

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Diane Walker with your local news and commentary for Tuesday, June 23, 2026.

Port Townsend School Board Director Nathanael O'Hara has announced his resignation from the Port Townsend School District's Board of Directors. O'Hara, who has served as a director-at-large for 12 years, will attend his last meeting on July 16. During his time on the board, O'Hara served on the Finance Committee, provided a key voice in the 2016 and 2026 school construction bond initiatives, championed the district's place-based learning programs, helped lead the district through the COVID-19 pandemic and recovery, and advocated for Port Townsend's student-athletes with the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association. Speaking with the *Peninsula Daily News*, Port Townsend School Superintendent Linda Rosenbury praised O'Hara for his "steady leadership, thoughtful questions, and deep commitment to public education." The school board is accepting nominations for an at-large director to fill O'Hara's vacant seat through the end of 2027. Candidates must reside within the Port Townsend School District. Nominations for the position can be made at <https://www.ptschools.org/page/school-board-director-nominations>.

Starting this week, a 15-day event called Together Around Food will begin at the Tri-Area Community Center in Chimacum. Delicious, gourmet plant-based breakfast, lunch and dinner will be served free of charge from 7:30am to 7pm through July 4 at the community center on 10 West Valley Road. According to the event website, the 15-day community gathering will feature inspiring talks, meaningful conversations, health and wellness opportunities, and new ways to connect with neighbors.

Designed as a replicable model for communities worldwide, the event is a first of its kind in the United States and is founded on the belief that nutritious food is a basic human right and a shared community responsibility. According to a press release, the program provides plant-based cuisine completely free of charge, with the explicit goal of ending hunger and widespread, chronic malnutrition, encouraging a global shift to plant-based diets, and rebuilding community life around shared meals.

"By documenting and refining the Jefferson County model, the program's organizers intend to offer a practical, community-led roadmap for ending hunger, improving public health, and restoring ecological balance worldwide," the release stated. The event will end July 4 with the presentation of "Declaration of Independence, Reloaded," a renewed declaration grounded in compassion, stewardship and freedom from preventable suffering for all people, species and ecosystems.

This week crews have begun preparing several Port Townsend streets for chip seal and paving work. Affected streets will include Cook Avenue from the county line to Albatross Street; San Juan Avenue from Lopez Avenue to approximately 150 feet past Admiralty Avenue; Sheridan Street from State Route 20 to Hastings Avenue; Monroe Street from Water Street to Jackson Street, and Jackson Street from Monroe Street to Walnut Street. To learn more specifics about the work being done, visit the Port Townsend City Facebook page or click on <https://cityofpt.us/publicworks/page/2026-street-work-and-maintenance>.

The Port Townsend Library will be under construction today and tomorrow in order to install new automatic sliding doors for the main entrance. The first-floor elevators will not be accessible during construction, and the

parking lot will be limited as the contractors will be using it for a staging area. There will only be access into the library through the Carnegie entrance off Lawrence Street up the stairs. If you prefer to have your holds or items delivered to you outside, please call 360-385-3181.

And finally, Jesse Joshua Watson, Nick Mann, and Kyler Martz, who have been chosen as the three finalists for the mural to be created at the Seamus Skate Park, will present their ideas – including how they plan to engage and incorporate ideas from Skate Park users and the community at large – this evening at 5:30pm at the Cotton Building, 607 Water Street. Funded by a grant from the Washington State Arts Commission, the murals are expected to cover approximately 1700 square feet of vertical concrete wall, but will not include skateable surfaces.

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.