

CHAMBER CHAT

June 2024

What I'm Thinking About

By Andy Mayer President/CEO

The calendar may say it's not quite summer, But the weather finally does! Here are things for you to know about and to attend for the month.

Chamber Foundation: Our Foundation is expanding its excellent work under Silvia Reed's outstanding leadership. The Latino Business Leaders program and the Experience Work Project, which helps students determine their ideal careers, has been combined. This summer there will be a program providing entrepreneurial training for Latino youth, coupled with related paid work. Thanks to the Northwest Workforce Council for the grant funding!

Concrete: The Multi-Chamber After Hours is in Concrete, on the 13th at 4:30. It couldn't be a nicer time of year to visit the cool little town. We'll be hosted by Act One Ice Cream Parlor/Concrete Theater. It'll be a beautiful drive and a chance to go back in time for a bit.

Music Events: Jeremy Kindlund has put together a fabulous lineup for our Riverwalk Summer Concert Series, Thursdays, from July 11 to August 29. Along the same lines, the Chamber is excited to be taking over the Lincoln's Brewfest on the Skagit, which will be held on September 7. Jeremy has already secured 3 great bands and is working on the components that have contributed to the 21 year run of the event, including beer of course. Sponsorships and volunteer opportunities are available.

Membership Luncheon: Hart Hodges, Co-Director of WWU's Center for Economic and Business Research will be our speaker on the 26th. Learn and discuss what's impacting your business and what to expect in the near future.

Healthcare: I'm glad that we have excellent healthcare in our area because I'll be getting a knee replacement at Skagit Regional Health's new Surgery Center at the end of the month. So, I won't see you at Luncheon, but I'll be ready to dance at the later concerts or the Brewfest!



GOLD



SILVER



Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce
(360) 428-8547
mountvernonchamber.com

On-the-job learning opportunities offered by Chamber Foundation last May

Experience Work Project (EWP), a Chamber Foundation program focused on workforce development continues to offer valuable on-the-job learning opportunities to qualifying Skagit Valley College students.

In partnership with the Northwest Workforce Council and Skagit Valley College; last May EWP facilitated job shadow opportunities at Skagit Transit for Automotive and Diesel Power Technology students followed by a Career Panel for Human Services students. The panel was presented by Community Action of Skagit County and Pioneer Human Service / Skagit Detox.

Students were able to learn about each of these organizations, industry challenges and opportunities and the economic impact they make in Skagit County. Networking with industry experts also allow students to get familiar with the hard and soft skills needed to enter the labor market.

On-the-job learning opportunities help prepare students for future employment while supporting our community workforce needs. Qualifying students are welcome to attend industry tours, shadow a professional in their field or complete a 40-hour internship with a local employer.

The Chamber Foundation’s workforce development program is funded by the Northwest Workforce Council and Skagit Valley College. For more information and partnership opportunities, please contact Business Development and Foundation Director Silvia Reed (360) 395- 2944 / Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com.



EWP job shadow at Skagit Transit



EWP Human Services career panel



BE ONE OF THE FIRST ONES

TO INTRODUCE YOUR BUSINESS
TO NEW CHAMBER MEMBERS

By providing your company
swag or special offer to be
included in every welcome bag

CONTACT:
Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com
Mount Vernon
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(360) 428-8547





Welcome New Members

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Calendar of Events

The "Why" behind the "What" - A "Speaking of Women" Event

Wednesday, June 12

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

Whispering Firs Bed & Breakfast Lodge

19357 Kanako Ln

Mount Vernon

[Register here](#)



Multi-Chamber After Hours at Concrete Theatre/Act One Ice Cream Parlor

Thursday, June 13

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

45920 Main Street

Concrete

Ribbon Cutting at Alpha Home Health and Hospice

Friday, June 14

3 p.m.

2210 Kulshan View Dr Ste 105

Mount Vernon

Membership Luncheon - Regional Economic Update and Discussion by Hart Hodges, WWU

Wednesday, June 26

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

Littlefield Celtic Center

1124 Cleveland Ave

Mount Vernon

[Register here](#)



Latino Business Leaders expanding to Latino Business Youth

The Mount Vernon Chamber Foundation is proud to announce the launching of its new program; "Latino Business Youth". The new program is modeled after Latino Business Leaders and it will include business training and mentorship by Latino business owners with a paid work experience available for qualifying participants. Latino Business Youth will serve Latino Youth ages 16-24 yr.

Since 2019 the Mount Vernon Chamber Foundation has worked with Latino entrepreneurs providing monthly business training, one-on-one consultation, networking and peer-to-peer mentorship. We have hosted over 50 training sessions and since 2023 we have mentored over 35 Latino businesses in partnership with SCORE. Many of the Latino families we serve have young children at home who have either expressed interest in becoming a business owner or are already helping their parents in running their business.

Although we anticipate participation from our Latino Business Leaders young family members, our goal is to serve beyond this group, reaching out and supporting the Latino youth that is currently facing challenges and economic disparity in our county. Providing tools for success for those who envision entrepreneurship or giving them access to gainful employment is vital in advancing economic inclusion.

Latino Business Youth will launch this July with a kickoff event on July 10, followed by 4 business training sessions and two opportunities for our youth to present their business to Latino and non-Latino businesses. The pilot cohort will wrap up on August 21 when our Latino Youth will have the opportunity to present their business and network at the Latino Business Leaders 2024-2025 kick off event. Thanks to our partnership with the Northwest Workforce Council, qualifying participants will be able to access paid employment opportunities at a Latino business in our region which will allow them to learn in depth the "ins and outs" of running a business.

For more information about Latino Business Leaders and Latino Business Youth, please contact Business Development and Foundation Director Silvia Reed | Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com | (360)395-2944

Board of Directors

Chair - Flora Lucatero

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STAFF

Andy Mayer President/CEO

Silvia Reed Business Development and
Foundation Director

Jeremy Kindlund Operations Director

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Visitor Information Services

Member Announcements

**COMMUNITY SUMMER
SALE AND DIAPER
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SATURDAY, JUNE 22ND

10 AM - 4 PM

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SEE YOU THERE!




**Keys for Kids event held by Boys & Girls Clubs of Skagit
County- June 28th & 29th**

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Skagit County invites community members to their annual Keys For Kids event at Stepping Stones Gardens on Friday, June 28th and Saturday, June 29th. Community members are invited to enjoy this raucously fun event, featuring an all-request show of music favorites.

Tickets, tables, and sponsorship levels are limited and can be purchased through the Boys & Girls Clubs of Skagit County's website at www.skagitclubs.org or by contacting Chief Development Officer, Ian Faley at (360) 202-9021 or ifaley@skagitclubs.org.



Tune In
Chamber Chat
Wednesday Mornings

102.1 KAPS
Country
8:05 a.m.

KBRC
Classic Rock
8:20 a.m.

For more member announcements, visit
mountvernonchamber.com/member-announcements

Send your announcements to
Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com

May in Pictures



Multi-Chamber After Hours at Camp Korey



Latino Business Leaders Business Panel



Mount Vernon Mayor, Peter Donovan Presents State of the City at our Membership Luncheon



Ribbon Cutting at La Catrina Tacos & Tequila



Speaking of Women Coffee Chat



Ribbon Cutting at New American Funding

Ambassadors

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Betsy Anorbe Real Estate
- Silvia Alvarez**
Triumph Teen Life Center
- Clarissa De Vries**
CrossCountry Mortgage, LLC
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- Susana Ipanaque**
La Peruanita LLC – Peruvian Street Food
- Crystal King**
NW Technology
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Guardian Northwest Title & Escrow
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- Chris Van De Grift**
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BRONZE LEGACY





Sunchea Phou
Yay Novelty



Courtney Bourasaw
The Skagit Table

THE "WHY" BEHIND THE "WHAT" A "SPEAKING OF WOMEN" EVENT

June 12, 2024 – 4:30 PM

Whispering Firs Bed & Breakfast Lodge

2024 SERIES (JAN-NOV.) \$180.00
2024 JUNE – NOVEMBER \$120.00

Includes monthly coffee chats and panels:

- *Breaking the Glass Ceiling (March)*
- *The "Why" behind the "What" (June)*
- *Climbing the Success Ladder (Sept.)*





Thank you 2023-2024
Latino Business Leaders Sponsors



Shawn Steffens, ChFC, RICP
(360) 707-7677



Karla Nelson
Especialista en Pequeños Negocios
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Law Office of Hector Leal



Presenters

- SCORE
- Washington State Department of Revenue
- City of Mount Vernon
- Skagit Health Department
- Coop CPAs and Consultants, PLLC
- US Bank
- Center for Inclusive Entrepreneurship
- Washington State Department of Labor & Industries
- La Peruanita LLC - Peruvian Street Food
- Viry Delgado, COA Mexican Eatery
- Junior Galeas, Master Warehouse LLC
- Silvia Alvarez, Valley Montessori



July 10 - Latino Business Youth Kickoff Event

August 21 - Latino Business Leaders 2024-2025 Kickoff Event

Organized by the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce

KICK OFF EVENT



WEDNESDAY JULY 10
6:00 -7:30 PM
Location to be confirmed



- ✓ 2-month free business training for youth (16-24 y.)
- ✓ Mentorship by successful Latino entrepreneurs
- ✓ Opportunity to present their business idea at Mount Vernon Chamber and Latino Business Leaders events
- ✓ PAID work experience for those who qualify

 **About Latino
Business YOUTH**



Information/RSVP

Silvia Reed

Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com

(360) 395-2944



EVENTO DE LANZAMIENTO



MIÉRCOLES 10 DE JULIO
6:00 -7:30 PM
Local por confirmar



- ✓ 2-meses de entrenamiento de negocios completamente gratuito (16-24 y.)
- ✓ Mentoría por empresarios Latinos de éxito
- ✓ Oportunidad de presentar su idea de negocio a la Cámara de Comercio de Mount Vernon y Latino Business Leaders
- ✓ Experiencia de trabajo PAGADA para quienes califican

 **Acerca de Latino Business YOUTH**



Informes/Inscripción
Silvia Reed

Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com

(360) 395-2944







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