

# CHAMBER CHAT

December 2024

## Recognizing Progress and Keeping it Moving Forward

As 2024 draws to a close, it's a logical time to reflect on things past, specifically how Mount Vernon has addressed community needs in the past 25 or so. Have we made progress on the things we believed to be important for our community? I believe that we have, as shown by several major projects.

Topping the list of challenges, floods have been a major problem since the area was settled, causing frequent and extreme economic damage. Thanks to decades of effort, FEMA approved the downtown flood protection project in 2010, which was completed in 2018. We have already seen the positive economic and community impact the floodwall and Riverwalk have created. Transportation has also been a recurring problem and an opportunity for Mount Vernon, with the river, railroad, and interstate, all in close proximity. To address the needs of the area, Skagit Station, built in 2004, provided a much-needed multimodal transportation hub. And Skagit Transit, founded in 1993, has provided for the evolving mobility needs of area residents. Now, in a very short time, from conception to completion, the Library Commons benefits from and unites them all. The library is a tremendous resource for our residents. The parking garage will encourage downtown commerce while drawing visitors off the highway to experience our charm and culture. The conference and meeting rooms will similarly serve and showcase our community. These four projects and services, by themselves and in concert with each other, demonstrate what can be accomplished when needs are identified, find solutions, and keep working until they are completed. The projects mentioned here are of course only a few of the civic and community accomplishments in the past 25 years. The list is long of progress in health, education, human services, safety, recreation, and quality of life, to name just a few. I've highlighted infrastructure, but equally as important are each small piece of the puzzle making Mount Vernon a wonderful place to live and to do business. The Chamber is uniquely qualified and committed to identifying those community and business needs, finding people and organizations best able to address them, and to partner with them or support them along the way. You are an essential part of the process, whether it's by supporting our efforts identifying needs, or digging in to do the work. It's all appreciated! Thank you, Andy



### GOLD



### SILVER



Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce  
(360) 428-8547  
[mountvernonchamber.com](http://mountvernonchamber.com)

# Calendar of Events

## Biz Buzz Networking Luncheon

Wednesday, December 11

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

Hillcrest Lodge

1717 S 13th St

Mount Vernon

[Register here](#)



## Multi-Chamber After Hours at Avenue Catering

Thursday, December 12

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

676 S Spruce St

Burlington

## Latino Business Youth Graduation Celebration - Cohort 2

Thursday, Dec 12

6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Triumph Teen Life Center

2121 E College Way Suite B

Mount Vernon

[Register here](#)

## Latino Business Leaders Holiday Social

Wednesday, December 11

6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Tepic Mexican Restaurant

150 Cascade Mall Dr. Burlington

[Register here](#)



# Thank You Renewing Members

### 35+ Years

Piazza Realty Property Management, Inc.

### 25+ Years

Birch Equipment Co., Inc.

Calico Cupboard Café & Bakery

Hansen's Furniture

Landed Gentry Development Inc.

### 20+ Years

Cascades Job Corps

Fortiphi Insurance

### 10+ Years

COA Mexican Eatery

HF Sinclair

### 5+ Years

Alfa and Omega Tax Services

Banner Bank

Guardian Security Systems, INC.

Il Granaio Inc.

Mystical Wares

Skagit Adult Day Program

Testing and Commissioning Services, LLC

VSH Certified Public Accountants

### Less than 5 years

Consejo Counseling and Referral Service

Pure Cleaning Services

Sunshine Painters LLC

Weaver Insurance Agency, Inc - Farmers Insurance

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

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

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN OUR AMBASSADOR TEAM?**

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

# Secure Marketing Opportunities for 2025

Do you have plans to increase your marketing presence or support the Chamber? Now is the time to act on marketing and sponsorship opportunities.

**The Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce has the following opportunities available:**

- Monthly Luncheons
- Skagit Chili & Chowder Cook-Off
- Riverwalk Summer Concert Series
- BrewFest on the Skagit
- Your Chamber This Week
- Chamber Chat Newsletter Inserts
- Chamber Chat Newsletter Ads
- Visit Mount Vernon Emails

These events and publications are a great way to increase exposure to fellow Chamber members and the community at large, and the Chamber makes it easy to participate. See the marketing opportunities in this newsletter for details on each sponsorship, as well as other opportunities available with the Chamber.

Contact Jeremy Kindlund, Operations Director to reserve your chance to gain exposure at (360) 428-8547 or [Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com](mailto:Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com).

## Shop Local and Win!

*Shop local &*  
**WIN!**

**SPEND \$5 - GET A PUNCH**

\$5 Fill up, return your card, and be \$5  
\$5 entered to win weekly prizes \$5  
\$5 and the GRAND PRIZE drawing \$5  
\$5 on February 1, 2025! \$5  
\$5 *Drop off cards & be entered to win!* \$5  
\$5 **Tri-Dee Arts** \$5  
\$5 215 S 1st St, Mount Vernon, WA 98273 \$5  
\$5 **Skagit Running Company** \$5  
\$5 724 S 1st St, Mount Vernon, WA 98273 \$5

**Pick up your SHOP LOCAL card at one of these fantastic businesses!**

- Babe Rainbow Antiques • Bargains Galore Thrift Store
- Betsy Anorbe Real Estate • bloom Floral Design • Blue Taco • Calico Cupboard Café & Bakery • Celtic Arts Foundation • Forté Chocolate • Dilly Dally Antiques & Collectibles • Dorothea Coffee • Draft Pics Pub & Eatery • Draper Valley Farms / Perdue Farms • Gateway Automotive and Transmission • JeKa • Julia Phillip Realty • KAPS Radio 660 AM & 102.1 FM • KBRC 1430AM & 102.9FM • Kids Stuff • KLT:works Studio + Shop • LIDO Collective • Mister T's Awards & Embroidery • Neu Flessenow Cellars • PAVÉ Jewelry & Design • Rich's for the Home • SaviBank • Skagit Habitat for Humanity • Skagit Running Company • Skagit Transit • Skagit Valley Food Co-op Mercantile • Skagit Valley Tulip Festival • Thai House Restaurant • The Chique Boutique Salon / Sharlie's Curvy Clothes • The Lunchbox Diner • Tori Tornado • Tri Dee Arts • WaFd Bank • White Branches • Wild Fibers • Wingz and Thingz • Work Outfitters

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



**Partner Members**

- Anderson Podiatry, Aquarius Collective, Bank of the Pacific, Birch Equipment Co., Coastal Farm & Ranch, Chikara PR, LLC, Foothills Toyota, Haggen Food & Pharmacy, Hampton Inn & Suites, Kern Funeral Home, Landed Gentry Homes & Communities, Loving Farms, Mount Vernon School District, North Coast Credit Union, Northwest Escrow, LLC, PogoZone, Port of Skagit, Puget Sound Energy, Quality Gutters, Skagit Public Utility District 1, Skagit Valley Casino Resort, Skagit Regional Health, Skagit Speedway, Skagit Valley Food Co-op, Testing and Commissioning Services, LLC, WECU, White Branches, Williams & Nulle, PLLC, CPAs, Wingate by Wyndham

## Welcome New Members

### Aquarius Collective

Andrhu Morales  
(360) 899-4172  
325 Pine St  
Mount Vernon



Founded in November 2023, we bring stories to life through photography and videography. From weddings to events and branding, we craft stunning visuals that preserve memories and showcase your vision.

### First Rescue CPR

Matthew Baruth  
(360) 843-2136  
[www.firstrescuecpr.com](http://www.firstrescuecpr.com)  
2114 Riverside Dr Ste 207  
Mount Vernon



First Rescue CPR offers engaging CPR, AED, and First Aid training in Mount Vernon, empowering individuals to save lives. We deliver training at our office or conveniently on-site at your location.

### M|Q Gadgets Gift Goodies

Tami Schorno  
(360) 631-5218  
[www.mqstanwood.com](http://www.mqstanwood.com)  
8706 271st St NW  
Stanwood  
Stanwood's One Stop Gift shop for kitchen gadgets, gifts for all ages, plus wine, pantry goods, and treats.

### Newton's Plumbing

Tony Schollaert  
(360) 726-3148  
[www.newtonsplumbing.com](http://www.newtonsplumbing.com)  
Mount Vernon  
Small service and repair plumbing company. Primary service area is Skagit Valley. Don't stop pooping, just call Newton!

### Tepic Mexican Restaurant

Juan R. Banuelos  
(360) 899-4172  
[www.tepicrestaurant.com](http://www.tepicrestaurant.com)  
150 Cascade Mall Dr  
Burlington



Discover Tepic Mexican Restaurant, your nearby destination for authentic Mexican cuisine. Our restaurant embodies a perfect fusion of youthful energy and seasoned expertise, crafted by our dedicated owners who have nurtured this dream for years.

## Chamber Connections Events

Take your networking efforts to the next level

You are invited to visit one of our signature referral groups this holiday season:

Build strong business relationships • Share best business practices • Generate more referrals for your business

### Chamber Connections Group 1 Holiday Brunch

Tuesday, Dec 10  
9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.  
Wendy Lucas's House  
1300 Alpine View Dr  
Mount Vernon  
[Register here](#)

### Chamber Connections Group 2 Holiday Billiard Party

Tuesday, Dec 10  
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.  
Skagit River Brewery  
404 S 3rd St  
Mount Vernon  
[Register here](#)

### Chamber Connections Group 3 Vision Board Brunch Party

Wednesday, Dec 18  
9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.  
Chamber office  
301 W Kincaid St  
Mount Vernon  
[Register here](#)

## 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

### Giving with Heart WaFd Bank Food Drive

*Giving With*  
**HEARTY**

HEARTY Foods for Community  
High Protein - High Fiber - Pop-tops - Ready to Eat

DECEMBER 2nd - 20th  
Bring your donation to:  
1501 Riverside Dr

WaFd Bank

BELLINGHAM  
FOOD BANK

Forgot to  
Bring Food?  
Scan to send  
a donation!

### WECU Expands Education Grant Program to \$312,500 with Matching Funds from FHLB Des Moines

WECU is pleased to announce that its Education First Grant Program, initially providing \$125,000 over two years to support educational initiatives in Whatcom and Skagit Counties, has received an additional boost through a partnership with the Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines (FHLB Des Moines). Through the FHLB Des Moines Member Impact Fund, this contribution has more than doubled to \$312,500, amplifying the support for local organizations dedicated to educational and community development. The four 2024 grant recipients – Bellingham Arts Academy for Youth (BAAY), Skagit Preschool and Resource Center (SPARC), Economic Development Alliance of Skagit County (EDASC) – Startup School, and Whatcom Literacy Council – will now have increased resources to drive their missions forward.

**Tune In**  
Chamber Chat  
Wednesday Mornings

8:05 a.m. 8:20 a.m.

102.1 KAPS  
The New Country

KBRC  
CLASSIC ROCK  
102.9 FM - 1410 AM

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)

# November in Pictures



**Speaking of Women November  
Coffee Chat at Blue Taco**



**Multi-Chamber After Hours  
at WECU**



**Latino Business Youth Cohort 2**



**Latino Business Leaders**



**Skagit Chamber Alliance  
ornament making party**



**Shop Local prize winner**

## Ambassadors

- Chair - Betsy Anorbe**  
Betsy Anorbe Real Estate
- Silvia Alvarez**  
Triumph Teen Life Center
- Tim Alvord**  
Pape Machinery AG and Turf
- Clarissa De Vries**  
CrossCountry Mortgage, LLC
- Morgan Elton**  
Country Financial - The Elton Group
- Jaime Huss**  
Washington Federal
- Karla Nelson**  
U.S. Bank - Riverside Dr
- Crystal King**  
NW Technology
- Blake Rawlins**  
Guardian Northwest Title & Escrow
- Jessica Rodriguez**  
Children of the Valley After School Program
- Tammy Reim-Ledbetter**  
Global Credit Union
- Natalie Zavala**  
WAFD Insurance Group Inc.

## BRONZE LEGACY





# 2025 MARKETING & SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

<p><b>Membership Meeting Sponsor</b></p> <p>Includes your logo in the monthly Chamber Chat, weekly email, website event calendar, newsletter email to over 900 businesses, 5 minute presentation at the meeting, display table and exclusive right to distribute flyers on the tables.</p>	<p>\$300 (Act quickly because these go fast!)</p>	<p><b>Exclusive Sponsor of "Your Chamber This Week" Email</b></p> <p>Your display ad or logo sent to over 900 email addresses each week with an active link to your website. We have a special rate for yearly sponsors.</p>	<p>\$100/week or 12 for \$1,000</p>
<p><b>Skagit Chili &amp; Chowder Cook-Off</b></p> <p>A fantastic way to get exposure as Skagit County's best battle it out. This competition features both amateurs and professionals and is a sure fire hit with the crowd!</p>	<p>\$325-\$1,250  Sponsorships Available</p>	<p><b>Chamber Chat Newsletter Inserts</b></p> <p>You provide the PDF, we do the rest! Perfect for events, sales and announcements; sent to over 900 business professionals in the monthly Chamber Chat Newsletter.</p>	<p>\$100/week or 12 for \$1,000</p>
<p><b>Riverwalk Summer Concert Series</b></p> <p>A family-friendly event on the Riverwalk in downtown Mount Vernon Concert Series featuring an eclectic mix of genres from talented local musicians. Sponsorships include radio promotion, social media, display table and option to announce your business during the concert.</p>	<p>\$350-\$5,000  Sponsorships Available</p>	<p><b>Chamber Chat Newsletter Ad</b></p> <p>Place your ad in the award-winning Chamber Chat newsletter and be seen every month. Reach out to fellow business leaders and potential customers with over 10,000 copies distributed annually.</p>	<p>\$700-\$1,500  Varies by Size</p>
<p><b>BrewFest on the Skagit</b></p> <p>Cold beer, cider, wine, delicious food, fantastic music, leisure games and a view of the Skagit River. BrewFest on the Skagit has it all! A portion of tickets sales is donated to the Lincoln Theatre Foundation.</p>	<p>\$550-\$5,000  Sponsorships Available</p>	<p><b>MountVernonChamber.com Display Ads</b></p> <p>Extend your marketing reach to over 136,000 annual visitors on our website with your display ad linked directly to your website. Three sizes/ styles of display ads available.</p>	<p>Cost varies by size and length of ad run.</p>
<p><b>New Member Welcome Basket</b></p> <p>Be one of the first to introduce your business to new chamber members by providing your company swag or special offer, to be included in every welcome basket.</p>	<p><b>FREE</b>  Just supply us with your promotional items.</p>	<p><b>Door Prizes</b></p> <p>Keep your business name and brand in front of potential customers by donating a door prize during any one of our events.</p>	<p><b>FREE</b>  Provide us your door prize prior to start of event.</p>

**Company Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Contact:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

For more information contact Jeremy Kindlund - (360) 428-8547, or [Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com](mailto:Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com).

Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce - PO BOX 1007 Mount Vernon, WA 98273, [www.MountVernonChamber.com](http://www.MountVernonChamber.com).

A Mount Vernon Chamber program designed for business women to connect with one another, empower each other and mentor upcoming business leaders



# SPEAKING OF WOMEN

## 2025 SERIES

### EMPOWERMENT PANELS

THE NEXT GENERATION OF WOMEN LEADERS

MARCH 12 | 4:30 - 6:00 PM

WOMEN SHAPING THE FUTURE

JUNE 11 | 4:30 - 6:00 PM

WOMEN IN POWER

SEPT. 10 | 4:30 - 6:00 PM

### COFFEE CHATS (Jan - Nov.)

Second Wednesday of the month at 9:00 AM

(No coffee chat in months when panels are held)

## WHY JOIN?

- Feel inspired and empowered
- Experience a sense of belonging
- Expand your professional network with like-minded women



**2025 Series  
Registration Starts  
Dec. 23**

**Members: \$180.00**

Includes admission to panels and hors d'oeuvres.

Coffee Chats food items paid separately.

Held at various locations

**Non-member information available**

For information

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

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





## SPEAKING OF WOMEN

### 2025 Partnership Opportunities

“Speaking of Women” is a Mount Vernon Chamber program designed for business women to connect with one another, empower each other and mentor upcoming business leaders.

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#### Series Sponsor

**\$2,000.00**

- ⇒ Company name and/or logo prominently displayed in series marketing (panels and coffee chats)
- ⇒ Opportunity to speak to the group at each Speaking of Women event
- ⇒ Your marketing material available for participants
- ⇒ 01 complimentary admission to all 2025 empowerment panels

#### Coffee Chat Sponsor

**\$ 200.00**

- ⇒ Company name and/or logo prominently displayed in coffee chat marketing
- ⇒ Opportunity to speak to the group at the coffee chat of your choice

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### **2025 Schedule**

#### **Panels**

March 12	4:30—6:00 PM	The Next Generation of Women Leaders
June 11	4:30—6:00 PM	Women Shaping the Future
September 10	4:30—6:00 PM	Women in Power

#### **Coffee Chats at 9:00 AM**

Jan. 8	Feb. 12	April 9	May 14
July 9	Aug. 13	Oct. 8	Nov. 12

Panels and Coffee Chats are held at various locations



Marketing and Networking  
Referral Programs  
Women's Group  
Bilingual Business Training



# Join the Chamber

**OCT. 1 – DEC. 20, 2024**

**FOR ADDITIONAL BENEFITS**

Your business in a one-time only ad  
in the Skagit Valley Herald

Free insert in the  
Chamber newsletter

Additional social media  
coverage



**FOR INFORMATION AND TO JOIN**  
Silvia Reed (360) 395-2944 | (360) 305-0895  
Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com



*Business Youth*

# TEEN LEADERSHIP AND LATINO BUSINESS YOUTH COHORT 2

## *Graduation Celebration*

TRIUMPH TEEN LIFE CENTER  
2121 E. COLLEGE WAY  
MOUNT VERNON

THURSDAY DECEMBER 12 AT 6:30 PM



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





YOU ARE INVITED TO

# CHAMBER CONNECTIONS HOLIDAY EVENTS

## HOLIDAY BRUNCH

Tuesday Dec. 10 at 9:00 AM  
1300 Alpine View Dr. Mount Vernon

## HOLIDAY POOL PARTY

Tuesday Dec. 10 at 6:00 PM  
Skagit River Brewery

## VISION BOARD BRUNCH PARTY

Wednesday Dec. 18 at 9:00 AM  
Mount Vernon Chamber

