Dash Point Social and Improvement Club

The Ripples

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FALL 2026



Dash Point at Sunrise - Summer 2026
Courtesy Allison Sahin

Ripples Highlights:

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Dash Point Dash – The winners
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Dash Flash Back – Historically a beautiful point
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DPSIC President's Letter

Hello Dash Point Neighbors and Friends,

As we ease into fall, the cooler mornings remind us a new season is arriving, even as we hold onto the gift of the summer's lingering sun. Dash Point was full of life these past months — fishermen lining the shore, divers practicing on weekends, families filling the parking lot, neighbors enjoying low-tide walks to the State Park, and memorable sightings of seals and orcas. While the pier renovation project continues, the community use of the waterfront remains strong.

Our annual Dash Point Dash brought out runners and walkers on one of the last wet days of June. A heartfelt thankyou to our volunteers and the Dash Point Fire Department for supporting the event. Give a wave or honk when you see the new fire Engine 77 soon to be in service.

Congratulations to our DPSIC scholarship recipients – Alexander Shakhramanov, Noah Jorgenson, and Olivier Paillet-Toohey - as they begin their first steps into higher education.

As we head toward the holidays and our Annual Holiday Tree Lighting event on Saturday, December 5, we are looking for volunteers and new members to help us close out the year and shape what is ahead.

And please share your summer photos, stories, or poems — we would love to feature them in our next *Ripples* and on social media.

Patrick Toohey
President
Dash Point Social and Improvement Club

A Dashing Day!
Dash Point Dash 2026



1st Finn Russ



2nd Elena Pike (tie)



2nd John Canorro



3rd Aiden Sahin and 4th Garrett Fisher

2nd Oscar Emily
(Not pictured)

Tennis shoes are tied tight and they are off. Even a little June rain did not hinder them. More than 50 runners, walkers and volunteers turned out to participate in the Annual Dash Point Dash. The 5K run and 3K walk event is a popular gathering of our community to exercise, wind through the neighborhood, take in the views and enjoy neighborly banter and stories. Gathering at the Dash Point Fire Station, the winners triumphantly received their prizes and locally donated items for the raffle created great enthusiasm among the winning ticket holders. The Browns Point/Dash Point Firefighters also put on quite a show by participating in full – 70-pound firefighting gear!

The free barbecued hamburgers, hotdogs and sides were a great success – they were all gone!!! Thank you to Tom Smith on the grill and our incredible local helper, John Turnquist who provided the tables and chairs. Your loyal DPSIC board members worked hard to make the event happen!

A big thank you to our businesses and neighbors who donated raffle items noted below. Please remember to support them with your business.

Borders Jewelry
Cedar Irons Golf Club
Diana Morrow Homes.com
Gino's at the Point
Karen Cooley
Loreta Hornall Art
Marcus Harper Glass Art
North 47 Brewing 47 Brewing Company
Structural Works

A dash full of fun!

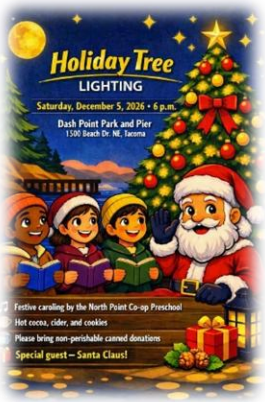







It is a Tradition! Calendar it!

The 2026 Holiday Tree Lighting at Dash Point Park and Pier
Saturday, December 5, 2026, at 6 p.m.



Sponsored by the Dash Point Social and Improvement Club (DPSIC), the Holiday Tree Lighting event brings together neighbors and friends as it has for decades. Join us for this festive evening to include singing, seasonal refreshments, Santa Claus, and the highlight of the night – the lighting of the Big Holiday Tree on the dock. Do not miss it!

Bravo Dash Point Scholars!
DPSIC 2026 Dash Point Scholarship Winners

Three outstanding students from the Dash Point area received the 2026 DPSIC scholarships: Noah Jorgenson, Alexander Shakhramanov and Olivier Paillet-Toohey.

Their accomplishments in academics, volunteer service and community involvement distinguished them for the DPSIC scholarship selection committee this Spring. Meet them through excerpts from their correspondence below.



Noah Jorgenson

My name is Noah Jorgenson, and I am truly honored to have been selected as a recipient of the 2026 DPSIC Scholarship. Thank you!

I am very much a local, as I've lived here my entire life. I attended local schools – Northpoint Cooperative Preschool, Browns Point Elementary School, Meeker Middle School, and Stadium High School. I have volunteered for many local organizations – from a young age that is something my dad has always expected. I feel very lucky to live here in this special community and beautiful place!

At Stadium, I played on the men's tennis team all 4 years, took numerous AP classes, was a peer tutor, participated in many clubs, was part of 3 theater department musicals, was selected as part of the student group that went to China in July 2025, and completed a CTE Electrical Engineering & Architectural Engineering Internship (400 hours).

This fall I will begin my college at Central Washington University to major in aviation. I can't wait to become a professional pilot and take people across the state, to the other side of the country, or maybe around the world. Thank you for supporting me on this exciting journey!



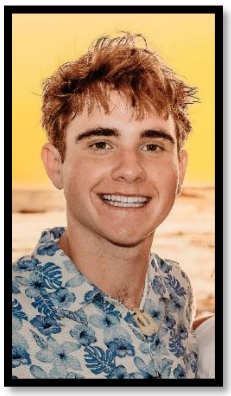
Alexander Shakhramanov

My name is Alexander Shakhramanov, and I graduated from the Tacoma Science and Math Institute in Point Defiance. During my four years, I travelled to my home school, Stadium High School, to compete in sports. I ran for the Stadium Cross Country team all four years, earning my varsity letter senior year, and decided to join

the wrestling team for my last year of high school, competing on and earning another varsity letter for that as well.

While I developed a good work ethic and mindset competing in sports, I learned compassion and leadership in my volunteering and extracurricular programs. I work with a team of high school and adult volunteers to run the Marine View Presbyterian Youth Group each week. Over the last two years I've been a part of Sea Scouts Ship 110 working aboard the Doolin-Rogers. I was selected to be a member of a team going on a 3-week service trip to work with Iranian refugees and communities in need in Scotland.

I'm very excited to continue my education at Central Washington University this fall and I'm grateful for the support and experiences the Browns Point and Dash Point communities have offered in the 18 years I've lived here.



Olivier Paillet-Toohey

My name is Olivier. I have lived in Dash Point for 4 years. My grandparents lived here for decades, so it's always felt like home to me.

I am a person who loves leadership and retreats. Throughout high school (at Bellarmine Preparatory School), I have been fortunate enough to be able to be a part of every school retreat and/or help. I have also helped with most leadership opportunities throughout high school, most notably through Link Crew.

In the summer, I also helped with leadership camps…teaching what a good leader is, how to become a leader, what leaders do. I have also been fortunate enough to go on school trips, whether that be an immersion trip to France where I got to learn about culture and way of life or if that means finding your best friend. I have been part of a mission trip to Guatemala through an organization called Courts for Kids. The mission is to go to countries that have underfunded schools who need sports courts and help build them a court with the locals who live there. I experienced this community's culture and the joy they live daily.

Calling Future Dash Point Scholars!

If you are interested in the DPSIC scholarship program, details about the requirements for the 2027 DPSIC scholarship will be posted on our website in early January at Scholarship – Dash Point Social & Improvement Club. Applications will be due on May 1, 2027, at 5pm.

The DPSIC gratefully encourages donations to the scholarship program. Contact us at dpsic07@gmail.com

An Enthusiastic Hello. A Heartfelt Farewell.



Browns Point/Dash Point Fire Chief James "Jim" Wassall showing off the brand-new Fire Engine #77







It is a bittersweet time at the Browns Point/Dash Point Fire Department, and for our communities.

The new, long awaited Fire Engine 77 rolled into the station this September. And the man who is responsible for bringing it here is bowing out in December. Chief James "Jim" Wassall is living a poignant moment. He is preparing a brand-new engine for service, and he is planning to pack up to retire.

Standing alongside Engine 77, the proud Chief extolls the ability of the engine's high tech, locking mechanism – a state-of-the-art weapon to secure the engine against robbers like the ones who savaged the Dash Point fire house three times in recent years and stole valuable equipment off the trucks. He excitedly points to the high-intensity lights under the engine directed to illuminate the ground for fire fighters. A practical addition, sorely needed in our neighborhoods that lack streetlights. The Chief says, " We will have less ankle injuries due to trending on undetectable debris on the ground."

Chief Wassall has meticulously supervised the development and assembly of this new million-dollar engine. Through the last three years, he's been actively communicating with Rosenbauer Inc., in South Dakota which specializes in constructing fire and rescue vehicles. The experience developing the truck and working with the company, the Chief says has been "spectacular." Now sitting in #77, he describes the sensation as breathing the promise of "that new Fire Truck smell."

The time to enjoy that vibe is short-lived for Chief Wassall. He will retire by the end of December. His successor, Noel Fitzgerald, is awaiting his swearing-in. The Chief has served for 17 years as a firefighter and seven as our Browns Point/Dash Point Fire Chief. Reflecting on his time of service, he says he would do it again in a heartbeat. “I thought I knew what I was getting into when I entered the fire service,” the Chief says with a laugh. He then smiles and states, “I had no idea!”

Very fond memories of the people he has worked with are what the Chief says he will take with him. Firefighting, he says, “is a team sport.” It is the camaraderie he treasures. But he says his greatest teammate is his wife, Lisa. And his imminent plans for retirement are simply summed up, “It will be totally up to what Lisa wants to do.” He adds, “For 17 years, WE have been slaves to the pager…I think she is going to take my phone away.”

In the coming weeks, keep your ears tuned in the neighborhood for the horn of Engine 77. The Chief says the department will be “parading it around like a float.” When it rolls by, you’ll get the chance to see the gleaming new fire truck #77 and at the same time you may offer a salute of gratitude to Chief Jim Wassall.

Chief, the community of Dash Point is incredibly grateful!

Renovation of Dash Point Park and Pier is moving forward.

An Update.





Approval of the Parks Tacoma bond levy this spring energized continued planning and renovation efforts for Dash Point Park and Pier.

The pier (dock) has been closed since 2021 due to structural safety problems – a disappointment to those who enjoy walking the pier and the fisherman. Since that time, Parks Tacoma has been working on plans to rebuild the dock and renovate the park.

With the financial infusion from the passage of the recent bond, Terry Yungman, the Park’s Capital Improvement Program Manager says, “We are starting to work through the first round of funding from the recently approved bond program, which does include an allocation of funding to continue design on the Dash Point Park and Pier. The consultant team is putting together an updated proposal that will move us into the next phase of design and begin permitting, which will include further engagement with the community.”

Yungman expects the Parks Tacoma requests for community input on that updated proposal will begin early next year.



90-year-old Bob Beale under the Dash Point Sign

Over the Back Fence
Fall 2026

By Marilyn Beale, Long-time Dash Point Resident

Ordinarily, when I write this column, I depend on meeting people and learning their news while strolling through the neighborhood for my health. No strolling for the last few weeks due to health issues in my family. But on Monday, while coming home from a quick trip to our local store in Browns Point, I made my turn onto Markham Avenue, and I spotted the message on the Dash Point reader board. Tears began to escape from my eyes as I read the birthday wishes to my husband from our Dash Point Community guardian angels -- HAPPY 90TH BOB BEALE – A DASH POINT LEGEND. What a special gift it is to be able to live for almost 59 years in such a loving and giving community. From the promises of help from the Dash Point "Beach Bums," to the motorcyclist who stopped and helped Bob get up after a fall, to Linda, with a special thanks, for lending a walker to Bob that he immediately put to good use. I offer a deep, huge thank you to our Dash Point Community.

I am signing off with a heartfelt ending I reserve only for family and close friends.

Lovingly,
Marilyn Beale



A Welcoming Totem Pole

A beautifully carved “Welcome” totem pole once again stands at the entrance to Browns Point. It has replaced the iconic totem pole that watched over our communities for 75 years.

Now standing in the triangular Jerry Meeker Memorial Park, the new 450-pound “story pole” features a fisherman holding a spear, a canoe carried on his back, and a salmon at his side. A bald eagle perched at the top boasts a seven-foot wingspan.

For decades, Eagle Scouts primarily maintained the revered pole. It later required repairs after vandals tried to cut it down, but when a vehicle struck it, the aging pole could not be saved.

The community responded through the early leadership of Browns Point Improvement Club (BPIC) board member Alice Jones who found artists Micah McCarty and Nicolas Earl Sr. to carve a new pole. The whole BPIC also played a vital role in returning the pole to the park.

After several years, on Sunday, July 12, 2026, the community gathered to unveil the new pole. More than sixty neighbors celebrated, including longtime residents who recalled stories about the notable Puyallup tribal member Jerry Meeker (Doyotta La-Hal-Da) who the park is named for and is historically credited with helping to establish Browns and Dash points. The community was also honored by the presence of a representative from the Puyallup Tribal Council.

Almost $40,000 was raised to support the pole. Fundraisers included Mike Stenberg, Alice Jones and Sylvia McClung with generous support from Dash Point Social and Improvement Club, Points Northeast Historical Society, Kevin Cronk, Carl and Jan Fisher, Linda and Jack Butcher, Browns Point United Methodist Church,

Jim Harnish, and Pierce County. Our Dash Point and Browns Point communities thank all who contributed to the fundraising.

There were many members of the community who donated countless hours of their time and talent to make the new totem pole stand proud. The project also received support from local government representatives including Marty Campbell, Bryan Yambe and Jake Fey.

The Browns Point Improvement Club (BPIC) notes on its website, “This project took years and the dedication of an entire community to complete and BPIC is thankful to everyone, named and unnamed, who made it possible.” More details about the involvement of community members can be found on the BPIC website at: Browns Point Improvement Club

Always a Beautiful Point!

The sign may change a little, but the beach always reminds us we are home at Dash Point. Many thanks to the Points Northeast Historical Society (PNEHS) for this Flash Back. PNEHS is an incredible local resource to remind us of where we have come from on Dash and Browns Points.

This black and white 1957 photo and caption is an image from the Tacoma News Tribune, found at the Tacoma Public Library through the efforts of PNEHS. Dash Point has welcomed us through the ages!



Tacoma News Tribune, Image TNTxxxxx, Tacoma Public Library Northwest Room.

POINTS NE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Preserve, promote and celebrate the history of Browns Point, Dash Point and Northeast Tacoma Since 1986
pointsnortheast.org

1957 and 2026!



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Dash Point Sunset – Summer 2026

Courtesy Jean Parker