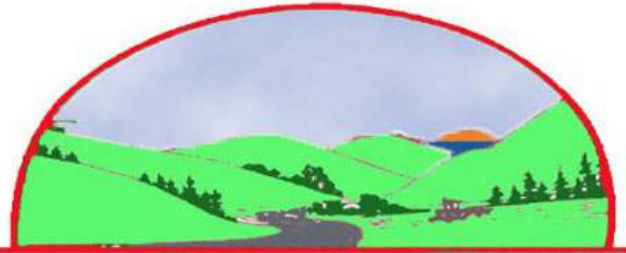


OUR MISSION:

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



**Grand Mound - Rochester
Chamber of Commerce**

9917 Hwy 12 SW, Rochester

Together We can make a difference



Gene Weaver

NOTE From the PRESIDENT

PROGRESS ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

One of our major frustrations over the years has been the lack of an incorporated town government. Being an unincorporated town center in the extreme SW corner of Thurston County has often left us with little or no input or control over our local governmental affairs.

We now have the possible opportunity to improve this situation if we can agree on a path forward. As some are aware, our Chamber of Commerce and the Grand Mound Rochester Citizen's Group sent individuals to the Neighborhood Development Training Conference in Seattle. This training is producing some good ideas and motivation for moving forward with projects to improve our area.

I would suggest in the short term, to work on renewing an agreement with our newly elected County Commissioners to recognize our existing non-profit coalition as a quasi-Town Council, authorized to represent our local citizens. Long term, I propose that we once again look into the possibility of incorporating Rochester as a means to achieve our own Governing Body, and obtain long term control of our local affairs. Incorporation may not be a viable option, but is a reoccurring question asked by many people.

Let's talk and plan together.

Gene

FEATURE BUSINESS

South County Licensing

South County Licensing opened on October 3rd in 2016. They are located at 19949 Old Hwy 99 and are open Monday - Friday 9:00-5:30 and Saturday 9:00-1:30.

Denise Oster and Diana Schlenz are the owners of the business and Maria Rivera is the Manager. Their primary business is vehicle and vessel titling and licensing, they also offer notary services and private mail box rentals. Denise and Diana opened the business after it had been closed for 6 months following the death of longtime owner Diane Estes.

Denise began her licensing career in 1980 with her family business in Lacey. Diana joined the family licensing business in 2001 and Maria came from the Department of Licensing. "We have a passion for the licensing business and resolving difficult transactions." What sets them apart from other similar businesses? "Friendly, fast and accommodating service."

They like operating a business in this community because, "we appreciate the kindness and approachability of the community. We see folks in other stores and recognize them as our customers. We will be here for a very longtime."



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 LLC
- Amazing Reiki SPA. LLC
- Americool Heating and A/C
- Asphalt-Tech
- Auto Tech Services
- Bailey's IGA
- Bailey's Northwest Property Management
- Boys & Girls Club
- Brian Riley Insurance
- Cathy Fullerton*
- Chettie's Woodworking, LLC
- Cram-A-Lot Self Storage
- Cindi Whiting - Edward Jones Investments
- Dream Weavers, Inc.
- Edminster Construction
- Enterprise For Equity
- First Choice Storage
- Furniture Maker & Flea Market
- Gate Ranch Golf Club
- Gate City Schoolhouse
- German Cleaning Services
- Grand Mound Beverages
- Grand Mound Shell
- Halls Crystal Flutes
- Hawes Aluminum
- Halpern & Associates
- Hexen Glass Studio
- James L. Prato Insurance
- JJ's Towing
- JNL Stoves & Spas
- JMJ Services Inc.
- Johnson & Johnson Overhead Doors, Inc.
- Key Bank
- Laurel Smith , PS
- Lucky Eagle Casino
- Mariachi
- Methodist Church
- Morgan Family Dental
- Outback RV Park
- Photography by Robin
- Port of Olympia
- PRC Maintenance & Const.
- Rochester Lumber Inc.
- Rochester School District
- Rochester Sun News, Devaul Publishing
- Rochester Water Association
- ROOF Community Services
- Sandstone Distillery
- Scatter Creek Animal Clinic
- Security State Bank

- Seventh Generation Charters
- Sharer Tools
- South County Accounting
- South County Licensing
- Stephen Angove, CPA
- Stevie Canaday*
- Sto N Go Storage
- Stone Soup Ministries
- The Feed Bin
- Town Center Dental
- Timberland Regional Library
- Truepoint Metal Works
- Umpqua Bank
- VJ's Bargain Barn
- Weaver Investments

* 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 Tips Together we can all R.E.A.C.H. our goals!

Every business owner is faced with the challenge of finding and hiring employees that are as committed as you are to the overall success of your business. Especially, when it comes to entry level positions comprised of low skill and time consuming jobs. The Rochester Employment and Career Heroes (R.E.A.C.H.) program, based out of Rochester High School, can help you overcome that challenge by providing a dedicated volunteer workforce focused on growing workability skills for adult students with special needs.

On March 1st, R.E.A.C.H faculty and students had the wonderful opportunity to join the members of the Grand Mound/ Rochester Chamber of Commerce during their monthly meeting. Their **call to action** was for local businesses to open their doors to the R.E.A.C.H. program to let them help business owners complete time consuming, low skill tasks, while providing our students with the opportunity to gain valuable workability skills. R.E.A.C.H. students currently volunteer on a weekly basis with Visiting Nurses Thrift Store, Alpha Pet Supply, Rochester High School Athletic Department Laundry Services and the First Student Rochester Bus Barn. The program provides necessary supports for each student to ensure that the partnership between R.E.A.C.H. and the employer is beneficial for both the business and student. They would love to hear from you and will help you determine if your business is a good fit for the R.E.A.C.H. program. Contact them at (360) 273-5534 or email at reach@rochester.wednet.edu.

What your Board of Directors has been doing!

Your Board of Directors has decided to publish the minutes of their meetings and each month's Treasurer's Report on the Grand Mound Rochester Chamber of Commerce website at: <http://grandmoundrochesterchamber.com/minutes/> They will be in PDF File format and you will need the Adobe Reader (Your computer should have Adobe Reader installed on it but if it doesn't you can download a free version at: <https://get.adobe.com/reader/?promoid=KSNEY>)

The meeting minutes will be posted after the following month's meeting to allow the Board to approve them

Upcoming

Meetings:

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

- **June 7 - Chamber Lunch Meeting at Rochester School District Office. No information at this time.**
- **July 5 - Chamber Lunch Meeting at Rochester School District Office. No information at this time.**



PO Box 211, Rochester, WA 98579

PLACE
POSTAGE
HERE

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.

Upcoming
Meetings: