

# *The Current*

*News for May 2023*



## **From Our Community**



### **Penn Cove Water Festival**

**Saturday, May 13  
Coupeville**

The annual special event returns this May, and the historic canoe races will take place this year!

"The mission of the Penn Cove Water Festival Association is to continue an annual revival of the historic Coupeville

Water Festival by bringing families together to enjoy Native American canoe racing, entertainment, crafts and culture and by giving them a chance to learn about, appreciate, and protect the environment in which we all live."

Each year the Water Festival features special artwork on the event poster, many of the past year's posters are displayed in the lobby of the Coupeville Wharf. Historic photos from some of the original canoe races are also on display. For more background on the event, and a 2023 schedule please visit:

**[Penn Cove Water Festival Info](#)**

## Master Gardener Plant Sale @ Greenbank Farm



### Calling all gardeners!

This popular event offers a wide variety of plants grown by Island County Master Gardeners, including perennials, shrubs, veggie starts, and much more. Garden art is also for sale.

## Starfish Under the Coupeville Wharf



Ever wonder what's underneath the Coupeville Wharf? A local diver and citizen scientist, Jan Kocian, has been monitoring the waters and took these underwater photos recently.

He is happy to report that the starfish population is strong! Last year there was concern that the wasting disease threatening marine life was threatening the starfish population.

We're grateful for community volunteers like Jan!

## Port of Coupeville News

### Coupeville Wharf

#### New Wood Benches

In April, we installed several new wood benches at the entrance area to the Coupeville Wharf.

The handcrafted benches were constructed from historic barn timbers by Whidbey Millhouse, with some metalsmith accents.

Thank you to the Coupeville Historic Waterfront Association for their partnership on this project.

And thanks to Tekla and David Cunningham for donation of the historic timbers!



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## Port of Coupeville Purchase of Oak Harbor Airport

The Port of Coupeville is in the process of purchasing the AJ Eisenberg Airport in Oak Harbor via an Assignment through a Right of First Refusal. The airport has been under private ownership since its inception, which has proven to not be a sustainable way to maintain an airport that can service the Whidbey Island community.

There has been much discussion and debate about this, but what hasn't been clear is the many benefits of public vs private ownership of the airport. If you're interested in participating in a public hearing, please see information below.

One problem with private ownership is that the airport cannot access state and federal infrastructure funding. A municipal entity such as a Port can apply for these valuable grants. As a result, the airport is in poor condition and cannot function without significant upgrades including replacing many buildings.

The Port of Coupeville's interest in the airport stems from the many benefits a fully functioning airport can offer Island County residents. This is a collective effort, with the Port utilizing its many community partners, in addition to its ability to seek state and federal funding.

**Our goal is to revitalize the airport and apply funds for improvements is to create jobs, new economic development opportunities, transportation access, county disaster support, tourism opportunities, business office space, as well as many other benefits to Island County.**

Information about this project including a draft business plan is available on the Port website [Port Projects](#)

### Oak Harbor Airport Public Hearing

**May 17<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday  
Time: 12 PM**

**Location: Barn A Greenbank Farm  
ZOOM capabilities will also be available.**

Agenda will be published at: <https://portoc.org/commission-meetings/meeting-agendas-2/>





## Wharf Building Major Rehab Underway

After a significant planning period, the Port of Coupeville is beginning a major rehabilitation of the Coupeville Wharf. There will be several phases of work over the coming year. Some of the improvements will repair aging infrastructure, and some projects will safeguard the wharf against weather and seismic events.

Work is now beginning on replacing the wharf roof, which will be done before the busy summer season. This fall, a Pile Cap project process begins to increase the wharf's stability by reinforcing the foundation. The diesel tanks at the Wharf are in the process of being replaced so there not be diesel fuel for a short time.

## Upcoming Events

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

**Wed, May 10, 10 a.m.**  
**Port of Coupeville Commission Meeting,**

## Wharf Dock

Schooner Suva is returning to the Coupeville Wharf dock. They are looking for community volunteers to help with summer season sailings.

And the kayak rental is under new ownership, it's now called Wharf Dog Paddle .

Both are great ways to get out on the

To participate, see instructions above.

water in Penn Cove!

**Sat, May 13, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

**Master Gardener Plant Sale @**  
Greenbank Farm

**Sat, May 13, 11 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

**Penn Cove Water Festival**  
Coupeville, WA

**Wed, May 17, Noon**

**Oak Harbor Airport Public Hearing**  
Greenbank Farm Barn A or via Zoom  
To participate virtually, see instructions  
above.

**Wed, May 24, 1 p.m.**

**Port of Coupeville Commission**  
**Meeting,**  
To participate, see instructions above.

**Sat, May 27, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

**Flea Market**  
Greenbank Farm

**Wed, June 14, 10 a.m.**

**Port of Coupeville Commission**  
**Meeting,**  
To participate, see instructions above.

**Wed, June 18, 1 p.m.**

**Port of Coupeville Commission**  
**Meeting,**  
To participate, see instructions above.

Stay updated on all of our upcoming events  
by checking our [events calendar](#).

### **Rent Greenbank Farm**

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

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more



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