

Events

As we reengage from the pandemic crisis, many of our community events are being rescheduled. Check our calendar frequently to keep updated on event details in Jefferson County. If you are scheduling an event, please remember to update our community calendar.

April 2nd 9:00 AM
Ribbon Cutting
PT Farmers Market

April 5th
Women in Leadership
A Virtual Luncheon
12:00-1:30 on Zoom
Women in Maritime

featuring past, present and future leaders in this industry sharing their challenges and triumphs relevant in every business sector. Open to all, not for women only.

April 8th.
10-11 am on Zoom
Chamber Café with Dr. Tamara Meredith, Jefferson County Library. New exciting programs and services both live and virtual will be shared. Redefining libraries and how we use them!

April 12th 12:30 pm
Ribbon Cutting
Flagship Marketplace
 1003 Water St,
 Port Townsend

April 22nd
10-11 am on Zoom
Chamber Café with Rob Birman, Executive Director of Centrum. Sharing the growth and changes at Centrum and how this affects our community. The core of our culture is this world-renowned organization, and this is your opportunity to have all your questions answered directly and share your ideas for the future.

Free to attend.
 No membership is required.
 Registration is necessary
 in advance at
jeffcounty.chamber.org/events
 to obtain zoom access.



The **Chamber**
 OF JEFFERSON COUNTY

Business Insider

Serving the Businesses and Citizens of Jefferson County

Community Update

The Victorian Heritage Festival

Article and photo courtesy of the Victorian Heritage Festival

The Victorian Heritage Festival is returning after a two-year pandemic hiatus! The festival is taking place April 29 through May 1.

The Port Townsend Heritage Association came into being organically, born of conversations between founding board members and PT residents regarding the lack of opportunities for heritage homeowners to connect, identify home restoration resources, and promote both the Uptown and Downtown historic districts. Taking on the PT Victorian Heritage Festival seemed a natural fit as conversations continued; our primary objectives are to host an annual heritage festival, conduct Uptown walking tours in the spring and summer months, and ultimately resurrect the Victorian home tours and support preserving and restoring historical elements of PT.

Uptown walking tours are new this year. Local guides will regale walkers with tales of the lives of Uptown citizens and their abodes. The schedule includes a one-time exclusive Walking Tour, limited to 16 people and featuring an invitation to step into the iconic Anne Starrett House. Tour guides have planned a round-trip walking journey from the Courthouse and past Uptown homes to the Starrett House, where homeowners will guide them through the elegant parlors of this historic home. The McCurdy House offers another opportunity to enter a historic home, with entry to the parlor and library as part of the tour. Visitors will hear the history of

this heritage home and stories of the owners' experience restoring a Victorian house.

The Heritage Festival comprises six educational presentations as well as the Fashion Show, the Contra Dance and the Victorian Parlor at the Cotton Building. A \$65 festival pass includes all these experiences, or you can customize your festival experience by purchasing a la carte tickets or passes.

The family-friendly presentations offered throughout the weekend will feature local historians and topic experts, including "Meeting James G. Swan" with noted historian Steve Ricketts; "Building a New Mast for the Schooner Martha" with Capt. Robert Darcy; "Stories of Restoration: The Tale of Two Houses" presented by Craig Britton (Col. Landes House) and Kathleen Croston (J.W. Griffiths house); "Victorian Jewelry" by local expert Stephanie Thompson from Derr's Jewelry; and many more.

The hottest item this year is the "High Tea and a House Tour," with only eight tickets available.

The homeowners will serve the guests a sumptuous high tea and provide a tour of their beautiful, fully restored 1898 Victorian home on Morgan Hill, telling stories of the house's checkered past and their journey to restore this piece of PT's history.

The consistently popular Fashion Show is back this year at the American Legion Hall, with more than 20 local models. The show will feature both authentic and reproduced attire from Port Townsend's "Boom-to-Bust" years of 1854 to 1910.

Buzz has been building for this year's

► **Victorian Heritage Festival**
 continued on pg. 2



DIRECTOR'S UPDATE



Arlene Alen

By now we're getting used to seeing each other's facial expressions again in our new "mask optional" environment. Many of you are still masking up in certain circumstances; others have gone the other direction. Our visitors are mirroring that, and we'll all be feeling our way through this re-engagement process for some time.

In the interim there have already been a few live events; they've been well attended, as all of us have missed seeing each other in person over the last two years. That goes for the Chamber team as well. We've done our best to follow all the federal, state and local regulations and the ever-evolving protocols during this pandemic, and we've missed seeing you in person – although we've become fast friends with many of you on Zoom.

Leadership awards return to a live setting

On May 21 from 4-6 p.m., we'll be hosting the LIVE Jefferson County Community Leadership Awards at the Port Ludlow Resort. We're so excited to be able to bring this tribute to our community heroes back to in-person. This year attendees will enjoy live music, great food and beverages, and a tribute to an exciting group of community leaders who are nominated for the five awards this year.

Business Leader of the Year Award

Presented to an individual who demonstrates a history of vision, service and leadership for the betterment of the Jefferson County community. This individual has built a legacy of building other leaders along the way. This individual has established a reputation of character, trust and leadership for others to emulate.

Citizen of the Year Award

Presented to an individual whose extraordinary public

service has made a positive impact on the community. This individual has chosen to give back to the community and serve others. The Jefferson County community is a better place because of the efforts of this individual.

Rising Entrepreneur Award

Presented to an individual who demonstrates a commitment to business and economic development. This individual embodies the entrepreneurial spirit and innovative thinking that will lead Jefferson County to sustained economic prosperity. The contributions and leadership of this individual are catalysts for job creation, smart growth/development or economic improvement in Jefferson County.

Young Professional of the Year Award

Awarded to the young professional who demonstrates excellence, creativity and valuable service in their business, to improve the quality of life for others in the community. This individual serves as a role model for both peers and our community's youth.

Future Business Leader Award (youth)

Awarded to a high school senior who displays leadership qualities every day – qualities including honesty, integrity, dependability, respectfulness and compassion. This student succeeds in academics as well as community service, and serves as a role model to their peers.

There's still an opportunity to step up and sponsor this community event, as well as to purchase tickets to support the nominees, the awardees and their organizations/businesses.

The nominees this year represent a broad range of engaged and dedicated leaders who no doubt will say the team they work with really deserves the award. Most

nominees this year were first-timers and had nontraditional paths to recognition, making it even more difficult for the reviewers to select the awardees. These award events allow us all to honor the awardees, as well as their team members, for the inspiring accomplishments they've achieved and the significant impact they've had on our community. This year we'll have multiple past awardees joining us, both live and virtually, to share their thoughts on leadership and the impact their award had on their lives. Join us! Jeffcountychamber.org/events.

New businesses, in time for spring and summer

It's exciting to be collaborating this spring with several entrepreneurs who have launched new businesses or are in the process of opening, just in time for our influx of spring and summer visitors.

We're truly a year-round visitor paradise, and the new Kingston Express shuttle ties in perfectly with our "Bike Across the Bay" program. Check this out at EnjoyPt.com or on the Chamber website. The peninsula is rapidly mirroring the countrywide bicycling boom, with several bicycle tour groups joining us this summer and fall – fitting in perfectly with our focus on sustainable tourism.

We're grateful for all of you who have worked so diligently to help others through the challenges of the past few years. The Chamber's Community Development Fund has been through two grant distribution cycles, and we've watched our awardees grow their businesses with the funds contributed by our member businesses, with another cycle planned for later this year. On behalf of our community, we thank you all.

► Victorian Heritage Festival continued from pg. 1

festival, bolstered by the Port Townsend Victorian Festival website, flyers posted in stores and on bulletin boards, radio coverage on KPTZ and the downtown Victorian strolls.

One of PTHA's principal goals is to be inclusive of the community. Knowing the resources and manpower it takes to create a rewarding festival experience, PTHA is developing partnerships with local groups, organizations

and businesses to integrate their unique offerings into the festival. Event partners manage and ticket their activities during the festival and keep all proceeds from their event; they receive full promotion, advertising and guest information support from the festival. This year's partners include Manresa Castle, The Anne Starrett House, PT Main Street with Key City Theater, Quilcene Historical Society and the Jefferson County Historical Society. If you're interested in an exclusive parlor show at the Starrett House on Saturday night, Matthew Bell will be tantalizing his

audience with "A Schilling's Worth of the Macabre." This special partner event is limited to a small audience, and we expect tickets to go fast on our website. More activities are in the works, such as an evening poker game in the Palace Hotel; check the event website for updates.



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The content of this publication is prepared by the Chamber of Jefferson County. We welcome submissions from Chamber members. Send articles and photos to director@jeffcountychamber.org.

MEMBER UPDATE

Looking Back, Looking Forward: Port Townsend Farmers Market Celebrates 30 Years!

Article and photo courtesy of the Port Townsend Farmers Market

The Port Townsend Farmers Market celebrates 30 years of operation in 2022! Since opening, the market has grown from a few farmers in a downtown parking lot to nearly 80 different farm, food and art vendors this year.

While the Port Townsend Farmers Market is a well-established and beloved fixture in our community, we're not fixed in time – we're evolving in our support for vendors and our service to the community.

Looking back

Founded in 1992, the Port Townsend Farmers Market originally consisted of a half-dozen farmers and a scattering of art and food vendors. Vendors took turns managing the market each Saturday. First held in the Elevated Ice Cream parking lot, the market grew and moved to various locations downtown before settling in Uptown on Tyler Street in 2003. Around the same year, the market started accepting Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly food stamps). This addition welcomed shoppers with low incomes to purchase fresh food from farms and food vendors using their federal food assistance benefits.

In 2010 the Jefferson County Farmers Market Association (JCFM) also took over management of the Chimacum Farmers Market, established by the Chimacum Grange in 2008. In 2011 JCFM was formally established as a 501(c)3 nonprofit, operating the Port Townsend Saturday and Wednesday markets, as well as the Chimacum market. In 2013 JCFM was one of a handful of markets in the state to start offering matching funds to SNAP shoppers. Donations from individuals and community sponsors were key to this program, and continue to be essential for our food access and other programs.

Covid-19 narrowed the JCFM focus to our most essential function: fostering thriving small businesses and a resilient local food system through producer-to-community sales. While our markets shrank in vendor and shopper numbers in 2020, sales and vendor participation grew last year. Chimacum Farmers Market sales increased 12% over pre-pandemic 2019. Port Townsend shopper numbers remained a fraction of what they were prior to Covid-19, but community support for local farm, food and art businesses grew, with vendor sales at 1% above pre-pandemic 2019. This growth during one of our most challenging years shows deep community support for local farms and small businesses. This support is crucial to sustain local agriculture and grow a resilient local economy.

Our food access programs have grown exponentially over the last two years. Through our SNAP Match, Gimme5 and VegRx programs, JCFM extends the federal food benefits of people with low incomes. As an example, SNAP and SNAP Match sales increased 258% in 2021 compared to 2019. In combination with federal food benefit dollars spent at our markets,

last year our food assistance matching programs empowered shoppers with low incomes to bring home more than \$86,000 in nutrition-dense foods from our farmers markets. While a United States Department of Agriculture grant covers SNAP Match, our other food access programs and the staff time required to lead these programs are entirely community-supported.

Looking forward

So here we are, 30 years later: a small, somewhat scrappy nonprofit carving our way into a vital role in our communities. This year the JCFM board and staff are engaged in both strategic planning and racial justice training, and we've adopted a new logo. JCFM is in the second year of offering the Black Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) Start-Up Business Fund. We're excited to welcome more BIPOC vendors to markets, helping with small grants from the fund. We continue to learn, change and grow in service to local farms, art and food businesses as well as our community.

To our community: We couldn't have gotten here without you. Thank you!

Let's celebrate!

Join us for the 30th season opening of the Port Townsend Farmers Market on Saturday, April 2, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Tyler Street. We'll celebrate with a ribbon-cutting with the Chamber of Jefferson County, live music, story time with the Port Townsend Public Library, and fabulous new and returning vendors. You don't want to miss it! Listen to a tune, greet your friends and neighbors, and pick up your groceries direct from the farmers who grew them. See you at the market!



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Article and photos by the Marine Science Center

2022 is barely underway, and already the Port Townsend Marine Science Center has been in the news several times. This year marks the organization's 40th anniversary since co-founders Libby Palmer and Judy D'Amore marshaled support to build an aquarium exhibit in the wooden building on the pier at Fort Worden State Park.

In early March the PTMSC officially opened Phase 1 of its new exhibit space and store at Flagship Landing at 1001 Water Street. The nonprofit purchased the building in August 2021 following an in-depth search for a new facility that will eventually house its aquarium, exhibits, store, labs and offices.

"What better way to celebrate 40 rides around the sun for this collaborative community committed to inspiring conservation of the Salish Sea," said PTMSC Executive Director Janine Boire. "One of our primary goals with the Phase 1 space is to share our vision and invite people to visit our aquarium and museum spaces at Fort Worden." Boire emphasized that Phase 2, a full renovation of the building, will require an extensive planning and permitting process that will take several years.

On March 18 the PTMSC announced the hiring of a new executive director, Phoebe "Bee" Redfield, who took over April 1 following Boire's eight-year tenure. Boire announced her decision to leave last fall.

"We've set a powerful, clear course for the Marine Science Center's growth for generations to come," Boire said at the time. "As I look to the organization's future, this period will be best served by consistency of leadership. For me personally, over



Phoebe (Bee) Redfield

this next decade there are other life journeys I would like to explore."

PTMSC Board of Directors President Ellen Hargis said "We are thrilled to welcome Ms. Redfield. Last year the board embarked on an intensive search for a new leader who would build upon and advance the extraordinary work done by Janine Boire. We identified four key areas where our next leader must excel: leading people, leading change, exercising business acumen and building coalitions. Ms. Redfield has the nonprofit leadership experience, science expertise and commitment to conservation that meets those requirements."

Redfield possesses more than a decade of experience leading nonprofit operations at the director level, including at a wildlife center in Illinois. Additionally, she holds a master's degree in conservation biology from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, with a focus on bringing conservation programming and awareness to communities.

"The Board has great confidence that Ms. Redfield will strategically guide the organization forward and develop rich and meaningful relationships with all our constituents," Hargis

said.

Redfield will meet many ardent PTMSC supporters at the organization's annual fundraiser on April 16, from 3-5:30 p.m. at the Fort Worden Commons. "You, Me & The Salish Sea" will feature both live and silent auctions, and a 40th anniversary celebration. Specific Covid protocols for the live event will follow recommended guidelines in place at the time. Tickets are \$50 for members and \$55 for non-members. Registration is online at https://ptmsc.schoolauction.net/ptmscauction2022/register/ticket_sales.

Fort Worden State Park, 532 Battery Way
Port Townsend, WA 98368
360-385-5582 • www.ptmsc.org

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Jefferson Transit's New Kingston Express bus route

Article by Miranda Nash
Photo by Jefferson Transit

Jefferson Transit's new #14 Kingston Express pilot bus route began service on February 22, 2022. Jefferson County community members came out to show their interest and support for the new service, with 44 riders traveling between Port Townsend and Kingston during the



first week. The #14 Kingston Express Route is an express bus route between Port Townsend and the Kingston Ferry Terminal with connections to the Washington State Ferry and Kitsap Transit Fast Ferry to Seattle. The service currently has four stops along the route: Haines Place Park & Ride, JTA's Four Corners Park & Ride, Gateway Visitor's Center at Hwy 19 and Hwy 104, and the Kingston Ferry Terminal.

The new express route will allow riders to travel between Port Townsend and Seattle in as little as 2 hours and 10 minutes. The 72 minute #14 Kingston Express route will run twice a day Monday-Saturday, departing Port Townsend at 7:15 am and 2:45 pm, and departing from the Kingston Ferry Terminal at 8:42 am and 4:12 pm. The

#14 Kingston Express will connect with the Washington State Ferry (WSF) service to Edmonds Monday-Saturday and the Kitsap Transit Kingston Fast Ferry to Seattle Monday-Friday.

During the first month of service until March 31st, riders will be able to ride to Seattle for Free! In partnership with Kitsap Transit, Jefferson Transit passengers can ride the #14 Kingston Express for Free, and passengers headed to the Ferry terminal will also receive a transfer pass that will allow them to ride on the Kitsap Transit Fast Ferry to Seattle for Free. Beginning April 1st, Fares for the service will be \$8.00 full fare one-way, and \$6.00 reduced fare (youths under 18 and seniors over 60) one-way. Passengers can pay cash fares or use the Token Transit Mobile application.

Jefferson Transit hopes to see ridership numbers for the Kingston Express continue to grow, and if the route proves viable for the Jefferson County community, will begin looking for grant funding opportunities. JTA is also encouraging community members to provide feedback on the route, including travel times, stops, and connecting services.

Visit Jeffersontransit.com/14kingstonexpress for more information and to participate in the survey.

Try Transit! Try Kingston Express!



440 12th Street
Port Townsend, WA 98368
360-385-4777
www.jeffersontransit.com

COMMUNITY UPDATE



Rhody Festival Is Back

Article by Melanie Bozak; photo courtesy of Rhody Festival

Good news: The Rhody Festival is back – save the week of May 16-21! The diminished festival board issued a plea for help, and now all the officer and chair positions are filled, plus we have more than 30 new volunteers to join in and help. The board is digging in to plan and produce a fully in-person festival this year, after two years of the pandemic shutdown.

Longtime board member Rita Hubbard stepped up to lead the organization as president, and promptly began organizing weekly meetings at the American Legion. Upon hearing the Rhody might not continue, many Legion members also immediately volunteered to help. In addition, the Legion leadership agreed to make their space available at no cost to hold the weekly meetings.

While not everything will be the same, all the weekly events and the Grand Parade will be held on the same days and at the same locations as in the recent past. Due to staffing limitations, the carnival is not available to come to Port Townsend this year. The board has said that they will continue to talk with them, hoping for a return next year. 2022 Rhody Week events include the Trike Races on Wednesday, the Pet Parade on Thursday, the Kid's Parade on Friday afternoon, the Bed Races

and the Hair/Beard Contest on Friday evening, and the Grand Parade on Saturday. As recently announced, the Rhody Run, which is a separate organization's event, will be held on Sunday. The Rhody Association is working with event sponsors, as well as the Elks and Kiwanis clubs, to add food events again this year.

The current Rhody Royalty chosen in 2020 will continue to serve through this year, so they can experience the fun of riding on their parade float, participating in the festival week events, and the ongoing joy of representing our communities, since they missed that during the pandemic. The Junior Royalty, also selected in 2020, are being invited to ride on the Kiwanis Choo-Choo in the various parades.

Additional volunteers are welcome and needed. If you're interested in volunteering to help with any of the many events and available jobs, or just to get more information, contact Rita at 360-301-1104 or sidandrita@yahoo.com.

P.O. Box 766, Port Townsend, WA 98368
rhodyfest@gmail.com • www.rhodyfestival.org

COMMUNITY PARTNER UPDATE

A New Team Jefferson for a New Economy

Article by Ben Bauermeister; photo courtesy EDC team.

As we look around at our community, squinty-eyed in the post-COVID light of day, changes surely await us. In light of this, I want to share the evolution of our local economic development council, EDC Team Jefferson, over the past 12 months. This growth and development is laying the foundation of a new era of economic stability for our county. Here are some of the details.

In July 2021, a new multi-party agreement was executed between four public agencies. The Port of Port Townsend, the Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners, the Port Townsend City Council and the Jefferson County Public Utility District are working with EDC Team Jefferson to create an economic development organization with more strength, support, community oversight and direction. In conjunction with the emerging economic framework we're jointly developing, we're working toward a more focused, proactive and inclusive approach to building on our community's history and deep-rooted potential.

With the help of our board and many community members, this fall we recruited and hired a new Executive Director. Cindy Brooks, born and raised in Washington state, started in December. She has an

extensive background in local rural economic development and entrepreneurship, across the Olympic Peninsula and the Pacific Northwest. Her keen listening and planning skills will bring new vitality to our existing businesses, as well as help grow businesses that will thrive in the future.

There are additional new faces present all around our board table. The EDC Board of Directors' revamped structure includes direct representation from each of our public agencies. The following elected commissioners/council members have joined the EDC Team Jefferson Board: Pam Petranek from the Port; Jeff Randall from the PUD; Kate Dean from the BOCC; and Monica MickHager from the Port Townsend City Council. We've also emphasized and grown board representation of business sectors to provide stronger representation for the county's second and third districts.

Even the EDC Team Jefferson offices have changed. Our new space is located on the second floor of the Nomura Building. Over time, this space will become a community hub for innovation, business resources and



community economic associations.

In addition to classes, micro-lending support for LION, and our new Zoom meetup called Resource Roundtable on the third Thursday of each month, we've also taken on two large new tasks. We're now distributing small-business ARPA grants, and also developing a new data-intensive look into our economic health. Through a partnership with Washington Sea Grant and Utah State University called an Area Sector Analysis Program, or ASAP for short, we'll use data to help validate and accelerate the direction of the Jefferson County Economic Framework document discussed above.

As we emerge from this pandemic, some things will return to normal, but other aspects of our life will be changed as we go forward. How we invest in those changes is critical, and our county is putting focused efforts toward making those decisions wisely.



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New and Improved, Moving and Expanding

Article and photos by Flagship Marketplace

Flagship Marketplace has moved from our tiny nook in the back of Flagship Landing to the front northeast corner of the building at Water Street and Tyler Plaza. We've also rebranded as Flagship Marketplace, to reflect our latest offerings in the new location. With this larger space comes great opportunities to offer more products and experiences.

We started as a small, limited-offering market, but now our expanded marketplace includes artisanal food, chilled wine/beer/cider from local farms, a cafe menu with coffee and bites, fresh flower bouquets, luxury home goods, handcrafted self-care items, jewelry, vintage clothing and consignment pieces. You're sure to find unique gifts you can't get anywhere else in Port Townsend.

While we continue to offer our charcuterie boards and snack boxes to go, we've expanded our adult beverage collection to offer local beer and cider, as well as the newest incarnation of our Gray Ghost Coffee brand, Gray Ghost Spirits. These handcrafted cocktail mixes are sure to impress even the most discerning mixologist. Gray Ghost Candles has expanded to include bath and beauty products with the same spirited scents. And we continue to branch out in the home goods category.

Port Townsend can look forward to our to-go picnic baskets again this summer, as well as a larger selection of in-house bites to sample while seated at a bistro table – or make a private reservation to dine upstairs in



our lounge area. We'll continue to offer our signature catering packages, in-store or curbside pickup, and local delivery through Wright Away Delivery.

Our latest creation, Forage & Feast, is the concept behind our small-batch tasting menu. Come in and forage for new flavors, order from our tasting menu and feast on seasonally curated pairings. Try a bite in-house, then take home your favorite flavors to share with family and friends.

Upstairs in the loft is an exclusive area for up to eight people that can be booked for private events. We're able to accommodate smaller groups on a reservation-only basis. Surprise a loved one with an intimate date night, tasting fondue and sipping champagne, or gather a group of friends for hors d'oeuvres and conversation over cocktail flights.

Downstairs, we offer a walk-up window or counter service with mouthwatering breakfast items including smoothie bowls, sweet and savory grains, Liege waffles with seasonal toppings, espresso, cocoa and tea. At lunchtime you'll find loaded artisanal salads and

gourmet PB&J sandwiches, baguettes, fruit and cheese to go, chilled wine, cider and beer.

We continually update our menu items, and we anticipate even more offerings during the summer months to keep you cool and satisfied as you roam around our local waterfront, beaches and parks. Whether glamping locally or hiking the Olympic Peninsula, we have everything you need to fill a pack (including the backpack!) to make you feel at home while exploring.

Sign up for our newsletter to get information on local events, special guest chefs, pop-ups and cocktail parties. Come play with us!



1003 Water Street
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www.flagshipmarketpt.com

MEMBER UPDATE

Whale Watching Season Begins at Puget Sound Express

Article by Keven Elliff, photo by Bart Rulon

Here in Jefferson County we're blessed to live in what's been called "the American Serengeti," with some of the highest concentration of whales, dolphins and other sea life anywhere in the world. However, locals and visitors alike often don't realize that Jefferson County and the Olympic Peninsula are home to such a premier wildlife viewing opportunity – it's truly world-class.

Our family has been honored to connect passengers with the planet's marine travelers for 37 years, and as the 2022 season rounds into form we want to share some exciting news with you.

A new boat for Port Townsend

In 2018 we commissioned and built a new, custom-designed vessel for whale watching, named *Saratoga*. After a couple years in our Edmonds location, we're excited to base *Saratoga* out of Port Townsend moving forward. *Saratoga* is a catamaran with two asymmetrical, semi-planing hulls and an articulated

► Whale Watching Season continued on pg. 7



MEMBER UPDATE

2022: A Big Year Ahead for Jefferson Land Trust

Chimacum Ridge from Beaver Valley. Photo by Robert Tognoli

Rising between Center and Beaver valleys, Chimacum Ridge is home to headwater tributaries of Chimacum Creek and surrounded by productive farmland and other forestland.

Article courtesy of Lilly Schneider

Over the last three decades, Jefferson Land Trust has protected more than 17,500 acres of land in Jefferson County, including popular recreational sites, historic farmland, precious forests, as well as the waters our salmon, ecosystem and community need in order to thrive.

We're on track for another great year of community-powered conservation in 2022 – and we're pleased to share some of the most exciting projects on the horizon.

Chimacum Ridge Forest is the biggest project we've undertaken to date. Our vision is for Chimacum Ridge, combined with the adjacent Valley View Forest, to become an 853-acre community forest owned and managed on behalf of local people to provide secure and reliable community access to the forest's ecological, social and economic benefits forever. Last year, the state legislature awarded the Land Trust \$3 million of the estimated \$6 million needed to buy the land. This year we'll be drawing up plans for recreational access, and preparing to complete this purchase by December 2023.

In more protection news, we're continuing to invest in one of our longest-standing conservation projects: protecting the beloved Quimper Wildlife Corridor and Cappy's Trails in Port Townsend. With approximately two-thirds of the corridor still vulnerable to development, and with developmental pressures increasing, we know we have to act fast. Working with willing landowners, we're appraising and acquiring key parcels in the corridor to ensure this precious resource remains available forever for the health of plants, wildlife and people.

Agricultural lands remain a major focus of the Land Trust in 2022. A robust farming economy strengthens our local food system, creates jobs and helps preserve the rural character of Jefferson County. Conserving the soil, waterways, working forests and open space of farms supports wildlife, too. We're currently working with many farmers and farming families across the county, and we'll finalize protection on more properties this year.

One of these is Kawamoto Farm, a 128-acre historic Japanese American dairy in Quilcene. Last year we secured two easements that ensure the farm remains available as working agricultural farmland for all time, protect the conservation values of the farm, and make provisions for permanent signage that recognizes the farm's cultural history. Additionally, the Land Trust joined the community selection committee (made up of LandWorks Collaborative and individual community members) to select the new farmer or farming collective to buy the farm from the Kawamoto family at a reduced price through an open application process. This project helps address the clear need for affordable, available farmland in our region. We're excited to meet the new farmers and see a new farming operation come to life on the property.

To help ensure that our region thrives in the face of climate change, we're also taking steps to build climate resilience on the Olympic Peninsula. Partnering with the North Olympic Land Trust, we undertook a land resilience study that will aid us in making landscape-scale conservation and stewardship decisions across the peninsula. We plan to use the data to guide our acquisition investments, and to prepare our lands and communities for the changes already underway.

We're so happy to be hosting in-person events again this year, such as our popular volunteer work parties at our nature preserves. We're expanding our educational outreach through collaboration with the Quilcene and Chimacum school districts, offering online resources for all ages. And as always, our stewardship staff and hardy volunteers will be monitoring and caring for hundreds of acres of protected wild lands at our nature preserves, rain or shine.

As an organization that strives to remain nimble and open to new projects, we're fairly certain 2022 will bring us a surprise or two as well. We look forward to connecting, learning and celebrating milestones with you over the next year.



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► Whale Watching Season continued from pg 6

hydrofoil that allows the boat to efficiently travel up to 40 mph. This propeller-less design, coupled with wave-piercing bows, allows the boat to travel through both calm and rough water while keeping underwater noise to a minimum. We're excited to welcome Port Townsend guests on *Saratoga!*

Three-day summer adventures

In 2022 we'll be offering a range of extended cruises in the summer months to connect passengers more deeply with the amazing whales and wildlife that inhabit the Salish Sea. Our 3-Day San Juan Island Wildlife Cruises will run June 14-16, July 5-7 and October 3-5.

Selected by National Geographic as one of the World's

Top Three Destinations, the waters around the San Juan Islands are home to orcas (killer whales), minke whales, gray whales, humpback whales, Steller sea lions, porpoise, otters and a vast array of seabirds.

We spend cruising days viewing wildlife aboard the Glacier Spirit and come ashore on San Juan Island at night for dinner and lodging. In June and July we'll stay in charming Friday Harbor; in October, we'll stay in historic Roche Harbor.

2022 gray whale season underway

Gray whale season in Port Townsend begins March 11 and runs through the end of April. Gray whales are a species of baleen whale, with a dark slate-gray color.

Adults range in length from 43 to 49 feet and weigh up to 40 tons.

The annual gray whale migration from the Baja Peninsula to the Bering Sea is a challenging, 10,000-mile journey for these great creatures. We're fortunate that a group of grays known as "Sounders" make a detour from their offshore journey to join us in March and April to feed on the ghost shrimp found here and build up their fat stores for the remainder of their journey to Alaska.



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Share your Interests – Volunteer with the Chamber as a Community Concierge

Are you a foodie? An adventure seeker? A trail hiker? A local wine connoisseur? The Chamber of Jefferson County is looking for passionate volunteers who would be willing to spend a few minutes answering emails or having brief phone conversations with visitors interested in the exciting experiences our community has to offer. If you love your hobby and want to share it with others, please reach out to the Chamber to discuss this fantastic Community Concierge opportunity. Invest a small amount of time, or spend a few hours at the Chamber once the state allows it. To volunteer or get more information, contact: director@jeffcountychamber.org.



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