



Around Town

February 2020

From the Mayor's Desk

As winter is upon us, I remind you to relook at your emergency preparedness plan. The most likely emergency event would be an earthquake followed by/or a long power interruption of the Bonneville Power transmission lines within the state. What all of us can do is start and/or complete a disaster supply package: case(s) of water, easy to prepare food, basic medicine, flashlights and first aid products. We all should be prepared to be on our own for 5-14 days in the worst case. Additionally, it is always important to talk to your neighbors about their emergency preparation and plan on checking-in with your neighbors during any emergency.

The recent weather event of huge rains created immediate work by our staff...some examples: the 5th Street waterway became clogged with water rising to the Gove Street level and was quickly fixed; the corner of Union Avenue and Rainier Street had storm water from the swale along Union Avenue overflow into the street. I was with the crew the day before the storm performing maintenance at that point... but the amount of water was overwhelming in a short span. The rain event also resulted in a

slide from private property in the Tunnel of Trees. The new wall with steel pilings encased 25 feet deep in concrete, held and worked as designed. It is the fifth slide along the slope over the last 25 years. In the past, hydro seeding, jute matting and time for vegetation to grow back stabilized the entire past slide areas and no further slides have occurred. The property owners of about 5 acres above the Tunnel of Trees (the former Norberg property), Parker Pacific, and our staff quickly mobilized their crews away from working on erosion and storm water control and other sites to the cleanup on Steilacoom Boulevard. Parker Pacific then also constructed larger storm water holding ponds and additional trenching to direct water into those enhanced ponds on site. Since then, no further water related issues have occurred. We are working with Parker Pacific on rehabilitation plan for the slide area.

Please watch for Council agendas as 2020 will have several key topics and/or study sessions presented to the Council and residents. Included will be the 2021/22 budget, several utility plan updates, preparation for updates to the Town Comprehensive Plan, implementation of the Transportation Improvement Plan—funding road upgrades and more. Your participation and or comments are always welcomed.

Ron Lucas, Mayor

**GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE
DONATE BLOOD**

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

We are proud to offer a variety of academic programs at Steilacoom High School – all of which have seen positive growth in both student participation and success.

Advanced Placement (AP):

The College Board designed Advanced Placement programs to provide college-level courses for high schools around the world to help develop the academic skills students need for college success. Our high schoolers can take AP exams to earn college credit before even setting foot on a college campus. Every year, Steilacoom High School has seen growth in student enrollment, course offerings and success in AP. We were recently recognized as one of the nation's 425 "AP Honor Roll" districts for increasing access to AP, while improving scores on AP exams. This year, SHS offers 26 AP courses, with 339 students enrolled!

Pierce County Skills Center (PCSC):

The Pierce County Skills Center opened in 2010, to offer career options for students, leading to careers that align with workplace demands. The PCSC serves juniors and seniors from nearby school districts and this year, SHS has 40 students

involved in the Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs offered through the PCSC. Our students are participating in the following PCSC programs this year: Criminal Justice, Pre-Physical Therapy Sports Medicine, Automotive Technology, Aerospace Machining/Fabrication, Construction Trades, Pre-Pharmacy Technician, DigiPen Video Game Development, PC Network/Hardware Repair, Pre-Veterinary Technology, Culinary Arts, and Aerospace Composites.

Running Start:

Running Start is a program which allows juniors and seniors to take college courses at Washington's 34 community and technical colleges. Running Start students can simultaneously earn high school and college/university credit. Running Start students do not pay tuition and with careful planning, students can earn an associate degree along with their high school diploma. We currently have 176 of our students participating in Running Start coursework.

Our schools work hard to meet the needs of all learners by engaging students in meaningful and authentic learning opportunities. Offering innovative programming options like these allow us to support our students and promote both academic and social emotional success.

Dr. Kathi Weight, Superintendent

**SCHOOL IS IN – DRIVE
SAFELY AND WATCH OUT
FOR KIDS!**

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.

With over 3 million cars in King, Pierce, Thurston, and Snohomish Counties, 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.

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.

DADDY-DAUGHTER DANCE

Steilacoom Community Center
February 1, at 6:30 PM
Tickets are \$22 and are
available at the Topside Bar and
Grill. Includes catered dinner,
corsage, photo, and dancing.

NEW CLASSES AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER

Starting January, we have a
number of new offerings. Call,
email, view the website, or drop
by the Community Center to
learn more about our Jazz,
Youth Art, and Genealogy
classes!

AARP Driving Class:
February 7th from 8:30 AM to
4:30 PM at the Center.

Contact: 253-581-1076;
kristal.gibelyou@ci.steilacoom.wa.us

BETTER ROADS, CLEANER STREAMS Six Simple Steps to Clean Water

1. Help Keep Pollution Out of Storm Drains. Never dump anything down a storm sewer.
2. Never Fertilize When it's About to Rain.
3. Carefully Dispose of Chemicals and Oil. Don't top off when you fill up your tank.
4. Clean Up After Your Pet. Dispose of waste in a trash can.
5. Practice Good Car Care. Fix leaks promptly and wash your car on the grass or at a car wash.
6. Properly Dispose of Travel Trailer Waste.

ARTIST SERIES

Pacific Gallery Artists member, Brenda Fick, will have a solo show of her oil and watercolor paintings at Steilacoom Fireside Gallery in February and March 2020.

WE LOVE STEILACOOM/FOOD PANTRY ANNUAL MEETING

We Love Steilacoom will hold its annual meeting on February 4th at 5 PM at the Community Center. 2019 activities and 2020 operational plan will be discussed. All are welcome to attend. We Love Steilacoom operates the food bank in Town.

SHS MUSIC BOOSTERS

Support Steilacoom Music Boosters during their 2nd annual new mattress fundraiser! February 8th at Steilacoom High School from 10-5. All sizes available with over 30 styles on display. Mattresses are brand new and have full factory warranties! Financing available and all forms of payment accepted. Delivery and haul away available.

Pet Waste and Leash Law
Please pick up after your pets and dispose of the waste appropriately. Additionally, all animals if not on your property must be on a leash or under physical control. Animals are not allowed on school property.

SPEAKER SERIES

The Friends of the Steilacoom Library and the Steilacoom Historical Museum are partnering to bring back the historical speaker series. All events are at 3 PM at the Museum.

February 14: Lane Sample,
Life at Fort Nisqually
March 13: Karen Haas,
Pioneer Memories, Future
Dreams: Ezra Jane Meeker.

RECYCLE IT

Be green, don't trash it! Recycle your ink and toner empties at the Steilacoom Public Works at the front door entrance and also at the Steilacoom Community Center at the lobby reception window shelf. All proceeds go to supporting the Cherrydale School students for supplies & teachers' learning aids via the Friends of Cherrydale Woods.

DISABLED PARKING

Steilacoom Historical School District and Town staff continue to receive complaints concerning ineligible individuals utilizing spots restricted for disabled parking.

When confronted, individuals will frequently use the excuses that 1) I was only going to be a minute, 2) there isn't any other available parking close by, 3) no one else was using the spot, 4) I've lived in this community for a long time and will use whatever spot I want, 5) I'm involved with the activity that is occurring, or 6) I am eligible but my permit is in my other vehicle.

Illegal and/or improper use of a disabled parking spot or the clear zones between the spots even for "just a minute" (which is never just a minute) potentially denies a qualifying individual access to the facility or activity.

In order to legally use an appropriately marked disabled parking spot, the individual must have been issued and be displaying either the State issued license plate or placard. Failure to have either of these items on or displayed in the vehicle or illegal use of a disabled parking spot could subject you to a \$250 fine.

BUSINESS LICENSE CHANGES

Beginning in February, the Town of Steilacoom business licenses transition to being issued through the State Department of Revenue's Business Licensing Services, or BLS. The Town will accept business license applications until February 6, 2020. BLS will begin accepting applications for Town licenses on February 20. No applications will be accepted between February 7 and February 20, either through the Town or BLS.

Information on how to apply for Town licenses through BLS will be made available at the Public Works Building and on the Town's website as the deadlines draw near.

For further information, contact Doug Fortner, Town Planner, at (253) 581-1912.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TIPS

It's that time of year where we thought it might be helpful to review some emergency preparedness safety tips. As with any major emergency, you need to take responsibility for your own safety and be prepared to sustain you and your family for 72 hours. Primary concerns are loss of heat, power, telephone service, and a shortage of supplies if storm conditions continue for more than a day.

It is suggested that **at a minimum** you should have the following items on hand to sustain you and your family

during a winter storm emergency:

- A. Flashlight with extra batteries.
- B. Battery-powered NOAA Weather radio/portable radio to receive emergency info.
- C. 3-day supply of non-perishable food and water (1 gallon per person per day).
- D. Extra clothing, blankets, moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation.
- E. Extra prescription medicines, glasses, baby items, and pet food.
- F. First-aid supplies and a fire Extinguisher.

Avoid travel if at all possible during a major storm. If you must travel, do so during daylight and watch out for emergency crews working in and along the roadways. If you have an automatic garage door opener, learn how to manually open your garage door before the power goes out.

Do call us to let us know your power is out; **please do not** continually call for updates. We understand your frustration; please know that as soon as the problems are fixed and it is safe to do so, the power will be restored.

If you haven't done so, now is the time to put together your emergency supply kit. And remember, due to the danger of falling trees, limbs and branches, taking your dog for a walk or going for a stroll in a high windstorm can be a deadly decision; please consider the consequences before you venture out in a winter storm.

***Steilacoom – A Historic
Community – Help Keep It
Clean – Don't Litter***

TOWN OF STEILACOM CONTACT INFORMATION

townofsteilacoom.org

Mayor

Ron Lucas.....253 588-6217
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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.