

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend. I'm Jim Burke, with local news and commentary for Tuesday, May 21, 2024.

A message from the State Fire Marshal's Office: Nothing feels more like summer than getting together for a barbecue, gathering around a fire pit, or roasting marshmallows over a campfire. However, it is important to review fire safety tips to ensure proper preparedness. The 2022 Fires in Washington report states there were 2,687 fire incidents from unintentional or careless sources which resulted in nearly \$52,982,000 in losses. When recreational burns are permitted within your county, it is critical to be safe and prepared when handling fire. Remember to check frequently for burn bans or local restrictions in your area. Here are some things you can do to make sure you are practicing fire safety:

- You can check for current bans (<https://www.dnr.wa.gov/burn-restrictions>).
- Clean your grill and keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet away.
- Keep fire pits 10 feet from your home or any flammable or combustible materials.
- Keep a campfire 25 feet from tents and anything that can burn.
- Never leave a fire unattended.
- Keep a water source nearby.
- Always properly extinguish your fire.
- Check the weather before igniting any fire source (check for wind...).

For more information, contact the State Fire Marshal's Office at 360-596-3904.

From the *Peninsula Daily News*: More than a dozen people objected at a public hearing for a proposed rezone of 4.5 acres for a Dollar General Plus store proposed in Port Angeles to be built between Old Joe Road, Doyle Road, and U.S. Highway 101. They cited pedestrian safety, increased traffic, the high number of car wrecks in the area, incompatibility with the residential neighborhood, and displeasure with a large national corporation that has been accused of predatory pricing to drive out small businesses.

City planning staff recommended to the hearing examiner last Thursday against the rezone because, although it would encourage economic development, it does not support the comprehensive plan's goals and policies, they said. The staff recommendation was based upon zoning, lack of infrastructure, and land analysis that shows other commercially zoned property within the city limits.

One woman who commented said, "I live across the street from the proposed site and I'm concerned about the safety of our children. We have people flying down the street now. We don't need more"

The proposal from 6S DG Port Angeles WA LLC of Delaware would rezone the area from residential low density to a commercial shopping district for a 10,640-square-foot Dollar General Plus store with 35 parking spaces on about two and a half acres. A Dollar General Plus store is larger than the typical Dollar General store and includes a refrigerated foods section. The project is contingent upon purchase of the property from James N. Turner of Port Angeles.

Developer Sam Moore said, "This is a great community and we're excited to have another project here. We did Grocery Outlet so we understand the community's concerns. We supplied traffic studies for our other projects. We will be putting in a septic system because the sewer is too small."

Won Choi, who lives in the neighborhood and spoke on behalf of numerous neighbors, said the proposed development would be adjacent to the entrance and exit to the truck route, which raises additional safety concerns and risks. The 1.5-mile stretch of U.S. Highway 101 from Pine Street to South Airport Road had 130 wrecks in five years, according to the Port Angeles Police Department, he said. Choi said, "Routing that traffic to Doyle Road is highly, highly inappropriate. The access road nature of these streets means people walk and play on narrow streets with no sidewalks. So adding another 600 more vehicles, including delivery trucks, will pose a great danger to those residents who do not have a sidewalk on very narrow streets."

The hearing examiner's recommendation to the city council will be made by May 30. The city council will consider the recommendation at a future meeting. And any appeal must be filed in Clallam County Superior Court within 21 days of the decision. Documents for the proposal are available at <https://www.cityofpa.us/145/Current-Projects-and-Plans>.

KPTZ 91.9 FM brings you local news Monday through Friday at noon and 5pm and at noon on Saturday. You can reach out to us at news@kptz.org. This is Jim Burke. Thanks for listening.