

Bainbridge Island Chamber of Commerce Final Report for 2017 LTAC

This past year the Chamber was pleased to have continued the Bainbridge Island Visitor Information Center. As well we are pleased to have partnered with the Downtown Association in the first year of the Bainbridge Island Visitors Bureau.

Visitors to the Island again increased due to promotion efforts with the hotel concierges in Seattle - more specifically the cruise ship terminals. Seattle cruise ships this year had over 200 sailings and 500,000 passengers and we receive many of our visitors from that group.

Our efforts to maintain a social media presence continues. Our website "Visit Bainbridge" continues to receive many visitors and has shown us the importance of current relevant and timely information that the visitors come to expect

The Grand Old Fourth of July continues to be the largest community event on Bainbridge Island. This year marks the 51st Anniversary of the Chamber hosting this event. The Street Fair, Car Show and Parade continue to bring together many residents but more importantly we see over 20,00 visitors come to the island for the day to see what a good old-fashioned community Grand Old Fourth celebration would be like. Much like the Visit Bainbridge website, the Grand Old Fourth has its own website and receives many visitors looking for information that they formerly would get by making a phone call to the Chamber office.

Celebrate Bainbridge is a partnership of The Downtown Association, The Rotary Club of Bainbridge Island, Bainbridge Youth Services and the Fireworks Committee. We have created a promotional time-period starting with the Rotary Auction and ending with the Fourth of July. Included in the promotion this year was the Boaters Fair which had the best attendance it has had for several years. We anticipate this Community event to gain momentum over the next several years.

As we mentioned earlier, the Visitor Information Center has once again been the first stop for many of our guests and our volunteers and paid staff have greeted over 120,000 of them. Visitors come from all the states, all the provinces in Canada as well as over 40 countries from around the world.

Promoting the Island and presenting information from many of the groups and organizations on the island. Our office on Winslow Way also receives many visitors who are looking for things to do on the island.

The Chamber is one of several organizations on the island that conducts a vigorous marketing effort targeting tourism. We thank the City of Bainbridge and the LTAC Committee for continuing to fund our efforts and look forward to a very dynamic 2018.