PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Parkinson’s disease is a chronic progressive degenerative neurological disorder of the central nervous system for which there presently is no cure; and

WHEREAS, as yet, no chemical, X-ray, study, blood, laboratory or clinical test can provide a definitive diagnosis; and

WHEREAS, as much as 80% of vital dopamine producing neurons in the brain are dead or grossly impaired before Parkinson’s is detectible; and

WHEREAS, symptoms include extreme fatigue, tremors, difficulty with balance and speaking, walking, swallowing, cognitive and memory problems; and

WHEREAS, although existing medications and therapies effectively treat the symptoms for some Parkinson’s patients in the early stages of the disease and allows them to cope with this baffling and complex disease; and

WHEREAS, more education and research is needed to help find more effective treatments with fewer side effects and ultimately a cure for Parkinson’s; and

WHEREAS, according to the Northwest Parkinson Foundation, American Parkinson’s Disease Association, National Parkinson Foundation and the Michael J. Fox Foundation, there are over 1.5 million Americans diagnosed with Parkinson’s and 5 million worldwide; and

WHEREAS, all citizens can be aware of this debilitating disease and offer friendship, understanding, and hope to its victims;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Timothy C. Matthes, Mayor of the City of Port Orchard, designates April as:

WORLD WIDE PARKINSON’S DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

in the City of Port Orchard and I encourage all employees and citizens of the City of Port Orchard to join in participating in voluntary activities to support Parkinson’s Disease education and the funding of research programs to find a cure.

Signed this 26th day of March 2013

Timothy C. Matthes, Mayor