

Mayor's Snapshot

July 21, 2020

Latest news and updates from Mayor Bob Severns



Whidbey Strong

I am encouraging everyone to take part in supporting our local businesses by shopping or dining locally. By keeping it local and not going off-island or ordering products from off-island, you can support your neighbors, friends, and the overall community.

Bonus, you can also reduce the spread of COVID-19 by reducing your travel off-island.

#WhidbeyStrong!

Governor Inslee Rollback Phase 3 with Modifications

<p>ISLAND COUNTY SAFE START</p> <hr/> <p>PHASE 3</p> <hr/> <p>Governor Inslee announced changes to Phase 3 Counties of the Safe Start Plan</p> <p>Starts Today! Monday, July 20</p>	<p>WHAT IS CHANGING?</p> <table border="1"><tr><td data-bbox="703 1709 1043 2063"><p>Social Gatherings Reduced</p><p>From 50 people to 10 or less</p></td><td data-bbox="1051 1709 1391 2063"><p>Prohibited</p><p>All indoor and outdoor entertainment</p></td></tr></table>	<p>Social Gatherings Reduced</p>  <p>From 50 people to 10 or less</p>	<p>Prohibited</p>  <p>All indoor and outdoor entertainment</p>
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More details at coronavirus.wa.gov

Oak Harbor CARES

The City of Oak Harbor is the first municipality in Island County to receive and select applicants for the CARES grant program. Thanks to our partnership with Island County and Commissioner Johnson, we created the North Whidbey Island Small Business Relief Fund.



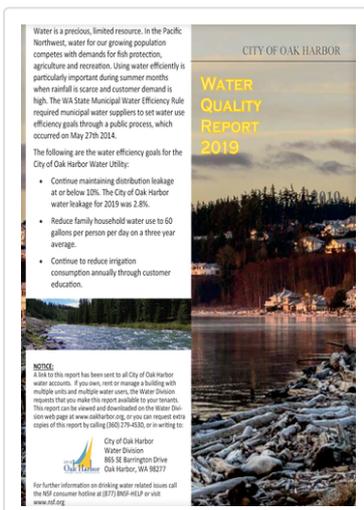
The following is an update on the CARES grant program:

- 83 small businesses applied from the North Whidbey Island area
- Each business could apply for up to \$10,000 in grant funding
- The Grant Selection Committee and City Council approved 69 grants for funding for a total of \$588,453
- Professional Service Agreements are going out to businesses now
- One applicant dropped out
- 13 other applications were disqualified by the Grant Selection Committee.
- The disqualified applications are being reviewed to confirm if they have elements that are eligible for funding. If any of the 13 applications qualify, they will be presented to City Council on Wednesday, August 5.

I want to give a special thanks to the Grant Selection Committee. These community leaders gave up their time to review all 83 applications. I appreciate their leadership and assistance in making it possible for us to quickly identify applications for funding.

If you happen to see the following people on the island, thank them for their contribution to this process. The Grant Selection Committee members were:

- Darin Cook
- Bill Larsen
- Eric Marshall
- Maria McGee
- Wendy Shingleton
- Ronnie Wright



Water Quality Report

The Environmental Protection Agency requires the City of Oak Harbor to provide a [Water Quality Report](#) to the community annually. Questions about the Water Quality Report can be emailed to the Water Department. The weather is warming up, do not forget to fill up your water bottle with our wonderful, local tap water this season.

Staff

We have some of the best!

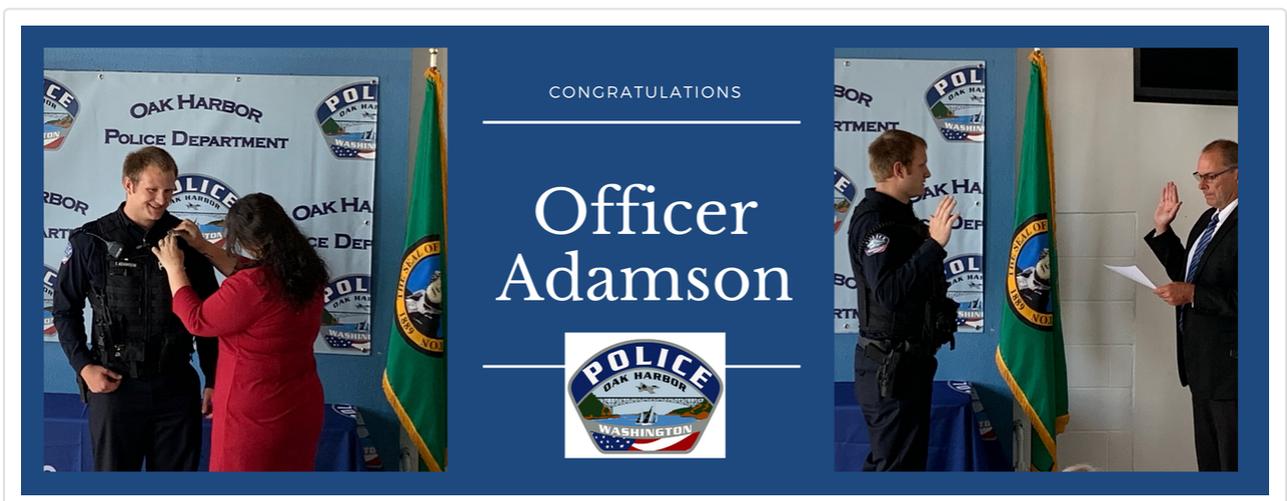
New Employees



I am excited to introduce several new employees to the City of Oak Harbor team:

- Jay Lovelady, CARES Grant Program Assistant in the Administration Office at City Hall
- Rachel Steckel, Accounting Assistant/Cashier in the Finance Department at City Hall
- Sonney Wolfe, Accounting Assistant/Cashier in the Finance Department at City Hall
- Officer Tyler Adamson received his badge from the Oak Harbor Police Department (see picture of badge pinning ceremony)

Welcome to the City and I look forward to working with you in the future.



Upcoming Staff Changes

As Mayor, it is wonderful to see staff grow and continue to use their talents and knowledge by moving to new positions through internal promotions. I want to give a shout out to three employees for recent promotions or transfers:

- Amy Stevens on her promotion from Payroll/Accounts Payable in the Finance Department to Senior Administrative Assistant in Public Works
- Stephanie Chavez on her promotion from Accounting Assistant/Cashier to Payroll/Accounts Payable in Finance
- Brian Rivers on his transfer from Storm Drain/Wastewater Collections to Parks Department

Some other changes in staffing are:

- Recruitment for the Development Services Director led to 19 qualified applicants with five interviews and three individuals selected for second interviews. The plan is to hire a candidate by the end of August.
- Finance Director Patricia Soule resigned and her last day is August 4.
- Parks and Recreation Manager Hank Nydam is retiring at the end of August.
- Recruitment for the Finance Director will take place soon (in the interim Mike Bailey, CPA, will serve as a consultant, contract to be presented to City Council at the June 22 workshop).
- Recruitment for the City Attorney will take start soon (the position is currently filled by Interim City Attorney Anna Thompson and Weed, Graafstra & Associates).



Join our team - apply today

If you are interested in becoming a part of this fantastic team, check out our recruitments [online](#):

- Police Officer – Lateral or Entry Level
- Paid on call Firefighters

WEAR IT RIGHT!



PROTECT OUR COMMUNITY

#MASKUP

New Orders from the Governor

On Monday, July 20, new orders from Governor Jay Inslee will include a rollback for counties. For Island County (Phase 3), the number of people allowed to gather decreased from 50 to **ten** or less. If a County in Washington State is in Phase 2 or modified Phase 1, the gathering is limited to five people or less. This change does not impact religious services, funerals, or weddings.

Due to increasing cases, Governor Inslee is reminding everyone to wear masks and practice physical distancing. More details will be available when the official order is issued from the Governor's office.



Shipwreck Shores at Windjammer Park Closed for the Season

Due to the increase in cases around Washington State and based on the number of visitors coming to Oak Harbor from Phase 2 counties, - Shipwreck Shores Splash Park will remain closed for the season.

Ch-Ch-Changes to City Buildings

Increased cases require the City to take additional steps to keep staff safe. This includes having everyone meet the Governor's mandate to wear cloth face coverings and reduce the number of staff in small spaces together.

If you need to visit a City facility, please check the COVID-19 info page on the City website to see if there are modifications to the department and how they are providing service. Please have patience when coming to City facilities because wait times at counters may be longer. Visitors to City facilities are also required to:

- Mask Up – always wear cloth face coverings
- Practice physical distancing and keep six feet apart from others

The City offers alternatives to in-person interactions. Please check the City website or call for options before coming in. Some changes you will notice are:

- Restricted access: Visitors to City Hall must enter and exit at each floor of the building and cannot walk through the building to different departments
- Bathrooms are also restricted to City staff only at this time

Thank you for your patience and helping to keep City staff safe.

Congrats to the Oak Harbor High School JROTC

They were selected as second in the nation as the "Most Outstanding Unit!" out of nearly 600 Navy JROTC Units in the nation, including Japan and Guam. Our very own [Oak Harbor High School](#) NJROTC cadets were selected as the Commander, Naval Service Training Command.

THE COMMANDER, NAVAL SERVICE TRAINING COMMAND



MOST OUTSTANDING UNIT
2ND PLACE

[#OHmazing](#) Job Wildcats! Special shoutout to Chief Thiel and Commander Quidachay.

CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP

Wednesday, July 22 at 5 p.m.



Two City Council Meetings in July

The City of Oak Harbor had two Council meetings this month on July 7 and July 14. The Council Workshop will take place on July 22 at 5 p.m.

July 7 City Council Meeting

- Councilmember Servatius made two requests of staff during Council comments relating to the development review process and asking Development Services and Engineering Staff to report, track, and contact current projects in process.
- Council discussed and approved the process for replacing Councilmember Larsen's vacancy.
- City staff presented an update on the Clean Water Facility (CWF) and Windjammer Park punch list.

July 14 Special City Council Meeting

- City Council approved Resolution 20-21 to fund 69 of the 83 applications approved by the CARES Grant Selection Committee.
- City Council approved moving the four applicants for the City Council vacant position forward for interviews to the August 5 City Council meeting, the four applicants are: Bryan Stucky, Jabari Diggs, Millie Goebel, and Earl Plumlee, Jr.
- Human Resources Director Emma House presented an update about recent office relocations, recruitments, NEOGOV training tools, and upcoming staffing changes.

Note: City Council Workshop times are moving from starting at 5 p.m. to 2 p.m. beginning August 26, 2020.

City Council Meeting Changes

The public was invited to attend the first two Council Meetings in July in person because Staff adapted the Council Chambers to meet the Phase 3 requirements. However, increased cases require us to return the City Council meetings to a virtual (online) format only. Check the City Council [page](#) and click on the specific meeting date for details about how to submit public comments.

Greater Oak Harbor Chamber of Commerce Luncheon

I want to thank the Greater Oak Harbor Chamber of Commerce for the opportunity to speak at their July 16 virtual luncheon. Sabrina Combs, our Public Information Officer, and I had a wonderful time sharing updates from the City.

I also want to congratulate Vicki Graham on her promotion to the Executive Director of the Greater Oak Harbor Chamber. If you get a chance, wish her congratulations on her new job. You can reach Vicki at director@oakharborchamber.com.



Channel 10 Technical Difficulties

Unfortunately, a server is impacting Cable Channel 10. We are working on resolving this soon. You can view City Council meetings on YouTube until the issue is resolved, or listen on the phone, see the City Council Calendar entry on the City's website for details.

Thank you for reading the July edition of the Mayor's Snapshot!

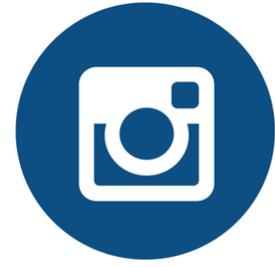
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[cityof oakharborwa](https://www.instagram.com/cityof oakharborwa)



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