

Events

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, many events of our Chamber members as well as the Chamber have been postponed to future dates. Please check the Chamber Website for details and frequent updates: www.jeffcountychamber.org/events



For Chamber Cafés there is no fee and no membership is required.

Chamber Cafés

Thursday, December 9th
10:00am – 11:00am
Zoom Virtual Meeting

Chamber Seminar featuring North Olympic Development Council.

Practical, hands on help expanding e-commerce website, either existing, or guidance on creating new one.

Friday, December 3rd
10:00am – 11:00am
Zoom Virtual Meeting

State Legislative Update



Guests: Rep. Mike Chapman & Rep. Steve Tharinger
Join the conversation! What's happening in the legislature for 2022?

QA follows for all on Zoom.



Rep. Mike Chapman



Rep. Steve Tharinger



DECEMBER 2021



Business Insider

Serving the Businesses and Citizens of Jefferson County

MEMBER UPDATE

Great things are happening at the Silverwater Café!

Article and image courtesy of Silverwater Cafe

Winter is the perfect time to regroup, reflect, and reconnect. Winter is the time to treat yourself to relaxed evenings out with good company, great wine, and soul-satisfying comfort foods. Come join us as we embrace the slower pace and robust flavors of the season.

Tuesday, November 2nd, marked the re-introduction of our beloved nightly specials! Throughout the winter we will feature our Sicilian-inspired Meatloaf on Tuesdays, All-You-Can-Eat Spaghetti on Wednesdays, and Fork-Tender Pot Roast on Thursdays. Our spaghetti is a Silverwater signature dish; the sauce recipe was developed by Alison's Nonni and has been a customer favorite for over thirty years! We will also be adding some warming comfort foods and exciting new Greek dishes to our regular Winter dinner menu.

Beginning on Wednesday, November 10th, we will host a weekly Sip + Knit up in the Mezzaluna Lounge. From 2:30 to 4:30 each Wednesday, Kerri Hartman, owner of Bazaar Girls Yarn Shop, will guide knitters of all skill levels. Bring your yarn and creativity for a time of knitting, drinks, snacks, and camaraderie! Cost is \$15 and includes a beverage and small bites created by our talented chefs.

Are you looking for the perfect holiday gift? Shop local and support your favorite restaurant by purchasing a Silverwater Café hoodie! We have two styles in stock: pullover and zip-front, both

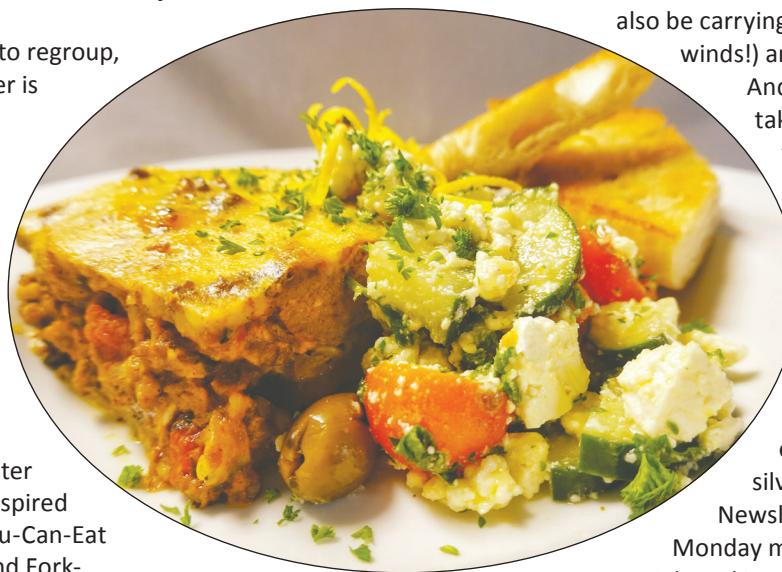
offered in sizes small through extra-extra large. We will also be carrying logo beanies (great for our cold winds!) and caps.

And in case you hadn't heard, our take-out is back up and running so that we may meet the needs of our community!

There are whisperings of other exciting happenings in the works – stay tuned! You can stay in the loop by following us on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter, or by signing up for our weekly e-newsletter (visit www.silverwatercafe.com to sign up).

Newsletters are sent out every Monday morning and include our weekly specials and important updates.

For the past thirty-two years, our goal and desire have remained the same: to nourish body and soul with excellent food and exceptional service. Our doors are open so that we may offer a comfortable and relaxing space for friends and families to join, connect, dine, and love.



237 Taylor St • Port Townsend WA 98368
360.385.6448 • silverwatercafe.com



DIRECTOR'S REPORT



Arlene Alen

So many exciting events are taking place this holiday season, some live, hybrid and virtual. Seems we have all adopted to seemingly endless change but with a brighter view for going forward. Be certain to catch the tree lighting this year with the Kiwanis Choo Choo, the fabulous live and virtual gingerbread houses at our libraries, the Chimacum Arts and Crafts event, and so much more. Winter is always beautiful here and this year will be no exception. If you have an event that you have not relayed to us for our community calendar and Holiday Happenings on the websites, please do so now.

Our "Community Development" survey results were quite interesting. They were strongly divided, yet also in concert relative to improving your quality of life in Jefferson County. Given the number of grey delivery vans circling through our community daily, we all need to pay more attention to your needs and try to attract or grow businesses that you are seeking to support. While none of these responses were too surprising, it was the number of responses and the similarity that was, and we thank you for your engagement. Your list is below and was shared with our community partners:

- New and Used Vehicles
- One or two "mid-size" Box stores or none!
- Clothing stores geared to residents-men, women, and children
- Daycare, daycare, daycare-you are heard!
- Pet grooming
- Home Appliance Store
- Housewares, not tourist products.
- Drive through Food options to go along with McDonalds
- Handypersons and more small yard work/landscaping companies
- Transportations, Transportation, Transportation options!
- Shoe Stores for men, women, and children
- Men's clothing for business-women too!
- Food Wholesalers

- COSTCO
- Computer sales and service entities
- Accounting services, bookkeepers, attorneys, and all professional services
- Customer Service-mentioned in almost every response
- Customer recognition-stop asking if I am visiting every time I come in
- Ways to locate which businesses in county actually carry necessities
- Parking! Parking! Parking!
- Auto repair, appliance repair, all repair services

All these points were made time and time again in the survey. More than just the scarcity of business and professional resources was the consistent response about lack of customer service. We all can work together to fix this; it is within our reach. Right now, housing issues deepened by this pandemic, have created a serious challenge for local businesses, particularly hospitality and food service, but truly universal here and throughout the country. That said, the way to succeed is to adapt to this changing environment and customer base along with working with your team to upgrade their customer service skills. Last month, Chambers JeffConnects featured "Kudos" from the public and businesses for their staff and it was wonderful to see how fabulous your teams are doing and how greatly you appreciate their efforts. Thank you all for your considered responses. We hear you!

As we rapidly close the door on another COVID year, we share your optimism for a brighter 2022. Toward that end, visit the Workshop section of the chamber website and check out the SCORE workshops and on demand classes through our portal. There is a credit to you for signing up through the Chamber. This year as part of our Social Entrepreneurship Membership Investment program. We have distributed grants to three businesses making great use of those funds to get started in marketing/branding their new business and have another grant application cycle starting soon. You have assisted ten businesses in joining the organization and obtaining the marketing, education and advocacy benefits they needed to grow their organization and businesses and there are more pending. We are looking forward to continuing to grow this endeavor and appreciate the positive way you have embraced it.

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The content of this publication is prepared by the Chamber of Jefferson County.



NEW MEMBER

Pomona Woods Retreat with Nature

Article and Images courtesy of Pomona Woods

The seed of the idea for my retreat center business, Pomona Woods, was planted during a work sabbatical in 2017. I knew I wanted to provide a space where people could gather surrounded by nature. Guests would come together for a variety of purposes and the space would inspire a lasting connection with nature, oneself, and each other.

I was born and raised in Seattle and grew up exploring many destinations around the Salish Sea. Some of my happiest memories are from family camping trips to Kalaloch as a girl. Over the years I worked in both the corporate and not-for-profit sectors, gaining great experience, but as I neared 50 the pull of starting my own business grew stronger and stronger. I had already started putting things in motion before the pandemic hit, but in 2020 I sold my house, which officially allowed the seed to start germinating.

After looking on Whidbey Island for a while, in January 2021 I decided to find temporary housing on the Olympic Peninsula to see if the perfect spot was awaiting me to the West. Indeed, I quickly made friends and found the ideal property South of Port Hadlock on Oak Bay Road. The 21.5 acres contained a mix of tree species of different ages with a healthy forest floor of nurse logs, sword fern, salal and huckleberry. It was perfect for my project.

Pomona Woods will host small group retreats for the purpose of education, enrichment and connection. To ensure and manage minimal impact on the site, and create a uniquely intimate experience for guests, we will limit occupancy to a maximum of 35 guests. We will not be hosting individual bookings.

As a former sustainability and ethical sourcing professional, I bring that core value to Pomona Woods. A focus on nature and habitat preservation is a cornerstone of our low footprint operating philosophy. The design and materials of the retreat will incorporate LEED best practice standards, fully integrating sustainable, small footprint planning and execution. The sustainable practices used will be featured in communication materials and will inspire and delight guests to make sustainable decisions in their own lives and workplaces.



Ann Burkhardt, owner

Guests of Pomona Woods will enjoy delicious food, made in-house, with many locally sourced, sustainably grown ingredients. Care will be put forth to create guest excursions and team building options that will enrich the overall experience and connect the retreat to the local economic, cultural, natural, historic, and indigenous community.

Jefferson County is an ideal location for Pomona Woods. My property is within 2 hours of a major metropolitan area, gives guests a true feeling of getting away into nature, and there are many places close by to explore. Most other retreat centers in a 2-3 hour distance from Seattle are much larger, or smaller, don't have overnight accommodations that appeal to the corporate sector, are adapted from some other original use and or have a very specific feel or purpose. This area has so much to offer and I look forward to collaborating with other businesses in the area to promote the diverse sustainable tourism and recreation opportunities available in Jefferson County.

Although the idea was created before the pandemic, the need for inspiring gathering spaces with overnight facilities will be even greater in the post-pandemic world. More business will have permanent hybrid or total work from home structures – making the need to come together for team building even greater.

Pomona Woods is a family endeavor. My brother Paul is the project architect, and brother Kevin is advising on landscaping and trails. My mother Carol is providing support for the project and many friends and family are sharing timely advice and connections to help me make this dream a reality.

The Pomona Woods name comes from my great grandfather's apple orchard in Dayton, WA – Pomona Ranch. James and Fannie Dumas' ranch was one of the first in Washington state, planted in 1897. Pomona is also the name of a Roman wood nymph associated with trees and fruitful abundance. The name connects my retreat to a family history of a stewardship of the land, entrepreneurial spirit and a touch of whimsy.

pomonawoods.com

MEMBER UPDATE

Quimper Mercantile Co.

Article and image courtesy of Quimper Mercantile

Quimper Mercantile Co., Port Townsend's community-owned general store, recently celebrated its 9th Anniversary. During the COVID-19 pandemic, staff and board came together with creative solutions to serve local customers, while also investing to ensure the store's next decade is even more successful than its first.

When Jefferson County's last general store closed in 2011, citizens got together with the mission of creating a new general store to make sure that household and clothing needs could be supplied at home, and that local retail dollars and retail jobs could be kept in the community.

A volunteer board of civic and business leaders gathered and decided to launch a startup, creating a public company and selling only to Washington residents. At the end of that initial stock effort the new store raised \$691,900 from 812

shareholders, almost all of them local residents. The store leased space in the Port Townsend Plaza downtown at 1121 Water Street, and ordered stock, opening its doors to the public on October 11, 2012.

"At the time it was a bold undertaking and has proven to be a stunning community success," said Board President Peter Quinn, who has served in that capacity since Quimper's inception. "Today, there are over 800 shareholders who own Quimper Mercantile shares. The store is guided by an all-local board of directors, elected by the shareholders at our annual meeting. Employing over a dozen people, we have a payroll of over \$500,000. Our sales have grown every year, and we've been profitable since our second year of operation. We are very lucky to serve a community so receptive to our mission." said Quinn.

Despite the COVID pandemic,

► **Quimpers continued on pg. 4**

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Holiday shopping and cuisine in Port Townsend

Here are a few of the Port Townsend businesses and restaurants that will be providing either holiday meals or great gift opportunities!

▲ Tommyknocker's Cornish Pasty

711 Water Street, 360.344.2519, tommyknockerscornishpasty.com

Tommyknocker's Cornish Pasty will be providing take out meals for Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years! The menu for the three course meals will be released soon, so be sure to follow up at tommyknockerscornishpasty.com to find out what delicious cuisine they will be serving for the holidays. They also do Mac and Cheese Mondays and Vegan Wednesdays on a regular basis!



▲ Finistere

1025 Lawrence St, 360.344.8127, restaurantfinistere.com

Although it will be closed on the day of Thanksgiving as well as Christmas, Finistere's sister shop Lawrence St. provisions will have different sides and sauces available leading up to the holidays. They also have gift cards available digitally or in the store that will work at both establishments.

Finistere

▲ The Food Co-op

414 Kearney St., 360.385.2883, foodcoop.coop

The Food Co-op is the place to be if you're in the market for organic Turkey for the big holiday meals. They also have plenty of fresh, local produce to round out any Holiday culinary creations you have in mind.



▲ Port Townsend Antique Mall

802 Washington St, 360.379.8069

The Port Townsend Antique Mall has a wide selection of merchandise including jewelry and antique gift ideas for the holidays. The Mall has a little bit of everything, from furniture to clothing, antique sporting supplies to classic books. Get a jump start on your holiday shopping and take a look inside!



▲ Port Townsend Farmer's Market

650 Tyler St, 360.379.9098, jcfmarkets.org

Another must have stop for fresh delicious produce is the Port Townsend Farmer's Market. The Market runs every Saturday through December 18 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. From the Market: "The fall greens are amazing right now, expect to find radicchio, escarole, chard and kale. We have a lovely heirloom variety of radicchio that is cream and red in color, so beautiful. Try you grilled radicchio. Of course the market is brimming with pumpkins and winter squash of all kinds. With the holidays coming up you are bound to find some great gift ideas as well!"



▲ Elevated Ice Cream & Candy Shop

627/631 Water St, 360.385.1156, elevatedicecream.com

Know someone in your life with a sweet tooth? You're in luck! Elevated Ice Cream & Candy Company are selling their chocolate boxes online and can ship them to gift recipients directly. They also have candy that can be purchased at elevatedicecream.com, as well as holiday-themed candy in stock. Gift cards are also available in store and online.



▲ Quimper Sound Records

1044 Water St, 360.385.2454, quimperrecords.com

Drop the needle onto the groove and get down with some holiday hits! Quimper Sound Records has a great selection of value records and will have sales on select guitars. They are also prepping \$10 mystery boxes with 50 records inside.



► Quimpers continued from pg. 3

Quimper Mercantile managed a profit of \$133,000 in spite of a sales drop of over \$600,000 over 2019. They paid their first ever dividend to shareholders, \$5 per share, as well. "We didn't expect to come through the year so well," said Quinn, "Our conservative fiscal approach and an amazing, creative staff deserve the credit.

We are in the best financial condition we have ever been."

According to General Manager Casey Hannam, QMC has invested in optimizing the store's ordering and inventory process to ensure that the products people seek are in-stock, despite global supply



bottlenecks. "Focusing on inventory and order management isn't exciting to the public, but it is a key focus of our staff as we look forward," said Hannam.

As the pandemic enters its second year, many businesses are struggling to maintain employees. "While we've had turnover, we have fared better than many other businesses," said Hannam. "Quimper Merc offers flexible schedules that appeal to Port Townsend's workforce, as well as competitive wages and quarterly bonuses. In addition, we're laser-focused on employee (and customer) health - following all public health directives. We're committed to QMC being a great place to work."

While no one can predict the future, the staff and board at Quimper Mercantile Company are working hard to ensure that the general store will continue meeting the needs of the community for years to come.

Community Owned
QUIMPER
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PORT TOWNSEND, WA
1121 Water St, Port Townsend, WA 98368
360.385.9595, quimpermer.com

NEW MEMBER



Point Wilson Lighthouse

Article courtesy of the Chamber of Jefferson County
Images courtesy of the U.S. Lighthouse Society

Lighthouses have long been synonymous with guiding sailors safely through treacherous waters. As romantic as the symbolism associated with them is, they serve a real purpose in providing aids to navigation for busy shipping lanes.

The Point Wilson Lighthouse has been guarding the waters of the Admiralty Inlet since 1879 when it was constructed by the United States Lighthouse Service, a precursor component to the modern-day Coast Guard. Admiralty Inlet is incredibly important as it connects the Strait of Juan de Fuca and Puget Sound. Although the current lighthouse at Point Wilson was built in 1914, it is still home to an active navigational aid maintained by the Coast Guard.

To save the heritage and nautical tradition of the structure and accompanying buildings, a hearty crew of 20 volunteers with the U.S. Lighthouse Society are helping guide renovations on the lighthouse so future generations can enjoy this piece of Port Townsend history.

Dave Ehnebuske, Lighthouse Society volunteer, wound up in Port Townsend three years ago after a career in tech and science took him all over the U.S. After re-locating to Port Townsend to be closer to his brother, and currently a resident of Uptown, Dave developed an interest in volunteering after seeing the lighthouse in person.

"I just happened to be down at Point Wilson flying a kite and I noticed the Lighthouse Society had opened the lighthouse for tours and met the people that were there," shared Dave. "I got to talking to them and one thing led to another. I had interest but no real experience, but it was so warm and welcoming it was easy to get involved."

The tasks the Lighthouse Society volunteers undertake vary from person to person, including maintenance or giving in person tours. For Dave, his passion lies in finding order in things. "I actually really enjoy organizing people and things and making stuff happen," shared Dave. "I'm really happy to help the Lighthouse Society push forward on the preservation project. I also maintain the Point Wilson Lighthouse website and do that kind of work. Many of the volunteers like to be docents, and enjoy interacting with the public, but my passion is getting things organized and making stuff happen with the group."

The current lighthouse at Point Wilson was built in 1914 and was in need of upgrades. The U.S. Coast Guard approached the U.S. Lighthouse Society about taking over the lease and renovations began in 2019.

"The first phase of the work involved getting basic facilities up and running, like refurbishing the water supply and septic system," shared Dave. "It's uninteresting work to look at but was necessary for the next step."

There has been a lighthouse at Point Wilson since 1879. After inhabiting the area for so long, it would be difficult to imagine Point Wilson without one. "There are a lot of reasons to preserve them, one of which is lighthouses are really cool!" shared Dave. "The public is drawn to them in general, and Point Wilson is a particularly interesting lighthouse and it has been there a long time. Whenever people come to Fort Worden, one place they always go is to Point Wilson for the lighthouse. It is important to preserve our heritage and history."

For a site steeped in so much local and maritime history, the Lighthouse Society volunteers are keeping a steady eye on the horizon for future renovations. "The next phase is to renovate the interior of the keepers' duplex to bring it up to a consistent period, probably the 1950s to help us with cash flow," shared Dave. "Our goal with the project is to make the site revenue neutral to do the maintenance needed based on income from the rental and events. Historical sites never come clean, there's always things to do. We're looking to complete phase two by fall 2023, including roofs and everything repainted, window repair and siding on the outside of the keeper's house."

In the near future, the goal is simple. "We're looking forward to working with the Chamber and maritime community and become an active part of the Port Townsend community," shared Dave.

pointwilsonlighthouse.org, 415-362-7255

MEMBER UPDATE

Fort Worden is your home base for exploring the Olympic Peninsula this winter

Article courtesy of Fort Worden, images courtesy of Jen Lee Light

Winter is the perfect time to get cozy in one of the vacation rental houses at Fort Worden. There is still plenty to do around the park and Port Townsend is a great location to make your home base as you explore winter snow activities on the Olympic Peninsula.

Accommodations for one to 100 as you can craft your reservation to meet the number of bedrooms you need. The homes on Officer's Row have working fireplaces so just pick up a Duralog at the Commons Desk to add a little extra warmth to your accommodation during your stay.

One of the restaurants at the park, Reveille at

the Commons is open. Reveille features daily soup specials, plus a chowder is always being served up. In addition to their breakfast and lunch grab and go options, a variety of baked goods are on the menu. Or just stop in for a hot cup of coffee or tea. The Commons offers spacious indoor seating too (current mandates being followed).

Group bookings for 2022 and 2023 are open and filling up fast as people are eager to hold events postponed by the pandemic. Venue use and catering are up and operating so if you are looking to put together a last-minute holiday party or dinner, please let us know (sales@fortworden.org). There are venues to meet social distancing needs and the events team can craft the perfect menu whether you are looking

for an appetizer hour or a sit-down dinner.

Moving in to 2022, the initial reorganization of the Fort Worden Public Development Authority (FWPDA) will be complete, and the new nonprofit Fort Worden Hospitality will assume management of the vacation rentals, group sales, venues, catering and restaurant services at the park.

FWPDA is reorganizing to create operational structures that are better suited for addressing its two primary challenges: recovering from the financial losses caused by the pandemic and addressing the ongoing major maintenance needs of the 95-acre campus and its 73 historic buildings.

Fort Worden Hospitality is a non-profit organization operating on a mission central to the Lifelong Learning Center of the Fort Worden campus and a quality guest experience. The organization has a vision for the hospitality services that include

► Fort Worden continued on pg. 6

Olympic Peninsula Tourism

2021 recap and a look ahead to 2022



Marsha Massey

Article and images courtesy of the Olympic Peninsula Tourism Commission

This time last year, we were beginning to see a steady recovery of tourism to the Olympic Peninsula after a precipitous drop in early spring, 2020. We were optimistic about the return to “normalcy” by summer of 2021. It didn’t pan out exactly as we’d hoped, and there have certainly been some bumps in the road. But all in all, the North Olympic Peninsula has enjoyed a strong return of its critical tourism segment.

Post pandemic, our markets have shifted somewhat, with more regional visitors filling the gaps left by a lack of Canadians, out-of-state and international travelers. At the same time, many Washingtonians are rediscovering the magnificence of their own state. Road trips have become the preferred getaways. Many in the greater Puget Sound area have discovered the work-life balance of remote working and “spontaneity” seems to be the name of the game. With the focus on outdoor adventures, the Olympic Peninsula has been in high demand.

To capitalize on the shift, the Olympic Peninsula Tourism Commission refocused and redoubled our fall and spring marketing with our “You Can’t Get Any More Northwest” campaigns, targeted specifically to the I-5 corridor from Bellingham to Eugene. Pun intended, we utilized print, digital, social, television and outdoor bus ads to motivate regional travelers to channel their inner Northwesterner and visit the Olympic Peninsula. By a variety of metrics, the campaigns have been very successful. Our web traffic doubled. We grew our database of newsletter subscribers significantly. And critically, we helped drive increased traffic to lodging all across the Olympic Peninsula.

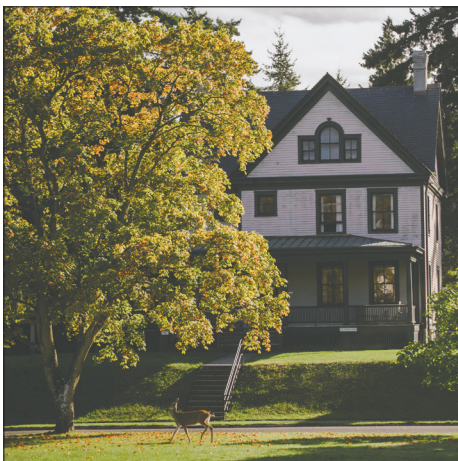
Focusing on Jefferson County, tourism has been, and will continue to be, a major economic driver. In 2020, Jefferson County welcomed over 474,769 visitors who spent a total of \$98.6 million dollars in local lodging, food and beverage, retail, recreation and transportation services. The state and local taxes generated by that visitor spending translates to a \$625 offset for every household in the county. And while 2020 understandably shows a drop from the 2019 peak performance, Jefferson County has fared significantly better than much of Washington. Overall, the state saw a 40% drop in visitor spending. With the lingering impacts of COVID-19, the hospitality industry renewed its focus on “safety first” for employees and guests. Local businesses continued to adapt their operations, and

to communicate their safety protocols to potential visitors, to reassure them they could feel safe returning. Research showed that was the number one thing travelers were seeking – an assurance that communities and businesses would take health and safety seriously. Jefferson County’s “JeffCoCares” program was perfect in this regard.

Looking ahead to 2022, we continue to see hopeful signs of progress. If we’ve learned one thing in the last eighteen months, it’s that projections are just that, and come with lots of caveats and assumptions. But here are hopeful signs:

- Reconnecting with friends and family are a primary motivator for travel in 2022.
- The near-term outlook for travel is positive. 83.8% of American travelers have future trip plans, with 53% traveling at least once in the next three months. (source: Destination Analysts).
- Road trips and outdoor exploration will continue to dominate travel decisions.
- Business travel and conventions / group meeting travel is beginning to pick up and expected to continue to do so in 2022.
- Closer to home, the condensed 2021 Alaska cruise season was successful, and industry observers suggest that demand for the 2022 Alaska cruise season could outpace 2019 and produce record-level passenger volumes.
- With the U.S. border scheduled for reopening on November 8, we look forward to a return of our international visitors. There is significant pent-up demand with International travelers eager to return to the US. Expect to see travelers from the U.K. and German-speaking markets to return first.
- Black Ball Ferry resumes sailing between Victoria, BC, and Port Angeles on November 8, and all going well, remains optimistic for 2022.
- Travelers continue to seek wide open spaces and natural environments, with a strong draw to road trips and outdoor activities. What could be a more perfect destination for such travel than the Olympic Peninsula? We’re poised and ready!

Olympic
PENINSULA



► Fort Worden continued from pg. 4

experiences central to the stay, work, eat, learn and play brand vision being developed. As they assume operations they will work to develop activities and hospitality offerings that are approachable and open to everyone, including our local community.

Lodging, venues, and food services are essential to the success of campus lifelong learning programs, and Fort Worden Hospitality is eager to work

amongst the partner organizations at Fort Worden to support their programming and create a vibrant campus.

Fort Worden Hospitality has been created for a unique purpose, and key to that purpose is their commitment to working closely with on-site partners and the local community to elevate the services at the park so this place can truly be a can’t-miss regional destination that positively impacts the region.

There are so many ways to experience Fort Worden this winter. Make a reservation today, stop in to Reveille or kick up some leaves as you walk through the park on a day visit. Put on your coat, hat and gloves and #getoutside at Fort Worden!

Fort Worden

— PORT TOWNSEND —
A HISTORIC GATHERING PLACE

200 Battery Way, Port Townsend, WA 98368,
360.344.4400, fortworden.org

Reasons Women Should Consider a Career in Construction

Article and images courtesy of Jefferson County Home Builders Association

Modern trades are offering secure positions, paying decent salaries, and establishing transferable skillsets for those interested in a construction career. Here are reasons why women should explore skilled trades as a career option.

Trade School is less expensive than college. The average price of a 4 year state college degree is over \$40,000 for tuition alone. Conversely, trade schools average \$10,000 annually for a certificate of completion, often achieved in 11 months or less.

Jobs are open for those willing to apply themselves. The construction industry is ready and eager to hire hard working individuals. Specialized training classes can be had in virtually every trade: electrical, plumbing, HVAC, fine wood working and welding.

The Money is Good for EVERYONE. According to the Association for Career and Technical Education, construction is one of best industries for jobs that pay a median income of \$55,000+ without a bachelor's degree. As of 2020, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported construction workers making a median wage of \$53,000.

Equal pay for equal work. I know it might seem hard to believe but women in construction are paid for their talent. Construction as an industry, offers dramatically better pay equity than the general workforce. Again, according to the 2020 BLS reports, women on average make only 81% as much as men in other industries. However, women in construction earn 99 % of what their male counterparts do. Just to be clear, that is the TOP percentage listed in the 2020 BLS report regarding salaries comparison between women and men.

There's room for everyone. Currently, women hold less than 11% of all the positions in the construction industry. Yet, by many estimates, it is predicted that there will be more than 3 million job openings in the skilled trades by 2028.

All of the above points are reasons to enter the trades. However, the best reason to enter the trades is also the most valuable. Simply put, a trade is a skill, one that no one can take from you. A skill is something you can show to anyone for as long as you live. A skilled tradesperson can actually prove that they know what they are doing, which makes it easier to gain future employment.

Lizanne Crines Coker is the Director of the Jefferson County Home Builders Association

Thank you Karen Best!

Article courtesy of the Chamber of Jefferson County

A Board President's impact on the organization they serve is unique, intense and has long lasting effects. With Karen Best, past President of the Chamber of Jefferson County Board, all that is true and more. For Karen's time with the Chamber, she has shown her dedication not only to the Chamber staff and board, but to the community at large.

Karen provided innumerable hours of assistance, resources and commitment to the Chamber during her tenure. She also had the unenviable task of being board president during the Covid pandemic. Despite the overwhelming uncertainty and trials in the early days of quarantine, Karen's leadership helped the Chamber pivot to a new way of doing business.

It would be hard to quantify all that was accomplished at the Chamber under her tenure as Board President, but a few highlights include: the Chamber re-vamped the Business and Community Guide with a new look in print and digital editions, the Women Doing Business program got off the ground, the Chamber built a new website for EnjoyPT, their destination marketing site for the City of Port Townsend. The Chamber partnered with National Park Trips to encourage visitors to the Olympic Peninsula to capitalize on Jefferson County as the starting point for their trip(s) to the Olympic National Park.

Karen led an exciting life before moving to Port Ludlow. She worked in advertising, which was broad-based public facing and the perfect background for real estate! She started her real estate career at the Coldwell Banker office in Port Ludlow in 1992. She began as a realtor, then progressed to Branch Manager before ultimately purchasing the office in July 2010. Karen and Coldwell Banker Best Homes have been sponsors of numerous events, written insightful and timely articles for the Business Insider and volunteered to host and speak at more occasions than we can even begin to remember. Karen and her team have been valuable participants in Chamber life and in the governance of the organization for so long it's difficult to think that is ending.

While the Chamber is losing an invaluable presence on the board, we are so much better for knowing you! Thanks for everything, Karen!



MEMBER UPDATE

Port in go-go-go mode

Article and photos courtesy of the Port of Port Townsend

There's sometimes a lull in the activity at the Port of Port Townsend in the early fall. It's after the summer boating season but before boaters are hauling out for repairs. Not this year.

The Port's boatyard and shipyard are full. The 30-some marine trades businesses and their hundreds of employees move quickly from job to job. The haul outs, operated by Port staff, are in constant motion pulling boats out of the water or putting them back in. They're so busy, in fact, that the Port is investing in a new 75-ton Travelift to keep up with the demand.

At the same time:

— The newly rebuilt runway of the Jefferson County International Airport is as busy as ever. Repairs made by the Scarcella Brothers have been fully funded, with partial reimbursement expected from the federal government.

— Planning and design work is underway on key Port capital projects such as the breakwaters that protect the Point Hudson Marina, to be led by Matt Klontz, the new Capital Projects Director. The work, now tentatively slated for late 2022, will have an impact on businesses located there. Port Executive Director Eron Berg is meeting with Point Hudson tenants to discuss their options during the project window.

— The Port is getting ready to say farewell to Port Commissioner Bill Putney III who represents District 2. Only one candidate - sailmaker Carol Hasse, a legend in blue water sailing circles and a District 2 resident - filed to replace him.

— All this happens against a backdrop of a Port in a strong financial position. Port Finance Director Abigail Berg reported recently that Port revenues have surged, and the current cash balance shows growth of \$2.7 million, in part due to the voter-approved Industrial Development District (IDD) bond, strong operating revenues and effective cost controls.

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► Port continued from pg. 7

Quilcene Outreach 2021



One project at the top of the Port Commission's agenda is a re-envisioning process about the future of Quilcene's Herb Beck Marina and the Port's other holdings on Quilcene Bay. This project is being done in close consultation with the South County community through a process designed to maximum feedback from residents in a Covid-safe fashion.

The Herb Beck Marina has 51 slips for locals and transient boaters. It has a pump out, showers, restrooms, a boat ramp and perhaps Jefferson County's warmest

swimming beach at the edge of shallow Quilcene Bay.

The Port has acknowledged the need for marina improvements, noting in its Comprehensive Scheme that docks and ramps, built in the late 1960s, are only in fair condition. The Port is intent, said Berg, on developing its plans for the Quilcene Marina in consultation with south county residents.

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