

## Events

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, many events of our Chamber members as well as the Chamber have been postponed to future dates. Please check the Chamber Website for details and frequent updates: [www.jeffcountychamber.org/events](http://www.jeffcountychamber.org/events)



### Chamber Café

Friday, March 4<sup>th</sup>  
10 am-11 am on Zoom

#### Reengagement

Panel discussion of what Reengagement 2022 looks like for their business/organization. Includes Port Townsend Library Director, Melody Sky Weaver along with a select panel of entities discussing their path to a "New Normal" for 2022 and beyond. Learn what's new and happening in our community!

### Chamber Café

Friday, March 18<sup>th</sup>  
10 am-11 am on Zoom

#### Guest speaker:

**Dr. Allison Berry,**

Jefferson and Clallam  
County Public Health Officer

Free to attend. No membership is required.

Registration is necessary in advance at [jeffcountychamber.org/events](http://jeffcountychamber.org/events) to obtain zoom access.



# Business Insider

Serving the Businesses and Citizens of Jefferson County

## MEMBER UPDATE

# Sustainable Hospitality and Ecotourism at the Old Alcohol Plant Inn and Bayside Housing

Written by Jocelyn Moore, OAP Sustainability Manager and Gardener. Images courtesy of Old Alcohol Plant

The Old Alcohol Plant Inn is open year-round and overlooks the stunning views and wildlife of the Port Townsend Bay. The Inn's garden-to-table restaurant, Spirits Bar and Grill, serves entrees prepared with fresh produce from the property's two acres of edible landscaping. The mission of the OAP is to support the non-profit organization Bayside Housing and Services, which provides transitional housing, meals, and wrap-around services for people facing homelessness. Before the term "sustainability" became commonplace, OAP and Bayside leadership created a holistic plan to guide their social, environmental, and economic goals as they strive to offer eco-tourism hospitality and transitional housing for the local community.

"We believe having a sustainability plan allows us to turn goals into reality and become a driver for developing sustainable practices in the hospitality industry. We need the plan to be a part of the increasing demands of the environmental challenges in our local area as well as our world," managing director Gary Keister remarks. In the fall of 2021, the OAP hired a part-time sustainability manager to help research and implement holistic and eco-friendly strategies.

Every department has met a variety of eco-friendly goals, ranging from the elimination of single use plastics to harvesting over 6,000 pounds of produce



for garden-to-table dining. Significant energy reductions were made by head of maintenance, John Risinger, with the transition to LED lighting and low-flow faucets in sinks, showers, and tubs. Other sustainability efforts\* made by various OAP departments include:

#### Spirits Bar and Grill:

- Garden-grown produce travels .04 food miles to fill the plates of OAP and Bayside meals.
- Locally sourced beer on tap supports our local economy and has a greatly decreased carbon footprint compared to bottled, domestic beer.
- Composted kitchen scraps reduce methane-producing landfill waste by 20 gallons per week.
- Paper straws replaced plastic straws and to-go boxes are compostable.
- Used kitchen oil is recycled and turned into biodiesel by Sequential.

#### Gardens:

- Since 2018, gardeners Kira Mardikes and Patrick Ryland have utilized local manure, seaweed, food scraps, and nutrient-dense amendments to create rich compost. Biochar, a carbon-sequestering soil builder, is also incorporated.

► *Sustainable Hospitality continued on pg. 2*



## DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

This month the Chamber launched its new grant program for our small business community. This closes mid-month and is focused on businesses with six or less staffers or nonprofits with a similar structure. This grant is meant to assist these entities in being able to launch a new program or expand an existing program or service to create new jobs and/or fill a community need. Chamber membership is not required.

This grant is designed to pair with other grant programs to bridge unfulfilled gaps and enable a more rapid launch. For additional information and application forms check out the Chamber website. For grant assistance, contact [admin@jeffcountychamber.org](mailto:admin@jeffcountychamber.org).

Have you checked out the new Kingston Express service from Port Townsend to the Kingston Ferry? This will be at no cost for the first 30 days and then only \$8 (\$6 for youth under 18 and seniors). In addition to Haines Place Park and Ride, this shuttle complete with bike racks, will stop at Four Corners Park and Ride and near the Gateway Visitors Center, and of course, the Kingston Visitors Center. Look for details and schedules at <https://jeffersontransit.com/14kingstonexpress/>. We'll be launching a new "Bike Across the Bay" marketing



Arlene Alen

campaign to help launch this program and raise awareness of how fast and easy this will be along with promoting very sustainable transportation with a much-reduced carbon footprint for visitors and residents alike.

This focus on sustainability matches the Chamber's commitment to sustainable business and tourism in conjunction with our county and city partners.

Our Women in Leadership group is excited to be presenting later this month a Women in the Marine Trades virtual "lunch." Brown-bag it at your desk or office and join us to hear from women who persisted, pioneered, and prevailed through that "glass sail" leading the way for our current contingent in our thriving marine trades, as well as the leaders coming into their own and shaping our working waterfront future. Join us for this FREE event by registering online [www.jeffcountychamber.org/events](http://www.jeffcountychamber.org/events). Not for women only—these meetings are always open to all who wish to attend and no memberships are required.

### ► Sustainable Hospitality continued from pg. 1

- Perennials such as artichokes, raspberries, blackberries, rhubarb, and fruit trees will provide low-input harvests for years to come.
- Allowing the lawn to go brown over summer greatly reduces water consumption.
- This spring, the Inn will host a "Biochar Bucket Share" in partnership with the Olympic Carbon Fund. Email [ofc@jcfives.org](mailto:ofc@jcfives.org) to sign up for free.

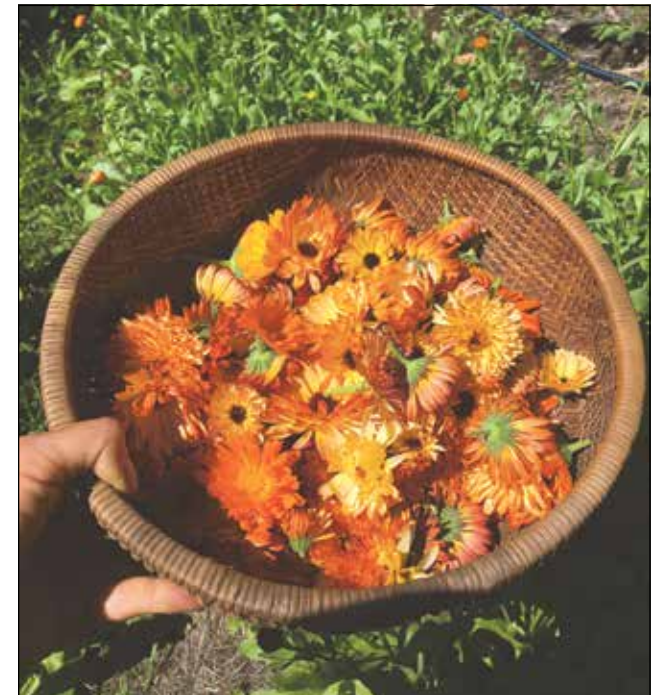
### The Inn and Housekeeping:

- Head of housekeeping, Kim Ringer, has transitioned to non-toxic cleaning products.
- Canvas bags and totes have replaced plastic liners for transporting linens and towels to be laundered. Linens are changed out upon request, further reducing water consumption.
- Travel size toiletries have been replaced with refillable shampoo and soap dispensers.
- Paper towels from restrooms are composted, offering a source of carbon for garden compost.

- Partnering with locals and the PT Styrocyclus, scrap metal and styrofoam are now recycled.

The Old Alcohol Plant is located at 310 Hadlock Bay Road in Port Hadlock, Washington. Spirits Bar and Grill is open Thursdays and Sundays, 4-7 pm, and Fridays and Saturdays, 4-8 pm. Please bring your vaccination card for inside dining; otherwise, outdoor dining and takeout options are available. For reservations or more information, call 360-390-4017 or visit [www.aldalcoholplant.com](http://www.aldalcoholplant.com).

310 Hadlock Bay Rd., Port Hadlock, WA 98339  
360.390.4017 • [www.aldalcoholplant.com](http://www.aldalcoholplant.com)



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### 2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Jefferson Land Trust

**Candice Cotterill**  
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Peninsula Legal Secretarial Services, LLC

**Aislinn Diamanti**  
Fort Worden PDA

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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](mailto:director@jeffcountychamber.org).*



## COMMUNITY UPDATE

# Sustainable tourism in Jefferson County

Article courtesy of the Chamber of Jefferson County. Images courtesy of The ReCyclery and Sam Kaviar

Jefferson County is committed to supporting sustainable tourism to keep our county beautiful for future generations. The focus of the County Chamber, which serves as the Destination Marketing Organization (DMO) for the City of Port Townsend, is focused on promoting sustainable tourism as a unique way to experience the wonderful activities and locations in Port Townsend and Jefferson County. There are many great opportunities all year round to recreate on the Olympic Peninsula, and Jefferson County has some great options!

## The ReCyclery

“When planning your next outing, consider going by bike!” said Liz Revord, Executive Director at the ReCyclery. “Want to explore Port Townsend or take an adventure on the Olympic Discovery Trail? Make your next vacation eco-friendly by renting bikes to cruise around one of our many forts, venture out to Lake Crescent, or hit the trails along the Dosewallips! Sustainable and environmentally-friendly tourism is not only smart for the planet, but helps keep us healthy and happy.

The ReCyclery of Jefferson County is a non-profit bike shop located in Port Townsend whose mission is "promoting bicycle use for a healthier, more sustainable community." Specializing in refurbished bikes, the ReCyclery saves bicycles from the landfill and gives them a second (or third) chance at life. We sell and rent bikes through our full-service shop. Have a bike but it needs some extra bike grease and TLC? Stop in today and talk with a mechanic. By investing in things that we already have, we reduce waste and unnecessary items that will eventually find their way into the landfill.

Stay tuned for ReCyclery programs, classes, and more by visiting our website at [PTReCyclery.org](http://PTReCyclery.org).

Pedal On!”

The ReCyclery: 1925 Blaine St., Port Townsend, WA 98368 • 360.643.1755 • [www.ptrecyclery.org](http://www.ptrecyclery.org)

## Olympic Kayak Tours

“Thanks to our community, 2021 was a wonderful first year for Olympic Kayak Tours; we love sustainable tourism!” shared Sam Kaviar, owner Olympic Kayak Tours. “The best part is seeing our guests get excited by how beautiful and fascinating the creatures that live in our incredible marine and shoreline ecosystems truly are. It may be young marine river otters playing along the shoreline, mighty gray whales and orcas spouting in Admiralty Inlet, or the fantastic biodiversity of birds in Port Townsend Bay. We run a sea kayaking business the way we think they should be run; we time all tours to take full advantage of tides and currents, and we provide customers with high-quality binoculars so they can fully experience the thrill of observing wildlife going about their natural daily lives. We make things as fun and educational as possible! One of our 2021 highlights was taking out the local YES! Program high schoolers on a sea kayaking adventure.

In 2022, we’re continuing our naturalist-led, wildlife-watching sea kayak excursions! We’ll also bring you the best in bioluminescence, by continuing to offer these popular nighttime tours. We’re currently working with Washington State Parks to bring unguided recreational kayak and stand-up paddleboard rentals to Fort Flagler State Park. We hope to begin offering this unguided rental service starting soon; watch our website or social media for updates!”

Olympic Kayak Tours: PO Box 974, Port Hadlock, WA 98339 • [www.olympickayaktours.com](http://www.olympickayaktours.com)



These are two of the many growing number of organizations and businesses working in the sustainable tourism arena in the county. As a community, Jefferson County is taking the steps to create a sustainable future for generations of visitors to enjoy!

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## COMMUNITY UPDATE

# Climate Change in Jefferson County

Article courtesy of Cindy Jayne, of the Climate Action Committee and Local 20/20, the summary here is her own. Water-front image courtesy of Jeff Taylor

Climate change has two different but important aspects - preparing for climate impacts and reducing our greenhouse gas emissions to do our part to reduce the magnitude of climate impacts worldwide. Work on both aspects is under way in Jefferson County, but certainly there is much more to be done.

Climate change impacts projected for Jefferson County, which are described in detail in the Climate Change Preparedness Plan for the North Olympic Peninsula include hotter and drier summers, reduced snowpack, increased wildfire risks and smoke, and drought. Increased precipitation in fall and winter is also projected, which can cause road washouts, fallen trees, and impacts to stormwater systems. Other projected impacts include rising sea levels, which can cause coastal flooding, and ocean acidification, which can impact a variety of marine life. There are also a range of public health impacts related to the above, including dehydration and heatstroke from extreme heat, water quality issues related to increased harmful algal blooms, and mental health impacts due to increased frequency of extreme weather events.

Jefferson County and the City of Port Townsend formed the joint Climate Action Committee (CAC) back in 2008, and jointly adopted a goal to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to 80% lower than 1990 levels by 2050. A recent update to the county-wide greenhouse gas inventory showed we are making progress, but there is more to do to reduce emissions. Many organizations in Jefferson County participated in workshops developing the Climate Change Preparedness Plan noted above, and have been taking a variety of actions to prepare, including planning for climate change when updating their water supply and stormwater plans, monitoring for algal blooms that may increase with climate change, and providing masks to the community when wildfire smoke was unhealthy.

Just like the city and county, people can help by both preparing for climate impacts, and working to reduce our community's greenhouse gas emissions. Some of the ways individuals can prepare for climate impacts include taking measures to protecting their homes from wildfires and flooding, preparing for emergencies in general with emergency supplies at home, and reducing water use in their homes and yards.

ALL-TIME RECORD HIGHS	
MEDFORD, OR	115°
YAKIMA, WA	110°
SPOKANE, WA	108°
PORTLAND, OR	107°
SEATTLE, WA	103°
QUILCENE	111°
PORT TOWNSEND	102°



We are fortunate to have low GHG electricity locally, and our state has passed a law requiring all electricity to be carbon-neutral by 2030. So, our best opportunities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions are to reduce our burning of fossil fuels – such as the gasoline we put in our cars, and the propane or fuel oil we may use to heat our houses. We can reduce the gas going into our cars by reducing the miles we drive by using transit, bikes, carpooling, combining trips, etc. And we can share with our local government agencies how they can best help us do this. Other opportunities to reduce gasoline usage is to purchase an Electric Vehicle (EV) or plug-in electric - many used EVs are now available, and there are more and more options for electric pick-up trucks. (You can learn more at <https://jeffersoncan.org/electric-vehicles>.)

There is work at both the city and county level to plan more for sea level rise in the next year. Also, the county is currently in the process of updating its Hazard Mitigation Plan, and most of the climate impacts listed above are included in it, as well as opportunities to reduce those risks. Additionally, the CAC has kicked off two working groups that are working on how we can reduce emissions through reducing the miles we drive in the county, and how we can help speed the transition to more electric vehicles.

Sustainable tourism is a wonderful way to engage those who visit us to do so in a way that reduces greenhouse gas emissions, particularly from cars. There are lots of opportunities to have visitors come here in cleaner ways, including leaving their car at home and taking transit here, carpooling for festivals with others, etc. It is exciting to see the Chamber of Commerce focus on sustainable tourism!

The Climate Action Committee, which besides the city and county includes a variety of other organizations in the county, was formed specifically to work cross-organizationally on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preparing for impacts, see the county website for details (<https://www.co.jefferson.wa.us/637/Climate-Action-Committee>). But varied facets of climate change are being worked on by many organizations across the county, from the Port Townsend Marine Science Center, Local 20/20, Jefferson Land Trust, Students for Sustainability at Port Townsend High School, North Olympic Salmon Coalition, and more! It is hard to imagine an organization or business that is not part of the solution, whether it be preparing for impacts or reducing our use of fossil fuels.

## MEMBER UPDATE

# Jefferson Transit's New Kingston Express Pilot Route Underway

Article courtesy of Tim Caldwell, Jefferson Transit Authority Transit Advisory Group. Images courtesy of Jefferson Transit

On your next trip to Seattle why not take the bus? It's now possible to depart Port Townsend and arrive in Seattle in less than two hours for as little as \$10. Starting late February, Jefferson Transit will begin direct service to the Kingston Ferry Terminal, giving the passengers the opportunity to either transfer to the passenger only Kingston Fast Ferry to Seattle by Kitsap Transit or catch the auto/passenger ferry to Edmonds by Washington State Ferry.

The six-month pilot project will provide cross-sound travelers a reliable and economical way to visit Port Townsend and Jefferson County while minimizing the carbon footprint to this very bike-friendly community! This project will also help reduce the vehicle congestion along Hwy 305 on Bainbridge Island.

The Kitsap Transit board recently passed a resolution to work jointly with Jefferson Transit to promote and

► JeffersonTransit continued on pg. 5



# Northwest Maritime Center 2022

Article and images submitted by the Northwest Maritime Center

After quieter than usual operations for the past two years, 2022 looks to be a step closer to normalcy at the Northwest Maritime Center (NWMC) as our team ramps up for a busy year of events and classes. The Port Townsend community and beyond can look forward to both familiar programs that have been paused since the pandemic and the introduction of some exciting, new offerings. We're thrilled to invite folks back to our campus, with COVID-precautions in mind, to experience it all.

A robust schedule of Boatshop, Navigation, and Seamanship classes are already underway with a number of new offerings including classes for new boat owners. The newest addition to our NWMC family, the Swan Hotel, has allowed us to connect our learning opportunities with lodging to better accommodate out-of-town participants (don't worry, it's still a hotel, too!). And for Port Townsend visitors and locals alike, we're excited to be offering new boat tours this summer—more on that in the coming months!

Our local, youth-focused programs are also back in full swing. Port Townsend Maritime Academy students are on campus five days a week and have recently been learning about maritime careers and getting hands-on navigation training. Girls' Boat Project, a boatbuilding program for middle school girls, has just made its return to the Boatshop after a pandemic-induced hiatus. The girls have been working on their sanding

and varnishing skills as they help us maintain our fleet. At the end of the school year, all local 7th graders will be on campus for hands-on, maritime-focused learning in our Maritime Discovery Program.

We're proud to provide educational maritime experiences to youth beyond the bounds of the Olympic Peninsula so that everyone has an opportunity to learn from the sea. Salish Sea Expeditions connects youth across the region with boat-based, STEM learning; after 2 years of inactivity due to COVID, expeditions will be starting back up this spring! We continue to partner with Highline Public Schools, Duwamish River Community Coalition, and the Port of Seattle to support the region's first Maritime High School, located in the Seattle area.

In addition to all of that programming, we're well underway with a lively season of events to connect people with inspirational, adventurous, and often emotional maritime stories and experiences. Our online speaker series, Ask an Expert, will be wrapping up in March with an LGBTQ+ panel led by Susan Brittain, offered free to the public. She Tells Sea Tales—a beloved evening of sea stories told by women mariners—will also be held virtually in March; tickets on sale now! Our summer event season will kick off with the Race to Alaska and SEVENTY48. And the crescendo of our dynamic year of events will be the



45th Wooden Boat Festival, September 9-11, 2022. Save the date!

If you're interested in learning more about all we do here at the NWMC, we invite you to join us for a free, educational tour of our campus—offered every first Tuesday of the month at 2:15 PM and the second Thursday at 5:15 PM. We hope to see you soon!



431 Water St.  
Port Townsend, WA 98368  
360.385.3628  
[www.nwmaritime.org](http://www.nwmaritime.org)

► **Jefferson Transit continued from pg. 4**

market the new passenger transit service. Included in the cooperative agreement is a "first month free" fare program to ride Jefferson Transit's Kingston Express bus route and to sail aboard Kitsap Transit's Kingston Fast Ferry to Seattle. Beginning opening day for the first month, the passengers can obtain a transfer ticket from the PT-Kingston Express bus driver and ride on the Kingston Fast Ferry to Seattle free of charge.

Jefferson Transit's new service, dubbed the Kingston Express, will depart twice a day, Monday – Saturday from the Haines Place Park & Ride. The morning departure at 7:15 am and the afternoon at 2:45 pm. Transit time is an hour and twelve minutes, with Kingston arrival times of 8:27 am, and 3:57 pm. The bus will be making stops at the 4-Corners Park & Ride and the Gateway Visitor Center at the intersection of Hwy 19 & Hwy 104. The bus will be departing Kingston at 8:42am and 4:12pm to Port Townsend and will be making the same two stops in between. Bus arrival

times at Kingston allow travelers adequate time to board either the passenger-only ferry to Seattle or the auto/passenger ferry to Edmonds.

Jefferson Transit's Kingston Express and Kitsap Transit's Fast Ferry cooperative pilot project connecting Port Townsend to Seattle via public transit adds a new and exciting way to travel cross-sound. It also includes bike racks on the buses and increases your ability to enjoy the Peninsula without the cost of driving and hassle of parking. It's better for the environment and helps reduce highway congestion!



For more information on the Port Townsend Kingston Express route please visit, <https://jeffersontransit.com/kingstonpilot/>

For more information on schedules and fares for the Kingston Fast Ferry to Seattle visit <https://www.kitsaptransit.com/service/fast-ferry/kingston-fast-ferry>



## MEMBER UPDATE

# Discover Ecotourism at Fort Worden

Article courtesy of the Chamber of Jefferson County. Images courtesy of Fort Worden

Fort Worden State Park, situated on the northern tip of Port Townsend, is an incredible destination known for its beautiful lodgings and military history. Another fantastic element of the Fort is its proximity to nature. The Walking trails, beaches and marine life attract many visitors from all over the world. Educating visitors and getting them involved in the local activities is a big part of the institution.

"We get many visitors throughout the year, some are here for the day, and some are here overnight. We offer different literature such as maps and brochures to our visitors to inform and educate them about our area. We promote tourism as well as preserve the nature surrounding us. We are collaborating with many of our Fort Worden Partners to make our visitors have the best experience with minimal natural impact," stated Natalie Maitland, Events and Marketing Manager for Fort Worden Hospitality.

Fort Worden hosts many educational events that thrill locals and visitors alike. "We are also in collaboration with the indigenous people of the area. We believe the natives are one of the greatest resources we have when it comes to understanding the culture and the history of our area," added Natalie. The Marine Science Center located in the State Park educates the guests as well as the locals of the marine life surrounding the city. With many different exhibits and programs throughout the year, these programs attract many visitors from all over the country. Fort Worden also has many different museums that provide the guests with various information and great educational tools.

Another great educational attraction at Fort Worden is the Point Wilson Lighthouse. There has been a lighthouse at Point Wilson since 1897, and the current lighthouse was built in 1914. Not only does it feature an exhibit highlighting the history of the lighthouse and its importance to the city, it is also home to the Chief's House, which

has been restored and is ready to accept guests for overnight stays. You can spend a portion of your next vacation as a keeper of the light!

As one of the larger hospitality entities in the area, Fort Worden recognizes the importance of sourcing their supplies locally. "For our restaurants, as well as the events we host, we always try to find local

venders for food and other necessities. We are always looking for opportunities to help our local businesses. Partnering with them means a lot to us. For 2022, we are trying to promote more local artists and makers and are featuring more of the local products at our events and stores," added Natalie.

Fort Worden looks forward to the year 2022 with many amazing programs in the works, to educate and elevate the visitors as well as the locals and our community.



200 Battery Way  
Port Townsend, WA 98368  
360.344.4400  
[www.fortworden.org](http://www.fortworden.org)

## MEMBER UPDATE

# Victoria Place: A senior living community where residents thrive

Article courtesy of the Chamber of Jefferson County

Victoria Place, an Enlivant assisted living community in Port Townsend, provides care tailored to the specific needs of each resident in a home-like community setting. With their mission to enrich life through meaningful relationships and vibrant communities, residents at Victoria Place can thrive in body, mind, and spirit.

"Our goal is to serve the needs of seniors in our community as their care needs change. Not just the seniors, but their families, as well. We believe great support and quality care can improve the health of our residents," said Jenny Vervynck, the Community Relations Manager at Victoria Place.

Physical well-being is one of the main focuses at Victoria Place, with 24-hour care by a registered nurse and team of caregivers. Safety of the residents, as well as their families, has been the top priority of Victoria Place throughout this pandemic. As testament to their care and commitment to their senior residents, Enlivant was the first senior living provider to achieve the WELL Health-Safety Rating. From their industry-leading vaccination program to their robust health services and cleaning efforts, this rating recognizes Enlivant's ongoing commitment to support the health and safety of everyone who walks through their doors.

"The protocols we put in place have kept the community safe. We have a managed entry and exit protocol, taking temperatures of all who enter the building. We believe it's been a good way to manage the safety of our residents," said Jenny.

In addition to physical well-being, Victoria Place incorporates their core values of Compassion, Humility, Inclusion, Excellence, and Fun throughout their numerous activities and amenities, to help residents feel renewed in body, mind, and spirit. "We

have a full-time Life Enrichment Coordinator that provides activities for residents, including education, skill building, entertainment, and other activities to enrich the lives of our residents. We do activities outside, like gardening, outdoor outings to areas in the community, sometimes to the beach or park. As soon as we can congregate in community public spaces, we'll go to restaurants and other places," said Jenny.

If you or a loved one are looking for a warm and welcoming assisted living community where you feel a sense of belonging and well-cared for, a place you can invite friends and family to enjoy some quality time, take part in game and movie nights, or simply a place to feel safe and receive compassionate quality care, Victoria Place is the ideal community for you!



491 Discovery Rd., Port Townsend, WA 98368  
360.638.3845 • [www.enlivant.com](http://www.enlivant.com)

## About Enlivant

Since 1981, Enlivant has delivered a pioneering approach to assisted living designed to give their residents a supportive, stimulating environment where they thrive in mind, body, and soul. With more than 200 communities across the United States and more than 7000 residents, the company strives to be the nation's most trusted senior living provider. Enlivant has been a certified "Great Places to Work" for three years in a row. Learn more at [www.enlivant.com](http://www.enlivant.com).



## MEMBER UPDATE

# Jefferson County PUD discusses broadband plans

Article and images courtesy of Jefferson County PUD

After years of planning, discussion, and a few changes in state law, Jefferson County PUD is making its first steps towards providing fiber internet to electric customers in Jefferson County thanks to a pair of grants from the State of Washington.

The first grant, \$1.09M from the Public Works Board, pays for the construction of fiber optic cable to 70 homes near Hwy 20 between Four Corners Road & Sunset Lake Rd and along Anderson Lake Rd.

The second grant, \$9.7M from the WA State Broadband Office, along with a \$750K match provided by Jefferson County, connects 650 homes in 3 zones: between Cape George Rd along Discovery Bay up to Middlepoint Rd; in the Woodland Hills community between Hwy 19 and Kala Point; and on Marrowstone Island.

Home and businesses in grant-funded project areas who agree to have fiber installed to their homes will not pay for any of the construction and installation costs. Monthly internet service from the PUD will begin at \$65 for 100/100mbps. Gig and better speeds will be available. Discounts for customers enrolled in the PUD's Low-Income program will also apply.

Offering internet service is new for the PUD. It only became legal in Washington State in July of 2021. Prior to that time, the PUD could build fiber to a customer, but another entity had to turn it on. Because the PUD only builds open access networks, homes and businesses that receive grant-funded fiber will have the option to receive internet from any eligible service provider that chooses to operate on the network. The PUD currently has multiple service providers that use existing PUD fiber to connect around 50 business customers around the county.

In April or May the PUD will begin opening enrollment for service to eligible homes in the project areas. Enrollment will only be open for a limited time. Homes that do not sign up for fiber installation during the enrollment period will likely have to pay

construction costs if they elect to connect to fiber at a later date. The PUD expects to begin installing fiber in the second half of the year. Because of supply chain issues and labor availability, project completion is not anticipated until 2022 or the first half of 2023.

The PUD's overall goal is to facilitate broadband internet service connections for all residents in the PUD's electric service territory lacking access to speeds of 25mbps down and 3mbps up over a wired line.\* The PUD has already applied for \$11.5M in funding from the federal government to build fiber to over 1600 homes from Quilcene to Gardiner; and is in the process of submitting a similar-sized application to another federal agency for funding to build fiber to nearly 800 homes from Chimacum to the end of the Coyle.

The boundaries of each grant area were set to prioritize construction where only DSL connections are available, and where average speeds fall far below 25/3. The PUD does not have plans to build fiber to residential areas that have access to existing cable or fiber internet at this time. However, as federal grant rules are currently being revised, and funding becomes available for areas with higher speeds of service, the PUD will revisit its plans.

\* **Note:** Satellite and cellular data do not count as adequate broadband service due to reliability and cost concerns.



310 4 Corners Rd, Port Townsend, WA 98368  
360.385.5800 • www.jeffpud.org

## MEMBER UPDATE

# Port Townsend Schools Partner with Skillmation

Article and image courtesy of Port Townsend School District

The Port Townsend School District has been staying strong for the community. Amidst the omicron surge, in-person learning continued, benefiting students and working families. Covid response teams at each of the district's four schools have refined their systems for testing students and staff and communicating the latest health guidance. Teachers offered extra support so that students in isolation and quarantine could continue their learning. The district anticipates that student performance on the spring academic assessments will continue to be above the state average in almost all subjects and grade levels.

With the leadership of the new superintendent, Dr. Linda Rosenbury, the school district is refreshing their 2017-2021 strategic plan. Staff, community members, and students are sharing ideas for the new strategic plan: Vision 2027. The district will continue to be Maritime Discovery Schools with the motto "Learning through a Sense of Place." Work-based learning and career and technical education continue to be crucial for preparing students for post-graduation. The district plans to continue their partnerships with local businesses and community partners to engage students in real-world projects that have a positive impact on the world.

Our high school freshmen are entrepreneurs! As part of the district's place-based learning approach, ninth graders are using ingredients from the school garden and other local sources to make value-added products. Local farmers and business owners

visited the school to share their experiences creating local products. Skillmation mentors are meeting with students throughout the year to help them learn about branding, packaging, scaling, and forecasting to ensure that each project culminates in a product to sell at a "Market Day" in early May where they will promote and sell their newly-created products.

Port Townsend Schools are also partnering with Skillmation to produce the East Jefferson Job and Trades Fair for all of our high school students. This fair will have representatives from over 40 local businesses that offer a variety of employment opportunities from summer jobs to longer term internships and apprenticeships. The event will be attended by freshmen to seniors and will have hours that are open to the general public as well. This will be a great opportunity for students to get to know local employers and plan their summer activities. For more information, please contact Skillmation at [info@skillmation.org](mailto:info@skillmation.org)



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Skillmation is a mentorship program of StrongerTowns, a local Jefferson County nonprofit 501(c)3 organization. Skillmation partners with numerous organizations to supply skilled and experienced community members to engage in education and talent expansion.

 1610 Blaine St., Port Townsend, WA 98368  
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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](mailto:director@jeffcountychamber.org).



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