

# FRIDAY WITH *Friends*

## MEETING NOTES

### **Experience Chehalis**

**June 9, 2023 | 8:30 a.m.**

Attendees: Brandon Rakes, David James, Annalee Tobey, Susan Delaire, Joanne Schwartz, Chris Demus, Terry Harris, Jill Anderson, Chip Duncan, Jessica Kinney, Michael Ervin, Brian Wilkins, Rollin Caryl, Tony Ketchum

Chip Duncan, Veterans Memorial Museum

- Veterans Journey Forward, Nation Org
- Hosting a resource fair with about eight vendors every other month
- New Service Officer is doing a great job making relationships.
- Plan to develop a disc golf team to support mental health
- The program is designed to be county-wide as the service officer also visits Lewis County.
- Funding for the service office is currently coming from Lewis County, and the rest comes from the Museum

Rollin Caryl, Lewis County Gospel Mission

- Roland served in law enforcement prior to becoming involved in supporting those experiencing homelessness.
- Roland joined the LC Gospel Mission on April 10.
- They are implementing changes and overcoming stereotypes that enable vs support. This includes establishing a drug free zone around the mission.
- Taking a look at additional facilities to offer offices for service providers.
- The local mission has its own Board and the organization is part of a larger organization called "City Gate." They have no official religious affiliation.

Joanne Schwartz, Chehalis-Centralia Railroad & Museum

- Are not currently operating due to their lack of insurance, but are working hard to remedy the issue.
- Waiting for FEMA funding to reimburse repair work that happened during last year's January flood. The projects have taken place and vendors have been paid but they are waiting for reimbursement to the organization.
- They hope to be partnering with Mt. Rainier Scenic Railroad. Mt. Rainier Scenic would run their trains on the CCRM track.
- They are planning to replace their current rental mobile office space to save money.

- A committee has been formed to monitor the continued work needed on the steam engine #15.

The United Way of Lewis County Golf Tournament is next Friday at Newaukum Golf Course. Country Cousins will be catering the event and there will be a raffle as well.

Remember that coffee is 8:30am to 10:00am every Thursday. This month we are meeting at Mint City.

#### Director's Report – Annalee Tobey

- A new women's boutique, Be-You-Tiful Boutique has opened downtown in the former Fechtner Building. Business owners are expanding a web-based business to a physical storefront.
- A new business will be opening in the former Flood Valley location on Chehalis Avenue called Cooper's Corner. It will be a family friendly pub.
- Downtown flower sponsorships are currently available at \$50 each. Plants are purchased through Kaija's Garden & Pet and planted/maintained by city staff.
- Main Street Week is next week. An awareness campaign will share information about our organization.
- We have welcomed Angela French and Jen Kinsman as new Experience Chehalis board members.

#### Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce – Chris Demus

- A job fair will be held at the former Dress Barn location at the Centralia Outlets from 4-6pm. 26 employers will be participating.
- The 3 on 3 basketball tournament is coming up Aug 5-6. They are hoping for 60 teams. Sponsorships are available. More information is available online at [chamberway.com](http://chamberway.com)