

Whitefish Chamber of Commerce

2024 Program of Work

2024 Chamber Board & Officers

Clare Goble

Board Chair

Glacier Restaurant Group

Reeves Stanwood

Chair-Elect

Piggyback Barbeque

Katie Williams

Treasurer

First Interstate Bank

Jeff Raper

Immediate Past Chair

National Parks Realty

Kevin Abel

Logan Health - Whitefish

Dr. Andy Armor

Compass Chiropractic

Alex Hopkins

Grouse Mountain Lodge

Tom Gilfillan

Whitefish Pottery

Brian Joos

Gersh, Simpson

& Joos, PLLP

Shane Moss

Glacier Bank

Nick Polumbus

Whitefish Mtn. Resort

Tony Veseth

Farm Bureau

Financial Services

Vance Watson

Budget Car Rentals

Economic Development Division:

- Support efforts to address the affordable workforce housing shortage through implementation of the City's "Housing Roadmap" and by actively participating on the Whitefish Community Housing Committee and work groups.
- Work with Housing Whitefish to implement and promote the new Whitefish Workforce Assistance Program, and contribute \$25,000 in seed money to the effort on behalf of the business community.
- Host the bi-annual Whitefish Housing Summit in March 2024 to focus attention on the continuing workforce housing crisis, and the steps being taken by the city and other local organizations to address it.
- Encourage the Whitefish City Council to implement the Public Transit element of its new Transportation Plan and investigate the potential for expanding public transit options to reduce peak season traffic, ease downtown parking issues and connect local workers to their jobsites. Also explore options for better transit options between town, the airport and Glacier National Park.
- Support Glacier AERO and its efforts to attract more frequent and affordable air service to Glacier Park International Airport; specifically targeting winter (ski season) flights.
- Maintain focus on growing fall and spring shoulder season tourism.

Government Affairs Division:

- Monitor the activities of local government; advocate for programs, policies and decisions that have a positive impact on local businesses and the Whitefish economy.
- Encourage fiscal restraint and common sense in spending taxpayer dollars.
- Encourage business community representation on the appropriate City and County committees and task forces, including: the Whitefish Community Housing Committee, the Impact Fee Review and Growth Policy Update committees, and Planning Board.
- Educate and inform Chamber members (and the public) about issues pending before state and local governments that could adversely impact their business and/or the region's economy.

Member Services Division:

- Host monthly "Business Buzz" networking events on the first Thursday of each month.
- Host monthly Gone Fishin' networking events on the third Thursday of each month.
- Host quarterly "Let's Be Bold" ladies symposium events in February, May, August, and November.
- Replace/upgrade www.WhitefishChamber.org
- Staff the city's official Visitor Center 8-5 M-F in summer; 9-4 M-F in non-peak months.
- Encourage members to supply brochures and business cards for distribution at the Visitor Center, and to take advantage of other member marketing opportunities.
- Maintain & update the Chamber website and Special Events/Community Calendars.
- Distribute Chamber Chat eNewsletter weekly.
- Publish the *Whitefish Community Guide* (community profile and visitor/relocation guide) annually.
- Review and enhance member benefits annually.

Special Events Division:

Plan, promote and produce the following annual events:

- FishFEST (May)
- July 4th Fireworks at City Beach
- Huckleberry Days Art Festival (August)
- Great Northwest Oktoberfest (Sept/Oct)
- Small Business Saturday (November)
- Christmas Stroll (December)
- Annual Community Awards Gala (January)