

Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce Monthly Newsletter

The Chronicle



Centralia - Chehalis
Chamber of Commerce

Promote • Protect • Inform

Start the new year on the right foot!

Reach out to the Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce and see how we can help your business grow. Whether it be networking events, or helping your business with its marketing needs, we have the tools to help your business going forward!

Contact us today at (360) 748-8885 or email marketing@chamberway.com.

Business Connections

The Chamber is Open Mon-Fri 9-5

February 2022

Much to Accomplish Before Upcoming Legislative Deadlines

A priority in the 2022 legislative session is to provide tax relief and make life more affordable for all Washingtonians. The Legislature has debated some of these issues, but there is a lot left as we approach the policy and fiscal cutoff dates.



Rep.
Peter Abbarno

Here are some of the highlights that impact many small businesses and Chamber members:

House Bill 1594 was legislation I introduced to repeal the WA Cares Payroll Tax Program because a 2020 report from the State Office of Actuary evidenced that the WA Cares fund is not solvent. Flaws exist in all three stages of the program: regressive payroll tax, restricted investment strategy, and limited short term benefits. It was also unpopular with 63% of Washingtonians (81% of Lewis County) who voted against the program in a 2019 advisory vote. Although it was not repealed, House Bill 1732, which passed the House, seeks to pause the program for 18 months, giving us the opportunity to find a real solution for long-term care expenditures.

House Bill 2015 would expand and enhance the Working Families Tax Credit by increasing income eligibility, doubling the base

payment, and enlarging the minimum benefit for working families and children. The bill is in the House Finance Committee awaiting a hearing.

House Bill 1858 would lower Washington's main business tax rate for manufacturing and trucking by 40% and would extend and expand the existing tax preference for food processing. The bill is in the House Finance Committee awaiting a hearing.

House Bill 1677 is a bill I introduced to increase an existing business and occupation tax credit from \$1,500 to \$3,000 for businesses that hire veterans. The measure, which was heard in the House Finance Committee, would also expand the credit to veteran spouses and spouses of active-duty military members.

You may want to track some legislation with local flavor that I recently introduced, including:

House Bill 1595 is Zack's Law in honor of a local Centralia teen who drowned in the Chehalis River near the Willapa Trail. The bill has gained strong bipartisan support and raises awareness of cold-water shock drownings through signage. Sen. John Braun introduced a companion bill for Zack's Law in the Senate.

House Bill 1929 would establish a competitive grant program under the state Department of Commerce to award funding to local governments in rural coun-

ties for capital projects that would improve fire protection services. This bill is a product of my tours of local fire districts and buildings in Winlock and Napavine. This legislation would greatly assist with fire safety and protection in communities experiencing economic growth, as well as aging buildings.

Senate Bill 5921 was introduced by Sen. Braun, and I introduced companion House Bill 2093, to increase the county timber tax distributions by reducing the charge for administrative collection costs. This is an important piece of legislation for Lewis County and many other timber counties. It was very well drafted in consultation with county treasurers, including Lewis County Treasurer Arny Davis.

You can get more information on these bills by going to the Washington State Legislature's website, www.leg.wa.gov, and click on "Bill Information" on the left side of the page. On the right side of the page is a link that says, "Participating in the Process." Finally, be sure to check out my website for news and information: RepresentativePeterAbbarno.com

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Editor's Note: Rep. Peter Abbarno, R-Centralia, is serving his second year of his first term representing the 20th Legislative District. He is the assistant ranking member of the House Capital Budget Committee. Abbarno also serves on the House Civil Rights and Judiciary Committee and the House Environment and Energy Committee.

A Farewell Note from Alicia

I'm honored to have been the Executive Director of The Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce for the past several years. It was a fast paced lifestyle surrounded by a lot of incredible people working side by side to make good things happen. It has always humbled me to watch volunteers who care about the community show up over and over to serve with a happy and hard working heart.



Alicia Fox
Executive
Director

I want to take the time to say thank you to those people for not only the leadership they have shown, but the love and support they gave to me personally along the way. Many board members, staff members, ambassadors, and members of the Chamber have pushed up their sleeves and worked together to help the community. It was amazing to have been a part of and I'm honored to have worked and learned along the side of some very incredible people.

I need to give a special thank you to my Executive Board for giving of your time so freely to the Chamber. The extra meetings, extra phone calls, emails, and the conversations/insights allowed good work to continue even during a pandemic. I hope each and every one of you knows how special you are not only to me but to the community. I also want to say a huge thank you to the Chamber

staff. You brighten my days, you help me stay organized, you share your wonderful insights and you care. I thank you dearly for that! Caring is a big deal in today's world!

Many lessons have been learned along the way that have helped me as an individual grow as a leader in Lewis County. It is that very growth and insight that helped me come to the conclusion that it was time for me to pass the baton at the Chamber. I am excited about the future of the Chamber and ask each and every one of you to please continue to be active at the Chamber. The organization is getting new members on a regular basis. While we have, unfortunately, seen some businesses close their doors during Covid, we have also seen several open their doors and that has been incredible. The Chamber will continue to be a voice of business and our priorities will not waiver during this transition. Promoting, protecting and informing the business community will be our consistent focus.

I sign off today with farewell and ask each and every one of you to be safe, be patient and go forward with courage in life. I'm excited to see the amazing things that lie ahead for so many of you and for our community as a whole. I also look forward to supporting a new Director as they take on this important role, I hope you will too!

Kind regards,
Alicia Fox

New Chamber Members

Reap the marketing and networking benefits that come with being a member! Call the Chamber today!



ATG Bookkeeping LLC

ashlee@atgbookkeeping.com
(360) 388-8077

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Dobbs Peterbilt

trey.shelton@dobbspeterbilt.com
360-533-8990
dobbspeterbilt.com
6130 203rd Ave SW, Centralia, WA 98531

JH Events & Design

jamieh@jheventsanddesign.com
(360) 269-3906
<https://jheventsanddesign.com/>

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L.C Renal Alliance

info@lcrenalalliance.org
(360) 3234-9956
www.lcrenalalliance.org

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Silver Acres Adult Family Home

silveracresafh@gmail.com
(325) 812-5848
1266 SW 22nd Street, Chehalis, WA 98532

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StrangeLand's Oddities, Omens & Charms

paul.e.bromm@gmail.com
(360) 609-2818
531 N. Tower Ave, Centralia, WA 98531

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Wilde Soul

shelbyfoister2001@gmail.com
(360) 523-5518
<http://www.etsy.com/shop/WildeSoul>

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Directory

CHAMBER STAFF:

Alicia Fox
Executive Director
director@chamberway.com

Adam Warren
Marketing Manager
marketing@chamberway.com

Christine Demus
Office Manager
thechamber@chamberway.com

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Lindy Waring
Chair
KELA/KMNT Radio

Coralee Taylor
Incoming Chair
The Silver Agency / The Chronicle

Julie Pendleton
Secretary
Dick's Brewing Co.

Julie Shaffley
Treasurer
Good Health Nutrition Center

Matt Moses
At-Large
Sierra Pacific Industries

Amanda Singleton
Past Chair
Rainier Connect

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Brenda Balmelli
Chehalis Livestock Market

Stan Bowman
Chase Bank

Walter Cuestas
Century 21/Lund Realtors

Trent Hennings
Riverside Golf Club

Erin Hillier
Hillier, Scheibmeir, Kelly &
Scatterfield, PS

Tony Ketchum
Community Member

Daryl Lund
Community Member

Jeff Malloy
O'Blarney's

Cameron McGee
Calypso

Chris Thomas
Providence Hospital

Sandra Wing
LC Sports Commission

Rodney Youckton
Lucky Eagle Casino and Hotel

NON-VOTING

Rob Hill
City of Centralia

Jill Anderson
City of Chehalis

CONTACT US:

500 NW Chamber of Commerce Way
Chehalis, WA 98532
Office: 360.748.8885
Fax: 360.748.8763
TheChamber@ChamberWay.com

Chamber Events

Business Forum

Thursday, February 10th, 2022

O'Blarney's at the Gibson House

221 N Tower Ave, Centralia, WA 9853

Visit our website or our Facebook for more information

Business After Hours

Thursday, February 17th, 2022

The Chronicle

321 N Pearl St, Centralia, WA 98531

Visit our website or our Facebook for more information

2022 Annual Banquet

Friday, March 18th, 2022

The Hotel Washington

57th Annual Home and Garden Show

May 6th, 7th, 8th, 2022

(First weekend of May)

Southwest Washington Fairgrounds

2022 Trick or Treat Transit

Monday, October 31st, 2022


Choose Local Black Friday Bags Giveaway

Wednesday, November 23rd, 2022

72nd Annual Santa Parade

Saturday, December 3rd, 2022

Please keep in mind, dates are subject to change. Some Chamber events don't have dates yet.



Centralia - Chehalis
Chamber of Commerce

Promote ♦ Protect ♦ Inform

19 MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS OF

1. Referral to Potential Customers

2. Informational & Educational Seminars

3. Directory Listing

4. Ribbon Cutting and Promotion

5. Website Presence

6. Vendor Discount at Events

7. Invitations to Chamber Events

8. Business Connection / Biz Buzz

9. Member to Member Networking

10. City and State Advocacy

11. Chamber Board Room Usage

12. Community Information Available

13. Free Business Resources

14. Brochure & Business Card Placement in Facility











15. Weekly Newsletter (Community Connection)

16. Media Exposure

17. Chamber Forums & BAH


18. Community Partnership (Sponsorship) Opportunities

19. Contact the Chamber for Electronic Reader Board Marketing Opportunities



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CENTRALIA - CHEHALIS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2022

ANNUAL BANQUET

RESCHEDULED TO HOST ON

Friday, March 18th, 2022

HOSTED AT


Hotel Washington

The Vintage Grand Room

545 N Market Blvd, Chehalis, WA 98532

JOIN US FOR

Silent Auction • Networking • Dinner



Centralia - Chehalis
Chamber of Commerce

CHECK ONLINE FOR MOST RECENT EVENT INFORMATION

JOIN US

Social Hour..... 6:00pm

Dinner..... 6:30pm

Program..... 7:00pm

MAKE A RESERVATION

Per Person \$50

Sponsor a Table..... \$350

Please RSVP by March 14, 2022










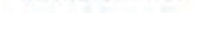


CONTACT THE CHAMBER

(360) 748-8885 • chamberway.com

500 NW Chamber of Commerce Way

Chehalis, WA 98532

SPONSORED BY:



BIZZBUZZ

ARTrails News for February

The 2022 Spring Art Expo will be April 22-24, held in Kitchen #2 at Fort Borst Park. All artists, ARTrail members, and non-members are invited to apply to this show. We are looking for talented local and regional artists to take part in this fun exhibition and sale. There will be a demonstration area if you would like to demonstrate your art. Applications are due by March 16th! Please join us! The applications are to be found at www.artrailsofswwa.org.

As ARTrails is a 501C-3, we gratefully accept donations, and we were proud and humbled to be granted \$1,000 from the James (Jim) Smith Foundation. Jim was a local man who loved to go to the ARTrails Open Studio Tours. His foundation supports the arts in Lewis County, and we say THANK YOU!

Lewis County, individual Foundations and the Cities of Centralia and Chehalis have generously supported the vision and activities of ARTrails over the years. We thank them, as well as the other communities of Lewis County, for their support of the arts. We look forward to our continuing and evolving relationships. We also thank the many volunteers and businesses who have contributed to our annual events and our success over the past 18 years. Their ongoing support has been a major factor in our success. Now in our 20th year, our community of participating artists continues to grow, as does our support in and of the broader community. We are very grateful to all. Please support the businesses and communities that have so generously supported us!

Dignity Memorial

Dignity Memorial has an opening for a Groundskeeper.

The Groundskeeper will manage the grounds provided at the cemetery or funeral home location. Performs all grounds keeping and maintenance matters on the properties and maintains the overall appearance of a cemetery, mausoleum and funeral home. Must be able to operate lawn and grounds equipment. Will participate on teams for openings and closings for interments, entombments, inurnments and disinterment. Please view complete job description and apply online https://sci.wd5.myworkdayjobs.com/SCI/job/WA---Tumwater/Grounds-Specialist_Reql05469

Quiznos

Coming soon , “Old Bay Lobster” and F’real milkshakes . Don’t forget to get your order DELIVERED!

Thank you from your Centralia Quiznos.

L.C. House Plans

Do you own land and would like to build your dream home? Are you looking to build a shop or pole barn? Would you like to start an addition to your house or remodel part of it? Call us at (360) 345-6679 to schedule a free consultation to review your markups or notes.

With 16+ years of Residential Drafting and Design, we can help you through the process to get your building permit. Visit our website at www.LocalHousePlans.com or simply email our office at info@localhouseplans.com

. Follow us on Facebook for construction related updates, land for sale and to support local small businesses.

Bartels Clothing and Shoes

Bartels clothing will be celebrating 100 years in business this summer.

Bartels was opened in 1922 by Howard Bartel. The store changed hands in 1945.

Sylvester and Fahey owned the store until 1975 when the store was purchased by Joe Mount.

Current owners Boyd and Brady Calder bought the store in 2018.

Bartels Clothing and Shoes located at 486 N. Market has been at its current location since 1983.

Summer 2022 Bartels will commemorate 100 years of serving Chehalis and Lewis County.

Know Your Soils Free Class

The WSU Lewis County Master Recycler/Composter Program trains and empowers volunteers to provide useful information to the community through free workshops, demonstrations, and other educational outreach to promote waste reduction, healthy ecosystems, and sustainable, resilient communities. On March 5 th , Bob Taylor MRC, will be teaching the class on “KNOWING YOUR SOILS”, free soil kits will be provided. Pre Register for this class at 360-740-1214, so enough soil kits will be available. In addition, you will need to bring your own soil sample using the directions provided by Jason Adams at jason.adams@lewiscountywa.gov. The class will be taught in-person using COVID protocols at Chehalis Library at 5 pm. If you are interested in Reducing, Reusing, and Recycling solid waste and have a willingness to use your knowledge, experience, and enthusiasm to make a positive impact In your community, consider becoming a WSU Master Recycler Composter volunteer. Cost is FREE and you may begin any month! SAVE THE DATE: Earth Day, April 23rd Celebration at Floral Park Demonstration Site, next to Centralia Transfer Station, 1411 S. Tower Ave, Centralia

For more information contact Jason Adams, Program Coordinator, WSU Lewis County Master Recycler/Composters, (360) 740-1214 or e-mail jason.adams@lewiscountywa.gov

GT Carpet

Book your carpet or upholstery cleaning before Valentine’s Day and save 15%! Actual cleaning can be done any time through the end of the year! Just mention “Bizz buzz” to get your 15% off!

Clear Creek RV

Every industry has gone through major changes over the last 22 months! The RV industry has enjoyed exponential growth as people have been staying closer to home but still want to vacation or work from home full-time and can travel the country at their leisure. There has been a misconception that RV’ing is for the retired, that’s not the case – nothing brings family and friends together like camping! Clear Creek RV has been family owned and operated since 1976 with locations in Silverdale,

Puyallup and Sequim and then in August opened in Napavine. Now they’re looking to grow their team across all departments! If you want to change careers or a change of scenery, this may be a great fit for you. Across all 4 locations,14 of the nations leading manufacturers are represented along with full-service RV maintenance, authorized warranty repair center, parts department and collision repair. Career opportunities include; sales, service, parts, fork-lift driver, detailer, delivery concierge and more! Visit clearcreekrv.com to learn more about the company and its values.

Let’s Play Something

Valentine’s Day is right around the corner and we’ve got you all covered with Valentine’s Day cards, candy, small and big toys plus much more! Come grab a Let’s Play Something Gift Certificate for someone you love!

Funko Pops are back in stock featuring characters from films such as Captain Marvel, Black Panther and Avengers Endgame, as well as other genres like Dragon Ball-Z and Fortnite.

Our giveaway basket for February is bound to be a hit because it’s dinosaur and science themed! This basket is perfect for the little scientist in your life and includes fun dino dig kits, science experiments, and dinosaur figures. Just spend \$30 (before tax) in our store, or find the giveaway post on our Instagram or Facebook pages, tag three friends on our original post and

share the post. We’ll draw our winner on March 2nd so keep an eye out!

Our one-year anniversary of being at 109 N. Tower Avenue in downtown Centralia is approaching, and we couldn’t be more grateful for all the love and support our customers and the community have provided us! Thank you!

Give us a call at (360) 669-5982 with any questions!

The American Red Cross NW Region

The American Red Cross Northwest Region is looking for new volunteers now!

We need help responding to disasters, engaging with blood donors at blood drives, delivering blood products from our facilities to hospitals and so much more! All of this important work is made possible through the support of our dedicated volunteers. With the country facing a national blood crisis, and climate change bringing more intense and severe weather, we ask you to consider helping others by joining our volunteer ranks today.

There are many different ways to volunteer. However, our most-needed volunteer positions include Disaster Action Team members, Blood Donor Ambassadors and Transportation Specialists. Visit redcross.org/ volunteertoday to learn more and sign up.

WSU Lewis County Master Gardeners

The WSU Lewis County Master Gardeners are providing gardening workshops that are open to the public, throughout the 2022 year. At these informative workshops you will receive expert advice and get your questions answered from local experts; The Lewis

County Master Gardeners! February & March 2022 workshops:

Grape Workshop— Pruning and Care: February 12th, 12:00pm, in Winlock.

*Pre-registration and a \$5.00 fee is required to attend the Grape Workshop. Sign up now and learn from our Great Grape Expert!

Rose Care and Pruning: February 26th, 10:00am, Providence Place Demo Garden, in Chehalis. Learn the thorny truth about growing roses in our area! This workshop is FREE!

Blueberry Care and Hands-on Pruning: March 19th, 10:00am, Providence Place Demo Gardens, in Chehalis. Learn all about the blues.. come join us! This workshop is FREE!

For information on any of our workshops or to pre-register, just email: Julie. Pirtle@lewiscountywa.gov or call: 360-740-1212

Chehalis West Assisted Living

Chehalis West Assisted Living is accepting admissions! We have a large studio available on our assisted living floor, with a beautiful bay window view of a historic Chehalis neighborhood. Chehalis West provides assisted living in a safe, secure, friendly, and caring environment. We offer on-site, licensed, nursing staff available 24 hours a day, private, individual apartments, housekeeping and laundry services, three nutritional meals daily, unlimited snacks round the clock, live music events monthly, and an on-site beauty salon/barber shop, in addition to many other amenities. Since our ribbon cutting in May, our Memory Care wing has also welcomed several residents into a safe and nurturing environment, where committed employees work hard to provide care and activities, tailored to individuals with memory care needs. We have space for just two more residents in memory care at this time, and we would be delighted to welcome your loved one into our community! Please call the facility at 360-748-9911, or email at executive.director@chehaliswest.com to schedule your tour today!

Centralia-Chehalis Kiwanis Club

The Centralia-Chehalis Kiwanis Club is back in the saddle, riding regularly on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month. We hitch up around the chuck wagon from 12-1 for vittles out on the frontier at O’Blarney’s Restaurant. We welcome any stray cowpokes to join us for vittles, enjoy the fellowship on the trail while serving the community. We have special speakers and projects to wrestle (not rustle !!) with. For example, the club just donated \$500 to the food banks at Christmas and another \$500 to assist the Lewis County Gospel Mission flood recovery. Historically we have had the high school Key Cubs and Terrific kids programs in various schools for years. Together we can continue to assist other similar community service groups moving forward. If you have any questions, call Bob at 360-880-0237 or just drop by the campfire.

L.C. Renal Alliance

L.C. Renal Alliance is ready to move forward full speed in 2022! Please

come hear more about our organization, our plans, and what you might be able to help us move forward.

Our first order of business is to establish a FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE and an entourage of volunteers. We are looking for volunteers to help organize not only our first fundraising event, but other ideas to establish and reach our fundraising goals for 2022.

In addition to fundraising volunteers, we would love to have volunteers with other talents to help us reach our goals. We would invite any prospective volunteers to attend our volunteer meeting to hear about our vision and establish a way you can each help us grow to benefit children and families affected by kidney disease.

VOLUNTEER MEETING ON FEBRUARY 8, 2022 AT 6:30 P.M. - AT CHEHALIS EAGLES.

For more information about our cause, please visit our website: www.lcrenalalliance.org.

Lewis County Seniors

Just to let everyone know ALL our senior centers along with our nutrition site in Pe Ell are open and operating. WE do require masks to be worn when not eating or drinking... This is to protect all of us. If you are at least 60 years young, please come and visit us for a nutrition lunch. We ask for a donation of \$3-\$5 dollars per meal. We also have cards, pool tables at most sites, and will welcome other activities you may want to join in. Check our Facebook pages for the most current happenings at your local facility. Think of becoming a volunteer.... We can use volunteers at every site and at our thrift store, Second Time Around located in Chehalis next to the Ace Hardware. The store also accepts donations of clean, sellable items to the store, all proceeds go directly to operations of centers.

Blue Skies Drone

As we come into Spring this is the time to get out and find some fantastic views with drones. They are easy to fly and get up to 400ft (the legal limit) then take some fantastic panoramic photos. Blue Skies can get you started even if you are new to drones. We have a variety of options for you to choose from.

Gemini Events

Join Gemini Events for the following upcoming Markets. February 5th from 9am-5pm at the SW Washington Fairgrounds, March 12th at The Jester Auto Museum-Chehalis, 9am-5pm, and May 7th at the Jester Auto Museum-Chehalis, 9am-5pm. Each market with feature a new and different a variety of vendors that include home décor, bath products, jewelry, and so much more. Mark your calendars, grab your friends and family, and come shop! To find out more information about Gemini Events and their upcoming events visit us at www.geminievents.net or contact Ashley Stotts at geminieventasnddesign@gmail.com.

Thank you Alicia for 10 years of service to our community!



2013 Annual Banquet



2014 Rob Fuller Scholarship



2014 Santa Parade



2019 ToledoTel Business After Hours



2021 STIHL NW Grand Opening



2021 Chamber Staff Photo



Please enjoy a couple photos from the Dobbs Peterbilt Ribbon-Cutting.