

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Charlie Bermant, with a series of small yet significant local notifications for Thursday, August 20, 2020.

Some of these items are keyed to events seeking public participation, so you should be ready to write stuff down.

Three new cases of Jefferson County's COVID-19 were reported yesterday, bringing the total to 62. Two of the cases are people in their thirties, while the the third case is in their fifties.

All but ten of the local cases have recovered from the virus. 67 people are awaiting test results.

Olympic Community Action Programs, known locally as OLYCAP, has received over \$300,000.00 from the Department of Commerce to help households and young adults impacted by COVID-19, with rent. The Eviction Rent Assistance Program (ERAP) Grant is intended to prevent evictions by paying past due, current due and future rent, targeting limited resources to those with the greatest needs while working to distribute funds equitably. The agency is also working with the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe to ensure equitable distribution of funds in marginalized communities.

Households must meet two initial screening criteria: a current income that is below half of the median income and at least one month of unpaid rent since March 1.

The agency may be able to pay up to three months of rent payments in any combination of rental arrears, current rent, or future rent through December 2020. Payments to landlords or friend/family can only be up to 80% of total rent due (arrears, current, future) OR the Fair Market Rent rate.

For more information go to www.olycap.org and click on the button that says, "Apply for Rental/Mortgage Assistance" (<https://olycap.formstack.com/forms/housingrequest>) or call OlyCAP at 360-385-2571.

Hundreds of people are expected to participate in the North Olympic Peninsula Walk to End Alzheimer's this Saturday. The event, which was scheduled to be held in Port Townsend this year, will not feature a large in-person gathering. Instead, participants will watch a local opening ceremony online at 10am and then walk individually or with family and friends in the location of their choice. This year, the Walk to End Alzheimer's is everywhere – on every sidewalk, track, and trail across the Olympic Peninsula.

Last year, the event raised \$18,000. For information and registration go to <https://act.alz.org/walk> or call 800-272-3900.

The Friends of Fort Worden is launching a "Nix the Nox!" fundraising campaign to raise \$25,000 for restoring natural habitat and increasing safety for park visitors. These funds will be used to control noxious invasive plant species, specifically poison hemlock which is highly toxic to the touch and can be fatal if ingested. According to a press release, the invasive plant has flourished in recent years, and its presence in the most-visited parts of the park is a significant health hazard.

For more information visit <https://www.fwfriends.org/>.

We all know that the post office slowdown threatens the timely delivery of ballots and medication, but KIRO TV reports that another commodity – coffee – is also endangered. The station reports that Port Townsend's Sunrise Coffee has seen a slowdown with its mail order delivery. Business owner Bill Curtsinger said the once timely USPS deliveries to and from Port Townsend are not arriving when expected and it's starting to affect business. He told the station he's never had a problem with the post office until recently, saying that delivery dates are unreliable and he can no longer offer overnight service to his most important customers. And while ballots are important in the long term, people need their coffee now.

And the *Washington Post* today ran a profile of Inez Milholland, a famous suffragette and lawyer who was an essential part of early twentieth century feminist activities. Sharp-eyed Port Townsend readers – I mean, me – quickly noticed the similarity to the name of Port Townsend Farmers Market Director Amanda Milholland, who named her five-year-old daughter Inez in honor of the historical figure. The Port Townsend Milhollands do not have a blood connection to the other Inez; otherwise we could call up the *Washington Post* and tell them they missed part of the story.

KPTZ 91.9 FM brings you local news at noon Monday through Saturday and at 5pm Monday through Thursday. You can contact us through news@kptz.org.

This is Charlie Bermant. Thank you for listening.