

**Port of Douglas County**  
**3306 - 5<sup>th</sup> Street SE**  
**East Wenatchee, WA 98802**  
**Email:** [pat@portofdouglas.org](mailto:pat@portofdouglas.org)  
**Website:** <http://www.portofdouglas.org/>

*Email version available upon request*

## Mansfield to hold community meeting to discuss downtown revitalization

*The Port of Douglas will facilitate a meeting to discuss with community residents improvements that can be made to the downtown corridor including the construction of a multi-tenant commercial building.*

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On Tuesday, January 20, the Port of Douglas will facilitate a community meeting at the Senior Center in Mansfield at 7:00 pm to discuss revitalization options for the downtown corridor. The meeting will provide a forum for community residents to express their ideas for building improvements and strategies for enhancing tourism and retail commerce in Mansfield.

“This will be an opportunity for Mansfield to talk about their future and how they would like to see the downtown area grow,” said Pat Haley, Director for the Port of Douglas. “Even though we had a consultant last year do a direct mail campaign to community and area residents, we feel it’s important to have the town get together as a focus group and discuss their ideas for growing the town of Mansfield.”

A year ago the Port of Douglas hired Elesco Consulting of Sunriver, Oregon to do a feasibility study on the potential of a multi-tenant commercial building in downtown Mansfield, and do an analysis of the type of businesses that might locate in this facility. The study was paid for by a grant from USDA Rural Business Development. The report identified a restaurant and an expanded grocery store as the primary tenants for a new

For details contact:  
Patrick Haley  
Director  
Phone  
509/884-4700

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building. Other potential tenants included a post office, a health clinic, and a beauty salon or laundromat. Elesco also presented a conceptual drawing of downtown Mansfield that included a portrait of a new building and improvements to other adjacent buildings.

“It’s important for Mansfield to have their own vision of how the town should look,” said Haley. “With the airport within walking distance from downtown businesses, there may be all sorts of possibilities of how Mansfield can attract aviation tourism to the community.”

The public is invited to the meeting and additional questions can be directed to the Port of Douglas at 884-4700.

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