

Community reader board a true community effort

On Dec. 12 the new electronic reader board on Lindvog Road and N.E. State Highway 104 went operational. Its first message: the time and temperature.

Port staff will spend the rest of December familiarizing themselves with the new sign and its software.

“Because we’re still learning, there’s no charge for putting a message on the reader board this month,” said Terryl Asla, the Port’s communications coordinator who is responsible for the sign. “By Jan. 1, the guidelines and forms will be finalized.”

So what other kinds of messages will go on it?

“There are state and county guidelines as well as those of the oversight committee. It’s essentially a calendar for upcoming events being put on by local nonprofits,” Asla said.

The electronic reader board has been a dream of John Sole and his fellow Rotarians for the past 10 years.

“The Port, under the guidance of Jim Pivarnik has been a major partner with Kingston Rotary Club, both financially and ‘hands on’ to bring the project to fruition over the past six months or so,” Sole said. “The Port Commissioners have been supportive of Pivarnik’s efforts from start to finish.”

“The Port was pleased to be

able to help put this much-needed information service ‘over the top,’” Pivarnik said. “But most of the credit has to go to John

He then went on to list some of the other community members who helped, through contributions of their time, talent

the site cleanup for free.

“Rob Shoaf, the president of Code Electric, Inc., did the electric work gratis and Buck Levensgood, owner of Kingston Lumber Supply discounted the price of the stone materials for the columns.

“Jason Cratty performed the fine craftsmanship on the masonry work for [the] columns, plus other incidental work around the worksite,” Sole said.

Sole went on to single out Rob Gelder, Kitsap County Commissioner (District 1), praising him for shepherding the project through the County rules and regulations.

“He even donated [the] building permit fee out of his County Commissioner’s budget,” Sole said. “And his aide, Rebecca Pirtle, has been an invaluable liaison with County government.”

According to Sole, other organizations and individuals who contributed to making the reader board a reality include the Greater Kingston Kiwanis Club; Joe Hurtt, general manager for the Kingston Chamber of Commerce; Linda Fyfe, President, Kingston Chamber Stakeholder’s Financial donation Committee; Clint Boxman, Kingston-North Kitsap Rotary Club, and Kingston North-Kitsap Rotary Club President Doug Hallock.



The new readerboard greets people both coming and going through Kingston. Port Photo

[Sole] for never giving up on the dream and the Kingston-North Kitsap Rotary Club for sharing that vision.”

“[The]Rotary Club has been a long-term advocate of the Community Reader Board for some ten years through various fund-raising activities, working with local and county leadership, and spearheading [the] design and coordinating the actual project with the several entities necessary to bring the project to realization,” Sole said.

and treasure. “Randy Hanson, owner of Hanson Sign Company that built the sign has worked tirelessly with the Rotary Club over the many years the project been a ‘pipe dream’ to help the project become a reality,” Sole said.

“When it came to the actual construction of the sign, Steve Kelly, owner of Steve Kelly Construction Company did the site clearing for free. Rick Lanning and Ted Smith of Homeland Construction, also helped with

“Dream sign” to greet drivers by

On Dec. 15, KHS Athletics Boosters Past President Hope Lash’s dream came true. She had wanted an official Washington State Highway sign on the “Welcome to Kingston” sign that greets ferry riders as they get off of the boat that would let them know that the KHS swim and dive team was the 2017 2A state champions.

The sign is on Port of Kingston property, the Greater Kingston Chamber of Commerce owns

and maintains the Welcome sign.

“The team’s victory is a big thing for little Kingston,” said Jim Pivarnik, executive director of the Port of Kingston. “We’re really pleased that we have been able to play even the smallest part in helping the community share in the pride of the team’s accomplishment.”

Kingston High School Athletic and Activities Coordinator Richart Henert, left, and KHS Athletics Boosters President David Winn hold the official Washington State Highway sign that will be attached to the “Welcome to Kingston” sign that greets ferry riders. Port Photo



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Enhancing the lives of Port District Residents through recreation, transportation and economic development.



Marina honored for ‘exemplary service’

On Dec. 6, Marinas.com named the national winners of the 2017 Boaters’ Choice awards for best marinas in the United States, based on its members’ satisfaction with the marina’s accommodations, amenities and service. The Port of Kingston was one of only three West Coast marinas to win the award for “exemplary service to the boating public.”

“Obviously, we’re very proud to have received the award,” said Port Executive Director Jim Pivarnik. “Much of the credit has to go to our great staff and the Kingston business community.”

To be eligible, marinas, yacht clubs and service yards listed on Marinas.com had to have three or more reviews on their Marina.com profiles and have four- or five-star ratings.

The Port of Kingston had six reviews from June 9 to Sept. 5; all gave the marina five-stars, the highest possible ranking.

“Staff was waiting at the slip to assist me. Very friendly and helpful. Nice facilities, close to nice stores and restaurants and groceries a short walk away. [We] liked it enough to stay an extra day,” wrote one boater.

“Very nice facilities and very affordable,” another boater said. “Food and other supplies are within walking distance. The local market offered to pick up our cart at the marina. That is a community that supports boating!”

Santa good to downtown merchants

Despite rain and cold, the Greater Kingston Chamber of Commerce estimates some 2,000 people came to Kingston on Dec. 2 to see Kingston’s marina park transformed into a Kingston Cove Christmas wonderland.

Early results from businesses participating in the 2017 Santa’s Scavenger Hunt show that, in addition to Kitsap County residents, the event had attracted persons from as far away as Everett and Tacoma, as well as Puyallup, Port Townsend and Vancouver, Washington.

“We stopped by your marina by boat a couple of nights ago and we were amazed at what a great light display you



Santa greets the children on Dec. 2. Port Photo

have in the marina park,” wrote David Miller. “We will definitely remember to add Kingston to our favorite destinations during

the holidays!”

The Chamber of Commerce’s Holiday Spirits Garden “almost doubled its business over last year,” said Colleen Carey, Chamber executive director.

Carey said Pat Bennett-Foreman reported that the number of families at Kiwanis Santa’s Workshop “at least doubled and families came earlier and stayed longer.”

After the ceremony, restaurants in the downtown village were packed according to the owners of Kingston Ale House and Westside Pizza.

Little City Candy reported a 19 percent increase in customer traffic over the previous year and a 54 percent increase in gross sales that night.

Port officials hope to beat last year’s visitor numbers. In 2016, an estimated 30,000 children and adults toured the lights during December said Raymond Carpenter, Port of Kingston facilities manager.

Port Director Jim Pivarnik tapped for position of treasurer for the Washington Public Ports Association

Port of Kingston Executive Director Jim Pivarnik has been named Treasurer of the Washington Public Ports Association Executive Committee.

“It’s a great honor for Jim, and the Port, for him to have been selected to be Treasurer of WPPA,” said Mary McClure, President of the Port of Kingston Commissioners.



Jim Pivarnik

“It’s also an opportunity to pay back to an organization that is doing a lot of good for this port and the other Washington Public Ports.”

The WPPA represents the interests of Washington’s 75 municipal public ports through

effective government relations, ongoing education, and strong advocacy programs, WPPA officials stated. Such services help port commissions establish long-term strategies for their port district, and create policies to guide the development, growth, and operation of their ports. The commissioners are also responsible for their port’s annual budgets, approving tax levy rates and hiring the professional staff.

Thanks to all who made it possible

It took a village to create Kingston Cove's Christmas

At 5 p.m. Dec. 2, Santa Claus said the magic words and turned Kingston's marina park into a Kingston Cove Christmas wonderland.

Six hundred luminary sculptures sprang to light, including a sea serpent whose loops were big enough for small children to walk under. Over 500,000 lights and three-quarters of a mile of rope lighting illuminated trees, railings, pathways and bushes in the park. A 40-foot Christmas tree was all a-glow and the marina was a festive forest of lighted masts and

Work on this year's lights began last March. That's when Port staff member Steve von Marenholtz started designing and welding up the steel wire-frame skeletons for this year's new light sculptures including a jack-in-the-box and a sailboat.

Since September, 13 volunteers have been adding the lights to these sculptures and repairing the lights on older ones. Meanwhile seven members of the port staff have been putting up the lights with the assistance of members of the Kingston High School Honor Society. This marks the third year the students have been involved with the lights said Honors Society Advisor Terry Darrow

So how many hours does it take to put up 500,000 lights and 600 illuminated figures?

"All told, it probably takes a thousand hours [of staff and volunteer time] from start to finish," said Carpenter.

The lighting ceremony was the

culmination of a day-long series of events and activities that took place Dec. 2.

"And it was all made possible by Kingston-area volunteers, businesses and organizations," said Port of Kingston Executive Director Jim Pivarnik. "The Port of Kingston is responsible for the lighted sculpture garden; the Greater Kingston Chamber of Commerce coordinates the day's events and activities."

Festival of Trees
The day's events began with the Festival of Trees and Holiday Gift Fair from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Village Green Community Center, 26159 Dulay Road NE. This marked the second year for this event that featured a silent auction of donated trees decorated by local businesses and artists. The proceeds went to the Village Green Foundation, according to Mary McClure, the Foundation president.

The Gift Fair featured 30 booths including one demonstrating a hand-cranked machine that volunteers used to knit socks for the troops in World War I.

Kiwanis' Santa's workshop
Ten Kiwanis members and six to eight members of the Kingston High School Key club staffed the Kiwanis' Santa's workshop at the Kingston Cove Yacht Club, 25878 Washington Blvd. NE, adjacent to the marina park.

A free event, youngsters were able to visit with Mr. and Mrs. Claus while their grownups took pictures. Then the youngsters made presents — Christmas ornaments, greeting cards and decorations — for

family members and friends. The youngsters couldn't be left unattended, but often one family member stayed with a group of youngsters, so other adult members were freed to shop or visit food vendors and the Chamber of Commerce's wine and beer garden, staffed by another 10 volunteers.

"Our focus is serving children in our community," said Ron Shoaf, president of the Greater Kingston Kiwanis Club.

Grand opening
About 50 people braved the rain for the 3 p.m. Chamber of Commerce ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Port's new office, then toasted the new addition with champagne and hot cocoa. The 900 square-foot, ground-level reception area features an exhibit of historic photographs from the Kingston Historical Society.

Holiday music
From 3:30 - 4:30 p.m., 20 members of the Kingston High School Jazz Band and Choir, under the baton of Thomas Guenther, director of bands, choir, and recording arts, performed in the pavilion in marina park.

At 4:30 p.m., Elvis impersonator Danny Vernon who performed some of Presley's most popular songs. The music had small children gyrating in the aisles and older grownups singing along.

"Danny has been voted one the top 10 Elvis impersonators in the country," said Colleen Carey, executive director of the Greater Kingston Chamber of Commerce.

Santa arrives
At 5 p.m. Santa Claus arrived riding in the cab of an NKF&R fire engine. "Santa was awesome," said Carey. Then Santa said the magic words and the park and marina sprang to light. And the crowd cheered.

Photos, clock-wise from top: A couple enjoy the harbor lights; Port Commissioners Walt Elliott, Mary McClure and Bruce MacIntyre toast the grand opening of the Port's new reception center; crowds line up to tour the lights; Children gyrate along with Elvis impersonator Denny Vernon; crafts of all kinds were for sale at the Village Green Festival of trees and Holiday Gift Fair; Kingston Historical Society President Kathy Sole visits two out-of-town

with buyers at the Library's book sale.

photos



Happy Holidays