

# CHAMBER CHAT

September 2024

## What I'm Thinking About

There is a lot going on with the Chamber this month! Join us for the events or programs of interest and as seems to be my mantra of late, please be aware that we are also working in many ways for you and for our community.

**BrewFest on the Skagit:** BrewFest on the Skagit is now put on by the Chamber! We're very appreciative of the Lincoln Theater's faith in our ability to continue the longtime and popular event. They have also been hugely helpful in sharing their knowledge of how they made it successful. I also want to thank the tremendous sponsors and Jeremy Kindlund for his herculean work in directing the event! More information on the event, the list of sponsors and a link to buy tickets are in this newsletter.

**County Commissioner Candidate Forum:** Our Luncheon on the 25th will feature a candidate forum for the two races for County Commission seats. All four candidates will participate, allowing us the opportunity to understand their qualifications, what is important to each of them, and their thoughts on issues and opportunities important to businesses and the community.

**Chamber Foundation Latino Business Leaders and Latino Business Youth:** Silvia Reed is doing great work through our Chamber Foundation. As highlighted in this newsletter, she is directing a new year of the successful Latino Business Leaders program for aspiring entrepreneurs and new businesses. New this summer is Latino Business Youth, providing training on starting a business and work experience to a new generation. Thanks to the "LBYP" program's immediate success, it will be repeated.

**WCCE Conference:** I recently attended the annual conference of Washington Chambers. I had the time to reflect on our strengths as a Chamber, and how we can do more and better in some ways. I was also honored to be chosen as the organization's Vice President.



Andy Mayer with the WCCE Board of Directors



### GOLD



### SILVER



Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce

(360) 428-8547

[mountvernonchamber.com](http://mountvernonchamber.com)

## Calendar of Events

### Speaking of Women

“Climbing the Success Ladder” a Speaking of Women Event

Wednesday September 11

4:30 p.m. to 6:00

Whispering Firs Bed & Breakfast Lodge

[Register here](#)



### Building the Bridge - A Legacy Member Event

Thursday, September 19

5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Children's Museum of Skagit County

432 Fashion Way

Burlington

[Register here](#)

### Multi-Chamber After Hours at Chinook Enterprises

Thursday, September 12

4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

2026 La Venture Rd

Mount Vernon

### Ribbon Cutting at Financial Horizons, PLLC

Friday, September 20

3 p.m.

720 S Main Street Ste 207

Mount Vernon

### Ribbon Cutting at Indulge Bakery

Friday, September 13

3 p.m.

1501 Parker Way Ste 101

Mount Vernon

### Membership Luncheon Candidates Forum

Wednesday, September 25

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Hillcrest Lodge

1717 S 13th St

Mount Vernon

[Register here](#)



### Latino Business Leaders - Empezando su Nueva Empresa / Starting your New Business

Wednesday September 18

6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Skagit Valley College

Multi Purpose Room

[Register here](#)



### Whispering Willows of Mount Vernon

Friday, September 26

3 p.m.

2311 E Division St

Mount Vernon

## Thank You Renewing Members

### 35+ Years

Blade Chevrolet, Inc.  
Hawthorne Funeral Home,  
Crematory & Memorial Park  
KAPS Radio 660 AM & 102.1 FM

### 30+ Years

Foothills Toyota  
Mount Vernon Carpet One Floor &  
Home  
Riverside Health Club  
Windermere Real Estate/Skagit  
Valley

### 25+ Years

Haggen Food & Pharmacy  
Shawn O'Donnell's at the Farmhouse  
The Skagit Casino Resort

### 15+ Years

Burlington Plaza  
KBRC 1430AM & 102.9FM  
PeaceHealth United General Medical  
Center  
Salem Village  
Skagit Habitat for Humanity  
Sundance Energy Services, Inc  
Williams & Nulle, PLLC, CPAs

### 10+ Years

Northwest Propane, LLC

### 5+ Years

Helping Hands Food Bank  
Legg & Watne, CPAs  
Mount Vernon Farmers Market

### Less than 5 Years

C.A.R.E. Medical Center  
Immaculate Conception Regional  
School  
Law Office of Hector Leal

# Yolanda's Success Story at Latino Business Youth

It's almost shopping hours at Skagit Gleaners. Before doors open for the day, there is a team of staff members and volunteers arranging items and making sure everything is ready for the many families they serve. One of the newest team member is Yolanda. A bright teen who is eager to put her skills to the service of the community.

Yolanda recently completed the Mount Vernon Chamber Foundation's Latino Business Youth (LBY) 2-month program and is also an active Triumph Teen Life Center participant. For Yolanda, LBY has allowed her to think in different ways to develop new business ideas. Yolanda has learned the initial steps to launch and run a business and has expressed interest in the retail industry and one day have her own boutique.

Thanks to the Latino Business Youth program and the partnership between the Northwest Workforce Council and the Mount Vernon Chamber Foundation, Yolanda is working at the Skagit Gleaners Gratitude Galleria where she sorts donations, arranges clothing items and gets the Galleria ready for Skagit Gleaner members.

Skagit Gleaners' vision is to empower families with programs and resources that foster a community of sustainability and resilience. Chelsea Thornton, Skagit Gleaners Administrative Assistant enjoys having Yolanda as part of the team and enjoys her desire to learn and be part of Skagit Gleaners. Knowing Yolanda's dream of having a boutique, Chelsea is taking Yolanda under her wing and plans to mentor her along the way. Later this month Yolanda will be joining the Latino Business Leaders program starting on September 18 and continue her training to become a business owner while working at Skagit Gleaners.

For information about the Latino Business Leaders Program and/or Latino Business Youth please contact Silvia Reed | (360) 395-2944 | [Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com](mailto:Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com).



**Yolanda, recent graduate and Chelsea Thornton, Skagit Gleaners**

**BECOME A LATINO BUSINESS YOUTH MENTOR OR EMPLOYER**

MOUNT VERNON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

For information:  
**Silvia Reed**  
(360) 395-2944 | (360) 305-0895  
[Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com](mailto:Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com)

NORTHWEST WORKFORCE COUNCIL  
LATINO Business Youth

## Partner Members

Anderson Podiatry, Bank of the Pacific, Best Western PLUS, Skagit Valley Inn, Birch Equipment Co., Budget Towing & Repair, Coastal Farm & Ranch, Chikara PR, LLC, Farmers Insurance Tory Charette Agency, Foothills Toyota, Haggen Food & Pharmacy, Hampton Inn & Suites, Infinity Painting & Renovations, Kern Funeral Home, Landed Gentry Homes & Communities, Loving Farms, Max Dale's Steak and Chop House, Mount Vernon School District, North Coast Credit Union, Northwest Escrow, LLC, PogoZone, Port of Skagit, Puget Sound Energy, Quality Gutters, SERVPRO, Skagit Public Utility District 1, Skagit Valley Casino Resort, Skagit Valley College, Skagit Regional Health, Skagit Speedway, Skagit Valley Food Co-op, Testing and Commissioning Services, LLC, Walmart, WECU, White Branches, Williams & Nulle, PLLC, CPAs



## Welcome New Members

### Blind Hat Productions

Billy Wurzauf  
(360) 899-9916  
[www.blindhathat.com](http://www.blindhathat.com)  
506 Main St  
Mount Vernon  
Your One Stop Media Shop.

### Manifest-Marketing

Shelli Jones  
(360) 961-2141  
[www.manifest-marketing.net](http://www.manifest-marketing.net)  
Bellingham  
Manifest-Marketing offers marketing services including marketing strategy, branding, social media, graphic design, sales strategy, promotional events, email marketing, and website design.

### Neu Flessenow Cellars

Laura Bruders  
(509) 433-5570  
[www.neuflessenowwinery.com](http://www.neuflessenowwinery.com)  
50 Sires Ln  
Leavenworth  
We are a premier family-owned establishment nestled in beautiful Leavenworth dedicated to crafting exceptional small batch wines.

### Pettruzzelli Inc.

Dominic Pettruzzelli  
(360) 610-7256  
[www.pettruzzelli.com](http://www.pettruzzelli.com)  
506 Main St  
Mount Vernon  
Going all in on your ownership dreams. We cut through the tension that comes with buying and selling a home by relying on our over 30 years of combined real estate expertise and sharing laughs with us along the way. We love to get close and personal so we can serve you at the highest possible level to get you the best possible outcome.



### Whispering Willows of Mount Vernon

Gabina Bah  
(360) 630-0538  
[www.milestoneretirement.com](http://www.milestoneretirement.com)  
2311 E Division St  
Mount Vernon  
A specialized dementia care community dedicated to providing a secure, loving, enrichment environment, where compassionate care, expert memory care support, dignity and respect are at the heart of everything we do.



## BrewFest on the Skagit Continues

The historic Lincoln Theatre has passed the reigns of BrewFest on the Skagit to the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce. We are honored to take on this long-standing Mount Vernon tradition. We are also happy to donate a portion of each ticket sold to the Lincoln Theatre Foundation to help keep live music, theatre, community events and film in the theatre throughout the year.

The event is on Saturday, September 7th from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. in downtown Mount Vernon. We have an incredible music lineup, see the list below. There will be local and regional breweries from throughout Washington State, and cider at the event. There will also be amazing food and leisure games to play while you enjoy the show. We expect over 800 attendees at the event. [Get your tickets here!](#)

### Music lineup:

**2 p.m. The Chris Eger Band - 4 p.m. Eden - 6 p.m. Friends for the Ghost**



## Board of Directors

**Chair - Flora Lucatero**

Children of the Valley

**Vice Chair - Tony White**

Skagit Valley Food Co-op

**Past Chair - Brian Ivie**

Skagit Regional Health

**Treasurer - Tammy Reim-Ledbetter**

Global Credit Union

**Tony Cook**

Cook CPAs and Consultants, PLLC

**Viry Delgado**

COA Mexican Eatery

**Matt Gill**

Marathon Petroleum Corporation

**Katie Hayton**

La Conner Inn

**Elizabeth Jennings**

Community Action of Skagit County

**Crystal King**

NW Technology

**Robert Knoll**

Puget Sound Energy

**Andrew Miller**

Tulip Valley Farms

**Julia Phillip**

Julia Phillip Realty

**Stacie J. Pratschner**

City of Mount Vernon

**Dr. Amanda Rentschler**

Roosevelt Dental Center

**Jon Ronngren**

Mount Vernon School District

**Dr. Chris Villa**

Skagit Valley College

**STAFF**

**Andy Mayer** President/CEO

**Silvia Reed** Business Development and Foundation Director

**Jeremy Kindlund** Operations Director

**Susana Ipanaque**

Admin Assistant Chamber Foundation

**Bob Johnson & Julie Newkirk**

Visitor Information Services

## Member Announcements

**Mount Vernon Library Commons Ribbon Cutting Ceremony**

Mayor Peter Donovan is thrilled to invite the community to a public ribbon cutting ceremony for the Mount Vernon Library Commons. The event will take place at 208 W. Kincaid Street on Saturday, September 28, at 10am.

The \$56M Mount Vernon Library Commons is a mixed-use project that began construction in September of 2022, and fulfills many of the city’s long-term goals. The project includes a public library, a community conference center, a commercial kitchen, and three floors of structured parking to support commerce and development in the downtown area. The project is the largest municipally owned EV charging station in the United States. Drivers who have historically driven past Mount Vernon on I-5, can now stop here to eat and shop while charging their vehicle in one of the 76 chargers, four of which are DC fast-charging stations. Nine electric bicycle-charging lockers are also available to commuters.

The environmentally thoughtful project is the first publicly-bid project in Washington State to achieve “Passive House” certification. The design yields 80% less energy usage than the current city library, which was built in the 1950’s.

Join city officials this month in celebrating the largest project in city history to be funded with federal, state, and local funding—all fully funded with no increase in local property tax.

The celebration includes a ribbon cutting ceremony, music, EV car show, and tours of the new building.

**Tune In**  
Chamber Chat  
Wednesday Mornings

8:05 a.m. **102.1 KAPS** Country  
8:20 a.m. **KBRC** Classic Rock

For more member announcements, visit [mountvernonchamber.com/member-announcements](https://mountvernonchamber.com/member-announcements)  
Send your announcements to [Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com](mailto:Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com)

# August in Pictures



**Members network at the Multi-Chamber After Hours**



**Latino Business Leaders at Triumph Teen Center event**



**Latino Business Leaders Kickoff**



**Latino Business Youth**



**Members receive renewal certificates at the Membership Luncheon**



**Speaking of Women Series**

## Ambassadors

- Chair - Betsy Anorbe**  
Betsy Anorbe Real Estate
- Silvia Alvarez**  
Triumph Teen Life Center
- Clarissa De Vries**  
CrossCountry Mortgage, LLC
- Morgan Elton**  
Country Financial - The Elton Group
- Joley Garner**  
WAFD Insurance Group, Inc.
- Devin González**  
Center for Inclusive Entrepreneurship
- Jaime Huss**  
Washington Federal
- Crystal King**  
NW Technology
- Blake Rawlins**  
Guardian Northwest Title & Escrow
- Tammy Reim-Ledbetter**  
Global Credit Union
- Chris Van De Grift**  
ReLuTy Real Estate

## BRONZE LEGACY







Peoples Bank  
A higher level of service.

COLD  
CRAFT  
BEER  
&  
CIDER

22nd Annual



FOOD  
•  
LAWN  
GAMES  
•  
LIVE  
MUSIC

# BrewFest

on the Skagit

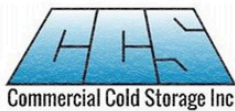
Sat. Sept. 7 • 2-7 p.m.

South 1st St. & West Broadway • Mount Vernon

Tickets & Info



MUSIC BY: THE CHRIS EGER BAND • EDEN • FRIENDS FOR THE GHOST







BACK TO SCHOOL IS  
THE PERFECT TIME TO  
**FIND YOUR Y.**  
**»» JOIN NOW  
& SAVE \$100**

For a better us.



**\$ 0 JOINING FEE**  
ONLY FROM AUG 05 - SEP 15

## AT THE SKAGIT Y, YOU WILL FIND

- ▶ **Value:** The Y is 20% less expensive than other gyms in Skagit County for a family of four. Ask about Financial Assistance and other great discounts.
- ▶ **Opportunities for Youth:** Sports leagues, swim lessons, FREE on-site childcare and a drop-in teen center
- ▶ **Everyone is Welcome:** Family-friendly and accessible to all, no matter of age, income, household size, or ability.

Find countless opportunities to get moving and experience the joy of better health for you and your family. All it takes is the first step. Join us!

\$0 Joining Fee promotional offer available from August 5 through September 15, 2024 and applies to a new or renewed Skagit Valley Family YMCA Membership. Other restrictions may apply.



»» FIND YOUR Y AT  
**THE SKAGIT VALLEY FAMILY YMCA**  
[skagitymca.org/membership](https://skagitymca.org/membership)  
(360) 336-9622

# BUSINESS TRAINING PROGRAM

2024-2025 SCHEDULE

DELIVERED IN SPANISH



## Includes:

- Monthly training sessions and workshops
- Networking events
- One-on-one consultations
- Peer-to-peer mentorship



Send text to register

2024-2025 Program Sponsor



**Karla Nelson**

Especialista en Pequeños Negocios  
360-424-1086



AUGUST 28, 2024 | 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Summer Social and Program Kickoff

SEPTEMBER, 18 2024 | 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Starting your Business

OCTOBER 16, 2024 | 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Obtaining your Business Licenses

FALL 2024

Specialized training for Contractors

NOVEMBER 20, 2024 | 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Applying for Special Permits

DECEMBER 11, 2024 | 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Latino Business Leaders Holiday Social

JANUARY 15, 2025 | 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Getting Ready for Tax Season

WINTER 2025

Specialized training for Food Businesses

FEBRUARY 19, 2025 | 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Applying for Business Loans

MARCH 19, 2025 | 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Finding Grants and Non-Traditional Funding

APRIL 16, 2025 | 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Latino Business Leaders Spring Social

MAY 21, 2025 | 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Business panel

Classes are free, registration required.

All classes are held at the multi-purpose room at Skagit Valley College

FOR INFORMATION

[Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com](mailto:Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com) | Call-text (360) 395-2944 | [www.MountVernonChamber.com](http://www.MountVernonChamber.com)

Latino Business Leaders is a Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce Foundation program designed to facilitate the advancement and participation of the Latino entrepreneurs in our region



# ENTRENAMIENTO EMPRESARIAL

PROGRAMA 2024-2025

PRESENTADO EN ESPAÑOL



## Incluye

- Entrenamiento y talleres mensuales
- Eventos de networking
- Consultoría individualizada
- Mentoría con empresarios de su industria



Envíe un texto para registrarse

2024-2025 Program Sponsor



**Karla Nelson**

Especialista en Pequeños Negocios

360-424-1086



28 DE AGOSTO 2024 | 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Convivio de empresarios y lanzamiento de programa

18 DE SETIEMBRE 2024 | 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Empezando su empresa

16 DE OCTUBRE 2024 | 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Como obtener su Licencia de Negocios

OTOÑO 2024

Entrenamiento para Contratistas

20 DE NOVIEMBRE 2024 | 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Aplicación para Permisos Especiales

11 DE DICIEMBRE 2024 | 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Latino Business Leaders Holiday Social

15 DE ENERO 2025 | 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Preparándose para la Temporada de Impuestos

INVIERNO 2025

Entrenamiento para Negocios de Alimentos

19 DE FEBRERO 2025 | 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Aplicando para Prestamos de Negocios

19 DE MARZO 2025 | 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Subvenciones y Financiamiento No-Tradicional

16 DE ABRIL 2025 | 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Latino Business Leaders Spring Social

21 DE MAYO 2025 | 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Business panel

Las clases son gratuitas pero debe inscribirse para poder asistir.

Las clases son en Skagit Valley College - area tras la cafetería

## INFORMES

[Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com](mailto:Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com) | **Call-text (360) 395-2944** | [www.MountVernonChamber.com](http://www.MountVernonChamber.com)

Latino Business Leaders es un programa de la Fundación de la Cámara de Comercio de Mount Vernon creado para facilitar el avance y la participación de los empresarios Latinos en la región.





# Partnership Opportunities

Latino Business Leaders (LBL) is a Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce Foundation program designed to facilitate the advancement and participation of Latino businesses in our region through business training programs, networking, marketing and mentorship. LBL runs between August 2024 and May 2025.

## LBL Presenting Partner

**\$2500.00**

- ⇒ Company name and/or logo in all LBL marketing including website, social media and newsletter
- ⇒ Company name in all radio announcements
- ⇒ Opportunity to speak in front of the group
- ⇒ Your marketing material available for participants at all business training sessions
- ⇒ Marketing table (or similar depending on space) at 3 LBL Social-Networking events

## LBL Partner (3 business training sessions)

**\$500.00**

- ⇒ Company name and/or logo in LBL marketing including website, social media and newsletter
- ⇒ Opportunity to speak in front of the group
- ⇒ Your marketing material available for participants at 3 business training sessions

## Latino Initiative Supporter

**\$250.00**

- ⇒ Company name and/or logo in event marketing
- ⇒ Opportunity to speak in front of the group
- ⇒ Your marketing material available for LBL participants

## LBL Social-Networking Event Supporter

**\$250.00**

- ⇒ Company name and/or logo in event marketing including website, social media and newsletter
- ⇒ Opportunity to speak in front of the group
- ⇒ Marketing table at event (or similar depending on space)

## LBL Business Training Supporter (1 session)

**\$200.00**

- ⇒ Company name and/or logo in LBL marketing
- ⇒ Company logo on the event page and displayed during the sponsored session
- ⇒ Your marketing material available for session participants

### **2024-2025 Schedule**

#### LBL Social-Networking Events

Held on in August—December and April

#### Latino Initiatives

Special sessions designed to support the Latino community and based on specific community needs.

#### Business Training Program

Free monthly training sessions in Spanish. Held the second Wednesday of the month unless otherwise noted in event page.



**MOUNTVERNONCHAMBER.COM**

Silvia Reed | [Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com](mailto:Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com) | Direct: (360) 395-2944 - Cell (360) 305-0895

**GRADUATION  
CEREMONY  
COHORT 1**



**YOU ARE COORDIALLY INVITED TO  
CELEBRATE WITH US!**



**WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 25th, 6-7:30PM**

**TRIUMPH TEEN LIFE CENTER  
2121 E COLLEGE WAY, UNIT B,  
MOUNT VERNON**

*We are excited to invite all participants, parents, and our community to celebrate the incredible achievements of our Latino Business Youth Cohort 1 graduates!*

*Estamos muy emocionados de invitar a todos los participantes, padres y comunidad a celebrar los increíbles logros de los graduados de Latino Business Youth - Cohort 1*

**RSVP**

**Susana Ipanaque** (360) 395-2943  
Susana@MountVernonChamber.com

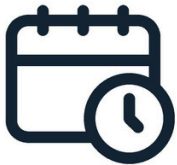
**Silvia Reed** (360) 395-2944  
Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com

# 2024 LEGACY EVENT

# BUILDING THE BRIDGE



**YOU ARE INVITED**



**THURSDAY SEPT. 19**

**5:30 - 7:30 PM**

**CHILDREN'S MUSEUM  
OF SKAGIT COUNTY**

Program presented by  
Garry Priam, Diventa Solutions LLC

**CATERED BY COA MEXICAN EATERY**

[www.MountVernonChamber.com](http://www.MountVernonChamber.com)