

OUR MISSION:

- Preserving the competitive free enterprise system of business.
- Promoting business and community growth and development.



Gene Weaver

NOTE from the PRESIDENT

GMRCC THRIVES

As we close out 2013 and greet the New Year, it's exciting to contemplate the progress and changes our Chamber is experiencing!

Thanks to a great group of enthusiastic volunteers, we fairly sizzle with growth and projects.

Our membership has doubled over the last year, the new Chamber office and information center is operational. We have several committees and individuals working on County regulation issues, and most important, we are having "FUN" as we serve!

Thanks to all who are so supportive with your time and enthusiasm as we spring forward into 2014 to promote and encourage business in our area!

Gene

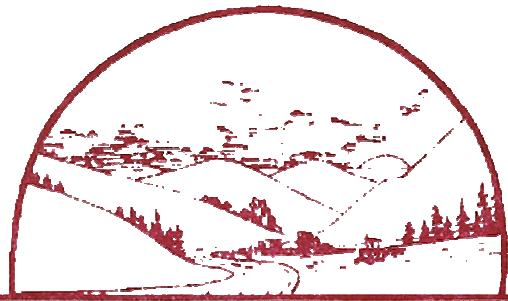
New Chamber Office

The Grand Mound-Rochester Chamber of Commerce now has a home!

We are located in the Dream Weavers Real Estate Office at 9917 U.S. 12 in downtown Rochester. Contact information for member business and general Chamber information is available.

BOARD MEMBERS...

- Gene Weaver, President
- Jane Meckle, Vice President
- Nancy Wallin, Secretary
- Shaun Baker, Treasurer
- Dick Bailey, Member-at-large
- LaVon Bailey, Member-at-large
- Kim Fry, Member-at-large
- Amy Howlett, Member-at-large
- Bill Liddle, Member-at-large
- Bill Zimmerman, Member-at-large



GRAND MOUND • ROCHESTER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Together We can make a difference

FEATURE BUSINESS

Law Offices of Laurel Smith, P.S.

Laurel Smith has practiced law in Rochester since 1978. Ross Petersen joined the firm in 2012. They provide depth of experience and personalized attention.

Laurel's practice emphasizes representing injured workers and personal injury, estate planning and probate, landlord tenant law and general civil litigation.

Ross Petersen, an Olympia native, retired this year from the U.S. Naval Reserve after 24 years of service, including active duty in Iraq and a combat tour with the Marines in Afghanistan. He has a certificate from Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts. He is completing training in mediation. He practices in the area of bankruptcy, family law and real estate. He has a farm in Boistfort.

The law firm has devoted much time to pro bono service for individuals and non profits. The entire staff won the Thurston County Pro Bono Award in 2007. Laurel was recognized as Thurston County Attorney of the Year with the Daniel Bigelow Award in 2013, for professionalism and public service. Laurel won the Washington State Trial Lawyers Alvin Anderson Award for Public Service in 2004, and the American Bar Association Family Law Pro Bono Award in 2001.

Laurel came to Rochester because of the rural lifestyle and for love. (her not-yet husband lived here.)



Laurel Smith
& Staff



Law Offices of
Laurel Smith, P.S.

CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP

Joining the Chamber is easy and affordable! The annual membership fee is \$60.00. To sign up, mail your name, name of business, mailing address, phone, and e-mail address along with your payment to:

Grand Mound Rochester
Chamber of Commerce
PO Box 211, Rochester, WA 98579

- 184th Avenue Apartments
- Advanced Drilling
- Americool Heating and A/C
- **Ames Commercial Cleaning Services Inc.***
- Asphalt-Tech
- Bailey's IGA
- Bailey's Northwest Property Management
- Boys & Girls Club
- Brian Riley Insurance
- Chettie's Woodworking, LLC
- Chris Miller Bookkeeping
- CindiWhiting - Edward Jones Investments
- Cram-A-Lot Self-Storage

- Dream Weavers, Inc.
- Edminister Construction
- First Choice Self Storage
- Gate Community Club
- **Gate Ranch Golf Club***
- Grand Mound Beverages
- Grand Mound Licensing
- Hall Crystal Flutes
- **Hawes Gutters***
- Hexen Glass Studio
- Hinkle Homes, Inc.
- James L. Prato Insurance
- Jay's Fruit Stand
- JJ's Towing
- J M Soil & Screening

- JMJ Services Inc.
- JNL Stoves
- Junction Sports Bar & Grill
- Kay Crookshanks Investment Advisor
- KDH Business Services, LLC
- Key Bank
- Law Office of Laurel Smith
- Lucky Eagle Casino
- Mariachi Mexican Restaurant
- Milman Engineering
- Morgan Family Dental
- NAPA Auto Parts
- Outback RV Park
- Photography by Robin
- Port of Olympia
- **PRC Maintenance and Construction***
- Rochester Lumber
- Rochester School District
- Rochester Sun News
- Rochester United Methodist Church
- ROOF Community Services
- Scatter Creek Animal Clinic

- Security State Bank
 - Stephen Angove, CPA
 - Sterling Bank
 - Sto N Go Storage
 - Thurston County Auditor
 - Timberland Regional Library
 - Town Center Dental
 - Truepoint Metal Works & Welding
 - VJ's Bargain Barn
 - Weaver Investments
 - **Wilson Auto Parts (NAPA)***
- * New Members since last newsletter!

There's room on this list for your business!

Not sure if the Chamber is for you?

Decide after you join us for a lunch meeting.

Successful Business

SPECIAL Article

Top Ten reasons to buy local

Buy Local: Support yourself: Several studies have shown that when you buy from an independent, locally owned business, rather than a nationally owned business, significantly more of your money is used to make purchases from other local businesses, service providers and farms -- continuing to strengthen the economic base of the community.

Support community groups: Non-profit organizations receive an average 250% more support from smaller business owners than they do from large businesses.

Keep our community unique: Where we shop, where we eat and have fun -- all of it makes our community home. Our one-of-a-kind businesses are an integral part of the distinctive character of this place.

Reduce environmental impact: Locally owned businesses can make more local purchases requiring less transportation and generally set up shop in town or city centers as opposed to developing on the fringe. This generally means contributing less to sprawl, congestion, habitat loss and pollution.

Create more good jobs: Small local businesses are the largest employer nationally and in our community, providing the most jobs to residents. **(To be continued next issue)**

December Meeting Recap

Our December meeting had a festive tone thanks to an amazing holiday luncheon graciously provided by **Lucky Eagle Casino**. The meeting's agenda included the election of three board members. The Chamber has a nine person governing board, with each person serving a term of three years.

We welcome our new board members: **Shawna Bruce, Ron Grant and Gene Weaver**, and thank outgoing board members: **Nancy Wallin and Jane Meckle**.

Rounding out the meeting was a brief presentation by **Olympia Port Commissioner, Jeff Davis**. Jeff reiterated the port's commitment to supporting South Thurston County's economic development.

WHAT IS A CHAMBER OF COMMERCE?

The Grand Mound Rochester Chamber of Commerce is a voluntary organization that connects businesses in order to build a better community.

The major responsibility of a Chamber of Commerce is to enhance the community's economic well-being by facilitating the growth of existing businesses and fostering new ones. Our Chamber of Commerce works to ensure the Grand Mound Rochester area has a voice in county and state issues impacting businesses, and supports community events and service organizations.

PLACE
POSTAGE
HERE



PO Box 211, Rochester, WA 98579

Meetings are held at noon on the 1st Wednesday of each month. Lunch \$10

- **Jan. 8—Chamber Lunch Meeting at Rochester School District Office. Speaker: Thurston County Commissioner, Karen Valenzuela,**
- **Feb. 5 - Chamber Lunch Meeting at Rochester School District Office. Speaker: Local Social Agencies reports**