

This is KPTZ FM 91.9 in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Rachel Perkins, bringing you news and commentary from the Jefferson County *Beacon* for Wednesday, June 18, 2025.

On Saturday, June 14, Jefferson County residents lined Sims Way and gathered at the Kah Tai Lagoon, joining millions of people in over 2,000 cities across the country for the No Kings Rally, an event held in protest of President Trump's military parade, following days of demonstrations against ICE raids throughout the US. Cars honked as they drove with cheering people, flags, and costumes on both sides of the road. People were calling, drumming, and singing for the protection of rights for LGBTQ+ people, immigrants, healthcare, national parks, and constitutional rights such as the freedom of speech.

The Port Townsend Indivisible Group (PTIG) is an independently-funded collective. They first organized after the 2017 Women's March and have been meeting every month since. PTIG organized the rally in hopes that people would feel like they are part of a mass movement for effective change. Nancy Fredrick played pipes, and veterans Mike Cornforth, Norma Bishop, and County Prosecutor James Kennedy spoke at the rally to an estimated two thousand people. Bruce Cowan, one of the PTIG organizers, said, "The protest is about the overreach of the President, the disregard of the Constitution and Rule of Law, and cruelty. We hope to see Congress regain authority, and the Courts also limiting the overreach of the President and establish the separation of powers." PTIG meets every second Tuesday at the Fair Grounds at 5:30pm.

Reporting on this story by Angela Downs

Olympic Housing Trust (OHT) has scored a big win for local affordable housing, having been granted a \$385,000 appropriation in the new Washington State budget. This funding rounds out the money needed to build the Dundee Hill Community Homes project at Sheridan and Hastings streets in Port Townsend, according to Kathy Morgan, Executive Director of Olympic Housing Trust. The five homes are townhomes (two two-bedroom homes and three three-bedroom homes) that OHT is billing as sustainably designed and permanently affordable. The homes will be sold to income-qualified households who have lived in the area for at least one year, and are able to secure a home loan, among other qualifications. This, and all of OHT's projects, apply a community land trust model whereby OHT will develop and sell the subsidized homes to eligible households, but maintain ownership of the underlying land through a 99-year ground lease agreement.

OHT's website states that "The entire property will be stewarded by Olympic Housing Trust with homeowners owning the homes, and local community members managing a community garden on the property, with support from the new homeowners." OHT tapped a number of sources to fund this project. The majority of funding was provided by the Washington State Housing Finance Commission, in the form of a low-cost construction loan for \$1.2 million.

A grant of \$500,000 awarded from the Washington State Department of Commerce housing trust fund will help make the project affordable to the buyers, according to Morgan. Additionally, Jefferson County has pledged money from its American Rescue Plan Act funds. The City of Port Townsend is providing money as the sponsor of the Washington State CHIP grant, which is for infrastructure, and a local supporter donated the land. The \$385,000 budget appropriation was made possible through the efforts of State Representatives Steve Tharinger and Adam Bernbaum, and Senator Mike Chapman. Bernbaum co-sponsored the request, and Chapman stewarded it through the compromise process, after which the Governor signed the budget, which contained the request.

Building will begin on the infrastructure within the next two weeks, and Morgan hopes that ground will be broken for the homes in July or August. She says that OHT will reach out to the community to start the home buyer application process this July or August, and expects that the homes will be finished by August 2026.

Dundee Hill is the first affordable housing project for OHT, but others are in the pipeline, including Chimacum Commons, which will blend habitat, farming, and housing. OHT is partnering with the Olympic Land Trust on that project.

Reporting on this story by Scott France

KPTZ 91.9 FM brings you local news at noon and 5 Tuesday through Thursday, partnering on Wednesdays to bring you stories from jeffcobeacon.com. This is Rachel Perkins. Thanks for listening.