



Centralia - Chehalis
Chamber of Commerce

Promote • Protect • Inform

Business Connections

The Chronicle

The Chamber is Open Mon-Fri 9-5

March 2022

The Ergonomics Bill Gave Me a Headache While You Were Sleeping!

Many of you will remember that in 2003, Washington voters passed Initiative 841 by more than 53% and only five counties voted in against the measure. I-841 repealed sweeping state ergonomics regulations and directed the Department of Labor and Industries to not adopt new ergonomics regulations unless a uniform federal standard is required.

The argument in favor of I-841 is that a second layer of ergonomic standards was not only unnecessary but would cost businesses more than \$700 million a year. In 2003, the Seattle Times editorialized



Rep. Peter Abbarno

that the job-killing ergonomics regulations are “overreaching, vague and costly...Washington should follow the federal government in keeping ergonomics requirements voluntary.”

Since the passage of I-841, the Department of Labor and Industries (L&I) has created education and training programs, incentivized ergonomic workplaces, and it offers free ergonomic consultants to businesses wanting on-site evaluations. In addition, if a worker is injured by a sudden event or occupational disease, there is a workers’ compensation system to file a claim, seek treatment, rehabilitate the employee back to work and obtain fair compensation. As a workers’ compensation attorney representing injured workers from my law firm, I

know this issue very well.

Unfortunately, my colleagues in the House Democratic majority did not agree with the voters. They advanced House Bill 1837 to repeal Initiative 841 and address work-related musculoskeletal injuries with another layer of regulations. In other words, the bill would allow L&I to impose new ergonomic rules industry-by-industry and worksite-to-worksite. It also would give the department authority to enforce those rules, including at your home office.

As you can imagine, HB 1837 was widely opposed by the building industry, grocers, retailers, many in the medical community, and many chamber associations. I opposed it, as well all members in the House Republican Caucus.

We saw there is a current working system, we saw the voters loudly shared their opinions through I-847, and we saw the potential cost to businesses big and small.

HB 1837 was brought to the House floor on Monday, Feb. 14 (Valentine’s Day), at 9 p.m. after we had been voting and debating bills since 9 a.m. that day. Following a robust overnight debate on 18 amendments that took nine-and-a-half hours of debate, HB 1837 passed by a slim 50-48 margin at 6:30 a.m. Although the bill passed and advanced to the Senate Committee on Labor, Commerce, and Tribal Affairs, there was bipartisan opposition for the legislation.

Workplace safety is important to both employers and employees. According to recent statistics, the rate of injury and time away from

employment due to injury is not rising. That is very much a result of the partnerships created by L&I, as well as the recognition by many employers that ergonomic workplaces make for happier and healthier employees.

The Washington Industrial Safety and Health Act (WISHA) and workers’ compensation laws are not perfect and need improvements. I am committed to that effort for Washington workers and businesses and working on real solutions. However, ignoring the voice of the people on I-841 and layering ergonomic regulations on an existing system was not appropriate in 2003 and is not appropriate today.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Rep. Peter Abbarno, R-Centralia, serves the 20th Legislative District.

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Working Together is What We Do Best

What makes our community so great is the willingness to help others. We often see it through the Chamber. Everything we do at the Chamber of Commerce would not be possible without the help of our local businesses. Whether it be the Trick or Treat Transit event in October, or our Choose Local Black Friday Bag giveaway in November, our local businesses come together to make these events fun for our community! As we transition into whatever normal looks like, let’s continue working together to ensure our community continues to grow together. Thank you Chamber members and Chamber sponsors for helping us help our community! Your

generosity and commitment has not gone unnoticed! The Chamber of Commerce is always accepting new members and sponsors, give us a call today to learn more about being part of the Chamber, as well as all the benefits that come with being a member!

Chamber members... The 2022 Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet is right around the corner! To start each year, The Chamber of Commerce hosts an Annual Banquet to celebrate our members, the Business of the Year, and every other year, the Evergreen Award. This year, the Annual Banquet will be held at The Hotel Washington on Friday, March 18th, 2022. If you’ve never been to one of our

Banquets, make sure you register for this great event! Bonanza BQQ will cater a delicious, southern themed meal with the Shire hosting a couple of cash only bars. There will also be a super silent auction with many great prizes! Have a sweet tooth? Make sure your table bids and participates in our dessert dash! We’re looking forward to 2022, and we’re excited to see you all at this year’s Annual Banquet!

Contact the Chamber of Commerce at 360-748-8885 or email thechamber@chamberway.com to register today. You can also register online at <https://www.chamberway.com/2022-annual-chamber-banquet/>

Take care everyone

Chamber Opportunities

Reach out to the Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce and see how we can help your business grow.

Learn about our weekly newsletter, our electronic billboard, our monthly mailings, and our monthly Bizz Buzz!

Whether it be networking events, or helping your business with its marketing needs, we have the tools to help your business going forward!

Please contact the Chamber of Commerce today at (360) 748-8885 or email marketing@chamberway.com.

New Chamber Member

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

Althea-Centralia
(866) 425-8432

<http://Althea-Centralia.net>
ken@althea.systems



Directory

CHAMBER STAFF:

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Jill Anderson
City of Chehalis

CONTACT US:

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Chehalis, WA 98532
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TheChamber@ChamberWay.com



Chamber Events

2022 Annual Banquet
The Hotel Washington
Friday, March 18th, 2022

Choose Local Black Friday Bags Giveaway
Wednesday, November 23rd, 2022

Ride the Willapa: Chehalis to Pe Ell
Saturday, June 25th, 2022

72nd Annual Santa Parade
Saturday, December 3rd, 2022

2022 Seattle to Portland Bike Classic
July 16th, 17th, 2022

2022 Membership BBQ
September 2022

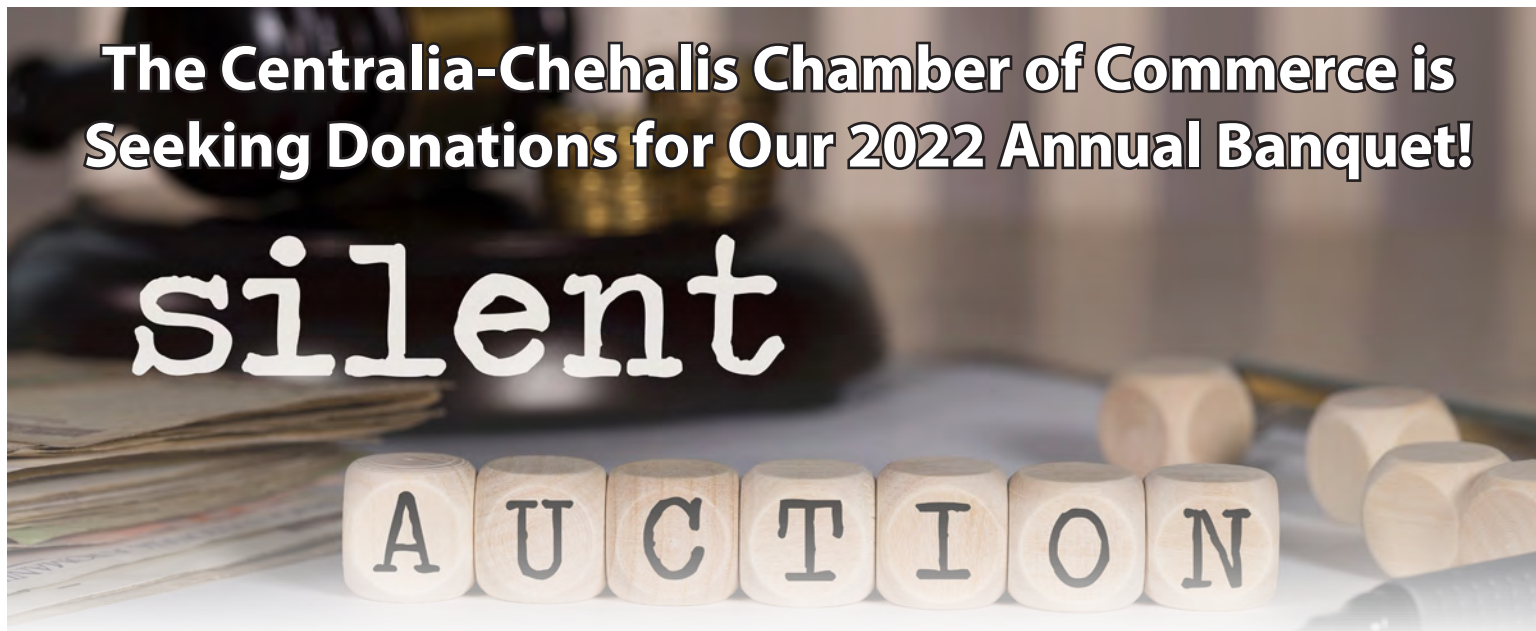
2022 Trick or Treat Transit
Monday, October 31st, 2022

Monthly Events

Chamber Forum
2nd Thursday of each month
11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Business After Hours
3rd Thursday of each month

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



The Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce is Seeking Donations for Our 2022 Annual Banquet!

silent

AUCTION

The auction items will be used at our silent auction!
Our Annual Banquet also includes a fun dessert dash!
Each table pools together as much money as possible, with the table donating the most picking which dessert their table receives.
If your business is able to donate a dessert of some sort (enough for 8), please contact the Chamber of Commerce!
If your business can donate a prize, gift, or dessert, please contact the Chamber of Commerce at thechamber@chamberway.com or call us at (360) 748-8885.
THANK YOU and we look forward to seeing you at this year's Annual Banquet!

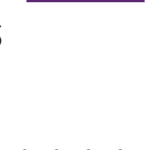
19 MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS OF



Centralia - Chehalis Chamber of Commerce

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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



BIZZBUZZ

What is going on with your business? Submit a small paragraph (200 words or less) and let the community know about new hires, promotions, business awards and other business news. Chamber Members! The deadline for Bizz Buzz is the 3rd Wednesday of each month by 4:00 p.m. Email thechamber@chamberway.com.

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.

Mark your calendars for the 4th Annual ARTrails Spring Expo!

April 22-24th
Fort Borst Park
Sponsored by ARTrails of Southwest Washington
Friday – Sunday April 22-24th
10:00 am – 6:00 pm at Kitchen Two at Fort Borst Park

This is a Juried show of talented local and regional artists demonstrating and selling their art.

Art sales Demonstrations
Look for fine art in acrylic, pottery, photography, watercolor, jewelry, sculpture and more!

See more at www.ARTrailsOfSWW.org

Kitchen #2 Fort Borst Park Rd., Centralia WA
Friday 10:00 am-6:00 pm
Saturday 10:00 am-6:00 pm
Sunday 10:00 am-6:00 pm

Saint Joseph School

Saint Joseph School, located at 123 SW Sixth Street in Chehalis, recently observed National Catholic Schools Week where academic excellence, directed to the growth of the whole person – mind, body and spirit – was celebrated. On February 26, the school's annual auction will take place at the fairgrounds. This event, open to the public, will attempt to raise \$125,000 to support the general fund and keep the cost of tuition low. Saint Joseph continues to follow the Lewis County Health Department's recommendations regarding Covid-19 protocol. At Saint Joseph School we believe the purpose of education is to teach and prepare children in the true wisdom and knowledge of God. Lessons are taught using God's words which equip students to make decisions and judgments rooted in Bible-based morals, providing them with relevant discernment when considering profound ideas throughout their lives. Check out our school website at stjoeschehalis.org, call the school at 360-748-0961, or email the school at admissions@stjoeschehalis.org to connect with staff, schedule a school tour, and more.

"The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you" – B. B. King

Braun Northwest

If you are dependable, hardworking and willing to learn, then Braun Northwest, Inc. has a job for you! We are looking for full-time craftsmen to join our team in the Assembly Department; basic carpentry experience required. Job includes light physical labor using a variety of hand tools. Starting rate \$17.00 per hour, with a potential for increase within 90 days with overtime available!

In addition, we are looking for full-time Mechanical Designers who are competent in the use of AutoCAD. Starting rate \$20.00 per hour, with a potential for increase within 90 days as well.

If you or someone you know is interested, please stop in to complete an application or send your resume to Nichole Seick, HR Manager, at nicholeseick@braunnorthwest.com. I look forward to meeting you!

WSU Lewis County Master Gardener

WSU Lewis County Master Gardener Training is open to anyone with an interest in gardening, landscaping and

environmental stewardship and a willingness to make a positive impact in their community. Improve your gardening skills and make a difference in your community! Contact Jason. Adams@lewiscountywa.gov or the WSU Lewis County Extension Office at 360-740-1214

The WSU Lewis County Master Gardeners are providing free and open to all gardening workshops throughout 2022. You will receive expert advice and get your questions answered from local experts; Lewis County Master Gardeners!

March / April 2022 workshops:
Blueberry Care and Hands-on Pruning: March 19th, 10:00am, Providence Place Demo Gardens, Chehalis. Square Foot Gardening: April 23rd, 10am, Borst Demonstration Garden, Centralia. For information on any workshops or to pre-register, email: Julie.Pirtle@lewiscountywa.gov or call: 360-740-1212

Let's Play Something

Hello sun! As the weather starts to get warmer, it's the perfect time to begin creating a garden. There's no better way to spend time with your kids than digging in the garden and helping things grow! We have plenty of children's gardening gloves, tools, and kits to start Spring off right plus plenty of other fun outdoor toys.

Our monthly giveaway tradition continues and March's basket's theme is Spring/Easter with a value of \$60. We'll be drawing our winner on April 2nd so stay tuned! If you want a chance to win this basket, all you have to do is spend \$30 (before tax) in our store, and/or find the giveaway post on our Instagram or Facebook pages, tag three friends on our original post and share the post. Simple as that!

We're also bringing back Game of the Month and this month's is Gnomes at Night! The gnome queen's treasures have been stolen! Grab a friend and help each other move through the mazes to gather the treasures. This cooperative game where everyone wins is perfect for ages 6+ and is priced at \$21.99!

If you have any questions, call us at (360) 669 - 5982!

Woodland Village

At Village Concepts of Chehalis - Woodland Village, we recognize that the true foundation of a home starts with community: People living, learning, and growing together. We are a third-generation family-owned and locally operated company with deep roots in the Northwest. We develop meaningful partnerships between residents, families and staff members that strengthen communities and create quality homes for seniors.

With Independent Living, Assisted Living and Memory Care options available within our Community, residents can age in place with care services available as needed. Cottages and townhomes offer an independent lifestyle without the burden of home ownership and maintenance. Short term stays are also available for those wanting to experience our Community in a fully furnished apartment with access to our dedicated care team.

Residents enjoy chef prepared meals daily and a robust program schedule enriching their lives both inside and out of the community. Activities include planned outings, daily exercise, games, art classes, happy hour and educational opportunities.

We are open daily for in person and virtual visits and would love to introduce our Community to you! Please call us at 360-748-0095 for more information!

Lewis County Adventist School

Lewis County Adventist School (LCAS), located at 2102 S Scheuber Rd in Chehalis, is enrolling for the 2022 / 2023 school year. The school is celebrating its 100th year of offering quality Christian education to the Lewis County community. LCAS offers preschool to 10th grade education, including a kindergarten / transitional

kindergarten program. The school has certified teachers and is accredited. LCAS strives to both academically educate and spiritually nurture all its students. Music education is also offered to all grades as part of the academic curriculum.

LCAS is proactive about offering needs-based solutions for any family seeking Christian education at the school and will work with individual families to find the right solution. LCAS is proactive about offering needs-based solutions to assist with tuition for any family seeking Christian education at the school and will work with individual families to find the right solution.

If you want to enroll your student or if you have questions or would like to schedule a tour of the school, please contact the principal, Kelly Gennick, at 360-

748-3213 or email her at office@lcas.org. Please also visit the school website www.LCAS.org for more information.

Quiznos

Quiznos in Centralia has Lobster Back. A long time favorite. This year the seasonal limited time offer is joined by the Old Bay Lobster Club. catch yours today at Quiznos in Centralia. You can get this DELIVERED as well!

Centralia Outlets Stylish Spring

It's Spring-cleaning season, update your closet with the latest trends at Centralia Outlets!

Find the perfect dress for Spring at **Aéropostale, Chico's, Gap Factory Store, Lane Bryant**

Outlet, and Polo Ralph Lauren Factory Store.

Adorable, quality, and affordable children's clothing can be found at **The Children's Place and Gap Factory Store.**

Hanes Brands Outlet sells Champion brand clothing along with underwear for the entire family.

Shop at **Aéropostale** and find distressed jeans, crop tops, knitted sweaters, universal leggings, and more.

Need shoes? Take advantage of great sales at **Famous Footwear Outlet, Skechers, Under Armour Clearance House, New Balance Factory Store, and Nike Clearance Store.**

To view a full list of stores, store sales, and store hours, please visit our website at www.centraliaoutlets.com.


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



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

Register Online



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February Business After Hours

Last month, we held our first Business After Hours of the year! Thank you to The Chronicle for hosting, and to everyone who stopped by and said hello. Keep an eye out for upcoming Business After Hours on our Facebook, website, and weekly newsletter!



Interested in hosting a Business After Hours?

Reach out to the Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce TODAY!

Spots for the year are filling up fast, so make sure you get

signed up as soon as possible! Hosting a Business After Hours

is a great way to promote your business, and share with our community what's new.

February Business Forum

On February 10th, we held our monthly Business Forum. Thank you O'Blarney's for hosting, and thank you County Assessor Dianne Dorey for presenting important information about taxes and property values. If you missed our Forum, you can find a video of it on our Facebook page.

