

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend. I'm Jim Burke, with local news and commentary for Tuesday, June 20, 2023.

The City of Port Townsend will host Public Open House #3 for the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons Concept Planning Effort this coming Thursday, June 22 from 5 until 7pm at the Fort Worden Commons. This meeting will summarize public feedback received to date, share the final two design concepts, host a community conversation and discussion about priorities and desired next steps. This will be the final Open House of the concept planning effort.

An online version of the Open House will be held Monday, June 26 from 4 until 5:30pm. This planning effort began in early 2020 following the development of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan which showed the community's desire to explore different uses for the golf course property owned by the City. In November 2020, City Council unanimously directed staff to engage the community to explore the feasibility of alternate uses, in addition to continued use for golf. Given the proximity of the Mountain View Commons Campus, it is the City's interest to explore complementary uses and plan for this site as well. For more information, see: <https://cityofpt.us/engagept/page/envision-port-townsend-golf-course-and-mountain-view-commons>.

This is from Local 20/20: Bringing Tiny-Homes-on-Wheels to Port Townsend, Tuesdays, June 20-27. On July 1, Port Townsend will become the first city in Washington to allow Tiny-Homes-on-Wheels (THOWs) as affordable housing options. Join Tiny Homes Jefferson County for two webinars that will help you navigate the city's new zoning requirements for THOWs and provide you the information you need to get your THOW project successfully started.

- 6/20: THOWs as ADUs
- 6/27: Tiny Home Communities from 6:30 to 8:00pm. Zoom link: <https://l2020.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=18a86f67bdd611c999ee661f5&id=8f7e1e162d&e=a32523e83b>

As reported last week, you can prepare now for smoky air that might be headed our way next week, next month, or in September. You can clean indoor air with an HVAC system with MERV 13 filter, a HEPA portable air cleaner, or a so-it-yourself box fan filter (<https://www.psccleanair.gov/525/DIY-Air-Filter> - this involves taping a 20x20 furnace air filter to a simple window box fan, and is a low-cost alternative to a more expensive room air purifier.) Note that this fan can overheat, so don't leave it on all day, or when you sleep.

You can stay updated on wildfires, air quality, the forecast, and health information on the Washington State Smoke Blog (<https://wasmoke.blogspot.com/>). For more information on how to protect yourself from wildfire smoke, visit the DOH's Smoke from Fires webpage (<https://doh.wa.gov/community-and-environment/air-quality/smoke-fires>). The DOH website (<https://doh.wa.gov/>) is your source for a healthy dose of information. Find them on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/WADeptHealth>) and follow them on Twitter (<https://twitter.com/wadepthealth>). Sign up for the DOH blog, Public Health Connection. The Puget Sound Clean Air Agency website is a good place to start. For more information go to: Psccleanair.org (<https://medium.com/wadepthealth>).

One last thing: Keen KPTZ listeners might have noticed that I haven't mentioned COVID-19 numbers as I usually do on Tuesdays, but there is nothing new to report. It's not that the numbers aren't changing, it's just that the County and the state haven't really updated those numbers since last month. They should be updated by the end of this month, but cases are really underreported at this point. As the pandemic emergency declarations have ended, so has funding for all the extra real work that our local and state departments of health have done for all of us to keep us informed, healthy and safe during the pandemic.

Now that we are in the endemic phase with COVID-19, it is still here, and you can continue to take steps to keep yourself, your family and friends safe from this dreadful disease. Mask up, still, in crowded indoor settings especially if you are older, immunocompromised, or you care for someone who is. Try not to look askance at people who choose to wear or not wear a mask, and respect the room you're in. If it's required where you are, put it on, or get out! Jefferson County Public Health recommends that for everyone who can, to get the COVID-19 vaccine and get up to date with the bi-valent booster.

Dr. Allison Berry will be speaking to the Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners on Monday, July 3, so if listeners have questions about anything to do with COVID or public health, send an email to CONTACTUS@KPTZ.ORG by Friday, June 30 at noon.

KPTZ 91.9 FM brings you local news at noon and five Monday through Friday and at noon on Saturday. You can contact us through news@kptz.org. This is Jim Burke. Thanks for listening!