

# Port Report



## High Speed Fiber in Cascade Locks

The Port has been notified by CenturyLink that the community of Cascade Locks now has high speed fiber optic cable service. In a meeting organized by State Representative Mark Johnson, Port officials were informed by CenturyLink staff of the system's capability. CenturyLink completed the upgrade to their system about four months ago. From an economic development standpoint, high speed fiber optic cable is a very valuable tool with which to attract new businesses to available industrial and commercial property in Cascade Locks. The Port and community are very appreciative of the efforts of both Rep. Johnson and Sen. Thomsen in assisting the Port create economic development locally.

## Port Explores Design Options for Future Downtown - Marine Park Overpass

The Port is working in close partnership with ODOT staff to explore preliminary designs for an overpass for pedestrians, strollers, wheelchairs, and bicycles from Overlook Park to the Marine Park. The structure would provide a safer connection between downtown Cascade Locks and the popular park, without using the shared train trestle underpass entrance. The Port Commission will explore a variety of preliminary design concepts on Thursday, November 6th, at 6pm at City Hall. Some of the design options include stairs, overlooks, ramps, switchbacks, and/or elevators. Funding for this project design comes from a 2006 SAFETEA-LU Grant from the Federal Highway Administration. The project was initially penciled to be a full vehicle overpass, but the current Commission felt that the true safety concerns were for non-motorized park guests. Staff and Commissioners worked with Federal Legislators to reprogram the funds while in Washington DC this past spring.

## Land Exchange Completed, 5 Years

This month Port and US Forest Service staff are celebrating the completion of a detailed 64-step process to exchange properties. Ultimately, the deal was beneficial for both agencies. The Port transferred a total of approximately 40 acres of undevelopable property in the National Scenic Area containing an old dump, steep slopes, historic wagon road, wetlands, geologic hazards, habitat trees, and the PCT trailhead. Those features will now be maintained in USFS stewardship. In exchange, the Port received approximately 10 acres of forested property within the Cascade Locks Urban Area. Before this recently acquired property can be developed, it will first need to be annexed into city limits, zoned, logged, and prepared with adequate utilities. The Port does not currently have plans for this property, as the top priority is infrastructure development in the Business Park to welcome new businesses and jobs there. Thank you to USFS staff Pam Campbell for her diligence on this long-term land exchange project.

## Winterization in the Port Marine Park

As predictably wet weather descends upon the Gorge, the Port Maintenance Department is preparing the Marine Park for winter. The Cascade Locks Historical Museum is closed for the season. The Sternwheeler Columbia Gorge will return to Portland for the winter next week. The park canopy tents have been taken down to avoid damage by strong gorge winds. The park bathrooms and campground hook-ups will be shut off to prevent freezing damage to pipes. While the park is open to the public 365 days per year, please note the only bathrooms available this winter will be those located by the public boat ramp at the historic locks and canal.



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Public meetings are held at 6 pm on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month in Cascade Locks City Hall Council Chambers.

**The mission of the Port of Cascade Locks is to:**

- Operate in a fiscally prudent manner to ensure its continuity
- Facilitate effective infrastructure and transportation solutions
- Recruit new businesses to create family wage jobs and economic growth within the Port District and region
- Create economic growth opportunities for existing businesses within the Port District
- Enhance tourism and recreation for the Columbia River Gorge region
- Provide leadership and create partnerships within the region for economic development
- Utilize our natural resources

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## Community Member 97014

### Community Cocoa & Toll Booth Park Lights

**Save the date! Monday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm**

Char Burger will once again host a community gathering to enjoy hot cocoa, hot apple cider, and cookies prior to the annual countdown to flip the switches on the festive annual holiday light display in the toll booth park leading up to the bridge.

#### What's going on?

Beyond the Port's monthly newsletter, be sure to check out our Facebook page(s) for regular updates and information. The community is also invited to attend the monthly lunch gathering of the Cascade Locks Action Team: 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays, 12 noon at CLAH.

### Community Celebration Dinner

The Cascade Locks Business Association hosted a community volunteer appreciation dinner on Tuesday, October 28<sup>th</sup>. Over 100 guests enjoyed a Char Burger buffet dinner, sponsored by the Columbia Gorge Lions and Nestle Waters North America. The purpose of the celebration was to take a moment to recognize the dedication and accomplishments of so many businesses, staff, and hard-working volunteers. Cascade Locks is a better community because of the special effort by so many of our neighbors. Thank you all for your ongoing commitment to our city.

### LOCAL TRIVIA QUIZ FOR PRIZES

**Be one of the first three people to correctly answer this question (spelling counts) by email to: [rare@portofcascadelocks.org](mailto:rare@portofcascadelocks.org), and win a gift certificate to a local business!**

**Adults: What year did the Port purchase the Bridge of the Gods?**

**Youth (Under 18): What is the name of the island in the Cascade Locks Marine Park?**