

At Work for You Port of Skagit

Good Jobs for Our Community
Winter 2014

Port Plans 50th Anniversary Celebration



The Port of Skagit will be celebrating its Golden Anniversary throughout 2014, commemorating the vote by Skagit Valley citizens in 1964 to form the port district and highlighting the port's many accomplishments over the past 50 years.

When the Port of Skagit was created, its mission was to serve the economic development needs of the entire county by creating jobs in the natural resource fields of agriculture, timber, fisheries and mineral extraction. Today the Port continues to create economic opportunities in the county with the mission of "Good Jobs for Our Community." Key industries operating on Port properties include aerospace, boat building and value-added agriculture processing. The port's 78 tenants currently employ nearly 1,150 people.

The Port will be promoting its 50th anniversary during 2014 with a variety of events and initiatives. Highlights will include a community day at Skagit Regional Airport this summer and a boat show at the La Conner Marina in September, plus a celebration honoring port tenants later in the fall. The Port also will produce informational materials throughout the year. Rollout for the Port's 50th Anniversary booth display will take place at the Seattle Boat Show this month. To view a time line of the Port's history on the internet, go to www.portofskagit.com/about-the-port/history-of-your-port/.



Quick Work Saves Cabbage Crop

A Michigan-based food processing company cranked up a temporary facility at the Port of Skagit's La Conner Marina in November to turn Skagit Valley cabbage into sauerkraut before the crop spoiled.

Gielow Pickles Inc. provided processing and a buyer for this year's local cabbage crop, which was left without a contract when the Pleasant Valley Farms processing plant went out of business in August. On very short notice, Gielow brought in processing equipment and set up shop in the marina's Peninsula Building, which was vacant at the time.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Looking Back on 12 Years of Progress
- New Flight School at Skagit Regional
- Capital Spending Up in 2014 Budget
- Steven Omdal New Commission President
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COMING EVENTS:

FEBRUARY

2/11 Regular Meeting

MARCH

3/18 Regular Meeting

Port Commission meetings start at 3 p.m. in the Port of Skagit Hearing Room 15400 Airport Drive, Burlington, WA

Port of Skagit Has Come a Long Way in the Past Twelve Years



As I enter my third term representing District One on the Port Commission, it's an appropriate time to look back on my 12 years in office and note some of our accomplishments.

When first running for the office in 2001, my stated objectives were to manage the Port's real estate assets in a more businesslike fashion; operate the Skagit Regional Airport in a manner that maximized its value to the entire community; and to manage the La Conner Marina in a way that better met the needs of present and future boaters.

In the process of acting on these initial objectives during my first term, it became apparent that some additional 'big picture' changes were also needed. Those included:

- Bringing a more customer- and business-friendly approach to all of the Port's activities. Organizations (just like individuals), have personalities, and I thought the Port's "personality" needed some changes in order to achieve this. The Port is now a much more personable and "user friendly" organization than it once was.
- The Port had been (and is), making significant economic contributions to the community, yet the taxpayers were not as aware of these accomplishments as they could have been. Approaching everything the Port did from a 'brand strategy' perspective really helped solve this problem, as has improving the Port's relationships with the local media.
- The Port's nature trails and similar amenities are much more important to the taxpaying public than I initially realized. Previously, these amenities had been accomplished on a secondary or tertiary priority basis relative to other projects. Once we understood their true importance, we began giving them a much higher priority, which is something the public has noticed and appreciated.
- Port facilities, particularly the airport, serve a much larger public than just the local tax base, and it seemed only fair to me that the larger group of users should be paying more of their share. Toward that end, we began proactively applying for federal grants, which with time have enabled us to make huge improvements to Port infrastructure (such as the recent \$15 million runway improvement), at minimal cost to local taxpayers.
- The La Conner Marina was initially built primarily to provide moorage (and jobs) for the local Puget Sound fishery. As that industry declined, it transitioned mostly to recreational use and in the process suffered from some management issues. Over the past 12 years, improving the facility and its management with those recreational customers in mind has made it a much more attractive location for all boaters to use and a more productive investment for its real owners, the local taxpaying public.

Over the years, I have had the good fortune to work with Commissioners Glen Allen, Jerry Kaufman, Bill Shuler and Steve Omdal, along with a very dedicated and capable Port staff. I am proud of the progress we have made, and realize that we have brought it about, primarily through cooperation and teamwork.

*Dr. Kevin E. Ware, 2013 President
Skagit Port Commission*



Cascade Aviation's aircraft include a Piper Cherokee PA28-140, left, and a Cessna 152.

Cascade Aviation Takes Off at Skagit Regional

Cascade Aviation LLC opened recently at Skagit Regional Airport to provide flight and ground training to prospective pilots and to licensed pilots who are seeking to advance their ratings. Scenic flights also are available.

Cascade Aviation offers affordable and professionally maintained aircraft for rentals and flight instruction, including a Piper Cherokee PA28-140 and a Cessna 152. The aircraft may be rented by licensed pilots with a checkout and by student pilots learning to fly at Cascade Aviation.

"We're here to accommodate the growing pilot needs in aviation and provide a safe and effective learning environment in which to train," the company's web site states.

Cascade Aviation is located next to the Kitty Hawk Café at 15426 Airport Dr. Unit A, Burlington, WA, 98233. The phone number is 360-707-2838, and the web site is www.flycascade.com.

News Briefs from the Port of Skagit

- Moving to Skagit – The Heritage Flight Museum announced this fall that it will move from its facilities in Bellingham to the large hangar it owns at Skagit Regional Airport. Museum officials said they expect to complete the move by spring 2014.
- The Washington Asphalt Pavement Association presented a first place Quality Award for Excellence in Airport Paving to the 2012 runway project at Skagit Regional Airport and the paving contractor, Lakeside Industries, at its recent annual Paving Awards Banquet.
- Tenant breakfast – The port hosted a networking breakfast for tenants at the Kitty Hawk Café on Oct. 31, 2013. Speakers included Mike Hulbert of Vikima USA and Phil Simmons of Coast Lumber.
- Facebook – The port has established pages on www.facebook.com. Please consider "liking" these pages.

Know Your Port

Governed by an elected board of three commissioners, The Port of Skagit serves as an economic development engine for the Skagit Valley by concentrating on our mission, Good Jobs for Our Community. At the same time, we take care to provide transparent governance and excellent public service at minimal cost to the taxpayers in our district.

The port commissioners establish policy, approve budgets, retain the executive director and provide oversight of the port. The public is welcome at meetings of the commission, which normally take place on the second Tuesday of each month, starting at 3 p.m., in the commission hearing room of the port administration building, 15400 Airport Drive, Burlington.

The Port of Skagit owns and operates three key facilities: Skagit Regional Airport, Bayview Business Park and the La Conner Marina. Combined, the port's three facilities are home to more than 75 businesses that employ some 1,150 workers in sustainable household wage jobs.

Port of Skagit Commissioners District 1

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District 2
Steven Omdal, president
Burlington
360-757-6849

District 3
Bill Shuler, vice president
Sedro-Woolley
360-855-1882

2014 Budget Positions Port of Skagit for Economic Growth

The Port of Skagit will use the coming year to position itself to take advantage of opportunities to spur economic growth in the Skagit Valley, as outlined in the 2014 operating and capital budgets approved by the port commissioners on Nov. 12.

The port's 2014 capital budget totals \$3.415 million, more than double last year's total. Specific projects include grading of the Runway Safety Area at the west end of Runway 11-29 at Skagit Regional Airport, preparing to dredge the La Conner Marina boat basins, and completing a variety of facility upgrades, construction projects and building acquisitions.

The 2014 operating budget foresees revenues growing 1 percent from 2013, to \$5.1 million, and expenses also growing 1 percent, to \$4.6 million. As in 2013, strong occupancy rates at the port's facilities help account for the improved revenues. In addition, the port plans to adjust moorage rates at the La Conner Marina and rental rates at Skagit Regional Airport to reflect current market conditions.

During 2014, the port will derive 54 percent of its operating revenues from the La Conner Marina and dry boat storage, 32 percent from the Bayview Business Park and Conway industrial site, and 14 percent from Skagit Regional Airport. Administration and port costs account for 40 percent of operating expenses. Other segments of the operating expenses are airport, 11 percent, business park, 17 percent; and marina/dry storage, 32 percent.

Skagit Port Commission Elects New Officers for 2014

The Port of Skagit Board of Commissioners has elected new officers who will lead the port in 2014.

They are as follows:

- **President – Steven Omdal**, District 2 commissioner
- **Vice President – Bill Shuler**, District 3 commissioner
- **Secretary – Kevin Ware**, District 1 commissioner

The port commissioners also serve as the board of directors for the Port of Skagit Industrial Development Corp. The corporation's slate of officers for 2014 is the same as that of the port commission. Chartered in 2001, the industrial development corporation facilitates local economic development and employment opportunities within the port district by providing tax-exempt financing for the acquisition, construction, enlarging or improving of industrial facilities.

CONTACT US:

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INFORMATION:

Is there information you would like to see in *At Work For You*, or do you have questions related to a story that was featured? Please contact Carl Molesworth, Community Outreach Administrator, (360) 757-0011

PORT LEADERSHIP

Kevin Ware, Commissioner District 1
Steven Omdal, Commissioner District 2
Bill Shuler, Commissioner District 3

Patsy Martin, Executive Director



Port of Skagit

*Inspiring Success
Delivering Excellence*