

PORT KUDOS CORNER: Jeff Moore

Jeff Moore began his career in the maintenance department at the Port of Benton in 2003. Jeff's primary responsibility is the 1163 building on Stevens Drive (one of the Port's largest assets). Jeff takes extremely good care of the facility and the people in it. Everyone in the building knows Jeff and can count on him. He is well-liked and a genuinely kind man.

Jeff recently lost his wife and best friend, Rita. They were married for 34 years and have five children, along with their mates and three grandchildren.

"I would like to thank all the tenants and contractors that I have worked with over the years. I especially would like to thank the Port family for all the support they gave my family through some very difficult times. Thank you, it was much appreciated." The Port congratulates Jeff for 17 years of service.



Thanks to Jeff Moore (top photo) and his family (left photo) for his 17 years of service at the Port of Benton.



Calendar of Events

Bottles, Brews & Barbecues	Prosser Vintner's Village	June 13
Aviation Celebration	Richland Airport	June 20
Scottish Festival	Prosser Wine & Food Park	June 20
Prosser Beer/Whiskey Festival	Prosser Wine & Food Park	August 22
Benton City Daze Parade	Benton City	September 12
Great Prosser Balloon Rally	Prosser Airport	September 25 - 27

Events are subject to change.

Commission meetings are open to the public and held the second Wednesday of each month at 8:30 a.m. in the Port of Benton Commission Meeting Room, 3250 Port of Benton Boulevard, Richland, Washington. March and September Commission meetings are held at the Walter Clore Wine & Culinary Center, 2140 Wine Country Road, Prosser, Washington.

For information about property acquisition and leasing opportunities, please call the Port of Benton at 509-375-3060 or visit our website.

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Port of Benton

Published by the Port of Benton - Spring 2020

Improving Communications Is Focus of New Port Initiatives

For the Mid-Columbia Energy Initiative (MCEI) and other organizations, having access to timely Port of Benton, state and federal government information is crucial for business. It not only helps MCEI stay current, but it also gives the working group access to regional and national initiatives that may impact the organization.

While keeping organizations such as MCEI informed is a priority for the Port of Benton, the Port is also committed to continuously innovating and embracing new ways to add value to the tenants, community and partners that reside in, and or, do business with the Port district. Recognizing that communications plays a key role, the Port reprioritized how they disseminate information, which meant investing in a new eCommunications platform and redesigning the website.

"Mid-Columbia Energy Initiative's purpose is to promote our regional innovation in clean energy and advanced manufacturing; the Port of Benton's effort is a collaborative step forward to tell our community's story."

- David Reeploeg, TRIDEC VP for Federal Programs; MCEI Liaison

With the new eCommunications capability the Port can quickly disseminate information to all stakeholders to keep them abreast of the latest news while promoting the achievements of area businesses and their contributions to the local economy. The eCommunications are open to anyone and can be accessed by visiting the Port's website and navigating to Latest News page. By signing up, the community will receive notifications for the biannual newsletter (The RePort of Benton), general news and press releases, or news briefings from the Tri-Cities Research District.

The eCommunications is just one of the many features of the new website that will include user-centric design, updated content and visuals and intuitive navigation to improve ease of use of the site. The new website will be designed by Underground Creative (www.findusunderground.com) a local design agency based in Kennewick and is expected to launch in the third quarter of 2020. Also, Underground Creative is slated to refresh the Crow Butte Park website to boost the site's utility for park visitors.

By undertaking these initiatives, the Port's goal is to not only inform district stakeholders about the latest news and information on Port operations, but also to communicate the Port's work in leveraging business initiatives underway communitywide, featuring the recruitment efforts that are contributing to economic development in the region and encouraging greater collaboration between stakeholders.

eCommunications and the new website are just the beginning. Next, the Port plans to refresh its logo to better represent the Port's strategic vision for the future of the region. While the mission "to promote economic development and multi-modal transportation within our region" remains the same, the Port recognizes that it must evolve the brand to better position itself to solicit technology-savvy and advanced manufacturing companies to the area.

Beyond the technology investments and new logo, the Port has plans to explore new ways it can continue to bring value to businesses, such as MCEI and others operating in the district, its partners and the community with an eye toward fostering greater economic development. Stay tuned.





Commissioners



Jane F. Hagarty
Commission President



Robert D. Larson
Commission Vice President



Roy Keck
Commission Secretary

Executive Director



Diahann Howard, PPM®

Deb Heintz Retires

Prosser Economic Development Association (Prosser EDA) Executive Director Deb Heintz has retired. During her tenure, she worked side by side with regional partners including Port of Benton, City of Prosser, Chamber of Commerce, Benton County, and principal businesses to grow Prosser's economy by focusing on an aggressive and robust strategic work plan. Although Prosser EDA's service area extends from the Rattlesnake Hills to the north and the Columbia River to the south, most of the growth occurred within Prosser's city limits.

Since 2004, Deb has been working on economic development projects and her accomplishments are diverse and extraordinary. Some of her fondest and favorite projects include: retaining the county seat in Prosser, development of the Walter Clore Wine and Culinary Center, overseeing the Leadership Prosser Program, improvements to Horse Heaven Vista, organizing a downtown revitalization effort now called the Historic Downtown Prosser Association, the annual high school business plan competition and administering the Community Grant Writer Program.



Prosser EDA Executive Director Deb Heintz.

Also, Deb found recruiting new businesses to Prosser, and keeping existing businesses healthy, to be especially challenging, but incredibly rewarding.

Deb had a very special and heartfelt thank you for Jane Hagarty, Port of Benton Commissioner, who has served on the Prosser EDA Board since the organization's inception in 1984! "She was such an inspiration in so many ways. Jane's guidance and support was invaluable and beyond measure."

Also, Deb thanked the Port of Benton for making the job easier, the financial support to Prosser EDA, and most importantly, for purchasing land, installing infrastructure, constructing buildings and leasing spaces for the economic benefit and prosperity of Prosser.



Croskrey Brothers Improve Development Buildings

The Port of Benton recently sold two 40,000 square-foot commercial buildings and land to Croskrey Brothers, LLC. The structures were built by Westinghouse Hanford and purchased two years ago by the Port of Benton. The redevelopment of the two buildings is the first phase of a five-year plan to improve the existing property and bring new development to the area. The two buildings will undergo an exterior facelift including, new landscaping and resurfacing of the parking areas, as well as redesigning the interiors of the premises to meet unique tenant needs. Iso-Pacific has moved into the south building along with Excelsior Design Company.

New Upgrades at Crow Butte Park

The Port of Benton's Crow Butte Park is located along the Columbia River 14 miles from Paterson on Highway SR-14. The park is managed by the Port of Benton and is not a state park so it does not require a Discover Pass. This year Crow Butte Park is being refreshed with tree trimming, sewer and irrigation upgrades. The park has three boat launches and a sheltered bay for temporary moorage. There are 50 full-service campsites with water, sewer, and power up to 50 amps. We're excited to reopen Crow Butte to seasonal visitors once deemed appropriate by Governor Inslee's "Stay Home, Stay Healthy Order." Visit the park online for updates at www.crowbutte.com.



The Port of Benton Welcomes New Employees



Joe Walker
Airport Manager

Joseph Walker

is an experienced aviation professional and holds his Bachelor's of Science in Aviation Administration from Utah Valley University. Walker is a member of the American Association

of Airport Executives (AAAE) and holds multiple certifications from AAAE. Walker previously worked for the City of Vancouver, Pearson Field Airport. His knowledge and experience in the aviation field brings expertise in Federal Aviation Administration compliance, strengthened partnerships, professional administrative practices, and customer service.

Ron Branine

has nearly thirty years of facilities management experience. He was previously the Facilities Manager for Walla Walla County, where he was responsible for all property maintenance and developing and implementing an in-depth preventative maintenance program for most of the county's buildings and properties including the jail, courthouse and a myriad of other multi-use buildings and grounds. Also, he served as Chief Engineer/Facilities Manager at Xanterra Parks and Resorts of Crater Lake in Crater Lake National Park, in Oregon.



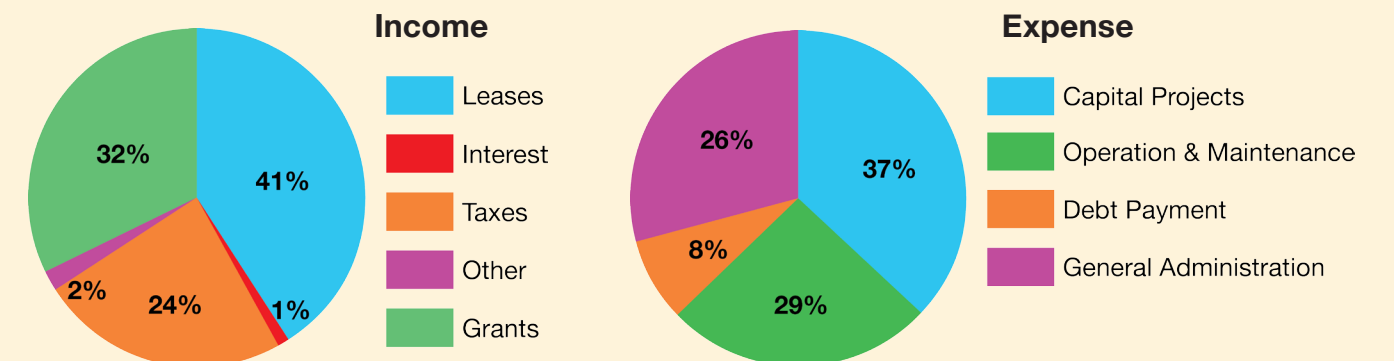
Ron Branine
Facilities Manager



HONEY BEE QUILTING

Honey Bee Quilting, a full-service quilt shop, is a new business operating in a Port of Benton facility in Benton City. Stocked with a huge selection of 100% cotton fabrics in an array of prints and related quilt supplies, Honey Bee also offers machine quilting as a service. Honey Bee Quilting is the go-to source for quilt supplies.

2020 Projected Budget of \$12.8 Million



The Port of Benton strives to keep its tax levy rate as low as possible. In the past 10 years, the rate has decreased by 14 percent. Currently, Port District homeowners pay annual property taxes of \$36.22 per \$100,000 in assessed home value to the Port of Benton.