

sessions over the course of nine months, is specifically designed for design and construction professionals, tenant and developer representatives, project managers, resource conservation specialists and other building professionals. It prepares professionals to take the CSBA exam, which provides the nationally recognized Certified Sustainable Building Adviser designation.

In an economic downturn, green building can provide a solution. The National Association of Home Builders reported recently that contractors who build green homes expect to do better in a contracted market. Commercial project developers are hoping to use green features to protect themselves as well.

### **NEW KEY BANK BUILDING RISING**

KeyBank broke ground Aug. 26 for its new branch at the corner of North State and East Holly streets in downtown Bellingham, where the previous branch was built in 1978 and demolished during the past year. Clients currently doing business at the East Holly Street location will be transferred to the new location, and the Holly Street office will close after the new bank opens.

Construction began immediately on the new branch, a two-story, L-shaped building enclosing nearly 9,000 square feet, which will face oncoming traffic on State Street. The facility will include drive-up vestibules and a parking lot on its west side. Amenities marking the main building entrance will include a circular plaza, landscaping and bench seating. The site also will include a second-floor office suite, a landscaped rooftop patio and an adjoining 2,100-foot "pocket park."

Regional bank leaders, who provide service to customers in Whatcom, Skagit, Island and San Juan counties, will occupy the second-floor offices.

Contractor Dawson Construction of Bellingham is expected to complete construction next spring. Architect is Cleveland-based Vocon, and landscape architect for the park is The Philbin Group of Bellingham.

### **MOUNT VERNON SELECTED AS "MAIN STREET" COMMUNITY**

The Washington State Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development (CTED) named Mount Vernon as one of three cities selected at the "Main Street" designation level of its Downtown Revitalization Tier System Network.

The Main Street level is the highest level of support and services available in the tier system network. The network also includes affiliate and startup levels of participation.

Communities selected at the Main Street designation level work to increase the local downtown organization's effectiveness, build on existing design features and historic assets, increase the customer base, and retain and recruit needed businesses into the district. Assistance from the state program varies from community to community, but generally includes work plan and committee development along with specialized training and networking opportunities.

### **WHATCOM COUNTY CONTRACTORS EARN PSE AWARDS**

Puget Sound Energy (PSE) recently honored Bellingham and Ferndale contractors at the utility's second annual Powerful Achievement Awards ceremony.

Energy Conservation Services, a division of North Coast Electric in Bellingham, received a Silver Award for saving between 500,000 to 1 million kWh during a calendar year, and Brite Solutions of Ferndale received the Best Customer Experience Award for high-customer satisfaction and installation quality.

### **WHATCOM MUSEUM BECOMES SMITHSONIAN AFFILIATE**

The Whatcom Museum has been accepted into the Smithsonian Affiliate program.

The affiliation gives the Whatcom Museum access to the Smithsonian Institution's collections and resources, including education and performing arts programs, expert speakers, teacher workshops and technical assistance.

### **TENASKA RECEIVES WORKPLACE-SAFETY AWARD**

The Department of Labor and Industries (L&I) awarded its prestigious workplace-safety award to Tenaska's Cogeneration Station in Ferndale on July 9 at the station.

The award is part of L&I's Voluntary Protection Program (VPP), which has designated the Ferndale plant as a STAR site. The designation means that the facility has reached the highest level of workplace safety. It recognizes the company's management and employee commitment and participation in an ongoing safety and health program, and means it successfully passed an L&I audit and extensive onsite review. The ceremony included the presentation of a plaque and flag commemorating the VPP award.

Only 2,000 work sites, out of more than 7 million nationwide, have received a VPP award. In Washington, 28 companies have achieved the VPP STAR-level award.

### **HOTEL CHAIN ADDS NEW ONLINE GROUP BOOKING TOOL**

Burlington's Hampton Inn and Hampton Inn & Suites hotels has enhanced its e-Events online group booking tool, available at [www.burlingtonsuities.hamptoninn.com](http://www.burlingtonsuities.hamptoninn.com).

E-Events allows organizers to book their entire group event or meeting from start to finish 24/7, and receive immediate confirmation of their reservation. The tool caters to groups requiring 25 rooms or less. Special-event organizers can reserve guest rooms, meeting spaces, food and beverage, audio/visual equipment and more up to one year in advance without a request for proposal or a waiting period. Additionally, Hampton Hotels' e-Events features an all-inclusive Guest List Manager tool.

### **JAVA TOWN NOW SERVES UP ESPRESSO IN FERNDALE**

Java Town Espresso celebrated the grand opening of its new Ferndale location on July 8.

Credo Construction built the

## BUSINESS NEWS

24-hour drive-thru stand in the 5700 block of Barrett Road. Ken and Lynda Alfreds are the owners and Denise Adams is the manager.

Java Town Espresso features espresso roasts from Batdorf & Bronson in Olympia, pastries from local bakeries and Italian sodas.

### WINE GRAPE GROWERS GAIN SUSTAINABILITY TOOLS

The Washington Wine Industry Foundation was awarded a U.S. Department of Agriculture specialty crop block grant to ensure grape growers have the tools needed to sustain, grow and compete.

The grant funds are being used to hire consultant Astrid Goplen who will work one-on-one with growers that have not yet utilized Vinewise, an online guide to sustainable viticulture that includes an interactive guide with business and viticulture specific topics. The Washington Association of Wine Grape Growers is providing the required matching funds for the project.

The one-year award targets all Washington wine grape growers. A pre and post survey will determine grape grower's level in general awareness of Vinewise at [www.vinewise.org](http://www.vinewise.org). The site was designed by and for growers and vintners.

### ACTIVE ADULT COMMUNITY ARRIVES IN LYNDEN

Fransen Development Partners and HBHansen Construction Inc. announce the arrival of Bryce Park, Lynden's newest active adult community, located on the east end of Aaron Drive.

The unique 64-unit, planned community features Northwest, European and Craftsman-designed homes; professionally landscaped and maintained common areas; a neighborhood clubhouse; and direct access to Lynden's trail system.

Developer Jeff Fransen brought in Jerry Roetcisoender of JWR Architects to design the buildings and Bernie Hansen of HBHansen Construction to custom build each home.

### EDWARD JONES INVESTS IN NEW TECHNOLOGY TOOLS

Financial adviser Frank Ellars of Edward Jones and BOA Carol Nall are taking advantage of new state-of-the-art financial assessment tools to better serve clients in Bellingham.

The technology is an engine for financial advisers to identify and prioritize clients' financial goals, analyze information, make and implement recommendations and stay on top of progress. It also allows Ellars and Nall to deliver more customized, easy-to-understand reports.

Edward Jones is headquartered in St. Louis.

### HKP ARCHITECTS WINS AWARDS FOR LEARNING CENTER

HKP Architects of Mount Vernon won the 2008 Washington Chapter Council of Educational Facilities Planners, International (CEFPI) "Polished Apple" top design award for the North Cascades Environmental

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