

Concrete Chamber of Commerce

General Meeting, May 12, 2016

Annie's Pizza Station, 6:30 p.m.

Members present: Valerie Stafford, president; John and Gail Boggs, Concrete Heritage Museum; Bill Schuler, Commissioner - Port of Skagit; Lynette Gentry, Columbia Bank; Calvin Laatsch, North Cascades Institute; Brooke Pederson, Upper Skagit Library; Annie Busseire, Annie's Pizza Station; Ger van den Eng, MarCy; Jason Miller, Concrete Herald & Concrete Mayor; Rachel Sacco, United General Hospital District #304; Julie Hubner, North Cascades Vintage Aircraft Museum; Cheryl Werda, Concrete Chamber & Licensing; Helen Ovenell, Perks Espresso & Deli; Valerie Lee, Concrete Chamber & Licensing; Jarrod Lee, Steve's Window Cleaning - Topless Grills (coming soon); Claudia Marken, East County Resource Center; Em Beals, 5b's Bakery.

Open house at Resource Center from 1pm -3pm next Thursday, May 19 including new programs from UGH District 304.

Fourth of July is coming up with a little parade so we are hoping for more entries with music and food in the park after the parade at 11 a.m. Looking for one or more bands to perform.

Around the table.

Columbia Bank - Lynette Gentry introduced herself as the new branch manager.

Center for Marine Cytometry (MarCy) - Ger, builds specialized instruments that can see micro organisms and has developed a business to continue work with marine organism instruments in Birdsvie. The bacterium was discovered only 25 years ago but is responsive for 5 percent of the world's microcarbon to produce oxygen. Works all around the world with equipment in ocean environments for research.

East County Resource Center - Claudia Marken has been coordinator since March. There are many resources at the center from clothing to household items, in addition to referral and financial services. Currently accepting some donations. Lots of partnerships with other agencies, opportunities for volunteers, and interns help with the services. Works to make sure services are aimed to not be entitlements but emergency to help get the clients back on their feet. Anyone can volunteer.

North Cascades Vintage Aircraft Museum - Julie Hubner, who is a pilot from Skagit Airport, is working with the museum at Concrete Airport. Enjoys the scenic surroundings. Fly In is July 22-24 and welcomes promotion of local businesses and groups. The museum is known throughout the country but needs help remaining viable. They are looking to network more with the town and the airport. Hours are summer are 7 days a week with self tours. Working with other people on marketing the museum, as well as others in the county.

Upper Skagit Library - Cache in Concrete has 32 sponsors and will be up and running by Memorial Day weekend. Brochure is an updated Concrete Walking Tour Map, and caches are riddles. Once you collect all caches, the brochure can be turned for tokens and something special at sponsoring businesses.

Concrete Museum will have bake sale at Saturday Market and opening for every Saturday starting on Memorial Day weekend through September. Other bake sales will be held during the summer. Working on finishing projects and cleaning up. Everyone welcome to museum meetings.

Port of Skagit is expanding with agribusinesses. The lease is final for Janicki Company at Northern State property to start their production facility for the Omni Processors. Need to get word out on the progress.

Concrete Community meetings on May 18 at 5:30 at Concrete Center to meeting with county departments, commissioners, etc. to gather community input on various issues.

North Cascades Institute is gearing up for summer with Youth Leadership Adventures, adult classes, etc. Sunday, July 17 will be party to celebrate NCI as well as National Park with barbecue and music. Skagit Boat Tours start in June and have more capacity for people.

Take a Bite for Skagit will be Wednesday, May 18 at 5b's and Annie's Pizza Station with a percentage of sales donated through Community Action to buy local produce for area food banks.

Next meeting location to be announced but will be returning to 8:00 am meetings on the second Thursday.

5bs Bakery has a new logo to be unveiled soon. A new menu will also be coming soon, and they are very busy with goods distributed all over the county.

UG District 304 has many youth programs coming up, including summer events. Youth Activity Day is July 7. School is getting bicycles to be used at the school. A walk on the Cascade Trail is every Friday. Garden is up and running. Farm to School is becoming well known nationally and may be a model for other schools.

Cheryl Werda is now a notary and is in the Chamber office on Saturdays. Cost is \$10 and proceeds go to the chamber.

Adopt-A-Highway cleanup was done by Valerie and Claudia..

Steve's Window Cleaning is in their busy season. They recommend treating roofs with baking soda to remove moss or gutter cleaning. Jarrod has new food trailer he is working on to get licensed by health department, and has already been offered some opportunities.

Perks Espresso & Deli is getting air conditioning soon.

Town of Concrete - Jason announced that one element of the wastewater treatment plant retrofit has been fully funded. Two more areas still need funding. Results of the Economic Development Task Force near completion. They will be part of Town's Comprehensive Plan. Friends of the Town Trails is having logo contest for kids with a professional tweaking the winning design.

Concrete Herald - Ran an ad for licensing cars online directing people to Concrete and Sedro-Woolley licensing (designed by Pola Kelley of SW Chamber of Commerce). Two athletes from Concrete Track team will go to state. Meet will be May 27-28.