

VISION

P O R T O F K E N N E W I C K



Exciting Happenings at Vista Field

Welcoming the First Businesses

Port of Kennewick has been working to transform the 103-acre Vista Field site into a regional town center.

Located in the heart of the Tri-Cities community – adjacent the Three Rivers Convention Center and Toyota Center – Vista Field has been intentionally designed to create a live-work, mixed-use development filled with inspirational gathering spaces, a linear park with fountains and pedestrian bridges.

Phase one opened 20 acres to development with eight parcels already sold or committed for retail and residential. And now, Vista Field has reached another major milestone, and the community-driven master plan is taking shape!

Two private-sector buildings have been constructed, and other developments are in the works. Read more inside this newsletter for the latest about Blueberry Bridal and Kuki Izakaya, the first businesses greeting the public at Vista Field.

Article continues inside

S P R I N G 2 0 2 6

Message From the Commission President

I am honored to have been chosen by my fellow Commissioners to serve as the Board's President. During the four years since I was elected, the port has faced many challenges with grace and much success.

I truly appreciate the leadership of Past-President Skip Novakovich and former Commissioner Thomas Moak, and our collective efforts to focus on transparency, accountability and stewardship of taxpayer resources.

I am excited to continue working alongside Skip and the port's newest commissioner, Raul Contreras Gonzalez, on projects that benefit our region. And to continue strengthening relationships with the cities of Kennewick, Richland, West Richland and Benton City, as well as Benton County and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

Together, we are taking a fresh approach to economic development. We are working to revitalize core neighborhoods, enhance the community's waterfront, create a regional town center and act as a catalyst for recreation, tourism and quality of life.

In the coming years, we will be making tough decisions regarding current and future use of the district's resources. And finding creative ways to continue fostering sustainable business, industrial and commercial activities.

I invite you to read this newsletter and to explore Clover Island, Columbia Gardens Artisan Village and Vista Field to see what's new.

And as always, I invite you to join us for a Commission meeting as we continue to encourage community input on the efforts we're undertaking for you.

Ken

Ken Hohenberg
President, Port of Kennewick
Board of Commissioners

Meet Your Commissioners

Port of Kennewick's Board of Commissioners is comprised of three elected positions, each with a six-year term.

Commissioners are responsible for setting port policy, direction and long- and short-term goals. They also approve the biennial budget and assist with the organization's leadership development.



Ken Hohenberg
Board President

Ken Hohenberg represents community members in Port District 1, which includes parts of Kennewick and Richland. He was elected in 2022.

Hohenberg retired from the Kennewick Police Department in 2022. He rose through the ranks as a sergeant, lieutenant, captain, assistant chief and eventually Chief of Police and Assistant City Manager.

He has won numerous awards for his service to the community, including being named the 2011 Friend of the Port for his support of the transformation of Clover

Island and for championing downtown Kennewick's urban renewal.

Hohenberg is a member and past president of the Columbia Center Rotary Club and served on the United Way Board, including serving as chair for Benton and Franklin Counties.



Skip Novakovich
Board Vice President

Skip Novakovich represents Port District 3, which includes community members in parts of Kennewick, Richland, West Richland, Benton City and unincorporated areas of Benton County.

He was elected in 2009, and voters have upheld his position on the commission in 2011, 2017 and 2023.

Novakovich is a retired Army Lieutenant Colonel and a graduate of Whitman College with a degree in Economics. He is a member of the Tamästslikt Trust Board and formerly served on the board of Printing Industries of America.

He is a Professional Registered Parliamentarian. His honors include Chief Joseph Days Rodeo Veteran of the Year, Kennewick Man of the Year, Kennewick Downtowner of the Year and Tri-Citizen of the Year.



Raul Contreras Gonzalez
Board Secretary

Raul Contreras Gonzalez is Port of Kennewick's newest commissioner and represents community members in Port District 2. This district includes portions of Kennewick and Richland. He was elected in 2025.

Contreras Gonzalez serves as the assistant director for the Tri-Cities Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. In that role, he supports the development and growth of local minority-owned businesses.

He is a graduate of Washington State University with a Master of Business Administration (MBA) and a bachelor's degree in Digital Technology and Culture.

Contreras Gonzalez is also a bilingual volunteer with the Make-A-Wish Foundation and serves as a committee member of The Share Fund.

Port of Kennewick Public Commission Meetings

Meetings are held the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 2 p.m. Visit PortofKennewick.org for meeting/location details, agendas and any schedule changes.

Cover Photo: Blueberry Bridal is the first business to open at Vista Field (pictured in February).

Exciting Happenings at Vista Field

Continued From Cover

Blueberry Bridal

Blueberry Bridal is now open at Vista Field! The beautiful new building is located at 625 Crosswind Blvd. in Kennewick.

The 4,800-square-foot wedding boutique features tall windows to maximize natural light with a gallery of designer gowns, veils, headpieces, jewelry and shoes, as well as suit and tuxedo rentals.

The store also includes a mezzanine and viewing and photography areas, and limited private event space.

Blueberry Bridal was the first business to express interest in building at Vista Field – fully embracing the community’s vision and thoughtfully designing the bridal shop as a destination retailer.

Visit BlueberryBridalBoutique.com to book your appointment for private wedding dress shopping or learn more about all Blueberry Bridal’s services and offerings.

A community celebration is planned. Watch Vista Field’s social media for more information about the event.



Blueberry Bridal (pictured in February) is now open at the corner of Crosswind Blvd. and Azure Drive in Kennewick.

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Kuki Izakaya Coming Soon

Kuki Izakaya, an upscale and modern izakaya-style dining destination, is located within Vista Field at 697 Crosswind Blvd. in Kennewick.

This establishment will present a refined menu of thoughtfully executed comfort dishes, including Korean-style fried chicken (Dakgangjeong), elegant omurice, premium beef dishes and other sophisticated small plates.

These offerings will be paired with a carefully curated selection of local wines and Japanese beverages, including sake.

Kuki Izakaya is finalizing site work and adding the finishing touches to their full-service restaurant before opening this spring.

Watch Vista Field's social media for details about Kuki Izakaya's opening celebration.



Kuki Izakaya (pictured in February) is opening this spring on Crosswind Blvd. in Kennewick.

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2025 "Friends of the Port" Announced

Champions in Stewardship of Port Properties

In recognition of their selfless devotion to Port of Kennewick's properties and personal stewardship of Columbia Gardens Artisan Village, Clover Island and Vista Field, the port selected Ricardo Garza and Daniel Tlatenchi as its 2025 "Friends of the Port" awardees.

"Rick and Daniel have been instrumental in ensuring that port properties are safe and welcoming to the public," said Arntzen.

These men take tremendous pride in their work and have gladly undertaken every stretch assignment thrown their way, including managing the Columbia Gardens "vineyard" to great success. Additionally, a few years ago, Ricardo and Daniel were the first to notice the Clover Island Yacht Club boathouse fire, and their timely response helped minimize damage within the marina.

Commission President Ken Hohenberg stated, "Rick and Daniel's dedication to keeping all our spaces inviting for the community is evident. We thank them for their commitment and congratulate them on this well-deserved honor."



Port Commissioners Novakovich (left) and Contreras Gonzalez (right) with awardees Daniel Tlatenchi and Ricardo Garza (center right).

Space Available for Lease

Oak Street Industrial Park

Warehouse and office spaces are available for lease at the port's Oak Street Industrial Park in northwest Kennewick: Suite A120 – 5,585 square feet and Suite A130 – 5,475 square feet. The Industrial Park is a campus-like setting, located near major roadway and rail transportation routes.

For more information or to schedule a tour, contact Amber Hanchette, Port of Kennewick Director of Real Estate, at 509-586-1186 or Amber@PortofKennewick.org.



Suite A120:
5,585 square feet
Suite A130:
5,475 square feet

Port Announces Staffing Changes

Congratulations Tana, Welcome Rochelle



Tana Bader Inglima



Rochelle Olson

It is with deep gratitude that the port announces the retirement of deputy CEO Tana Bader Inglima.

Tana began working for the port in 2008 as director of governmental relations and was promoted to the deputy CEO role in 2015. She served as the port's brand ambassador, event coordinator and chief communications officer managing the port's marketing, outreach and special projects while fostering beneficial relationships and strong friendships with the public, port tenants and jurisdictional partners.

The port hired Rochelle Olson in February as director of governmental relations to fill this key position. Before joining the team, Rochelle served as a contractor to the port for 10 years. She worked closely with Tana and other port staff on a variety of communications endeavors.

Rochelle brings a wealth of experience to the position, having operated her own public relations small business for more than 12 years and previously working for Energy Northwest, Lockheed Martin and Boeing.

New Places & Spaces at Columbia Gardens

Plan Your Visit Soon

A number of businesses have recently moved into Columbia Gardens Artisan Village, including three new food trucks. They join Botanas Culichi, Frida's Mexican Grill, Nana's Kitchen, Swampy's BBQ restaurant and award-winning wineries, Bartholomew and Monarcha/Palencia.

Stop by 325 E. Columbia Gardens Way to visit the newest eateries at the Columbia Gardens Food Truck Plaza. Each vendor sets its days and hours of operation. Visit ColumbiaGardensVendors.com for more information about Columbia Gardens businesses and amenities.



La Bahia translates to The Bay in Spanish, so seafood is a major component of many traditional recipes from chef and owner Francisco Mendoza's hometown of Caleta de Campos, Michoacán, Mexico.

Some of the unique offerings include shrimp tortas, fish or shrimp ceviche with octopus and the La Bahia Burrito filled with steak and shrimp. La Bahia also offers non-seafood options and catering services.

Chef Mendoza started cooking at an early age. His mother owned a restaurant in Mexico, and some of her original recipes are on the menu, along with his mother-in-law's signature Mexican-style rice.



The Local Bite has a strong following for its Hawaiian-inspired dishes. A few favorites include Shoyu Chicken, Kalua Pig, Katsu Chicken and Spam Musubi.

Owners Kristal and Race Ostman purchased The Local Bite in 2024.

The Local Bite also offers catering and mobile service for events and private parties. They also added DoorDash service so Hawaiian-food fans can get their meals delivered.



Cuba Libre owners Rafael Najarro and his wife, Yeny, offer authentic Cuban dishes, including Cuban croquettes, Cuban stew and the popular Cuban sandwich. They also serve Cuban espresso with coffee beans sourced from Florida.

Rafael escaped Cuba in 2016 as a political refugee seeking freedom. He arrived in Tri-Cities and waited six years before his family arrived in the U.S.

Yeny is the main chef, cooking recipes for the food truck and catering service that were passed down from her mother and grandmother. And it is truly a family business, as all four of their children help with the food truck.

Additionally, a new art space and new beer bar are also coming to Columbia Gardens Artisan Village.

Brandi Dayton Art is welcoming students for its art classes and planning a retail area and gallery at its new space. The business signed its lease in March and owner, Brandi Dayton, anticipates holding a community celebration this summer to commemorate this location. Visit BrandiDayton.Art to learn more.

Wheat Head on the Water is also putting the finishing touches on a beer bar at the port's popular waterfront destination with plans to open soon. This location will offer Wheat Head beer and seltzer with guest taps from local cideries, wineries and innovative non-alcoholic options. Keep an eye on WheatHeadBrewingCo.com/WHOW for more details and opening information.



PORT of
KENNEWICK

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Developing assets to create sustainable family wage jobs, user-friendly transportation systems and quality of life enhancements for visitors and residents in the Port of Kennewick District.