

# YOUR CITY

SPRING 2024

THE CITY OF  
PORT ANGELES



WWW.CITYOFPA.US

COMMUNITY  
NEWSLETTER

The State of the City was presented to the Chamber of Commerce on March 13, 2024.

## LOCAL EVENTS & PUBLIC MEETINGS

### May 2024

- May 4 Annual Big Spring Spruce Up
- May 11 Evergreen Events Mother's Day Market
- May 17-19 NW Cup Race #2
- May 17-19 Olympic Roundup
- May 24-26 Juan de Fuca Arts Festival

### June 2024

- June 1 OMC 5K/10K Race
- June 1-2 North Olympic Discovery Marathon
- June 15 Summertide Solstice Art Festival
- June 26 Concerts on the Pier Series Begins

### Every Saturday

- PA Farmers Market

### 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

- 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

### Learn More

- [www.cityofpa.us/calendar](http://www.cityofpa.us/calendar)

## STRENGTHENING OUR FOUNDATION 2024 STATE OF THE CITY

The State of the City address offers a unique opportunity for residents, businesses, and stakeholders to learn about the City's progress and plans for the year ahead. This year's presentation, led by City Manager Nathan West with Finance Director Sarina Carrizosa, Public Works Director Mike Healy and Police Chief Brian Smith, focuses on strengthening our City's foundation and investing in fundamental services.

### Investing in Upgrades to Infrastructure

The City is making substantial investments in infrastructure to improve connectivity and enhance quality of life. Last year, Phase One of the Race Street Improvement Project was completed, establishing a multimodal transportation route and replacing nearly one-half mile of aging water utility infrastructure.

Additional efforts are revitalizing the downtown area, the heart of our city. In 2023, the City Pier Railing was fully replaced and, more recently, a project was completed to augment the shoreline, repair damaged sidewalk, and install ADA-compliant pedestrian ramps at the facility. Efforts will continue in 2024, with repairs planned for the City Pier Observation Tower. Other downtown improvements include the elimination of trip hazards and concurrent replacement of outgrown trees on Front, Oak and Laurel Streets and on Railroad Avenue.

Transportation infrastructure is a major priority, with \$12.8 million planned in transportation improvements for 2024. Residents can expect to see the Signal Controller Replacement Project begin as early as this spring. This transportation improvement project will replace aging signal timing equipment with modern, traffic-centric software to reduce collisions, improve flow of traffic, and increase pedestrian safety along the First & Front Street Corridor. **Cont'd on back.**

CONTINUED

## 2024 STATE OF THE CITY

In addition, the City will continue work to expand wastewater system capacity for residents in West Port Angeles. As part of this project, Marine Drive will be repaved between Tumwater Truck Route and Hill Street.

### Improving Public Safety

The City is dedicated to enhancing public safety through continuous growth, development, and innovation. Both the Port Angeles Police Department and Port Angeles Fire Department achieved notable accomplishments in 2023, including thousands of hours of specialized training and state accreditation to ensure they are well-equipped to respond to any emergency.

While many statewide crime trends are rising, Port Angeles has moved in the opposite direction. Burglaries, Motor Vehicle Theft, Simple Assault, Larceny, and Vandalism numbers are down in 2023. These results are attributed to three main practices: (1) training, supporting and mentoring our personnel, (2) adopting and following best law enforcement practices, and (3) maintaining a balanced approach to policing.

This year, the Police and Fire Departments will work together to launch Operation Shielding Hope. This pilot program, developed to combat the opioid epidemic and its impact on local emergency services, will be one of the first post-acute overdose response programs in Washington State.

### Enhancing the Customer Service Experience

The City is committed to improving customer service through a variety of initiatives. Two examples of these efforts include strategic recruitment and expanded workforce capacity. Over the past year, these strategies have led to significant improvements in the City's electric utility. Several vacancies within Light Operations have been filled, resulting in greater efficiency and reliability. Moreover, temporary positions created to address customer needs, including the Housing Coordinator, Community Development Technician, City Hall Front Desk Attendant, and Communications & Records Management Coordinator, have been retained in the 2024 Budget.

Looking ahead, the City will replace its Enterprise Resource System to modernize operations and improve processes for Permitting and Utility customers. A new system will offer more customer-oriented features, including a new online portal for a more convenient bill-pay experience.

### Continue the Conversation

Explore the full State of the City presentation online for insights into our City's progress and future plans. After diving into the details, we invite you to continue the conversation by asking your questions using the online submittal form. We value your feedback and look forward to hearing from you as we work together to strengthen our community.



Scan QR Code to watch the *State of the City* presentation on our website.



Scan QR Code to learn more about submitting a photo for the Community Newsletter.

## Community In Focus—

Your original photo could be featured in an upcoming issue of the community newsletter!

The City of Port Angeles invites you to submit photos that capture the unique qualities of our community, such as landscapes, nature, buildings, historical landmarks and local events. Showcase Port Angeles through your eyes!

All submissions must be original, high-resolution images. Horizontal orientation is preferred. Photos selected will include credit to the photographer. Please email submissions to [media@cityofpa.us](mailto:media@cityofpa.us).

To learn more about photo submissions, please visit our website at [www.cityofpa.us/CityNewsletter](http://www.cityofpa.us/CityNewsletter).

**Submit a photo and show us what Port Angeles means to you!**