

CHAMBER CHAT

SEPTEMBER 2025

Exercising Our Civic Duty

September brings an important opportunity for our Chamber to connect members with the leaders who will help shape the future of Mount Vernon. At our Membership Luncheon on September 24, we will host a Candidate Forum featuring candidates for Mount Vernon City Council and School Board.

On the ballot are key positions that directly impact our community:

- Mount Vernon City Council – At-Large: Demi Damon vs. Stefanie LeJeunesse
- Council Ward 1, Position 2: Anthony Distefano vs. Randy West
- Council Ward 2, Position 2: Hannah Oliver vs. Adam Pearson
- Mount Vernon School District, Director District 4: Sammy Solano Rivera vs. Wendy Ragusa

This forum is an opportunity for you, our business community, to hear directly from candidates about their priorities and how they plan to serve our city and schools. Your engagement is vital, and I encourage you to attend, ask questions, and bring your perspective as business and community leaders.

On a personal note, I am honored to share that I have been selected to serve as Chair of the Board of Directors for the Washington Chamber of Commerce Executives (WCCE). This statewide organization connects chamber leaders from across Washington, and I look forward to bringing our region's voice to the table while also learning from colleagues around the state. A highlight of the conference was meeting Governor Ferguson and sharing the perspective of our regional business community.

Thank you for being part of a Chamber that values connection, advocacy, and leadership at every level.

— Andy Mayer
President & CEO



GOLD



SILVER



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

Calendar of Events

Women in Power - Part I, A "Speaking of Women" Event

Wednesday, Sep 10 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Lang's Horse & Pony Farm

21219 Little Mountain Rd

Mount Vernon

[Register here](#)



Multi-Chamber Ribbon Cutting for Almost There Senior Care

Wednesday, September 17 4:30 p.m.

Sedro-Woolley Farmers Market

Hammer Heritage Square

Sedro-Woolley

Multi-Chamber After Hours at Skagit Historical Museum

Thursday, Sep 11 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

501 South 4th

La Conner

Chamber Membership Luncheon - Candidate Forum

Wednesday, Sep 24 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

208 W Kincaid St

Mount Vernon

[Register here](#)



Latino Business Leaders (in Spanish)

Your Business Blueprint: Build it, Refine it, Master it

Wednesday September 24 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Skagit Valley College – Multipurpose room

[Register here](#)



Latino Business Leaders Kicks Off 6th Year with Great Turnout!

The Latino Business Leaders program is celebrating its sixth anniversary with an incredible start! Over 50 enthusiastic entrepreneurs attended the kickoff event at Brandywine Kitchen, marking the beginning of another year of growth and empowerment for our local business community.

Attendees were treated to an evening that blended business networking with cultural celebration including folkloric dances by Grupo Folklorico Mi Tierra and delicious food by COA Mexican Eatery.

Monthly sessions start this September with the class "Your Business Blueprint: Build it, Refine it, Master it." Classes will continue through May 2026, offering valuable insights and practical skills to help entrepreneurs succeed. Thanks to the support of US Bank and various sponsors, monthly sessions and one-on-one consultations are free for all participants. Schedule and Sponsorship opportunities on pages 8 and 9.

New All-Day Training Sessions

We're excited to announce two new all-day training sessions for food businesses and contractors.

•Food Business Training: Launching this fall, this special session will provide food entrepreneurs with the tools they need to thrive. Learn how to secure the right permits (including cottage permits), navigate complex health regulations, and master the key elements of running a food business, from a food truck to a home-based operation. Sponsorship opportunities on page 11.

•Contractors Training: Scheduled for winter 2026, this comprehensive training will teach participants how to draft sound contracts to protect their business, effectively navigate partnerships with municipalities, and understand crucial regulations from Labor & Industries. Sponsorship opportunities on page 11.

Those interested in partnering and supporting the Latino Business Leaders program, and/or the New All-Day Training Sessions please contact Silvia Reed | (360) 395-2944 – (360) 305-0895 |

Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com

Chamber on the Move: Each Stop Shines a Light on a Chamber Member



Sabores Catering



Handy's Heating



Mystical Wares

We are thrilled to launch our new monthly "Chamber on the Move" series. Each month, our team and chamber ambassadors hit the streets to visit local member businesses, celebrate their successes, and share their stories with the community. Our inaugural tour was a fantastic success, highlighting the incredible spirit of our local entrepreneurs.

Our first stop was at Handy's Heating. Since 1992, this family-owned business has been a staple in the community, providing top-notch HVAC service. Handy's Heating is committed to quality products and excellent customer care. It's clear why they have been so successful for over three decades—their passion for their craft is unmistakable.

Next, we visited Mystical Wares, a hidden gem in Skagit County where owners Derek and Julissa have created a special space for connection, learning, and personal growth. We were impressed by their wide range of classes, workshops, and fairs that make it a true destination for self-discovery in our city.

Finally, our tour concluded with a wonderful lunch at Sabores Catering. This inspiring woman-owned business makes all their food from scratch, and it shows! We enjoyed delicious, authentic Mexican cuisine including tacos, enchiladas, and more. The fresh flavors and dedication to their craft made for a truly memorable meal and a perfect end to our "Chamber on the Move" visits.

We want to extend a huge thank you to Handy's Heating, Mystical Wares, and Sabores Catering for their hospitality. Their dedication and hard work are what make Mount Vernon such a special place to live, work and do business. We're proud to have them as part of our Chamber family!

Stay tuned for our next "Chamber on the Move" spotlight, coming soon!

Partner Members

Anderson Podiatry, Aquarius Collective, 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 Regional Health, Skagit Speedway, Skagit Valley Food Co-op, WECU, Williams & Nulle, PLLC, CPAs, Wingate by Wyndham

Welcome New Members

Impacto Media - Mugen Media

Jerry Alvarez
(360) 540-3231
Mount Vernon

Lang's Horse and Pony Farm

Lola Lang
(360) 424-7630
21463 Little Mountain Rd
Mount Vernon
www.comeride.com



Skagit Clubhouse

Sarah Meckes
(360) 391-7919
2226 Market St Suite D
Mount Vernon
www.skagitclubhouse.org

Skagit Valley Cleaning Co.

Teresa De Jesus Cuevas
(360) 672-6685
Mount Vernon

Ronk Brothers, Heating, Cooling & Electrical

Sarah McCown
(360) 855-1025
809 Rita St.
Sedro-Woolley
www.ronkheating.com

Get to Know Michael Myers

Hi. I'm Michael Myers, a Reverse Mortgage Specialist with Mutual of Omaha Mortgage. This is my 20th year originating reverse mortgages, exclusively. Where does the time go?! Bottom line is that I love what I do, since I give retirees peace of mind by allowing them to age in place by drawing on their home equity to help cover all their expenses and needs. Even though there is too much unjustified negativity surrounding this product, it's been so gratifying to help hundreds of retirees over the years.

I'm originally from Des Moines, Iowa. I moved to Washington in 1992, having been stationed here with the Navy as a Judge Advocate General (yes, I was a Navy lawyer!). After serving 4 years, I entered the private sector and opened my own law office in Seattle for 2 years, until I was enticed into the mortgage business by my younger brother who was a mortgage loan officer.

In 2020, on a bit of a whim, my wife at the time and I decided to escape COVID lockdown in Seattle for the day and drove north. We ended up seeing a house under construction here in beautiful Mount Vernon and decided to just "go for it". We sold our Seattle home and became residents of the Skagit Valley.

In 2022, I lost my faithful companion, Milo, a 15 lbs rambunctious Maltipoo. Even though I have an awesome 13 lb Ragdoll cat, named Dood (meaning "Smoke" in Farsi), I've always been a "dog guy". Therefore, in August of 2025, I adopted my new family member, Walter, a Terrier mix, from The Noah Center. What a bundle of energy. No need to go to the gym for me. I'm burning off the lbs just chasing him around.

If you see me out on the streets of Mount Vernon, with or without Walter, please stop me to say hello.



Michael and Walter

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 Tulip Festival Volunteer Opportunity

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Do you love Skagit Valley and enjoy helping others?
We're looking for friendly, dependable adults (age 30+)
to volunteer during the 2026 Tulip Festival season,
specifically in April, when our headquarters is buzzing
with visitors.



Some of the Things You'll Do:

- Answer phones & share local tips
- Give directions to tulip fields & events
- Help customers in our gift shop

When We Need You:

- Throughout the month of April
- Weekday & weekend shifts available

Even a few hours of your time can make a big difference!

Scan the QR code to visit our Volunteer Info Page! You'll find more details and a quick interest form to get started.



Your Name, Etched in Skagit County History!!!

Help Build the Future, One Brick at a Time!

The Skagit County Fairgrounds has been a place of tradition, community, and connection for generations—and now you can be part of its story forever.

Purchase a personalized brick to honor your family, business, loved ones, or a special memory. Your brick will be proudly displayed at the fairgrounds, leaving a lasting legacy for years to come.

Every brick supports fairgrounds improvements, keeping this beloved space thriving for the next generation.

Thank you for helping us keep the fairgrounds strong, beautiful, and ready for the memories yet to come.

[Find more information here!](#)

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

Send your announcements to
Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com



August in Pictures



**Ribbon Cutting at
Golden Hour Café**



**Ribbon Cutting at
Skagit Clubhouse**



**Latino Business Leaders
Kickoff Event**



**Multi-Chamber After Hours at Global
Credit Union**



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



**Andy Mayer with Governor
Ferguson at WCCE Conference**

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
- 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





RACHELLE EASON
RACHELLE MARIE COACHING
& CONSULTING



SARAH HERLICKSON
SKAGIT THERMOGRAPHY

WOMEN IN POWER – PART 1

“SPEAKING OF WOMEN” SERIES

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 10

4:00 to 6:00 PM

Lang's Horse & Pony Farm

21219 Little Mountain Rd, Mount Vernon

- Catered by The Skagit Table
- Wine by Neu Flessenow Cellars, Leavenworth
- Team building by Lang's Horse & Pony Farm



THE
SKAGIT
TABLE



Neu
Flessenow
Cellars

REGISTRATION

Chamber Members:	\$ 100.00
Non members:	\$ 125.00
Student Fee	\$ 75.00

Registration includes all Women in Power events:

- October 8 Coffee Chat – Women in Power Part II
- November 12 Coffee Chat – Women in Power Part III

www.MountVernonChamber.com
email: Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com
Phone: (360)395-2944





Partnership Opportunities

The mission of Latino Business Leaders (LBL) is to create a more prosperous economy for all by advancing Latino businesses through business training, networking, and mentorship, while fostering their integration with the broader business community.

LBL Presenting Partner

\$3,000.00

- ⇒ Company name and/or logo in all LBL marketing including website, social media and newsletter
- ⇒ Company name in all radio announcements
- ⇒ Opportunity to speak in front of the group at all LBL events
- ⇒ Your marketing material available for participants at all business training sessions
- ⇒ Marketing table (or similar depending on space) at 3 LBL Social-Networking events

LBL Partner (3 business training sessions)

\$500.00

- ⇒ Company name and/or logo in LBL marketing including website, social media and newsletter
- ⇒ Opportunity to speak in front of the group
- ⇒ Your marketing material available for participants at 3 business training sessions

Latino Initiative Supporter

\$300.00

- ⇒ Company name and/or logo in event marketing
- ⇒ Opportunity to speak in front of the group
- ⇒ Your marketing material available for LBL participants

LBL Social-Networking Event Supporter

\$300.00

- ⇒ Company name and/or logo in event marketing including website, social media and newsletter
- ⇒ Opportunity to speak in front of the group
- ⇒ Marketing table at event (or similar depending on space)

LBL Business Training Supporter (1 session)

\$250.00

- ⇒ Company name and/or logo in LBL marketing
- ⇒ Company logo on the event page and displayed during the sponsored session
- ⇒ Your marketing material available for session participants

2025-2026 Schedule

LBL Social-Networking Events

Held on in August—December - April

Latino Initiatives

Special sessions designed to support the Latino community and based on specific community needs.

Business Training Program

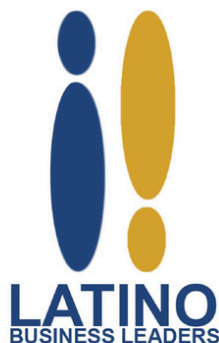
Free monthly training sessions . Held the third Wednesday of the month unless otherwise noted in event page.



MOUNTVERNONCHAMBER.COM

Silvia Reed | Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com | Direct: (360) 395-2944 - Cell (360) 305-0895

ENTRENAMIENTO EMPRESARIAL PROGRAMA 2025 - 2026



Incluye

- Entrenamiento y talleres mensuales
- Eventos de networking
- Consultoria individualizada
- Mentoría con empresarios de su industria

VISITE EL CODIGO QR PARA
INSCRIBIRSE AL PROGRAMA



2025 - 2026 Program Sponsor



27 DE AGOSTO 2025 | 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Convivio de empresarios y lanzamiento de programa

24 DE SETIEMBRE 2025 | 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Su Plan de Negocio: Creelo, Refinelo, Dominelo

15 DE OCTUBRE 2025 | 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Dominando sus Finanzas: Empiece Fuerte,
Mantengase Rentable

19 DE NOVIEMBRE 2025 | 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Guías para Licencias y Permisos de Negocios

10 DE DICIEMBRE 2025 | 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Latino Business Leaders Holiday Social

21 DE ENERO 2026 | 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Fundamentos para su Preparacion de Impuestos

25 DE FEBRERO 2026 | 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Financiando su Negocio: Del Emprendimiento a la
Expansion

18 DE MARZO 2026 | 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Estrategias de Marketing para Crecer su Negocio

15 DE ABRIL 2026 | 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Latino Business Leaders Spring Social

20 DE MAYO 2026 | 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Panel de Empresarios: Construyendo un Negocio
Exitoso

Las clases son gratuitas pero debe inscribirse para poder asistir.
Las clases son en Skagit Valley College - area tras la cafeteria
con una opcion virtual disponible

INFORMES E INSCRIPCION

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



CALLING SPONSORS

Help us Build Businesses from the Ground Up



Food Business Training
Fall 2025



Contractors Training
Winter 2026



FOR INFORMATION

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

Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com

www.MountVernonChamber.com



BUSINESS TRAINING DAYS

Food Industry—Contractors

Partnership Opportunities

Presenting Sponsor

\$1,500.00

- ⇒ Company name and/or logo prominently displayed in all event marketing
- ⇒ Support acknowledgement during the event and in all social media posts
- ⇒ Opportunity to speak in front of the group
- ⇒ Marketing table (or similar depending on space) during the event
- ⇒ Opportunity to provide branded items and display marketing material at all tables

Event Partner

\$500.00

- ⇒ Company name and/or logo in event marketing
- ⇒ Support acknowledgment during the event
- ⇒ Marketing table (or similar depending on space) during the event

Event Supporter

\$250.00

- ⇒ Company name and/or logo in event marketing
- ⇒ Support acknowledgment during the event

Food Industry Training | Friday November 21st | 9:00 to 3:15 PM | Skagit Valley College

Contractors Training | Friday January 30th | 9:00 to 3:15 PM | Skagit Valley College

Event and Sponsorship Information

Silvia Reed, Business Development and Foundation Director

Direct: (360) 395-2944 | Cell: (360) 305-0895

Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com

MOUNTVERNONCHAMBER.COM