Celebrating Jefferson County Business

Save the Date for Community Leadership Awards

Join in celebrating the best of business and community this spring at the Jefferson County Community Leadership Awards.

This marquee event is Sunday, April 7 from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. and will feature a brunch at the Fort Worden Commons in Port Townsend.

The Chamber is pleased to have secured Washington State Legislator Mike Chapman, who represents the 24th Legislative District in the Washington State House of Representatives, as our Leadership Awards keynote speaker. Rep. Chapman, a popular and inspirational speaker, was recently elected by his House colleagues to serve as Deputy Majority Whip, and serves as Vice Chair of the Labor & Workplace Standards Committee, and on the Finance, Rules, Rural Development, and Transportation committees.

The Jefferson County Community Leadership Awards are made possible by the support of our sponsors, including our Platinum sponsors – New American Funding, Coldwell Banker Best Homes, Power Trip Energy, Port Townsend Vineyards, and the Port of Port Townsend.

Leadership awards will be presented in five categories: Business Leader of the Year, Citizen of the Year, Rising Entrepreneur, Young Professional of the Year, and Future Business Leader.

The Rising Entrepreneur and Future Business Leader award categories are new to this year’s event. The Rising Entrepreneur is an individual who embodies the entrepreneurial spirit and innovative thinking that will lead Jefferson County to sustained economic prosperity, and who demonstrates a commitment to business and economic development. The Future Business Leader Award is a high school senior who displays leadership qualities every day, serves as a role model to their peers, and succeeds in academics as well as community service.

For more information about the Jefferson County Community Leadership Awards, visit www.jeffcountychamber.org or contact the Chamber at admin@jeffcountychamber.org or 360-385-7869.
Spring Forward with Your Membership

by Executive Director
Arlene Alen, CPM, IOM

Did You Know?
Did you know that as a Chamber member you can post employment openings on the Chamber website at no cost? If you are seeking a buyer for your business, the Chamber website – www.jeffcountychamber.org – is a good place to post a notice and some photos. Doing so is a benefit of membership at no additional cost. What about some special event at your business or nonprofit – yes, you can post those on the Chamber website’s Community Calendar as a member, too.

How can you take advantage of these no-cost features? By using your login credentials – username and password. Oops, can’t remember yours? That’s not a problem, just e-mail us and we’ll send you a link to reset.

That link is the path to many member opportunities. From the Chamber website homepage, click on “Member Login” located in the green bar at the top of the page and move forward from there. And speaking of the Chamber website, check out the “What’s New” tab to find links to the Business Insider, News (including the latest details about the Jefferson County Leadership Awards!), Job Postings, Hot Deals, and Business Opportunities. Some of these pages are being used frequently, and others are new and waiting for your listings!

Luncheon Reservations
We are adding a new element to our Chamber luncheons this spring – reservations for lunch! Luncheon reservations can be made exclusively through the Chamber’s website at www.jeffcountychamber.org. If you’re a Chamber member, use your login credentials, and if not then just click through as a guest to reserve a spot and pay for lunch.

We are excited about offering some new meal options at our Elks luncheons on the first Monday of each month and have been fortunate enough to have GBF Catering (God Bless Food) – one of your favorites! – step up to bring your award-winning food to our luncheons. As an introduction to this valuable new program enhancement, the all-inclusive price of lunch at the Elks will be just $14 for members and $16 for non-members/guests.

Congratulations to The Commons at Fort Worden for migrating to this pre-paid reservation system as well for our luncheons on the third Monday of the month.

We are excited about this new program and look forward to your participation! We know that it will take some time to get used to using this reservation system, but both venues feel strongly that they will be able to better meet your needs and provide enhanced food service and additional networking time for our events. Thank you all for your continuing support of our speakers and sponsors on behalf of our community.

Leadership Awards
The Jefferson County Community Leadership Awards are a very well-attended annual event and always inspirational. Hearing the business and organization stories and the personal growth that is shared makes this a memorable experience for attendees as well as nominees. Your support of this event through sponsorship will enhance the event experience and provide many marketing and branding opportunities pre- and post-event for your business or organization. As a business owner it might be interesting to bring your staff to the event to inspire them and develop their engagement in the community and your business. Save some money and purchase a table of tickets to create a synergistic, fun learning and team building day for your team. Tickets for the event are available on the Chamber website and through the Chamber.

Reach JCCC Executive Director Arlene Alen at director@jeffcountychamber.org and 360-385-7869.

CHAMBER EVENTS CALENDAR

Monday, March 4 @ 11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.
Chamber Luncheon @ Elks Lodge, 555 Otto St., PT

Tuesday, March 12 @ 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
Business after Business Mixer @ Coldwell Banker Best Homes, 234 Taylor St., PT

Monday, March 18 @ 11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.
Chamber Luncheon @ Fort Worden Commons, PT

Monday, April 1 @ 11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.
Chamber Luncheon @ Elks Lodge, 555 Otto St., PT

Saturday, April 6 @ 9:00 a.m.
Ribbon Cutting @ Port Townsend Farmers Market, Uptown PT

Sunday, April 7 @ 11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Jefferson County Community Leadership Awards @ Fort Worden Commons, PT

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The content of this publication is prepared by the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce. We welcome submissions from Chamber members. Send articles and photos to director@jeffcountychamber.org
Real Estate Opportunities Abound

Opportunities abound for home owners and home buyers in Jefferson County.

2018 began with increasing home prices and a frenzied market that saw multiple buyers competing for the same properties. But the year closed with less competition and a shift in the market.

According to the Northwest MLS, the average sales price of a home increased 7.5% from $372,500 in 2017 to $400,455 in 2018. Nationally, prices are expected to slow to an increase of 3% to 6% in 2019.

And while interest rates increased in the last quarter of 2018, the first months of the new year have seen rates dipping back below 5% for most buyers. Experts believe interest rates will stay below 5% for the remainder of the year.

That’s great news for those who already own homes and those who hope to become homeowners.

Current home owners have found that values have recovered from the last recession and many have a large percentage of equity in their homes. With historically low interest rates and plenty of equity, some are cashing in to eliminate credit card debt, pay for college, or make home improvements.

And for those who want to own homes, Emily Caryl Ingram, a local mortgage consultant, reports, “Buyers are still enjoying low interest rates. And with our large number of retirees and second home sales, Jefferson County seems to be an insulated market that doesn’t necessarily follow national trends.

I expect a healthy real estate market for us for the next several years.”

Today’s market also offers first-time homebuyers with options to assist with down payment and closing costs. Dominic Svornich, who specializes in first-time home buyer products, has many tools to assist first time buyers. “FHA loans are a great strategy for borrowers with credit challenges,” Svornich says. “And there are other options such as USDA Guaranteed Rural Housing loans and down payment assistance programs combined with conventional mortgages.”

USDA loans offer 100% financing, meaning buyers don’t need a down payment. And down payment assistance programs offer 0% interest loans that can be used toward down payment or closing costs. Neither option require any borrower contribution so buyers can obtain gift funds from relatives or negotiate for sellers to cover closing costs.

Svornich reports, “Believe it or not, it is actually quite possible to become a homeowner, even in Jefferson County, and even if you’re not a millionaire.”

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

With Our Thanks and Appreciation

From all of us at the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce, we extend our sincere appreciation to all in our community who lent a helping hand during the February storms that blanketed the Olympic Peninsula in snow and ice. From the city and county crews and private enterprises who plowed snow-covered streets and the Jefferson County PUD for keeping the lights to the USPS, UPS and FedEx workers who kept on delivering mail, and the countless business owners and friendly neighbors who shoveled sidewalks and driveways – sometimes several times! – we thank you!
Circle & Square Auto Care

While countless vehicle makes and models have come and gone over the past 40 years, providing high quality automotive service and repair has been a constant in Jefferson County thanks to Circle & Square Auto Care.

What began at the foot of Cape George in 1977 has steadily grown over the decades into a thriving business now located in a state-of-the-art, environmentally friendly service facility in Port Hadlock. Owned since 2014 by married business partners Lloy Drinkard and Susan Stewart, Circle & Square Auto Care continues to carry on its company traditions of providing an environmentally responsible, dealership alternative to automotive service and repair.

Specialized Services

Priding themselves on utilizing the finest and most advanced automotive service equipment available, Circle & Square Auto Care’s ASE- (Automotive Service Excellence) certified technicians can perform a variety of auto repair services using state-of-the-art diagnostic and repair tools. These include car care maintenance and servicing on cool/heat systems, brake systems, electrical systems, fuel systems, and steering/suspension.

In addition to domestic auto repair, the shop also offers specialized care by certified technicians trained in servicing a range of European automobiles including Audi, BMW, Mercedes, Land Rover, Saab, Volvo, VW, Mini Cooper, as well as Asian automobiles.

Women on Wheels

In its ongoing efforts to provide excellent vehicle care coupled with driver education, Circle & Square Auto Care has offered free Women on Wheels auto clinics twice a year for the past five years. The next clinic is Saturday, April 6 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at its shop, 10953 Rhody Dr. in Port Hadlock.

Geared toward educating women in becoming informed and empowered automobile owners, participants will receive hands-on training in how to change a tire, check tire pressure and tread, check vehicle fluid levels and conditions, and jump a battery. Learning safety procedures, including how to perform a vehicle lighting inspection, will also be taught by the ASE-certified technicians leading the clinic.

The Women on Wheels auto clinic is free to attend, with all ages are welcome, and attendees will also receive a car safety kit courtesy of Westbay NAPA Auto Parts. Space is limited to 10-12 participants to allow for a more hands-on experience, so reservations are necessary by calling 360-385-2070.

“Auto repair can seem daunting, particularly for women, but through this clinic we are helping to alleviate some the uncertainty and stress around it,” Stewart said. “By gaining firsthand knowledge in this informal and fun way, women in our community can make more informed repair and maintenance decisions when it comes to their vehicles.”

To learn more about the full range of Circle & Square Auto Care services as well as some car care tips, visit circleandsquare.com. To schedule a service appointment, contact service@circleandsquare.com or 360-385-2070.

Olympic Wildcraft Collective Presents Free Business Training

The Olympic Wildcraft Collective is presenting a free, two-day business training course in March titled “How to Start or Grow Your Wildcraft Business.”

The weekend course is Saturday-Sunday, March 9-10, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. in the Farmhouse Library at Finnriver Cidery, 124 Center Road in Chimacum.

RSVP to secure a spot by contacting jacob.cravey@cie-nw.org or 904-705-9925. The training course is designed to give budding entrepreneurs the knowledge and skillset to start or grow a wildcraft and non-timber forest product business.

This is a collaborative initiative of the Center for Inclusive Entrepreneurship, the University of Washington’s Olympic Natural Resources Center and The Nature Conservancy, and funded in part by a USDA Rural Business Development Grant.
Jen Rubinowitz

Began as JCCC Volunteer: 2019

“I enjoy start-up ventures, old buildings, artistic avenues and technology. I worked my way through college, installed computer systems where none existed back in the day, and watched the sun set around the world managing telecommunications projects. I left the industry to fulfill a lifelong dream to hear seagulls and smell saltwater every single day.

Combining my love for historic buildings and the arts, I renovated a 1909 cottage, then a long-closed 1937 movie theater, and brought both back to life. I decided to get into real estate in 2008 to help others find their place and make a difference, one building at a time.

In 2011, my husband Jake and I came to the Wooden Boat Festival and fell in love with Port Townsend. We became full-time residents in 2018. I am loving life here!”

Jen works as the branch manager at Coldwell Banker Best Homes in Port Townsend.

Jenn Forest

Began as JCCC Volunteer: 2019

“We now live in Port Townsend with our 7-year-old son Calvin, our four dogs, three chickens, and the cat. Port Townsend and the surrounding areas have a charm to it and there is so much to explore. There are so many wonderful restaurants, shops, parks and more. I am excited to volunteer at the Visitor Information Center and help people learn more about this amazing place we get to call home.”

Jenn works as a real estate broker at Coldwell Banker Best Homes in Port Townsend.

MEMBER NEWS

San Juan Villa

Memory Care Community

112 Castellano Way
Port Townsend, WA
360-344-3114
CaringPlaces.com

Providing life enrichment in a secure environment for those with Alzheimer’s Disease and other forms of memory loss.

Port Townsend School District Superintendent John Polm, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribal Elder Elaine Grinnell, Jefferson County Commissioner Kate Dean and Port Townsend Mayor Deborah Stinson were among the dignitaries celebrating the completion of Salish Coast Elementary School with a ribbon cutting and building dedication event on Jan. 19 in Port Townsend. Courtesy of the Jefferson County Chamber.

1st Security Bank

Flanked by her colleagues, customers, and grandchildren, 1st Security Bank Hadlock Branch Manager Anita Schmucker cut the red ribbon to mark the grand reopening of the bank’s newly remodeled building in Port Hadlock on Feb. 7. Courtesy of the Jefferson County Chamber.
Business & Building for Sale: 
*Elevated Ice Cream Co. & Commercial Waterfront Building*

An iconic Port Townsend business in the downtown district, Elevated Ice Cream & Candy Shop, has been treating folks with homemade ice cream, sherbet, Italian ices (non-dairy) and sweet treats for 41 years. Known as a gathering place, a must-stop shop for tourists and a world-awarded, refreshingly modern old-fashioned ice cream shop, its founders and current owners, Julie and David McCulloch, are now ready to pass the apron on to their successor. Listed with Jan and Robyn Garing at Windermere Port Townsend, the sale also offers the shop’s location — a waterfront commercial building that has four private offices and a one-bedroom inn, The Inn at Waterfront Place (www.innatwaterfrontplace.com).

“It’s a rare find,” said broker Jan Garing, “not only to have such a treasured and well-established family business come for sale, but a commercial building with the waterfront and main street frontage.”

This is a business that helps create memories, celebrate them, and has a proven recipe for success. “Elevated is for sale, but definitely not closing,” shared Julie. “We want to attract someone who resonates with all of the elements which make Elevated successful, and who operates it in that spirit while perhaps growing it to another level.”

For more information on the sale, please contact Jan Garing at 360-301-5492 or Robyn Garing 360-301-2324 or visit jangaring.com.

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**BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES**

**Business for Sale: PTeRider**

When Kate Dwyer and Myron Gauger launched PTeRider in 2016, it was to be a short distance taxi company. That business plan lasted about a day because it quickly became clear that tourists wanted tours. Luckily, Dwyer and Gauger knew enough of the local history to adlib the first few tours. Since then, they developed a route and script that describes Port Townsend's unique history while viewing most of its premier architecture. As Dwyer says, “It’s like a fun history class on wheels.”

The wheels are eye-catching eight-seater, hot red golf carts. When asked what they call these vehicles, Gauger straight faces, “stretch limos.”

In 2017, PTeRider won Main Street’s statewide sustainability award in recognition of their unique business and successful effort to change a state regulation to allow slow speed vehicles on low speed state highways.

Dwyer and Gauger, who both turn 70 this year and are ready to retire after three successful years, are selling the business. Because PTeRider has provided popular services to locals, tourists, boaters and nonprofits in Port Townsend, they are seeking buyers who will carry on and improve what they started.

Dwyer says, “There is plenty of room for improvement and innovation but we’re not the ones to do it. We’d dearly love to sell to energetic younger entrepreneurs who can take it to the next level.”

Interested? Want more information? Visit www.pterider.com or contact Dwyer at kate48dwyer@gmail.com or 360-531-2856.
Revision Marine LLC was founded in 2015 by Matt Mortensen and Chris Brignoli. Matt and Chris have worked in the marine electrical industry for more than 20 years, working together as friends for nearly that long. Their friendship is based on a shared passion for excellence, innovation, and sense of responsibility to minimize the often harsh impact of boats and their systems on the environment. “We realize that the marine environment is uniquely fragile,” says Chris, “and that fossil fuels are one of the biggest concerns.”

Revision Marine was an idea born out of many conversations among Matt, Chris and original founding partner Peter Geerlofs – conversations focused on emerging technologies that could be applied to vessel systems, such as large solar arrays, ultra-efficient energy storage, super-insulators, powerful yet lightweight electric motors, and low power draw systems (lighting, refrigeration, and heating). Using their own boats as test platforms, they designed and installed systems that not only improved performance, but shifted the paradigm on how a boat could be used, in many cases eliminating or minimizing the need for a noisy and high maintenance generator.

Unmatched Performance & Safety

Revision’s line of lithium batteries were made possible by innovations driving the electric car industry. Four years ago, as Revision was designing its first system, lithium batteries for boats were almost unheard of because of justifiable fear about fire, inflexible form factors, and prohibitively high cost. Revision was one of the first companies to offer semi-custom lithium (lithium iron phosphate) batteries for powering all the electrical needs of a boat; batteries that are as safe or safer than traditional lead acid, capable of adapting to almost any configuration, and able to outlast the average ownership of a typical vessel. This line of semi-custom lithium batteries is virtually unmatched in performance and safety by the rest of the industry.

System Innovation

Revision is currently prototyping innovative hybrid energy systems with potential use in almost any boat from 30-200-plus-feet. It is enhancing boating by creating a quieter and better experience, for those onboard and for the marine ecosystem, while saving fuel and money. Silent yachting, commercial fishing, or passenger vessels without the pollution caused by burning fossil fuels – it just makes sense!

Rather than rely on a genset running all day and all night to power the AC/DC electrical loads of larger yachts or work boats, the Revision hybrid energy system is capable of storing enough energy to last most of the day, requiring as little as one hour of generator run time to replenish what was used. The first version is currently powering a 92-foot expedition yacht, a project that will soon be featured in a major boating magazine.

Revision has also focused on combining its efficient energy storage systems with hybrid and electric propulsion. A number of smaller projects have been completed, including a twin electric saildrive system on a 68-foot schooner. They are currently working with a naval architect to design a 60-foot solar-powered catamaran. Additionally, Revision is designing the propulsion and energy systems for the historic vessel the Western Flyer being restored at the Port Townsend Shipwrights Co-op.

Located in Port Townsend, Revision Marine LLC has access to some of the most talented professionals working in the marine industry – engineers, naval architects, shipwrights and craftspeople – and a regional market brimming with environmentally conscious boat owners. This combination, with hard work and a little luck, guarantees a bright future for this young company.
EDC Offers Business Planning Course

Registration is open for an 11-week business planning course offered this spring by the Economic Development Council of Jefferson County (EDC Team Jefferson).

The evening course meets on Thursdays, March 7-May 16 from 6:15-9 p.m. at the EDC’s Business Resource Center, 2409 Jefferson St. in Port Townsend.

Registration is through EDC Team Jefferson’s website at www.edcteamjefferson.org.

Tuition is $225 and payable online or by check. Those who submit a complete business plan at the end of the course will also receive a $50 refund.

The spring 2019 business planning course is sponsored by the North Olympic Development Council, with student expenses being offset by a grant through the Herbert B. Jones Foundation.

Taught by business planning expert Jim Williams, the course is designed for current business owners as well as budding entrepreneurs and covers such topics as creating a business plan, seeking funding resources, creating marketing strategies, and preparing to start or grow a business.

Those interested are encouraged to contact admin@edcteamjefferson.org or 360-379-4693 for more information or assistance in registering.