Greetings!
-Tim Matthes, Mayor

One thing I heard overwhelmingly at all Town Hall Meetings was the public wants more information, communication, and transparency. The City will have a monthly e-newsletter which will highlight different City departments each month, providing information articles for you to read. At times we will also highlight projects and events happening in the City. As always, my door is open if you wish to come and talk with me, or call me at (360)440-6483.

Pet Licensing
-Brandy Rinearson, City Clerk

In coordination with the Kitsap Humane Society the Clerk’s office is providing information citizens should know when owning a pet. The Humane Society produced a brochure explaining what services are being provided to the Citizens of Port Orchard and local animal control laws. The brochure can be found on our website and it is available at City hall. The Clerk’s office now hands out the brochure with each pet registered in the City.

Farewell!
-Tom Bonsell, Acting Development Director

With a deep sense of gratitude the Planning Department has said adios and best wishes to James Weaver, City Development Director. As most already know, James Weaver did a stellar job of bringing the City into conformance with the Growth Management Act (GMA) regulations and through compliance with GMA afforded the City the opportunity to compete for grants. Through the leadership

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of Mr. Weaver and elected officials, the Planning Department has become the gold standard for department efficiency. While the search begins for a replacement, Thomas Bonsell has been given the position of Acting Community Development Director. The City will continue to process building permits, land use application, and business permits in a timely manner. The Planning Department is open for business and ready to serve the needs of the community.

Freezing Temperatures and Ice
Get Prepared

- Have chimney and flue inspected.
- Install an easy-to-read outdoor thermometer.
- Have your car checked to make sure it is ready for the winter weather (antifreeze, windshield wiper fluid, heater, tires, and battery).
- Keep heating sources at least 3 feet away from furniture and drapes.
- Install storm windows or cover windows with plastic from the inside.
- Insulate any water lines that run along outer walls and cover water spigots (water will be less likely to freeze).
- Service snow-removal equipment and purchase deicer for sidewalks and walkways.

Washington State:
Branches of Government
-Debbie Hunt, Municipal Court Administrator

The Washington State Constitution describes the branches of Washington State Government. Like all states, Washington has three branches modeled after the federal government: executive, legislative, and judicial.

- **Executive** - includes the Governor and other elected state officials. These individuals implement the laws passed by the Legislature. The Governor has the power to appoint members of the Judicial branch. Further, bills passed by the Legislature are sent to the Governor to be signed or vetoed.

- **Legislative** - composed of the Senate and the House of Representatives and enacts bills into laws. The Senate has 49 elected members corresponding to the number of legislative districts in the state. The House has 98 elected members, two for each district.

- **Judicial** - composed of the state courts: Trial court (Municipal, District and Superior), Court of Appeals, and Supreme Court. State courts make rulings on the constitutionality and legality surrounding the implementation of a law, as passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor.

- **Municipal Courts** - Violations of municipal or city ordinances are heard in municipal courts. A municipal court’s authority over these ordinance violations is similar to the authority that district courts have over state law violations. The ordinance violation must have occurred within the boundaries of the municipality. Like district courts, municipal courts only have jurisdiction over gross misdemeanors, misdemeanors and infractions. Municipal courts do not accept civil or small claims cases. As with district courts, municipal courts can issue domestic violence protection orders and no-contact orders.