

News Release

April 24, 2015



Among the projects that will receive a boost from the Port is Yelm's new community center which is now under construction.

Port Invests in Thurston County's Small Cities ***Bucoda, Rainier, Tenino and Yelm projects get a financial boost***

For the sixth year, projects in Thurston County's small, incorporated cities will receive a boost from Port of Olympia. On April 13th, the Commission approved funding matches for economic development projects in Bucoda, Rainier, Tenino and Yelm, at \$10,000 each.

The intent of the Port's Small Cities Program is to assist with projects that will contribute to local economic development. The program requires an equal cash match from the city. The Port awards the funds after the city has completed the project and submitted the required information.

Small cities are defined as incorporated cities within Thurston County with a population of 10,000 or less.

On March 31st, the Board of Directors of the Port Economic Development Corporation reviewed Finance Director Jeff Smith's analysis of the cities' applications, qualified the eligibility of the projects, and recommended that the Commission approve the funding awards.

Here is how the cities will use their 2015 Small Cities Program funds:

- **Bucoda** will continue the renovation of the historic Oddfellows Building into a community center that serves both residents and visitors. Included will be the purchase and installation of an emergency generator.
- **Rainier** will install wider sidewalks, bulb-outs and landscaping along Binghampton Street (State Route 507) to build downtown character and enhance the setting for local and visiting shoppers.

- **Tenino** will assist visitors and residents by installing directional signage to places of interest and commerce, coin-operated showers at the City Park, barbeques in the camp ground and benches along the sidewalks in the historic district.
- **Yelm** will continue construction work on its new community center (*pictured above*) in Yelm City Park, which is the heart of the Central Business District and historic downtown and within easy access of visitors and residents alike.

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Media Contact:

Kathleen White, Communications & Public Affairs Manager
360.528.8012 KathleenW@portolympia.com

About the Port of Olympia

The southernmost deepwater port on Puget Sound, the Port of Olympia owns and operates an international shipping terminal that handles a range of breakbulk and project cargoes. The Port also owns and operates Swantown Marina & Boatworks, a 733-slip recreational marina and boat haulout/repair facility, a regional airport and a real estate division. A community port, it generates an estimated 7,249 total direct, induced and indirect jobs as documented by Martin Associates in the 2009 data study, *The Economic Impact of the Port of Olympia*, January 2011, available at **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid..**

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