

PLANNING MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor Muri and Members of the Town Council
From: Paul Loveless, Town Administrator
Date: September 15, 2023
Subject: Updates

Administration:

Upcoming Meetings:

Council Meeting- September 19, 2023, 6:00 PM. (Hybrid) at Town Hall, 1717 Lafayette Street, Steilacoom, Washington, 98388. Zoom invite: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83298367257>
Planning Commission – October 9, 2023, 6:00 PM. at Town Hall, 1717 Lafayette Street, Steilacoom, Washington, 98388.
Civil Service Commission – October 5, 2023, at 2:00 PM. at the Steilacoom Public Safety Facility, 601 Main Street, Steilacoom, Washington 98388.
Preservation and Review Board – September 27, 2023, at 6:00 PM. at Town Hall, 1717 Lafayette Street, Steilacoom, Washington, 98388.
Parks and Environment Advisory Committee – September 18, 2023, 6:00 PM. at Town Hall, 1717 Lafayette Street, Steilacoom, Washington, 98388.
Public Safety Advisory Committee – September 20, 2023, at 6:00 PM. at the Public Safety Facility, 601 Main Street, Steilacoom, Washington 98388.

School's in Session - Slow Down:

The 2023-24 school year is now underway and we would like to remind all motorists to leave a little extra time in their morning and afternoon routines to slow down and be safe.

Walkers and bikers be sure to stop, look, listen and look again before crossing the street. Don't walk between parked cars where motorists cannot see you well. Use crosswalks and/or streets where crossing guards are on duty and always obey all traffic signals.

Bus riders should always cross 10 feet in front of the bus where the driver can see you. Stay out of the street and don't horse play at the bus stop. Stand back until the bus comes to a complete stop.

Drivers need to slow down and be ready for surprises. Pay attention to reduced speed limits in school zones. Obey state law that requires motorists to stop for buses with flashing red lights and extended STOP arms that indicate children are loading or unloading. Passing a stopped school bus can result in a fine up to \$500.

Whether you are walking, biking, riding or driving, back-to-school safety is everyone's business.

Sunnyside Beach Closure:

Effective August 21, 2023, Sunnyside Beach Park will be closed to the general public and restricted to employees of the contractors working on the seawall reconstruction project. The closure is expected to last through the month of October.

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

Public Safety Advisory Committee Survey:

The Public Safety Advisory Committee is requesting your participation in a survey. This survey is a follow-up to the survey taken by the Steilacoom Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) last year. The purpose

2024 Comprehensive Plan Amendments:

The Town of Steilacoom is accepting applications for privately initiated amendments to the Town's Comprehensive Plan for 2024. Amendments may include changes or additions to the text of the plan or changes to the Town's official Zoning Map or other maps contained in the plan. The Comprehensive Plan provides guidance for land use, economic development, environment, quality of life, housing, transportation, utilities, and parks and recreation.

Application forms, instructions, and further information can be obtained by contacting Tanner Fuller, Town Planner, at tanner.fuller@ci.steilacoom.wa.us or at (253) 581-1912. Applications must be received by September 30, 2023.

Critical Area Permit:

The owner of 35 Silver Beach Drive submitted an application for a critical area permit for a project removing a deck and replacing with a concrete patio, landscaping, and retaining wall. Comments will be taken through September 26, 2023. A decision will be posted after that date. Contact Tanner Fuller, Town Planner, at tanner.fuller@ci.steilacoom.wa.us for additional information.

Norberg Estates Replanting:

Staff met with representatives of the developer and the Norberg Estates Homeowners' Association to discuss planting an additional 20 trees to replace some of the previously planted trees that did not survive the summer. Once planted, future landscaping will be the responsibility of the HOA.

Community Services:

New Senior Activities This September:

Brandy Paxton will be hosting a weekly Puzzle Club every Monday at the Community Center, starting in September. Brandy will also be hosting a weekly Bingo Session every Friday. Both activities will start after lunch. Come ready to have a blast!

Puzzle Club:

Join us every Tuesday for Puzzles and Games at the Community Center for FREE. Brandy Paxton will be hosting this event for Seniors beginning Tuesday immediately following Lunch Bunch. Come ready to have a blast!

Senior Bingo:

Join us for a FREE session of Bingo every Friday at the Community Center. Brandy Paxton will host this Bingo session for Seniors following Lunch Bunch every Friday.

Ice Cream Social:

Brandy Paxton will be hosting a Senior Ice Cream Social at the Community Center, on the Last Wednesday of every month. This FREE event will begin September 27th right after lunch so bring your sweet tooth. There will be a different variety of ice creams and toppings. Come ready to chat, laugh and eat some tasty desserts.

Public Safety:

Over the past week, 149 Public Safety incidents occurred in town, which included the following:

Emergency and patrol incidents

- 12 medical aid responses
- 48 suspicious circumstance/security checks
- 9 responses for persons in crisis/welfare checks
- 50 traffic stops
- 1 response for residential/commercial alarms

- 4 responses for nuisance-related incidents (excessive noise/parties/unruly juveniles/narcotics use/fireworks/etc.)
- 1 motor vehicle collision
- 1 arrest for a criminal arrest warrant
- 3 responses for parking/abandoned vehicle enforcement

Crimes against persons

- 1 incident of assault
- 1 incident of domestic violence/disturbance

Crimes against property

- 2 incidents of burglary
- 1 incident of fraud/identity theft
- 1 incident of theft

Significant information:

This week, several residential and commercial mailboxes were damaged/vandalized and mail was stolen. This occurred in multiple areas in town. Residents are always encouraged to call 911 to report suspicious activity while it is in progress. This gives our officers the best opportunity to investigate what is going on while it is going on.

In response to a rise in thefts of particular Hyundai and Kia vehicles, the Puget Sound Auto Theft Task Force secured free steering wheel locks, which will be distributed through participating local law enforcement agencies. The locks are now available to be picked up at many locations throughout Pierce County, to include at Steilacoom Public Safety. To receive a free lock, owners will need to bring their registration and key to show that they own a 2011-2021 key-start Hyundai or Kia. It is important to note that the Puget Sound Auto Theft Task Force, in partnership with Kia and Hyundai, is providing these devices to aid in deterring vehicle theft. The locks do not guarantee protection from theft. For additional information, please visit: <https://tinyurl.com/43ssxs3>.

Tips to safeguard against vehicle theft can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/dfzv8cee>.

Over the summer, your officers will be conducting traffic emphasis patrols in the problem areas most frequently reported by our residents. During August, over 200 traffic stops were performed, with emphasis along Lafayette Street and Chambers Creek Road.

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>

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.

Missing persons can be reported immediately; there is no waiting period. Online databases of currently missing persons are located below:

- Missing persons: <https://tinyurl.com/mrx9mxvs>
- Missing indigenous persons: <https://tinyurl.com/2dfezpuj>

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:
<https://tinyurl.com/yhwmz7dk>

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
- 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
- Unwanted prescription medication disposal

Public Works:

Streets and Storm:

Crew Emphasis:

The crew performed culvert inspection and storm water line jetting along Union Avenue to remove willow tree roots from the system; mowed rights-of-way and swales throughout Town; blew sidewalks and swept streets; contacted a fence specialist to arrange for the extension of the fence at Saltar's Point Park; scheduled CESCL recertification training; and performed other maintenance activities.

Rigney Road Nonmotorized Improvements Project:

The project was granted physical completion. The contractor should complete minor punch list items shortly.

Old Military Road Preservation Project:

We continue to wait for WSDOT approval on the plans and specifications. Once approved by WSDOT, we will put the project out to bid.

Cambridge Drive Grind and Overlay:

Staff submitted to DOE for the construction stormwater permit for the project. Once received, we will put the project out to bid.

Rainier Street Preservation Project:

The engineers, WSDOT, and the Town are coordinating potential improvements to meet WSDOT requirements. Once finalized, a project change-order will be presented to Council.

Sunnyside Beach Parking Lot:

The contract was awarded and is currently being circulated for signature.

Sunnyside Beach Seawall:

The contractor continued installing sheet pile this week.

Electrical:

Crew Emphasis:

The crew conducted a site visit and inspection of new services associated with the cell tower; replaced a meter in the 1500 block of Rainier Street; replaced bulbs in the decorative street lights downtown; installed a bollard in Eleanor Court to protect a transformer; and performed other maintenance activities.

Water/Sewer:

Crew Emphasis:

The crew assisted the Electric Crew install a bollard to protect a transformer on Eleanor Court; assisted the Parks crew pour concrete slabs at Sunnyside Beach Park; worked on plumbing in the Sunnyside Beach Park restrooms; inspected the Community Garden site; patched a hole in the buildings at the Community Garden site, installed a unique water service and double check valve; coordinated with the contractor on the Bradford development project site; inspected a sewer connection in the 10800 block of 108th Street; and performed other maintenance activities.

Parks, Buildings and Grounds:

Crew Emphasis:

The crew replaced 6 valves at Sunnyside Beach Park; made and poured concrete forms for BBQs at Sunnyside; painted the volleyball standards at Sunnyside; mowed as the weather and other duties permitted; emptied garbage cans; picked up litter; cleaned restrooms; watered and fertilized the flower baskets; repaired irrigation systems and drinking fountains; and performed other maintenance activities.

Other:

Apple Squeeze:

The Steilacoom Apple Squeeze will return on Sunday, October 1 from 10-4 in downtown Steilacoom.

This 48th Squeeze will be a celebration of the apple, sponsored by the Steilacoom Historical Museum Association to raise funds for maintaining historical properties and programs.

Come press apples into cider the old-fashioned way with hand operated presses. This year, quantities may be limited, but if you need more cider, pre-squeezed Lattins Country Cider will also be available to buy.

Live music will be provided by Kristi and Steve Nebel and Dave Harmonson. Quality handcraft artists will display their wares at the street fair on Lafayette Street. Activities and games for children will be in the multi-purpose court area. Many food booths relating to the apple include apple butter on bread, apple fritters, caramel apples, hot spiced cider, and cider floats with apple pie, ice cream and cinnamon sauce available in Town Hall.

Another feature is the Apple Identification booth, with experts who will look at your apples and try to identify the variety, plus discuss any topic on fruit tree management you may want to explore. Bring along several samples of each variety of apples with leaves and stems and your questions.

Steilacoom resident Nathaniel Orr learned orchard management in Oregon after arriving via the Oregon Trail in the mid 1850's and was responsible for many orchards in Steilacoom and on Anderson Island. Some of his trees still survive today in the Orr Orchard at his home at Main and Rainier Streets in Steilacoom and throughout the town and Island. Nathaniel's Wagon Shop, the Orchard and the Steilacoom Historical Museum with its information on early Steilacoom will be open for visitors.

This event benefits and is sponsored by the Steilacoom Historical Museum Association. Call the Museum with any questions at 253-584-4133 or go to steilacoomhistorical.org

Scarecrow Fest:



The Steilacoom Garden Club is encouraging community members to decorate a scarecrow and enter our annual October contest. Be thinking about something creative to showcase for community members of all ages. Judging of entries will be on Oct 16th and will be based on originality, workmanship, costume and use of props. There will be a category for businesses/organizations and one for residences. Enter the contest simply by contacting Mary La Tourelle at lafannin@msn.com or 253-221-1409 to let her know the location of your scarecrow. Photos of all entries will be posted on the Steilacoom Garden Club's Facebook page, along with addresses, so folks can check them all out.

I-5 - Mounts Rd. to Steilacoom- DuPont Rd. Corridor Improvements:

Beginning in late summer 2023, contractor crews working for the Washington State Department of Transportation will begin construction on Interstate 5 in DuPont near Joint Base Lewis-McChord. This is the third in a series of projects that widens I-5 to add HOV lanes between DuPont and Lakewood.

Improvements coming to DuPont and JBLM:

In addition to extending the I-5 HOV lanes, construction crews will make improvements that enhance mobility and safety in DuPont and near the JBLM DuPont Gate at exit 119, including:

A new bridge spanning I-5 and the railroad. The new bridge will feature a partial Diverging Diamond Interchange and a shared-use path for pedestrians and bicyclists between JBLM and DuPont.

Direct access between JBLM and both directions of I-5.

A new roundabout connecting Steilacoom-DuPont Road and the new overpass.

The project will also add a new signal at the intersection of the southbound I-5 off-ramp at Mounts Road (exit 116) and improve the I-5 vertical clearance over Pendleton Avenue.

What you can expect:

Construction will begin in summer 2023 and is expected to be complete in 2026. The project consists of multiple stages that involve overnight and weekend ramp closures, lane shifts onto temporary pavement, potential speed limit reductions, and bicycle and pedestrian detours. Crews will contain dust and debris to the construction site and will minimize noise as much as practical. Clear signage will indicate required detours throughout the project.

Additional Information:

Online open house:

<https://engage.wsdot.wa.gov/i-5-mounts-to-steilacoom-dupont-rd/>

WSDOT Blog:

<https://wsdotblog.blogspot.com/2023/09/i-5-hov-dupont-jblm.html>

YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lIDRY3j6DNI&t=1s>

The WSDOT Facebook page post linking the blog and online open house:

<https://www.facebook.com/WSDOT/>

Online open house:

<https://engage.wsdot.wa.gov/i-5-mounts-to-steilacoom-dupont-rd/>

Fall Festival:

Join us under the big top for a spectacular night at the Steilacoom Community Church Fall Festival on October 31st from 6:00pm to 8:30pm! Bring your Trick or Treating crew to 1603 Rainier St. for games, prizes, candy galore, piping hot cocoa, and cider!

Thanksgiving Dinner:

Save the date for the Steilacoom Community Church heartwarming 2nd Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner – we'll be dishing out gratitude and delicious meals on Thanksgiving Day. We'll start taking RSVPs on October 23, 2023 – be there to share the love and a fantastic feast!

Friends of Steilacoom Library Book Sale:

The Friends of Steilacoom Library (FOSL) host their Fall Book Sale Friday November 3 and Saturday November 4 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm in the Library Meeting Room. Come and select gently used fiction and non-fiction books. Cash or check please. No book donations will be accepted on the days of the sale but FOSL will accept book donations on Saturday October 7 11:00 am to 1:00 pm and Thursday October 26 from 2:00pm to 4:00 pm in the Library Meeting Room. Please do not bring dictionaries, encyclopedias, reference, text books, damaged books or outdated travel guides (older than 3 years). All proceeds support Friends projects to support the Library's objectives. Hope to see you there.

Red Ribbon Bazaar:

The Red Ribbon Bazaar is on Saturday, Dec 2, from 9 AM to 4 PM at Steilacoom High School, 54 Sentinel Way, Steilacoom, Washington. Proceeds support the students of Steilacoom. Email redribbonbazaar@hotmail.com for more information or visit the SHS Facebook or SHS Booster Club Facebook.

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.

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