

# City of Port Townsend



(360) 379-5047 (email: [citycouncil@cityofpt.us](mailto:citycouncil@cityofpt.us)) [www.cityofpt.us](http://www.cityofpt.us) January 2009



from **Mayor Michelle Sandoval**

January always brings a “reboot” of sorts to your City Council. We will start our year with a retreat to consider how well our work plan for 2008 went and make decisions on our priorities for 2009. There is always a lot to do to make Port Townsend the best it can be. As an open meeting our retreat is, of course, open to the public so you can see us engaged in the discussion of planning for your future as citizens of Port Townsend. We welcome you January 24, 10:00 a.m. in Council Chambers. If you have suggestions or concerns, please feel free to write an email or give one of us a call and we can put your suggestion on the list of discussion items. *My best wishes for a healthy and prosperous New Year!*

## City Water or Sewer Emergency!

In the event of a water or sewer main break or street emergency, call:

During working hours - Public Works  
at 379-5096 or 379-5047.

After hours, weekends and holidays -  
JeffCom at 385-3831 x 1.

This is for City maintained utility lines **only**.  
Home repairs continue to be the responsibility of  
the homeowner.

## Budget Changes Resulting From Library Levy Vote

Port Townsend voters approved a property tax levy lid lift in the fall of 2008 to support library operations. The new levy authority raises the City's legal taxing authority from about \$1.56 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation (AV) to \$2.31 per thousand dollars of AV. The library levy will provide approximately \$930,000 per year to operate the Library, and it must be deposited directly to the Library Fund restricted for library operations.

To minimize the impact of a new levy on citizens, City Council directed this levy be phased in over three years. Starting in 2009, the tax levy will increase \$0.38 to approximately \$1.94 per AV. In 2010, the tax levy will increase \$0.60 to approximately \$2.16 per AV. In 2011, the tax levy will increase \$0.75 to approximately \$2.31 per AV.

As a companion to the new library levy, the City Council directed monies previously allocated to the library from the general tax levy to other areas in the city budget that have been under funded in previous years. These areas include city facilities, parks, pool, recreation, and community services. As a result of this policy, budget allocations increased in 2009 for these city services:

City facilities	\$112,000
Pool	\$ 40,000
Community service providers	\$ 86,000
Parks maintenance	\$245,000
Recreation	<u>\$ 26,000</u>
Total reallocation	\$509,000

During the budget process, Council also took steps to provide stepped up enforcement of City codes. The approved budget adds a position in the Finance Department to assist in enforcing tax collections and licensing requirements. The budget adds resources to the Development Services Department to step up enforcement of the building and zoning codes including the sign code, and zoning regulations which preclude, unless a permit is obtained, short term rentals for transient accommodation.

Property taxes account for 5% of the city revenues. Total city revenues are approximately \$42.6 million for 2009. The city property tax on your annual property tax bill amounts to approximately 23% of the total taxes you will pay the county treasurer in 2009. The balance of property taxes you pay (approximately 77%) will go to other governments. The 2009 county assessor assessments are not available presently, so these percentages are estimates for the 2009 tax collections.

In January, the city Final Budget 2009 will be posted on the city's web page. This document as well as previous budgets will be viewable and downloadable from the web for those persons wanting to read more about the city's annual budget. Other documents such as the city annual audit from the Washington State Auditor are also available on the city web page. The state audit report examines the financial and legal compliance

## Oh the weather outside is frightful!



On the City website [www.cityofpt.us](http://www.cityofpt.us), you will find the [Snow Removal Policy](#) and [Snow Plow and Sanding Map](#). We have also included [Snow Tips](#) and [Winter Driving-Be Prepared](#).

Please drive slower and more carefully during inclement weather. We will do our very best to eliminate hazards and respond quickly to emergencies because we care about your welfare.

### Recycling: Christmas Trees



DM Disposal will pick up your used Christmas Tree on your regular yard waste days: Monday, December 29 through Saturday, January 3 and again Monday, January 12 through Friday, January 16.

All trees must be free of lights, tinsel and ornaments and cut into 4 foot sections.

### Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFL's)



CFL's contain a small amount of mercury. To protect our environment, it is recommended that they not be put in with your regular garbage. Instead, recycle them at Puget Sound Energy, 701 Water Street, Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. There is a recycle bin in the foyer. Or recycle them at the Transfer Station Recycling Center.

### Jefferson County Moderate Risk Waste Facility

The Moderate Risk Waste facility (MRW), located in the Boat Haven, is open Friday and Saturday, 10:00 to 12:00 and 12:30 to 4:30. Click on the "Solid Waste" link on the left hand side of the County's home page at [www.co.jefferson.wa.us](http://www.co.jefferson.wa.us) for a list of products that this facility will accept or call 379-6911. The list includes CFL's, solvent thinner, pesticides, oil-based paint, fertilizer, used oil - all the partially empty containers that line garage shelves. Disposal charges may apply.



### First Time Homebuyer's Education Class

OlyCAP is offering a free class aimed at helping first time home buyers navigate the home purchase process. Saturday, January 10, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at the Skookum Building, presenters from Washington State Housing Commission will walk you through options on financing and lending programs for low-moderate income borrowers.

For information and registration contact OlyCAP at 385-2571 ext. 6303.



## Library Hours for 2009

**Monday through Thursday 10:00 - 7:00**  
**Friday 10:00 - 6:00**  
**Saturday 10:00 - 5:00**  
**Sunday 1:00 - 5:00**

Along with extended Library hours for 2009, we are offering our regular reading programs, writing workshops, chess club, **Fiber Frenzy**, and the ever popular Book Lover's Café.

Monday, January 5 at 2:30 the Book Lovers' Café will be discussing The Worst Time: The Untold Story of Those Who Survived the Great American Dust Bowl by Timothy Egan and/or The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck at the Port Townsend Community Center Lounge.

Thursday, January 11 from 1:00—5:00 p.m. the Library will host an Open House to discuss implementation of the new Library services.

Did you know you can download audio books off the Library website? The Library has joined the Northwest Washington Anytime Library consortium to share resources. You may download audio books to your home computer and listen to them either on your PC, MP3 or iPod. You can even copy selected titles to CD for listening on a CD player. All you need to get started is a valid Port Townsend Public Library card.



For more information on programs, downloading audio books or general Library information, call 385-3181 or visit the Library website at [www.cityofpt.us/Library/](http://www.cityofpt.us/Library/).



### Jefferson Smart Trips - A Visioning Workshop

Smart Trips is an innovative program to get people walking, biking, sharing rides, and taking the bus. Hear the success story for Whatcom County Smart Trips and join in an interactive workshop to help envision what it might look like here. See exhibits on Whatcom County's program, Jefferson Transit's proposed new routes, folding bicycles, ride-sharing and more.

When: Friday, January 23, 11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.  
Where: Masonic Hall at Jefferson & Van Buren in Port Townsend

For more information, contact Transportation Lab at 385-6579.