

Helping hands put Port in the picture

Contributed by Chris Keuss
Thursday, 30 October 2008
Last Updated Thursday, 30 October 2008

"With the increased usage, Sound Transit plans upgrades to its Edmonds facilities"

Three items worthy of note at the Port:

You may be aware that Sound Transit recently added a fourth Sounder train to the run between Everett and Seattle. With the increased usage, they are planning upgrades to their Edmonds facilities.

Sounder service here currently operates from a temporary platform at the Amtrak station. Plans call for improvements intended to serve local needs until the Edmonds Crossing multimodal project comes on line.

To help facilitate the upgrade, the Port has agreed to lease Sound Transit 55 parking spaces in the marina's north parking lot, which will serve as temporary replacement parking during the improvement process. The area will be striped and fenced to distinguish it from other areas of Port parking.

The spaces are needed while improvements are made to the station's on-site parking. According to Sound Transit, other upgrades include two new platforms, larger passenger loading areas and weather-protected shelters.

The lease from the Port provides for shared use of the 55 spaces: Sound Transit will use them during the week and the space will be available for Port overflow parking on weekends.

The agreement, originally set to begin Sept. 1, was moved forward to Jan. 1. Since it puts the deal into the 2009 budget window and since the 2009 Port operating budget is not yet approved, the specific dollar amount is still unknown.

Both parties agree it will be equal to the 2009 parking rate.

Mid-marina
has a new look

The mid-marina landscaping upgrade is now complete. All the trees in the public parking lot between the Port administration building and the Anthony's building have been replaced. They were diseased and the root systems were impacting the sidewalk.

According to Port landscape specialist Debbie Eckholt, the new smaller trees are better able to flourish in confined areas and have much slower growth. They are planted in a contained space, which will keep roots from growing under the pavement and causing upheaval problems in the future.

The upgrade is the first part of a three-phase project. It was completed a week ahead of schedule and, so far, it appears the project cost will be nearly 10 percent below budget.

Finance manager
is now 3 for 3

Another Port mainstay, finance manager Tina Drennan, has just received the Professional Finance Officer Award from the Washington Finance Officers Association.

This is her third such award in as many years. Congratulations to Tina on again being recognized for a difficult job well done!