

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Ann Katzenbach with local news for April 7, 2022.

The Rothchild House, Port Townsend's premier historic residence built in 1868, is getting a new roof. Shelly Leavens Executive Director of the historical society, explains that in keeping with the period, the shingles are cedar and the gutters are fashioned from wood. The historical society has raised funds for this \$55,000 project partly from donations but largely from the Rothschild Family who continues to take a strong interest in the property.

On April 14, the building will open for the first time since the summer of 2019. This one-day opening is to accommodate an American Cruise Line visit. Then, the weekend of April 29, the house will be open again for the Victorian Festival. Leavens hopes that the house will be open on weekends all summer, but this depends on volunteer staffing. If you are interested in this or other volunteer opportunities, go to <https://jchsmuseum.org/> and download and fill out a volunteer application.

Roofers are working right now. Take a walk past the house in the next few days and imagine the obstacles even modern builders face. "The house is small, but the roof is steep," says Leavens. Never mind the wind on a stormy spring day. If you have never visited the Rothchild House, put it on your summer calendar. And – if it interests you – sign up to be a volunteer and keep The Rothschild House open all summer.

Jefferson County Solid Waste has announced that beginning June 1, 2022, bottles and jugs will be the only types of plastic accepted for recycling. This is because the state requires that all counties have a plan to address the contamination of recycled materials, but also because the county is looking to the future and plans to upgrade its waste-management facility. Currently they are accepting bids from engineering firms for planning and possible future design. Closing date for these bids is April 14.

Al Cairns, Jefferson County's Solid Waste Manager, gave a brief history of recycling in the county. Prior to 2015, the county limited the numbered plastics it would accept. But, Cairns says, "The recycling industry convinced us that there was a domestic market for the other plastics and so we tried to just capture the #5 plastics which have a pretty good market value." Then, he says, two things happened: "Our contamination rate went way up and we saw lots of non-acceptable plastics like film wrap, tarps, plastic bags and even diapers go into not just the plastic bins but in the other material bins as well." And "We discovered that the facilities where our recycling commodities are processed for sale would not share information on the final destination of the materials so there was no guarantee that the lower value plastics (#3 – #7) weren't contributing to a lower health standard in offshore markets." "So," he concludes, "we have decided to only accept the bottles and jugs, knowing that these are sold to regional markets."

On June 1, only bottles and jugs in the plastic bin. No more yogurt tubs, small trays, or any other miscellaneous plastic. And clean please. And you are asked to not include the tops. These can pop out when plastic is being compacted and have injured workers.

Several information forums about recycling are planned for this month. The in-person presentation takes place this Monday, April 11 from 6-7 p.m. at Finn River Cidery at 124 Center Road in Chimacum. The second and third presentations are on Zoom, April 19 and 23. You can find more information about these Zoom meetings and all sorts of recycling information at <https://jeffersoncountysolidwaste.com/>.

And remember that you can take your solid Styrofoam and clean peanuts to Fort Worden. After a hiatus in March due to lack of transportation, these amazing volunteers are back at work.

And that's it for today's local news. KPTZ 91.9 FM brings you local news at noon and 5pm Monday through Friday and at noon on Saturday. You can contact us through news@kptz.org. I'm Ann Katzenbach. Thanks for listening. Have a great weekend!