NEW COMMISSIONER: TYLER SCHILPEROORT

Tyler Schilperoort is the newest commissioner for the Port of Sunnyside. Schilperoort has spent his career as a mint buyer for a large, multinational corporation, and he also owns his own farm.

When a friend told him last year to run for commissioner, Schilperoort decided it was time to give back to his community. He is invested in making Sunnyside an even better place to do business, and he wants to see the city continue to prosper and be a good place for families.

One of his goals is to keep citizens in town by attracting more family-wage jobs to the area. To accomplish this goal, Schilperoort believes the Port needs to be aggressive when searching for good new businesses to come to the community.

He says the Port is a well-run organization and it’s on the right track. He doesn’t think there are a lot of things that need to be changed, but he’s learning and figuring out ways to make the Port even better.

Schilperoort feels he is a good candidate for commissioner because he’s a business owner himself and has worked throughout Washington and Oregon. His experience as a farmer gives him a local perspective on issues related to the Port’s operations.

Schilperoort is looking forward to his remaining time as commissioner. He believes the commission can work with Executive Director Jay Hester to develop new ideas for bringing business to the Port so it can continue to grow and prosper.
Several new professional services are opening up shop at Golob Landing, thanks to a recent property sale to The Eye Center. The Eye Center has served Central Washington from Yakima since 1986 and has recently maintained a presence in Sunnyside working out of Sunnyside Optical three days a week. The new building will improve efficiencies and broaden services to five days a week in Sunnyside, eliminating travel to Yakima for many patients.

Golob Landing, which currently houses nine businesses, is 125 acres. Port of Sunnyside commissioners approved the sale of the 1.2 acre property in December 2017, and construction has since begun on two buildings located at the property.

The $90,000 property purchase by The Eye Center and planned construction will help to expand professional services for four long-time area businesses. Abeyta Nelson Injury Law will occupy one of the new buildings, while the second building will house The Eye Center, Sunnyside Optical, and Thompson Audiology.

When the construction is complete, Drs. Mike Stapleton and Ben Jaramillo at The Eye Center will serve eye patients five days a week in Sunnyside.

It’s official—Ostrom’s Mushroom Farms will be opening its new facility in Sunnyside next year. We reported last year that the Olympia-based mushroom producer was relocating one of their operations to Sunnyside. Ostrom’s purchased 43 acres of land at Midvale and Duffy roads for the facility, which will house 48 grow rooms and a compost facility.

With the new facility comes 200 full-time, year-round jobs—a huge economic boost for the Sunnyside community.

The deal with Ostrom’s was able to go through thanks in part to $1 million of state funding given to the Port of Sunnyside for infrastructure improvements. That money will help offset some of the costs of the facility.

Ostrom’s plan is to be in full operation in Sunnyside by fall or winter of 2019.
Nutrien, formerly Crop Production Services of Loveland, Colorado agreed to purchase 13 acres of Port property just north of the new Ostrom’s Mushroom Farm facility on Midvale Road. Nutrien Ltd. is the world’s largest agricultural inputs company, and has over 20 locations across Eastern Washington alone. Plans are to open a dry and liquid fertilizer storage and distribution facility at the location in Port of Sunnyside.

Port commissioners and staff signed the deal in January 2018 after six months of diligent work. Port officials immediately got busy preparing the property for development. With help from state and local grants, the Port has added road and rail access to the property, allowing for delivery via rail car and traditional delivery methods. The 1,100’ railroad spur and switch will be used by Nutrien to position rail cars off the main rail line for chemical and fertilizer unloading. The rail spur provides the necessary infrastructure to strengthen and support Nutrien’s existing and expanding operations by increasing capacity, improving efficiency and reducing operating costs.

“We’re excited that Nutrien chose Sunnyside for their new facility, and we believe that this ag-related business will strengthen our commitment to the economic vitality of the Lower Valley,” said Jay Hester, Executive Director for Port of Sunnyside.

Nutrien’s new fertilizer distribution facility is expected to bring 15-20 new family-wage jobs to the Sunnyside community, along with additional economic growth for the area. Construction is expected to be completed by winter 2018.
Varietal Beer Company has been busy in the past year. They held a grand opening at their new location in downtown Sunnyside in April and have been brewing up new beers ever since.

You might have tasted some of their beers at Sunnyside Summer Ale Fest and Fresh Hop Ale Fest. If you had, you would remember—Varietal infuses many of their beers with locally-grown fruit flavors, making for a unique taste you can’t get anywhere else.

Varietal’s establishment in downtown Sunnyside has been a great boon for the city. Local food vendors are on site weekly, helping Varietal become a popular meeting spot with Sunnyside’s community members. The project was initiated as part of a downtown revitalization by the Port’s executive director, Jay Hester.

*According to the 2018 Yakima Business Times

**BUSINESS HOURS**

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Port of Sunnyside Commissioners
Jim Grubenhoff, Arnold Martin, and Tyler Schilperoort

Jay Hester
Executive Director
jay@portofsunnyside.com