

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM on your dial in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Charlie Bermant with news and commentary for Tuesday, April 22, 2025.

Big news for pet owners on the Olympic Peninsula: an animal emergency veterinary clinic will open in Sequim on June 6. This fills a void in local veterinary care, as anyone with a sick animal after hours needs to drive to Poulsbo for treatment, which can be time- and cost-prohibitive.

Dr. Amanda Mason, an experienced veterinary surgeon, will operate the clinic located at 289 West Bell Street. It is part of a partnership between herself and Dr. Linda Allen, who is loaning the use of the existing clinic in order to provide emergency services. So Mason doesn't need to purchase the equipment necessary to open a clinic. Even so, she is investing her own money for its initial operation.

It will start slow, open overnight from 6am to 8pm Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Mason is the only doctor, and she is joined by a single technician in the initial staffing of the clinic. As a sole operator, Mason said her services will be considerably less expensive than the Poulsbo clinic, where people can pay \$10,000 to remove a swallowed toy or a kidney stone. "A lot of people are priced out of pet emergency services," she said. "I want to change that." For more information go to <https://www.peninsulapetemergency.com/>.

Three seats are open on the Port Townsend City Council this year. Of these Neil Nelson, who was appointed last year to fill an unexpired term, will seek election. Ben Thomas, elected in 2021, told KPTZ yesterday that he had decided to not seek a second term, in favor of family and business responsibilities. He also hopes to pursue grassroots organizing, which he said is more his style. That leaves Libby Wennstrom, also elected in 2021.

During a wide-ranging and spirited discussion on yesterday's *Attention Please!*, Wennstrom said she has not yet decided to seek a second term. "It's been a pretty heavy lift for the past four years," she said. "I am trying to weigh my options relative to other commitments that I have." Wennstrom appeared here on KPTZ along with Deputy Mayor Amy Howard and former Mayor/Council member Michelle Sandoval, discussing why people should run for city council and what to expect.

To listen to the show go to <https://kptz.org/2025/04/21/running-for-city-council/>. Filing week opens Monday, May 5 through Friday, May 9. Prospective candidates can file online, by mail, or in person. For more information contact the Jefferson County Auditor or go to <https://co.jefferson.wa.us/1268/For-Candidate-Filing>.

The Jefferson County Public Utility District has opened bids to remove the poplar trees in front of the Boat Haven along Sims Way in Port Townsend. Bids from qualified tree crews are due on April 28, with removal work to be completed in May. The project involves only the south, or boatyard, side of Sims Way and does not include removing poplars on the Kah Tai Lagoon side of the road. Poplar tree removal is the first in a multistep, multi-year project to underground utility lines and expand the Port of Port Townsend boatyard. A collaboration between the City, Port, and PUD, the Sims Gateway, and Boatyard Expansion Project is estimated to cost \$2.3 million, with \$1.3 million from Jefferson County's Public Infrastructure Fund and the remaining \$1 million from the Port, PUD, and the City.

The first half of property taxes are due at the end of the month or, more specifically, Wednesday, April 30, a week from tomorrow. Mailed payments must be postmarked, put in a drop box, or paid online by that time to avoid penalty and interest charges. Taxpayers who would like a receipt should include their email address to have a receipt emailed to them, or they must include a self-addressed stamped envelope with their payment to receive a hard copy receipt mailed to them.

KPTZ 91.9 FM brings you local news Tuesday through Thursday at noon and 5pm. To contact us, write news@kptz.org. This is Charlie Bermant. Thank you for listening.