

At 91.9 FM KPTZ Port Townsend, I'm Diane Urbani de la Paz with local news and commentary for Friday, August 4.

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The nonprofit Bayside Housing and Services has purchased the historic Starrett House bed and breakfast in uptown Port Townsend. Bayside Housing's August newsletter notes that there are many details to be worked out and the organization will share more information in the coming weeks. For now, "we can tell you that our intent is to focus primarily on workforce housing for employed women, and on being dedicated stewards of this local treasure."

Bayside Housing also said it is developing a five-year maintenance plan to care for the Victorian mansion and has begun applying for grants to cover expenses over the long term. "We look forward to announcing opportunities in the near future for neighbors and friends of Bayside to visit the place, to hear more about plans as they develop. And most especially, we look forward to providing more resources for local working people." Bayside Housing is already a provider of transitional housing and case management for people in need in Jefferson County. Looking at Redfin (that home search tool), the 134-year-old Starrett House at Adams and Clay has 11 bedrooms and 10 bathrooms. The selling price? \$1.375 million.

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Meanwhile, the Housing Solutions Network gave a Local Rental Market Update in its latest newsletter: Average rents in PT are \$2,150 per month. With the West Harbor Apartments coming online in October, the network predicts that we may see rents drop. The three-story West Harbor complex has 36 units, on Ninth Street not far from the Rainier Street roundabout. They're two-bedroom, two -bath apartments and you can see the whole package at <https://westharborapartments.com/>.

As for home ownership, the Housing Solutions Network quoted some numbers from Redfin. The Jefferson County median home price is at \$640,000, while the Port Townsend median is at \$637,000. You can find out more about all of this and more at <https://housingsolutionsnetwork.org/>.

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A nontraditional art exhibition has arrived in downtown Port Townsend. "The Fiber of Our Being" is the title. Weavers Tininha Silva and Mo Walrath and quilter Andrea Alonge have filled the Northwind Art Grover Gallery with their creations. These include what Mo calls soul boats, which are willow burial vessels, as well as Silva's ocean-inspired tapestries and rainbow and U-shaped quilted wall hangings Alonge has made. Personally, I have never seen anything like them. You can take a look inside Grover Gallery on Taylor Street across from the Rose Theatre and see for yourself.

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Saturday evening, Art Walk is happening. That means Port Townsend's art galleries will stay open until 8pm, with refreshments flowing and plenty of opportunities for conversation about art. This particular Saturday Art Walk brings something different. It's called the Walking Gallery. The Raw Art Collective is putting this event together, to go from 5 until 7pm Saturday evening. Artists will walk down Water Street from Rotary Park, which is near the ferry dock, to Pope Marine Park. You might see all manner of visual art and performance art, such as juggling and music-making. The artists will gather at Rotary Park at 5pm, to prepare. Walking will begin at 5:30 and then get to Tyler Plaza to give the public a chance to interact. Then it's down Water Street to Pope Marine Park where the finale will happen: a surprise creative activity in which the public can participate

and mingle. Any questions about this inaugural walking gallery can be emailed to [therawartcollective@gmail.com](mailto:therawartcollective@gmail.com).

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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](mailto:news@kptz.org). This is Diane Urbani de la Paz. Thanks for listening.