



KINGSTON NEWS

PORT OF

New 'Welcome to Kingston' reader board

It's a dream that for some has been at least a decade in the making. On Sept. 21, the last obstacle to building Kingston's long-awaited electronic reader board sign was cleared when the county issued its final approval.

"As with the Village Green Community Center, the

'a credit to the perseverance and passion of community volunteers with a vision.' —Rob Gelder

new sign is a credit to the perseverance and passion of community volunteers with a vision," said Kitsap County Commissioner Rob Gelder.

The sign is expected to be completed and in service in time for this year's holiday season.

The two panels on the new \$40,000, L-shaped reader board sign on the corner of

Lindvog and Highway 104 will face traffic both coming and going. Each panel will feature a seven-foot-wide by 41-inch-tall color led display that can be programmed remotely.

It all started with a need for blood, said Kingston resident Jon Sole, who is credited by many with being the driving force behind the new sign.

Back in 2007 or so, Sole oversaw the Rotary Club of Kingston-North Kitsap blood drives.

"And, as far as getting publicity out, the only place you could advertise back then was on an old ... monstrosity [of a sign] on the old community center. With that old sign, you could only get one message out a month, and it would take another month before someone would take the old one down and put a new one up,"

The new L-shaped reader board on the corner of Lindvog and Highway 104 will face traffic both coming and going.

Art: Hanson Signs

Sole recalled. "With our new electronic sign, we will be able to display numerous events simultaneously, one after another ... All of the small clubs need that so they can let the rest of the town know what they're about."

Because one of the missions

See **SIGN** on back



New Port office addition ribbon cutting is Dec. 2

Homeland Construction Co., Inc. owner Rick Lanning says he and his crew are on track to complete construction of the new Port office addition on time.

Photo: Terry Asla



There will be something extra to celebrate at the Kingston Cove Christmas Lighting Ceremony on Dec. 2: Kingston Chamber of Commerce members, Port commissioners and Port staff and tenants will cut the ribbon and officially open the newest addition to the Port of Kingston: a 950 square-foot addition to the front of the Port's administration building.

"It's all about the customer experience, from ADA accessibility, to convenience and new technology," said Port Executive Director Jim Pivarnik. "Ground floor convenience is very important for our customers."

The work, which began Sept. 1, is being done by Homeland Construction Co., Inc. at a cost of \$167,000.

Port proposes 'flat' budget for its 2018 fiscal year

The Port of Kingston's proposed 2018 budget of \$1,711,356 represents an overall income decrease of one percent and an overall increase in expenses of .5 percent. The final budget will be approved at the Port's October meeting. The public comment period is Sept. 27 to Oct. 25.

Income

Overall income is expected to decrease from \$1,502,724 to \$1,484,632; or \$18,092.

The decrease from 2017 is due mainly to the fact the Hill House property has failed to generate projections and the fuel sales margin will be less than anticipated.

This budget does not include a permanent moor-

age increase. Historically, the Port has increased permanent moorage rates by the cost per living index. Rates should be reviewed in the first quarter to see if one is warranted. Any increase voted on by the Commission could be implemented in April, just before the season begins, as several marinas do.

The budget reflects a flat transient moorage season with a modest uptick in the seasonal monthly guest moorage.

Development of the Washington Park site will have the potential for revenue loss at the end of Diamond Parking's lease on that property. As the passenger ferry comes on line in 2018, a parking discus-

sion will need to take place as to whether we continue with monthly parking or only offer daily parking at an increased rate.

Expenses

Expenses are expected to increase from \$1,415,817 to \$1,423,192; a \$7,375 increase.

This is largely due to a cost of living increase, the creation of a merit raise reserve for Port employees and commissioner compensation more in line with what other ports are paying. Medical and business insurance also continue to rise. Credit card service fees will rise as well, as the Port encourages its tenants and guests to pay by credit card.

Capital projects

The Port's financial

position continues to be strong, with operations generating enough income to pay for all expenses. This leaves non-operating income —\$226,000 from taxes, interest and service charges — to be used for capital projects and debt service.

The Port is looking to invest another \$1,000,000.00 in capital projects in 2018, with \$800,000 funded through other government entities.

2018 capital projects include the development of Washington Park (funded with a grant from the Washington Recreation & Conservation Office), marina entrance gates, bathroom and laundry improvements and passenger ferry terminal upgrades.

SIGN continued from front of Rotary is community service, the Rotary Club of Kingston-North Kitsap adopted the project —which proved to be more daunting than anyone expected.

Challenges

The sign was originally going to go on the old community building, but that changed when Village Green Community Center was built, Sole said. Working with Commissioner Gelder and the Kitsap County commissioners, the club was finally able to get a piece of right of way set aside for the reader board on the corner of Lindvog Road and Highway 104, Sole said.

The sign, designed by Hanson Signs of Silverdale, also went through numerous design changes over the years; some because of changing locations, others due to regulations — the display panel can't be larger

than the "Welcome to Kingston" header on the sign, for example.

But, the largest challenge by far was raising the money to purchase the sign, which was going to cost about \$40,000. The club put on a fundraisers over the years, but had only been able to raise about half the money.

There was also the matter of who would manage and maintain the sign once it was built. The Rotary Club really didn't want those responsibilities, Sole said.

So, he and the other club members were delighted when, in 2017, the Port of Kingston offered put up the rest of the money and to maintain and manage the sign.

"Part of our mission at the Port is to enhance the economic and social well-being of the Port District residents," said Port of Kingston Executive Director

Jim Pivarnik.

'It was a game changer'

"I think really what tipped it over was the fact the Port was willing to become a partner," Gelder said. "When the Port said, 'We'll partner, we'll set up the guidelines and have that official relationship with the county in terms of the property and the easement we have on it' —it was a game changer and that really made it possible."

Who is eligible to use the new sign

In compliance with government regulations, the new sign will be strictly non-political and non-commercial; only nonprofit events can be advertised on it. That includes commercial businesses hosting an event to raise money for charity at their establishment, for example, a brew pub donating a percentage of each draw to the local humane society.

There will be a minimal fee for placing an ad on the sign, said Pivarnik; just enough to help cover the cost of maintaining and managing the sign.

COMING EVENTS

Sea Grant Marine

Weather Workshop: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 28, Village Green. Cost: \$60. Contact: Sarah Fischen, sfischen@u.washington.edu, 206-543-1225. Learn how to read the weather before you go with Jay Albrecht, senior marine forecaster NOAA, and David Wilkinson, meteorologist. Info: www.wsg.washington.edu.

About the Port of Kingston: The Port's mission is to enhance the economic and social well-being of the Port District residents and to provide a waterfront facility for recreation and leisure activities. It does so with an active marina, destination waterfront park, and community programming. In 2019, the Port will be celebrating its 100th anniversary. For more info, go to www.portofkingston.org