

Whitefish Chamber of Commerce

2019 Chamber Program of Work

2019 Chamber Board & Officers

Dan Graves
Board Chairman
Whitefish Mountain Resort

Marcus Duffey
Chair-Elect
Great Northern Brewing Company

Wendy Ostrom-Price
Treasurer
Flathead Electric Co-op

Tony Veseth
Immediate Past Chair
Farm Bureau Financial Services

Randy Cogdill
Glacier Bank

Ben Davis
Seven Hills Construction

Tom Gilfillan
Whitefish Pottery

Reeves Stanwood
Piggyback Barbeque

Jeff Raper
National Parks Realty

Kristen Stokes
Best Western Rocky Mountain Lodge

Alan Satterlee
North Valley Hospital

Thomas T. Tornow
Tornow Law Group

Jessica Wurm
L.C. Staffing

Economic Development Division:

- Lead efforts to address the affordable workforce housing shortage through implementation of the Whitefish Strategic Housing Plan; actively participate on the Strategic Plan Steering Committee and work groups.
- Support Glacier AERO and its efforts to attract more frequent and affordable air service to Glacier Park International Airport; specifically target new direct air service to Texas.
- Investigate the potential for a summertime in-town shuttle bus system, to reduce peak season traffic and ease downtown parking congestion/issues .
- Coordinate operation of the West Glacier Visitor Information Center from June through September to promote Whitefish businesses and attractions to park visitors.
- Convene a working group of businesses located north of the viaduct to help build community, improve business and address mutual needs and concerns.
- 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.
- Ensure that the business community is represented on the appropriate City and County committees and task forces, including: the Whitefish Strategic Housing Plan Steering Committee, the Growth Policy Update Committee, the Tourism Master Plan Committee and Planning Board.
- Utilize the "Quick Action System" to formulate and approve official Board/Chamber position statements via email on issues requiring immediate attention.
- In tandem with implementation of the Strategic Housing Plan and Inclusionary Zoning ordinance, push for development of a fast-/multi-track system for City permit processing and approval, as well as incentives for developers required to supply permanently affordable workforce housing.
- 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.
- Host "Neighborhood Business Meetings" in Fall of 2019, to gather information from – and hear the concerns of – local business owners and managers.
- Encourage fiscal restraint and common sense in spending taxpayer dollars.

Member Services Division:

- Host monthly Lunch n' Learn seminars on the first Thursday of each month.
- Host monthly Gone Fishin' networking events on the third Thursday of each month.
- Sponsor "Small Business Saturday" promotions and events each fall.
- Staff the city's official Visitor Center 40 hours/week (50 hours/week during peak summer season).
- Encourage members to promote their businesses by submitting member profiles and feature articles for newsletter publication, by distributing brochures and business cards at the Visitor Center, and by taking advantage of other Chamber-sponsored marketing opportunities.
- Maintain & update the Chamber website and Special Events/Community Calendar.
- Improve and expand the Chamber's printed newsletter; distribute Chamber Chat eNewsletter weekly.
- Publish the Whitefish Guide (community profile and visitor/relocation guide) annually.
- Review and enhance member benefits; review the Chamber's membership investment structure.
- Explore opportunities to ally with other local Chambers and business organizations.

Special Events Division:

- Plan, promote and produce the following annual events:
 - Feast Whitefish food festival (May)
 - July 4th Fireworks at City Beach
 - Huckleberry Days Art Festival (August)
 - Great Northwest Oktoberfest (Sept/Oct)
 - Christmas Stroll (December)