



2010

Chamber Officers

President

Brad Whittaker

Vice-President

Stephanie Vossen

Treasurer

Debbie Patterson

Secretary

Cleone Kockritz

*Calendar of Events
Sponsored or Contributed
by the Chamber*

JANUARY

nothing at this time

FEBRUARY

Flea Market & Wheel & Deal

MARCH

Chamber Dinner

APRIL

nothing at this time

MAY

Community Cleanup Day
Kress Lake Safety Day

JUNE

nothing at this time

JULY

Community Fair

AUGUST

Car Show

SEPTEMBER

Kalama Art Event

OCTOBER

Halloween

NOVEMBER

nothing at this time

DECEMBER

Christmas in Kalama

Kalama Chamber of Commerce

Kalama Chamber of Commerce Statement of Purpose: To promote community well-being through representation of its members with regard to business issues in the community and promoting an environment supportive of its members business and civic activities.

News Augustus/September 2010



During the Kalama Fair on Saturday July 24 at 11:00am a **Dedication Ceremony** was held on the First Street Improvements Phase 1 & 2 in front of the Cowlitz Bank.

Both phases were financed with over

90% in grants and stimuli money. All the people involved were thanked for a job well done, including Carl McCrary, the contractor, and especially Cowlitz County Commissioner Kathleen Johnson.



Also on July 24 at 9:00 am **Karen's**

Quilt Loft held their Grand Opening/Ribbon Cutting. Open since July 01 Karen's Quilt Loft is located on the second floor of 124 N. 1st St. and has already attracted customers as far away as Olympia and Texas besides of local quilters ranging from Longview/Kelso down to Ridgefield. Karen offers everything to do with quilts and sewing materials, alterations, and classes from beginner to advanced. In September a mystery quilt class will start, lasting 8 months. Karen's hours are Wedn. through Sat. 10am to 5pm, adding Tuesdays in the fall and possible one night a week. A website will also be in the future.

Built on the back of the Kalama Art Walk, but with some (major) improvements, the **Kalama Art Event** will take place September 11. The purpose of this event is to highlight Kalama, stimulate the downtown economy, and promote regional artists with creative hands-on fun. Artists will display and sell their art work from the various businesses and buildings on Main Street as well as from specific street locations. In addition, five different workshops will be offered to the public.

This one day event is designed to showcase our downtown areas and familiarize the buying public with all Kalama has to offer.

Chamber Meeting Times

The Kalama Chamber of Commerce meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 12 noon to 1:00 PM at the Kalama Community Building located at 126 N. 2nd Street for a General Meeting. The After Hours will be held in general every 4th Tuesday of the month from 5:30 till 7:00 pm at various locations with a speaker.

Everybody is welcome to attend any of these meetings.

!!! Mega Chamber Mixer !!!

On Tuesday August 24 from 5:30 to 8:30 PM, the Kelso/Longview Chamber of Commerce is organizing a Mega mixer with the chambers of Kelso/Longview, Woodland, Castle Rock, and Kalama at their Chamber office. Tickets to attend are \$15 and a table is \$90, where the Kelso/Longview Chamber will provide the table, you only have to bring your promotional material. Contact Brad Whittaker at bwhittaker@directorsmortgage.net or 673-6106 for tickets or a table. Proceeds from tickets sold through the Kalama Chamber will stay in the Kalama Chamber !

Attend this great opportunity to promote yourself within the business community of Cowlitz County and (re-) establish your business contacts.

Shop Local - does it make sense?

According to the Institute for Local Self Reliance, a recent national survey revealed that in the more than 100 U.S. cities and towns that have a "Buy Local" or "Think Local First" initiative, independent retailers reported an average increase in holiday sales of 3%, compared to 1% for those in cities without such an initiative - and compared to overall retail sales, which were down 0.3% in December according to the U.S. Commerce Department.

One of the things that seem to work is creating a synergy between downtown businesses, but also the personal touch. People need to realize that by

shopping at a locally owned business, they are really helping themselves. Keeping the money in town is where it does the most good.

Usually we focus on the consumer choosing products made and sold by local community members. But businesses are consumers too!!! We need to realize this and work hard to keep our own purchasing dollars circulating within our community.

Embrace
KALAMA

After Hours Calendar

After Hours is on Summer Break and will continue in September. If you are interested in hosting an After Hours, please contact Brad Whittaker at 673-6106 or bwhittaker@directorsmortgage.net

Healthcare Reform is a topic of great interest to employers and individuals alike these days. The Southwest Washington Human Resource Management Association is proud to present "Healthcare Reform" on Wednesday, August 18, 11:15 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at the Cowlitz County Expo Center, see page 3.

Next Chamber Newsletter will be at the end of September, check your email for updates on the calendar and other important items.

If you are a member of the Kalama Chamber of Commerce, you can advertise for free in the E-Newsletter. Contact Saskia at 673-6592 or Saskia@SaskiaGraphicDesign.com.

Interested in joining the Kalama Chamber of Commerce?

Go to www.kalamachamber.com for a membership application form or give us a call at 673-6299.

Kalama Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 824 • Kalama • WA 98625 • (360) 673-6299
www.kalamachamber.com • info@kalamachamber.com



**Southwest
Washington Human
Resource
Management
Association**

**Quarterly Cowlitz
County Meeting**

Wednesday, August 18

Cowlitz County Expo Center
1900 7th Avenue, Longview

11:15 am-1:00 pm

To register:

Log on to www.swhrma.org,
click on “Event Calendar”,
then “Healthcare Reform -
Longview”.

Costs

\$25 - SWHRMA members
\$35 - non-members
(includes lunch)

Who should attend?

Human Resource professionals
Other individuals with
responsibility for employee
benefits

This presentation has been
approved for 1.0 CEU through
HRCI

Health Care Reform

The “Health Care Reform Act” was enacted into law on March 30, 2010. While much of the law does not go into effect until 2014, there are a number of provisions that will impact calendar year plans beginning on January 1, 2011. Before this recent legislation is implemented, various federal agencies will need to provide regulatory guidance on the specifics of the legislation. Join us as we discuss:

- What do you need to know and do now to prepare
- Future impact of Health Care Reform
- Changes and clarifications to the original Health Care Reform regulations



Tim Cooper, GBDS - Sr. VP Employee Benefits with Beecher Carlson - has 22 years of employee benefits experience including the management of benefit plan design, marketing and negotiations, specialized administration and communications. Tim also leads Beecher Carlson’s 401(k)/Defined Contribution Pension Practice and serves on the Children’s Cancer Association Board of Directors.



Wally Miller - Attorney with Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt - focuses his practice on all aspects of employee benefits, health care regulation, and tax law issues. Mr. Miller advises publicly-held and private employers in all aspects of employee benefits and has extensive knowledge in matters such as qualified Section 401(k), 403(b) and 457 retirement plans; non-qualified deferred compensation plans; welfare benefit plans, including Section 125 cafeteria plans, self-insured medical plans and health reimbursement arrangements (HRAs); VEBAs; flexible spending arrangements (FSAs); health savings accounts (HSAs); ERISA compliance; HIPAA privacy; and plan-related issues in connection with acquisitions, dispositions and mergers.

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