

The Current

News from the Port of Coupeville

August 2019



ISLAND COUNTY AWARDS GRANT FOR PIER REPAIRS

One of Whidbey's most treasured landmarks has received a much-needed boost towards restoration. Island County Commissioners voted unanimously to fund the Port's request of \$870,804 to pay for critical repairs to pier pilings and support structures. The Port will match the award with \$96,756 from its own funds. The grant is part of the Rural County Economic Development Program which supports projects that demonstrate significant economic benefits to local communities.

The Coupeville Wharf is among the island's most visited attractions and a focal point for boating and event tourism. Repairs to the pier are expected to take several years and will pave the way for eventual restoration of the wharf building. The Port's Board expressed their deep appreciation to County Commissioners Jill Johnson, Helen Price-Johnson and Janet St. Clair, as well as community members who advocated for the project. *"This is a great day for all who cherish our regional heritage and prosperity. We are grateful our county citizens and commissioners share the vision of a fully restored wharf that will serve the public for many years to come."*

More on the Wharf

Permitting Underway for Pier Project

Port board members recently approved use of funds up to \$16,000 to hire a permitting specialist for pier rehabilitation. Permitting from several agencies will be required prior to



replacement of deteriorated pilings and caps. In 2015, Echelon Engineering conducted a structural assessment of the pier. They reported the condition as fair or good, with the exception of several 'severely deteriorated' areas from mechanical, fungal, and marine borer damage. The wharf is one of the last 'Mosquito Fleet' wharves in Puget Sound. [See the project timeline.](#)

Changes in Store for Wharf Businesses

Two wharf businesses are undergoing transitions. Loretta and Todd Beaman reopened The Salty Mug last spring after an interior remodel that showcased the shop's location overlooking Penn Cove. The Beamans also purchased the kayak rental business with plans to expand. Cheryl Nunn, longtime owner of the popular Collections Boutique for women, is exploring the potential sale of her business later this fall. Stay tuned for updates.



[Come visit us at the Wharf!](#)



Remembering the Orcas

In August, Orca Network held the Penn Cove Orca Capture Commemoration at the wharf. The annual event included a blessing by the Samish Nation, boat tours and news from the Lummi Nation on Tokitae, the last local orca to remain in captivity. The group reports just 73 southern resident killer whales remain, a dramatic population decline in recent years, linked to food scarcity. "No one can move this forward alone, it's got to be done together," said Jay Julius, chairman of the Lummi Nation, at an awareness event earlier this spring. Photo by Susan Berta. [More about Orca Network.](#)

At Greenbank Farm

Local TV Features Master Gardener Paradise



[Watch the news story now!](#)

Check out the new film from Whidbey TV showcasing the words and work of the Master Gardeners at Greenbank Farm. You'll learn about their efforts to create garden spaces for public education and enjoyment; and what inspires them to care for plants and the earth. If you plan to visit the educational gardens soon, be sure to check out their new greenhouse. The gardens are a partnership between the Port of Coupeville and WSU Extension in Island County.

Get Down to Harvest Faire Sept. 29

Celebrate our farming heritage when Greenbank Farm hosts Harvest Faire on Sunday, Sept. 29 from 12 noon to 5 p.m. Enjoy music, activities and more for the entire family as part of Whidbey Island Grown Week. Plus, find arts, crafts and food items from across the region.

Admission is free. Sponsored by the Greenbank Farm Merchants and Port of Coupeville. [More here.](#)



[For Vendor Booths contact us here!](#)

Vendors, space is still available! Booth is \$20; food and beverage trucks \$50. Email saltyacresfarming@gmail.com for questions. Or check out the [vendor form](#) (Photo courtesy of Derek Owens)



[Come grow with us!](#)

Farm and Garden Opportunities Await

Did you know the Port of Coupeville offers land lease opportunities at Greenbank Farm for compatible programs? Several parcels and hoop houses are available in the farm's agricultural zones. For small gardens, the community P-Patch also has several plots available. To find out more, email the [Port](#) or call 360.222.3151.

Upcoming Events

Sept. 11, 10 a.m.:

Port of Coupeville Board Meeting,

Greenbank Farm, Jim Davis House, 765 Wonn Road, Ste E.

Sept. 14, 11 a.m.:
Second Saturday at Greenbank Farm.
Join farm merchants for activities.

Sept. 27-Oct. 6:
Whidbey Island Grown Week.
[Details here.](#)

September 29, noon to 5 p.m.:
Greenbank Farm's Harvest Faire.
Come celebrate our farming heritage during Whidbey Island Grown Week.

Greenbank Farm is available for weddings and events. Call us at 360.222.3558 or click on the link below for details on how to rent the farm.

[Find out more](#)



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