

# Port of Chelan County Happenings



Commission President  
Donn Etherington



Commission Vice  
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Welcome to the Port Newsletter. The Port of Chelan County focus is on our three principal responsibilities: Pangborn Memorial Airport; our real estate management and development portfolio that supports current and new businesses; and economic development more broadly, working to support the expansion of Chelan County businesses and attract employers and jobs that fit our community's vision. The path to

success in these endeavors is creating and sustaining a strong partnership with our business and community partners and this newsletter is one part of the effort to maintain effective communications with you. Our goal is to provide you with timely, high value information; your suggestions and comments on how to meet this target are always welcome.

- Donn Etherington, Commission President

## ChooseChelanCounty.com Website Launched

The Port of Chelan County launched [www.ChooseChelanCounty.com](http://www.ChooseChelanCounty.com), putting access to powerful business decision information only a mouse-click away. The information provided starts with available sites and buildings for commercial and industrial use. The information then goes further to

include additional data on the community. Individual industrial and commercial land and building owners can post their listings to the site, as can brokers. Companies searching now can view all of the opportunities Chelan County has to offer. Contact the Port for a briefing on how to post properties to the site.

## Cashmere Mill District Redevelopment Getting Results



After years of cleaning, remediating and improving the Cashmere Mill, the property is ready for redevelopment. The Washington State Department of

Ecology has provided a No Further Action status on the majority of the site. The Louws Truss Company has purchased 3.5 acres. Louws, a family owned truss manufacturing company based in Mount Vernon, Washington intends to construct an 11,000 sf building to supply the commercial and residential building market in eastern Washington. Louws estimates the building will be complete in 2018 and that 20 full time employees will work at the site. Almost 19 acres remain available for development in this industrial and commercial zone.

## Welcome Diamond Foundry!

The recent announcement that Diamond Foundry is locating its first large scale production facility in Wenatchee culminated a 10 month recruitment effort that highlighted what a strong public/private partnership can produce. Diamond Foundry is a San Francisco area advanced manufacturer

that uses cutting-edge technology to produce gem quality diamonds. Key partners in recruiting and supporting this decision were Stemilt Growers (property), the Chelan PUD (power), and the City of Wenatchee. We look forward to Diamond Foundry's operations commencing in the summer of 2018.

## Debt Reduction

Port commissioners approved the payoff of three separate bonds after careful review of outstanding debt. These bonds were used for the original purchase of both the Peshastin Mill Site and the Cashmere Mill Site properties. The Commission also approved the refunding of a 2013 bond issued for the Pangborn Airport runway extension project, in order to take advantage of a 3.0% interest rate. These debt reduction strategies will save the Port \$463,725 over the next fifteen years.

## Confluence Technology Center Setting Record

The Port developed the CTC as an economic development resource to the region and it continues to fulfill its mission. The facility features meeting space and web conferencing technologies to connect our community to the world. More than seven hundred meetings and events hosted over twenty thousand people at regional industry meetings just to date in 2017, addressing a wide range of current regional issues by entities in agriculture, education, manufacturing, medicine, professional services, law enforcement and government.

## Industrial Building Available

A unique 38,200 sf industrial building located in north Wenatchee is available. This is a prime location at the junction of HWY2 and US HWY 97, the two major routes serving North Central Washington. The building features three-phase power, three loading docks, an at grade bay door, with 3,300 sf

office space, ceiling heights up to 19 ft., and ample parking. This building can be divided. Contact Craig Larsen, Director of Business Development for more information.



## Pangborn Memorial Airport Growth Continues

This year's 3rd quarter results saw 15,347 passengers board commercial aircraft at Pangborn, an increase of 2% over Q3 of 2016. The continued increase in activity is impressive considering 6% of Horizon Air flights were cancelled. Of the 31 flights



that were cancelled during the quarter, 28 were due to the pilot shortage. Last year during the same period there were only two cancellations (0.5% of all flights), and those flights were cancelled for mechanical issues. Horizon expects cancellations due to flight crew shortages will continue into 2018.

## Destination San Francisco Bay Effort Moves Forward

In April 2017, the Port launched Destination San Francisco Bay, a project to secure direct daily regional jet service between Pangborn Airport and the San Francisco Bay area. This flight will increase connections for businesses and residents, as well as bring tourists to our region. Our community response has been strong; the \$400,000 goal was reached in September. Next steps include applying for a federal grant to pair with local

funds for a revenue guarantee to be offered to a carrier that will fly the route. Outreach to specific carriers has begun and will increase when the federal grant is secured. Sincere appreciation to all supporters of this effort, big and small; we have made a strong first step towards making this new service a reality.



## Partners in Economic Development

Three times annually, the Port hosts a Partners in Economic Development Breakfast. The purpose is to update our partners on economic development initiatives and happenings and better connect with our regional partners. Our first breakfast in September featured the announcement of our community reaching our \$400,000 goal toward

direct daily service between Pangborn and the San Francisco Bay Area, two new business recruitment announcements, the launch of the new ChooseChelanCounty.com website, and a strong panel featuring leaders from several industries looking to the future of our region. Attendance was strong but the energy in the room was even stronger!

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