Port Report



State/Region Tourism Efforts

In the aftermath of the forest fire that impacted Cascade Locks, the Port, in partnership with the City called for a special meeting with representatives of Travel Oregon and the regional tourism organization (RDMO) to better understand what the state and regional organizations had planned for our city. In a special meeting in November, representatives sat with Cascade Locks officials and shared a very comprehensive plan for promoting the community and letting visitors know there are still plenty of good reasons to visit Cascade Locks and the Columbia River Gorge. As a part of the Governors commitment to the community, Travel Oregon has significantly increased promotional efforts to encourage visitors to this region and specifically Cascade Locks. These increased State and regional efforts along with local strategies will keep Cascade Locks in front of potential visitors for a while.

Visit Tourism at www.cascadelocks.com

Marine Park Master Plan

The Port Commission has adopted the Marine Park Master Plan to help guide future use and development in Marine Park. The major elements of the new Master Plan include retaining green space: establishes two phases for enhancements over the next 10 years; requires Port Commission annual review of the Master Plan; requires review and approval of each project in advance by the Port Commission. Phase One of the adopted plan includes the following projects: a) A park pedestrian pathway thru the Park; b) Enhanced flowers and beautification spots; c) Repurposing the current incubator space; e) Enhancing the Pavilion for reception and special event use; wedding, f) Planning for adequate drainage and automatic irrigation; g) Enhancing the wedding sites on Thunder Island. The Master Plan incorporates the requirements under the original Corps of Engineers deed for the park and SHIPO involvement to ensure compliance with National Historic Dedications.



Coupon Exchange

Older .75 and \$7.50 coupons pictured above will not be valid after Feb. 1st, 2018. Please exchange them at the Cascade Locks Port Office for an equal number of the current coupons. (Coupon exchange is on a coupon for coupon basis and will honor the original discount) Port Office Hours are 8am-5pm Monday-Friday. Please call 503-374-2418 for arrangements to exchange coupons outside of normal business hours.

Local Business Spotlight

Recently, Nicole Bassett of The Renewal Workshop (TRW) participated in the movement Empowering A Billion Women by 2020. EBW2020 is an organization that supports efforts around the world focused on the empowerment of women. Nicole won the Billion Dollar Funders Circle competition and received \$50K in cash and in kind prizes! This movement facilitates opportunities for women-owned businesses to network with corporate supplier diversity programs. The Renewal Workshop was also recently awarded the 2017 Best Environmental Stewardship Program from US Chamber of Commerce Foundation. The Renewal Workshop created its home in Cascade Locks where is diverts tons of clothing from the landfills and instead made into renewed apparel. TRW is currently seeking employees for Sewing Machine Operator/Repair Technician and Workshop Associate. Email jobs@renewalworkshop.com for more information.



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Pony Task Force

The Port Commission has appointed JoAnn Wittenburg, Bill Hankle, Ken Royer, Pat Power, Debbie Fine and Joe Shelley to the new Pony Task Force. Both the Museum Board and the City Tourism Committee were given seats on the Task Force. The Task Force is charged with the responsibility to develop a comprehensive funding program of donations and grants, decide the full level of operations and determine the most effective relationship with the Museum, the Tourism Program and Visitor center. This Task Force will have one year to complete its assignment. Anyone interested in participating and being a member of the Task Force is encouraged to contact the Port.

Upcoming Office Closures

The Port office will close at Noon on Fri, Dec. 22nd and all day Mon., December 25th for Christmas Day. The office will also close on at noon Fri., Dec. 29th and all day on Mon., January 1st for New Year's Day.

Free Holiday Bridge Crossing

The Port Commission would like to wish everyone Happy Holidays this winter season! As is tradition, there will be free bridge crossings (no toll collected) on the Bridge of the Gods from 9pm on Sunday, December 24th to 7am on Tuesday, December 26th for all vehicles.



Airport Feasibility Study

The long awaited feasibility study to determine the best use of the State Airport will begin on December 7. The Steering Committee will meet with the consultant on that date. It is anticipated that this study will take about six months and will help both the State and locals determine the best application of the acreage located in Cascade Locks. The important factor is that the State is currently identifying underutilized properties for potential sales. There are currently no intentions for development of the property until the study determines what its best use would be for the community.

Truck Toll Increase

This month, the Commission approved an increase in toll fees for commercial trucks crossing the Bridge of the Gods with 3 or more axles. The new truck tolls will go into effect on February 1st, 2018. The new toll rate will move up to a flat \$3 per axle rate for commercial trucks. Discounted coupons will continue to be available, giving our trucking customers the ability to cross the BOG for a discounted rate of \$2 per axle. Leading up to the decision, the Port was proactive in holding public meetings communicating proposed changes to our BOG customers. Commercial truck traffic on the Bridge of the Gods continues to increase, contributing to increased wear and tear and costly maintenance needs. The Port is committed to continuing to maintain the BOG for safe passage. All 2 axle automobile toll will remain at the current tolls.