

# CHAMBER CHAT

May 2025

## What I'm Thinking About

A big part of the Chamber's role is making sure businesses have what they need to succeed so that they can drive a strong regional economy. Advocacy on the state level is an important part of our efforts. It is more effective when backed by real-world insight from business owners and community leaders like you. That's why staying informed and sharing your perspective is so important. A related and equally essential role of the Chamber is to stay focused on what is necessary for our city to thrive. It depends on your input too. We work in these ways on your behalf because you don't always have time to do so, and a unified voice is much more powerful. But if you can make the time there are programs this month that will inform you and allow you to convey your views, on the City and State levels.

### Skagit Chamber Alliance Legislative Wrap-Up

On May 12, Legislators from the 10th, 39th, and 40th districts will each speak on what they believe was accomplished in the recently concluded session. Then you will have an opportunity to ask questions and share your thoughts on what transpired and what is important to your business or organization, on the state level.

### Membership Luncheon – State of the City

Mount Vernon Mayor Peter Donovan will provide an update on city initiatives, upcoming projects, and plans that impact the business community. As in the previous program, you are encouraged to ask questions and share your thoughts on current local issues and the future of our city.

### Other networking and informational programs and events

There is a mix of other events, programs, or committees coming up, including Speaking of Women programs, Referral groups, Ambassadors or Government Affairs Committees, and perhaps most unusually, a Multi-Chamber After Hours at Big Foot's Den.

Thank you for your support of the Chamber and for being an important part of our community!

Andy Mayer, President and CEO



#### GOLD



#### SILVER



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

## Calendar of Events

### Speaking of Women VIP Hour

Wednesday, May 7

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

MQ Gadgets Gifts Goodies

8706 271st St NW

Stanwood

[Register here](#)



### Speaking of Women Coffee Chat

Wednesday, May 14

9 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Union Block Bistro

614 1st St

Mount Vernon

[Register here](#)



### Skagit Chamber Alliance Multi-Chamber After Hours at Big Foot's Den

Thursday, May 8

**New time!**

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

Bigfoot's Den

829 Metcalf St

Sedro-Woolley

### Latino Business Leaders Panel de Empresarios / Business Panel

Wednesday, May 14

6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Skagit Station

105 E. Kincaid St. Mount Vernon

[Register here](#)



### 2025 Legislative Wrap-Up presented by Skagit Chamber Alliance

Monday, May 12

8:45 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Burlington City Council Chambers

833 S Spruce Street

Burlington

[Register for Zoom link here](#)

### Chamber Membership Luncheon - State of the City

Wednesday, May 28

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

Mount Vernon Library Commons

208 W Kincaid St

Mount Vernon

[Register here](#)



### Ribbon Cutting at Little Mountain Books & Botanica

Friday, May 30

4 p.m.

613 W Division

Mount Vernon

## April Upbeat Award Recipient: Ruth Medina, All Colors Painting

Our Upbeat Award consistently stands out as an exceptional connector, always bringing people together, sharing resources, and opening doors. Her dedication to the well-being of our small businesses is felt daily, whether through thoughtful referrals, helpful advice, or simply showing up with a genuine desire to see others succeed. The Mount Vernon Chamber is grateful for her leadership, heart, and unwavering support from our local business community.



# 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](mailto: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



# 2025 Skagit Chili & Chowder Cook-Off Winners!



**1st Place Professional Chili**  
**Skagit Valley Food Co-op**



**1st Place Professional Chowder**  
**Rockfish Grill & Anacortes**  
**Brewery**



**Craft Stove Best of Show**  
**Newton's Plumbing**



**1st Place Amateur Chowder**  
**Grandma Jeri's Award Winning**  
**Chowder**



**1st Place Amateur Chili**  
**KAPS Radio 660 AM & 102.1 FM**

## 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

### Free to Prosper Transformational Coaching

Suzanne Haney Oldridge

(775) 843-5267

Anacortes

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

We believe people have the ability to transform their lives and create results they love. Transform your health, relationships, or work with more ease and joy than you may have thought possible.

### Glacier Peak Institute

Scott Rossiter

(360) 436-6445

PO Box 225

Darrington

[www.glacierpeakinstitute.org](http://www.glacierpeakinstitute.org)

Using outdoor adventures we help youth develop creative thinking, problem solving, social and technical skills, and expand their environmental and local historical knowledge.

### Heather's Bookkeeping Solutions

Heather Gastil

(360) 217-0106

Mount Vernon

[www.heathersbookkeepingsolutions.weebly.com](http://www.heathersbookkeepingsolutions.weebly.com)

My job is to organize your business financials so you know the picture of your current business standing and what is possible for the future. Let me help you so you can focus on growing your business.

### IT Work for You

Bryan Stone

(206) 355-4665

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

A technology partner helping businesses like you make decisions about your technology. We offer a free assessment to take time to understand your business then we deliver actionable recommendations.

### Mountain Mike's Pizza

Yashraj Thind

(425) 549-4500

528 E College Way

Mount Vernon

[www.mountainmikespizza.com/locations/mount-vernon-e-college-way](http://www.mountainmikespizza.com/locations/mount-vernon-e-college-way)

Mountain Mike's Pizza, a leading family-style pizza chain for over 45 years, known for its legendary crispy, curly pepperonis, Mountain-sized pizzas and dough made fresh daily.



## Thank You Renewing Members

### 35+ Years

Woodcraft Wood Floors, Inc

### 20+ Years

McIntyre Hall, Performing Arts

Volunteers of America Western WA

### 15+ Years

Bob's Burgers & Brew

### 10+ Years

HKP Architects

JP Automotive

### 5+ Years

Carl's Towing Mount Vernon

Eden Home Health

Marathon Petroleum Corporation

## 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 Inaugural Tourism Summit



**SKAGIT VALLEY**  
DISCOVER the MAGIC of SKAGIT

**MAY 15TH, 2025**  
**REGISTRATION now OPEN**

**2025 INAUGURAL TOURISM SUMMIT**  
5/15/25 | 3:00PM-5:30PM  
MOUNT VERNON LIBRARY COMMONS  
Location sponsored by the City of Mount Vernon  
Registration fee: \$25.00

**MVLC**  
LIBRARY  
a community center

**INDUSTRY UPDATES & TOURISM TRENDS**  
David Blanford, CEO of State of Washington Tourism  
Steve Halasz, CEO of Blue Room Research  
Anthony Anton, CEO of the Washington Hospitality Association

### WECU Shred Day – May 10th at Mount Vernon Branch



**WECU**

**SHRED DAY**

This free event is open to both WECU members and the public. Attendees may bring two file-sized boxes or grocery bags of sensitive documents to shred.

**SATURDAY, MAY 10**  
**10AM-1PM**

**WECU MOUNT VERNON  
FINANCIAL CENTER**  
**1835 RIVERSIDE DR**



**Tune In**  
Chamber Chat  
Wednesday Mornings

**8:05 a.m.**  
The New 102.1 KAPS Country

**8:20 a.m.**  
KBRC Classic Rock

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)

## April in Pictures



**Biz Buzz Networking Luncheon**



**Latino Business Leaders  
Spring Social**



**Speaking of Women Series  
Coffee Chat**



**Multi-Chamber After Hours at  
Washington Vocational Services**



## BRONZE LEGACY



## 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.



# 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



# 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





**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)

