



City of Aberdeen

Matters

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2025

Upcoming Local Events

NOVEMBER 2025

Nov. 1: Holiday Bazaar (Downtown)
 Nov. 1: Dia De Los Muertos (Downtown)
 Nov. 1: Flannel & Fun Bazaar (American Legion)
 Nov. 1-9 Stranger Sings! (Bishop Center)
 Nov. 4: Men's Basketball Sign-ups Start (Parks)
 Nov. 11: Veterans Day (City Hall Closed)
 Nov. 12: City Council Meeting (City Hall)
 Nov. 22: Small Business Saturday
 Nov. 23: GH Symphony (Bishop Center)
 Nov. 26: City Council Meeting (City Hall)
 Nov. 27-28: City Hall Closed
 Nov. 28- Dec. 14: The Diary of Anne Frank (Driftwood Theatre)

DECEMBER 2025

Dec. 4: Jazz Choir & Band (Bishop Center)
 Dec. 5 & 6: Winterfest (Downtown Aberdeen)
 Dec. 7: Civic Choir (Bishop Center)
 Dec. 10: City Council Meeting (City Hall)
 Dec. 13-14: Opera Workshop (Bishop Center)
 Dec. 23: City Council Meeting (City Hall)
 Dec. 31: City Council Meeting (City Hall)

JANUARY 2026

Jan. 5: Women's Volleyball Sign-ups Start (Parks)
 Jan. 14: City Council Meeting (City Hall)
 Jan. 15: Jazz Festival with Duende Libre (Bishop Center)
 Jan. 28: City Council Meeting (City Hall)
 Jan. 30: Alex Zerbe—The Zaniac (Bishop Center)

Parks & Recreation information can be found at www.teamsideline.com/aberdeenwa and on Facebook. For more recreation info, contact Craig Yakovich at cjacovich@aberdeenwa.gov or at 360-537-3230.

Aberdeen City Council meeting agendas and minutes can be found on the City of Aberdeen's website at www.aberdeenwa.gov/AgendaCenter.

Winterfest: A Downtown Aberdeen Tradition

Downtown Aberdeen is coming alive with the sights, sounds, and scents of the holiday season as Winterfest returns Friday, December 5 and Saturday, December 6 in Downtown Aberdeen. This cherished community celebration, organized by the Downtown Aberdeen Association, promises family fun, local shopping and festive cheer to kick off the most wonderful time of the year.



Holiday Market

Friday, Dec. 5 at 5:30pm-8pm

Saturday, Dec. 6 at 9am-3pm

Get a head start on your holiday shopping at the Holiday Market where local vendors and artisans will offer one-of-a-kind gifts, handcrafted decorations, and delicious holiday treats. This year, the Holiday Market will be held at two locations: the former Witamaki's Jewelry location (201 E. Wishkah St.) and at the Grand Heron (200 E. Heron St.).

Breakfast & Photos with Santa

Saturday, Dec. 6 at 9am-3pm, Messy Jessy's (212 S. I Street)

Start your morning with a hearty breakfast and photos with Santa. Come share your holiday wish list and capture a memory that will last all season long. Santa will be available for photos through the

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EMS Utility Fee Adjustment Coming in 2026

As part of the ongoing commitment to ensure reliable emergency medical services (EMS) in our community, the City of Aberdeen will implement an increase to the monthly EMS Utility fee beginning on January 1, 2026. The new rate will be \$67.54 and will be reflected on the February utility bill.



Why This Change is Needed

A recent cost of service study (completed in 2024) found that the current fee does not fully cover the cost of providing advanced life support and ambulance standby for the community. The budget for EMS operations has grown due to higher staffing levels to meeting the rising volume of calls; equipment maintenance, repair and replacement costs; and vehicle maintenance and replacement costs. Approximately 70 percent of EMS patients are Medicare and Medicaid recipients. The city receives a very low reimbursement

from Medicare and Medicaid which forces the city to pay for the cost out of funds that are used to pay for police, parks, code enforcement, municipal court and other critical services. By adjusting the rate, the City can continue to fund the EMS program without major impacts to operations, availability or other critical programs.

More Assistance Options in 2026

The City will offer more assistance programs to help those who have trouble paying their bills. The City Council has directed City Staff to

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Narcan and Our Four-legged Friends: What You Should Know

As communities across the nation continue to respond to the opioid crisis, it's not only people who are at risk of accidental exposure. Our pets, especially dogs, can also be victims of opioid poisoning.

Dogs have an incredible sense of smell, which makes them vulnerable to accidental opioid exposure. They may sniff, lick, or ingest trace amounts of fentanyl, oxycodone, or heroin residue while accompanying their owners outdoors, visiting public spaces, or even helping as K-9 officers. Because opioids act quickly on the nervous system, even a tiny

amount can cause life-threatening effects in dogs.

Common signs of opioid toxicity in dogs include:

- Extreme sleepiness or unresponsiveness
- Slow or shallow breathing
- Small (pinpoint) pupils
- Vomiting or loss of coordination

If you see these signs or suspect exposure to opioids, seek emergency veterinary help immediately.

Narcan, generically called naloxone, is a medication that temporarily blocks the effects of opioids in the brain,



helping to restore normal breathing. It's safe for use in animals and works the same way it does in humans. Veterinarians typically administer naloxone based on a dog's weight and condition, but in an emergency, a human dose nasal spray can be used if veterinary help isn't immediately

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DID YOU KNOW?



The Wynoochee Dam is owned by the City of Aberdeen. Joe Malinowski, the eldest son of Polish immigrants, acquired the water rights of the Wynoochee River in the early 1920's. He sold the rights to the City of Aberdeen for \$1.00 and was still alive when the dam was built in 1972 by the United States Army Corps of Engineers. The dam regulates the flow of the Wynoochee River, creating the Wynoochee Reservoir.

City Honors Music Project's Lee & Dani Bacon

Over the summer, Aberdeen's City Council officially honored Lee and Dani Bacon for their extraordinary contributions to the revitalization of Downtown Aberdeen and the cultural heartbeat of Aberdeen through their creation of The Music Project.

Located in Downtown Aberdeen at 121 W. Wishkah Street, The Music Project is more than a museum—its what its founders affectionately describe as an “anti-museum.” Through immersive galleries like “Unplugged”, “The Green Room”, and upcoming tributes, the space invites visitors to have an up-close experience of Kurt Cobain’s legacy rather than traditional displays. The Bacons embarked on a meticulous multiyear restoration of a historic building that once housed Goldberg’s Furniture, where it is

said Cobain and Nirvana bassist Krist Novoselic briefly worked.

Lee and Dani also purchased and carefully and thoughtfully restored Cobain’s childhood home in Aberdeen, now a State-registered historic landmark.

In June 2025, the Bacons unveiled The Music Project, a dedicated hub for creativity celebrating the Pacific Northwest’s grunge origins.

The City Council’s recognition of the Bacons and their work underscores The Music Project’s importance—not only as a guardian of Cobain’s legacy but also as a catalyst for artistic growth, community pride, and cultural tourism in Aberdeen. City leaders praised the Bacons for weaving together architectural restoration, historical preservation and cultural



Above: Mayor Douglas Orr (left) presents an award of recognition to Lee Bacon (center) and Dani Bacon (right).

inspiration and elevating it with authenticity, creativity, and a deeply personal vision. The City Council commends the Bacon’s role in putting Aberdeen’s musical heritage back in the spotlight through their work with the former Goldberg’s Furniture building by taking a once-familiar storefront, reborn as a cultural hub that preserves local history while fueling creative exploration. ■

Don't Let Porch Pirates Spoil Your Holidays

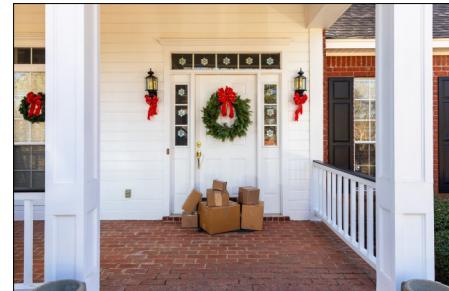
With the holiday season approaching, online shopping increases. The Aberdeen Police Department is reminding residents to take steps to protect their deliveries from “porch pirates”—thieves who steal packages left unattended on doorsteps and porches.

Each year, reports of stolen deliveries rise during November and December. These crimes can happen in seconds, often in broad daylight, and leave victims frustrated and without their holiday purchases.

To keep your packages safe:

- Track your deliveries and try to be home when they arrive.
- Require a signature or have items delivered to a workplace, trusted neighbor, or local pickup locker.
- Install a doorbell camera or motion-activated light to deter would-be thieves and help capture evidence if a theft occurs.
- Communicate with your neighbors about suspicious behavior in your neighborhood.
- Don’t leave packages outside overnight—pick them up as soon as possible.

If you believe your package has been stolen, first verify delivery through you the carrier’s tracking system. Then, report the theft to the Aberdeen Police Departments non-emergency line (360) 533-3180 or online through the APD’s reporting portal. ■



(Winterfest...Continued from page 1)

morning, so bring your camera—and your Christmas list, too!

Festive Trolley Rides

Friday, Dec. 5; 5pm-8pm; Boarding at Springboard Coffee

Climb aboard the Winterfest Trolley for a cozy ride to look at the holiday lights around our beautiful City. Enjoy free hot chocolate and cookies while sharing holiday cheer with fellow passengers. The trolley is beautifully decorated with

twinkling lights, garlands and plays holiday music so you can get into the holiday spirit.

Gingerbread House Contest

Submit Your Gingerbread House: Thursday, Dec. 4; 2pm-6pm

Showing: Saturday, Dec. 6; All Day

Don't miss the annual Gingerbread House Contest. Whether you're a seasoned baker or a first-time decorator, everyone is invited to submit their sweet

masterpiece on Thursday, December 4, 2pm-6pm at 110 E. Heron St. (The entrance next to *Go Get the Pho*). Prizes will be awarded for craftsmanship, creativity and festive spirit. Visitors can admire the entries and vote for their favorites on Saturday, December 6. Entry forms and more information about Winterfest are available at downtownaberdeen.org. See you there! ■

(EMS...Continued from page 2)

create a "Round up" and "Recurring Donation" option on bills. The Round Up Program will allow customers to round up their monthly utility bill to the nearest dollar, with proceeds dedicated to supporting customers who need assistance. Generous customers will also have an option to set up recurring monthly donations, which allows contributions in a more

predictable manner and at a level of their choosing. The City also plans to collect more data on EMS program usage in order to create prevention initiatives which in turn can reduce long-term service demands and improve community health. Since the pandemic, the City has seen a doubling in call volume that has not reduced. "We are seeing trends where more and

more people are using EMS services for preventative care and to address chronic conditions," said City Administrator Ruth Clemens. "Our hope is to create a community risk reduction program that will educate people and direct them to alternative resources for issues that are not necessarily emergencies." For more info, visit www.aberdeenwa.gov. ■

(Four-legged Friends...Continued from page 2)

available. If Narcan is administered to a dog, owners should seek immediate veterinary care as the animal may risk

slipping back into overdose. Awareness and quick action can save a dog's life. To learn more about this

issue, contact your local veterinarian or contact Grays Harbor Public Health to learn more about Narcan. ■

City of Aberdeen Mission:

The mission of the City of Aberdeen is to serve with transparency and integrity; provide dependable services and public safety; to honor our history and be stewards of our natural, cultural and economic resources.

City of Aberdeen Elected Officials

Mayor Douglas Orr

Ward 1	Ward 2	Ward 3	Ward 4	Ward 5	Ward 6
Melvin Taylor	David Gakin	Liz Ellis	Carrie Hubbard	Joshua Francy	David Lawrence
Kacey Morrison	John Maki	Scott Prato	Deb Hodgkin	Debi Pieraccini	Sydney Swor