

MOUNT VERNON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

# CHAMBER CHAT

JUNE 2025

## What I'm Thinking About and Celebrating!

I bet you are as happy as I am that summer has arrived! Yes, I hear you—we've reached meteorological summer, not astronomical summer, but why quibble? I've lived in seven states, and none of them embrace the season more fully. Although, I have a friend—Washington born and bred—who says she doesn't like the "squinty stuff," so there are outliers on the sentiment. I say let's enjoy the season, without neglecting our responsibilities of course!

Let's look back to spring for a moment. Specifically, our "boys of spring," the 3A state champion Mount Vernon Bulldogs baseball team. What a splendid example of teamwork and perseverance, bringing home the title, last won 33 years ago! The community cheered them on and packed the streets for a celebratory parade—a beautiful reminder of the spirit that brings our city together.

Speaking of teamwork, Move Skagit is a new planning initiative from the Skagit Council of Governments to improve transportation mobility, safety, and resilience across Skagit County. Over the next year, three plans will be developed: a Regional Transportation Plan, a Safety Action Plan, and a Resilience Improvement Plan. These will be shaped through data analysis and community feedback to create strategies that support how we all move—whether driving, biking, walking, or delivering goods. We take transportation for granted but know that our regional system is already stressed. So please Visit [MoveSkagit2050.com](https://MoveSkagit2050.com) for more information and how you can participate.

And finally, join us for our Membership Appreciation Luncheon on Wednesday, June 25, 11:30 to 1:00, at Craft Stove. It's our way of showing our gratitude to you. The Lunchbox Diner is providing the food and Craft Stove will be doing the grilling. There is no charge to attend.

See you around!  
Andy Mayer, President & CEO



### GOLD



### SILVER



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

## Calendar of Events

### Women Shaping the Future - A "Speaking of Women" Event

Wednesday, June 11

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 Sedro-Woolley Farmers Market

Wednesday, June 18

5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Ferry St and Metcalf St

Sedro-Woolley

### Member Appreciation Luncheon

Thursday, June 25

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

Craft Stove

900 W Division St

Mount Vernon

[Register here](#)



### AI at Work - Boosting Business Brilliance

Thursday, June 26

10 a.m.

Mount Vernon Chamber Office

301 W Kincaid St

Mount Vernon

[Register here](#)

**Check page 4 for Latino Business Youth Events**

## Advancing our Workforce

As part of our foundation's workforce development efforts, last month we hosted various experiential learning activities for Skagit Valley College students enrolled in the Chamber Foundation's Experience Work Project initiative.

Early in the month, we hosted an industry tour at Camp Korey for allied health students. Participants learned about the mission of Camp Korey and toured various areas, including the medical center, the recreational area, among others.

Our early childhood development students were mentored by Silvia Alvarez of Escuelita El Jardin and the Triumph Teen Life Center. Silvia's passion for education and early childhood development was truly inspirational for our students, who also were able to tour Escuelita El Jardin and get valuable information about childcare.

Last but definitely not least, we facilitated a career panel for our Human Services students. The panel was presented by professionals from Community Action of Skagit County, who provided a general overview of the various services offered by the agency, the career paths followed by Human Services professionals, and some of the challenging and also most rewarding aspects of their jobs.

Throughout the summer, our Skagit Valley College students will be completing internship opportunities with various partners in Skagit County and getting ready to join the future workforce.

Experience Work Project (EWP) is a Mount Vernon Chamber Foundation Initiative founded in 2006 in partnership with Skagit Valley College and the Northwest Workforce Council to help prepare our youth and adult students for future employment while supporting our business community's workforce needs. Since 2006, the program has served over 1,000 students from various Skagit Valley College programs.

For more information about the Mount Vernon Chamber Foundation, please contact Business Development and Foundation Director Silvia Reed | [Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com](mailto:Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com) | (360)395-2944

## Still time to join Speaking of Women

If you've been thinking about joining Speaking of Women, now is a great time to do it! Enrollment fees are currently prorated, giving you access to all Speaking of Women events—coffee chats, VIP Hour, and empowerment panels—between now and November.

You'll also be able to attend the upcoming empowerment panel, "Women Shaping the Future," on Wednesday, June 11, at 4:30 PM at Whispering Firs, featuring three extraordinary women leaders who are laying crucial foundations for future generations.

### "Women Shaping the Future" Speakers

- Judge Jenifer Howson, Skagit County District and Municipal Courts
- Yadira Rosales, Skagit Valley College Vice President of Equity and Inclusion
- Anne Schwartz, Blue Heron Farm Owner

### Registration Fees

- Chamber members: \$150.00
- Non-members: \$200.00

### Sponsorship Opportunities available:

- Student Fee: \$75.00
- Coffee Chats: \$200.00
- VIP Hour: \$250.00

By sponsoring a student, you'll be providing an incredible opportunity for them to connect with businesswomen and gain access to valuable mentorship opportunities.

If you would like more information about Speaking of Women or are interested in sponsoring one of the upcoming events, please refer to the sponsorship sheet on page 11 or contact Business Development and Foundation Director at [Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com](mailto:Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com) or (360) 395-2944.

## Thank You Renewing Members

### 35+ Years

Kaptein's Ace Hardware

### 25+ Years

Lincoln Theatre

### 15+ Years

Skagit Powder Coating

### 10+ Years

All About Hearing

Craft Stove

John Piazza Jr. Construction & Remodeling

### 10+ Years continued

Ken's Hairstyling

Save On Storage

Skagit Valley Neighbors In Need Food Bank

State Farm Insurance - Brad Methner

State Farm Insurance- Carol Lawson

WAFD Insurance Group Inc.

### 5+ Years

BrandQuery LLC

Camp Korey

Chinn GYN, LLC

Perla's Insurance Services

PogoZone

### Less than 5 Years

Consejo Counseling and Referral Service

Immaculate Conception Regional School

Law Office of Hector Leal

Mount Baker Mortgage Company LLC NMLS 1820049

Right at Home Northwest

Sahara Pizza

The Skagit Table

Walton Law A.P.C.

# Riverwalk Summer Concert Series

## Last Call for Sponsors!

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 our 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. For information on sponsoring the series contact Jeremy Kindlund, Operations Director at (360) 428-8547 or [Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com](mailto:Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com). See the sponsorship details on pages 8 and 9. **Sponsorship deadline is June 17!**

### 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



## Latino Business Youth is back this month

We are excited to bring Latino Business Youth back this summer. The program is designed to equip young adults (16-24 years old) who envision entrepreneurship with tools for success. Classes will be delivered in English and presented by various Latino business owners who will share their experiences and best practices for starting and operating a business.

In addition to the business training, qualifying students will be able to access employment opportunities. The qualification process may take between two to three weeks and must be completed before the beginning of the business training session. **Registration closes on Wednesday, June 18th.**

Space is limited to 10 students per cohort

- Cohort 3: 4:00 to 5:30 PM - [Register here](#)
- Cohort 4: 6:00 to 7:30 PM - [Register here](#)



For more information about Latino Business Youth, please contact Business Development and Foundation Director Silvia Reed at [Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com](mailto:Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com) or (360) 395-2944.

### 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

### A Plus Concrete LLC

Rachel Arias  
(360) 853-9698  
Mount Vernon  
[www.aplusconcrete.biz](http://www.aplusconcrete.biz)

We provide concrete solutions for both residential and commercial needs. Services include driveways, patios, garages, sidewalks and concrete cutting plus much more. Free on-site consultations.

### Caisley Graphic Design

Ian Caisley  
(206) 434-6491  
Mount Vernon  
[www.caisley.design](http://www.caisley.design)



Ian has more than 14 years of experience designing and building digital, print, and interactive media. He is a skilled generalist with a love of new challenges, diverse assignments and working with creative teams. He has a highly technical understanding of graphic design and applications in addition to strong artistic vision and design fundamentals.

### Homewatch CareGivers of Western WA

Rachel Linden  
(425) 778-1288  
6912 220th St SW #107  
Mountlake Terrace  
[www.hwcg.com/oakharbor](http://www.hwcg.com/oakharbor)  
Top-Quality Home Care in Skagit County  
Connect with trusted local caregiving services. When you need reliable home care, turn to Homewatch CareGivers, you'll find seasoned experts who genuinely care.

### Rotary Club of Mount Vernon

Rachelle Eason  
PO Box 825  
Mount Vernon  
[www.mountvernonrotary.com](http://www.mountvernonrotary.com)  
Mount Vernon Rotary provides scholarships to local students, along with helping with local and international projects which promote Literacy, Learning, Leadership and Service.

### Stark Impact Consulting

Gina Stark  
(206) 550-7329  
Sedro-Woolley  
[www.starkimpactconsulting.com](http://www.starkimpactconsulting.com)  
Stark Impact an economic development firm, provides business development strategies, project management, and grant writing services. Our clients includes businesses, non-profits and governments.

**MOUNT VERNON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

**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

**MOUNT VERNON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

**Stay Connected**  
With the Chamber

**TEXT**

**mvchamber newsletters**

**218-229-8880**

To receive our monthly newsletter in your phone

## 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

### Councilmember Hudson awarded with Certificate of Municipal Leadership

Mount Vernon City Councilmember Mary Hudson recently earned a Certificate of Municipal Leadership from the Association of Washington Cities (AWC).

AWC's Certificate of Municipal Leadership program recognizes city and town elected officials for completing training in five core areas:

- Roles, responsibilities, and legal requirements
- Public sector resource management
- Community planning and development
- Effective local leadership
- Diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging

"Being a city leader in Washington is a complex job," said AWC CEO Deanna Dawson. "Through our CML program, we are providing our elected officials with the knowledge they need to effectively operate within the law, plan for the future, secure and manage funds, foster strong relationships, and work to build more equitable communities." Councilmember Hudson completed more than 30 hours of training to earn this distinction.

### Skagit Skies Airshow on Saturday, June 28

The Port of Skagit is pleased to invite the community to Skagit Regional Airport on Saturday, June 28<sup>th</sup> for the **2025 Skagit Skies Airshow and Community Aviation Festival**.

This fantastic event is made possible through the generous support of our sponsors, and the hard work of the planning team who put together an outstanding lineup of performers, static displays, demonstrations, flyovers, youth activities, food trucks and MORE. Admission is FREE!

Stay informed with up-to-date details about parking, event schedule, and other important information by scanning the QR code or visiting our webpage at

**[www.portofskagit.com/airshow](http://www.portofskagit.com/airshow)**.



For more member announcements, visit  
**[mountvernonchamber.com/member-announcements](http://mountvernonchamber.com/member-announcements)**

Send your announcements to  
**[Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com](mailto:Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com)**

## May in Pictures



**Latino Business Leaders**



**Little Mountain Books and Botanicals Ribbon Cutting**



**EWP Tour at Camp Korey**



**EWP Tour at Escuelita El Jardín**



**Speaking of Women Coffee Chat at Union Block Bistro**



**EWP Human Services Career Panel**

## 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

**Alicia Evans**

Guardian Northwest

Title & Escrow

**Angie Guerrero**

Nexo Insulation and

Construction

**Ian Houben**

Skagit Habitat for Humanity

**Jaime Huss**

Washington Federal

**Crystal King**

Chinook Enterprises

**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





# 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](mailto:Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com).**



# Riverwalk Summer Concert Series Seeks Sponsors

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

## 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 all 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



**ANNE SCHWARTZ**  
BLUE HERON FARM  
& NURSERY



**JENIFER HOWSON**  
SKAGIT COUNTY  
DISTRICT COURT



**YADIRA ROSALES**  
SKAGIT VALLEY  
COLLEGE

# WOMEN SHAPING THE FUTURE

## A "SPEAKING OF WOMEN" EVENT

WEDNESDAY JUNE 11

4:30 PM TO 6:00 PM

Whispering Firs Bed & Breakfast Lodge

### 2025 Series Registration Fees (May to November)

Chamber Members:	\$ 150.00
Non members:	\$ 200.00
Students:	\$ 75.00

**Includes five coffee chats, two VIP hours and two panels:**

- Women Shaping the Future (June 11)
- Women in Power (Sept. 10)

[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.

#### **Series Sponsor**

**\$2,000.00**

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

Empowerment Panels are held on March 12—June 11—September 30  
All panels are held at 4:30 PM at Whispering Firs Bed & Breakfast Lodge

#### **VIP Hour Events**

**\$ 250.00**

- ⇒ Company name and/or logo prominently displayed in all VIP Hour marketing
- ⇒ Your marketing material available for participants
- ⇒ Opportunity to speak to the group at the VIP Hour of your choice

VIP Hour Events are held  
May 7 and October 1 at 4:30 PM at various locations

#### **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

Coffee Chats are held:

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

All Coffee Chats are held at 9:00 AM at various locations



# 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



*Business Youth*



 **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







MUCHAS GRACIAS  
por hacer del programa 2024-2025  
todo un exito. Nos vemos en agosto

THANK YOU  
for a successful 2024-2025  
program. See you in August.



CHINOOK  
enterprises



SIERRA  
PACIFIC  
INDUSTRIES



Law Office of Hector Leal



RAIN  
catalysts



GARDEN  
OSALYN



BA  
BETSY ANZORE



BLK  
ACADEMY OF DRIVING



SCORE



CIE



Department of  
Revenue  
Washington State



ALFA & OMEGA TAX SERVICES  
tax preparation services, tax services and payroll services



Sunshine  
Painters & Co.  
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL INTERIOR & EXTERIOR



SKOW  
BOOKKEEPING & BUSINESS SERVICES



LORENZINI'S  
RESTAURANT & BAR



SKAGIT  
LANDSCAPING