



Port of Clarkston Quarterly e-Newsletter – March 28, 2018
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River Cruise Ships Return!

The Port of Clarkston joins the Lewis Clark Valley in welcoming the first river cruise ship of the season. On April 8, the American Empress of the American Queen Steamboat Line will arrive in Clarkston. The American Empress can carry up to 222 passengers, making it the largest of eight overnight passenger vessels on the Columbia Snake River System. Approximately 18,000 number of passengers and crew members visited the Valley in 2017 and the economic boost for local businesses is estimated to be \$3 million.

The Port of Clarkston has supported the growing cruise ship industry for the past 29 years by providing dock facilities, advocating for dredging, and working with our great partners in the region to improve the visitor experience. While much has been accomplished, more needs to be done. That's why the Port of Clarkston is joining dozens of local community leaders in Idaho and Washington to tackle issues that are critical to maintaining and growing this industry.

Celebrating Our Rivers

The Snake River is essential to the economy and quality of life of our region. Whether it's shipping agricultural products, creating carbon-free affordable energy, bringing cruise ship visitors to our region, or enjoying countless fun activities on the water, the Snake River is an essential part of living, working, and playing in the Valley.

On September 8, 2018, the Tri-Cities and Clarkston will host family-friendly events celebrating the close connection our communities have with the river system. We hope you will attend the fifth annual Riverfest, which will take place on the Clarkston waterfront from Noon-5:00pm. For event sponsorship information, please contact Beth at 509-758-5272. Keep posted on details through <https://www.facebook.com/RiverFestoftheLewisClarkValley/>.

Meanwhile, our friends at the Port of Whitman County are hosting their second annual Snake River Family Festival at Boyer Park on June 2, which we hope you will attend as well. Information can be obtained from <https://www.facebook.com/snakeriverfamilyfestival/>.

Advocating for Our Community

The Port of Clarkston is proud of its advocacy on behalf of our region. In March, the Port joined with other members of the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association in Washington, D.C., to advocate for policies and funding that support river infrastructure, business and job growth, recreation and fish recovery. We want to thank Washington's congressional delegation for its steadfast attention to the needs of our community.