2016 Comprehensive Plan Update
-Department of Community Development

The City of Port Orchard is set to kick off the required 2016 periodic update of its Comprehensive Plan. The City is required to complete its update by June 2016, and the project is expected to take two years to complete. Completion of a periodic update to a City’s comprehensive plan is a Growth Management Act (GMA) requirement per RCW 36.70A.130 (1). The periodic update process is different than the annual amendment process, whereby landowners often seek changes to land use designations and rezones for specific properties. As part of the periodic update, Port Orchard is required to conduct a thorough review of its plan and regulations in order to bring them up to date with any relevant changes in the GMA and to respond to changes in land use and population growth.

The last periodic update of the Port Orchard Comprehensive Plan was completed in 2008. The City has changed considerably since then. On April 1, 2008, the State Office of Financial Management (OFM) estimated the City’s population to be 8,731. By April 1, 2013, the population had risen according to OFM estimates to 12,870. While some of this growth was attributed to new construction and development, much of it came from annexations, which expanded the City’s boundary and took in existing development. Growth in the City is certain to continue and the City is required to plan for this growth by ensuring that it has adequate land capacity and infrastructure to accommodate the growth. In accordance with countywide planning policies agreed to and adopted by all of the jurisdictions within Kitsap County, Port Orchard must ensure that it can accommodate an additional 8,235 residents by 2035 (excluding annexations). Determining where this growth will go and what it will look like is one of the primary objectives of the periodic update.

The process of completing the periodic update to the City’s comprehensive plan begins with updating the City’s vision. With an estimated 4,139 new residents within the City since 2008, it is important to conduct a public process whereby residents can share their ideas and concerns for the City and help to create a vision of what Port Orchard will look like in 20 years. This vision can then filter down through the required plan elements (Land Use, Housing, Transportation, Economic Development, Parks and Recreation, Utilities, and Capital Facilities) ensuring consistency throughout the document.

The City’s visioning process began on March 8,
The City’s kickoff meeting for the periodic (8 year) update to its Comprehensive Plan was conducted this past Saturday (March 8) and was a positive first step in the planning process. If you were able to attend and would like to provide feedback to the City, please take a few minutes to complete the following survey.  

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/QS6P3B6

The results of this survey will be used to develop the vision for what the City will look like in 20 years. It will help the City plan future community meetings.

2014 with an open house at City hall. The City has contracted with the University of Washington to assist in conducting the visioning process for its plan update. A class of approximately 20 graduate students in the Master of Urban Planning program began work with the City in January of 2014. The initial work was research and information gathering. Working with the Department of Community Development, the students are now set to engage the public in a series of events meant to capture City resident’s concerns and ideas for how to accommodate an additional 8,235 residents over the next 20 years.

The students bring a great deal of energy and enthusiasm as well as a fresh set of eyes to the process. They are very well equipped to listen to the needs and wants of public and transcribe this feedback as a succinct vision statement which will help to define the 2016 Comprehensive Plan. Port Orchard has generally had low levels of public participation in its planning processes and it is our hope that this approach will improve participation and result in a long range plan for the City which accurately reflects citizen desires. Once the University students have completed their work in June 2014, department staff will assume the responsibility of completing the update process. For more information on the process or to be added to a stakeholder email list, please contact the Department of Community Development at (360) 874-5533 or at planning@Cityofportorchard.us. Updates on the process will also be posted to the City’s Facebook page.

Disaster Recovery

- Kitsap Co. Department of Emergency Management

Getting back on your feet following a disaster can be tough. There have been plenty of disasters nationwide that we can learn from, beginning with having a plan. Here are some ways to help you recover faster.

- Create a photo inventory of your valuables and keep it on a flash drive in your emergency kit.
- Keep your insurance company information and other critical information in your kit and call them immediately.
- If your income is interrupted and you can’t pay credit cards or other loans, contact the lenders before your next payment is due.
- For declared disasters, you can go to a FEMA Disaster Recovery Center to get assistance.
- Ask your utility companies to suspend service if you are unable to live in your home.
- Know what community services are in your area that may be able to help.

The first Drop, Cover, and Hold Drill of 2014 is scheduled for Thursday, April 17. Start making plans now to take part in the drill and practice your response plan at work.

For more safety and preparedness information visit KCDEM’s website at www.kitsapdem.org.