

News *from the* Port

PORT OF PORT TOWNSEND



Breakwater holds back storm

The breakwater at the Port's Boat Haven breakwater held back the waves from a late December storm that gusted up to 60 mph combined with a king tide.

Broker opens at Port

Rubicon Yachts, a top yacht brokerage from the San Francisco area, will soon open in the Port of Port Townsend's former moorage office.

Rubicon lists 150 boats, which company President Mark Miner said is 50-50 power and sailboats, in the 30- to 80-foot range.

Why open its fourth brokerage office in the Pacific Northwest?

That's thanks to Joe LeCato of Port Ludlow, a recent graduate of the Northwest School of Wooden Boat-building. After two waterborne careers – one as a U.S. Coast Guard commander, where he spent 26 years, and

another as a Foss Tug port captain, LeCato and wife Maria have settled here.

At the boat school, LeCato (along with two others) built the 17-foot Whitehall "Maria Kirby," which he owns. "It's like a disease," he said of wooden boat-building. "It's the most satisfying thing I've ever done."

Wooden boats are in his family's blood. Since the mid-1600s, LeCato's ancestors were boatbuilders and skippers along the Virginia coast.

LeCato's first exposure to Miner and Rubicon Yachts was his purchase of a Grand



Joe LeCato

Banks 42. LeCato later worked for Rubicon. Now that he's moved north, the two decided a Northwest brokerage was a solid next step.

LaCato renovated the interior of the building as part of a three-year lease deal with the Port. He expects to open in late January. He said he's been welcomed at every turn by the Port and others.

"We're excited to have a yacht broker join the family at the Port," said Jim Pivarnik, the Port's interim executive director. "We feel that building is the center point of the Port, and an active brokerage is perfect for it."

Commission sets retreat

Expect in-depth discussion about many of the Port's key issues at a two-day retreat planned for Jan. 16-17 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Old Alcohol Plant in Port Hadlock. The public is invited.

Among the likely topics:

- 2019 capital budget: Based on the first draft, the Commission will give direction on topics like the airport runway rebuild, emergency repair funds for the Point Hudson jetty and installation of water meters for all Port buildings and facilities.

- Point Hudson jetty: Could designation of the old jetty as a historic structure lead to less expense or new funding options?

- Management: Discussion is expected on the length of the assignment for the interim executive director.

- Agriculture: A cold storage unit located near the airport may deserve study. The facility would allow the Port to help the local agriculture economy.

- Quilcene: Staffing for the Quilcene Marina and other projects is on the table.

- Direction: Discussion of staff needs and responsibilities.



A word from the director

The new year is proving to be a very busy time around the Port. Staff has been working hard.

The crew worked tirelessly to protect boats and port facilities during the late December wind storms. The administrative staff is looking at policies and procedures to make the Port more efficient and user-friendly. The commissioners have set the tone and will be establishing priorities for us to work on.

To that point, we've scheduled a two-day, all-day retreat on Jan. 16-17, at the Old Alcohol Plant in Port Hadlock, to solidify and prioritize what the Port can accomplish this year.

Join us if you can. Following the retreat, you'll be able to find our project list on our website at www.portofpt.com.

As far as capital projects, our airport runway rebuild is on track for completion in 2019 and talks are beginning about the short- and long-term fixes for the breakwater at Point Hudson. These are



Jim Pivarnik

both critical infrastructure projects that need to move forward this year.

Storm water compliance continues to be an important project and I'm pleased to report that our new chitosan filtration system is showing positive results. Staff continues to meet with the Department of Ecology to work on a long-term solution. We are determined to keep the Boat Haven both busy with new work and compliant with good environmental standards.

Continuing to formalize our policies and procedures, capital planning for the next five years, and implementation of our new marina software accounting system, will keep the administrative staff quite busy this year.

As always, my door is open, and I sincerely welcome you if you can stop by for a cup of coffee or just a chat any time.

All of us at the Port wish all of you a happy and prosperous New Year!

– Jim Pivarnik,
Executive Director

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Bits & Pieces



Abigail Berg, the Port's finance director, wears many other hats.

■ Another clean audit

The Port received yet another clean audit from the Washington State Auditor's Office in December, a steady pattern for 24 years. The audit looked at 2016-17 finances and accountability, said Director of Finance Abigail Berg. Berg was herself a state auditor for eight years prior to joining the Port three and a half years ago. She has also been the controller for the Olympic Community Action Program (OlyCAP) and finance director for a pension consulting firm. Berg is married with two boys in college, two sisters in Jefferson County and her mother lives in Sequim. She said she enjoys the eclectic mix of work for the Port. "As a state auditor, I jumped around a lot to different government entities," she said. "I wanted to get more focused on a single agency. The Port has been a good fit." But she's plenty busy: Besides directing finances, she is responsible for IT and the computer network, is the lead on personnel issues (with Pivarnik), and handles insurance, claims and contracts.

Last trip of the Travelift

The Port's 75-ton Travelift will soon take its final trip. The old workhorse put in 12 years of good work but suffered damage this fall when a cable broke that pierced the engine compartment. Port crew has salvaged all the parts possible to use on the other lifts, and have dismantled the frame for transport to a new owner. The Port expects to sell what's left in the coming weeks. The Port has an insurance-funded new 75-ton lift and also operates both a 70-ton and a 330-ton lift.

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