



Greater Kingston

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October 2009 From the President

All in all, I would say that the summer of 2009 was a pretty good one for Kingston. There were lots of celebrations, more than a few new businesses started in and around town and the weather was the best in recent memory. If you are unemployed though or your business is struggling or just plain gone, this has not been a great year for you. From every indication all of the political "talking heads" on TV are telling us that things are improving. I hope they are right but to me the nation has a long way to go in the recovery department.

Locally though I do see things picking up a bit. When I take my walks in the morning I have been seeing trucks bringing things like trusses and dry cement lime more loads of lumber to this side of the water. To me this indicates that there is construction going on someplace. New construction is one of the first indicators that things are getting better. In the early part of the year, those loads just weren't showing up. Things like that, the ones that are real, those are the signs that the situation is improving.

I want to take a few lines to talk about the changes up at our town's grocery store. I know that many of us are still writing "Thriftway" in our check registers and going home and telling family that we saw someone down at "Thriftway". Now, we have to change it to IGA. What's that all about? Rick Bjarnson, owner of the store told me that the change, as complicated and tedious as it was, that the IGA family gives the store the buying power of a much larger organization. The new produce and meat cooler units and the expanded wine selection are indications to me that the move was a good one for Kingston consumers. Some of the great sale prices we have enjoyed over the past several months seem to validate the decision. And how about live Maine Lobsters! Who doesn't enjoy stopping off at IGA to pick up a few things or do your weekly shopping? You will always see someone you know there. I suppose we can get used to the black aprons.

The three standing committees of the Chamber, the Events (Downtown Kingston Association - DKA), Economic Development (Stakeholders) and Beautification have been very busy over the past several months just doing what they are supposed to do. DKA is planning a great Homecoming party for our Kingston High School Buccaneers football team the week of October 12th. After that, they will be working on Kingston's Christmas party. The Stakeholders have been busy with the Kingston Advisory Council developing a great Master Planning document that will forge the future of the downtown core of our town and help it develop into an inviting and sustainable village. The Beautification Committee is getting a handle on all of the flower baskets around town. There are about 50% of these beautiful pots that are "adopted" by local citizens. Those who have taken responsibility for a basket will be getting a little statement in the mail asking for a little maintenance money to keep them safe and nourished over the winter. If you want to sign up to take care of a basket, just stop by the chamber or call in and one of our great volunteers will put you in touch with the right person.

The John Deere Gator that is used by the volunteer water brigade is on it's last leg. The poor old motor is wearing out from hauling around eight hundred pounds of water everyday. This machine was purchased for the town by the county commissioners about ten years ago and as you know, extra money in the county coffers is non existent these days. (Hmmm wonder where all that asphalt came from?) There is a plan in the works for a replacement vehicle but as of now nothing is completely firm. I hope to report more next month.

The monthly chamber luncheons which take place on the first Wednesday of each month are a great way to find out first hand what is going on around here. We always have a great program with interesting topics and every one is welcome. The second Thursday of each month, we have a Chamber After-Hours where one of our local businesses opens their doors and invites us in for some good munchies and a tour of their digs. Keep an eye on the website www.kingstonchamber.com. That's where you can find out what we're up to and also find links to dozens of other associated organizations.

You don't have to own a business to become a member of the chamber, but if you do own a local business and are not a member, there is a lot of stuff you are missing out on. Did you know that when a group of boaters is visiting Kingston, the volunteers from the chamber take a welcome packet of information, provided by our member businesses, down to the Port to be delivered to each boat? There is a statistic out there someplace that says that when a recreational boater visits your port for a weekend they usually spend about \$165 in the local community. On good weekends, there are about fifty boats visiting Kingston.

Until November, Pete DeBoer

Member Spotlight Tom Taylor, Costco Marketing



A booming voice, a friendly smile and a warm handshake. Tom has arrived to the meeting and now everyone can feel like they belong in his presence. If you've ever met Tom Taylor, Marketing Representative from Costco, you know the feeling. Easily one of the busiest men in Kitsap County, Tom, wearing his Costco tag, is everywhere, everyday.

Tom's been with Costco for 10 years, now, having spent the last five doing just what he's doing now. He began in the Business Delivery Department in Lynnwood, expanding that program from its infancy.

Tom's background is in trucking, having owned many businesses such as Quality Relocators, Taylor Heavyhaul and Truckers Express in Montana, and S&S Transportation in California. Fondlest memories include tearing down steel plants in Seattle (while at Quality Relocators) (after creating schematics), then selling the manufacturing components to companies in China and Columbia. As a courier for Boeing, while owning Taylor Heavyhaul, he hauled the Hubble Missile Launcher. In fact, he's the only civilian who got to actually drive the Hubble Missile Launcher, at one point during his contract.

Prior to his trucking career, Tom spent 13 years in the newspaper business in California. At 27 years of age, as the youngest Assistant Circulation Manager on the West Coast, he lectured at Cal Poly - San Luis Obispo to other Coast-wide circulation managers. While there, he developed the paper's biggest circulation to 450,000 papers from an original 200,000.

While at the paper in California, he met his wife Margie, now married 37 years. Their three sons range in age from 22 through 36 years and are very supportive of their mom and dad. Now a professional Nanny, Margie worked in Assist and ESL for the NKSD at Poulsbo and Island School on Bainbridge.

Tom has made his mark on Kitsap County by being involved in the Poulsbo Chamber of Commerce where he has a presence on the Viking Fest and the 3rd of July Committees. Through his work with the Military Affairs Committee for North Kitsap, and particularly the Navy, he meets with Commanding Officers monthly as a Community Liaison and is there to meet and send off every ship and sub on the pier and at all their parties. He particularly enjoys the special events put on for the military children, having been one himself. He's on committees for the Home Builders Association and participates in all the Home and Garden and Home and Remodel shows. His passion for children, more directly, homeless children has led him most recently to get on the Board of Directors of Fishline and Peninsula Services. In his spare time, he is Captain of the Ushers at Christ Memorial Church.

Through his work at Costco, selling a product he truly believes can make peoples' lives easier to bear, Tom touches people everyday. His personal goal is to do something to change the lives of the almost 200 homeless children in Kitsap County. Through his work at Fishline and Peninsula Services, Tom wants to help re-train parents to stand up to their responsibilities and pull their lives together for the sake of the children. Everyone can use a little help, now and then, he feels, and "No one is a waste until they prove that they are."



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

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GO BUCCS!



Calendar of Events

- OCTOBER 2** Urban Economic Development (Stakeholders)
9 PM @ Cleo's Learning Center
- OCTOBER 6** Events (Downtown Kingston Association)
4 PM @ Cleo's Learning Center
- OCTOBER 7** Chamber Ambassadors Meeting 8:30 AM @
Cleo's Learning Center Monthly Business Luncheon
Sponsored by Kingston Physical Therapy 12 PM @
Kingston Cove Yacht Club Guest Speaker: Ellen
Arthur, Community Health Liaison speaking on
SWINE FLU IN KITSAP COUNTY Sit-down, full
service lunch provided by Little City Catering.
The menu includes: Northern Italian Lasagna, Greek
Garden Greens Salad, Soft Herbed Breadsticks,
Fresh Fruit Garnish, Icy Fruit Gelato and Beverages.
RSVP by Monday, October 5. \$15 with RSVP or
\$20 at the door. Bring a door prize and a friend.
- OCTOBER 8** Chamber After Hours
5 PM @ Salon and Spa at Port Gamble
- OCTOBER 10** KINGSTON HOMECOMING WEEK: Old
Kingston Schoolhouse 100 Year Birthday Bash and
Open House 1 - 5 PM @ Kola Kole Basketball Court
DJ Music, Family Games, Building Tours and
Memorabilia, refreshments and Birthday Cake
- OCTOBER 13** Chamber Board of Directors Meeting
7:30 AM @ Little City Catering

KINGSTON HOMECOMING WEEK:
Kingston Middle School Open House
Time to be determined
- OCTOBER 14** Chamber Ambassadors Meeting
8:30 AM @ Cleo's Learning Center

KINGSTON HOMECOMING WEEK:
Wolfe Elementary School Open House
Time to be determined

KINGSTON HOMECOMING WEEK:
Gordon Elementary School Open House
Time to be determined
- OCTOBER 15** KINGSTON HOMECOMING WEEK:
KINGSTON PEP RALLY 6 - 9 PM @ Mike
Wallace Park Come join the Hometown Team, the
KHS Buccaneers, as they are lead by the KHS Band
and Cheerleaders to the Mike Wallace Park! Meet
the team members and enjoy a mini band concert.
Followed by a great old fashioned PEP Rally, Pie
Throwing Contest and Street Dance! There'll be
food and music! The Booster Clubs will have loads
of Buccaneer souvenirs to buy and take with you to
the Homecoming Game on Friday! The event is
open to the whole town!
- OCTOBER 16** KINGSTON HIGH SCHOOL HOMECOMING GAME
7 PM @ Kingston High School - if the lights are in
- OCTOBER 21** Chamber Ambassadors Meeting
8:30 AM @ Cleo's Learning Center
- OCTOBER 22** Community Beautification Committee Meeting
4 PM @ Cleo's Learning Center
- OCTOBER 26** Flower Basket Committee
9 am @ Larson/Casteel in Cleo's Landing
- OCTOBER 28** Chamber Ambassadors Meeting
8:30 AM @ Cleo's Learning Center

Welcome New Members

Allegra Print & Imaging - Grace Pascoe
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CB's Nuts - Clark Bowen
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PO Box 516, Hansville, WA 98340
(360) 297-1213
www.cbsnuts.com

Creative Office Guru - Shirley Bomgaars
27136 Washington Blvd. NE
PO Box 456
Kingston, WA 98346
(360) 981-1838
www.creativeofficeguru.com

Gigi Hill Bags - Teresa Hall
22265 Miller Bay Road NE
Poulsbo, WA 98370
206) 714-3331
www.gigihillbags.com/teresahall

Kitsap Propane LLC - Larry Brooke
7970 Ecology Road
PO Box 2092
Kingston, WA 98346
(360) 638-1313
www.kitsappropane.com

Lil Sprouts Toy Shop LLC - Michelle Lanning
11252 NE State Hwy 104
PO Box 1224
Kingston, WA 98346
(360) 297-2468
www.lilsproustoyshop.com

Perpetual Cycle - Tim Todd
9320 NE West Kingston Road
Kingston, WA 98346
(360) 626-8934
www.perpetual-cycle.com

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Kitsap Credit Union - Kingston Branch- Christine Conners
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www.carneycargill.com

The North Kitsap Herald / Kingston Community News - Donna Etchey
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