

FRIDAY WITH *Friends*

MEETING NOTES

Experience Chehalis

July 12, 2024 | 8:30 a.m.

Attendees: David James, Annalee Tobey, Brian Wilkins, Michael Ervin, Kate McDougall, Chelsea Barr, Tony Ketchum, Bill Deutscher, Tony Baker, Shawna Herriford, Brandon Rakes, Jeff Robertson, Chip Duncan, Stacy Denham, Cynthia Mudge, Susan Delaire, Fionna Velasquez

Partner Updates

Chelsea Barr & Fionna Velasquez – Lewis County Young Professionals

LCYP has now held thirteen successful monthly meetings. They meet throughout the county to ensure young professionals across the county can attend. They are partnering with Centralia College's TRIO program to hold workshops on the campus. They have 123 people currently on their distribution list. They are working on a mentorship program for the young professionals and also have an open call for individuals interested in becoming board members.

Brandon Rakes – Chehalis-Centralia Airport

The Airport puts a priority on community outreach and education.

- Engagement with youth and families is essential. The City of Chehalis continues to work towards a next gen airport utilizing new technologies in aviation.
- Outreach entities the airport works with includes
 - Experimental Aircraft Association - Young Eagles Program
 - Civil Air Patrol - civilian branch of the Air Force
 - Blue Skies Drones - remote control aircraft operators are aviators
 - AOPA - high school program based around aviation
 - Warrior Aviation – a new flight school establishing at the airport with a Veteran focus. They are buying a hanger to have offices and space
 - Local high schools - all area schools are will be approached to be involved
- Master Plan project is concluding. Adding a solar operation to add panels and storage to help make the airport and community resilient. Hydrogen and electric are both going to be large parts of the aero industry future. Hydrogen is not an energy producer, but an energy storage technology. The airport has received a site readiness grant for \$250,000 for solar feasibility study and drainage design. Additional scope of \$100,000 was awarded in addition.
- Commercial Development
 - Panda Express is under construction and should be open by the end of the year.

- Discount Tire will be locating next to Home Depot.
- The future is bright! Washington State is a huge player in aerospace technology. The primary driver of airport expansion will include advanced air mobility with shorter range but could allow people to commute farther less often.

Annalee Tobey – Executive Director report

- ChehalisFest is coming up July 27th and the first Chehalis Cruise will be the evening before on July 26th.
- Cooper's Corner is now open on Chehalis Avenue in the former Flood Valley Brewing location. They are family friendly. Try their burgers and mac and cheese!
- Sotheby's international Real Estate is now open in downtown Chehalis next to Nature Nurture Pharmacy.
- The Chehalis Foundation has also relocated downtown as well.
- We received great support for flower sponsorships this year. Thank you to all sponsors for summer and spring beautification.
- Chehalis and Centralia will host Washington Main Street July 29-31.
- Imagine Downtown Chehalis project is progressing! The first survey is complete and HBB design firm is reviewing the responses and beginning initial design concepts to share with the community during their next visit in August. August 13th they will present their initial designs at Chehalis Coworks and at the Farmers Market. That evening there will be an open house for the public at Stout Coffee House. Find out more information on the project at imagine.experiencechehalis.com.
- The latest mural project to be completed at the Chehalis Timberland Library has been awarded to local artist Susan Clark.

Good of the Order

- Tony Baker - Had a break in at his used car lot location creating serious concerns for his business. He is looking for help and guidance. Annalee will follow up with resources for him to pursue.
- Stacy Denham announced the sidewalk sweeper is being put back into use downtown.