

OUR MISSION:

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



NOTE from the PRESIDENT

Gene Weaver

ADIOS 2014 AND "HELLO" 2015!

We have many things to celebrate as we bid Good-bye to the old year! Foremost among our blessings is the tremendous spirit and enthusiasm flowing through our membership.

2014 was another great year for our Chamber, with growing participation in business and governmental affairs. Thanks to all who so willingly volunteer countless hours to our mission!

So now, we spring forward into the New Year with all it's exciting possibilities to serve our members and community! In addition to the many other ongoing activities, our Clothing Bank construction project and supporting the newly appointed Grand Mound Interchange Improvement Committee, this should contribute to a very busy and productive year.

Thank you everyone. Thanks also to Shaun Baker for his years of service as our Treasurer. We will miss him and wish him all the best in his new challenges.

Gene

New Chamber Office

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

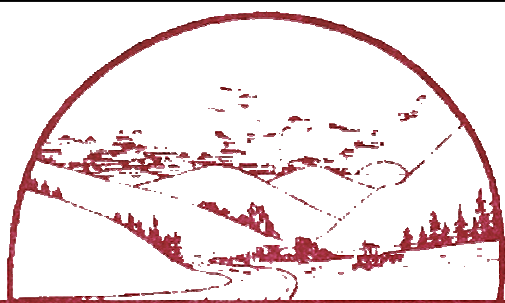
We are located in the Dream Weavers Real Estate Office at 9917 Hwy 12 in downtown Rochester. Contact information for member business and general Chamber information is available.

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 Chairman

Advisory Board Members

- Cindi Whiting
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**GRAND MOUND • ROCHESTER
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

Together We can make a difference

FEATURE BUSINESS

Amy Howlett

Security State Bank

Amy joined the Security State Bank family in 2007 and now manages the West Centralia Branch while continuing to oversee lending duties at the Rochester location. She serves on the boards of United Way of Lewis County, the S.T.U.F. Food Bank of Rochester, and the GMRCC. Amy's favorite pastime is enjoying spending time in the sun at our beautiful Washington lakes with her daughters and skiing mountain slopes in the winters with her husband.

Security State Bank was founded in Chehalis in 1903 and over the next 94 years opened 6 additional branches in the Centralia-Chehalis and Lewis County area. Then in November 1997 we opened the Rochester Branch, our first branch outside of Lewis County. A new Ted's Red Apple Market location was being built and the opportunity presented itself for the Bank to open a grocery store branch. In January 2001 Ted's Red Apple closed their business. The Bank actually operated the branch in the empty building for a few months prior to the store being purchased and reopened by Bailey's IGA (the current owners). We are proud to be part of the Rochester-Grand Mound community offering full service banking with extended and Saturday hours. We also operate an ATM located outside the store.

We strive for customer service excellence and seek to exceed our customer's expectations. We are a true local community bank headquartered in Centralia WA and are proud to say that Security State Bank has never changed names or been purchased by another company. We have been in business since 1903 and are one of the oldest independent commercial banks in the state of Washington.



Amy Howlett



Rochester Branch Staff

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
- Asphalt-Tech
- Bailey's IGA
- Bailey's Northwest Property Management
- Boys & Girls Club
- Brian Riley Insurance
- Chettie's Woodworking, LLC
- Cindi Whiting - Edward Jones Investments
- Dream Weavers, Inc.
- Edminster Construction
- First Choice Self Storage
- Furniture Maker & Flea Market*
- Gate Ranch Golf Club
- German Cleaning Services*
- Grand Mound Beverages
- Grand Mound Licensing
- HallsCrystal Flutes
- Hawes Gutters
- Hexen Glass Studio
- Hinkle Homes
- James L. Prato Insurance
- Jay's Fruit Stand
- JJ's Towing
- JMJ Accounting Services
- JNL Stoves

- Johnson & Johnson Overhead doors, Inc.
- JMJ Services, Inc.
- Junction Sports Bar & Grill
- Kay Crookshanks Investment Advisor
- Key Bank
- Law Office of Laurel Smith
- Lucky Eagle Casino
- Mariachi Mexican Restaurant
- Morgan Family Dental
- NAPA Auto Parts
- Outback RV Park
- Photography by Robin
- Port of Olympia
- PRC Maintenance and Construction
- Rick's Kustom Kars*
- Rochester Lumber
- Rochester School District
- Rochester Sun News
- Rochester United Methodist Church
- Rochester Water Association*
- ROOF Community Services
- Scatter Creek Animal Clinic
- Security State Bank
- Stephen Angove, CPA
- Sto N Go Storage
- Thurston County Auditor
- Town Center Dental
- Timberland Regional Library
- Umpqua Bank
- 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

The Benefits of Shopping and Buying Locally

By Jeff Milchen (Continued)

Independent local businesses employ an array of supporting services. They hire architects, designers, cabinet shops, sign makers, and contractors for construction. Local accountants, insurance brokers, computer consultants, attorneys, advertising agencies help run it. Local retailers and distributors also carry a higher percentage of locally-produced goods than chains, meaning more jobs for local producers. In contrast, a new chain store typically is a clone of other units,

eliminates the need for local planning, and uses a minimum of local goods and services. A company-owned store's profits promptly are exported to corporate headquarters. That's simply good, efficient business for them, but not so good for our communities.

Dollars spent at community-based merchants create a multiplier in the local economy, meaning that from each dollar spent at a local independent merchant, up to 3.5 times as much wealth is generated in the local economy compared to a dollar spent at chain-owned businesses.

(to be continued next issue)

Report: Grand Mound/Rochester Business Survey Walkabout

The most important improvements for local streetscape

- Sidewalks through downtown
- More Hwy 12 crosswalks
- Center turn lane through Rochester
- More pedestrian friendly
- Better traffic flow on Hwy 12 at Middle School during student release times
- Improved parking for downtown businesses
- Lower speed limit through Rochester
- Wider bridge over Scatter Creek at Hwy 12

(To be continued next Issue)

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

Upcoming Meetings:

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

- Jan 7 - Chamber Lunch Meeting at Rochester School District Office. Speaker: Ramsey Zimmerman, Director Thurston Economic Development Council
- Feb 4 - Chamber Lunch Meeting at Rochester School District Office. Speakers: Report from Food Banks, Clothing Bank, Etc.