

The Current

News for May 2021



The Port of Coupeville Considers an Industrial Development District

The Port of Coupeville, created in 1966, has a unique role in sustaining the economic health of Central Whidbey Island through the proper oversight of its valued community assets: the Coupeville Wharf, 24 Front Street (former Gillespie Meat Market now Collections Boutique), and Greenbank Farm. The status of the Port's assets is captured in its *Comprehensive Scheme of Harbor Improvements* that was last updated in 2018 following a robust community engagement process that included a Citizen Advisory Committee.

Much of the Port's assets were built decades ago and are in need of substantial upgrades and repairs. To address those needs, the Port has recently completed a *Capital Finance Plan* that projects the planning level costs to undertake these much-needed renovations. Existing Port tax revenues and operating income are inadequate to fund needed improvements which are preliminarily estimated to be over \$13 million.

Since the mid 1950's Washington ports have been authorized to levy a special property tax (Industrial Development Levy) to fund needed capital improvements. This unique levy would be allocated to exclusively fund needed repairs and enhancements throughout the Port of Coupeville Industrial Development District (IDD). The Port will be considering the need to create the IDD at a series of public hearings in the Fall of 2021, and if approved to move forward, the first levy would be effective in 2022 or later.

If these valued community assets are to be protected for generations to come, these renovations need to be made in a timely fashion. We look forward to engaging with the community to explore the possibilities.

On the Wharf



Spring is Here and Summer is Near!

We are excited to see the bustling activity and visitors at the Coupeville Wharf! We recently rang the Orca Bell as some visiting Orcas swam through Penn Cove. Be sure to stop by and take in the beautiful views, explore the Penn Cove waters, and do a little shopping!

24 Front Street Façade Rehabilitation

The Port of Coupeville is grateful to have received an Ebey's Forever Grant and a Coupeville Historic Waterfront Association grant in support of rehabilitating the façade of the former Gillespie Meat Market! The roof, also supported by an Ebey's Forever Grant, was replaced during the winter and we now hope to restore the façade to its former glory!



[Stay updated on our projects!](#)

At Greenbank Farm



Volunteering at Greenbank Farm

We greatly appreciate all of our partners and volunteers who assist in making the Greenbank Farm a beautiful place to visit, shop, and explore! An amazing community member, Steve Holmberg, spent the winter trimming and cutting back the conifers along the north trail to promote healthy trees and assist in fire prevention. Additionally, our WSU Master Gardeners and Greenbank Garden Club help keep our property blooming and beautiful. We are grateful for their efforts to maintain our farm! There are many opportunities to volunteer your time here at Greenbank Farm. If you are interested in volunteering, or have a project you are



interested in assisting with, please reach out to our office at (360) 222-3558.

Regenerative Agriculture at the Farm

You may have noticed new signage and fencing (through generous donations!) at the Greenbank Farm. We have been working to secure our agricultural area to support our local farmers practicing regenerative farming and soil revitalization. We are thrilled to have a great partnership with Salty Acres, One Willow Farm, Lesedi Farms, and Growing Vets! When visiting the farm, please pay attention to signage and refrain from the agricultural paths. Excited dogs can be destructive to the hard work our farmers have invested in the land and crops. Please enjoy watching their work and progress from a distance!



Commercial Space Available at Greenbank Farm!

Are you looking for a beautiful office, retail, or studio space for your business? Then Suite C-101 in Greenbank Farm's Barn C is just the place for you! This 940 square foot commercial space provides ample lighting and wall mounted shelf space, as well as a large storage room that can be used as a back office. It also includes its own private bathroom and both a front and back entry for easy loading and unloading of merchandise or office supplies. Greenbank Farm is in the middle of Whidbey Island and frequented by both Islanders and tourists alike! At just \$0.86 a square foot, this space will not be available long, especially with both short-term and long-term leases available! For more information or to schedule a time to view the space, please contact the Port of Coupeville by email at executivedirector@portofcoupeville.org or by phone at (360) 222-3688.

Become a Port Commissioner!

The Port of Coupeville will have two Commissioner seats up for reelection in 2021. If

you are interested in supporting the communities we serve, and passionate about our historical properties the Coupeville Wharf and Greenbank Farm, we encourage you to review the resources and information shared on our [website](#). Please contact Executive Director Chris Michalopoulos if you are interested in becoming a 2021 candidate at (360) 222-3688. Filing for Declarations of Candidacy in Island County is fast approaching and due May 17-21!

Upcoming Events

May 12, 6 p.m.:

Port of Coupeville Board Meeting,
Zoom Conference Call. For instructions on participating, visit the Port website here: <https://portoc.org/commission-meetings/meeting-agendas/>

May 26, 6 p.m.:

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

June 9, 10 a.m.:

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

June 23, 6 p.m.:

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

Stay updated on ALL of our upcoming events by check our [events calendar](#).

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](#)



We Love Our Community!

Recently, Cub Scout Pack 4058 of Coupeville visited the wharf to work on their fishing badges, utilizing homemade rods.



Share *The Current* with friends and colleagues! Help us expand our network by forwarding this newsletter to others.

New contacts can sign up by simply clicking on the link below.

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