

FRIDAY WITH *Friends*

MEETING NOTES

Experience Chehalis

February 10, 2023 | 8:30 a.m.

Attendees: Brian Wilkins, Annalee Tobey, David James, Susan Delaire, Lindsey Senter, Brandon Rakes, Jill Anderson, Tony Ketchum, Kate McDougall, Cynthia Mudge, Jessica Kinney, Michael Ervin

Chehalis Airport Update – Brandon Rakes

Glint Car Wash is now open! The Chamber hosted a ribbon cutting earlier in the week. In addition to the car wash they also offer free vacuums. Interstate Honda is underway and plans to open in this spring at their new location going up next to I-5 Toyota. Eight new Tesla superchargers have been installed next to Home Depot and are now available for use. The city is very close to signing a lease for a new fast, casual restaurant to be located in airport leased land.

The airport is currently selecting a consultant to lead an update to the Airport Master Plan which is an FAA required document. This will include details similar to a strategic plan for the airport. The planning process will take 12-18 months to complete and will incorporate considerations for advanced air mobility. If anyone is interested in being a part of the process, please reach out to Brandon.

The airport is excited to welcome Cassie Frazier as their new administrative assistant.

Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce Update – Cynthia Mudge

A ribbon cutting was just held at Glint Car Wash this week. Several more ribbon cuttings will be hosting soon at Adorne, Centerville Café, and Hearing and Balance. You do not need to be a member to have a ribbon cutting. February's Business After Hours event will be at Mint City Coffee Roasting. Our legislative representatives Peter Abbarno, Ed Orcutt and John Braun are holding Legislative updates on Zoom at 7:30 AM on the fourth Thursday throughout session. This is a members-only event. Please reach out to Cynthia for the link.

There are several events planned this spring. The Chamber is bringing back the Home and Garden Show which will be on April 14-15 at the Fairground's Blue Pavilion. The Chamber is hosting microbyte learning sessions for members to learn new business skills. They are also planning a new 3 on 3 Streetball Festival in Chehalis and a Trails & Rails 5K Fun Run this summer.

Milers and McFilers Chehalis Theater – Tim Filer

The Theater is now open for fine dining on Thursday, Friday, and Saturdays. Reservations can be made at oftending.com. They will be opening the mezzanine area for small bites and cocktails in the coming weeks. The screen is being used to show big band music during meals. Congrats to Tim and his incredible team! Tim is very appreciative of the work Experience Chehalis is doing to make downtown more vibrant. He is currently working on soundproofing the back door of the theater to help resolve noise complaints made.

Next, they will work on restoration of the Hub in Centralia preparing it for an opening as well. Tim is also looking to open a sober driving service to get people back and forth from Centralia and Chehalis.

Committee Reports:

Promotion Committee - David James

- Creating a marketing calendar for the Year
- Revised the Chehalis brochure
- Ordering postcards
- Revising walking tour guide
- Planning 2023 ChehalisFest

Executive Director Update – Annalee Tobey

- Thanked new outreach coordinator Jessica Kinney for her tremendous help and support of our program.
- FAQ Guide on Safety and Security has been produced and handed out to downtown businesses.
- Ladies Night is coming up March 11th organized by Gemini Events.
- It's B&O tax season and Experience Chehalis is looking for businesses interested in supporting the program and receiving a tax credit in return.
- We have launched Thursday morning 8:30AM-10:00AM, Catching Up Over Coffee. March meet-ups will be at Stout Coffeehouse.
- Experience Chehalis will be moving our office. Buzzard O'Rourke needs the office space so we are looking for new space.

Good of the Order

Michael Ervin - Columbia Bank

- March 1st Columbia Bank and Umpqua Bank will be officially merged. Consolidation at the Chehalis office will be happening at the end of the year. They plan to consolidate in to the Columbia Bank location as Columbia Bank owns the building. The branch will be considered a "super branch" in the bank system and therefore very unlikely to close.