

# PORT OF PASCO

CONNECTING HERE WITH THERE



James G. Tippett Photography

## Pasco: a Port of Progress

In January, the final ribbon was cut on the nearly \$42-million expansion of the Tri-Cities Airport.

The 2½ year project was the largest in the Port of Pasco's history. It will serve both business and leisure travelers well into the future, provide room for airline service growth and function as an important economic development driver for the region.

It would be easy, and even understandable, for the Port of Pasco to slow down and take a breath after completing

such an intense project, but that is not on our agenda. The Commission and Port staff are planning, studying and moving ahead with initiatives throughout the Port District. We are excited about the course we are charting as we honor our charge to be a Port of Progress on your behalf.

*Ron Reimann*

Ron Reimann  
Commission President, Port of Pasco

06.17

- Ron Foraker and Linda O'Brien retire
- Food Trucks at Osprey Point!
- Could a Public Market be in Pasco's future?
- What's next for Pasco?





Linda O'Brien



Ron Foraker

## Port salutes two longtime employees

**Big changes at the Port of Pasco as two key officials  
Linda O'Brien and Ron Foraker, retired on May 31.**

### Linda O'Brien

Linda, Director of Finance and Administration, joined the Port in 1990 and was instrumental in the financial successes of projects such as the Pasco Processing Center; the development of Osprey Pointe; the Charles Kilbury overpass; the Big Pasco rail rehabilitation project that today generates \$150,000 in annual revenue to the Port; and most recently, the Tri-Cities Airport Expansion Project.

Her dedication to the financial health of the Port has positioned it well for future growth. Today, the Port has a bond rating of A-. During Linda's 28 years at the Port, the Washington State Auditor's Office has awarded the Port all clean audits.

"Linda's tenure is filled with successes," said Port Commission

President Ron Reimann. "Her dedication has placed the Port in an extremely healthy financial standing, for which the Port Commission is extremely grateful."

### Ron Foraker

Ron, Director of Airports, joined the Port in 1977, starting out in the airport maintenance department.

He always had an airport frame of mind. In the early 70s, while going to CBC, he would drive out to the Tri-Cities Airport and park his car to watch the airplanes. He studied aerospace science at Central Washington University, where he also learned to fly. After graduation, he returned to the Tri-Cities, eventually taking the maintenance job, which he held for a year before being moved to a new role as assistant airport manager. He held that position until 2011 when

he became the airport's director.

Over the years, Ron played a key role in the transition of the Tri-Cities Airport from a small, local facility to a regional transportation asset with air service to eight major airport hubs. Most recently, he oversaw the \$42-million expansion of the airport.

"Ron's commitment to the aviation industry and specifically the Tri-Cities Airport has not wavered since his first day on the job," said Port Commissioner Jim Klindworth. "Over his career, he has always put the airport first and today the Port and our community enjoy the fruits of his labor every time they use the airport. He has influenced every success achieved at the airport over the last 40 years. He is the pulse of the Tri-Cities Airport, and he will be greatly missed."

# THANK YOU!

Linda and Ron for your years of service to the Port of Pasco  
and its constituents. You served them well.



*Buck Taft*



*Don Faley*



*Donna Watts*

## Staff changes

**With the retirement of Ron Foraker and Linda O'Brien, the Port recently announced staff changes.**

### **Buck Taft**

Buck Taft, who joined the Port as Deputy Director of Airports in 2011, has assumed the helm of the airport upon the retirement of Ron Foraker.

Buck has worked in the aviation industry for more than 16 years, and played a key role in the airport expansion, which has given him intimate knowledge of the airport facility and its operations.

Buck is originally from Illinois, and now resides in Pasco with his wife Jennifer and their three children.

### **Don Faley**

With the promotion of Buck, the Airport welcomes Don Faley as the new Deputy Director. Don has a degree in Aviation Management with 23 years of commercial service airport operations experience. His vast experience and knowledge of how airports operate will help make this transition seamless.

Don, his wife and children have relocated to Pasco from Dayton, Ohio.

### **Donna Watts**

Donna Watts has replaced Linda O'Brien as the Port's new Director of Finance and Administration. She worked at the Port of Walla Walla as the Auditor/Treasurer prior to coming to the Port of Pasco. She has a Master's degree in Accounting and Financial Management and is a licensed CPA.

Donna is a Pasco native. She and her family are excited to be returning to her hometown.

## **New logos. New look.**

Have you noticed the new look of this newsletter? It features new colors, shorter articles and a fresh new design.

It's part of a logo and graphic redesign at the Port. The new Port logo coordinates with the color schemes now being used throughout the Tri-Cities in marketing efforts. The logo also reflects the work of the Port in transportation and connection, as well as movement and energy.

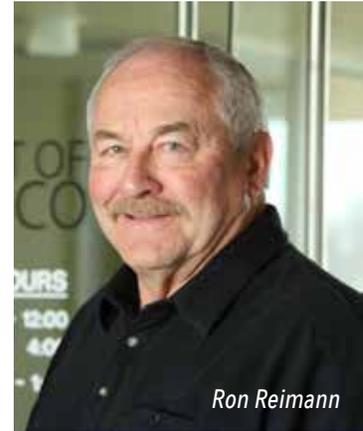
The Tri-Cities Airport also has a new, coordinated logo, which reflects an aircraft tail. You can see the new logo throughout the airport and on its website at [www.flytricity.com](http://www.flytricity.com). Watch for a redesign of the Port's website, coming soon.



# Congratulations are in order

Congratulations to Commission President Ron Reimann, who received the 2017 Industry Leadership Award at the Oregon/Washington Potato Conference in January.

It's a well-deserved honor. Ron, who grew up on a farm near Ritzville, vowed never to be a farmer. Through the twists and turns of life, not only did he spend his life farming, he has also been a leader in the potato community and a strong advocate for water rights. He joined the Port of Pasco as a Commissioner in 2012.



Ron Reimann



## Envision, Invest, Achieve.

Pasco has become one of Washington's fastest growing cities.

Leading sectors of Pasco's economy are:

- agriculture
- manufacturing
- transportation
- warehousing

The Port of Pasco continues to partner with Franklin County, the Pasco School District, Columbia Basin College, the Hispanic and Pasco Chambers of Commerce, and other area organizations and businesses to create a singular, long-range vision for the future of the Greater Pasco area.

The project, called **Somos Pasco! (We Are Pasco!)**, was designed to examine economic development opportunities, determine what the community wants and needs, and then set priorities and align resources accordingly.

The Somos Pasco team conducted on-line and on-the-street surveys, interviews and focus groups. These will be combined with an economic and demographic analysis, market survey and research of similar communities to craft a vision and identify steps to reach that vision.

The vision will be released this summer.

"We are at a critical stage as we pivot from ideas to action, said Gary Ballew, the Port's Director of Economic Development and Marketing. We encourage everyone to join us in moving our community forward. Stay tuned at [somospasco.org](http://somospasco.org)."

## What is the difference between a public market and a farmers market?

A farmers market operates seasonally, outdoors or in covered stalls and increases access to fresh, local produce and food.

A public market is generally open year-round in a building and features vendors with regional crafts and locally prepared food. A limited amount of what's for sale in a public market is on the fresh produce side.



## Could a Public Market be in Pasco's future?

The Port of Pasco is a key player in efforts to create a shared vision for the Greater Pasco area. Could a public market be part of that plan?

That's what the Port and the City continue to explore. After the idea of a public market in Richland ended, the group began looking at potential sites in Pasco and Kennewick. That's when the Port got involved.

**"A public market could be good for Pasco,"** said Gary Ballew, Director of Economic Development and Marketing. **"It could be a great place for new, small businesses to start up, it would help anchor other development, and it would be a place which attracts people and energy."**

Two sites are being explored, with the help of a \$30,000 feasibility study being split between the Port and the City. One site is in downtown Pasco as an expansion of the current Farmers' Market and the other is at the Port's Marine Terminal located at the base of the Cable Bridge along the Columbia River.

"We want to determine which site is best and which one has the highest chance of success," he said. "Regardless of the location chosen for the Public Market, the Farmer's Market will remain in its current location."

"It could be a long process, but both the City and the Port are committed to finding out if it is feasible," said Ballew.





Big thanks to the staff of the Tri-Cities Airport, which worked long hours to keep the airport operating during the snowy, icy winter of 2016-17.

Not only did the crew have to keep the runways clear, they performed runway brake tests that airlines use to determine braking distance requirements for their aircraft.

Because of their efforts, the airport experienced minimal impact despite the unusually heavy winter weather.



Left to Right: Bob Davis, Logan Faulkner, Andy Reid, Kevin Loesch, Keith Davisson, Lloyd Wilson, Doug Bryson, Mark Ward and Nick Davis.



## Osprey Pointe - Pasco's newest food truck site

The new site, located on Ainsworth Avenue and just west of the Port's offices, will host two mobile vendors, who are graduates of the Pasco Specialty Kitchen Mobile Vending University.

"It's a great project that represents the coordination of efforts now going on in Pasco," said Gary Ballew, the Port of Pasco's Director of Economic Development and Marketing. "It gives two mobile vendors a spot in a great location, while offering people in the Osprey Pointe and Big Pasco areas some new, fun food options. It's also easy to access right off Highway 397."

The site will operate seasonally. So swing on over and pick up a meal.



### Port of Pasco

1110 Osprey Pointe Blvd., Suite 201 | 509-547-3378

### Tri-Cities Airport

3601 North 20th Avenue | 509-547-6352

### Mailing Address

PO Box 769 | Pasco, WA 99301

### On the web

[www.PortofPasco.org](http://www.PortofPasco.org) | [www.FlyTriCities.com](http://www.FlyTriCities.com)

Equal Opportunity Employer



### Port Commission

Ron Reimann | Jean Ryckman | Jim Klindworth

You are invited to attend meetings of the Port of Pasco Commissioners. Regular public meetings are held at 10:30 a.m., the second and fourth Thursdays of each month in Port of Pasco offices. The agenda of each meeting will be available on the Port's website two days prior to the meeting.

### Port Staff

Randy Hayden  
Buck Taft  
Don Faley  
Barry Gilk  
Donna Watts  
Gary Ballew  
Mayra Reyna  
Tracy Friesz  
Vicky Keller

Executive Director  
Director of Airports  
Airport Deputy Director  
Airport Chief of Police  
Director, Finance & Administration  
Director, Economic Development & Marketing  
Director, Properties  
Facilities Engineer  
Public Records



**52** acres ready for development



**OSPREY POINTE**

The 52-acre Osprey Pointe site has plenty of space available for development



20 building sites with the capacity for over 700,000 square feet of new space in either two-story or three-story buildings



Ideal for professional and financial services, research and development, corporate headquarters, light industrial and technology



The former Port office is also available. For more information, call 547-3378.

**You're invited to tour of the Port. To get on the next scheduled tour contact Audrey at 547-3378.**

**The tour is free and lunch is included.**

## Welcome Basin Disposal and Rep. Jenkin!

The first building at Osprey Pointe is now full.

Basin Disposal (BDI) will be moving its six administrative employees into the Osprey Pointe building. In addition, State Rep. Bill Jenkin opened a district office to serve the Tri-Cities and Walla Walla.

Our new tenants join the Pasco Chamber of Commerce, MacKay Sposito, Iso-Quality Testing and the Scoular Company.



## Airport Expansion is Complete

### THANK YOU!

Thank you for your patience during this major renovation.

We hope you will travel using your Tri-Cities Airport soon so you can experience the region's newest asset!



The \$42-million airport renovation was completed in January and our guests are enjoying the expanded facilities.

- Doubled the size of the terminal
- New, larger entry area with full-service snack bar
- More seating and gates in the boarding area
- More room for TSA screening
- Updated the baggage claim and vehicle rental areas
- New restaurant, bar, espresso and gift shop on the secured side of the terminal
- Added a children's play area for the littler travelers