

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Lily Haight with local news for March 31, 2021.

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Jefferson County Public Health reported one new case of COVID-19 yesterday. That brings our total up to 345. There are currently two cases in active isolation, and 65 test results pending. For the most up to date information, visit the public health department's website (<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/COVID19/DataDashboard>).

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Starting April 1, the city's Public Works Department will host an online open house where attendees can view and comment on concept design images for the Discovery Road sidewalk project. Discovery Road is one of two routes for drivers to come into or out of Port Townsend. In anticipation of future traffic volumes increasing, the city Public Works Department has secured state and federal grant funds to create bicycle and pedestrian space on Discovery Road between the Rainier Street roundabout and Salish Coast Elementary School.

The challenge the city now faces is developing a design within the project budget. From April 1 through 15 you can go to the city's website and participate in an online open house, where you will be privy to concept design images and then fill out a survey to help city project managers determine what plans are most popular with residents.

The project budget is about \$2.5 million. Most of that money comes from a \$1.4 million state Pedestrian & Bicycle Safety Program grant, as well as a \$393,000 federal Regional Surface Transportation Program grant. The city is also applying for an Urban Arterial Program grant through the Transportation Improvement Board, which would bring the total project funding to \$5 million. That would allow for the city to repave that section of Discovery Road in addition to installing bike and pedestrian lanes.

To learn more about the project, go to the Engage PT page on the city's website (<https://cityofpt.us/engagept>). To participate in the online open house, visit the city's "Latest News" page (<https://cityofpt.us/news>).

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Last week, the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners approved allocating another \$20,000 from the Affordable Housing fund money to Habitat for Humanity of East Jefferson County to help fund their home repair program in Quilcene and Brinnon. According to Habitat for Humanity's website (<https://www.habitatejc.org/>), the organization has made more than 20 home repairs in the Brinnon and Quilcene area since starting the program in 2011. The county funds will be used to help homeowners in that area who have trouble making necessary repairs to their homes because of age, income or disability.

Habitat offers a free home repair assessment, no interest loans, small monthly payments and more to homeowners who apply for home repair help. To qualify for the program, you must own your home, live in the Brinnon or Quilcene area, and be willing to partner with Habitat in some way, such as volunteering in their store.

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2021 is ramping up to be a big year for local elections. According to the Jefferson County website (<https://co.jefferson.wa.us/1266/Elections>), there are 45 nonpartisan positions up for election this year in 25 jurisdictions. Those include:

16 positions in seven school districts  
12 in eight fire districts  
4 in two hospital districts  
3 in four cemetery districts  
2 in two water districts  
2 for the Port of Port Townsend  
2 for the Coyle-Thorn Park and Recreation District  
And three seats on the Port Townsend City Council

Mayor Michelle Sandoval, the longest-serving member of the council with 20 years under her belt, announced back in 2018 that she would not run for re-election after this term. Council members Ariel Speser and Pamela Adams also have terms coming to an end in 2021. In an email to KPTZ news, Adams said it is still pretty early for her to be making decisions about running, but that she will make an announcement sometime before the filing period begins in May. Speser has also not yet announced what her plans are for the next election. To qualify as a candidate for city council, you must show that you have lived in Port Townsend for at least one year. The filing period in Jefferson County is May 17-21. You can file online, by mail, or in person.

For first time candidates, the Jefferson County auditor's office provides a downloadable guide for candidates that includes all the information you need to know, including how to file, where you can place candidate signs, and how to file reports with the Public Disclosure Commission. Go to the county website (<https://co.jefferson.wa.us/1268/For-Candidate-Filing>) to learn more. The primary election will take place August 3, and the general election will take place November 2.

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And that's it for today's local news. 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](mailto:news@kptz.org). I'm Lily Haight. Thanks for listening.