

The Current

News for February 2020



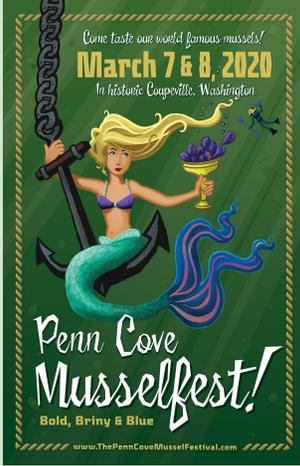
State Awards \$303,000 for Wharf Building Preservation

There's reason to rejoice on Front Street. Restoration of the Coupeville Wharf received a boost this month with a \$303,000 grant award from the state's Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation. Nearly a dozen local projects benefited from funds set aside last year by Governor Jay Inslee to mitigate the impacts of increased Growler air traffic in Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve. "This is great news for all citizens who value the importance of preserving historic properties in our community," said Chris Michalopoulos, the Port's executive director. Funding will be used to stabilize the wharf building foundation and replace the failing roof. Port staff have been seeking resources for wharf rehabilitation after engineering studies reported significant deterioration. Restoration work will be conducted in several phases as funding becomes available. The first phase will replace deteriorated pier pilings and infrastructure at a cost of about \$1,000,000. Last spring, Island County Commissioners generously awarded the Port nearly \$900,000 for pier work through the Rural County Economic Development Grant Program, underscoring the wharf's importance to local economic activity. [Read more on the story.](#)

On the Wharf

Celebrating the Mighty Mussel

Mark your calendar for the Northwest's premier shellfish celebration, ***Penn Cove's Musselfest***, March 7 and 8 in downtown



Coupeville. Mussel mania will reach its peak as thousands flock to sample the local delicacy. Sip your way through the Beer Garden and enjoy tasty fare offered in the main Festival Tent at Cook's Park. This bold, briny and blue event is sponsored by our friends at Penn Cove Shellfish and the Coupeville Historic Waterfront Association. [Details and schedule here.](#)

Wharf Float Dock to Undergo Repairs

As part of ongoing wharf maintenance, repairs will begin this week to damaged sections of the main float dock. Boaters planning to use the dock can call ahead to inquire about impacts at 360.678.6379. The dock is well past its lifespan and the repairs are estimated at about \$20,000. However, the project is a short-term solution until a replacement dock can be built in the next few years.



[Visit the Wharf!](#)



Harvest Shellfish Safely

Did you know that Island County has 212 miles of shoreline with 57 public beaches and 22 private beaches? If you are among the many locals harvesting clams, mussels and oysters, it's always a good idea to check the [Washington State Department of Health Shellfish Safety Information](#) website for the current status of a beach. You can also enhance your harvest by monitoring the state's [2020 Best Harvest Tides Chart](#) here. *(Photo courtesy of Viviana Rishe.)*

At Greenbank Farm

We Need Your Input! Greenbank Farm Community Survey

Your feedback matters. The Port is seeking input from the community about land use, access and recreation at Greenbank Farm, including the off-leash dog area. Please, take



a moment to participate in this survey. Your responses are confidential and will help guide the Port in future planning. Start now at: <http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07egwre34fk6gula6v/start>
Need a print version or have questions? Email Kellie at community@portofcoupeville.org and stay tuned for results in a future issue.

Take or Share the Survey!

Growth Spurt for Farm Initiatives

Interest in garden opportunities at the farm is blooming! *Salty Acres* has expanded their growing footprint to include new heirloom and plant varieties. *Growing Vets* hosted a volunteer day in January that included restoring the large hoop house where they'll soon be planting hops and other crops. And the *Community P-Patch* has a record number of gardeners this year, with just a few plots left. To learn more, give us a call at 360.222.3151 or [email us here](#).



Check out growing opportunities



Host Your Event at Our Heritage Farm

A Perfect Celebration Venue

Are you planning an event in the months ahead? Consider historic Greenbank Farm. We have reduced rates for weekdays and non-profit organizations. Plus, our large barn can accommodate up to 200 guests with multiple outdoor areas suited to ceremonies, picnics, hiking and lawn games. For questions or to schedule a tour, please call Katie at 360.222.3151. See these event snapshots from our friends at [Whidbey Island Weddings](#).

Upcoming Events

March 7 & 8, all day:
Penn Cove Mussel Fest,
in downtown Coupeville.

March 11, 10 a.m.:
Port of Coupeville Board Meeting,
Greenbank Farm.

March 21, 6 p.m.:
Ryan's House Fundraiser, Greenbank
Farm main barn. Details:

<https://www.ryanshouseforyouth.org/>

April 3, 1 p.m.:
Rain Garden Tour and Presentation,
Greenbank Farm.

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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