



Port N' News

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Current Port, Maritime & Transportation Topics at the Port of Green Bay

Winner! Winner! First Ship Arrives

The first shipment of cargo for the 2022 shipping season made its way into the Port of Green Bay on Friday, March 18th at 1 p.m. The Michigan – Great Lakes (tug and barge) kicked off the shipping season with a delivery of petroleum products to US Venture. The arrival of the Michigan – Great Lakes marks the end to the annual First Ship Contest put on by the Port of Green Bay and hosted by Discover Green Bay.

“Certainly the weather has cooperated and we are off to a relatively early return to shipping for the Port and the Great Lakes,” said Dean Haen, Port Director. “After reaching close to 2 million tons of cargo last shipping season, we are cautiously optimistic about strong cargo movement this year.”

The Port of Green Bay and Discover Green Bay began accepting guesses for the first ship’s arrival through its annual First Ship Contest a month ago. This year’s winner is Ellen Buhmann of Merrill, Wis. whose guess was right on target at 1 p.m. on March 18th. The prize package included a \$100 Green Bay Sail & Paddle gift certificate, a one-night stay at the Hampton Inn Green Bay Downtown, a \$50 gift card from The Depot Green Bay, a 2022 Snapshots of Light Calendar by Chuck Zentmeyer, a 200th Anniversary Brown County Monopoly game and a Port of Green Bay swag bag.

“It was great to again see a lot of interest in the First Ship Contest with more than 210 entries,” Haen added. “That really shows that there is interest and understanding of the important role that shipping plays for our regional economy.”



Anyone interested in shipping is encouraged to view the ships from the Fox River Trail, the Green Bay Metro Boat Launch or other areas along the Lower Fox River. Port security requirements do not allow public access on any port property. You can also find more information about the Port of Green Bay and expected ship arrivals at www.portofgreenbay.com and on the Port of Green Bay Facebook page.

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Port of Green Bay Symposium

On April 14th 2022, the Port of Green Bay hosted its annual Port Symposium after two years of cancellation due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Over 100 people were in attendance representing at least 20 maritime organizations and local, state, and federal agencies.

The event saw a number of speakers who addressed the following subjects:

- ◆ Federal Address by U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin, Wisconsin
- ◆ Federal Video Address by Congressman Mike Gallagher
- ◆ Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Video from the Great Lakes Seaway Partnership
- ◆ 2020 and 2021 Port Overview by Harbor Commission President, Tom Klimek
- ◆ Port Development Site Project Overview, Mark Walter, Port of Green Bay
- ◆ Market Opportunities Presentation, Peter Hirthe, Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation
- ◆ U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Update, COL Paul B. Culberson
- ◆ Great Lakes Icebreaker—The Problem and The Solution, James Weakley, Lake Carrier's Association
- ◆ Green Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Emily Tyner, UW-Green Bay,



U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin
Credit: Leonard & Finco

Tracking Ships on the Marine Traffic App

Another Great Lakes shipping season is underway and the Port of Green Bay is making it easier to follow the ships as they move cargo from port to port. The Port has added the Marine Traffic app to its website, so boat watchers can simply go to the Port website at www.portofgreenbay.com and click on Ship Activity at the top of the page to go to the app that tracks all of the ship traffic.

“We know there are many very dedicated ship watchers who are aware of how to keep track of the ships in the area,” said Dean Haen, Port Director. “But there are other casual watchers who may also be interested in identifying a ship they see coming into the harbor or on the bay. This app on our website will give them an easy way to get more information.” The free version that is featured on the Port’s website identifies the ship and where it’s headed along with other information. “It makes it fun to be able to identify what ship it is, what it’s carrying and where it’s going,” added Haen.



Marine Traffic is the world’s leading provider of ship tracking and maritime information and is dedicated to making data easily accessible to all who are interested in waterborne transportation.

\$15M Grant Awarded for Port Development Site

On March 3rd, 2022, Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers presented a \$15 million Neighborhood Investment Fund Program grant to Brown County to help fund development of the Port's recently acquired property at the mouth of the Fox River.

"I'm very glad to be here today to finally move forward on this project once and for all," Governor Evers said, noting the grant helps "connect the dots" on a complex project. "We need to make investments today to make long-term sustainable growth for tomorrow." as reported in the Green Bay Press Gazette.



The Port Development Property is located at the mouth of the Fox River on the site of the former WPS Puliam Power Plant. It was purchased by Brown County in January 2022 for \$2.7 million which was made possible with assistance from a \$500,000 Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation Idle Sites Grant.

The Port of Green Bay has also been awarded a \$1.1 million Wisconsin Department of Transportation Harbor Assistance Program grant to help with the property development. An additional \$1.3 million from Brown County American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds has been designated for stormwater management at the site. Due to the size and complexity of the site development project, the Port is continuing to pursue additional funding to complete the project.

"It's really surprising and hard to fathom that it's coming together as quickly as it is," Haen said. "We're very thankful to the community, state and the federal support for this project. For us to pull off this once in a lifetime opportunity, it's happening quickly here." - Green Bay Press Gazette

Great Lakes Winter Commerce Act

The Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022 (H.R. 6865) was approved by the House of Representatives on March 29th, 2022. The act, which includes provisions to authorize the construction of a new heavy icebreaker vessel for the Great Lakes, is part of the bipartisan Great Lakes Winter Commerce Act. It was introduced first in February 2020 by Representative Mike Gallagher (WI) but rallies support from U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin and others on its way to the Senate.

The addition of a new heavy icebreaker to the Great Lakes brings great opportunity for an extended shipping season during the winter months. Currently, the Port of Green Bay's shipping season runs from March until January each year.



Credit: John L. Russell, Associated Press

April Fools! A Throwback to Gilligan

Don't be fooled! For fans of the 1964 sitcom Gilligan's Island, the offer that the Port of Green Bay posted to their Facebook and Twitter on April 1st might have sounded all too familiar.

The completely imaginary vessel, the S.S. Minnow, was in search of five passengers to set sail with Skipper Dean and his mate on a three hour tour....(a three hour tour) of Renard Island.



Check Out Our Website:
www.portofgreenbay.com
Find us on Twitter @PortofGreenBay

Brown County Port & Resource Recovery Dept.
Dean Haen, Director
2561 S. Broadway
Green Bay, WI 54304
Phone (920) 492-4950
Fax (920) 492-4957
Email: Dean.Haen@browncountywi.gov

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