

The Current

News for May 2020



Island Communities Unite for Recovery

We are witnessing an unprecedented time in our nation's history. As states, cities and towns cope with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, our island communities have galvanized, stepping up to provide help and information. For many who have recently lost wages, jobs, childcare or healthcare, meeting basic needs has become a critical challenge. On the home front, we've offered Port tenants a plan to defer rent payments. Greenbank Farm trails remain open for public recreation and the Wharf is allowing temporary moorage on a self-serve basis. We're conducting business by phone and online; and we're tracking local resources to share with those who need assistance today or in the months ahead. So stay home and stay healthy.

We are in this together.

For local businesses and employees:

www.iscoedc.com/covid-19-resources-for-businesses-and-workers/

For individuals and families:

coronavirus.wa.gov/you-and-your-family

www.islandcountywa.gov/Health/Pages/COVID-19.aspx

For non-profit organizations:

Whidbey Community Foundation, Covid-19 Community Resilience Fund

www.whidbeyfoundation.org/

Health resources and updates:

www.islandcountywa.gov/Health/COVIDDOCS/COVID19-Updated-Recommendations-04-14-20.pdf

www.coronavirus.wa.gov/



Grant Secures New Roof for Historic Building

Did you know the Port owns the small, but historically important Collections Building at 24 Front Street? Built in 1887 as Gillespie's Meat Market, it has served various functions over the years. Now home to the Collections clothing boutique, the aged building roof will be replaced this summer with wood shingles, a more historically-accurate material, thanks to a grant from the Ebey's Forever Fund.

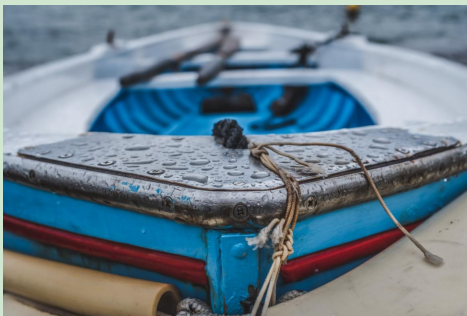
[More history here](#). (Photo courtesy of Coupeville Historic Waterfront Association.)

Penn Cove Water Festival 2020 Cancelled

The board for the Penn Cove Water Festival announced it has cancelled the May event due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Organizers may host some smaller events later this year to keep the spirit of the festival alive. The annual event is one of Coupeville's signature celebrations, showcasing Native American canoe racing, entertainment, crafts and culture. You can see the complete collection of the festival's poster art displayed in the entrance foyer at the Wharf.



[Stroll by the Wharf](#)

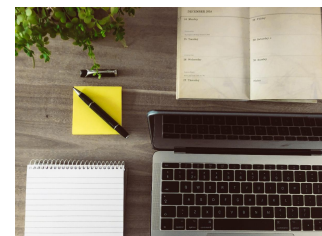


Stay Compliant with State Boating & Fishing Restrictions

Pass it along. All recreational boating, fishing and shellfishing will remain closed until May 4 statewide in response to the governor's order to "Stay Home, Stay Healthy." The state will partially reopen some recreation activities on May 5, including state parks, boat ramps and recreational fishing. Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Check Stations are still active, and state staff are inspecting watercraft for invasive species. More at wdfw.wa.gov/about/covid-19-updates.

You're Invited: Board Adds Second Monthly Meeting

The Port's Board of Directors has added a second meeting each month to give the public more opportunities to learn about Port activities. The second meeting is held at 6 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Meeting agendas and location can be found online on the Port's website. Public attendance is welcomed. Meetings also open with a time for public comment. (Photo courtesy of Unsplash.)



[Board Meetings Online](#)

At Greenbank Farm



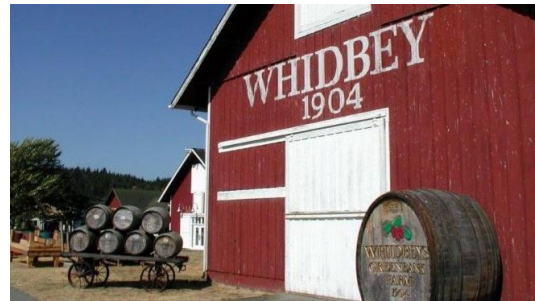
Become a Farm Volunteer!

Celebrating Farm Heroes

This past year, volunteers at Greenbank Farm invested hundreds of hours in procuring donations, hosting raffles, restoring gardens and providing vital help with events. These generous individuals were recognized in March when the Port hosted its first annual volunteer luncheon. Guests mingled, shared stories and enjoyed lunch in the main barn. The Port's executive director, Chris Michalopoulos, expressed gratitude, noting their preservation work for the farm will be remembered by future generations. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer at the farm, [email us](#) here.

Survey Results Coming Soon

The Greenbank Farm Community Survey 2020 closed in early April, after nearly 400 responded to the call for public input. Results included more than 1000 comments on topics ranging from land use and recreation to community events and collaboration. The Port is compiling a summary of results that will be available online soon. Stay tuned and for those who participated, your time and insights are appreciated! Questions? Email us [here](#).



**Receive Notification
of Survey Results**



Pictured from left: Hank Jung, Bob and Judi Moore, Katie Wells, Billie Jung

Garden Angels Restore North Lawn

Hat's off to our dedicated volunteers who have been busily restoring the garden beds on the north side of the main barn. Judi and Bob Moore, and Billie and Hank Jung have weeded, mulched and added flowering plants to the long-neglected beds to make the area more inviting for weddings and events. In April, the crew purchased and installed drip lines, timers and hoses, along with drought-resistant plantings next to the small barn. Also volunteering in the restoration are Port staff members Kellie Tormey and Katie Wells.

Safety First! Dogs Must Be Leashed Except in Off-Leash Zone

The Port is renewing its commitment to ensuring dogs are on leash at Greenbank Farm except when safely inside the off-leash zone. Complaints to Port staff occur daily, citing unleashed dogs in parking lots, play fields and in farmed areas. ***Dogs are not permitted off leash until they are safely inside the farm's off-leash area marked by red flags.*** Owners who do not comply will be warned and may face a ban from the farm for non-compliance. Please, be a safe and responsible pet owner. Follow the leash rules, pick up your dog waste, and encourage your fellow dog walkers to respect and care for this valuable public resource. (Photo by



**Respect the Farm,
Follow Leash & Waste Rules**



**Inquire About Events
at Greenbank Farm**

New Horizons for Art Galleries

Transitions are underway for two of our valued tenants at Greenbank Farm. Ravenrocks Gallery owners, Windwalker Taibi and Mary Jo announced in March they are leaving Whidbey Island to open a new gallery in Florence, Oregon. After nearly a decade here, their departure will be felt by many in the local arts community. Artworks Gallery has also decided to close, though the collective may reopen in a new location later this year. Several of the gallery's artists have been active in farm projects and their collaborations will be deeply missed.

Upcoming Events

May 1 & 2:

Growing Veterans Plant Sale Pick Up at Greenbank Farm, details at <https://growingveterans.org/news-events/events/online-plant-sale.html>

May 13, 10 a.m.:

Port of Coupeville Board Meeting, will be conducted online. For instructions on participating, visit the Port website here: <https://portoc.org/commission-meetings/meeting-agendas/>

May 27, 6 p.m.:

Port of Coupeville Board Meeting. To participate, see instructions above.

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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