

FRIDAY WITH *Friends*

MEETING NOTES

Experience Chehalis

October 13, 2023 | 8:30 a.m.

Attendees: Chip Duncan, Jenny Zenkner, Laura Six, David James, Brian Wilkins, Jill Anderson, Bill Deutscher, Kiera Pennington, Joy Templeton, Jessica Kinney, Kate McDougall, Brandon Rakes, Susan Delaire, Lindsey Senter, Ashley Stotts, Brian Bundridge

Blue Zones Activate - Shawna Herriford

A Blue Zone is an area where populations have a high percentage of people living past 100 years old. Lewis County is part of a new Blue Zones Activate area and the program will focus on improving quality of life and life longevity in our area. Projects will focus on food systems and built environment projects. The project timeline is three years and is funded by CHOICE Healthcare.

There was a food system summit yesterday for community stakeholders to discuss food issues in our community. Find more information at Activate Lewis County's Facebook page.

Kiddin' Around - Laura Six

Kiddin' Around is a local non-profit that produces events for kids. For the second year they will be hosting Washington Business Week, December 11-14. They are looking for volunteers to be company advisor for kids who attend, as well as judges for the last day of the event.

Chehalis Farmers Market - Jessica Kinney

There are three markets left in the season this year. The last market is on Halloween. The Farmer's Market Dinner and Auction will be held at Chehalis McFilers Theater.

Experience Chehalis is working to host a market booth during the Chamber's Trick or Treat Transit event. Also, we are producing our first Holiday Coupon book, 25 coupons for local businesses. They will be available starting Ladies Night and are good through December 24.

Gemini Events/Ladies Night – Ashley Stotts

Vendors during Ladies Night will be at The Vintage WA Hotel and at the Loft. Vendors are all local and don't overlap with local businesses. Champaign bars will be at both locations. The event is November 11, 3-8 pm and free to attend. The proceeds of the champagne bar will go to the Veterans Museum and Experience Chehalis.

For the Good of the Order

- Bill Deutscher – Chehalis-Centralis Railroad

Bill introduced Brian from Goose Lake Railway who will be doing operations for The Polar Express. The CCRM is looking for actors and conductors. They have already sold 1,293 tickets.

- Chip Duncan - Veterans Memorial Museum

The VMM will host Trunks with Treats on Sunday, October 29. They currently have 1400 lbs of candy and need 600 lbs more to have enough to provide the kids. There will be a haunted gallery and coffee for adults. This event is a partnership with Gemini Events. If you would like to hand out candy, contact Chip/

The VMM will host a Veterans Day Program and is partnering with UNFI to do a 5k. The Baptist Church is doing a free lunch.

They VMM is also working with Tabitha Hopp to start an equine therapy program in Lewis County

Economic Vitality - Laura Six

Experience Chehalis has launched a small event micro-grant that offers funds reimbursed 75% up to \$500 for hosting small events. Payroll can be reimbursed; alcohol is not reimbursable.

Executive Director – Annalee Tobey

Laura, Eric, Jessica and she attended the RevitalizeWA Main Street conference at the beginning of the month. They attended some great sessions including a couple with information on downtown revitalization efforts that was very informative as Chehalis begins planning for a downtown Chehalis renovation project.

Jill Anderson on behalf of Cynthia Chehalis-Centralia Chamber

The theme for the Santa Parade this year is Aloha Christmas and the Grand Marshal is Terry Harris!