

# Whitefish Chamber of Commerce

## 2025-26 Program of Work

### 2026 Chamber Board & Officers

**Reeves Stanwood**  
Board Chairman  
*Piggyback Barbeque*

**Katie Williams**  
Chair-Elect  
*First Interstate Bank*

**Clare Goble**  
Immediate Past Chair  
*Glacier Restaurant Group*

**Kevin Abel**  
*Logan Health - Whitefish*

**Dr. Andy Armor**  
*Compass Chiropractic*

**Matt Arnold-Ladensack**  
*Clydesdale Outpost  
& Clydesdale Creamery*

**Mallory Hickethier**  
*Trovare*

**Brian Joos**  
*Gersh, Simpson  
& Joos, PLLP*

**Mike McCracken**  
*Pin & Cue*

**Phil Nelson**  
*Stockman Bank*

**Nick Polumbus**  
*Whitefish Mtn. Resort*

**Tony Veseth**  
*Farm Bureau  
Financial Services*

**Vance Watson**  
*Budget Car Rentals*

### Strategic Goals & Objectives:

- Assure the continued success of the Great Northwest Oktoberfest and our ability to host the event over two weekends in Depot Park.
- Find a new, permanent home for the Chamber offices and Visitor Information Center prior to the expiration of our current lease in April 2029.
- Strengthen our relationship with the Whitefish Convention & Visitors Bureau, and work cooperatively to address issues that are important to both organizations and our community.
- Solidify our position as the "Voice of Business" in Whitefish; activate a Government Affairs Committee to lead our efforts to advocate on behalf of the business community.
- Create opportunities for members to be more involved by building-out our committee/task force structure, to include an Events Committee, Governance Committee and Member Service Committee.

### Member Services Division:

- Create a "micro-business" networking/support group, and facilitate quarterly meetings.
- 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.
- 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, activity and relocation guide) annually.

### Economic Development Division:

- Support efforts to address the affordable workforce housing shortage through implementation of the City's "Housing Roadmap" and by participating on the Whitefish Community Housing Committee and work groups.
- Work with Housing Whitefish to implement and promote the Whitefish Workforce Assistance Program, and contribute \$30,000 to the effort on behalf of the business community.
- Encourage the Whitefish City Council to implement the Public Transit element of its 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 business community representation on City committees and task forces.
- 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.

### Special Events Division:

Plan, promote and produce the following annual events:

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