

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Charlie Bermant with news and commentary for Tuesday, November 19, 2024.

It is two weeks since Election Day, and it's time to move on to other topics.

The Uptown Theatre closed over the summer, after it was put up for sale by the Wiley family who had owned and operated the venue since it opened in 1950. The property is listed at \$875,000. Listing agent Carrie Topacio said she has heard from several interested parties who want to see the building preserved. The issues are time and money, as it will take someone who has the knowledge and financial resources for its rehabilitation. All offers are welcome as long as parties are serious about the purchase.

There are certain historical restrictions on the building, although its use as a theater is not required. But owner Sharon Wiley, who is in her 90s, hopes that any buyer will preserve it as a theater and not retrofit it for another use, Topacio said.

Architect Richard Berg, who inspected the building over the summer along with contractor Malcom Dorn, called it a really great building, with lots of intact historical woodwork and trim inside, and a longstanding prominent place in local history. Berg said and we quote, "There are several interesting potential ways that the building could be put to good use, and with appropriate investment, continue to provide another century, or more, of usefulness, beauty, and contribution to our community."

Retrofitting the theater to become ADA-compliant is potentially the most expensive aspect. Some investment will be needed in the electrical and heating/cooling systems to modernize those systems and increase comfort. Adding insulation in areas that are easily accessible would also help reduce energy usage.

According to Berg the building was obviously not designed or built to withstand major winds or earthquakes, although it has been through some fairly major events in its lifetime. While it has not blown over or collapsed yet, it could definitely use some engineering and retrofitting to bring it up to current codes. Berg thinks that a seismic upgrade, including some foundation work, would help everyone inside the building and those involved in ownership. And, depending on proposed future uses for the building, it may be required by code. "There are some water issues, but the building's structural bones are still in good condition," Berg said. For more information about the property go to <https://www.commercialmls.com/People/AgentListings/6567>.

After a several-month grace period where glass recycling was business as usual, Olympic Disposal will no longer collect glass curbside with your regular recycling. The change goes into effect on December 1. The service will continue to collect paper and cans as recycling. This was precipitated the loss of vendors who accepted the glass. For the past few months the glass was collected at recycling rates but dumped into the landfill by the county. This served to be financially unfeasible, so users will be required to put their glass into their regular garbage. This will increase its volume and potentially increase its, as the alternatives include utilizing larger cans or taking the glass to the transfer station where there is a \$20 trash disposal minimum.

Another alternative is to drive to Sequim. KSQM radio reported that Sequim uses a different glass recycling processor than most of the Olympic Peninsula and glass can continue to be dropped off for recycling at two drop box locations – at the corner of 2nd Avenue and Hemlock just outside the City Shop yard, and at Evergreen Collision at 703 East Washington Street. Olympic Disposal transports that mixed glass to the Olympia area where it is added to concrete used in landscaping and other products. Jefferson County Solid

Waste coordinator Chelsea Kilmer told KPTZ that the county is exploring other options for glass recycling, but there is nothing on the horizon.

KPTZ broadcasts local news at noon and 5pm Monday through Friday and at noon on Saturday. You can contact us through at news@kptz.org. I'm Charlie Berman. Thank you for listening.