

# City of Port Townsend

JULY 2024 NEWSLETTER

## CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Mon, July 1:  
Regular Business Meeting  
Finance Update and  
YMCA Annual Report

Mon, July 22:  
Special Session  
City Council Retreat

Tue, July 23:  
Special Session  
City Council Meeting  
City Council Finalist  
Candidate Interviews

Meetings are held at 6 p.m.  
unless otherwise noticed,  
and are subject to change.

Visit [cityofpt.us/calendar](http://cityofpt.us/calendar) for updates.



Mayor David Faber addresses the crowd before the Discovery Road Project ribbon cutting. Thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate!

## VIBRANCY AND VIGOR IN PORT TOWNSEND

### A message from Councilmember Owen Rowe



As I write this, summer has just officially begun, with one of the most glorious solstice days I can remember.

Joy radiates from every face I see, like the radiant sun in our city's emblem, as seen at the top of this page, based on the art of Russell Jaqua.

Vibrant events and spaces make Port Townsend a great place to live, attracting visitors from across the

country and around the world. Those visitors in turn invigorate the local economy, funding amenities and events for locals and visitors alike. The mechanism for this virtuous cycle is the lodging tax.

The lodging tax is a state-authorized tax on lodging establishments, including licensed short-term rentals. Visitors pay this tax when they stay overnight in Port Townsend, and the state matches the funds one-for-one and sends them to the city. State law requires a Lodging Tax Advisory Committee (LTAC) to advise Council

and staff on how to spend the money, within legal limits set by the state.

Since last fall, I've been the chair of LTAC, and it's been thrilling to see this committee find creative solutions to serve residents and visitors alike. LTAC supports Main Street events like Concerts on the Dock, as well as community celebrations like First Night and year-round amenities like the Tyler Plaza lighting. LTAC has also funded long-term projects like the Creative District's Arts & Culture Plan and an Economic Impact Analysis for Fort Worden.

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# PULLING THINGS APART BEFORE WE REBUILD

## A message from City Manager John Mauro



Sometimes you have to gently but deliberately pull things apart to get them to sync together better.

For instance, Discovery Road was already in tough shape, but we pulled it all apart and built it again. Thanks to millions of dollars of grant funds and great teamwork, we have an accessible, safe, and enjoyable new facility that will endure over time. Thanks to those who came to celebrate last month!

Another example: over the past few years, we teased apart almost every thread of our City's long-term financial position, reassembling it into a report and action plan that guides our direction today. This month, we were *literally the medium-sized community* in the USA awarded the Local Government Excellence in Community Sustainability for this work by the International City/County Management Association (ICMA).

Yet another: we're drawing heavily from that financial sustainability

## COFFEE CHAT with City Manager John Mauro



July 5  
Aug. 2  
Sept. 6

### The Nest

1119 Lawrence St.

9:00 to 10:30 a.m.  
First Friday of Every Month



initiative to inform the Comprehensive Plan. We're starting to get into details on how to reform a plan that serves us into the next 20 years. Visit our drop-in design studio July 22-24 and take the new survey. Also look for us at the Farmers Market on 3rd Saturdays in July (20), Aug. (17) and Sept. (21) to learn more and tell us what you think.

Finally, another example and an invitation: City Councilmembers and staff will be holding the strategic workplan retreat this month. This annual workplan is the foundation for the budget, which is the foundation for what we do. Over the course of the day, we'll pull things apart to better understand the past year's successes and failures, where we are now, and what kind of approach we should take in 2025 to keep our momentum.

It's a public meeting, and you are welcome to join us: July 22, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the JFK Building (#246) at Fort Worden. We'll also be popping into the Comp Plan design studio at the Cotton Building that day. Find more information at [cityofpt.us/citycouncil/page/agendasminutesvideos](http://cityofpt.us/citycouncil/page/agendasminutesvideos).

For those unable to attend, you can provide public comments, review materials online, or hear more about how things go by stopping by for coffee with me at 9 a.m. on 7/5 at the Nest or by listening to my radio show on 91.1 KPTZ each Thursday from 12:30 – 1 p.m. I look forward to us digging in and syncing up together to steward a bright future for us all!

**John Mauro, City Manager**

## Councilmember letter, continued

Vibrancy is a burst of joy, like when you see the sun after a long winter. Vigor is a long-term investment, the strength to persevere through the gray months. LTAC funds both vibrancy and vigor for our local creative economy, to the benefit of visitors and residents alike.

LTAC has some open seats. We're especially looking for lodging providers, the businesses that collect the taxes which fund this work. Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 9th — check the city website for details.

**Councilmember Owen Rowe**

**HAPPY  
FOURTH  
OF JULY!**

**Did you know? Fireworks are banned in City limits.  
Please have safe and happy 4th of July.**





Long Range Planner Adrian Smith talks with a young community member at the May Vision Workshop.

## SHAPE PT: OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE

### Join the Comprehensive Plan Studios July 22-24

We invite you to our Comprehensive Plan Studios on July 22-24 at the Cotton Building. The Studios build on our May 9th Vision Workshop, where community members shared their goals for the future of Port Townsend's housing, economic development, transportation, and identity.

At the Studios, City staff and consultants will meet with you to discuss how we want to build the

future in Port Townsend. There will be a gallery about current conditions, and multiple interactive opportunities to share your priorities for our future. We will compare possible alternatives for achieving a shared vision for Port Townsend. Activities will span several days and evenings to give our community more flexibility to drop in and participate.

A full agenda will be posted on our website at [www.pt2045planning.org](http://www.pt2045planning.org). We hope to see you there!

### *Monday, July 22, 5-8 p.m.* **Introduction and Evening PT 2045 Gala**

A gathering with light refreshments to introduce the studio and discuss topics.

*Tuesday, July 23, 9 a.m.-8 p.m.*  
**Vision Drafting & Middle Housing**  
Review the May 9th Vision Workshop to suggest ways to improve, update, or revise the Community Direction Statement. Discuss issues and opportunities for lower-barrier housing.

*Wednesday, July 24, 9 a.m.-8 p.m.*  
**Scenarios Workshop**  
Compare alternatives for achieving a shared vision.

## HONORING SKATERS AND COMMUNITY

Join the community and City staff Saturday, July 13, 2-3 p.m. for a celebration to rename the Port Townsend Skate Park the Seamus Sims Skate Park. Sims passed away unexpectedly in 2023, and his family helped raise funds to rename the park after him. Sims is an inspiration for

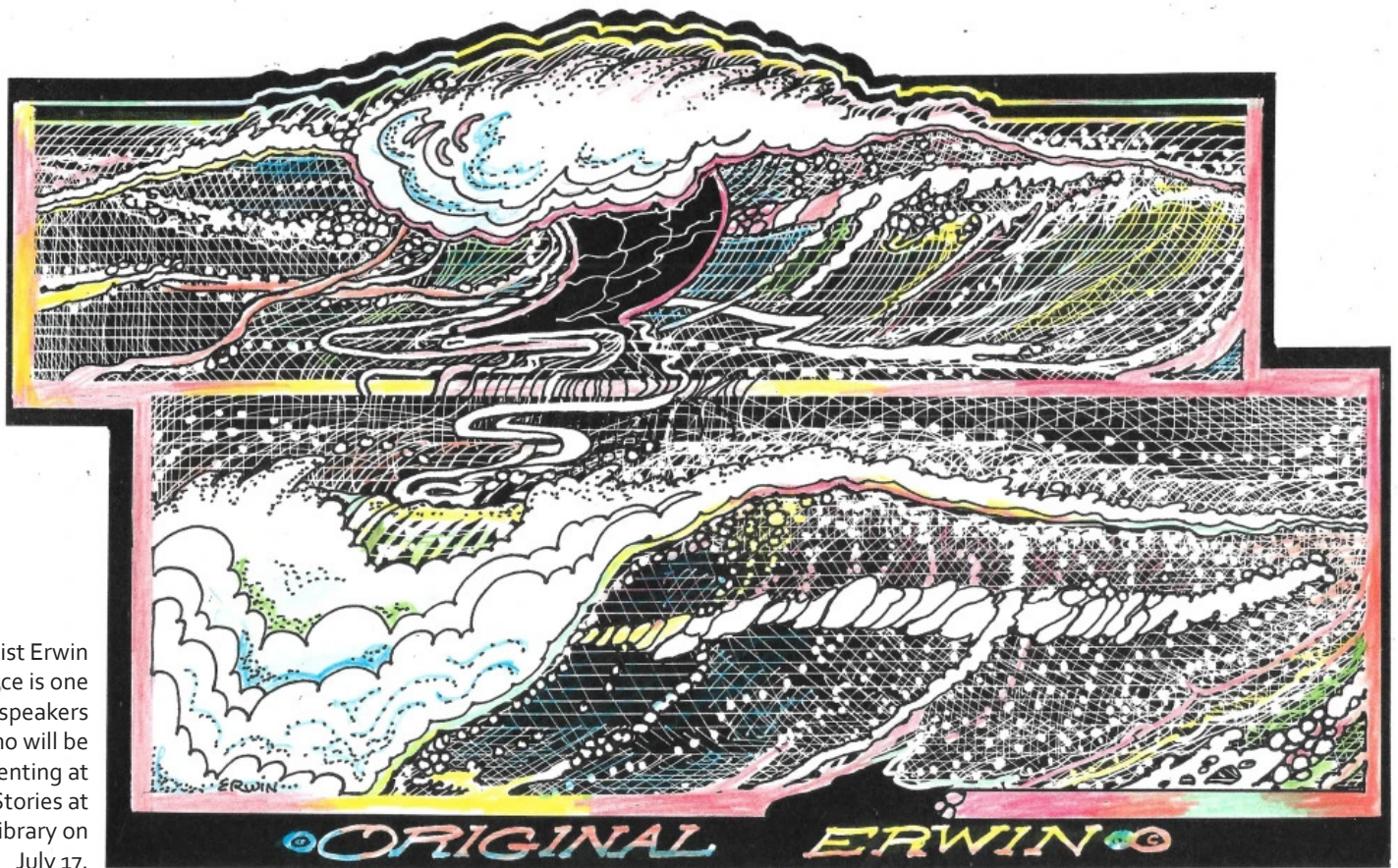
youth in our community as he was devoted to fostering inclusive and fun skateboarding. His desire for a safe, functional skate park is still shared by many, including a new effort to bring lights to the park. Lights are almost fully funded thanks to efforts by the community, City Council, Jefferson Community Foundation, PTHS senior Samantha Stromberg and all those who donated to the GoFundMe page. Come celebrate and learn more about Seamus and his legacy at 250 Monroe St.



Are you interested in moving through Port Townsend without a car? The City's new Active Transportation Questionnaire invites you to map where you walk and bike in town, where improvements like curb cuts would make your travels easier, and how you like to move. Take the Active Transportation Questionnaire to shape our streets, paths, and trails!



Artist Erwin Dence is one of the speakers who will be presenting at Surf Stories at the library on July 17.



## JOIN US FOR JULY EVENTS AT THE LIBRARY

### Teen Nature Photography

1-2 p.m., Tuesday, July 2

Pink House Meeting Room. Ages 12-18.

Local photographer Russ Stamp will teach you some of his best tips and tricks of the trade. Learn to brave the elements and take better nature photos using either your phone or a camera. Then put what you learned to practice by submitting your favorite photos for our upcoming Adventure Art Gallery!

### Raising Chickens for Teens

1-2 p.m., Wednesday, July 10

Pink House Lawn. Ages 12-18.

Interested in raising chickens? Learn everything you need to know, from feeding and bathing chickens, to protecting them from predators. Our

resident chicken expert will answer all your chicken related questions and introduce you to her feathery friends.

### Chicken Storytime

1-2 p.m., Thursday, July 11

Pink House Lawn.

Come hang out with some chickens! Our resident chicken expert will answer all your questions.

### Surf Stories with Greg Tindall, Drew Kampion and Erwin Dence

6-8 p.m., Wednesday, July 17

Carnegie Room.

Join us at the library for an evening of surfing stories and surf art. Writers and storytellers Greg Tindell, Drew Kampion and Erwin Dence will be providing the stories.

### First Aid Kit Race

1-2 p.m., Thursday, July 18

Children's Room. Ages 7-12.

Race to assemble a first aid kit and win an exciting prize! Learn basic first aid skills for survival situations. A partnership program with East Jefferson Fire and Rescue.

### Teen Cupcake Wars

1-2 p.m., Wednesday, July 24

Pope Marine Building. Ages 12-18.

Do you have what it takes to beat the competition? Put your creativity to the test! You'll be given a pantry of ingredients and a limited amount of time to work your cupcake magic. Cupcake creations will be judged by your peers, and the winner in each category will bring home a sweet treat.



You can now pay all City bills online! We are currently accepting credit card payments via PayGov for Facility Rentals, Event and Banner Permits, B&O Tax and Specialty License Renewal, Parking/DUI tickets, and Planning and Community Development bills. Utility Bills are currently payable via DOXO, and we will be transiting to a new credit card platform for Utility Bills, CivicPay, in August. Stay tuned for more details!