



## ***Around Town***

*April 2020*

### ***From the Mayor's Desk***

As I write, the news is all about Coronavirus and steps to take to protect yourself and family. The Town & Steilacoom Historic School District are both following federal and state direction or recommendations to keep everyone safe & healthy. We will support and comply.

Our Town staff will all be retained, and operations will be open and responsive. Several staff members may be redirected into other activities as actions directed by the state continue to evolve. As of today, 18 March, the Community Center remains open but organized, indoor recreational activities have been suspended through the end of March.

If you have school age children...please visit the Steilacoom Historic School District for updates at [www.steilacoom.k12.wa.us](http://www.steilacoom.k12.wa.us).

You can always get current information on the Coronavirus in Pierce County at [www.tpchd.org](http://www.tpchd.org).

County Executive Bruce Dammeier and Health Department Director Dr. Anthony Chen have been in constant contact with each Mayor providing updates since

late January 2020. For the past several weeks, Pierce County elected officials and school boards have been very active in preparing for and directing the Pierce County response to COVID-19.

The US Census 2020 is in full swing. Mandated by the Constitution, the Census counts the population of the United States every 10 years. The data collected is vital to determining Congressional seats in each state, allocating dollars for roads, schools, etc. You can find out more at **2020census.org**.

Likely, you have already received your unique Census identifier card (one per residence). Please go on-line, complete the short list of questions, and be counted. The entire process takes about 10 minutes. Please make it a priority to be counted!!

*Ron Lucas, Mayor*

### ***Council Action***

Minutes to the Town Council meetings once approved are on the Town's website at: [townofsteilacoom.org](http://townofsteilacoom.org) and located under:

Town Offices  
Town Council

### ***Message from the Superintendent***

We are extremely proud of our partnership with Neural Education, the Institute for Connecting Neuroscience with Teaching and Learning. Steilacoom Historical School District was the very first to be named as a certified "neural educator" district, with over 75

staff members trained to translate powerful neuroscience research into accessible classroom practices. We are excited to offer the staff institute (some like to call it "Brain Camp") again this summer for our continued professional learning around neural education. Our educators know that brain science works in tandem with social emotional learning (SEL) development.

Our district has been deliberate about engaging parents in our SEL efforts. We have offered a series of parent workshops entitled, "Parenting Inside the Brain" to share the science of SEL. We have also hosted parent seminars on relevant SEL topics, like anxiety. Parent resources are created to communicate the work around the science of SEL, including a district calendar which highlights a different SEL concept every month. Our social media and weekly principal briefings have evolved with intentionality to create school connectedness for families. Parent SEL events have been very well attended and the SEL resources have created a momentum that is both energizing and productive in our efforts to support students.

When you visit our "neural educator" classrooms, you see structured learning environments with an intentional focus on relationship-building and activities geared towards cognitive restructuring, neuroplasticity, metacognition and co-regulation. Emotions

are discussed and understood through a neural lens. You may hear a 4<sup>th</sup> grader discuss “amygdala hijack” or visit a music classroom working to understand “working memory” and “mirror neurons.” You will see our district “facility dog,” Aura, working in partnership with our physical therapist. Aura is a highly trained dog used to enhance the quality of education for students with disabilities and brings joy to the school setting while performing her duties as a facility dog.

I love visiting kindergarten classrooms who are using movement patterns in conjunction with reading, math and handwriting practice. These powerful classroom activities connect kinesthetics with increased engagement and learning and you can feel the excitement as our students’ serotonin increases and oxytocin is released! These meaningful learning activities are designed to challenge our students cognitively, while providing positive social emotional learning outcomes, within an integrated SEL environment, rather than reliance on a specific curriculum. We take a systematic, cognitive behavioral approach to learn emotional regulation, model positive mental health and practice SEL development throughout our school day. These neuroscience findings belong in classrooms to maximize student achievement. We hope you join us by following our work on <https://www.facebook.com/steilacoomschooldistrictno1>

*Dr. Kathi Weight, Superintendent*

## **SCHOOL CLOSURE**

Please visit <https://www.steilacoom.k12.wa.us> for updates, FAQs, and resources during the school closure period.

## **SUMMER HIRES AND VOLUNTEERS**

At this time, the Town is advertising the following paid staff and volunteer positions. Additional information is available on the Town’s official website.

### **Summer Camp Program**

9 Recreation Aide positions  
1 Recreation Aide Lead  
1 Recreation Aide Lifeguard

### **Public Works**

1 six-month Seasonal Maintenance Worker (Parks)  
2 three-month Seasonal Maintenance Workers (Parks)  
2 three-month Seasonal Maintenance Workers (Streets)

### **Community Center**

2 Facility Attendants (Pioneer Park)

### **Farmers’ Market**

1 Farmers’ Market Intern  
Farmers’ Market Volunteers

## **GARDEN CLUB**

The Steilacoom Garden Club will be holding its annual plant sale on Saturday, May 9th from 9:00 to noon in the court area on Lafayette Street next to the Bair Bistro! They will be selling a variety of perennials, annuals, groundcovers, shrubs and bulbs/ vegetable and herb starts. This is a good time to get inexpensive plants to fill up your garden. Garden-related items will also be on sale.

Proceeds from the sale go toward civic projects of our volunteers including the scarecrow contest and scarecrows around town in the fall, flowerpots in downtown, and swags at Christmas around town and for the 42nd Military Memorial. This is a great time to pick up something new for your garden or an economical Mother’s Day gift! We’ll be there rain or shine!

The Garden Club has been providing civic beautification projects for Steilacoom since the 1920’s, so this is an organization well worth supporting!

Donations of plants are needed! We appreciate your support by bringing plants to the site the previous day with a label, so we know how to sort them. We ask that no invasive plant species be donated, e.g. Shasta Daisies.

## **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO SHMA**

In 1963, a citizens’ committee collected photographs from Steilacoom’s past. The members reviewed hundreds of photos and prepared them for display in Town Hall. The first photos went on display in the Fall of 1963.

By 1970, the members of the Steilacoom Museum of Pictures decided to expand their interests to include artifacts and historical information. The Town Council gave the Steilacoom Historical Museum Committee permission to use one room in the basement of Town Hall as a museum. Things

became formal and the Steilacoom Historical Museum Association was incorporated on **July 10, 1970**. The rest, as they say, is history.



2020 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the creation and incorporation of the Steilacoom Historical Museum Association, and we are going to celebrate all year long with newsletter articles, presentations, a picnic, and other activities.

Our Museum Store will be selling items with our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary logos. The Museum and the Museum Store will be open 1:00 – 5:00 every Saturday and Sunday, starting April 4.

Our anniversary will be marked by more than mementos, clothing and tote bags. We have planned three special talks on SHMA's history during the year. On February 23, Past SHMA President David Welch recounted the horror story of 1996 when the Orr Home was jacked up for construction of a new foundation. The bracings proved inadequate and the structure collapsed. No one was hurt, but it started a major debate within the organization on whether to try to find funding for repairs or write the building off as a total loss. Dave recounted the accident and the following six years of work. He presents this talk "**The Fall and Rise of the Orr Home**" every few years when we can get him to come out of SHMA retirement. It's a classic.

Another terrific storyteller, our Curator Joan Curtis, will review the history of the family that built and gave us Steilacoom's most historic house. Along with her talk "**History of the Orr Family**," she will be introducing the Orr Home's latest exhibit on the family. This was set for March 15, but is being rescheduled to avoid a large assembly during these days of concern about spreading the coronavirus.

That **new exhibit in the Orr Home** features the history of the Orr family, the construction of the house, and how the house was restored (the subject of Dave Welch's February talk). The exhibit includes reproductions of Emma and Nathaniel Orr's wedding photo clothes. Come and see how people dressed for special occasions 160 years ago.

We plan to hold an "**Historic House Tour**" in May. Stay tuned on the timing of these events by checking the readerboard in front of the Museum or visiting our website [steilacoomhistorical.org](http://steilacoomhistorical.org) or on Facebook.

On Friday evening, July 10, 50 years to the day after our incorporation, we will have the official **50th Anniversary Picnic Party**. All SHMA members will be invited to join us in the Orr's historic orchard anytime 5:00 – 8:00 pm. Food and drinks will be provided at no cost. Many entertaining events will be

included, such as reviewing items for a time capsule created by Steilacoom school children. Imagine what folks will learn about us 50 years from now! In September, our own SHMA Director French Wetmore will review SHMA's first 50 years with a



presentation: "**The History of the Steilacoom Historical Museum**." This will coincide with the release of a new book on the history of SHMA that is being written by Joan Curtis and a team of researchers. Fascinating stuff.

These activities might be just the incentive for you to join our organization this year. Please do, we'd love to have you join the members who help in preserving the history of Steilacoom and sharing it with the community.

[steilacoomhistorical.org](http://steilacoomhistorical.org),  
[steilacoomhistorical@gmail.com](mailto:steilacoomhistorical@gmail.com)

### **LET'S PLAY MONOPOLY FOR KIWANIS**

The Steilacoom Kiwanis is again collecting the Safeway/Albertson's Monopoly pieces. If you don't want yours or have ones you don't need, please give them to the Steilacoom Kiwanis or drop them off at the Public Works facility. Last year, the Kiwanis collected over \$100 in gift cards and lots of food stuffs for the Steilacoom Food Bank.

**2020 Town of Steilacoom  
Spring Cleanup  
Cancelled/Postponed.**

***Fraud Alert –  
Coronavirus:***

**Scammers are taking  
advantage of fears  
surrounding the Coronavirus.**

Here are some tips to help you keep the scammers at bay:

- Don't click on links from sources you don't know. They could download viruses onto your computer or device.
- Watch for emails claiming to be from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) or experts saying they have information about the virus. For the most up-to-date information about the Coronavirus, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO).
- Ignore online offers for vaccinations. There currently are no vaccines, pills, potions, lotions, lozenges or other prescription or over-the-counter products available to treat or cure Coronavirus disease 2019.
- Do your homework when it comes to donations, whether through charities or crowdfunding sites. Don't let anyone rush you into making a donation. If someone wants donations in cash, by gift card, or by wiring money, don't do it.

***WLSA FOOD PANTRY***

The We Love Steilacoom Association operates the Food Pantry/Bank at Steilacoom Community Church, 1603 Rainier Street, Steilacoom, Washington. Hours of operation are 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM on Saturdays. If you are experiencing temporary or ongoing financial challenges and/or food instability, please avail yourself of this resource.

***Annual Town Roadside  
Herbicide Applications  
Started***

The Town's roadsides will get an annual makeover this spring and summer.

An initial application of herbicides to combat weeds along road shoulders has started and will continue through August. Targeted noxious weeds and brush control applications will occur through the end of November as needed. Only federal and state-approved herbicides are used.

Town of Steilacoom road crews will also mow, cut brush and trim trees along roads during the spring and summer. The work, which will be carried out weather permitting, is part of the Town's integrated roadside vegetation management program.

***GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE***

Give blood during this time of need.

***Pet Waste***

***Please pick up after your pets  
and dispose of the waste  
appropriately.***

**TOWN OF STEILACOM  
CONTACT INFORMATION**

[townofsteilacoom.org](http://townofsteilacoom.org)

**Mayor**

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**Council Members**

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Roger Neal.....253 691-6120  
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**Town Administrator**

Paul Loveless.....253 581-1912  
[Paul.loveless@ci.steilacoom.wa.us](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://Steilacoomchamber.com)

**TOWN MEETINGS**

Meetings are held at Town Hall unless otherwise noted.

Town Council:

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday 6:30 PM

Planning Commission:

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday at 6:30 PM

Preservation and Review Board:

4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday at 6:30 PM

Civil Service Commission:

1<sup>st</sup> Thursday - 2 PM at the

Community Center.