



TOWN HALL NEWS

TOWN OF COUPEVILLE

VOL. XXIX, Issue 1

February 2026

SCAM ALERT!

**A Message from the
Coupeville Marshal's Office**

Scammers don't care who you are or what your situation is. They look for any vulnerability — age, education, compassion — and use it to their advantage. No one is immune.

Protect Yourself: Phone Scams

- Don't answer calls from unfamiliar numbers. Let them go to voicemail. Return the calls you deem safe.
- Hang up immediately if someone tells you to stay on the line while withdrawing money or buying gift cards. It's a SCAM!
- You do NOT have a warrant that can be cleared over the phone.
- If you must answer an unknown call, remember you can always hang up.
- Never give out personal information unless you initiated the call.
- Your grandchild IS NOT in jail or being held hostage in Mexico!
- The IRS will NEVER ask you to pay back taxes over the phone.

Protect Yourself: Text, Email & Online Scams

- Don't click links from unsolicited messages — ever.
- Check the sender carefully through an independent search/source.
- Ignore messages from strangers seeking friendship or romance. Block them.
- Be cautious when shopping from social media ads. Many are scams

If you feel you have been the victim of a scam, don't be embarrassed to report it.

Call the non-emergency ICOM number: 360-679-9567

Spring Clean Up Day!

April 11 from 9 a.m. to noon



The Town of Coupeville, along with our partners, WSU Waste Wise, the Coupeville Lions and Island Disposal are excited to again offer Spring Clean Up Day to our residents. This is an opportunity for you to clean up your yard, spiff up your landscape and remove junk from the outside of your home. Let's get our Town looking tiptop for spring as well as making Coupeville more fire resistant!

What you CAN bring to Spring Clean Up Day:

- **Yard waste:** leaves, grass and branches under 2" in diameter. Take yard waste to town Shop at 205 North Main.
- **Wood:** wood fencing, homeowner construction debris, decking, furniture
- **Metal:** swing sets, fencing, scrap metal, bikes, barbecues. Take wood and metal to the Town parking lot behind the library on Alexander Street

What you CAN'T bring to Spring Clean Up Day

- No bags of household trash, put that in your weekly trash collection.
- No construction waste from contractors, this day is for our residents.
- No yard waste from landscapers, again, this day is for our residents.
- No tires or appliances, they are too heavy for our volunteers to handle.
- No recyclables like newspapers, plastic or cardboard, put that in your weekly recycling.
- No paint, chemicals, gasoline, or motor oil, take that to the dump for free disposal!

This service is paid for with taxpayer dollars; it is limited to Town residents. You must live within town limits. Bring a copy of your water bill and ID showing your address.

XPRESS BILL PAY VS BANK BILL PAY

Xpress Bill Pay is a third-party bill paying service the Town partners with so our utility customers can make automatic payments, and they are never late. It also gives you access to your bill 24-7. You can sign up for this service on the town website townofcoupeville.org. Scroll down to the big red button, xpress bill pay, on our Home page.

Bank Bill Pay is something you sign up for with your personal bank. Your bank actually cuts a check from your account and mails it to the Town. This can take several days to weeks. If you tell your bank to send the check on the last day of the month, it won't get to us until it is past due and you will be charged a late fee. If you

use Bank Bill Pay, make sure they will mail your check in time to avoid late fees.

If you will not be able to pay your utility bill on time, please call the Utility Clerk **BEFORE** it is past due to work out a payment plan. 360-678-4461 ext. 106.

We don't like to send out late bills, charge late fees, make phone calls, hang door hangers one day, turn off the water the next day and turn the water back on the following day when the bill is paid. This process uses up a lot of staff time and is stressful to our customers, especially when customers are notified, most of them just come in and pay. Thank you to most of our customers who pay on time, every time. We appreciate you!

EBEY'S RESERVE TRUST BOARD AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

The nine-member Trust Board helps to manage the reserve. They oversee the grant program, easement monitoring, education and outreach and provide historic preservation expertise, and manage funding for the reserve. The Trust Board meets two afternoons per month.

The Historic Preservation Committee meets one to two times per month during the day. The commission reviews applications for Certificates of Appropriateness (COA) for work being done on or near a historic building within Ebey's Reserve. This review is done with staff support from the county, town and reserve. The applications are evaluated to their compliance with the Ebey's Reserve Design Guidelines and the town and county codes.

The Trust Board and the HPC have openings for town and county positions. You can find a town application for these boards at townofcoupeville.org/join-our-team. You can contact the Island County Planning Department to find out about applying for county positions or fill out a town application and we will be sure to get it to the appropriate county employee.

Both boards are responsible for very important work – work our community values and places a high priority on. This is an interesting and important way to serve your community. Thank you!

2026 EBEY'S FOREVER GRANTS!

Applications are open now, until March 13th. The Ebey's Forever Grant Program was started in 2011 and is fully funded by donations to the Friends of Ebey's and administered by the Trust Board of Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve. The purpose of this grant program is to help the owners of historic buildings within the Reserve, repair and restore their structures so they can continue to be used for many more generations.

To date, Ebey's Forever Grants have funded over 110 projects, awarding over 2 million dollars which has been matched by building owners. Restoration projects have provided working wage jobs in our communities, and the restored buildings contribute to the economy of our community.

To find out what types of projects are eligible and how to apply go to www.friendsofebeys.org/ebeys-forever-grants.html. You can also look at all the projects going back to 2011. It is an impressive and interesting list even if you are not a historic building owner, it is an impressive, interesting list and a testament to how our community values historic preservation.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Town Community Garden has 60 plots to rent. Last year, for the first time, all 60 spaces were rented. If you would like to apply for a spot, now's the time!

The garden is open to experienced and beginner gardeners. The Island County Master Gardeners have plots and are in the garden most Saturday mornings. They are happy to help and answer questions and they also grow veggies for the food bank!

The garden is a beautiful space with interesting gardening techniques, art, resting areas and very friendly people. The garden is a great place to make new friends and learn new things.

- Each spot is 10' x 12' and the cost is \$30 for the year.
- The garden has an eight-foot deer fence, water, and a garden shed to store tools.
- The garden is organic. There is a compost pile.
- The garden is located at Hwy 20 and Broadway, behind Living Hope Church
- Spots will be assigned on a first come, first served basis.
- Returning gardeners may request their prior year plot.
- Requests for multiple plots will be honored if there is space.
- Plots may be rented by residents outside of town limits if space is available.
- Applications are online in English and Spanish on the town website



Coupeville Lions Club

20th Annual

Scholarship Auction and Dinner

*Saturday
March 14,
2026*

5:00 to 8:30 pm
Oak Harbor Elks Lodge



Tickets \$60

*Appetizers
Wine and Beer
Dinner
Dessert Auction
Live Auction*



**Tickets or
Donations at
coupevillelions.com**

100% of proceeds for scholarships for seniors in Coupeville School District

SAVE THE DATE! Coupeville Garden Club Annual Plant Sale is May 2

Held at the CHS Gym • "excellent plants at sensible prices"

CENTRAL WHIDBEY HEARTS AND HAMMERS

2026 Workday is Saturday, May 26

Deadline to apply for assistance is Feb. 15.

CW Hearts and Hammers is a nonprofit organization made up of all volunteers who assist their neighbors in the Coupeville School District and are unable physically or financially to make needed repairs to keep their home safe for daily living. You must be the homeowner to apply.

Volunteers and donations for supplies are always welcome.
cwheartsandhammers.org



TRASH TALK

Come on people, pay for your own trash disposal! More and more often we are seeing residents pull up to business and restaurant dumpsters and town trash cans and dump their personal household garbage. Maybe you think your one or two bags won't hurt anything, but small businesses have to manage their overheads carefully and can't afford to pay for your garbage disposal. The town provides garbage cans to keep our parks and streets clean, not to take care of personal

trash or landscape and small business trash. And while we are talking trash, when you rent the Rec Hall, you must haul out your trash. This does not mean hauling it out to the parking lot and filling up the Chamber's garbage cans. Take it home with you. We are able to keep the Rec Hall rental fees low because we expect cooperation from the renters to leave it in the shape they find it. Let's all pay our fair share to keep our town clean! Don't be a trash troll!

Coupeville

Chocolate Walk

Feb. 7, 2026

get your tickets today
coupevillechamber.com

sponsored by

TOWN WATER RE-USE STUDY

The Town of Coupeville has been conducting a water re-use feasibility study. The study will give us information on options to further treat our wastewater for other beneficial uses. We have been working with Jacobs Engineering on the study. Jacobs will present their preliminary findings at the February 24th Town Council meeting. The public is welcome to hear the preliminary findings.



AFTER LUNCH PROGRAMS • February- March
 Wednesdays 12:30 - 1:30 • Coupeville UMC Fellowship Hall

February 4- Sweet Bingo
 Everyone wins during sweet bingo. No buy-in, this game is free to play and offers sweet treats as prizes.

February 11-Amelia Wood Part 3 Fats
 Amielia Wood will present the third installment of her Blood Pressure & Diabetes series about Fats.

February 18-Terry Magnuson on Guitar
 Enjoy the sweet sounds of the guitar played by Terry Magnuson while you enjoy your lunch.

February 25- Mosaic Art Project
 Come and learn about the fine art of Mosaic by making a leaf mosaic in class.

March 4 - Sweet Bingo
 Everyone wins during sweet bingo. No buy-in, this game is free to play and offers sweet treats as prizes.

March 11 -Let's Talk Dementia
 Ginger and her team will come and discuss care for individuals with dementia and the resources available.

March 18-Terry Magnuson on Guitar
 Enjoy the sweet sounds of the guitar played by Terry Magnuson while you enjoy your lunch.

March 25- Seed Planting
 Come learn about starting plants from seed for your spring garden.

LUNCH
 11:45 AM - 12:30 PM

\$10 Suggested Donation

February 4
 Beef & Broccoli

February 11
 Pepperoni Pizza

February 18
 Chicken

Swimming Rama

February 25
 Chicken

Penne Alfredo

March 4
 Shepherds Pie

Ground Beef & Lamb

March 11
 Herbed Pork Chop

Rice Pilaf

March 18
 Thai Chicken

Curry w/Rice

March 25
 Roasted Chicken Thigh

SPONSORS

QUESTIONS: Juliea Gatsch • Coupeville UMC Office Admin
 staff@coupevilleumc.com • 360.678.4256
 Island Senior Resources
 reception@islandseiorservices.org • 360.321.1600

CALL FOR A RIDE: Para Transit
 360.678.7771
 Coupeville United Methodist Church
 608 N Main St • Coupeville, WA

Meals and Programs are subject to change without prior notice.

Coupeville

PENN COVE MUSSELFEST

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF
BOLD, BRINY & BLUE

MARCH 7-8, 2026

In Historic Coupeville, WA!

COME TASTE OUR WORLD FAMOUS MUSSELS!

SPONSORS

PENNCOVEMUSSELFEST.COM

Did You Know?

Coupeville is named for sea captain Thomas Coupe, who arrived on Puget Sound on the bark Success. Scouting the area, Coupe settled at Penn Cove in 1852. His wife, Maria, and their family joined him there in 1853 and Captain Coupe worked as a coastal trader, sailing both the Success and the Jeff Davis, the first revenue cutter on Puget Sound (part of the armed maritime law enforcement service). He also built and operated a number of small schooners as well as a steamer that he also named Success.

The Coupes did not initially file for their property and settler C. H. Ivans claimed the same piece of land. On April 3, 1854 Coupe filed his claim and eventually paid Ivans to clear the title. It was not until September 1865 that Coupe was granted the property, the west half assigned to him and the east 160 acres to Maria. The Coupe and Alexander properties on Penn Cove eventually comprised the town of Coupeville.