

In this issue ~

- Upcoming Events
- About the Port
- A Year in Photos



**FIND ALL UPCOMING EVENTS LISTED
ON THE PORT'S ONLINE CALENDAR**

@ www.portofkingston.org/events



ABOUT THE PORT



Steve Heacock
Commissioner District 1



Mary McClure
Commissioner District 2



Laura Gronnvoll,
Commissioner District 3



Greg Englin
Executive Director

The Port of Kingston services 6,941 District Voters. The mission of the Port of Kingston is to enhance the economic and social well-being of the Port district residents through economic development, and by providing a waterfront facility for recreation and leisure activities.

262 Slip Marina	335 Parking Spots	Mike Wallace Park	Golf Course & Casino
49 Slip Guest Dock	WSF & Kitsap Transit Ferry Terminals	West Kingston Road Park	Retail Shops
2 Launch Ramps	Kingston Cove Yacht Club	North Beach Park	Restaurants
Non-Ethanol Fuel Dock	Fishing Pier	Kingston Kiwanis Park	Bike Trails & Cycling

Serving what matters today with a view for tomorrow.



NEWSLETTER

ISSUE/02/February 2023

Ports 101

Ports are *special* purpose governments as opposed to *general* purpose governments (such as the state, county and city governments). Ports are *more focused* and *generate revenue through business*. Kitsap County has twelve ports and Kingston is one of them. Most counties have only 1 or 2 ports. We have twelve because of the old mosquito fleet moved people around to all these communities in Kitsap and a port was created for each location where ferries landed. Ports have *limited* legal authority. General purpose agencies have *greater* statutory authority - ports are superseded by other agencies such as Kitsap County or the State. Ports are governed by a commission - in our case a three-member commission - that is elected by the people that live in port district not the whole county. Staff manage the port.

The state law that defines the authority and scope of ports is RCW 53. Read it and it will explain that ports generate economic development, create jobs, and preserve public access. Ports primarily engage in industrial development and trade. They most often serve as hubs for the movement of cargo - whether that cargo is goods or people. Ports serve the people in their port district but conduct business with anyone and everyone - globally, nationally, regionally, and locally.

Ports create jobs and economic growth in many ways. They own and operate shipping terminals, piers, marinas and docks, airports, industrial sites, railroads, commercial buildings & recreational facilities. Economic development programs include industrial development, infrastructure development, import/export assistance, tourism, and entrepreneurial development.

At the Port of Kingston, we are primarily three things. First, we own and operate as a transportation hub for the movement of people and freight. Also, we operate a good size marina with well over three hundred slips, a two-lane boat ramp, and a fishing pier that provide public access to the water. Also, we own and operate land that both supports the transportation business and the marina and can stand alone to support commercial and industrial businesses as well.

At the Port of Kingston, some of the properties serve mainly as parks for recreation and provide public access such as North Beach and Mike Wallace Marina Park. The Port of Kingston is *not* a park district however and we have a different purpose than a park district. In Kingston, we already have the Metropolitan Park District and also Kitsap County Parks. Parks are secondary to what ports focus on. These facilities are important because they help us fulfill our duty to provide you access to the waterfront. Originally, ports were created to preserve public access *for commercial purposes* - emphasis added. During the early 1900's, shipping magnates and rail barons were buying up and controlling the waterfront and the citizens did not like this monopolistic behavior and created public ports, so the waterfront was not completely controlled by private interests. "Providing public access," has evolved into providing public access *for recreational opportunities* as well. We have many marinas and fishing piers and boat ramps around the state operated by port authorities on behalf of the local citizens. Recreation is big business in Washington State.

Ports invest for the long-term benefit of their communities. Ports often make significant investments in infrastructure - building facilities that will provide a home for businesses that in turn reinvest in the community, provide services, and create jobs. But before that growth can happen, the dollars have to be invested and the risk taken by the Port. We must be willing to spend today for returns that may not be seen for many years. The great thing about ports is that you know your money is being reinvested back into your community and they attract outside money that also gets invested into your community. It all stays in the community we serve. All of it. We help create thriving communities, protect and preserve local jobs, and create opportunities for businesses and residents in our community.

Some questions come up often. Here are some of the issues. First, Kingston is not a town or city. A lot of people think it is a town, but it is not. Kingston has its own zip code, but it is part of unincorporated Kitsap County just like Hansville or Eglon or Indianola. That means we are all governed by Kitsap County. Period. If you want local control, you can incorporate and become a city like Poulsbo or Bremerton.



NEWSLETTER

ISSUE/02/February 2023

The Port does not provide services like the County. For example, we do not have police, fire, sewer, garbage, water, power, road maintenance or public works. We rely on Kitsap County, KPUD or PSE, North Kitsap Fire & Rescue, Kitsap County Sheriff's Department - just like you do. Think of the Port of Kingston like a public business enterprise. We need to make a profit to reinvest in our capital and long term needs like any business. The State Auditor's Office oversees compliance for ports and audits us every two years usually.

General purpose governments have residents. Ports have residents and customers. Can ports tax people? Yes - and we do - but we are limited to \$0.45 per thousand dollars of property value - compared to park districts which can tax at \$0.75 for example.

- The current tax levy for the Port of Kingston is \$0.12 per \$1,000 of property value.
- That means if you own a home worth \$500K, you pay \$60 a year in taxes to the port or \$5 per month. A \$1,000,000 home would pay \$120 in taxes annually to the port.
- We will collect about \$228K total this year out of \$3.4M in estimated revenue. We cannot even remotely survive on taxes. We have to pay our way on everything just like you do. We have to operate like an enterprise, but we have an overarching social mission to people in our community.
- The Port spends the money on capital asset repair and replacement.

How big is the port? Tell us about the port. The Port of Kingston has:

- Three commissioners, eleven full time employees, and four part time employees
- The Port has about ten acres of land and ten acres of submerged lands
- The Port of Kingston district map can be found here: <https://portofkingston.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Port-of-Kingston-District-No-9.pdf>
- The Port is budgeted for \$3.4M in revenue for 2023

How can we be more involved as port residents?

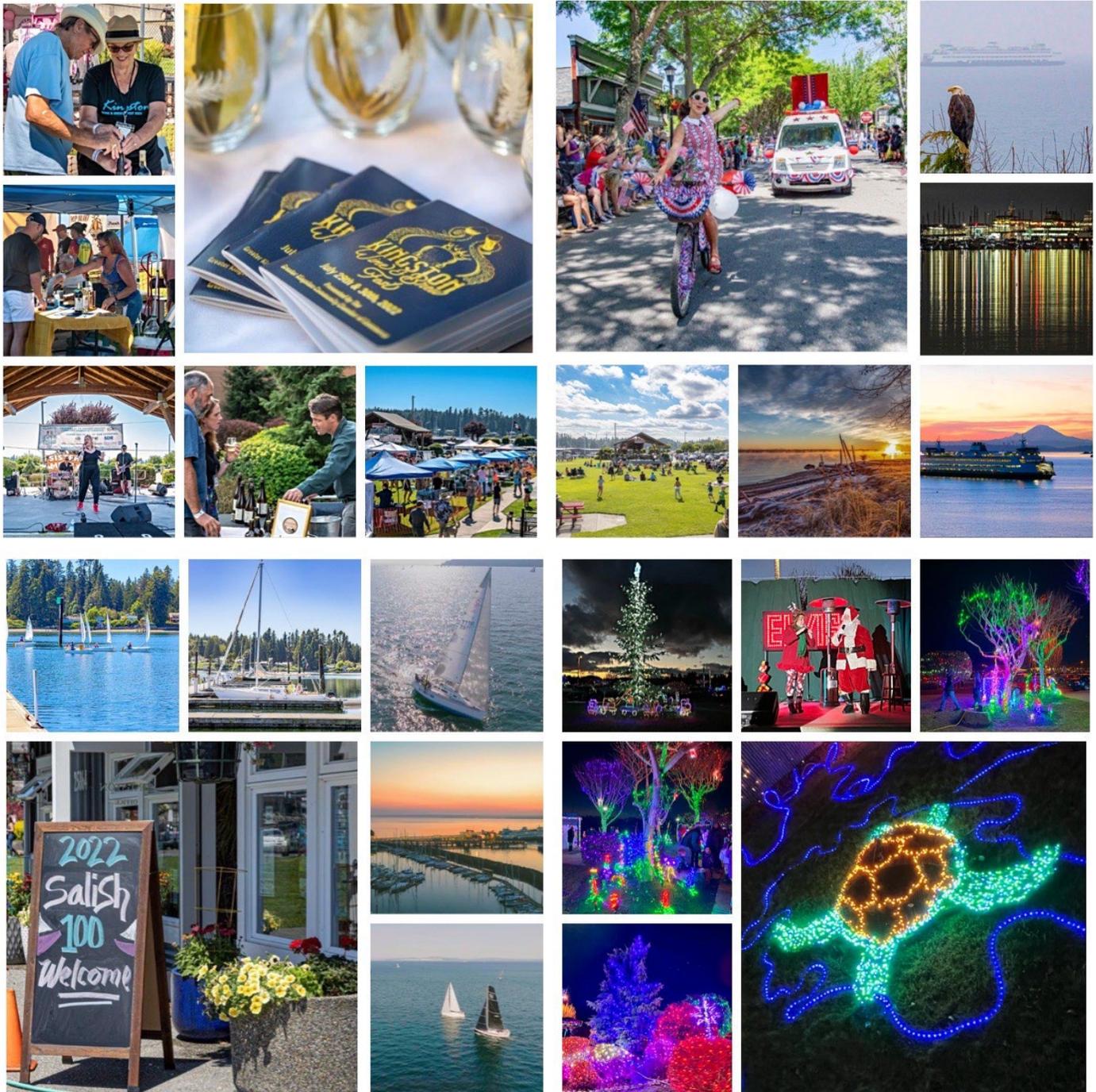
- The Port Commission meets the last Wednesday of every month at 1:00PM in the afternoon or 6:30PM in the evening. Be sure to check our website for updated dates and times just in case!
- Also, the Port Commission usually meets every Tuesday from 8:30-10:00AM. Again, check the Port website for current information. You can sign up for automatic notices on our website at the bottom of the page. www.PortofKingston.org.

I hope this helps explain more about your port and we hope you connect with us! Feel free to email me, Greg Englin, Executive Director, at GregE@PortofKingston.org or call me on my cell at (360) 265-5492 with any further questions.

Wishing each of you health and happiness through the new year!

Greg Englin
Executive Director

PORT OF KINGSTON - A YEAR IN PHOTOS



JOIN THE CHAMBER
 Join the chamber and be a part of promoting & supporting the Community and its businesses.
www.kingstonchamber.com



Contact/Follow/Subscribe

Port of Kingston
 25864 Washington Blvd. NE
 Kingston, WA 98346
www.portofkingston.org
info@portofkingston.org
<https://www.facebook.com/portofkingstonwa>