

FRIDAY WITH *Friends*

MEETING NOTES

Experience Chehalis

July 14, 2023 | 8:30 a.m.

Attendees: Jill Anderson, Elijah White, Cynthia Mudge, Brandon Rakes, David James, Annalee Tobey, Jackie Vance, Nicole Miller, Chelsea Barr, Tony Ketchum, Terry Harris, Michael Ervin, Kate McDougall, Susan Delaire

Young Professionals – Chelsea Barr & Nicole Miller

- The Lewis County Young Professionals has relaunched post covid.
- Their kick-off event took place at the Juice Box in Centralia with over 50 attendees.
- The group is working to expand their reach all over the county and into new industries and increase mentorship.
- They are working with Centralia College to build relationships.

Committee Reports

Promotion Committee - David James

- Updating website to continue increasing traffic. This includes new content including a new section about Recreation Park Complex. Website traffic is continually increasing.
- Updated brochures were printed and are being distributed again this summer.
- Chehalis postcards are now available for wholesale to local businesses.
- ChehalisFest planning is going very well. This year's scavenger hunt will include deals from local businesses.

Economic Vitality Committee – Annalee Tobey

- We have welcomed many new businesses downtown and we currently have 4 - 5 grants in process.
- New businesses include town include Be-You-Tiful Boutique, Nature Nurture Farmacy, and coming soon is The Quincy and Cooper's Corner.
- New small micro-event grant is being created and will launch this fall.

Design Committee – Annalee Tobey

- Working on wrapping the dumpsters on Pacific Avenues with designs to clean up the look of the street.
- Discover Lewis County mural planned for the former Star Tavern building is being resized and will be produced as an adhesive backed graphic.

Outreach Committee – Annalee Tobey

- Angela French is the new committee chair and will be leading the committee in building a stronger relationship with our local businesses

Good of the Order

Jacky Vance, Lewis County Dignity Guild

- The organization hosts monthly events
- Monthly solidarity acts to bolster the community
- They have a new location in the former Dandelion Creative Space building and are interested in the facade grant program.
- They are funded through a grant from Group Health for three years.

Cynthia Mudge, Chamber of Commerce

- In preparations for STP. Ridership is down this year.
 - Upcoming Ribbon cuttings will be held at The Garage Salon and Spa, Zap Matcher Electrology, Rainier Eye, and Chehalis Pharmacy
- Upcoming in August is the 3 on 3 Streetball Tournament.

Brandon Rakes, Chehalis-Centralia Airport

- Young Eagles flew over 400 kids this summer. Five pilots flew children this year.
- Kids receive benefits in addition to the flight including free ground school and entry to aviation museums
- Brandon thanked Experience Chehalis for promoting the program.