

# Business Connections



JANUARY 2024

**Centralia - Chehalis**  
**Chamber of Commerce**  
Promote ♦ Protect ♦ Inform

**Inside This Edition:**

Happy New Year! Inside this edition includes the 2024 calendar of events, news about District 20, and 2023 highlights.

## LC Coffee Embraces Their Roots

Seven years ago Samantha and Spike Magnuson cautiously opened their first coffee stand on State Avenue with their daughter Angie Twining. “We wanted to wait a year before expanding to make sure we knew what we were doing,” explained Samantha. Yet, only four months later they were already purchasing land for what was supposed to be their 2nd location on Jackson Hwy. However just over a year later the phone began ringing with other competitors offering stands for sale. With their seventh anniversary in January 2024, their eighth and ninth coffee stations are about to open. Number eight is adjacent to Big T’s BBQ and the Pearl Gas and Grocery – a North Pearl Centralia location. Number nine is referred to by Samantha as a “coffee plus” venue – and is also slated to open soon at the space in Fairway Center previously owned by Nea’s Ice Cream. Nine coffee locations in seven years, including the addition of The Station in Centralia, is a phenomenal success story. For



those who have often considered opening a business but have waffled on the sidelines, Samantha says, “Just do it!” She advises that having the heart and drive is the key to success. Between LC Coffee and their companion roasting business, Wicked North Coffee Roasters,

they now have more than 65 employees including baristas, warehouse, and administrative staff. “We started this as a family business with the vision of giving back to the community,” said Samantha. “My husband has a motto we

have all embraced: We operate with love and compassion,” added Samantha. She spoke of gratitude towards the community that has embraced and supported them from the beginning. “Our success is owed to our great customers and supportive community.” Samantha and Spike both came from the corporate world working for Line-X. The idea of opening a family business and leaving the corporate world behind was too enticing to pass up. They purchased their first stand on State Avenue in Chehalis with no idea what to even call their company. All the names with “Northwest themes” were already in use. It was their daughter Angie who suggested the current name, “Even though she didn’t think we’d like the idea,” reminisced Samantha. However, the name felt immediately like a good fit. “Like many people who grew up here, we take pride in coming from Lewis County,” said Samantha. That community pride has likely been a driving factor in their success. “We quickly became known as LC

Coffee and now when people see those initials, they know exactly who we are and what it means.” The Station is their only non-drive-through offering event space and a coffee lounge atmosphere. This location has recently undergone an amazing facelift that makes it an appealing place for meetings and events. The upstairs now offers a Board Room providing seating for up to 20 and a beverage/food stand for meal service. Downstairs is spacious and requests for after-hours use are increasing, with the most recent event being the Lewis County Young Professionals hosting their Festival of Trees fundraiser. The Centralia-Chehalis Chamber is also using the space starting in January as they move their monthly Forum from a lunchtime event to an early morning gathering of its members. For those interested in learning more about booking space at The Station visit [lewiscountycoffee.com](http://lewiscountycoffee.com) or call 360-740- 8956.

## Short Session Update

**By Peter Abbarno**  
*20th District Rep. R-Centralia*

Every even numbered year the Legislature convenes for what is called the “short session”; a 60-day legislative session to approve supplemental budgets and pass legislation. This year, the legislative session begins on January 8, 2024. For the 2024 Legislative Session, I will be serving as the Ranking Member on the House Capital

Budget Committee, House Environment and Energy Committee, House Civil Rights and Judiciary Committee, as well as serving as Assistant Floor Leader for the House Republican Caucus. The House Capital Budget Committee considers the state capital budget which approves money for the construction and repair of public buildings and for other long-term investments. In addition, the committee considers grants and loans to local governments

or nonprofit organizations for infrastructure, broadband, housing, school, and cultural and heritage facilities. The committee also considers bills relating to public works contracting; state buildings and land; and the authorization of state debt. The House Environment & Energy Committee considers issues relating to air quality; aquatic lands; oil spill prevention; solid waste; hazardous waste; toxics; climate change; energy; Puget Sound; and the State Environmental Policy Act, the Shoreline Management Act, and environmental impacts under the Growth Management Act. The House Civil Rights & Judiciary Committee considers a wide variety of legal issues, including constitutional law; privacy rights; anti-discrimination measures; commercial law; torts; probate; guardianships; civil commitment; forensic mental health; firearms; and eminent domain. The committee also considers issues relating



Rep. Peter Abbarno

to courts and judicial administration; and family law issues such as marriage, marriage dissolution, child support and adoption. The short session can move quickly, so it is important to know how to access information and stay involved throughout the process. To help keep you informed, my seatmates Sen. John Braun and Rep. Ed Orcutt are participating in monthly legislative update meetings hosted by the

Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce. Contact the chamber for more information. In addition, I put together a step-by-step video to help you find bills, find committee hearings, and share your opinions. Be sure to visit my legislative website at [www.RepresentativePeterAbbaro.com](http://www.RepresentativePeterAbbaro.com) and click on the “Learn How To Get Involved in the Legislative Process” tab. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve the 20th Legislative District. It is truly an honor to support our community.

Rep. Peter Abbarno represents the 20th Legislative District and is an attorney with Althausen Rayan Abbarno, LLP.

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## 2023 Chamber Highlights

2023 celebrated thirty-three ribbon-cutting ceremonies and welcomed forty-eight new members to the Chamber! We now have 480 active Chamber members representing among the best businesses and non-profits in the county.

In 2023 the Chamber launched its first 3-on-3 Basketball tournament.

The Chamber also produced the 57th Home & Garden Show and the 73rd annual Santa Parade. We, along with our members, raised \$10,000 in Rob Fuller Scholarships and created a new 501-c-3 non-profit organization for the Rob Fuller Scholarship Fund.

The Seattle-to-Portland (STP) welcomed more than 7,000 cyclists to the area, greeted more than 500 guests at its Visitor's Center, and answered more than 1,100 calls.

These photos are a small representation of the 2023 events and activities that shaped our year.

We look forward to even greater things in 2024!



2023 Trick or Treat Transit.



Centralia City Manager Rob Hill (left) assisting with the Ribbon Cutting welcoming La Quinta Inns and Suites to Centralia.



The Power Shop at the Home & Garden Show.



The Chamber welcomes Interstate Honda to Chehalis with a Ribbon Cutting.



3-on-3 event crew from Centralia College with Tournament Director and College Coach Joseph Chirhart.



2023 Rob Fuller Scholarship recipients.



Owners Drs. Mary Ferris and Angela Loeb open Rainier Eye and Vision in Chehalis.



Centralia Mayor Kelly Smith Johnston assists Zap Master Electrolgy Stephanie Shields at the Ribbon Cutting celebrating her new business.



Owner Melissa Goulter celebrated returning Aaron's to its original location at Twin City Town City with a Chamber Ribbon Cutting.



Chehalis Mayor Tony Ketchum gets dunked for 3-on-3!





# Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies

Congratulations to Good Buzz Brewing and Minuteman Press as they launched new beginnings!



**Good Buzz Brewing** opened its tap room on December 8! Forrest Chesvick began brewing Mead a year ago, with distribution only to retail outlets. Now they have their own taproom, which is a great introduction to their Mead products. The taproom is open to all ages and has a wide assortment of board games to enjoy. Bring your own meal or order take-out from menus of local restaurants! Good Buzz is at the Fairway Shopping Center.



**Minuteman Press** celebrated opening their business on December 12. The copy/printing center offers wide-format printing, which means customers can get their blueprints and posters printed here locally! Minuteman Press offers an assortment of other printing needs and products. They are located at Lewis County Mall next to the cinema.

## How to Schedule a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

The Chamber offers Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies as a free service to members and non-members. It is our way of acknowledging the hard work and investment of time and money to opening, expanding, moving, or re-branding a business.

We wrap the ceremony with promotional efforts before, during, and after the ceremony through social media, news releases, and on our electronic billboard as well as within our monthly Business Connections.

We do strive to limit these to one a week for maximum benefit. It is also recommended to schedule at least one month in advance to reap the best results. To learn more or secure a date call 360-748-8885 or email [director@chamberway.com](mailto:director@chamberway.com)

### WELCOME NEW MEMBER!

Please join us in welcoming our December new member!

Chehalis Valley Motors LLC

### 2024 UPCOMING CHAMBER EVENTS

#### Annual Banquet

Friday, January 19

#### Ribbon Cutting

Thursday, January 25 • Noon  
Julia Gaul Edward Jones  
1209 A Borthwick St., Centralia

#### Home & Garden Show

Friday & Saturday, April 12 – 13

#### Rob Fuller Scholarship Luncheon

Tuesday, May 7

#### Lewis County Hiring Fair

June & October

#### Seattle-to-Portland

Saturday & Sunday, July 13-14

#### 3-on-3 Streetball Festival

Saturday & Sunday, August 3-4

#### Trick or Treat Transit

Thursday, October 31

#### Black Friday Survival Bags

Wednesday, November 27

#### 74th Annual Santa Parade

Saturday, December 7

## Member Exclusive! Legislative Updates

Save the dates for District 20 monthly live updates while in session. Updates are provided by Zoom meetings the 4th Thursdays at 7:30 a.m.



Senator John Braun



Representative Peter Abbarno



Representative Ed Orcutt

The Chamber thanks our District 20 legislators for making this possible: Senator John Braun, Representative Ed Orcutt and Representative Peter Abbarno

Save these dates to your calendar!: January 25 February 22 March 28

Zoom links are provided to members via the Chamber's electronic newsletter a week before the meeting. Contact [director@thechamber.com](mailto:director@thechamber.com) if you have questions or need to be added to the newsletter list.



Friday, January 19, 2023 • Email [director@chamberway.com](mailto:director@chamberway.com) to reserve today!





# BIZZBUZZ



WHAT'S THE BUZZ?



### Happy Holidays from Artrails!

The artists of ARTrails can't wait to see you this year!


If you are interested in becoming a part of this community of artists, join us at Rectangle Gallery (209 N. Tower Ave., Centralia) on January 10th at 10:00 a.m. for information on how to best show off your artwork to jury into shows, galleries and ARTrails. Happy Holidays!



### January Clearance Sales Happening Now!

Refresh your seasonal wardrobe and shop January clearance sales at the Centralia Outlets! Save on a huge selection of name-brand apparel and footwear for the entire family. Find stylish new winter wear, sweaters, and PJs at Polo Ralph Lauren, Hanes Brands, Jockey, and more. Shop the latest trends in clothing at Lane Bryant, Aéropostale, DXL, and Chico's. If your New Year resolution is to be more active, look for the gear you want at New Balance, Nike, Sketchers, and Under Armour. For the more adventurous, find great hiking and snow gear at Volcom, Columbia, and Eddie Bauer to add comfort and keep you warm and dry in our PNW weather this winter. Browse the latest and greatest selection of new scents in soaps, lotions, candles, and more at Bath & Body Works. Also find great accessories from Coach, Kay Jewelers, and Claire's to add the perfect finishing touches and layers to any outfit. The Centralia Outlets have you covered head to toe!

With such great prices on the brand names you want and an ever-changing selection, don't miss out.



When the Outlets have a sale, it's REALLY a SALE! Visit [centraliaoutlets.com](http://centraliaoutlets.com) for more store information, and follow social media for in-store sales and updates.

### Health and Hope is Pivotal!

The Health and Hope Free Medical Clinic in Centralia stands as a source of compassion and healing for the uninsured residents of Lewis County. Open every Tuesday evening from 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm, this clinic is a lifeline for those who may otherwise go without essential medical care.

What sets the clinic apart is its commitment to providing holistic care that goes beyond addressing immediate health concerns. With a focus on the uninsured and low-income residents, the dedicated team of healthcare professionals at Health and Hope not only treats physical ailments but also addresses the broader well-being of each patient.

The clinic's welcoming atmosphere and volunteer-driven approach create a supportive environment where individuals in need can access essential medical services with dignity and respect.

In a community where healthcare access is often a challenge for the uninsured, the Health and Hope Free Medical Clinic plays a pivotal role in promoting health equity and fostering a sense of hope for those who rely on its services. You can find more information on our website; [www.hhmo.org](http://www.hhmo.org) or search for us on Facebook. Volunteer opportunities are available and board member positions are open as well.

### The Lewis County Tennis Association

The Lewis County Tennis Association is eagerly anticipating the construction of its new Regional Indoor Tennis & Wrestling Facility set to be completed in October 2024. This ambitious project represents a significant milestone for the local tennis community, providing a year-round space for enthusiasts to hone their skills and fostering a vibrant tennis culture in the region. A dedicated fundraising campaign has been launched, with an impressive \$2.2 million of our \$2.8 million goal already pledged by generous supporters, including a state appropriation of \$875,000.

In order to maintain our completion date goal, the association is actively encouraging additional contributions from individuals, businesses, and organizations passionate about promoting tennis and fostering a healthy, active lifestyle in Lewis County. Every donation brings the community one step closer to realizing the full potential of this indoor tennis & wrestling facility, creating a lasting legacy for generations to come. Together, the Lewis County Tennis Association, the Chehalis Foundation, Chehalis & Centralia school districts, and the United States Tennis Association are working towards a shared vision of a thriving tennis community with a facility that will serve as a hub for skill development, competition, and camaraderie in tennis, as well as a designated practice space for junior high wrestling.

If you would like to be a part of this project, visit our website; [www.lewiscountytennis.com](http://www.lewiscountytennis.com) or [www.chehalisfoundation.org](http://www.chehalisfoundation.org) to make a donation. All donations made through the end of the year will be doubled by a generous matching contribution!

## PRO TECH PAINTING

### Choosing the Right Room Colors When Decorating Your Home

When you set out to paint the rooms in your house and need to choose the best room colors, you should begin by determining what type of mood or setting you are looking to create. Then, take the time to find the color that matches your every decision.

Remember, when painting your rooms, or if you're hiring a professional interior painter, you want to avoid a hectic look and create a relaxing atmosphere, so be sure to limit the number of colors you use in any one specific room. In today's fast-paced world, stress can easily creep up on every one of us. Stress has a very negative effect on people and should be managed properly. A common way to help keep stress levels down and under control is by choosing the most calming colors for your home, especially the rooms you frequent. What most people are unaware of is that the right colors can help reduce anxiety and depression. The psychology of colors confirms

that colors can have a definite effect on people's moods and feelings. There are a lot of calming colors that can help to reduce feelings of depression, anxiety, and stress. Look at these colors that help to reduce stress, depression, and anxiety.

White, Blue, Purple, Green, Yellow, Orange, Tan, Gray.


To schedule your free, personal interior or cabinet painting quote: Pro Tech Painting 360-643-9773

### Don't Shoot Your Eye Out!

This is a memorable movie phrase most of us have heard in reference to the infamous Red Rider BB gun. But, this is an injury the doctors at Rainier Eye rarely see. Most commonly, patients call or stop in due to small particles stuck in the eye. Pieces of metal, sawdust, and debris can cause surprising amounts of pain. While our clinic policy is to fit you in as soon as possible, we'd rather spare you the pain! Which brings us to a new offering in our optical...

We now have an array of safety eyewear which can be made with prescription, even with bifocals or progressives. Most styles feature sideshields and some even have a foam liner which blocks dust and very fine debris from drifting onto your eyelids and into your tears. Pentax and Wiley X offer styles for men and women, ranging from subtle to sporty. The lenses can have the ANSI standard drop-ball test to prove their shatterproof quality. We will work with your employer if they have a voucher or health savings program.

If you work (or play) in a situation where you need safety eyewear, come stop by and see us!



### Recycle Christmas Trees and Holiday Lights

Have you ever wondered what to do with Christmas trees and broken holiday lights at the end of the season? You can reduce

the impact on your local landfill by having them recycled! Bring your trees and lights to the Lewis County Transfer station in Centralia December 26th - January 7th, 10am-4pm. Be sure that all decorations and tinsel have been removed from the trees. Trees can also be brought to the East Lewis County Transfer station in Morton. Sensitive Document Shredding will also be available at the Lewis County Transfer station in Centralia January 6th from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. No flocked or artificial trees will be accepted. You may dispose of flocked, artificial or decorated trees at the transfer station where regular fees will be charged (\$15 minimum for 280 pounds or less). Wreaths must be free of ribbon, wire and decorations. No trees or wreaths from commercial operations will be accepted. Donations gladly accepted to support WSU Lewis County Master Composter and Master Gardener programs. For more information, contact Jason Adams, Program Coordinator, WSU Lewis County Gardeners at 360-740-1216 or [Jason.Adams@lewiscountywa.gov](mailto:Jason.Adams@lewiscountywa.gov)

### It Is a Great Time To Sell With Paula Burrows Team!

The Paula Burrows Team brokered by eXp Realty is a full-service real estate team led by managing broker, Paula Burrows. Our team of expert agents are committed to your real estate goals and we enjoy being a valuable part of our local communities!

Lewis County Residential Only Stats for November 2023:


Total Sold - 93 homes!

Average Sales Price - \$414,254

Percent of List Price Received - 97.0%

The numbers above show that it is still a great time to buy and sell in our area!! Call (360) 520-4810 or visit [www.pbthomes.com](http://www.pbthomes.com) with any questions regarding these stats, real estate interest, and your home's value!

(All data from Northwest Multiple Listing Service)



Brokered by eXp Realty

### New Format for The Monthly Chamber Forum!

Starting in January, the monthly Chamber Forum is now a morning event with networking at 7:30 am and the program starting at 8. The event takes place at The Station in Centralia, offering a more casual experience. The program is designed to give Chamber members time to share their own news and includes a ten-minute slot for a featured member to provide a mini presentation before the monthly speaker.

Those who want to purchase coffee or a morning snack are encouraged to arrive at 7:30. "This also gives people time to network with each other," added Executive Director Cynthia Mudge.

The Forum is open to anyone and is a great way to meet other business owners

and leaders, hear what's new in the community, and to promote their events and programs.

The Chamber is especially grateful to O'Blarney's at the Gibson House for serving as the central location for many years. "We will continue to host special programs there, such as political debates," added Mudge.

The Station, operated by LC Coffee Company, has newly renovated its space and its offerings. This location is warm and inviting. The new format for food service means there is no longer a required beverage fee.

The Chamber is seeking speakers for its Forums and encourages those interested to contact Mudge at 360-748-

8885 or email her at [director@chamberway.com](mailto:director@chamberway.com).

The Forum meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month. Mark your calendars for the following dates!

7:30 am • The Station  
120 S. Tower, Centralia

- January 11
- February 8
- March 14
- April 11
- May 9
- June 13
- July 11
- August 8
- September 12 – NOON – Annual Member BBQ – Dick's Brewing
- October 10
- November 14

- December – Happy Holidays! No Forum. See you at the Business After Hours!

**BAH! BUT NOT HUMBUG! Business After Hours 2024**

The 2024 Business After Hours (BAH) is another Chamber program that not only offers a great opportunity to meet other members, but it also allows BAH sponsors to showcase their facility and services in a very personal way. As with The Forum, attendance is open to the public.

**BAH 2024 Schedule 3rd Thursday of each month 5 – 7 pm**

- January: BAH replaced by Chamber Annual Banquet (Friday, January 19)

- February 15: The Refined Man
- March 21: Centralia School District
- April: Dick's Brewing 30th Anniversary
- May: The Boys and Girls Club
- June 20: Althausen, Rayan, Abbarno
- July 19 (Friday): Visiting Nurses Golf Tournament
- August 15: Open
- September 19: ToledoTel
- October 17: Chehalis School District
- November 21: Annual Turkey Bowl!
- December 19: Annual Ugly Sweater Contest!

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