

Trade Winds



Winter 2016

"Where business lives"



PORT OF KALAMA AWARDED WASHINGTON STATE PORT OF THE YEAR

The Port of Kalama capped a successful 2015 by being honored with the Washington Public Ports Association's President's Port of the Year Award. The Port was acknowledged for their ability to combine long-term vision and innovative planning to create jobs and improve the community's quality of life.

In addition, in 2015 the Port of Kalama celebrated the Pathways 2020 Community Champions Award for Economic Vitality. This award recognizes organizations that excel at creating jobs and job-related services like employee wellness, employable skills, training and financial security.

The Port's effective business and community relationships have translated into business expansions, new businesses taking up residency at the port, and development of new infrastructure projects like Haydu Park, the 24-acre recreation facility completed this summer.

The Spencer Creek Business Park Master Plan Advances

Following the Planning Commission's approval of the Spencer Creek Business Park Master Plan, the Port of Kalama moved forward on surcharging the site. This is the process that settles the ground in preparation for construction. The 70-acre property will be surcharged in phases over several months. In January, JH Kelly moved 85,000 cubic yards of sand from the North Port site to Spencer Creek Business Park. Scarsella Brothers began moving another 250,000 cubic yards of sand to the site in February. Geologic experts will monitor the site and determine when the settling process is complete. Then plans can proceed to build the park's infrastructure.



Scarsella Brothers moving sand

The Port has secured a business grant from the State of Washington Department of Community Economic Revitalization Board to identify the type of businesses that will best fit the Business Park, be economically sustainable and be most complimentary to the downtown Kalama core.



Alan Basso
President



Troy Stariha
Vice President



Randy Sweet
Secretary

Port meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at 5:30 p.m. in the Commission Room at the Port's Administrative Office.

Message from the President

The Port of Kalama ushered in the New Year with a surge of business growth and a strengthened sense of community. Last December's flooding saw our entire community pull together and help each other through a very tough time. I've never been more proud and impressed by a community's compassion for each other. We are fortunate to live among such formidable friends and colleagues.

Evidence of expansion can be seen with each truckload of sand traveling from the North Point location to the site of the new Spencer Creek Business Park east of Interstate 5. The sand is being compacted to ready the ground for construction later this year.

Not as visible, but every bit as vital are the deepening Port relationships with our business and civic partners. We are working with our clients, agencies and non-profits to continue our work to improve the quality of our community. On a regional level, our commissioners and staff are working together with groups such as the Cowlitz Economic Development Council, Cowlitz Wahkiakum Council of Governments, Chambers of Commerce, the Washington Public Ports Association and Pacific Northwest Waterways Association to boost our regional impact.

Our commitment to better our community's quality of life was punctuated by being named the 2015 Washington State Port of the Year. Whether our work is structural expansion, relationship-based or everyday maintenance, our dedication to economic growth and collaboration is our priority year-round. We've expanded our communication on our new website and on Facebook, and we are available to answer questions about our activities; just stop by the office or give us a call.

We wish everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

WHEN WINTER TURNS WILD

Typically, Kalama winters can be harsh, but with essential year-round maintenance, most weather damage can be avoided. December 2015 proved to be much different. Heavy rains and flooding limited access in and around the Port. First responders, Darin Sampson, Field and Maintenance Superintendent and his Port Operations team were, and are always, on-call for this type of situation. It's their job to ensure areas are prepped for winter and potentially destructive storms. And like last winter, be ready to work overtime when storms wreak havoc.

"We tried to stay ahead of any damage as best we could," says Darin. "We have about three and a third miles of recreational walkways to maintain, over forty acres of recreational facilities including parks, sports fields, and the marina. Not to mention maintenance of our roads and utilities. And when things get rough, it's round-the-clock work."

All and all, Darin and his crew maintain the 1000 acres that comprise the port. Most of the time, Darin and his team's work is measured by what is not seen—continuous preventative maintenance to ensure smooth sailing during all four seasons.

FACELIFT FOR PORT PATHWAYS

The Port of Kalama is set to upgrade its marina pathways and parking for optimum public safety and access. The areas that will be affected are near the former Port Administration office, the paved road around the perimeter of the marina parking, the public boat launch, the public restrooms and the helipad.

Among the improvements to be made are; pave the existing gravel truck/trailer parking area, extend the recreational trail to loop the entire marina parking area, install rain gardens for storm water infiltration and landscaping, increase lighting, and create new ADA accessible boat launch parking.

"When completed, walkers will see a tremendous benefit; they will be able to walk the entire Port Marina on a continuous path connecting the waterfront parks," says Eric Yakovich, Economic Development Manager for the Port. "The process will start late Winter and be complete within 3-5 months. During construction, we ask for the public's patience as the improvements are made."



Rendering of project

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT - Pete Poulsen A Kalama man of many hats

Twenty years ago, Ron "Pete" Poulsen left his Kalama treatment plant operator position to become the operator of the Port's newly finished Waste Water Treatment plant. He's happy to say he's never looked back.

The plant has won the Washington State Department of Ecology Outstanding Performance Award for the last two years. According to Pete, "The system is made up of HDP polyurethane piping which helps keep processing consistent—unlike municipal operations which are influenced by outside variables like stormwater."



Pete at the Wastewater Treatment Plant



Pete with recent Department of Ecology Awards

Pete has also been Kalama's Mayor for twelve years. He sees his role as building a bridge between city and port "The jobs work well together," says Pete.

In addition to his other activities, Pete is a tile setter. He still likes to do the work, but admits it's a little hard on the knees now. As a native, Pete has family in Kalama and now in Oregon. When his Oregon grandchildren come to visit they complain that everywhere they go someone wants to talk to their grandfather about something. Pete says that's the price you pay for living and working in such a close-knit community. And according to Pete, the grandkids will just have to get used to it because he's here to stay.

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CHEERS TO THE SUCCESSFUL FIRST ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARADE OF BOATS



Delayed a week due to high winds and rain, the Kalama Chamber and the Dolphin Yacht Club's Boat Parade and Festival lit up the Kalama Columbia River

on December 19. A testament to our strong community spirit and fortitude was the ease in which organizations and vendors agreed to the change. Better weather showcased the shimmering evening and rewarded everyone. Families enjoyed music and caroling, festive food and drinks, and holiday crafts.

"We are thankful to the Dolphin Yacht Club for partnering with us for this event. Its success was apparent by the large community turnout," said Kalama Chamber event organizer, Taryn Nelson. "Our goal was to provide on-the-ground activities and entertainment to attract a new audience to Kalama's core. The best traits of our little town—the most beautiful waterfront parkway in the region and

a community that comes together like family, were highlighted. I believe this festival did everything we hoped it would."

Revelers at the parade were treated to a narrated, well-lit boat procession and music from local area schools. A Santa photo booth, warm beverages, snacks and crafts embellished the evening.

The Dolphin Yacht Club offered VIP packages for groups, company holiday parties and organizations wanting to view the parade from under their own covered area. Packages included extras like riding on the boats as they paraded up the river and up-close viewing from the park boardwalk.

A huge thank you for all sponsor donations that helped make the festival a success.



*Photo Credit:
 The Festival of Lighted Boats*