

**Issaquah Chamber of Commerce  
Names Valerie J. Southern  
2006 Business Person of the Year**



**Valerie J. Southern**

Valerie's career as a Professional Transportation Consultant led her to the Northwest, where she provided the initial planning for the City of Portland light rail system.

As chair of the Transportation Oversight Committee for the past 4 years, Valerie's leadership has played a pivotal role in the Chamber's effort to work together with the City of Issaquah for much needed transportation improvements both locally and regionally.

For the past three years she has served on the City of Issaquah's Planning Policy Commission.

Valerie is an active Chamber Board member and lends a willing helping hand with a variety of activities for the Chamber.

Valerie is a graduate of both the University of Rhode Island and Harvard University.

Listed in Who's Who, Valerie ran for the office of Secretary of State in the State of Rhode Island, where she also ran for Congress, and was subsequently Transportation Policy Advisor for that state.

Valerie is one of five children, raised in a Navy family, who had the opportunity to live in many places as a child, including Italy, before the family settled on the East Coast to live on a small island called Jamestown, Rhode Island.

Her family describes her as intelligent, serious, determined, strong willed, and a go getter. Music has played a cherished role in Valerie's life. As a talented pianist and guitar player, she has composed music and performed professionally together with her brother, who is a singer and plays the drums.

**Source:** Greater Issaquah, Washington Chamber of Commerce, *Chamber Newsletter*, July 2006 Edition.