

Hello again and happy Winter Solstice. This is Derek Firenze with your local news and commentary for Thursday, December 21, 2023 on KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington.

In recent weeks I've been reporting on local businesses departures and arrivals, with a special emphasis on the Water Street Shuffle. While that mostly sad dance mostly means a business has failed, I was surprised to find myself wrong on one account. The Perfect Season, which had closing signs in its windows a few weeks ago, has now replaced those with the triumphant news that instead of ending, the seasons will turn as they roll down the road. The shop will hop just a few doors down to 940 Water Street within the same building that houses the fiber and bead stores.

Another Water Street business also just went up for sale, but there's a happy twist on this one as well. Phoenix Rising, the multistory crystal and metaphysical book shop, has been owned and operated by Jill Spier for 36 years, and I for one thought she would leave this world while working there seven days a week as she is known to do. Instead, Spier has listed the business for sale in hopes not of retirement, but to use the money to start an orphanage slash meditation center in Sri Lanka. Spier adopted her own daughter from India and raised her in Port Townsend, always imagining that one day she might help bring the joy she found to more families. Regular Phoenix Rising shoppers also know that I actually help manage the metaphysical megastore, so I have a vested interest in the right owner taking over this local legend.

The last business in this round up comes from a local artist aiming to make a unique mark on Water Street. AJ Hawkins has launched a fundraising campaign to turn her death-positive brand KALMA into its next embodiment: a brick-and-mortar space on Port Townsend's main thoroughfare. The shop will function as a retail space where customers can find their exclusive product line, as well as handmade items from other small women- and minority-owned businesses, including apparel, accessories, home goods, and even an apothecary with cosmetics and body care products. Hawkins has already signed a lease for the space that used to house Derr Jeweler before he shuffled his storefront across the street and she has combined personal and business savings, as well as loans and grants, to stabilize the business during the first year transition. There's still a bit to go though, and Hawkins is hoping to crowdfund the remainder. If you agree that "It's Okay to Decay," you can go to <https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/kalma/kalma-a-brick-and-mortar-undertaking> to help support this burgeoning business.

Downtown businesses aren't the buildings transitioning of course. In Uptown, Bayside Housing & Services has just been awarded the 2024 Valerie Sivinski Fund Grant Award from the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation to repaint the exterior of the historic Starrett House. Bayside combines temporary housing with the supportive services that help get people off the street and out of their temporary shelters into permanent housing, and plans to use Starrett House for workforce housing.

The lavishly appointed Starrett House was built in 1889 in the Gothic and stick architectural style. It is one of the most photographed buildings in the state. As such, the choice of colors for repainting will be guided by the Port Townsend National Landmark Historic District Approved Color Palette.

Bayside's isn't the only success story happening around housing right now. The City of Port Townsend celebrated its first fully permitted Tiny House on Wheels with its new occupants, Bob and Elaine Grimm! Back in July, Tiny Houses on Wheels first became permitted as Accessory Dwelling Units, subject to the

requirements of Port Townsend Municipal Code to help create more affordable housing options. Per that code, a Tiny House on Wheels is defined as a structure no larger than 400 square feet, excluding loft space, that meets the following conditions: It is licensed and registered with the Department of Motor Vehicles; constructed and certified to building and inspections standards; is no larger than allowed for movement on public highways; has at least 150 square feet of first floor living space, and does not exceed 16 feet in height; and is a detached self-contained unit which includes areas for cooking, sleeping, and sanitation.

The City, Grimm family, and a number of local housing organizations celebrated the first of hopefully many more to come on Tuesday with a wreath hanging.

KPTZ 91.9 FM brings you local news at noon and 5pm Monday through Friday and at noon on Saturdays. You can contact us through news@kptz.org. This is Derek Firenze. Thanks for listening.