

CHAMBER CHAT

March 2025

Looking Ahead Together

At the Chamber we strive to be future-focused in most of what we do. It enables us to proactively serve your needs as a business or organization, for your personal development, and for the needs of the community. The programs this month address all those goals.

Our **Speaking of Women** program on the 12th, is “The Next Generation of Women Leaders,” featuring three young women in leadership roles who are driving positive change in our community by leveraging their passion, skills, and determination. The program allows women to connect and to support each other in a meaningful way.

The **Nonprofit Round Table** on the 18th is the first of a series of meetings, each of which will address the specific needs of a segment of our membership. We will bring together local nonprofit leaders to engage in meaningful dialogue, to provide a platform to discuss the current landscape. Our intention is to foster a collaborative environment where resources are exchanged, and concrete actions are taken.

At our **Membership Luncheon** on the 26th, we will learn about the North Star Project, from Monica Negrila, Skagit County Director of Strategic Initiatives. She will speak to you on North Star’s collaborative approach to tackling behavioral health and housing challenges in Skagit County. The goals are:

- Stable, safe housing for everyone
- Effective Community-Based System of Care

The month’s events will finish with a fun new event, “**The Mount Vernon Chamber BASH**” on the 27th. It’s a brand-new initiative to continue “Building the Bridge” between our communities and creating opportunities for successful collaboration in multi-cultural settings that welcomes diverse groups. The Mount Vernon Chamber BASH is the Business and Social Hour, “Latino” style.

Thank you for your participation and/or support!
Andy Mayer, President & CEO



GOLD



SILVER



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

Calendar of Events

Ribbon Cutting at Union Block Bistro

Friday, March 7
12 p.m.
614 S 1st St
Mount Vernon

The Next Generation of Women Leaders - A "Speaking of Women" Event

Wednesday, March 12
4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Whispering Firs Bed & Breakfast Lodge
19357 Kanako Ln
Mount Vernon
[Register here](#)



Skagit Chamber Alliance Multi-Chamber After Hours at Skagit County Fairgrounds

Thursday, March 13
4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.
North Gate entrance
1410 Virginia St
Mount Vernon

Nonprofit Round Table

Tuesday, March 18
9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
Skagit Publishing
1215 Anderson Rd
Mount Vernon
[Register here](#)

Latino Business Leaders Non-Traditional Business Funding – In Spanish

Wednesday, March 19
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Hybrid event
[Register here](#)



Membership Luncheon - North Star – All Skagit Thriving

Wednesday, March 26
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Mount Vernon Library Commons
208 W Kincaid St
Mount Vernon
[Register here](#)



The Chamber BASH

Thursday, March 27
5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Tepic Mexican Restaurant
150 Cascade Mall Dr
Burlington
[Register here](#)



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 PM
- WOMEN SHAPING THE FUTURE
JUNE 11 | 4:30 PM
- WOMEN IN POWER
SEPT. 10 | 4:30 PM

COFFEE CHATS (Jan - Nov.)
SECOND WEDNESDAYS at 9:00 AM

VIP HOUR
MAY 7 - OCTOBER 1 at 4:30 PM

JOINING FEE

Members: \$180.00
Non-members: \$250.00
Students: \$100.00

Includes admission to panels and hors d'oeuvres.

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

Thank You Renewing Members

35+ Years

Nelson-Reisner

25+ Years

The Bridge at Mount Vernon

20+ Years

Cascade Facial Surgery and Aesthetics
Peoples Bank @ Haggen

15+ Years

I Love Skagit
Skagit Valley Family YMCA
Youthnet

10+ Years

Frontline Cleaning Services &
Supplies
Grandy Creek KOA
La Conner Seafood & Prime
Rib House
McDonald's- College Way
Primerica
Skagit Symphony

5+ Years

Bargains Galore Thrift Store
Helping Hands Food Bank
Northwest Youth Services

Less than 5 Years

Avenue Catering Enterprises
Mount Vernon Neighbors/Skagit
Valley Living
Skagit Thermography

Welcome New Members

Escuelita El Jardín

Silvia Alvarez
(360) 757-4200
1911 E Division St
Mount Vernon
Employer-supported child
care solutions benefiting
both businesses and the
local economy.

Law Office of Jeffrey R. Pollock, PLLC

Nancy Aceves
(360) 416-0395
2204 Riverside Dr Ste 250
Mount Vernon
www.lawofficeofjeffreypollock.com

We take great pride in defending the legal rights of our clients and acknowledge the need for compassionate and responsive legal guidance. Based in Mount Vernon, WA, we are known for our legal innovation and outstanding service to clients throughout Washington State. Get the legal service you deserve.



Rachelle Marie Coaching & Consulting

Rachelle Eason
(360) 336-6312
725 S 1st St Ste B
Mount Vernon

www.rachellemarie.co

Rachelle Marie Coaching & Consulting helps professionals manage stress, find balance, and thrive with personalized strategies that promote emotional, physical, and spiritual well-being for a happier, healthier life.



Partner Members

Anderson Podiatry, Aquarius Collective, Bank of the Pacific, Birch Equipment Co., Chikara PR, LLC, Coastal Farm & Ranch, CPI Plumbing & Heating, Foothills Toyota, Global Credit Union, Haggen Food & Pharmacy, Hampton Inn & Suites, Kern Funeral Home, Landed Gentry Homes & Communities, Law Office of Jeffrey R. Pollock, PLLC, Loving Farms, Mount Vernon School District, North Coast Credit Union, 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, Williams & Nulle, PLLC, CPAs, Wingate by Wyndham

Skagit Chili & Chowder Cook-Off April 5



Amateurs and professionals are invited to compete on Saturday, April 5, at Farmstrong Brewing Company for the title of Skagit’s favorite chili and chowder. Cook-off attendees pick the winners! Entry form is included at the end of this newsletter. **Deadline for entry is March 14!**

For questions regarding the cook-off or competing, contact Jeremy Kindlund, Operations Director at (360) 428-8547 or Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com. Find application and rules at the end of this newsletter. Good luck! Photo credit Hilary Parker



Thank you sponsors!



WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN OUR AMBASSADOR TEAM?



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



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
Chamber of Commerce
(360) 428-8547



Board of Directors

Chair - Tony White

Skagit Valley Food Co-op

Vice Chair - Tammy Reim-Ledbetter

Global Credit Union

Past Chair - Flora Lucatero

Children of the Valley

Treasurer - Tony Cook

Cook CPAs and Consultants, PLLC

Member at Large - Dr. Chris Villa

Skagit Valley College

Lance Calloway

Association of General Contractors

Matt Gill

Marathon Petroleum Corporation

Katie Hayton

La Conner Inn

Elizabeth Jennings

Community Action of Skagit County

Robert Knoll

Puget Sound Energy

Andrew Miller

Tulip Valley Farms

Julia Phillip

Julia Phillip Realty

Jon Ronngren

Mount Vernon School District

Steve Sexton

City of Mount Vernon

Danny Vera

Skagit Regional Health

STAFF

Andy Mayer President/CEO

Silvia Reed Business Development and
Foundation Director

Jeremy Kindlund Operations Director

Bob Johnson & Julie Newkirk

Visitor Information Services

Member Announcements

Chinook Enterprises Celebrates 45 Years of Impact with Community Event

Chinook Enterprises is marking a major milestone with “45 Years of Impact: The Story of Chinook,” an unforgettable event celebrating nearly five decades of creating employment and community engagement opportunities for individuals with disabilities and other barriers. The event will take place on Thursday, April 3, 2025, from 5:30 to 7:00 PM at Swinomish Casino & Lodge in Anacortes, WA. Community members, supporters, and businesses are encouraged to attend and be part of shaping Chinook’s future. For event details, sponsorship opportunities, and ticket information, visit www.chinookenterprises.org/45years.

Join Children of the Valley’s Annual Art Auction & Dinner

Join us for a vibrant evening in support of Children of the Valley with live mariachi music and a Mexican street-style dinner by COA Mexican Eatery. Our mission is to serve Skagit Valley's under-resourced children and their families by valuing their cultural identity and empowering them through education, personal growth, and mentorship. Your generous contributions will directly support our after-school program, so we can continue to inspire kids to DREAM BIG! Event Details - Friday, April 25, 2025 - Doors & Silent Auction Open at 5 pm, Dinner at 6:30 pm - Saint Joseph Center, 215 N 15th St, Mount Vernon, WA 98273. [GET TICKETS!](#)

Avenue Catering Enterprises Launches New Online Store: Fresh-Food2U.com

Avenue Catering Enterprises is thrilled to announce the launch of its new online store, Fresh-Food2U.com. This innovative platform allows customers to order their favorite dishes anytime for convenient delivery or pickup. Customers can now enjoy the flexibility of ordering online at their convenience or continue to place orders by calling (360) 755-5880 or visiting cateringbyavenue.com.



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

Send your announcements to
Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com

February in Pictures



Membership Luncheon
Mount Vernon Comprehensive Plan



Latino Business Leaders



Middle Way Acupuncture
Ribbon Cutting



Multi-Chamber After Hours at
Barley & Brew Taproom



Totally Elegant Beauty
Ribbon Cutting



Skagit Hometown Values
Magazine Ribbon Cutting

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
- Dan Dewispelaere-Rusch**
Global Credit Union
- Morgan Elton**
Country Financial - The Elton Group
- Jaime Huss**
Washington Federal
- Karla Nelson**
U.S. Bank - Riverside Dr
- Jessica Rodriguez**
Children of the Valley After School Program
- Natalie Zavala**
WAFD Insurance Group Inc.

BRONZE LEGACY





RAISE THE ROOF

Gala

and benefit auction



UNMASK THE PATH TO AFFORDABLE HOMEOWNERSHIP IN SKAGIT COUNTY!

**PURCHASE
TICKETS**



[SKAGITHABITAT.COM](https://skagithabitat.com)

Join Skagit Habitat for Humanity at our annual Raise the Roof Gala & Benefit Auction!

Enjoy dinner, drinks, live and silent auctions, raffle prizes, live entertainment, and more - all in one Venetian carnival-themed evening.

April 12, 2025 | 5pm
Swinomish Casino & Lodge

THANK YOU, SPONSORS!



BLADE **WECU**



For more information and opportunities, contact Ian Houben, Development Director (360) 428-9402 ex. 116
i.houben@skagithabitat.com



CHILDREN OF THE VALLEY
ANNUAL ART AUCTION

TITLE SPONSOR

GLOBAL CREDIT UNION



Annual Art Auction

FRIDAY, APRIL 25

DOORS & SILENT AUCTION OPEN AT 5PM
DINNER AT 6:30PM

St. Joseph Center

215 N 15th St, Mount Vernon, WA 98273



AN EVENING OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT!

Enjoy a vibrant evening in support of COV with live mariachi music and a Mexican street-style dinner by COA Mexican Eatery!

Each guest gets a drink ticket, and tables have complimentary wine.

SINGLE TICKET - \$100
8-SEAT TABLE - \$750
10-SEAT TABLE - \$925

VISIT COVMV.ORG/ART-AUCTION FOR DETAILS.

THANK YOU TO OUR LEADERSHIP CIRCLE!



TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE!

@covskagit

covmv.org

@covskagit



THE CHAMBER BASH

Tepic Mexican Restaurant
Thursday March 27
5:30 - 7:00 PM



YOU ARE INVITED

embracing the diversity of our community
brought to you by Latino Business Leaders



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



MADDY MCKENZIE
SKAGIT COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION



RUTH MEDINA
ALL COLORS PAINTING



MORGAN CURRY
SKAGIT GLEANERS

THE NEXT GENERATION OF WOMEN LEADERS

A "SPEAKING OF WOMEN" EVENT

WEDNESDAY MARCH 12

4:30 PM TO 6:00 PM

Whispering Firs Bed & Breakfast Lodge

2025 Series Registration Fees

Members: \$ 180

Non members: \$ 250

Students: \$ 100

Includes eight coffee chats, two VIP hours and three panels:

- The Next Generation of Women Leaders (March 12)
- Women Shaping the Future (June 11)
- Women in Power (Sept. 10)

www.MountVernonChamber.com





NON PROFIT ROUND TABLE

- Interact with others in your industry sector
- Share current challenges
- Contribute resources, ideas and perspectives
- Work together toward a common goal



Tuesday March 18



9:00 - 10:30 AM



**Skagit Publishing
1215 Anderson Rd
Mount Vernon, WA**



MountVernonChamber.com



Presented by:



Saturday, April 5, from 1pm to 4pm at Farmstrong Brewing Company

1st Place Professional Division - \$250 and an award plaque

2nd Place Professional Division - Entry Fee Refunded

1st Place Amateur Division - \$250 and an award plaque

2nd Place Amateur Division - Entry Fee Refunded

Craft Stove Best of Show Award - Award plaque

Team Name: _____

Team Captain: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Yes, I will need electricity to prepare my chili/chowder

No, I have a camp stove or propane to prepare and keep my product warm

I am entering Chili and/or Chowder to the competition

I will be competing as a Professional or Amateur

Space is limited! Please fill out and return by Friday, March 14

Please send your completed form and \$35 entry fee to:

Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce

301 W Kincaid St.

Mount Vernon, WA 98273

For more information please contact Jeremy Kindlund at
(360) 428-8547 or Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com