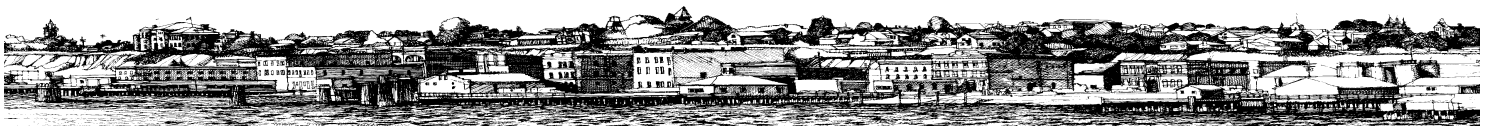


City of Port Townsend



(360) 379-5047 (email: citycouncil@cityofpt.us) www.cityofpt.us February 2009



from **Mayor Michelle Sandoval**

Our city was recently ranked 24th in the annual destination-stewardship survey of 100 cities throughout the **world** by National Geographic Traveler's magazine!

A panel of 280 travel experts used criteria weighted according to importance: environmental and ecological quality; social and cultural integrity; condition of historic buildings and archaeological sites; aesthetic appeal; quality of tourism management; and outlook for the future.

The survey "evaluates the qualities that make a destination unique, measuring 'integrity of place.' It is not a popularity contest, but rather an assessment of authenticity and stewardship." They looked at "how well historic destinations are withstanding mass tourism, neglect, and wrecking balls—as well as the more subtle threat of overplaying the past, where a place ends up embalmed as a lifeless museum or Disneyfied into a cute parody of its true heritage."

Some of the comments about Port Townsend by the panelists were as follows:

"Charming, charming, charming. This quiet port town has maintained a sense of the seaport that distinguishes the area. We stayed at a hotel on the edge of town and cheerfully walked the mile into town each day to partake of wonderful food and ambiance. A good blend of modern-day life in an authentic, historic setting."

"Good pride of place with a strong local government guiding/controlling development."

"Friendly town, architecturally interesting, overall very aesthetically pleasing."

The article wrapped it up best by stating what has always been true for me about Port Townsend and other historic places I have visited; "In the end, people make the difference. No surprise there. A homegrown sense of stewardship, along with the support of caring visitors, is what will secure the future of our pasts." Congratulations to all of us!

The entire list and comments about Port Townsend can be viewed at <http://traveler.nationalgeographic.com/2008/11/historic-destinations-rated/list-text>.

Port Townsend's Bicyclist Safety Education Program is Underway and Making a Difference



Working with the Port Townsend School District, 75 fifth graders at Mountain View School learned basic bicycling safety tips and basic bike handling skills during eight PE classes in October. In January, 125 eighth graders participated in a program at Blue Heron Middle School. Plans are underway for sixth grade classes in March.

Thanks to the Port Townsend Police Department and volunteers from PT Bicycle Association, the City Non Motorized Transportation Advisory Board, and parents who assisted with helmet fitting and in the bike exercises for those 200 students.

With the aid of grant funds, the City was able to purchase thirty bikes, a cargo trailer and teaching materials, as well as conduct teacher training for the PE teachers.

In the classroom, the kids learned basic laws and safety tips:

- ◆ Ride on the right with the flow of traffic.
- ◆ Obey traffic laws, signs and signals.
- ◆ Check your bike's equipment ("ABC Quick Check").
- ◆ One rider per saddle on a bike.
- ◆ Don't carry anything on the handlebars as it can cause a crash.
- ◆ Riding with headphones is against the law.
- ◆ Be visible, be predictable, ride single file, don't horse around.
- ◆ Slow down and use caution when riding on sidewalks and trails, and yield to pedestrians. The eighth graders received the city map detailing the skateboard and bicycling restrictions on specific uptown and downtown sidewalks.

Night riding is not recommended for young riders but they learned that a white headlight and red reflector is required equipment for night riding. They also learned that left turns require skill and practice, but an alternative is to walk the bike across a crosswalk.

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Each child was fitted with a free high quality bicycle helmet and received instruction in the value of wearing a helmet. Outside on the bikes, the kids learned how to scan for traffic while riding in a straight line so as not to swerve into traffic and how to use hand signals. These skills take practice to master, and the value of their practice in PE was apparent as each child's skills improved.

A good bicycle safety brochure to aid parents in teaching children may be picked up at the Police Station and City Hall. Additional adult Smart Cycling classes will be offered later this year.

How can we all help? When bicycling, be a good role model, wear a helmet and follow the rules of the road. When driving, be courteous and LOOK for all traffic – vehicle, bicycle or pedestrian.

Library Calendar



Mon., Feb. 2, 2:30, Community Center - Book Lovers Café will be discussing Luncheon of the Boating Party 2008 by Susan Vreeland. A historical novel centered on artists and their work.

Wed., Feb. 11, 6:30, PT Library - Dinosaur Mummies-Beyond Bare Bone Fossils by Kelly Milner Halls. Presentation for ages 9 and up.

Wed., Feb. 11, 6:30, County Library - Pure Chocolate with artisan chocolatier Fran Bigelow. Fran will discuss her story, the history of chocolate and the varieties of chocolate which will include tastings.

Fri., Feb. 13, 2:30-5:00, PT Library - Craft Valentine cards. Be sure to give from the heart and make your valentine a special card. The Library will provide materials.



Wed., Feb. 25, 6:30, PT Library - A Thali of Flavors with chef and author Jerry Traunfeld. Tips, tastes and growing information on spices, herbs and lesser known ingredients.

The Library hosts discussions, readings, gatherings and workshops for all ages. Visit the Library website at <http://www.cityofpt.us/Library/> or call 385-3181 for more information.

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2:30 - 4:30 p.m., Pink House (next to the library), **Homework Help** for students in grades 6-12 ...plus snacks, board games, book exchange and cozy reading spots. Questions? Ask Jody 385-3181.



2009 Citizens Police Academy March 3 through April 30, 2009

The Port Townsend Police Department and the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office would like to invite citizens interested in their local law enforcement agencies to attend the 9th Annual Citizens Police Academy.

The Citizens Academy is designed to give members of the public a glimpse into the realities of police work that include patrol procedures, traffic enforcement, interview/interrogation, K-9, firearms, criminal investigative work, the DARE/School Resource Officer program and much, much more. The Academy also brings in representatives from other agencies such as Child Protective Services, Department of Corrections, prosecutors and public defenders as well as local judges.

This year's Academy will consist of two sessions per week for eight weeks (Tuesday and Thursday evenings and some Saturday mornings) from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Start date is March 3 with the last class on April 30.

For individuals interested in becoming a volunteer with the Port Townsend Police Department, attendance is required. Registration is free, but space is limited. Applicants are subject to a limited criminal background check.

For more information, contact:

Administrative Sgt. Ed Green at 379-4667 or egreen@cityofpt.us

Or

Volunteer Coordinator Bill Erickson at 379-4423 or berickson@cityofpt.us



Local 2020 Food Resiliency Action Group

Community gardens are starting up all over town. If you want to grow food with your neighbors or friends, the Local 2020 Food Resiliency Action Group is here to help. Local 2020 can help link people who are looking for community gardens with those who have land. The website offers informational support, start up guidelines and answers to FAQs describing various garden models:

<http://www.L2020.org/index.php?page=community-gardens-2> or go to www.L2020.org and hit the Food Resiliency link on the left. Of course, you have to do the work yourself, but many hands make light work.

For more info contact Dan Post at 554-0417 or dan.post@frandango.org