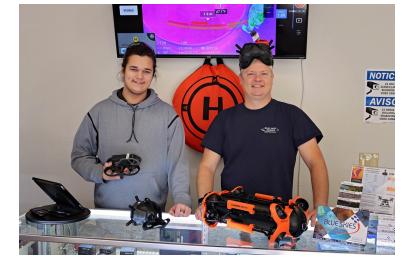


## CENTRALIA-CHEHALIS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

## Business Spotlight: Blue Skies Drones

"Yeah, we've got a drone for that." This is Blue Skies Drones motto, no matter the industry! What began as a drone rental shop for hobbyists has grown into a one-stop shop for not only renting the newest drones on the market, but also providing full sales, service, training, and support to the expanding drone market including photography, cinematography, construction, agriculture, engineering, surveying, inspection, Police, security, Fire Department and Search and Rescue. Originally the business model was shaped after a camera rental business but has become so much more over the years.

Blue Skies Drones moved to downtown Centralia from Bothell in April 2021. Blue Skies Drones was founded in 2015 by Todd Knighton and Brendan Kester with the



objective of providing drone and unmanned aerial vehicles (or UAV) solutions to both hobbyists and commercial users.

That expansion was possible with the help of General Manager, Dale Hylton, who has over 8 years experience working with drones, and over 5 years with Blue Skies Drones. Hylton is constantly evaluating what end users want and adjusting to meet customer needs. Drones are still considered a "startup industry", being less than a decade old. The drone industry is very similar to the cell phone industry, whereas new models come out every few months. Drones are revolutionizing the industrial world every day in new ways. From the smallest tasks to large complex projects, UAV's are providing us with new ways to collect and analyze data.

Blue Skies Drones carries everything from consumer to commercial enterprise drones, and even underwater drones. Big box stores really don't come close to providing the wealth of knowledge and experience when it comes to drones, training, servicing



drones or even providing rental drone units. Blue Skies Drones offers the largest drone rental fleet from quadcopters to hexacopter, fixed wing to ROV submersibles. They also carry payloads including gas detectors, multispectral, thermal and LIDAR. They own and maintain a large and diverse rental fleet of the latest UAV platform and sensor technology. Blue Skies Drones is not only serving the local community, but also offering drone rentals online throughout North America with shipping available to any North American local pickup or their Centralia location.



As time goes on, the drone industry looks more and more like the aviation industry and with more technology and regulations to navigate it only makes sense to visit the experts in the field.

Visit Blue Skies Drones at 209 S Tower Avenue in Centralia.

# The Season of Giving is Upon Us!

#### By Rep. Peter Abbarno

The holiday season is upon us with amazing opportunities to give back to our community. This year, consider a business sponsorship or personal support of events around Lewis County that are sure to have long-lasting positive impact. I want to highlight some local organizations and events for your consideration. and Girls Club of Lewis County. Each year, hundreds of runners and walkers trot around Chehalis on Thanksgiving morning. The inaugural trot took place 126 years ago in my hometown of Buffalo, New York.

I am proud that this history and tradition continues here in Lewis County and benefits organizations that truly embrace the spirit of giving by making an impact in lives of families throughout Lewis County. Stay Tuned for the 2023 Turkey Trot!! To learn more and support Chehalis Foundation visit ChehalisFoundation.org and the Boys and Girls Club of Lewis County at BGChehalis. org.

In December, keep your eyes and ears open for Santa Claus coming to town. On December 3rd, you may have seen a certain Santa in Downtown Chehalis sharing his holiday cheer at the 72nd Annual Santa Parade. Thank you sponsors, including the Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce, City of Chehalis, and the Great NorthWest Federal Credit Union for your support of the parade.



Let me first thank Thorbeckes Athletic Performance and Althauser Rayan Abbarno for another Turkey Trot to benefit the Chehalis Foundation and Boys



"Growing Lewis County one family at a time!" www.titlegco.com • 360-748-0001 200 NW Pacific Ave., Chehalis Mailing: P.O. Box 1304, Chehalis Santa will also be helping deliver presents for the Forgotten Children's Fund on December 23rd. The Forgotten Children's Fund is a volunteer organization that works to give deserving children and their families a truly Merry Christmas. With the support of community volunteers, they are able have Santa and his Elves deliver gifts every year to deserving children and families.

To learn more and support the Forgotten Children's Fund, visit ForgottenChildrensFund. org. If you haven't heard, the Grinch stole the tracks to the Chehalis-Centralia Steam train. However, Santa Claus is not letting that stop him. Visit SteamTrainRide.com and learn more about how you can visit with Santa and have a merry Christmas on the train- even without the tracks.

On December 10, the Lighted Tractor Parade will be rolling through downtown Centralia. I will be announcing the parade from the KELA-KMNT Radio stage on the corner of West Magnolia and Tower Avenue. On the way to visiting us, be sure to visit all the amazing shops downtown.

Other great giving opportunities include:



- Chehalis Foundation www. chehalisfoundation.org.
- Centralia Community Foundation - www. centraliacf.org.
- Centralia Historic Fox Theatre - www. CentraliaFoxTheatre.com.
- Miss Lewis County Scholarship Program - www. MissLewisCounty.com
- Dolly Parton Imagination Library and United Way of Lewis County — www. LewisCountyUW.com
- Hub City Mission https:// www.bethel-church.com/ hcm/

There are a lot of amazing people and organizations giving back this holiday season. Please consider donating and/or sharing your time to help those in our community who maybe struggling this time of year. To learn more about opportunities and event during the holiday and all-year-long, consider visiting the Chamber at www. Chamberway.com.

•••

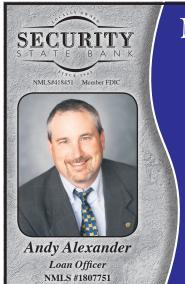
Peter Abbarno is an attorney with Althauser Rayan Abbarno, LLP and represents the 20th Legislative District in the Washington State House of Representatives.

### Join us for coffee and a review, and receive a free quote

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## Directory

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# Gift it from Gifted

Historic downtown Chehalis wouldn't be complete without Gifted Hallmark. What first started as Re-Design, a home staging company, has transformed into an official Gold Crown Hallmark store. Owned by Frank and Judy DeVaul - who also own several other local businesses - decided to reimagine Re-Design and in 2017 decided to partner with Hallmark to become a Gold Crown Hallmark store. This is their 6th season as a Hallmark store. "Our goal is to be a onestop shop for all your gifting needs. Whether it be for Mom, Dad, kids, or grandparents, we have something for everyone." comments General Manager Lauren Shelton.

Not only does Gifted carry Hallmark ornaments, which will be celebrating their 50 year anniversary in 2023, but they also also cards, wrapping, the popular Willow Tree Collection, Swan Creek candles, Snoozies slippers and many locally sourced goods including Katie's Candies and nostalgic Chehalis gifts for those looking for a local gift.

**BUSINESS** PROFILES

Gifted will be having several Holiday events in December.

Coming up is the "Trim the Tree Event" December 3-11, which is the final release of the Hallmark Keepsake ornaments for 2022. Visit



Saturday, December 10, for Gifted's Santa Sale where there will be sales, giveaways and drawings. On Thursday, December 15, for Gifted's Christmas Bliss starting at 4pm where there will be goodies, champagne, swag bags, and

giveaways. Shelton stated, "We are so grateful for the support of the local community. We try to build relationships with customers, for them to feel at home and be there for them." Visit Gifted in downtown Chehalis at 425 N Market Blvd.

# A Decade of Delectables

It will be a decade next April that Dawn has been serving up fresh Delectables in downtown Centralia. Dawn's Delectables has taken home the 'Best Dessert for Lewis County' award for 2022, making that seven out of nine years she has taken home the award. The saying 'Stop in for dessert, and stay for lunch' rings true in this establishment!

After serving in the military for nine years in the United States Air Force, Dawn Merchant, owner of Dawn's Delectables, got her start in the catering industry in 1998. Her business first got started in Maryland, before opening her location in 2013

in Centralia after she moved back to the area. The menu started with cold sandwiches, then added hot sandwiches, later that year homemade soup and she kept building and expanding with menu items - and square footage. In 2017 Dawn's Delectables had their first expansion into what is now their middle area, and in 2019 added the Coffee Corner. It really is a family endeavor as Dawn's two sons work with her in the restaurant. Jamar works as the General Manager and Cameron works as a Barista.

What started as a small sandwich shop has expanded to be a community gathering place for local patrons. "The



Dawn's Delectables' staff.

main reason I moved back home was to be a part of the community. Be a part of something bigger than myself. I wanted to create a warm and cozy gathering lounge." comments Merchant. Not only is the atmosphere inviting, but all the delicious delectables definitely drive in diners.

Stop by for dessert, lunch or coffee, at Dawn's Delectables located at 204 North Tower Avenue in downtown Centralia.

# No Missed Steaks at Ramblin Jack's Ribeye

Walking into Ramblin Jack's Ribeye in Napavine is like walking into a piece of history. The restaurant was decorated by owners Adam and Amanda Adrian. Amanda's "Grandpa Bob" had built his memorabilia

Ramblin Jack's restaurant in Olympia which served that community for 20 years. Ramblin Restaurant Group also owns Mercato Ristorante, i.talia pizzeria, and their newest restaurant called Row, in Olympia.



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



collection on his ranch over many years.

The Adrians bought the Ribeye in 2010, when they renamed the restaurant Ramblin Jack's Ribeye. Focused on from-scratch cooking with locally sourced ingredients, many patrons come in several times a week, some even daily. Adam Adrian got his start catering out of his car in his twenties and went on to open

The thing that keeps bringing people back to Ramblin Jack's Ribeye in Napavine is the fresh, home cooked meals, large portions, friendly staff and waiters, of which many have been employed at the Ribeye for more than a decade. The restaurant specializes in ribeye, steaks, reuben and corned beef all smoked in house, with a commitment to always using locally sourced

ingredients.

Community is at the heart of everything the Ribeye has done over the last 12 years. The restaurant recently hosted an "Ice Cream Sundaes for Breakfast Buffet" for Titus, a 4 year old boy from Toledo with a terminal heart condition, making one of his wishes come true.

General Manager Hallie Provost has worked for the restaurant for 12 years now and shared, "We all work together to focus on the success of the restaurant, and we do what we can to support the community." Visit Ramblin Jack's Ribeye in Napavine at 1336 Rush Road in Napavine.

# Revitalizing History in Chehalis and Centralia

It's been a busy few years for Tim Filer, co-owner of McFiler's Restaurant in Chehalis. McFiler's opened in 2019 for business and in 2020 bought the Chehalis Theater and began renovations, which are getting close to completion. Earlier this year Filer took ownership of The Hub in Centralia where he had worked for 14 years as a bartender, and his Mom had worked there as well for 28 years. To say The Hub is close to his heart is an understatement.

Filer and his business partners Eddie and Patrick McNally are committed to staying true to the original spirit of The Chehalis Theater and The Hub, planning to keep both names, but just adding the McFiler's name to them.

The Chehalis Theater, built in 1923, has seen a lot of improvement in the past 2 years. The green burlap on the walls has been replaced, there is a large back area to enjoy food and a full bar, all with beautiful 1950's details. The sconces are original to the theater, adding an authentic touch to the decor. They have also added a new professional kitchen, replaced every wire, added a bathroom and more. Filer plans on having a highclass menu to match the vibe of the theater, but will also have days where a more



Tim Filer at his Chehalis theater location.

traditional McFiler's menu will be available.

The Chehalis Theater has already seen a handful of events, including a couple of concerts and a comedy show and is planning more soon. The theater is planning on showing classic Christmas

cartoons after the Santa Parade on December 3rd. Follow McFiler's Chehalis Theater, and McFiler's Restaurant to stay up to date on the latest. Visit McFiler's at 543 NW Pacific Ave and McFiler's Chehalis Theater at 558 N Market Blvd in Chehalis.

Business Connections, December 2022 ~ 3



#### AMSOIL

Well hopefully you have an image of how AMSOIL is different from other lubricants. It is engineered, it has no impurities. As an engine, transmission or gears move it

generates heat! An engine can produce enormous heat. One of oils responsibilities is to transfer that heat away. Since oil is exposed to extreme heat the additive packages are boiled away and becomes varnishes and sludge in the engine. That is why we are told to change our oil every 3000 miles. What is left is basic crude

oil like it came out of the ground! Remember, AMSOIL is like bb's, they slide and flow together and around each other. Crushed rock doesn't, its rough edges generate resistance and heat. AMSOIL isn't affected by heat like other lubricants. It doesn't boil the additives and gum up the engine. That is why it is guaranteed in your engine for extended drain intervals. Because it is more slippery it takes less horsepower to make RPM'S!

Consequentially better fuel efficiency! With turbochargers AMSOIL can withstand the intense pressure and heat generated with them as well. So, we have turbo protection, heat resistance, more horsepower available, better fuel efficiency! Call me at 360-304-8595. Mike



#### **Call to Artists!**

ARTrails is seeking new member artists! We challenge you to challenge us! When it comes to the Best of Lewis County, ARTrails comes to mind. After all, we jury in and accept some of the very best artists in the county for our Gala and Studio Tour. When the Best of Lewis County 2022

came out, and the top three artists were tattoo artists, ARTrails members began to brainstorm: Why not try to engage tattoo artists to jury and join ARTrails? Why not try to include other alternative arts as well as our traditional fine art and crafts?

How do we attract more and varied artists to ARTrails?

What fine art forms are represented in Lewis County?

So, artists out there... including tattoo artists, stone carvers, gourd artists, lace makers, to name just a few.... Excite our Jury! Our jury is enthusiastic about seeing new work both traditional and alternative and we encourage new membership.

What does it take to jury into ARTrails? 5 high quality photographs of your work executed in the last two years, a completed application sign was installed, a grand opening was scheduled, and a Ribbon cutting was held on November 15th. WOW!

The support we have had from the Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce, our community, Immanuel Lutheran Church, our family, and friends have been

incredible. Your support in our small business is

supporting our dream and we cannot thank you enough. We hope you have a very Merry Christmas. - The Bergs



#### **Bitchin' Britches Boutique**

Hey Y'all, not sure if you have heard but Sparkles N Spurs Boutique

changed its name to Bitchin' Britches Boutique! It is very exciting to see a trademarked brand that we developed become the name of our store! Now that we have covered that news, let's talk about the month of December! For the month of December, we will be featuring a HUGE giveaway! For every purchase you make, your name goes in to win a BIG prize! We will also be featuring our Bitchin' Bucks, so for every \$100 spent get \$10 in Bitchin' Bucks. This makes a great incentive to come and shop locally for some Bitchin' holiday gifts. We have CUTE arrivals for Plus, Ladies, Juniors, Boots, Shoes, Stocking stuffers, purses and so much more.

stuffers, purses and so much more. As always you can shop online at bitchinbritches.com or follow us on Facebook and Instagram.



#### Chehalis Centralia Railroad & Museum

Chehalis Centralia Railroad & Museum Presents "Santa's Grinchy Christmas Train"

"The Grinch Stole our Tracks!" We've decided to "Blame the Grinch" for stealing away our tracks. Since we can't take our train to the North Pole this year, Santa and the Grinch will come to celebrate "Santa's Grinchy Christmas Train" On the Train —

At the Depot! This well-loved event will be held beginning November 26 until December 18 on Saturdays and Sundays at 1:00pm and 3:00pm. Although this is a non-moving train event (due to track damage), The interpreters and reception staff. Please also join us as we host our annual Holiday Bazaar December 3rd at Centralia Community Church of God. Shop crafts and handmade goods from local vendors. It's a great way to get some holiday shopping done! "

#### Holiday Savings on Name Brands

Holiday Shoppers find incredible savings on their favorite NAME BRANDS here at the Centralia Outlets. Look for deals on shoes and boots at Famous Footwear, or athletics from New Balance, Under Armour, and Skechers for the whole family. Look for customizable and heartfelt gifts at Christian Outlet or great stocking stuffers from

Bath and Body Works and Claire's. For the outdoor enthusiast visit Eddie Bauer and Volcom for special gear and check out Pendleton for soft wool

blankets and coats. Don't forget Kay Jewelers and Coach if you are looking for something extra

special on your gifting list. Bring a friend and make it a day of shopping, and savings, at all your favorite brand-name stores. Still not sure what to get that special person on your holiday list? Don't forget to pick up a gift card or two just in case.

The Centralia Outlets offers a variety of name-brand stores to help you shop for great gifts this holiday season. Stores will be open late on Fridays

and Saturdays beginning November 25th until Christmas Eve. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram to keep informed of special sales and new products, or to see a full list of stores, current store sales, and coupons, please visit our website at

www.centraliaoutlets.com.



#### Letters to Santa Mailboxes in Downtown Chehalis

Experience Chehalis, Book 'N' Brush, and Totally Pawsome have teamed up to bring local kids a little extra magic during the holidays with a new "Letters to Santa" program. A Holiday Charity Bazaar Centralia Community Church of God 3320 Borst Ave, Centralia, WA 98531 Please use east entrance near gym December 3rd, 2022 9AM - 4PM Proceeds support

Health & Hope Medical Clinic

weekends in December. Check out our website for showtimes, tickets and

volunteering opportunities. Our upcoming shows are the drama, The Diary of Anne Frank, a farce in Lend me a Tenor, and the magical fantasy adventure of Tuck Everlasting. Senior and Student ticket pricing is available. Our concession area is well stocked with beer, wine, soft drinks, candy and always fresh popcorn! Come celebrate the season with us. Bring this article to any performance

for a free non-alcoholic drink and small popcorn. 226 W. Center St. in Centralia. www. theevergreenplayhouse.com

layhouse <sup>-</sup>vergreen

#### The Paula Burrows Team brokered by eXp Realty

The Paula Burrows Team brokered by eXp Realty is a full-service real estate team specializing in residential,

multi-family, condo, farms and equestrian, vacant land, plus many more property types. And we service all of Washington State! When you choose to work with us, you will

receive support from our entire team, not just one agent. We believe it is important to provide our clients with an avtrongly bigh quality of

with an extremely high quality of service. Because of that, we have a full administrative team behind our agents to help make them more available for you and your needs. Our Managing Broker, Paula Burrows, has over 16 years of experience in real estate with the last 8 years being a top producer in our local area. Our team strives to provide this great service with integrity, ethics, and honesty.

We also believe it is important to build relationships with as many people in our communities as possible. Whether you are buying or selling real estate, our team is here to help guide you every step of the way! Call (360) 520-4810 for any help you Theatre on the campus of Centralia College from the hours of 2:00-7:00 pm or by telephone. All seating is reserved. For information regarding the "Escape to the Land of Sweets" visit the web site at www.swwdance.org or call 360-748-4789.

#### WSU Lewis County Master Gardeners

The WSU Lewis County Extension Office is located at: James Building at the corner of Main and Cascade Ave. Located there is a free Plant Diagnostic Clinic. The Plant Clinic is staffed by university trained Master Gardeners. The clinic is open on Monday through Wednesday from 9:00AM – 3:00PM. You can also submit your Plant Clinic request electronically by going to

https://lewis-mg-mrc.org. On the home page click on Plant Clinic located on the sidebar.

At anytime of the year, you can enjoy our four demonstration gardens that are open for public viewing and they are located at:

Borst Demonstration Garden is located in Borst Park in Centralia. The garden is located next to the Historical Borst Home and Schoolhouse.

•••

Providence Place Demonstration Garden is located at 350 Washington Ave SE, Chehalis

•••

Salkum Demonstration Garden is located at the Timberland Library in Salkum on US Highway 12.

Southwest Washington Fair Demonstration Garden is located within the SWW Fairgrounds by walk in gate.

For more information about the Master Gardener Program please call Jason Adams at 360-740-1216 or email:

form and \$10. That's it. Go to http:// artrailsofsww.org to the "Join Us" page and join us!! You don't need to have your own studio to participate in the Studio Tour, we have many locations and studios to show your work. Application deadline is February 1, 2023.

Jury Workshops: Come in to talk to ARTrails' artists and find out about the jury process. Visit the Steamboat Landing in Toledo on Saturday January 14th , 2023 at 10:30. Sponsorships available for the financially insecure.

¿Es usted un artista que vive y trabaja enel suroeste de Washington? Si es así, ARTrails invita a unirse a su gira anual de studio. Información y de las aplicaciones info@ARTrailsofSWW. org www.ARTrailsofSWW.org



#### **Berg Marketing Group**

Can you believe it is December already? Our tradition growing up was in December to send a Christmas letter to all our family and friends and let them know how the year has been.

It seems that this has gone astray since social media has kept us in the loop 27/7. But there is a part of me that truly misses that connection. So, here is our letter to all my family and

friends, which is all of you. In January, we moved into our new location on the corner of Marsh and Mellen St. moving toward a full-service marketing company including custom apparel. It took a few months to truly gain the flow of walk-in customers, employees, and our production flow. The next step of course was a sign to let folks know we were a business! So, we did it! A

o http://Chehalis Centralia Railroad and<br/>Museum invites your family to enjoy<br/>the excitement of the day while<br/>enjoying candy canes, cocoa, and<br/>cookies. Your family will have a<br/>chance to get pictures with Santa and<br/>the "Grinch" at the Depot. Tickets are<br/>available online at SteamTrainRide.<br/>com, \$16 each, kids 2 and under are<br/>free. Private Groups up to 20 have an<br/>option to reserve our private business<br/>coach for \$500 Space is limited to

coach for \$500. Space is limited to one group per time slot. Please email info@steamtrainride.com to request more information. This option is best suited for families, friends, or

business groups. Please arrive ½ hour prior to start time. Free parking available. Information and reserved seating tickets are online only: https:// steamtrainride.com/santa-train-ride/ Passenger Coaches from the 1920s provide indoor seating, however they are unheated.



#### Health & Hope Medical Clinic

"Health & Hope is a non-profit, Christian based, medical clinic that provides Free medical care to qualifying residents of Lewis County. Staffed entirely by volunteers who are dedicated to "Christ-centered care", the clinic is open each Tuesday evening at the Northwest Pediatrics building. Health & Hope is currently seeking volunteers with a

variety of skills-medical experience not necessary.

There is a great need for bilingual

Santa Mailbox, located inside Book `N Brush and Totally Pawsome will be installed the day after Thanksgiving, ready to receive Dear Santa letters filled with the hopes and wishes of children of all ages and addressed to the one and only Santa Claus! A few helpful notes: The return address on the letter must be legible to receive a response. No postage required! Child's name needs to be clearly printed or it will be addressed to "my friend." Volunteer elves try to ensure timely responses from Santa, but return times may vary. Original letters to Santa will not be returned, and all contact information is kept confidential. Please keep in mind Santa does not address a child's gift request. Please be patient. Volunteer elves put their free time into making this happen in the spirit of the holidays. Letters "mailed" by December 12

put their free time into making this happen in the spirit of the holidays. Letters "mailed" by December 12 with a return address will receive an answer from Santa by way of the "elves" of Experience Chehalis. We thank Book 'N' Brush for purchasing these beautiful mailboxes!

The Evergreen Playhouse

The Evergreen Playhouse, Centralia is pleased to announce our new membership in the Chamber. We welcome the opportunity to showcase our productions in a new way. This is our 63rd season offering quality productions at your local community theater. Our next show is the classic Irving Berlin's White Christmas, just in time to set your mood for the holiday season. This musical classic is guaranteed to leave you humming classic tunes like "Blue Skies" and "How Deep is the Ocean". Performances are the first three real estate related goals!



Brokered by eXp Realty

#### Southwest Washington Dance Center



Southwest Washington Dance Center's performing company, Southwest Washington Dance Ensemble, will present the 25th Anniversary production of "The Nutcracker". The ballet will take place in the "state of the art" Corbet Theatre, on the campus of Centralia College, on December 16, 17 & 18. Performance times are 7:30 pm

on December 16 & 17, 2:00 pm on December 17 and 1:00 and 5:30 pm on December 18. Many area businesses and individuals have contributed to making "The Nutcracker" a success. As a 501 (C) 3, SWDC appreciates sponsors that contribute to the production. Ticket prices are: \$24.00-Adults \$16.00-Seniors 62+, Military and children, 18 and under Tickets are available online at swwdance.org or by calling the Dance Center. SWDC is at 437 N. Market Blvd. in Chehalis. After December 11th, tickets will only be available

online, at the box office of Corbet

lason.Adams@lewiscountvwa.gov.



#### Recycle Christmas Trees, Holiday Lights & Styrofoam

Do not know what to do with your live Christmas trees or broken lights after the holiday? RECYCLE them at the Annual Christmas Tree, Holiday Lights and Styrofoam Recycling Event held December 26th thru January 8th, 10 am to 4 pm daily at the lot next to the Transfer Station, 1411 S. Tower. Please remove all decorations and tinsel! No artificial or flocked trees will be accepted! All decorated, artificial, or flocked trees may be disposed of at the Transfer Station for a fee. Wreaths and garland must be free of wire, decorations, and ribbon. Styrofoam must be clean with packaging material removed. This event is free to the public; however, donations are gladly accepted to the WSU Lewis County Master Recycler Composter and Master Gardener programs. Donations are used to provide free educational programs within Lewis County.

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 within our community, consider becoming a WSU Master Recycler Composter volunteer! Contact Jason Adams, Program Coordinator, (360) 740-1216 or e-mail jason.adams@ lewiscountywa.gov. for any questions.

#### Send 200 words (or less) to marketing@chamberway.com. A photo or logo gets even greater visibility!

# Chamber Selects Chief Michael Kytta as Santa Parade Grand Marshal

The Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce selected Chief Michael Kytta, of Riverside Fire Authority as the Grand Marshall of the 72nd Santa parade to be held in Chehalis December 3rd, 2022.

"It is definitely an honor," says Chief Kytta who plans to share the experience with his 11-year-old grandson and wife Diane. "I am grateful for the chance to represent the Riverside Fire Authority. It's humbling to be selected out of so many individuals worthy of the honor and a privilege to be part of such a joyous occasion and community-wide event."

Chief Kytta's service to the Centralia community and Lewis County is difficult to measure. Over his 47 years in the industry, he has impacted almost every aspect of emergency services for the area and in early 2024 plans to retire from a rewarding career in the place that it all started.

Kytta began volunteering with the fire department, then known as Lewis County Fire District #12 (now Riverside Fire) when he was just 16. He continued his volunteer work into his adult life and in his off time while he worked his way to Chief Dispatcher and was one of the moving parties in creating a separate dispatch center to service Lewis County. He then spent seven years as Director of Operations for Care Ambulance and began his fulltime career with Lewis County Fire District #12 (LCFD #12) in 1996 when he was hired as Fire Chief. In 2008 Chief Kytta was instrumental in the process to merge the City of Centralia Fire Department and LCFD #12, creating efficiencies for Centralia citizens and establishing one of the first regional fire authorities in Washington State. He has since helped the department

and its citizens through a recession, several floods, storms, and daily emergencies. Chief Kytta has held additional voluntary board positions with a number of emergency service-related associations, working toward continuously improving services in Lewis County and becoming a leader in the area industry.

While his career has been fundamental in the evolution of emergency services in Lewis County, he and his family have also been central in our growing and changing community. They have spent countless hours volunteering to provide aid at the fairground events, food drives, football games, and community activities and Chief Kytta credits his success to the support of his family every chance he gets.

2023 will be his last year as Fire Chief for the RFA but Kytta doesn't plan to stop





Photo by Bradd Reynolds

serving. A big proponent of volunteerism, he has helped maintain a thriving core of volunteer firefighters for the RFA and plans to continue giving back to his community and supporting this program in retirement. His is not the face often seen in the limelight, but Chief Kytta is the steadfast presence in the background

ensuring the safety of our citizens and undoubtedly a reassuring face in times of crisis.

Look for the Centralia 1939 Seagrave Firetruck at the head of the parade and wave to our Grand Marshal, Chief Michael Kytta, who has been working for your safety since 1975.

### VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: Lindy Waring

2022 Chamber Board President

Lewis County native Lindy Waring has been volunteering with the Centralia-Chehalis Chamber for over a decade. Those who know Waring know she is passionate about supporting local businesses through the Chamber of Commerce.

Waring grew up and attended school in Adna, after graduating high school attended Edmonds College in Seattle and earned her Paralegal degree. The next 13 years she spent working as a paralegal in Sacramento. In 2006, Waring moved back to Lewis County where she worked for Lucky Eagle Casino as a Marketing Assistant where she



Lindy and son Rocco help hand out Black Friday Bags.

got promoted to Marketing Manager and worked there for 9 years. After Lucky Eagle Casino, Waring helped open several restaurants, then worked for the Chronicle for two years before finding her position at KELA / KMNT as General Manager.

While working at Lucky Eagle Casino, Waring got involved with the Chamber

through work and served on the Board of Directors in several different capacities, the latest position being President for the last two years. Waring also volunteers as Vice President of the Executive Board for Pope's Place who provides individualized care for children and young adults with exceptional medical needs, and also volunteers with United Way on their committees.

"I am honored to be a part of the Chamber of Commerce and seeing change first hand in making a difference in improving our community." comments Waring. "I really love the Chamber. We were in a great position before, but I look forward to working with the Board to make changes to improve Chamber outreach to the community moving forward."

### Abbarno Elected House Republican Assistant Floor Leader

Congratulations to Peter Abbarno on being elected House Republican assistant floor leader! "I am very honored to have the trust of my House Republican colleagues to join our leadership team as an assistant floor leader," said Abbarno. "I look forward to working on our caucus' successful floor strategy and communication."

In his role as assistant floor leader, Abbarno's responsibilities include organizing and managing debate on the House floor,

#### **District 20 Updates**

Last month the Chamber began offering an opportunity to hear directly from our District 20 representatives about Legislative Updates. This is a member-only benefit that we plan to continue in 2023. This is your opportunity to hear directly from our legislators, ask questions, or clarify issues. This is a member-only benefit

developing legislative strategy and policy, and assisting caucus leadership in negotiations with the majority party.



Rep. **Peter Abbarno** 

This is Abbarno's first election to a caucus leadership position. The 20th District lawmaker will begin his second term in office when the 2023 legislative session begins Monday, Jan. 9.

Abbarno via Zoom. While all three may not be able to attend together each month, at least one will be available to share the latest issues affecting our district.

#### Join us via Zoom on **Tuesday, December 6** 7:30 - 8:30 am The Zoom link is sent to

**Good Buzz Brewing Tracy Jean Lindsey** Asante

**McFiler's** Fern Ridge Floral & Design **Mint City Coffee Roasting** 

**November New Members!** 

Lucky-N-Lawless Bakery **Best Life Massage** 

# **Evergreen Playhouse**

#### The Paula Burrows Team Brokered by eXp Realty

Weichert Realtors Reynolds **Real Estate** 

JJ Hamilton Realtor **Practical Home Services**  and we encourage you to join Senator John Braun and Representatives Ed Orcutt and Peter

our member list or you can request the link and instructions directly by emailing director@ chamberway.com

#### CENTRALIA-CHEHALIS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EVENTS

#### **Shop Small Business For** The Holidays & Win!

The Great Receipt X-Change! Turn in your receipts of \$10 or more after shopping at one of our small local businesses in Centralia or Chehalis and enter to win fabulous prizes. Winners are drawn on December 17 at 3 pm. There are three ways to Xchange your receipts for a raffle ticket: Receipts can be exchanged for raffle tickets at The Chamber office located at I-5 Exit 79, 500 NW Chamber of Commerce Way in Chehalis. Open 9 am - 5 pm Monday through Friday. Take a photo of your receipt and email to marketing@ chamberway.com - include your name and phone number in the email and remember to attach the receipt.

Remember to put your Name & Phone number on the receipt! Receipts must be from a small business in Chehalis or Centralia.

#### Elf on a Shelf **Appearances!**

Come have fun with our living Elf on a Shelf at participating shops! Each week is a different location. "Like" our Facebook Page to stay posted about appearances! facebook.com/ChamberWay

#### Saturday, December 3

2 - 4 pm Downtown Chehalis after Santa's Parade! Brunswig's, 525 N. Market Blvd. (2 pm)

Bartel's, Clothing & Shoes, 486 N. Market Blvd. (2:30 pm) Totally Pawsome, 463 N. Market Blvd. (3:00 pm) Book 'N Brush, 518 N. Market Blvd.(3:30 pm)

Saturday, December 10

11 am - 1 pm Downtown Centralia, before the Tractor Parade! Dawn's Delectables, 204 N. Tower (11 am) The Rectangle Gallery (11:30 am) Three Dog Night, 402 N. Tower Ave., 209 N. Tower (Noon) Hubbub, 505 N. Tower Ave. (12:30 pm)

Saturday, December 17 11 am - 1 pm PostNet 1121 Harrison, Centralia

••• 2 - 2:30 pm Book 'n Brush, 518 N. Market Blvd. (2 pm)

#### **Annual Santa Parade!**

The Night Before Christmas Sponsored by



Saturday, December 3 11 am, downtown Chehalis Join us for the parade in downtown Chehalis and stay to shop, eat, and meet our living "Elf on a Shelf!" At 4 the holiday spirit continues with a tree lighting ceremony at Lewis County Historical Museum! Plus, McFiler's Theater is showing three kid classic holiday movies starting at noon with free popcorn.

#### **December Forum**

Thursday, December 8 11:30 lunch served (\$17) Noon program begins O'Blarney's, 221 N. Tower

Our December Forum is all about sharing. Members are invited to share upcoming events, good news, and volunteer opportunities. The Chamber has a big announcement as well! We will have raffle items to support the Rob Fuller Scholarship Fund.

#### **Business After Hours**

Thursday, December 15 5 - 7 pm Awesome Chevrolet Buick 2580 N National Ave We are thrilled to have Awesome Chevrolet Buick host the December BAH and the Ugly Sweater Contest!

