President’s Message

Community News

New Members

Business Briefs

Chamber & County Events

Allstate Insurance
Arnold & Smith Insurance Agency, Inc.
Cameo Boutique
Cushman Boats
Dirt Cheap Cycle
Gardner Accounting
Gateway Property Management
Green Diamond Resource Company
Heritage Bank
HQ Electronics
Hood Canal Business Association
Hoss & Wilson
Joe L. Snyder, Attorney
KMAS Radio 1030AM
Mariano’s Fine Jewelry & Design
Pier 101 Gift Shop & Women’s Boutique
Port of Shelton
Prudential Northwest Real Estate
Richard C. Downing DDS
Sage Book Store
Smoking Mo’s Kitchen
S. O. C.
Squaxin Island Tribe Tourism Department
The Strip Steak House
Tupper’s Floorcoverings & Interiors, Inc.
Walter Dacon Wines
West Coast Bank
Windermere Vince Himlie & Jill Himlie
Wittenberg, CPA, PS

Or Current Resident

The Mason County Association of Realtors recently hosted local elected officials and staff at its 4th annual Housing Issues Briefing. Association leaders reported on current housing market conditions, public policy issues affecting the industry and the Association’s advocacy efforts on behalf of the industry and its clients. The keynote presentation by John Caulfield, City Manager of Mountlake Terrace walked the group through the city’s four year effort to revitalize their downtown core.

President Margie Heath said recent market phenomena works to pit bank-owned properties and “short-sales” aimed at preventing imminent foreclosure against “regular” sellers, creating two distinct market segments. Kristy Buck, member of the Association Board and state Legislative Committee, reported Mason County is still in a buyer’s market, and prices are continuing downward, although at a slowing pace. The number of closed sales through June is off by nine percent from last year, and the median price has decreased by 24 percent between 2008 and 2009. Our affordability index has gone up with lowering prices, making more homes affordable to first-time homebuyers. Proving housing markets are very local, the audience saw tables showing price change difference by geographical areas of the County – some rising, while most others have gone down.

Special guest speaker Caulfield, summarized Mountlake Terrace’s initiative to revise its development regulations and supporting infrastructure to implement the citizen’s vision for the city’s future. Caulfield explained how development code revisions were designed to encourage a vibrant downtown area built in unison with their vision.

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Heath reported on the recent Realtor Statewide Open House June 27 and 28 with over 5,000 simultaneous open houses statewide and the local buzz created by more than 150 public open houses held that weekend in Mason County.
Executive Director's Report

A question I've enjoyed answering in the last few weeks is why do I want to be the Chamber Director. The short answer—there is no other organization better positioned to lead Shelton and Mason County toward a strong, sustainable future and I want to be a part of that effort.

I appreciate Mason County as it is but share many with a strong vision of what I know it can become. Our strategic location between two employment centers, growing local markets and proximity to larger markets, natural beauty and bountiful amenities all influenced by continued innovations in technology and transportation will bring positive growth to our economic and demographic base. I believe we are on the cusp of a great transition and your Chamber can and should shape how we change.

The reason I know my hopes for our future are possible is because I have seen the can-do attitude of this community can accomplish great things. You wanted a college, so you built one. You wanted a beautiful downtown park, first rate baseball and soccer fields so you built those too. Tolly needed TLC and you came out and gave her the attention she needed. Youth centers, horse camps, civic centers and clock towers all built with your hands, donations and votes.

Who better than the Chamber to lead us to this strong future? It is the business community, gifted with an irrepressible entrepreneurial spirit, who makes the vital investments that builds economic strength. A strong economy is the necessary base for building great communities with beautiful public spaces for civic engagement, quality public infrastructure that protects natural resources while gracefully accommodating growth and first class education system.

The Chamber is expanding its base and sphere of influence. We have launched our newest membership level, “Friend of the Chamber” open to citizens who are interested in using their skills, knowledge and experience in partnership with us as we move into the future.

The Chamber is a better Mason County. People you know share your passion for building a better Chamber of Commerce and lead Shelton and Mason County into the future. In this edition is a Friend of the Chamber, Pleasure Beach Park.

We are excited to announce the newest facility open to the public, the Train Caboose and the Caboose. They are both open to the public and many have brought us the attention they needed. Youth centers, horse camps, civic centers and clock towers all built with your hands, donations and votes.

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Tollie Thanks You

Our faithful train engine Tollie is once again complete. Updated with new logs and metal chassis, Tollie has been retrofitted to make her both safer and more aesthetically pleasing. We at the Chamber are especially grateful to all the community members and businesses who donated their time and effort and made viewing her from our office a pleasure.

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to all who worked on the train car:

- Jim Hunter - Hunter Construction
- Craig Loudbacker and Jeremy Nylander—Bradley Loudbacker Construction
- Rocky Nutt, Ty Nutt and Roberto Martinez—Nutt Construction and Salvage
- Mike Longan, Mike Gill, Glen Haugian and Duane Wilson—ProBuild and Kruseman Town Kuisceen
- Art Tozier—Tozier’s Ace Hardware

Special thanks to Green Diamond Resource Company for donating new logs and Manke Lumber Company for delivering the logs.

Directories, Maps Now Available

The NEW 2009-2010 Mason County maps and business directories have arrived! Please come by the office and pick up your copies. Many members like to keep extra on hand for their customers and clients’ use. They are also available at the Hoodport visitors center and the Caboose.

Chamber Events for 2010
Small businesses seeking to expand may be able to refinance existing loans to purchase real estate and other fixed assets through the Small Business Administration’s 504 loan program. Permanent changes to the SBA 504 loan program now allow viable businesses to restructure eligible debt at lower interest rates. These changes were part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act passed by Congress in February.

Other features of the Recovery Act include the new SBA America Recovery Capital Loan which provides up to $35,000 in short-term relief for viable small businesses facing immediate financial hardship and temporary waiver on borrower fees on the (7)a loans, the SBA’s largest loan program. Loan guarantee levels are increased to 90 percent of the loan to help provide lenders greater confidence. For more information go to www.sba.gov/recovery.

**C o n s o r t i u m A w a r d i n g E x t r e m e M a r k e t i n g M a k e o v e r**

Is your marketing program in need of a make-over? Washington businesses can enter to win the Extreme Marketing Makeover – Small Business Edition and get a $25,000 marketing makeover. The promoters believe “in this world full of corporate bailouts, AIG, Fanny Mae, stock market crashes and other depressing news, we felt it was time for some fun.”

“We think every single company should have a detailed written marketing plan, strategy, and list of tactics for generating leads. That’s why some local marketing professionals got together and came up with this contest. We want to expose to small and medium sized companies the power of proper marketing.”

Judges will be looking for that one small company that has a viable product, has shown tenacity to succeed, a winning attitude, and gives back to the community. Businesses can find out more and enter online at www.marketingse.com. You must be entered by August 31st. Winners will be announced in September.

**M o n t h l y E x c i t e S t a f f E m p l o y e e s R e q u i r e d t o F i l e E l e c t r o n i c a l l y**

Following legislation passed by the 2009 Legislature all monthly filers must file and pay their excise taxes electronically beginning with the July 2009 return due on August 25. Businesses with extenuating circumstances may request a waiver. Over 100,000 small monthly filers must file their tax returns electronically through the Small Business Administration’s 504 loan program which now allows viable businesses to restructure eligible debt at lower interest rates. These changes were part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act passed by Congress in February.

The Chamber seized that opportunity this year to showcase products Made in Mason County. The Chambers Create in Mason County booth displayed just some of the many products that give all of us some hometown pride.

In a few short weeks the Marketing Committee assembled what is hoped to be a repeatable exhibit. Thank you to participants of this first effort; Walter Dacon Winery, Hiawatha Evergreens, Taylor Shellfish, Lynch Creek Floral, Frazer Metalworks, Squaxin Island Museum, Northwest Tribal Tourism, Floral, Frazer Metalworks, Squaxin Island Museum, Mason County. The Chambers Marketing and Membership projects. The most recent effort by the Marketing Committee was the Made in Mason County kick off at the fair. The idea while it was met with positive response will need some polishing to perfect it. The Membership committee is preparing to launch their new campaign soon. Stay tuned! AND REMEMBER YOU TOO CAN BE A PART OF IT. GET INVOLVED IN YOUR CHAMBER TODAY.

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**B u s i n e s s B r i e f s**

Positive Changes to SBA Loan Programs

Our new Chamber Executive, Terri Jeffreys, is hired and off to a “running start”. Terri brings a lot of experience with fresh ideas for the Chamber, as well as her own personal goals for our Chamber and community. Judging from the number of visitors she has already received, I’m certain she has received plenty of suggestions for the Chamber. Terri and I are finding my knowledge of the undocumented Chamber protocol is limited. So along with her learning process she will be documenting “the rules/protocol” of office operations and program guidelines for clarification, then approval of the Board. Great start Terri!

Meanwhile the business of the Chamber and the Community continue. Several summer events and projects including July 4th Celebrations, Allyn Days, and Mason County Fair (complete with Made in Mason County display) have been completed. We’re halfway through Music in the Park with great attendance at each performance. The flower baskets are beautiful, still in need of donations to ensure we keep hanging them through the summer, we are closer but not quite there yet. The Taste of Hood Canal (Belfair in August), the Chamber Auction in October and September’s Oysterfest events close behind. Mark your calendars for these events, and if you would like get involved we have plenty of opportunities for volunteers. Call me (426-1030) or the Chamber (426-2021) if you want to learn more about getting involved.

In addition to supporting the events over the year there are new efforts by the Chamber Board to launch Marketing and Membership projects. The most recent effort by the Marketing Committee was the Made in Mason County kick off at the fair. The idea while it was met with positive response will need some polishing to perfect it. The Membership committee is preparing to launch their new campaign soon. Stay tuned! AND REMEMBER YOU TOO CAN BE A PART OF IT. GET INVOLVED IN YOUR CHAMBER TODAY.

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**President’s Message**

Winners will be announced in September. Often winners are amazed at what can come from a contest. The winners will sit down and list of tactics for generating leads. That’s why some local marketing professionals got together and came up with this contest. We want to expose to small and medium sized companies the power of proper marketing.”

Thank you to participants of this first effort; Walter Dacon Winery, Hiawatha Evergreens, Taylor Shellfish, Lynch Creek Floral, Frazer Metalworks, Squaxin Island Museum, Northwest Tribal Tourism, Floral, Frazer Metalworks, Squaxin Island Museum, Mason County. The Chambers Marketing and Membership projects. The most recent effort by the Marketing Committee was the Made in Mason County kick off at the fair. The idea while it was met with positive response will need some polishing to perfect it. The Membership committee is preparing to launch their new campaign soon. Stay tuned! AND REMEMBER YOU TOO CAN BE A PART OF IT. GET INVOLVED IN YOUR CHAMBER TODAY.

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**Monthly Excite Tax Filers Required to File Electronically**

Following legislation passed by the 2009 Legislature all monthly filers must file and pay their excise taxes electronically beginning with the July 2009 return due on August 25. Businesses with extenuating circumstances may request a waiver. Over 100,000 businesses already file electronically but the Legislature would like to increase that number to help cut costs and reduce the amount of paper used by state agencies. More information is available on the Department of Revenue website, www.dor.wa.gov.
The University of Puget Sound. In Forestry Management, he also holds a Master’s degree in business from the university.

Wing has worked for Green Diamond and its predecessor, Simpson Timber Company, since being hired as a summer forestry assistant in 1974. He was promoted to vice president and general manager from forestry operations manager, and he has been responsible for implementing and managing activities as well as harvest planning and road construction. Prior to that, Wing was responsible for forest land purchases, sales and adjacent

As a forestry leader recently pointed out, “If you find an industry that, by its very nature, protected fish, wildlife and clean water; produced oxygen and sequestered carbon; provided thousands of square miles of open space and countless opportunities for recreation, wouldn’t you want to recruit it to Washington State? Guess what – we’re already here.”

**Government Affairs Committee Update**

Chamber Seeks Flexibility in Sewer Moratorium

One of the main functions of a successful Chamber of Commerce is to be the voice of business when dealing with governmental agencies. To that end, the Government Affairs Committee was established several years ago and continues to serve our membership well. Most recently, the GAC has been instrumental in providing recommendations to the Board of Directors for public comment regarding the City of Shelton Moratorium on Development and the UGA Interlocal Agreement.

I am pleased to report we have been successful in getting our message across resulting in favorable responses and subsequent consideration of our concerns and recommendations from both the City and County. The opportunity currently exists for our membership individually and collectively to provide testimony and additional recommendations both to the City and County, and I encourage you to do so.

Public Works Director Steve Goins gave us the straight scoop on the Moratorium. The upshot is that things may not be as bleak as first feared. We discussed some possible opportunities that may exist for businesses to relocate and/or expand during this time. Our suggestions were met with a positive, “let’s see where we can find some common ground” attitude. These include possible plat approval extensions, restoration of vacant buildings and flexibility in the transfer of ERU’s. We are still working on formal recommendations for the Interlocal Agreement between the City and County guiding development regulations in the unincorporated areas of the Shelton urban growth area which will be the focus of our next meeting, Wednesday August 5 at Verso’s Restaurant. All members are welcome to attend GAC meetings but rsvp’s to me by the Monday prior are required if you wish to eat.

The GAC is the only committee whose members must submit a written report and be appointed for one year terms by the Board of Directors. Our committee is currently full, but we welcome constructive input from all members via a request for action form available at the Chamber office.

Wing Takes Helm of NW Division

Earlier this year Paul Wing was appointed to vice president and general manager, Northwest Timberlands Division, at Green Diamond Resource Company. Wing has overall responsibility for all activities on the company’s forest land base in Washington State. A resident of Shelton, Paul Wing has worked for Green Diamond and its predecessor, Simpson Timber Company, since being hired as a summer forestry assistant in 1974. He was promoted to vice president and general manager from forestry operations manager, and he has been responsible for implementing and managing activities as well as harvest planning and road construction. Prior to that, Wing was responsible for forest land purchases, sales and adjacent

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