

MOUNT VERNON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

CHAMBER CHAT

AUGUST 2025

How's Business? Let's Talk About It.

We're more than halfway through the year, which is a good time to pause and ask: how's it going?

Our local businesses continue to adapt and push forward, but we know the national and regional economy brings challenges. Whether it's inflation, workforce availability, interest rates, supply chain issues, or shifts in consumer behavior—these broader economic forces are felt at the local level every day.

So, we're asking you—our member businesses:

What's helping you thrive right now?

Where are you struggling?

What do you see on the horizon?

Your experiences help guide how the Chamber supports our members. And there's no better time to hear a directly relevant and insightful perspective at our Membership Luncheon this month.

Chamber Membership Luncheon – State of the Economy Featuring Kris Johnson, President, Association of Washington Business

Wednesday, August 27, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the impressive Mount Vernon Library Commons [Register here](#).

AWB serves as both the state's chamber of commerce and the manufacturing and technology association. That deep statewide engagement powers Kris' view on the economic outlook for businesses in our area. Join us ready to share your thoughts and questions.



GOLD



SILVER



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

Calendar of Events

Speaking of Women Coffee Chat

Wednesday, August 13

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 Global Credit Union

Thursday, August 14

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

119 E College Way

Mount Vernon

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

Friday, August 22

4 p.m.

2204 Riverside Dr Ste 250

Mount Vernon

Chamber Membership Luncheon - State of the Economy: Kris Johnson, President of the Association of Washington Business

Wednesday, August 27

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

Mount Vernon Library Commons

208 W Kincaid St

Mount Vernon

[Register here](#)



Latino Business Leaders 2025 Kickoff Event

Wednesday, August 27

6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Brandywine Nursery

17396 McLean Rd, Mount Vernon

[Register here](#)



Ribbon Cutting at Golden Hour Café

Friday, August 29

4 p.m.

127 E Fairhaven Ave

Burlington



BrewFest on the Skagit

Presented by

Peoples Bank
A higher level of service.

Saturday, September 6, 2025 from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

We are thrilled to announce the 23rd annual BrewFest on the Skagit. Cold beer, cider and wine, delicious food, and fantastic music. Pair that with leisure games, a view of the Skagit River, and you are guaranteed to have a blast. A portion of each ticket sold will go to the Lincoln Theatre Foundation to help keep live music, theatre, community events and film in the theatre throughout the year. [Get tickets here!](#)

Music lineup:

2 p.m. The Chris Eger Band

4:30 p.m. Eden

Find sponsorship opportunities on page 9 of this newsletter. Contact Jeremy Kindlund, Operations director at 360 428-8547 or Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com to secure your place! **Sponsorship deadline is August 11!**

Hospice of the Northwest & Hospice of the Northwest Foundation

Where Home Becomes the Heart of Care Cultivating Future Leaders



Hospice of the Northwest spiritual care providers, offering comfort and guidance that respects every family's unique beliefs and values.

In a nondescript building below the tulip stack in Mount Vernon sits something extraordinary—the heart of hospice care that reaches into every corner of our community. Not a hospice house with hospital beds, but a team that brings compassionate end-of-life care wherever patients call home.

Here's a reality we need to face: There's a significant gap between where people want to spend their final days and where they actually do. Why? Because talking about death is hard, circumstances change as illness progresses, and too many people wait too long to make these important decisions.

But hospice isn't about giving up hope—it's about living the end of your life with dignity, comfort, and support.

Meet Gwynn, who was diagnosed with a life-limiting illness. "All I wanted was to live the rest of my life in peace," Gwynn said. That's why she chose hospice. Her care team helped with pain management, and massages gave her peace. "Now I'm living," Gwynn said gratefully. "Hospice of the Northwest gave me my life back."

This is what Hospice of the Northwest does every day. We're one of only two hospices in Washington State to earn the prestigious CAHPS Honors Elite Award, achieving perfect scores in family satisfaction. We hold the Level 4 We Honor Veterans Designation—only five hospices in the state have achieved this level of recognition. But the real measure of our success isn't in awards—it's in the 1,000+ families each year who get to say goodbye on their terms.

Our team of doctors, nurses, social workers, spiritual care providers, care aids, and volunteers helps families navigate the most difficult journey of their lives with grace and dignity.

Here's where the Hospice of the Northwest Foundation becomes essential. While Medicare covers basic hospice care, exceptional care costs more. The Foundation ensures patients who want these services receive therapeutic music, gentle massage, aromatherapy, and comprehensive grief support. Furthermore, we ensure that no one is ever turned away because they cannot afford care. *Continued on page 6.*

Riverwalk Summer Concert Series

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.

2025 Lineup

August 7 - Friends For the Ghost

August 14 - Midlife Crisis & the Alimony Horns

August 21 - The Atlantics

August 28 - Criminal Squirrel Orchestra



Thank you sponsors!

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Welcome New Members

Brandywine Nursery LLC

Cherie Limoges

(360) 424-3266

17396 McLean Rd

Mount Vernon

www.brandywinenursery.com

Supercuts Mount Vernon

Donna Pereira

(360) 848-9669

115 E College Way Ste B

Mount Vernon

www.supercuts.com

Upbeat Award - July 2025



Each quarter, we honor a chamber member with the Upbeat Award—a recognition for someone who leads with positivity, connects with genuine warmth, and reminds us that kindness is powerful currency. The upbeat award last July was presented to Garry Priam of Diventa Solutions. Garry doesn't just attend events — he creates connections. He builds bridges where others see gaps. What truly sets him apart is his ability to see beyond roles and titles. He listens with empathy and brings a sense of lightness and hope wherever he goes. Garry was instrumental in last year's Legacy Event: Building the Bridge—not just in planning, but in embodying its spirit. Thanks to his leadership and heart, we were able to step outside our comfort zones, form deeper bonds, and spark conversations that continue to enrich our community today. Congratulations Garry Priam, our July 2025 Upbeat Award recipient.

Member Testimonial

"The Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce and the relationships I've built through Chamber Connections have been invaluable to me for the past five years.

When I transitioned to being a business owner earlier this year, one of the first things I did was to re-join the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce under my own company. It was a decision that has already resulted in a good return on investment and continues the great relationships I've made.

The exposure to my business through the Chamber has added value and helped me achieve early success in my first year of being an entrepreneur. I look forward to more years with the Chamber and working with businesses in Skagit County."



Ted Sindell
Search Hund LLC

www.MountVernonChamber.com



Stay Connected
With the Chamber

TEXT →

mvchamber newsletters

218-229-8880

To receive our monthly newsletter in your phone

Hospice of the Northwest

Continued from page 3. This September 27th, the Foundation is celebrating 25 years of funding this vital work at our signature Ports of Call Gala & Auction. It's more than a fundraiser—it's a celebration of every family Hospice of the Northwest has served and every moment of dignity we've helped preserve.

Visit HospiceNW.org or call (360) 814-5550 to learn more about hospice care, volunteer opportunities, event sponsorship, donation options, to purchase a ticket to the gala, or to create your free will.

Would you like to be featured in the Get to Know section of Chamber Chat? Contact Silvia Reed | Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com | (360) 395-2944 for information.

Latino Business Leaders is Back

Supporting and Connecting all Entrepreneurs



We are excited to kick off the new Latino Business Leaders (LBL) program this August. The 2025–2026 program is starting with its annual summer social on Wednesday, August 27, at Brandywine Nursery in Mount Vernon. The event is open to startups and established businesses from both the Latino and non-Latino business communities.

The program welcomes entrepreneurs from Skagit and neighboring counties. Services are offered in both English and Spanish and include monthly business sessions, networking events, and one-on-one mentorship. New this year, and in response to the needs of our community, we will offer specialized training for the trades and food industry.

If you would like to sponsor this or any of the Latino Business Leaders events, or host a resource table, please contact Business Development and Foundation Director Silvia Reed at (360) 395-2944 or (360) 305-0895, or by email at Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com. **The deadline to confirm your sponsorship is Friday, August 22.**

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

Triumph Teen Life Center Back 2 School Event



TRIUMPH
TEEN LIFE CENTER

BACK 2 SCHOOL

TRIUMPH'S TEEN BACKPACK EVENT!

FREE BACKPACKS FOR STUDENTS IN
GRADES 6-12

FOOD | MUSIC | RESOURCE TABLES

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9, 2025
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

*Teens must be present to receive a backpack
2121 East College Way, Suite B, Mount Vernon, WA

Event Sponsors:

 coordinated care.

Country Meadow Village Summer BBQ!



Country Meadow Community BBQ & Blue Ribbon Pie Contest

Hawaiian Style

Featuring music by
"Jenny & The Tomcats"

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23RD
11 AM - 2 PM

Country Meadow Village
1501 Collins Road, Sedro-Woolley

Menu: Pulled Pork, Hamburgers & Hot Dogs, Salads,
and Strawberry Shortcake

\$15 Per Person
Please RSVP to 360-856-0404

 All proceeds from our BBQ will be donated to
Meals on Wheels, a program dedicated to
providing food to seniors in need throughout
Skagit County.

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Tune In

Chamber Chat
Wednesday Mornings

 **8:05 a.m.**

 **8:20 a.m.**

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

Send your announcements to
Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com

August in Pictures



**Members at the Multi-Chamber
Bellingham Bells Game**



**Members Network at the Biz
Buzz Networking Breakfast**



Chamber Membership Luncheon



**Anniversary Recognition at the
Chamber Membership Luncheon**



**Multi-Chamber After Hours at
ProScapes**



**Ambassador Meeting at
Global Credit Union**

Ambassadors

Chair - Betsy Anorbe

Betsy Anorbe Real Estate

Silvia Alvarez

Triumph Teen Life Center

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

BRONZE LEGACY



BrewFest on the Skagit
Sponsorship Opportunities
Saturday, September 6, 2025



Presenting Sponsor: \$5,000 - Not available

Opportunity to speak and be recognized at the event

Mentioned in all radio ads – KISM, KAPS and KBRC

Logo prominently displayed on event poster as the Presenting Sponsor

Logo listed as the Presenting Sponsor on all 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

- Logo in the chamber newsletter

Eight tickets to the event

Company Banner displayed at event

Display table at event

Imperial Sponsor: \$1,500

Company logo prominently displayed on promotional poster

Special recognition during event

Company logo 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

Six tickets to the event

Company Banner displayed at event

Display table the event

Supporting Sponsor: \$550

Company logo displayed on promotional poster

Company logo 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

Two tickets to the event

Contact Jeremy Kindlund, Operations Director to reserve your spot!

(360) 428-8547

Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com





Latino Business Leaders 2025 Kickoff Event



BRANDYWINE NURSERY
17396 McLean Rd. Mount Vernon



6:00 - 8:00 PM
WED. AUG. 27



6:00 - 8:00 PM
MIERC. 27 AGOSTO

Todos nuestros emprendedores estan invitados
All entrepreneurs are invited



Botanas
Appetizers



Networking



Mesas de Recursos
Resource Tables

GRATIS - FREE EVENT

HAGA SU RESERVA - RSVP



(360) 395-2944 / (360) 305-0895



Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com

MOUNT VERNON
CHAMBER
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