

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Diane Walker, with your local news and commentary for Tuesday, April 14, 2026.

A counteroffer letter from the City of Port Townsend regarding Affordable Housing Port Townsend's (AHPT) Comp Plan Appeal has been delivered to the AHPT legal counsel. In addition to describing the city's counteroffer, the letter, which is available for review on the city's website, states that, "The City cannot agree to AHPT's proposed settlement as it would predetermine legislative outcomes – such as density limitations, inclusionary zoning requirements, landlord tenant protections, and other development regulations outside of an open, legislative process. If the City were to commit to AHPT's proposed terms, it would violate GMA's (Growth Management Act's) mandate on 'early continuous and meaningful public participation' by committing to substantial GMA-related revisions without any public input."

The counteroffer expires May 15 unless rejected earlier. If it is accepted, the city will agree to a stay of the Growth Management Hearing Board proceedings to allow for a settlement agreement to be executed. Once executed, the City expects both parties to agree to a voluntary dismissal without prejudice. Nothing in the correspondence constitutes an admission of noncompliance with the Growth Management Act. To view the counteroffer, visit

https://cityofpt.us/sites/default/files/fileattachments/administration/page/23168/city_of_port_townsend_april_10_20206_settlement_response_and_counteroffer.pdf.

Every year in April, Jefferson County Public Health celebrates National Public Health Week by honoring Jefferson County's Public Health Heroes, who are nominated by the public. This year, the Jefferson County Board of Health is honored to present the Public Health Heroes Award to the following:

- The Chimacum School-based Health Clinic
- The Friends of Public Health
- Health champion Angela Gyurko
- Salish Snow Bus promoter Jaime James
- The all-volunteer Jefferson County Trash Task Force
- The community Tool Library's Mandi Johnson
- Benji Project Operations Director Aleah Lawrence-Pine
- Environmental health leader Pinky Feria Mingo
- Gateway to Freedom's Alicia Reynolds
- Brinnon Youth Club leader Mike Reynolds
- Ali and Whitney of Scribbles Art Exploration, and
- Ron McElroy, aka "Mayor of North Beach"

The awards will be presented at the monthly meeting of the Jefferson County Board of Health, to be held at 2:30pm this coming Thursday, April 16. Interested parties may attend either in person at the Commissioners' Chambers at the Jefferson County Courthouse or virtually via Zoom

(<https://test.co.jefferson.wa.us/WeblinkExternal/DocView.aspx?id=10441775&dbid=0&repo=Jefferson&cr=1>).

The City of Port Townsend, Jeffco PUD, and Jefferson County Parks are working together to replace trees along Memorial Field on Washington Street. The work will happen in conjunction with the County's efforts to replace and relocate the fence currently surrounding Memorial Field. Tree removal will begin in the next week

or two, and will remove trip hazards on the sidewalk, reduce root intrusion in sewer lines, and reduce conflicts with overhead power lines. The sidewalk will be repaired later this summer. Once the county has replaced the fence, the city will be replanting appropriate trees that will thrive under powerlines and along sidewalks in a larger planter strip, using the city's pre-approved right-of-way tree list. To see the approved tree list, visit <https://cityofpt.us/plannin.../page/urban-forestry-trees-row>.

Now that it's spring, toxic algae blooms are on the rise and have been found at three Jefferson County Lakes: Gibbs Lake, Anderson Lake, and Lake Leland. This is the first April that has had multiple Jefferson County lakes blooming at the same time. At issue in all three lakes is a particular strain of cyanobacteria that produces large amounts of the nerve toxin anatoxin-a. This has led to the deaths of several dogs who have licked their fur dry after swimming in an algae bloom. Warning signs have been posted at all three lakes.

And finally, Jefferson County Public Health reminds us that April is Medication Safe Storage and Disposal Month. You can help protect your home and community by safely disposing of unused prescriptions and over-the-counter medications at a local disposal site. Syringes can be left at the 24-hour syringe drop box at Jefferson County Public Health on Sheridan Street in Port Townsend, and medication drop boxes are available at the QFC pharmacies in Port Townsend and Port Hadlock and at the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office.

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.