

OUR MISSION:

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



**GRAND MOUND • ROCHESTER
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

Together We can make a difference

FEATURE BUSINESS

Bill Liddle

Full-time Volunteer

Bill Liddle retired in 1987 after a 36 year career with the Federal Highway Administration. He spent the next five years working as a Quality Assurance consultant for McCall Oil Company in Portland, Oregon and another five years in his own Quality Assurance practice.

He and his wife Norma moved from Vancouver, Washington to Rochester in 1999 and have really enjoyed living in this great community. Bill and Norma are both native Washingtonians. Norma from the Aberdeen area and Bill from several eastern Washington towns. He is also a certified descendant of Washington State pioneer families. The grand parents of both his mother and father had settled in Washington Territory prior to 11 November 1889 when Washington State was created.

Bill began volunteering with the local Weed and Seed effort. That was the start of his now full-time volunteer endeavors with several other Rochester organizations. They include the Grand Mound Rochester Chamber, the Grand Mound Rochester Citizen's Group (Swede Hall), the Grand Mound Rochester Park Association, the Rochester Grand Mound Horizons and the Rochester Library.

Volunteering for these local organizations has led to his acquiring many new skills. Learning to build and maintain the Rochester-wa.com website was his first new skill and is still being used to develop and maintain the Chamber website. Learning to use the Microsoft Publisher program to create the Weed and Seed newsletter and undertaking the graphic design for Swede Day button images became his next big challenge. Teaching classes on Basic Computer Skills caused him to improve his ability to create PowerPoint presentations that were both appealing and informative.

Being able to give back to the Rochester community with volunteering has been a rich and wonderful experience providing much satisfaction.



Gene Weaver

NOTE from the PRESIDENT

ASTOUNDING!

Is the only way to describe what's happening to our local Chamber! Thanks to an amazing and dedicated group of volunteers, the improvements continue to multiply.

A new budget format is lending more transparency and structure to our fiscal affairs. The Chamber/Horizons office at Dream Weavers is proving a great way to focus our efforts and promote our membership.

Goals for this year include a continuing membership drive, reviewing and updating Chamber By-laws, along with a recent decision to build a reserve fund for promotion of the Chamber and it's values, from donations over and above regular dues.

Thank you to all who are working so hard to support and improve your Chamber!

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 Hwy 12 in downtown Rochester. Contact information for member business and general Chamber information is available.

BOARD MEMBERS...

- **Gene Weaver, President**
- **Kim Fry, Vice President**
- **Amy Howlett, Secretary**
- **Shaun Baker, Treasurer**
- **Dick Bailey, Member-at-large**
- **Shawna Bruce, Member-at-large**
- **Ron Grant, Member-at-large**
- **Bill Liddle, Member-at-large**
- **Bill Zimmerman, Membership
Chaiman**

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.
- Edminster 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

Next Five reasons to buy local

Get better service: Local businesses often hire people with a better understanding of the products they are selling and take more time to get to know customers.

Invest in community: Local businesses are owned by people who live in this community, are less likely to leave, and are more invested in the community's future.

Put your taxes to good use: Local businesses in town centers require comparatively little infrastructure investment and make more efficient use of public services as compared to nationally owned stores entering the community.

Buy what you want, not what someone wants you to buy: A marketplace of tens of thousands of small businesses is the best way to ensure innovation and low prices over the long-term. A multitude of small businesses, each selecting products based not on a national sales plan but on their own interests and the needs of their local customers, guarantees a much broader range of product choices.

Encourage local prosperity: A growing body of economic research shows that in an increasingly homogenized world, entrepreneurs and skilled workers are more likely to invest and settle in communities that preserve their one-of-a-kind businesses and distinctive character.

Think local first. Buy local when you can!

How are the Chamber Finances Organized?

The Grand Mound Rochester Chamber of Commerce's primary source of revenue is our annual membership fees. This year's annual budget is approximately \$4,000 and is organized as follows:

Operating Expenses (Office Supplies, Postage, P.O. Box, etc.)	10%
Philanthropy/Donations	15%
Marketing	25%
Political Activism	30%
Reserves	20%

The Chamber funds are kept in two accounts, one for general expenditures and one for political activism. The Chamber Board of Directors receives a monthly financial report from our Treasurer and approves all expenditures.

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



GRAND MOUND • ROCHESTER
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

PO Box 211, Rochester, WA 98579

Upcoming Meetings:

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

- Apr. 2—Chamber Lunch Meeting at Rochester School District Office. Speaker: Terry Thomas - Thurston County Solid Waste,
- May 7 - Chamber Lunch Meeting at Rochester School District Office. Speaker: Unknown at this time.