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# -- PORT NEWS --

March 2018

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-- welcome --

**Nature does not hurry, yet everything is accomplished.**

**~Lao Tzu**

## **EARTH DAY INVITATION - PLANNING AHEAD!**

The Port will celebrate Earth Day 2018 by picking up debris along the Waterfront Park and Trail.



When: **Friday, April 20th - 2pm to 4pm**

Where: **Washougal Waterfront Park Picnic Shelter**

Light refreshments will be provided for volunteers. **The area that we will be working in can be wet and muddy, you may want to wear rubber boots or work clothing depending on the weather leading up to the event.**

**Tools will be provided for the cleanup. Please bring a pair of work or gardening gloves for yourself as supplies are limited. We hope you will join us!**

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## **BOAT SAFETY FOR CHILDREN**

With Spring here, it's almost time to take your boat out on the water and enjoy the rising temperatures and the waterside breeze. If you have young children, you're probably hoping to be able to take them out on the boat in 2018 so that they too can enjoy the season. Spring is the perfect time to teach your children about the importance of boat safety. Below are 5 tips to share.

#### 1. BEGIN EACH TRIP WITH A SAFETY BRIEFING

When taking your children out on the water, it's imperative to begin each voyage with information on boat safety. As part of this process, you can remind children where they can find life jackets, flashlights and other safety equipment. You can also remind them of the rules for safety when on board.

#### 2. TEACH CHILDREN ABOUT LIFE JACKET SAFETY

The life jackets are critical safety equipment on your boat, and your children should be taught how to use life jackets safely. Remember; children have growing bodies so the life jacket that fit them last year might not be suitable for them this year. Have them try on the jacket while on the shore to ensure it fits them properly.

#### 3. MAKE SURE THEY CAN SWIM

Swimming is an important part of boat safety. Go out with your children on the water and ensure they know how to swim over a short distance. Then teach them to float using the devices available on your boat. You can teach them the value of their life jacket by having them get used to the feeling of wearing it in the water. This will help ensure they're ready to use it in case a problem takes place on the boat.

#### 4. PACK SUNSCREEN

Before you set out for the day, remember to pack sunscreen for the trip. Make sure your children have used the optimal amount of sunscreen for the day and teach them the importance of using it on a regular basis as protection from the sun's rays. While this step may not be directly related to boat and water safety, it's still a critical step in overall boat safety for kids.

#### 5. SHOW THEM HOW TO GET IN AND OUT OF THE BOAT

While you might be carrying your children from the land onto the boat at this stage, it's still important that children learn how to take the step themselves. Show them how you can use the boat for leverage and explain how you are using your body to safely make your way inside. By carefully explaining all elements of boat safety, you can teach your children to respect the water while safely enjoying each trip. To learn more on how to teach children about boat safety, speak with our trusted staff today!

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# HARBOR MASTER'S VIEW



Here we are stepping into another spring season. We can expect more people in the marina, and more traffic. Several other things to expect are the water being turned on in the marina, pump out system up and running, Fred and Ethyl (local osprey) back for the summer, ducks, geese, and otters hanging around, and even a few sea lions following the fish runs up the river. These animals frequent the marina and are fun to watch but please don't feed or corner them. They're wild animals and will attack, if provoked. I had a near miss a few years ago on E-Row with a goose that had made a nest on the top canvas of a boat. I didn't see her until I was too close and she definitely thought I was too close too! Geese are very protective of their nest. Trust me, they will attack!

It's almost time for the river level to come up which means strong unpredictable currents along with logs and debris in the water. Please be careful, pay attention, and wear a life jacket. Those of you who are seasoned Columbia River boaters already expect this and should take advantage of the opportunity to educate someone who may be new to the river. Your efforts may save a life.

Some of you may have already noticed, for the last couple of months we've had an Eagle Scout project going on in the New Waterfront Park. Joey Cline, local Eagle Scout, has constructed a stationary loaner life jacket cabinet and placed it at the non-motorized boat launch area. It not only enhances the look of the area, but also promotes the safety program we strive for here at the marina. Thanks Joey, nice job!



If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact the Port office at (360) 835-2196. If we can help, we will!

Thanks all, remember to "check your lines"!

*- Mark on the Water -*



## Calendar

**APR** Easter  
**1** Port Closed

## 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Coming Soon, the Port's

**APR** Earth Day Celebration  
**20** 2pm-4pm

**Annual Report.**

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