

TOWN HALL NEWS

TOWN OF COUPEVILLE

VOL. XXIX, Issue 2

April 2026



Spring Reminders

- **DOGS:** As the weather gets nicer and you and your dog are out and about town, please remember your pet must be on a leash in all areas of town, yest this includes the Town Green and town parks. Also remember to pick up after your pet, everyone walking behind you appreciates it!
- **DEER:** It's fawn season. Do not get between a mom and her baby. A doe will leave her fawn for hours at a time to feed. Leave the fawn alone. The mom will come back. Fawns are not afraid of cars, beware of them jumping in front of you. Keep your dogs away, you don't want mama deer to come after you or your pet. And last but not least, **Do Not Feed Deer.** The fawns will be okay, their mom needs to teach them to fend for themselves. When you feed them like pets, you actually make it harder for them to survive on their own.
- **GRASS:** It's also grass season! Please remember to mow your right-of-way and vacant lots to prevent fire hazards. Keep your storm-water ditches clear of any debris and clean out driveway culverts to keep them running smoothly during spring rainstorms.

CENTRAL WHIDBEY HEARTS AND HAMMERS CORRECTION

The last newsletter gave an incorrect workday. The 2026 Workday is Saturday, May 2.

It's not too late to volunteer to work or to make a donation for project supplies. Safety repairs, that help residents stay in their homes, are made with donated supplies and done with all volunteer labor. cwheartsandhammers.org



The Town of Coupeville is grateful for the many volunteers, service groups and nonprofits who give their time and talents to make our town the special place it is. Please take a minute to thank a group or individual for the work they have done for you or our Town.

Volunteer Spotlight - Gifts from the Heart Food Bank

Gifts from the Heart Food Bank just celebrated 24 years of "respectfully providing food to those in need." The food bank is a 100 percent volunteer run nonprofit. The volunteers stock the shelves, help our clients, pick up and put away food drives, run Meals 2 Kids in the schools, drive off island to pick up donations from state agencies, fund raise, promote, clean, shop...you name it, they do it!

The volunteers worked together for a couple years to fund raise for the new food bank building, get everything cleaned up and moved over and set back up as a 'store model' food bank. The food bank looks more like a grocery store now, allowing clients to pick out the food their family will use, cutting down on waste and providing our clients with more choices.

As always, the food bank clients are greeted with a happy, helpful volunteer to make their experience safe, friendly and respectful. The Meals 2 Kids program delivers bags of food to about 50 kids in the district who experience food insecurity on the weekends. These volunteers shop, bag and deliver to all three schools and Open Academy every single week of the school year. These deliveries are made discreetly so students are not singled out.



A tiny sample of the food bank volunteer team! Aloha Hart, Irene Gustafson, Angela Brock, Leo Cherne, Blake Kaiser, and Laurel Seymour help with distribution day.

Most of the food bank work is done behind the scenes. The volunteers do it because they believe in the mission and want to help their neighbors with one of life's basic needs; food. Thank you to the 45 food bank volunteers who make this program run, month after month, year after year!

COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION ABOUT NEW COUNTY JAIL LOCATION

Island County has added an additional meeting April 6, in Coupeville. The meeting will be held in the Board of County Commissioners Hearing Room (1 NE 6th Street, Coupeville) from 6 - 7:30 p.m.

Individuals who are unable to attend may submit questions to Assistant Risk Manager and Safety Coordinator Jeff Douglas at jdouglas@islandcountywa.gov. For more information about the project visit islandcountywa.gov/crcproject.



Welcome New Town Employees!

The Town is so pleased to welcome Seth Campbell and Greg Peterson to our Public Works crew and Robyn Sutton as our new Utility Clerk. Seth is an island boy, graduated from Coupeville High School and has a lot of experience with the farming community. Greg has lived here for nine years and has a lot of specialized public works

experience. Robyn has only lived here a few months, moving from Virginia to be with family, and she says the island already feels like home. She brings excellent customer service skills. All three are excited to work for the community and are uniquely qualified for their new jobs with the Town. We are happy to have them on the team!

FIREFIGHTER SAFETY

Central Whidbey Fire and Rescue has asked the Town to help them identify the location of underground water cisterns.

Before town water was available, it was not unusual for homeowners to install cisterns under their homes, in their yards or near barns and outbuildings to catch rainwater or store well water. If fire breaks out on a property or in a building with one of these old underground cisterns, they



can collapse and become a real safety hazard to the firefighters on scene. If your property has a cistern, please contact the

Town's Public Works Clerk, Hannah Anderson, with your address and the location of the cistern. She will gather this information and share it with the fire department. Thank you for helping to keep our first responders safe! publicworksclerk@townofcoupeville.org

Sping Home Improvement Reminder

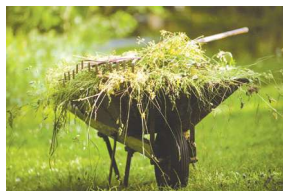
With spring arriving, many residents are beginning home improvement projects. Before starting work, please remember certain projects require permits from the Town.

Permits are required for all new fences (regardless of height), roof replacements, new or replacement heating and cooling equipment, sheds and greenhouses of any size, and new decks or porches.

If you are unsure whether your project requires a permit, please contact the Community Planning and Building Department at Town Hall before beginning work. Town staff are happy to help ensure your project meets local requirements and proceeds smoothly. buildofficial@townofcoupeville.org

Spring Clean Up Day!

The Town will host its annual Spring Clean Up day Saturday, April 11 from 9 a.m. to noon. It will be held in the Public Parking lot behind the Library on NW Alexandar St. This is a chance to clean up your yard and get rid of old barbecues, lawn furniture, swing sets, broken fences, and general debris. It is NOT for household garbage, construction materials or landscaper debris. Spring Clean Up is open to residents living within the town limits. Bring your utility bill and photo ID. Town taxpayer money pays for this event so we have to limit it to town taxpayers! For questions about what can and cannot be dumped, call Town Hall.



NEW PARK & REC COMMITTEE

The Town is excited to announce the formation of a permanent Park & Rec Committee! We are looking for five to nine residents, representing different demographics and recreational interests, to meet on a regular basis and work with town staff to make improvements to our parks and open spaces.

Last year, an ad-hoc committee met and evaluated every town property and made suggestions for improvements or different uses. The Town held a community meeting to get input about this work and we also sent out a Park & Rec survey, which was very well received. There is a lot of good information to get started. Depending on the work to be done, this new committee might meet monthly, every other month or quarterly. The committee might help with research of playground equipment, assist with writing grants, help organize volunteer work parties, gather more community input or get price estimates for projects when required. The interests and qualifications of this new committee will help determine how often they meet and what work they can help the town with.

This committee could be a lot of fun and help bring new recreation and better parks to your community. The only qualification at this point is you must live within the town limits. Depending on the response, we could get started in May or June. If you are interested or want to find out more, contact Assistant Planner, Lisa Walsh at assistantplanner@townofcoupeville.org, and she will send you an application. Committee members will be appointed by the Town Council, and are volunteer positions.

Door To Door Solicitation Requires A Permit

If someone comes to your home selling goods or services, they should have a Peddler's License from the Town. You can ask to see the license. If they don't have one, it means they have not been cleared by the town or the Marshal's office. Please call the non-emergency ICOM number, 360-679-9567, to report the illegal solicitation. This rule is for the protection of our residents. If you want to apply for a Peddler's License, here is the code.

5.24.020 - Peddler's license—Requirements.

Every person, before offering for sale or before taking orders for goods, wares or merchandise or services in the Town shall register with the town clerk-treasurer and shall present identification deemed sufficient by the town marshal and the payment of a fee set by resolution of the town council for each day that said person wishes to solicit or sell in the Town. After complying with these requirements, said person will be granted a peddler's license.

MAY IS NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION MONTH

There are few communities in our state, maybe even the nation, that value historic preservation as much as Coupeville and Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve. First there was the Central Whidbey Historic District, mapped and inventoried by Jimmie Jean Cook. (Find out more about Jimmie Jean at the Island County Museum, amazing lady!) The boundaries of the Historic District became the first Historical Reserve in our country, created and protected by congress. The town and the county have worked for decades to preserve our historic homes, commercial buildings, barns and outbuildings. This is done with design review, codes, grants and tax credit programs. We encourage adaptive re-use of historic buildings because it is better for them to be used instead of sit empty. New construction is sensitive to old. Education is provided about saving and repairing old materials. We also protect the historic landscape in the reserve meaning protecting the prairies and farmland from large development, view sheds of the water and from the water looking back into the town and reserve.

A lot of this protection and preservation work is done with the help of volunteer community members on Ebey's Landing Trust Board and the Historic Preservation Committee (HPC). Their work is vital to maintaining preservation standards, protecting historic buildings and landscapes, and providing education about financial and practical resources.

Want to get involved and serve your community on one of these Boards? Currently the town has two openings on the Trust Board and the county has two openings on the HPC. For more information, visit the Town's website at townofcoupeville.org/government/boards-commissions.

If you are interested in volunteering contact Mayor Molly for the Trust Board positions or Commissioner Melanie Bacon for the HPC positions. mayor@townofcoupeville.org | Melanie.bacon@islandcountywa.gov.

Coupeville Garden Club 57th Annual Plant Sale: Saturday, May 2nd

9AM to 3PM
at the Coupeville High School Gym



The Coupeville Garden Club is currently growing and nurturing plants for your spring and summer gardens. Join us May 2nd for excellent plants at sensible prices. All proceeds go to fund our projects to enhance the natural beauty of Coupeville.



BUY LOCAL. EAT LOCAL. BE LOCAL.

OPENING DAY APRIL 18, 2026

PLANT START SWAP - APRIL 18
Open the season with us as we remember and honor 20 year vendor Caroline Gardner of Fennel Forest Farm who passed away at the end of the 2025 season. Bring extra garden starts to swap with your neighbors, and share your memories with us!

CHILDREN'S FAIR - MAY 16

COUPEVILLE PRIDE - JUNE 13

COMMUNITY DAY - JULY 18

NO MARKET / ARTS & CRAFTS - AUGUST 8

CAR SHOW - AUGUST 22

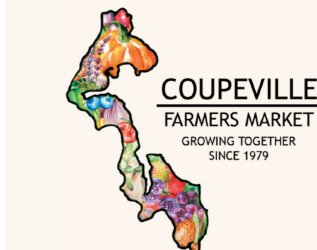
HARVEST FAIR / CLOSING DAY - OCTOBER 10

HELP US BRING OUR MARKET TO LIFE!
We are still actively seeking sponsors, vendors, and board members for 2026. How can you contribute to your community market this season?

**EVERY SATURDAY,
RAIN OR SHINE!
10 A.M. — 2 P.M.**



Find us on the Community Green by the library!



Coupeville SENIOR HUB Lunch & Learn

AFTER LUNCH PROGRAMS • APRIL-MAY

Wednesdays 12:30 – 1:30 – Coupeville UMC Fellowship Hall

April 1- Sweet Bingo

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

April 8-Let's Play Trivia

Let's play a game of Trivia. Come learn about our fascinating island history through a trivia game.

April 15-Terry Magnuson on Guitar

Enjoy the sweet sounds of the guitar played by Terry Magnuson while you enjoy your lunch.

April 22- Island Senior Resources

Island Senior Resource will present resources available to the community.

April 29- Acrylic Painting

April showers bring May flowers. Let's paint with acrylics and create an abstract floral field.

May 6 - Sweet Bingo

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

May 13 -Estate Planning

It's never too late or too early to plan for the future. Safe Harbor Legal Solutions will be discussing estate planning.

May 20-Puget Sound Energy

Puget Sound Energy will be here to discuss wildfire prevention and public safety power shutoffs.

May 27- Macrame

Come learn to tie knots with style. Learn how to tie special knots to make a keychain.

LUNCH

11:45 AM – 12:30 PM

\$10 Suggested
Donation

April 1

Beef Enchilada Bake

April 8

Roasted Pork Lion

April 15

Italian Sausage Calzone

April 22

Beef Stew w/Vegetables

April 29

Chicken Tikka Masala

May

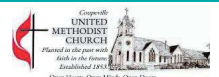
Due to the remodel of our central kitchen in Langley, from

May 7th- June 15th

The weekly menu can be found at

<https://senior-resources.org/nutrition-overview/>

SPONSORS



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

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

EARTH DAY IN COUPEVILLE

There are two things happening this year for Earth Day in April!

The Town will plant a large Noble Fir in Cooks Corner Park to be used as a Christmas tree for the Greening of Coupeville festivities and to be enjoyed year-round. It will be planted on Earth Day, April 22. Watch Town Facebook for more details.

If you would like to help the Town remove ivy from town parks and noxious weeds from other locations, please contact Hannah Anderson and we will get you signed up. You will be assigned a job and you can work independently or we can organize work groups for larger projects. The public works team appreciates the help. publicworksclerk@town-ofcoupeville.org

SCAM ALERT FROM MARSHAL MILLER

You have **NOT** missed jury duty! Don't let anyone threaten you into believing you have. No court, marshal's service, or law enforcement agency will call, text, or email you to demand money or personal information because you missed jury duty! Ever!

- Scammers can be easily identified by their own tactics! They use fear and urgency to fool you into believing you will be arrested if you don't comply with their demands.
- Scammers will often be cordial and polite at first, becoming more aggressive when they think they've hooked you or you resist their demands.
- Scammers will tell you that you will be arrested if you go to your local law enforcement agency to inquire about the warrant.
- Scammers will tell you that you must pay hundreds or thousands of dollars immediately or the marshal's service or local law enforcement will be sent to arrest you.
- Scammers will insist you remain on the phone with them while you pay them, and use payment services like Venmo, Zelle, Cash App, or others to steal your money.
- Scammers will insist you stay on the phone with

them while you go to a local store to buy gift cards for payment, or deposit cash into a Bitcoin ATM.

- Scammers may ask you for personal information, your SSN, bank account number and pin, date of birth, home address, and then use that information to steal even more from you.
- Scammers will "spoof" legitimate phone numbers and invite you to check their number independently to verify they are calling from the sheriff's office or police department but will not want you to hang up and call them back. Never call back a number the scammer gives you for verification.

Any of these tactics are huge RED FLAGS indicating you are being scammed. Don't fall for them. These tactics are used for all types of scams, not just jury duty scams. Hang up the phone, do not respond to their texts, and by all means **DO NOT SEND THEM YOUR HARD-EARNED MONEY.**

What should you do if you receive one of these calls or texts? Call 911 or your non-emergency number to make a police report. In some cases, scammers will badger you for hours or days. Do not give in to the pressure. They are after your money, and if they can't get yours, they'll move on to another target or victim who might give them what they want.

Penn Cove Water Festival

Coupeville
Whidbey Island, WA
May 9, 2026
11AM-5PM

A Celebration of Pacific Northwest Native Culture:
Canoe Races, Art, Music, Dance, & Storytelling

penncovewaterfestival.org Volunteers Welcome

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE AND COMMEMORATIVE PICNIC

★ HONORING OUR FALLEN SERVICE MEMBERS ★

FOOD
★
MUSIC
★
PROGRAM

5.23.2026
11:00 A.M. - 12:30 P.M. Downtown Coupeville