

# LEWIS COUNTY CHAPTER OF OLYMPIA MASTER BUILDERS



## Assessing Online Reviews When Looking for a Remodeler



**Join us for the OMB Lewis County Chapter Meeting**

Thinking about joining OMB—or want to get more from your membership? Join us for the OMB Lewis County Chapter Meeting every third Wednesday of the month at the Moose Lodge in Centralia. Connect with local professionals and learn how OMB membership can help you grow and succeed. For more information, contact Jenn at [membership@omb.org](mailto:membership@omb.org).

If you visited a dozen websites and read hundreds of reviews just to decide on which toaster oven to purchase, then how about when it comes time to select a home remodeler? That remodeler will be doing a significant amount of work to your biggest investment: your home. So choosing the right one is a paramount decision.

If you are like most home owners, you will likely do a significant amount of online research to find the remodeler who is best suited for you and your home. But with all of that

collective “wisdom” available online, it can be hard to tell which reviews are the most accurate, or at the very least, which ones are legitimate.

### Proceed with Caution

The Internet makes it easy to find a wealth of information with just a few quick clicks of the mouse. Much of what you find will provide some useful background, but you can’t believe everything you see or read. When looking through customer rating sites, use good judgment to weigh the value of

certain online reviews (positive or negative).

### Keep in mind:

- An abundance of positive, brief, non-descript reviews that use excessively promotional language can often indicate phony reviewers.
- Customers who had a positive experience are far less likely to post a review than customers who had any sort of negative experience.
- Reading at least a dozen reviews is important to recognize any possible trends – good and bad – among the

reviews.

- The Better Business Bureau, [www.bbb.org](http://www.bbb.org), is a good resource to ensure the business doesn’t have any unresolved complaints. Other sites worth noting include Angie’s List, HomeAdvisor, Houzz, etc.

Remember, the most reliable customer reviews will always come directly from the mouths of previous clients. If you don’t happen to know any former clients of the remodelers whom you are considering, simply ask those

remodelers for references of recent projects. Those who are talented and trustworthy remodelers will readily provide you with several former clients who can speak to their quality of work.

To learn more about finding a reliable contractor with an established business in our community, Visit Olympia Master Builders at [OMB.org](http://OMB.org) to connect with trusted members who can help you navigate everything you need for your home.

## OMB Lewis County Industry Advocacy Update

The Lewis County Board of Commissioners continues its regular meeting schedule on Tuesdays at the Lewis County Historic Courthouse in Chehalis. Upcoming meetings on February 18 and February 25 are expected to focus primarily on administrative business and departmental briefings.

Although no comprehensive plan amendments are currently scheduled, implementation of the county’s 2025 periodic comprehensive plan update remains ongoing. Rural development standards, environmental regulations, and

infrastructure planning remain areas to monitor in the months ahead, particularly as staff identify follow-on code updates or work program priorities.

Meeting agendas and materials are posted in advance on the county’s website.

### Centralia

The Centralia City Council is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, February 25, at City Hall. Council agendas typically include staff updates, ordinance readings, and project approvals. With Centralia’s

comprehensive plan update completed last year, housing-related activity is more likely to appear in the form of zoning refinements, subdivision approvals, or infrastructure coordination discussions rather than broad policy shifts. Planning Commission referrals and development code implementation items are worth reviewing as they appear.

### Chehalis

The Chehalis City Council continues its regular meeting cadence, with a council meeting scheduled for Monday, February 24.

Chehalis has shifted into implementation mode following its comprehensive plan update. Upcoming agendas may include planning commission recommendations, project-level reviews, or discussions tied to economic development and housing capacity. Early-year meetings often help establish the direction for later zoning or regulatory adjustments.

### Winlock, Napavine, Vader, Morton, and Pe Ell

Several smaller Lewis County cities also have meetings scheduled in the latter half of

- February:
- Winlock – Council meeting expected the fourth Monday of the month
  - Napavine – Regular council meeting anticipated in late February
  - Vader – Council meeting typically held mid- to late-month
  - Morton – Regular meeting schedule continues
  - Pe Ell – Council meeting anticipated in late February

While agendas in these jurisdictions are generally lighter, development-related issues such as short plats, zoning clarifications, and utility coordination can arise on relatively short notice. Residents and property owners with projects underway are encouraged to review meeting packets in advance.

### Port of Centralia

The Port of Centralia is expected to hold its regular commission meeting in late February. The current published agenda does not include housing-specific proposals.

Although the Port does not directly regulate residential construction, its decisions regarding industrial land

use, infrastructure expansion, and employment growth can indirectly influence regional housing demand.

### Broader Context

February is typically a month of transition rather than major legislative action at the local level. However, early-year study sessions and administrative briefings often lay the groundwork for more formal regulatory proposals in the spring and summer.

In addition, state legislative activity in Olympia continues to move forward, with potential impacts on construction costs, labor standards, and housing policy that may influence local development conditions later this year.

Residents, builders, and property owners are encouraged to monitor agendas and attend meetings of interest as February progresses. Even when final votes are not scheduled, early discussions frequently shape future policy decisions that affect housing supply and development conditions across Lewis County.

### Now Accepting 2026 Scholarship Applications.

The Olympia Master Builders (OMB) Education Foundation is accepting applications for scholarship grants ranging up to \$2500 to college or vocational/technical school-bound students, who currently reside within Thurston, Lewis, Mason, Pacific or Grays Harbor Counties.

Students intending to pursue studies leading to a career in the building industry such as: engineering, architecture, drafting, industrial design, carpentry, construction management, etc. are encouraged to apply. Applicants must reside within Thurston, Lewis, Mason, Pacific or Grays Harbor counties and be a US citizen. Visit [omb.org](http://omb.org) to apply today.

**Title Guaranty Company**  
of Lewis County  
TITLE INSURANCE • ESCROW

Proud Sponsor of **HS HERO**

**TITLE GUARANTY**  
200 NW PACIFIC

“Growing Lewis County one family at a time!”  
[www.titlegco.com](http://www.titlegco.com) • 360-748-0001  
200 NW Pacific Ave., Chehalis  
Mailing: P.O. Box 1304, Chehalis

### The BIG Home & Remodel Show New Vendor Registration Is Now Open!

Mark your calendars! The BIG Home & Remodel Show returns to Olympia on Saturday, April 18 through Sunday, April 19, 2026, at Saint Martin’s University – Marcus Pavilion. This highly anticipated weekend event is a must-attend for homeowners, remodelers, builders, and anyone dreaming about improving their home or investing in their next project.

For local businesses, the BIG Home & Remodel Show is also an incredible opportunity to shine. With an average of 1,500 engaged customers attending over the weekend, vendors gain direct access to homeowners who are actively planning and ready to connect. It’s a proven platform to showcase your products, services, and expertise while building brand awareness and

meaningful leads.

Interested in becoming a vendor? We’d love to have you! You do not need to be an Olympia Master Builders (OMB) member to participate, though OMB members enjoy a 20% discount on booth space—just one of the many benefits of membership. Register today at [OMB.org](http://OMB.org).