

YOUR CITY

WINTER 2024

THE CITY OF
PORT ANGELES



WWW.CITYOFPA.US

COMMUNITY
NEWSLETTER

The Permit-Ready Townhome Plan is one of several free designs available to the community.

LOCAL EVENTS & PUBLIC MEETINGS

Feb 03 Elwha Bridge Run

Feb 03-04 Groundhog Day Rumble

Feb 09 United Way Galentine's Day

Feb 17-18 Presidents' Day Tourney

Feb 18 Olympic Peninsula Wedding Expo

Mar 09 Olympic Peninsula Toddler Prom

Mar 16 Frosty Moss Relay

Mar 16-17 Cl. Co. Gem and Mineral Show

Mar 20 Clallam County Job Fair

Mar 21-24 Squatchcon

Apr 12-14 NW Cup Dry Hill Bike Park

Apr 25-27 Creative Writing Festival

Apr 27 Rocky Mountain Elk Banquet

Every Saturday PA Farmers Market

Learn More: www.cityofpa.us/calendars

City Council

1st & 3rd Tuesday of Each Month at 6pm

Lodging Tax Advisory Committee

Quarterly Meetings at 11am

Parks Commission

3rd Thursday of Each Month at 6pm

Planning Commission

2nd or 4th Wednesday of Each Month at 6pm

Public Safety Advisory Board

3rd Wednesday of Each Month at 6pm

Utility Advisory Committee

2nd Tuesday of Each Month at 3pm

ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENT OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING

In 2019, the Port Angeles City Council approved the Housing Action Plan. Developed in collaboration with local stakeholders and shaped by valuable community input, this framework sets forth the strategies essential to achieving housing accessibility and affordability in our community. Since its approval, Council and staff have worked diligently and thoughtfully to implement measures aimed at addressing housing both immediately and in the long-term. The City remains committed to fostering diverse and accessible development with a primary goal: to ensure that all residents have a safe and affordable place to call home.

Permit-Ready Plans: In late 2023, the City unveiled a new program which offers free, permit-ready building and engineering plans to the community. Designs are included for Accessory Dwelling Units, Small Lot Homes and Townhomes, ranging in size from 480 to 2543 square feet. Major benefits of this program include:

- **Significant Cost Savings:** Plans are typically 5-20% of total construction costs. Permit-Ready Plans are available at no charge for projects located within city limits.
- **Reduced Wait Times:** Permit-Ready Plans eliminate the time needed for architects and engineers to meticulously prepare new plans.
- **Simplified Permit Review:** Permit-Ready Plans are compliant with Port Angeles' building codes and regulations, allowing for a more streamlined permit application review.

Waived Permit Fees: Effective this January, the City Council has also approved an ordinance to eliminate 25 permit fees (such as building, electrical, and utility connection permits) for 15 different housing types. It's important to note that these fee waivers also apply to eligible projects utilizing free, permit-ready plans. **Cont'd on back.**



TELL US YOUR THOUGHTS ON PROPOSED SHORT-TERM LODGING REGULATIONS

Your input can help to shape the development of the City's short-term lodging regulations, addressing both short-term rentals and bed-and-breakfast operations. We encourage residents and stakeholders to review the details of this project and engage in the online survey, feedback sessions, and public hearings listed below.

Project Details: For nearly three years, the City has been working to review and update the Port Angeles Municipal Code. In 2020, the City contracted with Madrona Law Group to examine the entirety of the code, ensuring its compliance with state and federal law, eliminating outdated provisions, and adding new provisions that increase the health, safety and welfare of our residents.

As part of this process, a community survey conducted by the City yielded feedback on several critical issues. The regulation of short-term rentals was included, and 55% of respondents felt that some regulation of short-term rentals was necessary.

Since that time, the City has contracted with GovOS, Inc. to perform a detailed analysis of short-term rentals in Port Angeles. The data, available on the City's website, indicates the number of zoning-compliant and non-zoning compliant properties in our city, as well as the amount of lodging tax generated and/or lost.

Moving forward, the City is proposing platform-based regulations for short-term rentals and bed-and-breakfasts, including a fee structure and licensing program.

Upcoming Public Engagement Opportunities: Your input is vital. As part of this process, residents and stakeholders are invited to review the proposed code changes and engage in the online survey, remaining feedback sessions, and public hearings listed below.

- Online Community Survey, available Dec. 27 through Jan. 14
- Feedback Session at the Farmers Market, Jan. 6 from 10am-2pm
- Feedback Session at the Senior & Community Center, Jan. 11 from 4-7pm
- Planning Commission Public Hearing, Jan. 24 at 6pm
- City Council Public Hearing, Feb. 20 at 6pm

Tell us your thoughts! To learn more and review the proposed regulations, please visit: www.cityofpa.us/ShortTermLodging.

CONTINUED AFFORDABLE HOUSING

By waiving these fees, the City aims to make housing projects more affordable for residents, builders and developers alike.

Other Programs: The City also offers property tax exemptions to encourage both new construction and the rehabilitation of multifamily units; as well as grant funding for projects that spur new development and support affordable housing programs in our area.

To learn more, please visit www.cityofpa.us/housing. If you have questions or would like to participate in the City's housing programs, please contact the City Housing Administrator at (360) 417-4755 or ewalker@cityofpa.us.

City Snow and Ice Removal Operations

Clearing City streets is a difficult process that takes time and hard work. During winter weather events, staff with limited equipment work around-the-clock to ensure 144 miles of roadway are clear and hazard-free.

This task follows a prioritized approach, focusing first on arterial streets which must be kept open to ensure medical, emergency and rescue services are connected (Priority 1). Next, priority is given to other arterials, completing the network and providing access to schools and public transportation routes (Priority 2). Finally, all remaining residential streets are addressed (Priority 3). If snow and ice continue to accumulate, our efforts may return to Priority 1.

In wintery conditions, residents can help by parking vehicles in driveways or areas off of main streets. This allows us to clear the roads more efficiently. Shoveling snow to the right-hand side of your driveway's opening helps to prevent snow from being pushed back into the area. Residents can also report potholes and icy intersections to (360) 417-4800 or publicworks@cityofpa.us.

Good communication and community cooperation are key to a safer, more connected city during the winter season. To learn more about winter operations, visit www.cityofpa.us/winterweather.