

MEET OUR COMMISSIONERS: MIKE AVENT

As a business owner, Port Commissioner Mike Avent understands the challenges of doing business in a down economy. Yet, he also sees opportunity for positive change. "This is a learning situation for America in general," he explains. "Part of being successful is dealing and adjusting to change that you don't expect."



Mike has lived in Rainier on and off since 1972. He is the co-owner of CPD Development, a business that buys and remodels properties. Active in local government for several years, Mike first ran for the Port

Commission eight year ago. He is also a Rainier city councilman.

"I wanted to give back," he says. "When people start to criticize, they need to get involved. I knew I needed to participate."

Mike has several priorities for the Port, including attracting more family-wage jobs to Columbia County. He also is eager to work with community members on issues related to the Scappoose Municipal Airport. He will be among the participants of the newly formed Airport Visioning Committee, a group comprised of representatives from the Port, the City of Scappoose and the Columbia County Board of Commission-

ers. "Our goal is to open up the lines of communication and find win-win solutions for everybody involved," he says.

When Mike isn't working or serving on local boards, he finds time for some interesting hobbies. He loves history, collects stamps and has participated in an archaeological group. He recently returned from a metal-detecting trip to Nevada, where he found saloon and cigar store tokens, rare treasures from a bygone era. Mike and his wife, Meryl, live in Rainier.



SOLV VOLUNTEERS BEAUTIFY MARINA



On a sunny Saturday in May, community volunteers united for a SOLV clean-up at the Scappoose Bay Marina. Twenty-nine volunteers helped retrieve garbage scattered along the bay. Working from kayaks, canoes and a couple of small boats, the volunteers collected litter and debris, including large pieces of Styrofoam used under floating homes, old tires and inner-tubes. Event partners included SOLV, the Port of St. Helens, Columbia River PUD, St. Helens High School, Safeway, St. Helens Subway, St. Helens Starbucks and the Scappoose Bay Watershed Council. The Port is grateful to everyone who participated.

The Compass

The Columbia River's
DEEP WATER PORT...
With a Future
SUMMER 2009



President's Letter

Dear fellow citizens:

Welcome back to The Compass. In these pages, you'll find articles featuring the latest news from the Port of St. Helens. Our goal is to keep you informed about current projects and improvements happening at Port properties.

Needless to say, this has been a very busy time for the Port. In late December, two of our properties, The Scappoose Bay Marina and the Multnomah Mill building, experienced extreme damage in the winter storms.

I am very grateful to our staff and many skilled contractors who immediately responded to these incidents and who continue to coordinate work at both sites. While we are still in the planning stages, our intent is to replace the marina's "C Dock" and Multnomah Mill Building with state-of-the-art structures that exceed safety standards. We are committed to seeing that local contractors have the chance to bid on these and other construction projects happening at Port properties.

These are certainly challenging economic times, but I remain optimistic that Columbia County will continue to attract dynamic businesses that offer good paying jobs. On page 2, our Q and A with Port Development Manager Paula Miranda reveals some of the exciting industries showing interest in Port properties.

We welcome your feedback. If you have questions or comments, please feel free to email me at keyser@portsh.org.

Sincerely,
Robert Keyser



PORT WELCOMES NEW PROPERTY AND OPERATIONS MANAGER

In his first weeks on the job, Edward Conrad-Waggoner, the Port's new Property and Operations Manager, is getting a feel for the "lay of the land" and establishing communication with tenants at the Port's many properties.

A native of Louisiana, Edward brings a law background to his new position. After earning his bachelor's degree at Louisiana State, Edward studied law at Stetson University College of Law in Tampa Bay, Florida.

While in law school, he interned with the City of Clearwater, Florida, and developed an appreciation for the work done by local governments. From there, Edward practiced law at a firm in Manatee County, Florida, representing cities, developers and industrial clients.

Edward moved to Oregon just last year and is excited to be a part of the Port's staff. "It was time for me to try not being an attorney for awhile," he says. Yet, his background in law, combined with experience in real estate, business, and government issues, will help him in his work at the Port.

Edward will be working with Port tenants on leases, lease renew-



*Property and Operations Manager
Edward Conrad-Waggoner*

als, maintenance, and any other concerns that arise. While he will be facilitating work at all port properties, Edward knows he will be especially busy with issues related to the Scappoose Airport, including seeing that the airport meets all FAA regulations and that FAA grants are utilized for improvements to technology, safety and infrastructure at the airport.

In his spare time, Edward enjoys being outdoors and looks forward to exploring the hiking trails and streams of his new home state.

PORT OF ST. HELENS MEETINGS

are held on the second (8:30 a.m.) and fourth (5 p.m.) Wednesday of the month
at the Port office: 100 E Street, Columbia City, Ore.

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