

# THE BRIDGE

Connecting Missoula Businesses

JULY 2022 ISSUE 1

## MEMBER SHARING

Help strengthen business by sharing your expertise & knowledge in our Member Sharing section. We are looking for educational/informational articles that will help businesses in Missoula. Non-commercial but recognition offered for article. Open to all members who want to educate and inform other businesses. Email interest to [info@missoulachamber.com](mailto:info@missoulachamber.com)

## LIVING IN MISSOULA

The Chamber is seeking businesses that want to help write information about living in this community. Help us stay current.

## LOOKING FOR FUTURE WORKFORCE

Missoula Area Chamber has a JOB BOARD for members to post job openings and review resumes. Take advantage of this benefit by clicking on "Additional Resources" on your [member profile](#) page and click on [Job Board](#).

## ADVOCACY

[Missoula City Council Meeting Schedule](#)

[Missoula County Commissioner's Meeting Schedule](#)

## VOICE FOR BUSINESS

**Kim Latrielle, CEO/President of the Missoula Area Chamber of Commerce, Appointed as Chairperson of the Montana Early Childhood Advisory Council (MECAC) 2021**

The Montana Early Childhood Advisory Council, appointed by DPHHS, represents interested constituency groups, governmental agencies, the public at large, child care providers, state and local representatives, and Tribes. The Council provides advice concerning state early care and education and the professionals that support families and young children. The Council's purpose is not only to improve collaboration and coordination across the spectrum of governmental and non-profit organizations providing early childhood services, but to serve as a connector cross sector, bridging community and state needs for early childhood issues.



## FROM THE BOARDROOM

**Meet Your New  
Chair of the Board**

**Tim Winger  
Southgate Mall**



Executive Committee and Board

- **Board Retreat** – June 20th the Chamber Board confirmed the following areas of Initiative Focus: Workforce, Childcare, Advocacy and The University of MT.
- **2023 Legislative year** and strengthening local government relationships.
- **Financially** – The Chamber is sound and continues to provide events that not only accomplish networking and connections for business professionals but adds to the non-dues revenue needed by Chambers.

**Thank you for supporting our Government Affairs activity through your voluntary assessment**

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## INITIATIVES FOCUS 2022-23

### WORKFORCE

Accelerated Training, Workforce Connections website, Affordable Housing, Business recruitment

### ADVOCACY

Voice for Business

### CHILDCARE

Associate Childcare Membership, Expand childcare in Missoula

### UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

Rapid Training program, promote our University

## MEMBERS CONNECTING FUTURE MEMBERS

**Provide leads to our Membership Director and receive additional benefits and recognition of your referral.**

Email Sharon at the Chamber [sharonm@missoulachamber.com](mailto:sharonm@missoulachamber.com)

### Member Benefits

## UPCOMING EVENTS



**132nd Annual Banquet**  
Title Sponsor  
**PayneWest**  
INSURANCE

Thursday, September 15, 2022  
Caras Park

- 6 pm Cocktails - Food Trucks
- 7 pm Program
- 8:30 pm Band & Networking

**Reaching the Summit Together**  
*Shining a light on the strength of business & community collaboration*

Join us for the largest business networking event of the year

### ARE YOU IN THE MIDDLE OF BUDGET PLANNING?

Take a look at an entire year of sponsorship opportunities at the Chamber.

DOWNLOAD

the 2022 Sponsorship Guide



## NETWORKING TIPS

1. **Have a Goal:** Ask yourself "Why am I going?" and set two outcomes you want to accomplish.
2. **Dress to Impress:** First impressions mean a lot.
3. **Bring Business Cards:** Don't waste the opportunity to exchange information - bring more cards than you think you will need.
4. **Have a Good Introduction:** Make eye contact when you introduce yourself, giving your first and last name and a firm hand shake.

5. **Listen then Speak:** Engaging someone with questions will get their full attention, then share about yourself.
6. **Show Sincerity & Interest:** Ask open ended questions about the other person's background and work.
7. **Be Clear & Concise:** You can always share more later but keep people's attention by giving succinct answers.
8. **Take Notes:** Use the back of a person's business card to jot down information you want to keep.
9. **Follow-Up:** After a few days email people you met to build the connections you've made.

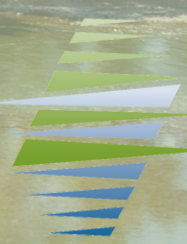
**See you at United Way, July 12th!**



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### COMMITTEE WORKS 2022 Forestry Resource Tour

Zachary Bashoor, Bashoor Land Management

The Missoula Chamber received a \$5000 grant for the Forest Resource Committee to educate the public about wild fire readiness.

In June, 45 landowners, community members, and representatives of different land and fire organizations came together for a discussion about wildfire in the Wildland Urban Interface hosted by the Missoula Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the Lolo Restoration Committee. Specifically, discussions about what we can do in identified high wildfire risk communities in Missoula County.

For instance, the Grant Creek drainage, a forested area overwhelmed by housing and development on the outskirts of Missoula is perhaps the highest priority area for action in Missoula County with intricately complex issues. Houses and subdivisions abutting large swaths of densely forested public land overlook a drainage that funnels into a one ingress-egress route. A combination of actions can protect values in this area, including: reducing tree canopy densities in forested areas by thinning, hazardous fuel reduction in the Home Ignition Zone (areas in close proximity to homes), structural improvements to homes that reduce their chance of burning, and a coordinated response and evacuation plan.

These discussions are not easy and are intended to raise more questions than answers. As a forest dependent community we can ask: What can we do here and what do we want to do here? Our answers to these will shape our future.



The paradigm has shifted, these are no longer just forest dependent communities, these are community dependent forests.

This won't get fixed without you.

Big thanks to all who were a part of this event including Bob Homer, Eric Legvold, Max Rebholz, Seth Romocki and many more.

**Forest Resource Committee Chair** - [Zach Bashoor](mailto:zachary.bashoor@pyramidlumber.com)  
[zachary.bashoor@pyramidlumber.com](mailto:zachary.bashoor@pyramidlumber.com)

### Thank you to our Visionary Members

**SOUTHGATE**  
MALL

**NorthWestern**  
Energy  
*Delivering a Bright Future*

**First**  
Security  
Bank

**UNIVERSITY OF**  
**MONTANA**

**Missoulian**  
Every minute. Every day.

## Benefit Reminder



*Did you know*

DID YOU KNOW YOUR BUSINESS CAN RECEIVE  
DETAILED BUSINESS RECRUITMENT LEADS FROM  
THE DEPT. OF COMMERCE FOR BUSINESSES  
CONSIDERING RELOCATION TO MONTANA



INFO@MISSOULACHAMBER.COM

### STAFF MEMBERS CONTACT INFORMATION