

Greater Kingston

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GREATER KINGSTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SUPERHEROES

Business leaders from throughout Kitsap County participated in the Westsound Business Expo last month. Each Chamber of Commerce was asked to select two "Superheroes" from their membership to be honored at the event. Our chamber is full of superheroes, but this year's honorees were easy to identify!

Clint Boxman of Ameriprise Financial and Susan Rodgers of Design Interiors.

Susan Rodgers has been an outspoken advocate for Kingston businesses through her involvement with the Kingston Stakeholders, personal visits around town and via social media. She chaired a Hotel Search sub-committee for GKEDC. She co-produced a Fashion Show to support Kitsap Foster Care Association. She funded a Ladies Night event and co-chaired Kites Over Kingston for two years. Rainbow Umbrellas were her inspiration for keeping visitors dry while shopping in our core area and she provided 20 of them. She was instrumental in getting the town mural designed, approved, funded and completed on the Century Link Building. She created the "Kingston Mug", from art in the mural, that is being sold at the Visitor's Center to benefit a Chamber signage fund. She created and executed the Black & White Dinner Party as a chamber fund raiser last fall. She helped facilitate and personally "manned" the Visitor's Center Kiosk at the Kingston Ferry Terminal last summer. Susan has been the Volunteer Coordinator for Kitsap Arts & Crafts and volunteered with numerous other committees including the Kingston Slug Hunt, Kingston Wine Walk and Homecoming. She owns Cleo's Landing in downtown Kingston which houses 5 Businesses, including her own, Design Connection. For 20 years she has helped to keep Kingston's retail core alive with destination shopping, going above and beyond to assist her tenants. All the businesses at Cleo's have a close relationship which makes that destination even more fun.



Clint Boxman has been a chamber member since opening his first financial planning practice in Kingston in 2006. He is the Kingston-North Kitsap Rotary President for the second time in the club's 10-year existence - providing leadership and elbow grease to an organization that contributes so much to our community. Clint helped lead the charge on the restoration of the historical Kola Kole School House, the Picnic Pavilion and playground at Village Green, town beautification efforts, youth services and tourism promotion through operation of Golf Tournaments, the 4th of July Fun Run and the Summer Concerts Beer Garden. He serves on the Village Green Foundation Board and has donated countless hours to the many years of fundraising events associated with that monumental project. He's working actively, with capital campaigns for Village Green, Stillwater's Environmental Center, Poulsbo's Morrow Manor and Coffee Oasis. He has served on the Kingston Citizen's Advisory Council, co-chaired the NK Schools Levy Campaign and is an active advocate for Kingston Co-Op Preschool and Kingston's Youth Programs. He's fondly known for his auctioneering skills, holding the microphone (over 40 times!) to raise money for various charities around the community - Gordon Elementary, Kingston Co-Op Pre-School, Kingston Rotary, Kingston High School Boosters (among others), and Village Green's Pie in the Park. He is co-founder and owner of the Kingston Financial Center that houses several Kingston Businesses and donates meeting space to non-profits on a regular, on-going basis. While that's quite a resume, he is most proud of being a Dad to two wonderful kids, Landon & Audrey, and husband to "The most amazing wife and mom, Megan".

MEMBERSPOTLIGHT

Sarah Hanke of Puget Sound Express



Puget Sound Express is a family-run whale watching company entering its 31st season of operations. Tours depart from Port Townsend and Edmonds, throughout the year. Among PSE's fleet is the Chilkat Express, a hydrofoil jet with no propellers, making it one of the quietest and fastest whale watching boats in the Northwest. The Chilkat will get you from Edmonds to the San Juan Islands in just over an hour making the ride nearly as spectacular as the sights and whales themselves! PSE brings guests on the water to share with them a unique experience and to create lifetime memories. Sarah's family owns and operates the business. She started as crew at the age of 12 and became a crucial member of the team by 18. She earned her degree in Business Management from Whitworth University (the Alma mater of several family members). While in college, naturalizing became the perfect seasonal job for her. Upon graduation, she decided to step away from the family business for a time,

working with various other companies to expand her experience and enhance her career. Now Sarah has returned home noting that "When you become distant to the piece of your childhood you grew up loving, you come to appreciate the work atmosphere, family members and even the whales a little more!" She is thrilled to be back with PSE as their Sales Director, overseeing the new Edmonds Whale Watching Tour. "It is a true pleasure and joy being back. We are incredibly fortunate to share these waters with three resident orca pods as well as humpback, gray and minke whales. For me, growing up on the boat was a childhood's dream of being able to watch whales every day. I'm so excited to be able to share this experience with fellow community members, spreading the word of our legacy here on the Olympic Peninsula."

For more information on tours and the Hanke Family, please visit www.pugetsoundexpress.com



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SAVE THE DATES!

Thursday, April 7th

Chamber Business Lunch
Kingston Cove
Yacht Club

Thursday, April 14th

Chamber After Hours

PAWS

Bainbridge Is. & North Kitsap
At the Windermere Bldg.

Lindvog Rd. - Kingston

Check our website Calendar

www.kingstonchamber.com