



# BUSINESS NEWS

*"Creating a Strong, Sustainable Local Economy"*

July 2015

**Bainbridge Island Chamber of Commerce**

## Make The Most of Your Chamber Membership

### SAVE MONEY ON YOUR BUSINESS CREDIT CARD PROCESSING

A new Chamber-sponsored affinity program from Gravity Payments, a Seattle-based credit card processing company, offers rates to Bainbridge Island Chamber members on Visa, MasterCard, Discover and American Express that may be lower than many other providers.

Additional savings may be available due to several standard fees that Gravity Payments waives, such as mobile account setup charges, statement fees and batch fees.

The program includes a mobile payment account with mobile app, swiper and no monthly gateway charges.

Members also qualify for a significant discount on the new generation of credit card terminals which will be required as of October 15, 2015, to accept credit cards with EMV chips. Gravity Payments tech support is free and local, 365/24/7.

To find out if your business would benefit from this program, contact Rex Oliver (roliver@bainbridgechamber.com) or Mickey Molnaire (mickey@bainbridgechamber.com) or call 206-842-3700.

### CHAMBER NEWS

#### WASHINGTON FISH AND GAME LICENSES NOW AVAILABLE ON BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

Washington State fishing and hunting licenses are available at the Bainbridge Island Chamber of Commerce office and visitor center, 395 Winslow Way East, next to the Streamliner Diner. Hours for purchasing game and fishing licenses are 9 AM to 5 PM, Monday through Friday.

The Chamber, which has for decades been a sub-agency for Washington State vehicle and vessel registration, has become one of only four locations in North Kitsap selling Fish and Game licenses.

Residents and visitors may purchase licenses for saltwater and freshwater fish, shellfish, large game, small game and special seasons, as well as the Discover Pass for access to and parking in State Parks. For more information, please call 206-842-3700.



### DID YOU KNOW THAT YOUR CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP HELPS YOUR WEBSITE'S SEO?

Google and other major search engines have evolved to emphasize "local search" – that is, Google knows the general location of your computer or mobile device (from your IP address) and if you search for "restaurant" while on Bainbridge Island, for example, it's not going to list some place in Massachusetts on page one. Instead you will see results in the Puget Sound area. If you search "restaurant bainbridge island" the circle of results is even closer and smaller.

Getting your business's website up in Google ranking is very important and search engine optimization is a complex combination of science and art. There are a number of things you can do to improve your showing in local search. And, just by being a Bainbridge Island Chamber member, you've already taken one big step.

Links to your site from other sites - called "backlinks" - are very important to Google and the more your site has, the higher its "link popularity" and ranking in Google's display. And the more local links you have, the better for local search.

But not all backlinks are equal. Some sites carry more credibility than others and are considered "trusted" sources, carrying a higher value with search engines. Chambers of commerce are considered among the top trusted sources on the Internet. (Why? Because companies that want to avoid the light of day generally don't join chambers.)

Site longevity also contributes to the weight of a site, and the Bainbridge Island Chamber has had a website since 1999 – fifteen years. And in that time, BainbridgeChamber.com has garnered over 850 backlinks itself. So, the link to your business website from your listing in the Bainbridge Island Chamber of Commerce online business directory is one of the best links that you can have.

In the next months we'll cover some other ways you can improve your SEO.

### See you at the Grand Old 4th of July!

**7 AM-5 PM  
downtown**

**Parade at 1 PM.**

**Street Fair with  
delicious food, arts  
& crafts, info**

**Classic Car Show**



Elizabeth LeMoine

info at [www.GrandOld4th.com](http://www.GrandOld4th.com)

**UPCOMING CHAMBER EVENTS**

**JULY AFTER HOURS  
THURS., JULY 23, 5:30-7:00 PM**

Hosted by **Shirvan Rug Gallery** at 424 Winslow Way E. Join us for a Turkish BBQ hosted by Adem and Birgul Solak at their rug shop on Winslow Way. Always a favorite activity not to be missed. This is a free networking event, no reservations necessary. The public is welcome.

**NEXT CHAMBER BREAKFAST**

will be in the fall. Stay tuned for more information.

**JULY BAINBRIDGE BUSINESS WOMEN GATHERING**

July Bainbridge Business Women gathering date and time to be announced. Check BainbridgeBusinessWomen.com for info.

**BAINBRIDGE BUSINESS CONNECTION**

The **BBC** meets weekly on **Friday mornings** at **OfficeXpats**, upstairs in the Pavilion, 403 Madison Ave N, Bainbridge. More info: 206-780-2177, info@officeexpats.com  
Fri. Agenda: 7:30-8:00 – coffee, visiting, informal networking  
8:00-8:30 – Group Discussion (topics announced)  
8:30-9:00 – more networking, sharing, visiting

A free event. Info: www.bainbridgebusinessconnection.com

**MEMBER NEWS**

**BEST WESTERN PLUS BAINBRIDGE ISLAND SUITES RECEIVES TWO AWARDS**

The Best Western Plus Bainbridge Island Suites has received two prestigious awards for excellence. (1) **Best Western Chairman’s Award**, the hotel chain’s highest honor for outstanding quality standards. (2) Induction into the “**Hall of Fame**” from **Trip Advisor**, the World’s Largest Travel Site. The Certificate of Excellence award celebrates excellence in hospitality and is given only to establishments that consistently achieve great traveller reviews on TripAdvisor. The ‘Hall of Fame’ was created to honour those businesses that have earned a Certificate of Excellence for five consecutive years. Winners include accommodations, eateries and attractions located all over the world that have continually delivered a superior customer experience.

Congratulations of Linda Thurrott and her team for their hard work and attention to excellence.

**BI STUDIO TOUR**

Dates Aug 7-9. Info www.bistudiotour.com



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**NEW MEMBER PROFILE**

**Bainbridge Island Canopy Tree Climbing**

206-914-8613

Email: Contact@AdventureTerra.com

Website: http://www.adventureterra.com

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/adventureterra

There is a new adventure and activity on Bainbridge Island exclusive to the Seattle area, Canopy Tree Climbing on Bainbridge Island. Be one of the first to try canopy tree climbing, a new and exciting adventure! Ascend 200 feet up Douglas fir trees to amazing views, unique perspectives and feel a connection with the surrounding nature like you have never felt before. This is an experience less than .001% of the population have done. No experience required. You will have the opportunity to see many types of wildlife, canopy levels, mountains, learn new skills and practice team building.

**Special Offer:** For a limited time, first time visitors to the island get 40% off and a free pickup from anywhere on the island (expires July 31). Tell your friends, and reserve the date you want now by calling or emailing.

**Bainbridge Island Canopy Tree Climbing** is run by a coalition of local arborists, educators and rock climbers under the company AdventureTerra. AdventureTerra LLC was initially founded in 2012 by rock climbers with over 40 years of combined climbing experience offering outdoor intro and advanced rock climbing courses in locations throughout Washington State. Like most climbers we started climbing trees as kids and wanted to go back to our roots. In an ever increasing urban society where people just don't have the chance to climb trees, we wanted to give that opportunity and reconnect people to nature with a unique and unforgettable canopy experience. Check us out at www.adventureterra.com and watch our video at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ppHG\_hXLiZc. Contact us at contact@adventureterra.com to make a reservation.



# FOOD

## AT THE STREET FAIR

Asian Fusion Food  
Barbecue Sandwiches  
Beer & Wine  
Bavarian Bratwurst  
Beignets (donuts)  
Cinnamon Rolls  
Coffee  
Corndogs  
Cotton Candy  
Fried Veggies  
Elephant Ears  
Fresh-Squeezed  
Lemonade  
Funnel Cakes  
Gluten-free baked goods  
Gyros  
Hamburgers  
Hot Dogs  
Ice Cream

Ice Cream Sandwiches  
Indian Food  
Juices  
Kettle Corn  
New York Pastrami  
or Sausage Sandwich  
Pancakes  
Peruvian Food  
Philly Steak Sandwich  
Pizza  
Polish Sausage  
Roasted Nuts  
Soda & Water  
Sno-cones; Shave Ice  
Strawberry & Blue-  
berry Freeze  
Thai Cuisine  
Vegetarian  
Vietnamese



**GrandOld4th.com**



# Chairman's Circle

## Platinum



## Gold

Avalara • HomeStreet Bank • Rotary Club of Bainbridge  
Sears & Associates • Town & Country Market

## Silver

Ace Hardware • Bainbridge Disposal • Liberty Bay Auto • Living Well Pain Center  
SpiderLily Web Design

## Bronze

AGS Stainless Inc. • Bainbridge Lending Group, LLC • Columbia Bank • Carney-Cargill, Inc.  
Cook Family Funeral Home • The Doctors Clinic • Kitsap Physical • Therapy Sage/Far Bank  
Suquamish Clearwater Casino Resort • Umpqua Bank • Wells Fargo Bank • Windermere Real Estate

## Media Sponsors

Bainbridge Island Review • Kitsap Peninsula Business Journal



## Bainbridge Chamber of Commerce

Creating a Strong, Sustainable Local Economy

- Representing the Interests of Business with Government
- Promoting Sustainable Business Practices
- Providing Networking Opportunities
- Promoting the Community

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS...

#### Chairman:

Arnie Sturham 842-2369

#### Chair Elect:

Kelly Muldrow 945-3420

#### Secretary:

Claire Chavanu 842-6637

#### Treasurer:

Linda Lincoln 658-4010

#### Past Chair

Jeff Waite 842-0969

#### Directors:

Matt Albee 780-0905

Larry Barrett 780-8783

Rhonda Brown 360-744-6934

Cheryle Elmquist 780-5007

Russell Everett 451-4646

Laura Harris 855-1131

Damien Lawson 206-451-4989

Bob Moore 206-371-5191

Bryan McConaughy 360-688-4091

Edward Moydell 206-618-9466

Rick Pedersen 206-406-0478

### CHAMBER STAFF...

#### President/CEO

Rex Oliver

#### Licensing Supervisor

Kris Rothert

#### Director of Operations

Betsy Leger

#### Director of Marketing & Tourism

Mickey Molnaire

**Visitor Specialists:** Kathy Ball, Joanne Bergen, Frances Burress, May Chan-Stan, Janice Etzold, Shannon Foti, Sean Gabriel, Bill Galvani, Mike Gormley, Elizabeth Lemoine, Lorens Mulholland, Anna Oeste, Steve Parsons, Evellyn Reed, Jonah Rapp, Matt Rothe, Patricia Webber, Pamela Williams.

### \*Newsletter Advertising Rates\*

Business card-sized ad \$40/month

Newsletter inserts \$75 email PDF to the Chamber

See deadlines below.

More info: [betsy@bainbridgechamber.com](mailto:betsy@bainbridgechamber.com)

**Article Submissions:** Chamber members: We are looking for content about your industry that would be interesting to others. If you would like to contribute an article of 150 to 500 words about important news happening in your field, or share knowledge that would be of benefit to the membership and community, please contact Betsy Leger, [betsy@bainbridgechamber.com](mailto:betsy@bainbridgechamber.com). Our editorial board will review all submissions. We reserve the right to edit articles and to schedule them according to the needs of the publication.

### BAINBRIDGE ISLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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Website: [www.bainbridgechamber.com](http://www.bainbridgechamber.com)

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**NEWSLETTER DEADLINES:** Business News is published monthly by the Bainbridge Island Chamber of Commerce. Ads are available to Chamber members.

**Deadlines for August Business News: For ads, articles and press releases: Fri. July 10. For inserts: Fri. July 24.** Call to reserve space. For inserts

we will need a PDF copy emailed to us, and to have payment here by the deadline.

Submit articles in text format. Questions? Contact editor Betsy Leger at the Chamber, 206-842-3700, or [betsy@bainbridgechamber.com](mailto:betsy@bainbridgechamber.com).