



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

North Whidbey Pool, Park, and Recreation District Secures \$250,000.00 for Roof Repairs at the John Vanderzicht Memorial Pool

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Oak Harbor, WA- The North Whidbey Pool, Park, and Recreation District (District) is pleased to announce that roof repairs and partial replacement will begin on the John Vanderzicht Memorial Pool (JVMP) in August. The District received \$250,000.00 in funding from the Washington Department of Commerce Local Community Project funded through the Capital budget with the help of Representative Dave Paul. He sponsored the project during the 2021 legislative session.

The District built the JVMP in 1982, and throughout the years, funding to maintain and replace larger equipment was not available. In 2018 before residents elected Juli Brooks-Leete to the District board, she led the charge to raise funds to re-open the pool, get the levy passed, and find funding to repair and replace outdated equipment. After residents elected her to the Board, Commissioner Brooks-Leete worked with the rest of the Board to recruit and hire a director with parks, recreation, and grant writing experience. In March of 2020, the District hired a new Director, Jay Cochran, and tasked her to find more funding for roof repair and other projects. This week Brooks-Leete gets to see the progress continue that she started in 2018. "We are grateful for Congressman Dave Paul. We have a hometown hero fighting for us in Olympia. The funding for the roof was truly a dream come true and secured a precious community treasure. Now the District can move forward with expanded recreation opportunities for all. It is a great position to be in, and our new Director is leading us in the right direction," said Commissioner Brooks-Leete.

Cochran is new to Washington but came to the District with 25 years of experience in parks and recreation, community development, and grant writing. In those 25 years, Cochran worked for YMCAs, civic leagues, and municipal governments. Cochran's experience led her to reach out to the Island County Commissioners. "I began working in municipal government because I enjoy finding ways to partner in the community to expand parks and recreation services while still conserving taxpayer dollars. I reached out to Island County Commissioner because I wanted to know if there were opportunities to collaborate, and I wanted to pick their minds about funding sources in Washington," said Cochran.

Island County Commissioner, Janet St. Clair, invited Cochran to meet with her and later introduced Cochran to Representative Paul and the Local Community Project. "I was proud to support North Whidbey Pool, Park, and Recreation District in their efforts to serve the community better. We are all stronger when we work together," said Commissioner St. Clair.

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The Local Community Project is a grant program that intends to go towards projects that create something long-term, can be accessed by the public, and benefits the community through arts, culture, recreation, sustainability, transportation, etc. Funding the JVMP project aims to replace and repair the roof to withstand the elements for the next 20 years.

Initially, when Cochran reached out to the Congressman and inquired about the program in September of 2020, it was at the end of the Washington States' biennial budget cycle, and there were no funds left in the program. In March of 2021, Representative Paul reached out to the District and inquired if we were still looking for funds and offered to sponsor the District project in the Local Program. By the end of April, the Washington State 2021/2022 budget included the funding for the project.

CentiMark Corporation will complete the project. They specialize in roof repairs, including replacing the sodden insulation above the training (kiddie) pool down to the deck and installing a watertight TPO membrane on top of the new insulation. The project also includes installing a rust inhibitive 2-part epoxy primer, silicone seam seal, and silicone topcoat on the slanted metal parts of the roof. They will also rebuild the parapet wall to allow adequate drainage. We do not anticipate closing the JVMP for the repairs, and the project should begin in September, and take five to six weeks to complete.

To kick off the project, Representative Paul toured the JVMP to see our current progress and understand the District's direction. The Representative met with three Commissioners: Chris Wiegenstein, Juli Brooks-Leete, Pat Hardin, and JVMP staff. "I am thankful for the opportunity to work with our Board, our new Director and staff, and Rep. Paul. It has been such a team effort, and I am proud of our progress and look forward to the other projects we are planning," said Commissioner Wiegenstein.