

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Charlie Bermant, with with local news and commentary for Thursday, July 8, 2021.

There is currently a serious wildfire risk, according to information distributed by the Jefferson County Department of Emergency Management. This requires a heightened preparedness level, as changes in weather conditions, fire conditions or both could create a threatening situation requiring residents to evacuate. Recommended preparedness actions include the creation of a "go-pack," including clothes, medications, important documents and insurance information. Also, to develop a strategy for pets, with carriers at the ready. Those with livestock should be prepared to set them free. And always keep your gas tank half full, which is good advice in so called normal times.

To stay informed, subscribe to the local NIXLE service, which provides the latest text alerts. In an emergency these alerts will direct people away from fire danger and toward sheltering options. The key is to be fast and flexible. To subscribe to NIXLE text JEFFCODEM to 888777 or go to <http://local.nixle.com/zipcode/98368/> to register. If you are driving right now, this information is posted on kptz.org in today's news transcript.

It is now safe for certain scofflaws to return to the library again. During this week's regular meeting the Port Townsend City Council voted to waive loss or replacement fees incurred by library patrons that are over six years old. The public libraries of the Cooperative Libraries of the Eastern Olympics, which includes the Jefferson County Library and the Port Townsend Public Library have decided to forgive lost and damaged replacement materials costs over six years old. Many attempts have been made to collect the replacement fees; they are now determined uncollectable. Additionally, the cost to the City of collecting outstanding replacement fees exceeds the amount of revenue that could reasonably be expected to be received. In forgiving this bad debt the libraries will be able to purge library records no longer in use and potentially give patrons a fresh start to use the library again, according to the resolution.

The Port Townsend City Hall is now open to the public, welcoming visitors with questions about government services from 9am to 4pm Monday through Friday. At this week's City Council meeting, City Manager John Mauro said the goal is to provide efficient customer service and provide contact with well-trained representatives of the city who will answer visitors' questions to their satisfaction. Still to come: the move back to in-person council meetings. Mauro told KPTZ there are no immediate plans to do so. We are currently working on a hybrid solution so that we can both get back to our amazing City Hall Chambers as well as maintain a degree of enhanced accessibility and engagement for those who choose to attend and interact remotely. The Jefferson County Commissioners will hold their first in-person meeting since the start of the pandemic next Monday, July 12. Even though KPTZ is no longer broadcasting the Port Townsend City Council meetings we will continue to air the Monday public health briefings by Dr Locke and Willie Bence, to the Board of County Commissioners meetings, for the foreseeable future.

As we reported yesterday, OlyCAP is looking to the public to provide an appropriate name for a new low-income housing project that is due to break ground on July 22. About 40 people have submitted their ideas by air time, with the number expected to rise after a story in today's *Peninsula Daily News*. The Seventh and Hendricks Affordable Housing Project, as it is now known, is a proposed 43-unit, low-income housing site that

is expected to cost around \$15 million dollars to construct. It will be located in the parking lot adjacent to QFC with expectations for occupancy in Fall 2022. OlyCAP is holding a naming contest, soliciting ideas for a name that characterizes the project and, according to a web post, reflect the county's shared values for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. The contest is open until this Friday, July 9, through a link on the OlyCAP web page (<https://olycap.org/>). You can enter as many times as you like. There isn't a big prize, but the winner will earn bragging rights along with a \$50 gift certificate to Elevated Ice Cream.

KPTZ 91.9 FM brings you local news at noon Monday through Saturday and at 5pm Monday through Thursday. You can contact us through news@kptz.org.

This is Charlie Bermant. Thank you for listening.