

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Diane Walker with your local news and commentary for Tuesday, March 25, 2025.

Having received City Council approval at last Monday's council meeting, City staff are ready to move forward with the restoration of the Charles Pink House. Built in 1868 by prominent local carpenter Horace Tucker, who also built the Rothschild House, the Pink House stands next to the Port Townsend Library and is currently used for library staff, offices, storage, and programs, as a Friends of the Library Book Shop, and as a public meeting room. But like many historic properties in Port Townsend, the Pink House has many years of deferred maintenance: a failed gutter system has resulted in extreme rot of the exterior siding, and the front deck boards and support beams that face the Lawrence Street side of the house need to be replaced. Once the repairs have been addressed, the exterior will be repainted. With proper care and maintenance, the repairs to the siding and deck should last at least another 30 years. According to the Port Townsend *Leader*, most of the restoration funding – \$188,000 – will come from the city's Real Estate Excise Tax fund, while the remaining \$65,000 will come from the Friends of the Library Foundation. The city has also budgeted an additional \$50,000 for unforeseen repairs.

Future work will be needed to repair the gutters and assess the roof condition, with a roof replacement anticipated in 2026 or 2027. For this and any future project on the Pink House, City staff will follow HPC and contractor recommendations, which are guided by historic preservation standards established by the Department of Interior. Restoration efforts are set to begin in April or May, with completion expected in July or September, according to the agenda bill.

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission is opening up more camping opportunities for visitors by expanding its same-day reservation option to all parks with reservable campgrounds. As of yesterday, March 24, visitors will be able to secure campsites in advance instead of traveling to a park and gambling on the availability of a first-come, first-served site. Campers can book a same-day reservation until 2pm on their intended day of arrival. This change is specific to campground reservations and does not apply to roofed accommodations, vacation rentals, yurts, and day-use facilities (like picnic shelters). First-come, first-served camping is still available for unreserved sites after 2:30pm. This system-wide improvement will provide more opportunities for more campers to experience a night in a state park, and it will improve the experience for day-of planners. Additionally, this change will help the agency fill sites with last-minute cancellations.

The City of Port Townsend will conduct a Comprehensive Plan Open House and Workshop tomorrow at the Salish Coast Elementary School Commons. City staff, elected officials, consultants, and other members of the public will gather to share a collective 20-year vision and roadmap for Port Townsend, and address how we can all put the plan into action. Participants will have an opportunity to:

- Learn about the Parks Recreation and Open Space Plan
- Learn about the Active Transportation Plan (biking, walking, and connected, multi-modal movement through the City)
- Learn more about the proposed Comp Plan for 2025-2045
- and help the City prioritize what should be done first to implement the plan.

And finally, daytime travelers who use the Hood Canal Bridge are encouraged to plan additional travel time beginning Monday, April 7, as WASHDOT crews will be conducting a series of in-depth bridge inspections. The inspections will require multiple intermittent draw span closures to traffic, and will take place during daylight hours – from 9 to 4:30, Monday through Friday, April 7 to April 18 – in order to enable inspectors to see inside tight spaces and get detailed observations on bridge components and operations. The bridge will close to traffic between 15 minutes and one hour each time. The closures will occur at unscheduled times throughout the day. Every effort will be made to keep closures as short as possible. Crews will combine inspection-related draw span closures with marine draw span closures when possible.

KPTZ 91.9 FM broadcasts your local news Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at noon and 5pm. You can contact us at news@kptz.org. I'm Diane Walker. Thank you for listening.