

Port Report



Free Bridge Crossings This Christmas

There will be free toll bridge crossing December 24th 9pm to December 26th 7am.

The Port Commission would like to wish Port partners and customers a Merry Christmas.

Hollywood in Cascade Locks, Oregon

The Bridge of the Gods is no stranger to the bright lights of Hollywood. The sturdy steel truss bridge has appeared in a number of movies, commercials, and ads over the years, including a Twilight movie, Carhartt apparel, and luxury cars. Last fall, the bridge was visited by actress Reese Witherspoon during the filming of an adaptation of Portland author Cheryl Strayed's Best Selling memoir *Wild, From Lost to Found on the PCT*. Released this month throughout the U.S., the anticipated full length movie was well-received in film festivals, and has generated Golden Globe and SAG award nominations for the cast. [Spoiler alert] Cascade Locks residents and friends will recognize the Bridge of the Gods overlooking the Columbia River during the final minutes of the movie, as the lead character reflects upon her transformative journey. Former Port employee Denise Melton was even cast to staff the bridge toll booth during the shot. While filming locations were scattered throughout the state of Oregon, the Port's iconic bridge and the scenic community of Cascade Locks have enjoyed a buzz of publicity recently, including a recent appearance in the New York Times (big thanks to partners at Travel Oregon and Travel Portland). A regional committee is working to capitalize upon this media to boost year-round tourism for the PCT and Columbia River Gorge communities through articles, tours, and social media activity.

Revised Facility Policies and Fees

The Port Commission has approved new policies to guide the rental of Port facilities including the Community Center, the Marine Park Pavilion, Thunder Island Wedding Platform, canopy tents, picnic shacks, etc. Effective January 1st, new fees for facility rentals will be tiered for peak season and non-peak season, locals and non-locals. A copy of the adopted fee schedule will soon be available on the Port's website. The Port Commission's goal is to incentivize use of all facilities year round, while collecting revenue to offset the cost of ongoing maintenance of each structure or amenity in good condition for future generations to enjoy. Port facilities are used regularly for birthday parties, baby showers, weddings, potlucks, reunions, and meetings. To reserve space for your next event, please call the Port today at 541-374-2404. Note: Marina rates overall were not impacted by this fee increase, as they were revised this past January.

Port 8-Lot Subdivision Approved by City

The City of Cascade Locks Planning Commission approved the Port's 8-lot Business Park Subdivision on December 11th. Once the subdivision is recorded with Hood River County, the installation of water, sewer, power, and full roads to each of the lots will begin. The Port is assembling a capable team of project managers, engineers, and surveyors. These critical infrastructure projects are expected to break ground in May of 2015. The Port is in negotiation for the sale of several of these lots.

Reminder: Marine Park Restrooms Closed

The only Marine Park restrooms open for public use during the winter will be those located at the boat ramp near the historic locks.



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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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'One Gorge' Economic Development Group

For the past year, the Port has lead an effort to create a regional economic development alliance. The One Gorge effort gathers various public ports, cities, counties, chambers, and private businesses around one table. The effort focuses advocacy to build a stronger economy inside the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. This effort furthers the original intent of the 1986 National Scenic Area Act, which was to 1) Protect cultural, natural, scenic, and recreational Gorge resources, and 2) Support a strong bi-state Gorge economy.

Port Welcomes Receptionist Clerk

The Port has hired a new Receptionist Clerk. Brittany (Litschewski) Berge grew up in Cascade Locks and has recently moved back to town with her husband and 1 ½ year old son. She brings six years of graphic design and customer service skills to the new Port position. Brittany sees great potential and exciting progress in Cascade Locks. She envisions using her leadership skills and creativity to grow local participation by young adults, as the next generation of leaders in her hometown.

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, and win a gift certificate to a local business!

Adults: What year was the Bonneville Dam first in operation?

Youth (Under 18): Who is the Mayor of Cascade Locks?