

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Diane Walker, with your local news and commentary for Thursday, April 30, 2026.

Two bits of good news: First, you can now recycle corrugated cardboard at the Port Townsend Paper Mill. Place your broken-down boxes in the recycle bins located at the entrance to the mill's employee parking lot, but only corrugated cardboard. Do not add other recyclable items or garbage. And second, starting Sunday, Jefferson Transit will add Sunday service for Dial-A-Ride and all Saturday routes except the Olympic Connection from Forks to Grays Harbor.

Also – Did you know? The Jefferson County Public Utility District offers rebates for energy-efficiency upgrades, including up to \$920 for ductless heat pumps, and up to \$1600 or more to replace an aging water heater with a heat pump water heater. Heat pump water heaters use about 60% less electricity than standard electric tanks. Rebates are also available for air sealing, insulation upgrades, and efficient windows, all of which deliver benefits no matter what heating system you're running. To learn more about PUD's rebate program, visit: jeffpud.org/rebates, email efficiency@jeffpud.org, or call 360-385-5800.

According to the *Leader*, the 200-acre Discovery Bay Golf Course will go up for auction on May 11, with bids starting at \$1.5 million. One group of interested buyers hopes to purchase the land and create a Discovery Bay Wellness Community. Described as a multigenerational community that combines housing, ecological restoration, and health services, the project would transform the nearly 100-year-old golf course into a mixed residential and wellness development, reducing it from 18 to 9 holes to make room for 48 homes.

While acknowledging the need for affordable housing locally, the group is primarily focused on creating what they call attainable housing, trying to see if they can keep most of these homes in the \$400,000 to \$700,000 range. According to county and state resources, the property is currently owned by experienced golf course developers whose plans for the property were derailed between the 2008 financial crash and COVID, and are now ready to sell. Despite the auction, the course remains open and operational and is unlikely to shut down immediately upon purchase.

Jefferson County Farmers Markets has two proposals in the works for the Port Townsend Farmers Market. The first, which will be presented to Port Townsend City Council next Monday, is a project to improve conditions for vendors and shoppers at the market site in Uptown Port Townsend. The second involves adding a community street mural to Tyler Street where the market operates.

The two biggest operational challenges the first project hopes to address are finding ways to keep the booths stable during Port Townsend's windy days, and sourcing more electricity, as current limitations restrict how many vendors requiring electricity can participate. The proposal re the street mural will go before the Port Townsend Arts Commission next Tuesday, May 5, where organizers plan to seek a recommendation supporting a permit application to paint Tyler Street. The mural proposal is then scheduled for review by the Historic Preservation Committee on May 7, though that committee has not historically supported permanent street murals. A tentative City Council hearing for the mural is planned for May 18.

Durable roadway paint for the mural could cost between \$5,000 and \$7,000; organizers plan to seek community donations if the project is approved.

With state officials declaring a statewide drought emergency, East Jefferson Fire Rescue is encouraging residents and homeowners to sign up now for free wildfire risk assessments. What do they look for? The primary concern is reducing combustible materials – leafy debris or moss on roofs and in gutters, and debris or low-hanging branches within the first 5 feet of the home. Last year’s free assessment program proved surprisingly popular; they ended up doing nearly 200 assessments and ended the season with 60 homes on their waitlist. EJFR crews will begin on-site assessments in May; sign-ups for this year are now open on the district’s website at <https://www.ejfr.org/>.

And finally, a reminder from Jefferson County: Property taxes are due today, April 30. You can mail them in today, or drop your check off at the Jefferson County Courthouse this afternoon: they’ll be open until 4:00.

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 and have a great weekend.