



# Greater Kingston

## CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



### KINGSTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2009 LEADERSHIP

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(360) 297-7777

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(360) 297-3034

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
Linda Fyfe  
(360) 297-3813  
PO Box 78  
Kingston, WA 98346  
www.kingstonchamber.com  
info@kingstonchamber.com

## September 2009

### From the President

September is always an interesting month. We start with the Labor Day Weekend when chances are the weather will always be great and then within a couple of days, the school buses are hitting the roads, the kids are back in school and the evenings are just a little bit cooler. The focus of many turns to football and other fall activities. Thanks to the Kingston North Kitsap Rotary, and hundreds of our local businesses and citizens, it looks like there will be lights on the athletic fields at our Kingston High School. Hey, we could actually have a few games played here. You might wonder what this has to do with the Chamber of Commerce. We're supposed to deal with businesses and keeping the local economy alive. In my opinion, a vibrant local economy exists when the community can plan for future growth and success. There is no better place to look to the future than the students enrolled in our local schools. And when they can stay in town for their games and other related activities, it's good for our business community.

When there are athletic events in our town, parents and other relatives of the students and players will come to visit. When they do show up, they start to look around the town and visit some of the businesses. Whether it is to stop for a meal at a local restaurant, to purchase an umbrella because it just started to rain or look for a souvenir of their visit, every time we host an event here someone new gets to take look at our town. That is good for the local economy.

The summer of 2009 has been a great time for Kingston. In the middle of what is described as the worst recession since the Great Depression, here in our town at least four very visible businesses took shape and opened up at least forty new jobs. Those were the Oak Table Restaurant, The Firehouse Theater, Lil Sprouts Toy Shop and Mora Iced Creams. There have also been several local newly developed home based businesses that are up and running and creating opportunities for others. The Port of Kingston finished off a five year improvement project which provided the town with an enlarged park area, a kayak facility for recreation and a performing arts venue in the form of a new stage that will bring entertainment to our citizens for years to come. And if that isn't enough, our Village Green Foundation organized a group of volunteers to partner with the very limited resources available from Kitsap County and created the wonderful Village Green Park on West Kingston Road - again something we will use and enjoy for decades to come. Then there were all of the events - so many that there isn't enough space here to do them justice. I hope you made it to some of them. This is a great time to be a part of Kingston.

Aren't the flower baskets looking great! The Beautification Committee of the Chamber still needs a few volunteers to help out with the watering. It may look like there is someone doing it every day but those great folks sometimes want a break for a week to go to the ocean or mountains so Wendy Armstrong is looking for part time fill in help and you can get involved by checking in with one of the volunteers at the chamber office on the corner of West Kingston Road and Central avenue.

You may notice that I am a big fan of the community and schools working together. The events committee of the chamber; The Down Town Kingston Association is working on a plan for a week long "Homecoming Party" for Kingston High School in October. That could be a lot of fun. Keep an eye on the chamber website www.kingstonchamber.com.

I'm running out of space. Please continue to support our local businesses and enjoy these last days of summer.

Pete DeBoer, President

## Member Spotlight

### Neal Kellner, CM Travel 4 Fun

A Hansville resident for many years, Neal Kellner has been a prime example of the new way of society: becoming a jack of many trades; finding a passion, learning all about it and following it to its natural end. His past includes careers as a chemist and teaching chemistry, math, physics and technology, insurance sales, a master in automotive technology, grocery retail, and finally, in travel. The proud single dad of Erron, 29, who lives in Kitsap County and splits his own time between software technical support and managing a restaurant in Port Townsend, Neal is happy to call North Kitsap his home base.

He stumbled into the travel industry upon speaking to an agent while on an adventure tour in Hawaii. Sharing his frustrations with his current career path, he was easily convinced to follow his passion for travel by jumping in with both feet and opening an agency, himself. If he isn't traveling himself, he's traveling vicariously through a client on an adventure he's put together.

CM Travel 4 Fun, the name of his company, is a play on the words of his mission statement which includes the phrase "See them travel for fun". The business is service-focused, and the clients he works to keep, are those who appreciate the good full-service he can provide. He listens to the client's needs and desires, and plans a trip which includes experiences they may not have considered nor known of their existence. Forever conscience of budgets, Neal has knowledge and contacts up his sleeves which come in handy to create an experience vacation like no other.

His fondest project was to create a road trip for the family of a close friend who had passed some years back. After speaking at length with the mom of the now-teenaged children of his good friend, together they put together a trip through Yellow Stone Park and surrounding areas which included nights in cabins and first-class hotels, and a helicopter ride over Glacier Park that would have made his friend proud. It was to be the family vacation that they never took when his friend was alive and he took pleasure to create two weeks of memories while there was still time.

The future for Neal is wide open but he intends to be working doing something he loves for as long as he possibly can. His goal is to be sitting on a mountain top or at the shore of a sandy beach, having established a solid clientele, with a satellite phone in his hand, making a call to one of those clients with an invitation to share in the experience, wherever in the world he may be.

His success is tied to his happiness and he acknowledges that life is short so "you better damn well enjoy every minute of it while you can!"

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**Member Spotlights are chosen at our monthly luncheon, 1st Wednesday of the month!**

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Visit [www.kingstonchamber.com](http://www.kingstonchamber.com) for details



The Kingston Chamber Ambassadors meet every Wednesday morning at 8:30 AM at Cleo's Learning Center. Their meetings are open to any and all businesses who are interested in networking. Recent guest presentations have been made by Bill Stewart, Kitsap Economic Development Alliance; Jon Carney of Carney Cargill and Associates; and Chris Case from the North Kitsap School District, speaking on the upcoming Business Showcase to be held in September up at the North Kitsap School District where local businesses will have the opportunity to offer their products and services to hundreds of North Kitsap staff members and employees.

The Ambassadors are members of the Chamber of Commerce who have agreed to represent the Chamber at all events such as Business Luncheons and After Hours, all the while promoting their own businesses. Becoming an Ambassador is easy and we'll be pleased to tell you all about it at our meeting.

### Current Kingston Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors include:

Tom Ogden - The Ogden Group.net, John Johnson - Surgical Advanced Technologies Corporation, Mark Gibson - Mark Gibson and Associates, Amy Spray - NW Business Services, Kirsten Cowan - Melaleuca, Ann Manning - The Kingston Community News, Sandy Scott - Safe Secure

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# Calendar of Events

## Kingston Farmers Market

**Saturdays 9am - 1pm**

- SEPTEMBER 1**  
*Events Committee Meeting*  
 (Downtown Kingston Association)  
 4 PM @ Cleo's Learning Center
- SEPTEMBER 2**  
*Chamber Ambassadors Meeting*  
 8:30 AM @ Cleo's Learning Center
- Monthly Business Luncheon*  
 Sponsored by Kingston Community News  
 12 PM @ Kingston Cove Yacht Club  
 Guest Speaker: Bob Dash from Powertrip Energy speaking on Solar Panel Energy
- SEPTEMBER 5**  
**MUSTANG RAFFLE DRAWING**  
 9-2 @ The Farmer's Market @ Mike Wallace Park  
 Sponsored by the Greater Kingston Kiwanis
- SEPTEMBER 8**  
*Chamber Board of Directors Meeting*  
 7:30 AM @ Little City Catering
- SEPTEMBER 9**  
*Chamber Ambassadors Meeting*  
 8:30 AM @ Cleo's Learning Center
- SEPTEMBER 10**  
*Chamber After Hours*  
 5 PM @ Edward Jones, Bim Prince's Office, 297-8664  
 25960 Ohio Avenue NE, (behind Mora's Ice Cream)
- SEPTEMBER 16**  
*Speed Networking Breakfast*  
 Sponsored by Costco  
 8:30 AM @ Cleo's Learning Center
- SEPTEMBER 23**  
*Chamber Ambassadors Meeting*  
 8:30 AM @ Cleo's Learning Center
- SEPTEMBER 24**  
*Community Beautification Committee Meeting*  
 4 PM @ Cleo's Learning Center
- SEPTEMBER 30**  
*Chamber Ambassadors Meeting*  
 8:30 AM @ Cleo's Learning Center

# Welcome New Members Patron Members

- Cup & Muffin – Amy and Mark Anderson**  
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 www.cupandmuffin.com
- Kendall Hanson**  
 PO Box 1360  
 Kingston, WA 98346  
 (360) 710-2936  
 www.kendallhanson.com
- Kitsap Public Utility District – John Armstrong, Commissioner**  
 PO Box 1989  
 Poulsbo, WA 98370  
 (360) 779-7656  
 www.kpud.org
- Oak Table Café – Ross McCurdy**  
 11171 NE Hwy 104  
 Kingston, WA 98346  
 (360) 881-0554  
 www.oaktablecafe.com
- Pierside Promotions – David Kutz**  
 23911 Newell Lane NE  
 Kingston, WA 98346  
 (360) 297-2935  
 www.piersidepromos.com
- Professional Voice Lessons – Kierston Roslington**  
 26314 Washington Blvd NE  
 Kingston, WA 98346  
 (360) 689-9615  
 www.KierstonRoslington.com
- WELCOME RENEWED MEMBERS**  
 Arness, Incorporated – Bill Arness  
 Bank of America – Scott Snively  
 Berg Andonian  
 Chinook Properties Inc. – Marnie Clark  
 Dragonfly Farms Inc – Heidi Kaster

- GOLD**  
 The Ogden Group.Net – Tom Ogden  
 PO Box 1948  
 11264 Hwy 104, #204  
 Kingston, WA 98346  
 (360) 633-2580  
 www.theogdengroup.net
- SILVER**  
 Surgical Advanced Technologies Corporation --  
 John L. Johnson  
 26569 Lindvog Road NE Suite 102  
 Kingston WA 98346  
 (253) 225-3717
- Kitsap Credit Union – Kingston Branch--  
 Christine Conners  
 8196 State Hwy 104 NE  
 Kingston, WA 98346  
 (360) 662-2072  
 www.KitsapCU.org
- BRONZE**  
 Allstate Insurance – Marcy Johnson  
 3010 Bethel Road SE  
 Port Orchard, WA 98366  
 (360) 876-1687 or (800) 436-1007  
 www.allstateagencies.com/Marcy
- Carney Cargill, Inc. – John Carney  
 375 Erickson Avenue, Suite 213  
 Bainbridge Island, WA 98110  
 (206) 842-8987  
 www.carneycargill.com
- State Farm Insurance – David J. Lee  
 10868 NW Myhre Place, Suite 101  
 Silverdale, WA 98383  
 (360) 613-5550  
 www.davidleeinsurance.com
- North Kitsap Herald  
 Kingston Community News  
 Donna Etchey  
 P.O. Box 278  
 18887 Hwy 305, Suite 700, Poulsbo, Wa 98346  
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 www.kingstoncommunitynews.com  
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