

MOUNT VERNON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

CHAMBER CHAT

April 2025

What I'm Thinking About

April is shaping up to be a fun and energizing month in our area—and a busy one at the Chamber!

We're kicking things off with one of our most fun and flavorful events of the year—the **Skagit Chili & Chowder Cook-Off** on **Saturday, April 5**, from **1:00 to 4:00 p.m.** at **Farmstrong Brewing Company**. Whether you're a die-hard chili fan or prefer your chowder creamy and comforting, you'll find something to love. Professional and amateur chefs will compete for bragging rights, and **Pension King and the Dependents** will keep things lively with great music. Cold brews from Farmstrong will round out the experience. It's family-friendly, fun, and always a crowd-pleaser.

Of course, **April means Tulip Festival** and this year it's better than ever with **five beautiful gardens** welcoming visitors. The tulips are a vibrant sign that spring has arrived, and they bring with them a significant boost to our local economy. The Visitor Center is already buzzing with tourists, and it's a great reminder of how vital tourism is to our community. If your business benefits from the influx of visitors (or even if it doesn't), now's a great time to refresh your marketing and visibility—we're here to help with that, too.

Later in the month, don't miss our **Biz Buzz Networking Luncheon** on **Wednesday, April 23**, from **11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** at **Hillcrest Lodge**. Our friends from the **Kiwanis of Mount Vernon** will be grilling up their famous salmon barbecue—always a treat. Come prepared with your elevator pitch and a door prize if you would like to promote your business a little more. It's a fantastic way to connect, support one another, and enjoy a great lunch together.

I hope your year is going well. The Chamber is ready to help you however we can.

—Andy Mayer, President & CEO



GOLD



SILVER



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

Calendar of Events

Skagit Chili & Chowder Cook-Off

Saturday, April 5

1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Farmstrong Brewing Co.

110 Stewart Rd

Mount Vernon

[Register here](#)



Speaking of Women Coffee Chat

Wednesday, April 9

9 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Pegasus Pie Co.

320 S 1st St

Mount Vernon

[Register here](#)



Membership Orientation

Monday, April 21

3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

301 W Kincaid St

Mount Vernon

[Register here](#)

Biz Buzz Networking Luncheon

Wednesday Apr 23

11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Hillcrest Lodge

1717 S 13th St

Mount Vernon

\$25 payment taken at the door

[Register here](#)



Skagit Chamber Alliance Multi-Chamber After Hours at Washington Vocational Services

Thursday, April 10

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

503 E Fairhaven Ave

Burlington

Ribbon Cutting at Law Office of Jeffrey R. Pollock, PLLC

Friday May 2

4 p.m.

2204 Riverside Dr Ste 250

Mount Vernon

Riverwalk Summer Concert Series Lineup

Dust off your lawn chairs, put on your dancing shoes and come to Historic Downtown Mount Vernon for some memorable summer evenings! The Riverwalk Summer Concert Series is free thanks to community sponsors. From foot-tapping blues, to old-time rock and roll music, the Riverwalk Concerts are a great way to wind down your week or jump-start a fun-filled weekend. Bring your lawn chairs, a blanket, a picnic, and the whole family. For information on sponsoring the series contact Jeremy Kindlund, Operations Director at (360) 428-8547 or Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com. See the sponsorship details in this newsletter.

2025 Lineup

July 10 - The Enthusiasts

July 17 - Mama Dirty Skirt

July 24 - The Chris Eger Band and the PowerHouse Horns

July 31 - EDEN

August 7 - Friends For the Ghost

August 14 - Midlife Crisis & the Alimony Horns

August 21 - The Atlantics

August 28 - Criminal Squirrel Orchestra

Thank You Renewing Members

35+ Years

Pape Machinery AG and Turf
Skagit County Fairgrounds

30+ Years

Baird Private Wealth Management
Pacific Party Canopies, Inc.

25+ Years

Central Moving & Storage
Swinomish Casino & Lodge
The La Conner Inn
Washington Bulb Co., Inc.

20+ Years

Brown McMillen Real Estate
Friendship House

15+ Years

Express Employment
Professionals
Mount Vernon Senior &
Community Center

10+ Years

Candlewood Suites an IHG Hotel
Judd & Black Appliance
Puget Sound Veterinary Group PC
Re-Feather Your Nest
Thousand Trails Mount Vernon
Whispering Firs Bed & Breakfast
Lodge

5+ Years

Dwayne Lane's Auto Family
La Catrina Tacos & Tequila
Sound Cedar Lumber
Tucker Realty ERA Powered

Less than 5 Years

Alpha Home Health and Hospice
Celtic Arts Foundation
Custom Cleaning Services
Washington LLC
Ethan Home Repair &
Remodeling LLC
Quantum Construction, Inc
Rich's Outlet Center
Skagit Speedway

Skagit Chili & Chowder Cook-Off April 5



Craft Stove



Calling all chili & chowder enthusiasts! Join us for the 7th Annual Skagit Chili & Chowder Cook-Off, presented by Craft Stove. Saturday, April 5 at Farmstrong Brewing Company. Cold brews and music from Pension King and the Dependents. It's going to be a blast! Tickets are available here: [Get your tickets today!](#)



Thank you sponsors!



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

Welcome New Members

Almost There Senior Care

Donna Backman

(360) 420-3385

Mount Vernon

www.almostthereseniorecare.com

Offering a No Charge Service for seniors and families. ATSC finds options with knowledge and care during life changes with our seniors. Let us successfully help navigate your journey.

Elite Edge Real Estate

Wilma Louia

(360) 755-9494

320 S Burlington Blvd

Burlington

www.skagitvalleyrealestate.com

Ready to help you buy or sell Skagit County Real Estate in Mount Vernon, Burlington or Sedro Woolley. Skagit County real estate is our forte - you'll get great service in a great area.

Red Robin Gourmet Burgers and Brews

Rodney Padilla

(360) 757-8646

1075 Burlington Blvd

Burlington

www.redrobin.com

We believe nothing brings people together like burgers and fun around our table, and no one makes moments of connection over craveable food more memorable than Red Robin.



LegalShield

Matthew Stevenson

(360) 708-8134

Anacortes

www.mjstevenson.legalshieldassociate.com

We offer a portfolio of affordable legal and identity theft protection services to individuals & families. We also specialize in Small Business Legal Plans and Voluntary Employee Benefits.

Little Mountain Books & Botanica

Matt Gullett

(360) 333-6817

613 W Division

Mount Vernon

www.facebook.com/people/Little-Mountain-Books

A warm heaven where books, plants and friendly faces come together. We offer a curated selection of new and used books, plants, teas, herbs and more. Come explore, relax and join the community.

Launching the 2025 Latino Business Youth Program

We are excited to announce the launch of the 2025 Latino Business Youth program for participants 16-24, which will include business training facilitated by the Mount Vernon Chamber and mentorship by Latino businesses. The program is designed to deliver tools for success for those who envision entrepreneurship.

Paid work experience will be available for qualifying participants and funded by the Northwest Workforce Council. Upon qualification, students will be able to access paid employment prior to attending the business training sessions providing additional flexibility for our youth.

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

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

Skagit Valley Family YMCA partnering with Help Me Grow Skagit for free Healthy Kids Day event

The Skagit Valley Family YMCA, in partnership with Help Me Grow Skagit, is excited to announce its annual Healthy Kids Day event on Saturday, April 26 at the YMCA's Hoag Road facility (1901 Hoag Road, Mount Vernon, WA 98273). The free community event will take place from 12:30-2:30pm.

This year's event is sponsored by PFLAG Skagit, the Kiwanis Club of Burlington-Edison, and Martha's Bridal.

On Healthy Kids Day, children and families can learn about the importance of learning; healthy eating; nutrition and physical activity; mental and emotional well-being; and developing healthy habits. To learn more about Healthy Kids Day at the Skagit Valley Family YMCA, visit the Facebook event here.

Washington Vocational Services Receives \$37,000

Sponsorship from Wellpoint Washington Supporting Pathfinders and Healthy Relationships Programs



Washington Vocational Services (WVS), recipient of the 2024 Governor's Award for Small Nonprofit Employer of the Year, is proud to announce a generous sponsorship of \$37,000 from Wellpoint Washington, a leading healthcare organization committed to improving lives and supporting communities across the state. The sponsorship, presented on February 27th at the WVS office and ATTIC Transition Program in Burlington, directly supports WVS's mission to empower individuals with disabilities through employment, independence, and self-sufficiency.



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

Send your announcements to
Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com

March in Pictures



Nonprofit Roundtable Discussion



Latino Business Leaders



**Chamber BASH at
Tepic Mexican Restaurant**



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



Speaking of Women Series



**Union Block Bistro
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

Angie Guerrero

Nexo Insulation and

Construction

Jaime Huss

Washington Federal

Karla Nelson

U.S. Bank - Riverside Dr

Ruth Medina

All Colors Painting

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!



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](https://www.instagram.com/covskagit)

 covmv.org

 [@covskagit](https://www.facebook.com/covskagit)

BUSINESS TRAINING FOR OUR FUTURE ENTREPRENEURS



MOUNT VERNON CHAMBER JUNE 23 TO JUNE 26

COHORT 3 - 4:00 TO 5:30 PM
COHORT 4 - 6:00 TO 7:30 PM

- June 23 - Business Fundamentals
- June 24 - Cost projections
- June 25 - Creating your marketing plan
- June 26 - Managing your profits



REGISTER NOW



About Latino Business YOUTH

Latino Business Youth is a Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce Foundation Program created to facilitate the advancement and participation of the Latine Young Entrepreneurs in our region.



Registration / Information

Silvia Reed

Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com

(360) 395-2944



Riverwalk Summer Concert Series Seeks Sponsors

Connect your brand with a well-attended series celebrating summer!

Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce Presents
RIVERWALK SUMMER CONCERT SERIES
July 10 through August 28, 2025
Thursdays, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.



The Mount Vernon Riverwalk Concert Series consists of eight weekly concerts on the Mount Vernon Riverwalk Plaza. The concerts feature an eclectic lineup of outstanding bands from the area.

The concerts offer a free, family-friendly, fun atmosphere to encourage visitors and entertain residents. The venue is perfectly situated by the river and adjacent to downtown retail and restaurants. Based on last year's attendance, we expect to welcome 6,000+ people into the downtown area during the entire series.

2025 Lineup - July 10 - The Enthusiasts, July 17 - Mama Dirty Skirt, July 24 - The Chris Eger Band and the PowerHouse Horns, July 31 - EDEN, August 7 - Friends For the Ghost, August 14 - Midlife Crisis & the Alimony Horns, August 21 - The Atlantics, August 28 - Criminal Squirrel Orchestra

The series will be heavily promoted through diverse media, including social media, radio, print, press releases, chamber website, member communications, and more. As a sponsor, you can expect to benefit from unprecedented brand exposure and stand above the competition through association with a much-loved, community-oriented event series.

Please join and support us in offering another wonderful community experience.

For more information on sponsorships, please contact Jeremy Kindlund at the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce, 360-428-8547 or Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com.

2025 Riverwalk Summer Concert Series Sponsorship Opportunities

Presenting Sponsor: \$5,000

Opportunity to speak or be recognized at every concert

Magnified and well-positioned company logo on poster

Company name on advertising, marketing materials, and social media including:

Logo on Skagit Valley Herald display ads

Branded advertising on MountVernonChamber.com

Social Media Promotion on Chamber channels

Mention in press releases

Company Banner displayed on Riverwalk throughout series

Display table at all series concerts



Royal Sponsor: \$2,500 - limited

Opportunity to speak or be recognized at three concerts

Company logo prominently displayed on promotional poster

Company name on advertising, marketing materials, and social media including:

Logo on Skagit Valley Herald display ad

Branded advertising on MountVernonChamber.com

Social Media Promotion on Chamber channels

Company Banner displayed on Riverwalk throughout series

Display table at three concerts

Major Sponsor: \$1,250

Opportunity to speak or be recognized at one concert

Company logo on poster

Company name on advertising, marketing materials, and social media including:

Logo on Skagit Valley Herald display ads

Branded advertising on MountVernonChamber.com

Social Media Promotion on Chamber channels

Company Banner displayed on Riverwalk throughout series

Display table at one concert

Supporting Sponsor: \$550

Company logo displayed on promotional poster

Company Banner displayed on Riverwalk throughout series

Company name on advertising, marketing materials, and social media including:

MV Chamber website

Chamber Facebook