00 PM. (Hybrid) at Town Hall, 1717 Lafayette Street, Steilacoom, Washington, 98388. Zoom invite:<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87641878843>

Planning Commission – July 10, 2023, 6:00 PM. at Town Hall, 1717 Lafayette Street, Steilacoom, Washington, 98388.

Civil Service Commission – July 6, 2023, at 2:00 PM. at the Steilacoom Public Safety Facility, 601 Main Street, Steilacoom, Washington 98388.

Preservation and Review Board – July 26, 2023, at 6:00 PM. at Town Hall, 1717 Lafayette Street, Steilacoom, Washington, 98388.

Parks and Environment Advisory Committee – July 17, 2023, 6:00 PM. – Virtual – Zoom Invite: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86083066796>

Public Safety Advisory Committee – July 19, 2023, at 6:00 PM. at the Public Safety Facility, 601 Main Street, Steilacoom, Washington 98388.

4th of July:

Town offices will be closed on Tuesday, July 4th in observance of the Independence Day holiday.

Farmers' Market:

The Town of Steilacoom's 2023 Farmers' Market continues every Wednesday through August 30, 2023. 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 Concert Schedule:

The Town of Steilacoom's Summer Concert series continues July 12th at 6:30 PM at Pioneer Orchard Park with Mariachi Real De Seattle. The schedule is available on the Town's official website at <https://townofsteilacoom.org/DocumentCenter/View/3386/2023-Summer-Concert-Schedule>. No alcohol, marijuana, or fireworks are allowed in the park. If you bring an animal (which we recommend against due to the size of the crowds), it must be on a leash (not voice control) and well behaved in crowds.

Fireworks:

Possession and/or use of fireworks is illegal within the Town limits subject to fines up to \$250 and \$500. Please tell your family and friends prior to them coming over for the 4th to avoid any misunderstandings.

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 Development:

Chambers Place:

The contractor for the developer of Chambers Place notified the Town that they will begin mobilizing next Wednesday and start demolition of the former bus barn and records storage buildings next Thursday in anticipation of constructing the initial 4 homes which will face Sequalish Street.

Town-Initiated Street Vacation:

The Steilacoom Town Council initiated a street vacation procedure for an approximately 2-foot portion of the right-of-way on the west side of Pacific Street north of Lafayette Street. This vacation will allow for the expansion of the existing ADA ramp at the Steilacoom Tribal Museum to bring it into compliance with ADA guidelines as part of a larger rehabilitation project. The hearing for this street vacation was set at the June 13, 2023, Town Council meeting. Public testimony will be taken at the July 18, 2023, public hearing. Following public input, the Town Council will determine whether to grant the street vacation or any part thereof. Additional information may be found on the Town's official website at <https://townofsteilacoom.org/297/Public-Notices---Development-Application>.

Street Setback Variance Application:

The Town of Steilacoom received an application for a street setback variance under SMC 18.28.030 at 215 Cedar Street. The Hearing Examiner will hold a public hearing on this matter. Notice of the hearing will be posted, mailed and published as required by Town Ordinance prior to the date of the hearing. The public is invited to comment on the proposal by contacting staff below through the Public Hearing date. Information about the project may be found on the Town's official website at <https://townofsteilacoom.org/297/Public-Notices---Development-Application>.

Shoreline Conditional Use Permit Application:

The Town of Steilacoom applied for and was granted by the Town Council a Shoreline Conditional Use Permit and Critical Areas Permit to replace existing failing seawalls at Sunnyside Beach Park, 2509 Chambers Creek Road. Information about the project may be found on the Town's official website at <https://townofsteilacoom.org/297/Public-Notices---Development-Application>.

Community Services:

New Recorder Karate Music Class at the Community Center

Come experience the fun and challenging Recorder Karate method! Master basic techniques used in wind instruments, develop musical literacy and fine motor skills, and progress through a series of colorful belts. Ages 5 and older. Thursdays, 5-6 pm, starting July 6. \$15/month

Sign up on CivicRec: <https://secure.recl.com/WA/town-of-steilacoom-community-services/catalog>

Summer Pre-Camp & Kindergarten Ready Registration Open!

Be Prepared to ... have FUN! Summer Pre-Campers will spend a lot of time outdoors, allowing them to connect with nature, use their imaginations, and get lots of exercise. Kindergarten Ready is a week-long class that will prepare your child for the full day Kindergarten schedule. Class activities will develop and build on the skills necessary for classroom success. More information and registration is available online:

<https://secure.recl.com/WA/town-of-steilacoom-community-services/catalog>

Adult Sewing:

If you love to sew or just want to learn, the Steilacoom Community Center is just the place for you.

Every Friday, from 9 AM to noon, there is free sewing at the Community Center. Sewing machines are provided for your use in addition to sewing notions. Pillowcase kits are available to start you on your journey to an exciting world of sewing. Expert sewing teachers are available to help you with your sewing needs and can show you how to read patterns, choose the right fabric for your project, how to cut the right way using a rotary cutter or scissors, etc. Please join us every Friday for a fun filled day of sewing. Any questions, contact Utahna Slater at utahna@comcast.net. Classes sponsored by the Clothing and Textile Advisory of Washington State.

Public Safety:

Over the past week, 164 Public Safety incidents occurred in town, which included the following:

Emergency and patrol incidents

- 8 medical aid responses
- 53 suspicious circumstance/security checks
- 6 responses for persons in crisis/welfare checks
- 68 traffic stops
- 2 responses for residential/commercial alarms
- 1 response for animal-related incidents
- 1 death investigation, no suspicious circumstances observed
- 1 motor vehicle collision
- 2 responses for nuisance-related incidents (excessive noise/parties/unruly juveniles/narcotics use/etc.)
- 7 responses for parking/abandoned vehicle enforcement

Crimes against persons

- 3 incidents of domestic violence/disturbance/protection order violation

Crimes against property

- 1 incident of burglary
- 1 incident of attempted, but unsuccessful, motor vehicle theft
- 1 incident of vandalism

Significant information:

As we approach Independence Day, residents and guests should remember that use and possession of fireworks in Steilacoom is always illegal.

- Fireworks concerns that are threatening/involve injury to someone can be reported to 9-1-1.
- Reports of other fireworks concerns can be made to the non-emergency dispatch number at 253-287-4455 or 800-562-9800.

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 non-emergency dispatch number at 253-287-4455 or 800-562-9800.
- For additional information, visit West Pierce Fire and Rescue at: <https://tinyurl.com/2md3h2j7>

Over the past week, representatives of Washington's 28th legislative district, Dr. Mari Leavitt and Dan Bronoske, rode along with public safety for almost 8 total hours. Additionally, public safety held a community meeting with the Steilacoom Woods community in cooperation with our Public Safety Advisory Committee.

Announcements:

The Public Safety lobby is open Tuesday through Friday, from 9:00 am until 12:00 pm. From 1:00 pm until 5:00 pm, the Public Safety lobby can be reached by telephone at: (253) 581-0110.

In partnership with the West Pierce Emergency Management Coalition, Public Safety is enhancing our Community Emergency Response Team capabilities. For more information, please visit: <https://tinyurl.com/pswr6fey>

SteilacoomAlert is an emergency notification system for the Town of Steilacoom. At no cost, persons may opt-in to receive emergency and general notifications. Please visit our town website for more information.

Reminders:

In-progress emergencies can be reported directly to 911. 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 resources and assistance with:

- Online crime reporting
- Anonymous reporting of suspicious activity
- Reporting of persistent traffic concerns
- Unwanted prescription medication
- Concealed pistol licenses
- Mental health support for youth
- When to call 9-1-1
- Department of Licensing disability and medical designation
- South Sound 911 Emergency Health Profile (A cell phone is required to use this service)
- Injured or deceased wildlife

Public Works:

General:

Electric Vehicle Charging Station at the Public Works Facility:

Puget Sound Solar completed installation of the electric vehicle charging stations at the Public Works facility. The stations are available for public use while conducting Town-related business at the Public Works facility.

Street Sweeper:

The Town took delivery on Thursday of the new street sweeper approved by the Council. Staff spent the day trained on the new sweeper's operational procedures.

Streets and Storm:

Crew Emphasis:

The crew took delivery of the new street sweeper and trained on same; performed annual cleaning of the boat ramp in accordance with our hydraulic permit approval obtained through the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife; prepared and prepositioned signs for the 4th of July festivities; mowed rights-of-way and swales throughout Town; blew sidewalks and swept streets; and performed other maintenance activities.

Rigney Road Nonmotorized Improvements Project:

WSDOT approved the rail preparation and installation plan. The rail is currently being powder-coated for installation. We anticipate this process should be completed within the next several weeks.

Old Military Road Preservation Project:

We resubmitted our updated construction obligation packet to WSDOT for review based upon their revised comments. Once approved, we will put the project out to bid.

Electrical:

Crew Emphasis:

The crew performed utility service disconnections and reconnections for nonpayment; prepared for the 4th of July festivities; upgraded a transformer on Galloway Street; assisted the EV charging station contractor; replaced faulty outlets at the Public Safety facility; and performed other maintenance activities.

Water/Sewer:

Crew Emphasis:

The crew performed sewer jetting throughout Town; assisted the Parks crew with repairing the irrigation system at the Public Works facility; mowed around wells, reservoirs, and lift stations; repaired a manhole casting on Wallace Street; inspected a side-sewer repair in the 1900 block of Rainier Street; and performed other maintenance activities.

Parks, Buildings and Grounds:

Crew Emphasis:

The crew mowed as the weather and other duties permitted; repaired various irrigation systems; emptied garbage cans; picked up litter; cleaned restrooms; set-up for the Farmers' Market; watered the flower baskets; replanted the concrete pots at Pioneer Park; prepared for the 4th of July festivities; supported an Eagle Scout project in Sunnyside Park; and performed other maintenance activities.

Other:

5th of July Community Clean-up:

Steilacoom has many fun events on the Fourth of July. However, the morning after means considerable extra work for our hard-working Town Streets and Parks crews facing the cleanup, and they are short-handed.

Please join volunteers on July 5 from 8 AM – 9:30 AM at Pioneer Park (end of Wilkes Street and Main Street) or at Saltars Point Park (end of 1st St), and/or at 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM at Sunnyside Beach Park (2509 Chambers Creek Rd) to show appreciation to our Town Parks and Streets crews by helping clean up the parks.

Trash bags and a limited supply of litter pickers will be available. Bring gloves. Consider bringing a bucket to place trash in to make the job easier. With enough volunteers, we may also assist with nearby streets.

Thank you for keeping Steilacoom and our parks clean and beautiful!

Questions? Nancy Henderson, nenders@comcast.net or Liz Grasher, elizabeth.grasher@ci.steilacoom.wa.us.

2023 SHMA Taste of Salmon:

As most of you know, SHMA will not be having the Salmon Bake in 2023 due to a lack of facilities. Instead, SHMA will be selling the delicious, fresh Alaskan salmon fillets you love from the annual salmon bake.

SHMA will take pre-sales at the Steilacoom Farmers Market June 28 - July 19 (payment is due at time of order). Then the salmon will be ready for pick up at the museum storage barn on Saturday, July 29 from 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM.

The fillets will be approximately 8 oz in size and will sell for \$7.00/fillet pre-order or \$8.00/fillet on July 29. There will be a VERY LIMITED number of fillets available for purchase on July 29.

Please reach out to a salmon bake committee member if you have any questions.

Steilacoom Historical School District –Enrollment Open:

Enrollment for the 2023-2024 school year is now open. Of particular interest is enrollment for kindergarten. For additional information or to commence the process, visit the District's website at <https://www.steilacoom.k12.wa.us>

We Love Steilacoom Association – Steilacoom Food Bank:

The We Love Steilacoom Association operates a food pantry/bank located at the Steilacoom Community Church, 1603 Rainier Street, Steilacoom, Washington, 98388. You do not need to be a member of the Church to obtain assistance through the Food Pantry.

The Food Pantry has weekly distributions on Saturdays from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM. Preregistration is not required. For an emergency food need or if you would like additional information, contact Paul Loveless at 253.581.1912.

Steilacoom Community Church Compassion Closet:

Shop at the Steilacoom Community Church Compassion Closet.

Saturdays 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM. All clothing is clean and in good shape. Some items are brand new. All sizes. All items are free of charge.

A ‘Garden within a Garden:’ Steilacoom Historical Community Garden:

Founded in 1854 as the state’s first incorporated municipality, the Town of Steilacoom has everything: sweeping Olympic Mountain and Puget Sound views, two popular beaches, a wonderful school district shared with DuPont, historic homes, a scenic ferry dock, and charming streets.

Everything...except a community garden.

Among all its closest Pierce County neighbors, Steilacoom is the only one without a community garden. The DuPont Community Garden and its many counterparts in other cities support local foodbanks. The We Love Steilacoom Food Pantry had no such consistent, continuing source of community-grown fresh fruits and vegetables – until May 2022.

At first, we were just six people motivated to fill the shared-produce void in our wonderful “Town on the Sound” by establishing our own community garden. But Steilacoom’s picturesque setting is also our would-be garden’s biggest obstacle: there isn’t much open land left, Town-owned property is limited, and what privately owned free space remains is priced at six-figures for a quarter of an acre.

So, with no other immediate place to turn, we visited the DuPont Community Garden seeking inspiration – but came away with a temporary solution. At the empathetic invitation of DCG leadership, we founded the proof-of-concept Steilacoom Community Garden as a “garden within a garden” eight minutes out of Town within the DCG.

We leased two DCG beds at the end of May 2022 and made our first Steilacoom foodbank donation – a bunch of carrots grown by our Debbie Rivera – a few weeks later. Word got out and our mission started to attract more people interested in creating and supporting a Town-focused community garden.



To make room for everyone who wanted to garden with us, we divided each 24’ by 4’ bed into thirds. We finished the 2022 growing season with 13 gardeners, packaging and donating to the food bank within that short time more than 100 pounds of fresh, organic produce.

Because education and multigenerational participation is important to us, that summer we also developed an alliance with the Steilacoom Historical School District through Steilacoom High School faculty: PNW Plant and Environmental teacher Noble Hauser and Key Club Advisor Laurie Norris.

Together, we collaborated on a national Samsung STEM grant competition submission with our community garden as a focal point: “Using 21st Century STEM Technology To Grow 19th-Century Heirloom Vegetables.” The grant proposal was one of six Washington state finalists, winning a \$2500 grant for the high school.

In November, we changed our name to the Steilacoom Community Garden to salute the town’s history and our partnership with the Steilacoom Historical School District. established relationships with the Fort Nisqually and Fort Vancouver’s heirloom demonstration gardens. donated free heirloom seeds to share with our gardeners Hauser’s high school students. These seeds are among the varieties Steilacoom’s earliest settlers planted in their gardens when the Town was founded in 1854.



Historical ad hoc We also Museum’s Both gardens and Mr. same kitchen

We began the 2023 new year with 25 gardeners on our roster ranging in age from 12 to 76 - and a waiting list. Many more people who contacted us say they would love to join us too, if only we were located somewhere in Town. Among our wonderful SHCG gardeners are nurses, educators, nutritionists, retired military, firefighters, parents, kids and consultants - from garden novices to Master Gardeners.

This year, we doubled our space from two to four 24x4’ beds. Each is divided into three 8x4’ plots giving us a total of 12 plots, with our gardeners doubling up on some of them. The SHCG hopes to at least double last year’s food donation to the food bank, delivering more than 200 pounds of produce by the end of the growing season in Oct.

We are continuing our relationship with Steilacoom High School, providing Mr. Hauser’s students with free heirloom seeds sourced through Forts Vancouver and Nisqually and from the Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants at Monticello, VA. This spring, the students raised seedlings in the SHS greenhouse, which we planted at the SHCG. Kale, lettuce and other cool weather crops from those seedlings are already being harvested and donated to the Steilacoom Food Bank.



In this partnership, the students learn about plants and local history – how England’s Hudson Bay Company sold seeds to settlers in the 1840s; how the company sourced seeds from all over the worldwide British Empire; and how local Pacific Northwest tribes bartered salmon for seeds as they learned European growing techniques.

One of our SHCG beds is reserved for raising only heirloom plants, using settlers’ growing methods – no metal, plastic or artificial fertilizer. This bed also includes a symbolic planting of camas bulbs and the Steilacoom flower, to honor the Steilacoom Tribe, whose ancestors depended on camas as a traditional food crop and whose native word for the pink wildflower gave Steilacoom its name.

The United States Department of Agriculture recently the Steilacoom Historical Community Garden as a Garden,” and provided us with a sign now proudly our space.

Hope springs eternal that a spot owned by the Town of school, church or other nonprofit would be offered to us spot would not have to be large, but would need ample to water and parking, and could be fenced. By aligning nonprofit, the Steilacoom Historical Community Garden could apply for more grants to support its further development and educational goals so we can be an asset to our nonprofit partner as well as to everyone who understands how important it is to help each other.

For more information, please contact us @steilacoomgarden@gmail.com



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Steilacoom, soon. Such a sun, access with a



Questions – Contact Paul Loveless at paul.loveless@ci.steilacoom.wa.us