

CHAMBER CHAT

April 2020

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Andy Mayer, President & CEO

Welcome to the Chamber's online newsletter. A month ago we had no intention of switching to this format. But we also had no idea how significantly the world was changing. So we're adapting, just as you have had to do. In this newsletter we are excited to highlight some excellent programs. They are allowing us to get back to what we do, which is to keep you connected, informed, and involved. Yes, the programs are being offered in a new way, out of necessity. Who knows—that could continue when we return to more normal times. Join us if you can. We will adapt together.

We know you are concerned about the financial impact on your business that the pandemic and the resulting restrictions have caused. Such concern is made particularly difficult by not knowing how long the health crisis and restrictions will continue. It is small consolation but quite a few programs are in place, or will be soon, to assist you. I encourage you to take a look at the comprehensive COVID-19 Resource Guide for Businesses & Workers put together by our friends at EDASC. If it doesn't have what you need, or if you need clarification on any of it, please contact Chamber staff directly. We will make sure you get the information and connections you need to navigate this difficult journey we are on together. We will survive it and thrive again.



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GET TO KNOW CAMP KOREY



Camp Korey has been delivering smiles to campers with serious medical conditions for 15 years and has called Mount Vernon home since purchasing the Camp Brotherhood property in 2016.

“We give kids the magic of friendship, positivity, and summer camp,” said Brian Harrington, Camp Korey’s director of development.

Camp Korey hosts residential summer camp and family weekends in the spring and fall, along with Camp to You, which brings “camp” to children and families in hospital settings year-round. All camps are free of charge.

Children who attend Camp Korey are kids first and foremost, but they are also individuals with serious medical conditions that often preclude them from many of the activities other children associate with growing up. Each week-long summer session, and family weekend, is geared toward campers within a primary condition group. This allows campers and families to fit in with a peer group that understands their challenges.

Since moving to Mount Vernon, Camp Korey has tripled the number of Skagit County children applying for camp.

“It’s important to us to serve the families in our own back yard,” Harrington said. “We serve kids from every corner of Washington and the USA, but there are many families in this area who can benefit from Camp Korey.”

Due to COVID-19 concerns, Camp Korey made the



difficult decision to suspend spring family weekends and residential summer camp this year, but recently launched Campfire Fridays on its social media and website. Families can embrace the joy of virtual camp every week with Camp Korey’s directors and staff. Campers will receive newsletters, videos, and traditional camp activities all in the comfort of their own home. All children currently home from school can go to campkorey.org and enjoy the activities.

“We are going to work hard to keep the Camp Korey community together, and we love being a part of the Skagit community. Everyone here cares about and supports each other,” Harrington said.

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Member Announcements

Marathon Petroleum Corporation Donates Equipment to Skagit Co. Department of Emergency Management

Last week, Marathon Petroleum Corporation (MPC) deployed its entire stock of personal protective equipment (PPE) to hospitals, healthcare organizations and its own facilities across the country. Over 500,000 pieces of PPE, including N95 respirator masks and gloves have either been delivered or are in transit to 45 hospitals and healthcare organizations in 20 states. In addition, necessary supplies of PPE required to protect the health and safety of essential workers at our facilities are being provided, which is mandated by the Department of Homeland Security to operate as normally as possible to maintain the supply of fuels and products to keep the country running, including emergency services.

Chinook Enterprises ramps up to produce face shields

Chinook Enterprises is manufacturing face shields in response to a request from the Mount Vernon Rotary and Scott Holley from Eddyline Kayaks. Rotary reached out to several facilities in the area to understand their needs, and Eddyline ordered materials. Ramping up production helps not only those in need in the Covid-19 pandemic but also in Chinook's mission work to help people overcome barriers to work. "The people we serve, those with disabilities, have been impacted by more than 75% unemployment during this pandemic," said Chinook Enterprises President Steve Reed. "Their return to work will also take longer. So, the money we can produce on face shields will turn back into community supported employment. It's a great circle of support."



Stronger Together

Skagit County's chambers of commerce, our cities and county know that together we can weather any storm, and are committed to supporting local business and our community at large. Pictured at March's Multi-Chamber After Hours at Tulip Town are (left to right): Stephanie Hamilton - Anacortes Chamber of Commerce, Peter Browning - Burlington Chamber of Commerce, Peter Donovan - City of Mount Vernon, Pola Kelley, Sedro-Woolley Chamber of Commerce, Andrew Miller - Tulip Town, Andy Mayer - Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Money Mindset Makeover Webinar

April 7, 12 pm -OR- April 9, 9 am

Join Kelly Schols, Master Financial Coach, as he shares concepts to help you re-set your mindset from panic to planning. Kelly's Money Mindset Makeover will help you remember the wisdom of allowing goals, not fear, to guide your decisions. He'll give you advice on concepts that will reassure you that time is on your side, and answer questions to help you gain a sense of peace and control.

Latino Business Leaders – Encuentro Virtual, Recursos y Apoyo/Virtual Meetup, Resources and Support

Martes 7 de Abril /Tuesday, April 7

5:30 - 6:30 pm, via Zoom

Nearly all businesses small and large have been impacted by COVID19. We have designed this virtual meetup as a way to connect with current and aspiring Latino business owners and provide needed resources/information to help you navigate our new business environment.

Adapt and Survive, Innovate and Thrive: Creating a New Mindset for a New Reality


Friday, April 10, Noon, via Zoom

Join this webinar with Jim Bergquist to identify the necessary actions required to see your business or organization through the initial breakdowns brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic; recognize the role that committed optimism plays in creating a powerful future; learn four creative principles that allow businesses and organizations to innovate and flourish, and more.

Biz Buzz via Zoom – April 22. *More details coming soon!*



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Camp Korey

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Resources by members, for members

When it became clear that COVID-19 was going to upend business as usual, Chamber staff wanted to be sure we could be a source of information and support. To that end, we have created some new resources for members as well as the Skagit Valley business community at large.

One of those resources is the Skagit Valley Chambers of Commerce Business Resources & Support Facebook group. This private group is open to all businesses, regardless of chamber membership, and is meant to be a safe place to ask questions, get support and problem solve for each other. The group has more than 260 members as of the end of March. If you haven't yet joined us on this online forum, we welcome you to check it out.

We have also created new pages on our website to help provide information useful to members during this time. Our COVID-19 Resources page is a clearinghouse of useful links from local to federal levels. Links include the Skagit County Health Department, Washington State Employment Security Department, Washington State Department of Commerce and the IRS. We are continually working to add resources and make this page more valuable.

Our COVID-19 Business Resources page features materials submitted by members. Topics include setting up your business to work remotely, how to communicate with your customers during this time, and more. We welcome your content to add to this page – our goal is to provide useful information to you from the experts in our community (hint: Also you!). To submit content – blog posts, pdfs or videos – please email: hilary@mountvernonchamber.com.

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We love our volunteers!

Visitors Information Center volunteer Cecelia “Punkie” Johnson (left) celebrated her birthday at the beginning of March with cake and a song from the Chamber staff.

Little did we realize that soon after our celebration we would be asking our volunteers, most of whom are deemed vulnerable to the coronavirus due to age, to stay home. We look forward to the time when we will see our volunteers back at the front desk, bringing with them their smiles and love of Mount Vernon.

Thank you VIC Volunteers

Arliss Abbott, Mary Adkins, Shirley Boonstra, Randy Burr, Susan Cooper, Bob Johnson, Punkie Johnson, Michael B. King, Bob & Andi Pippel, Janie Vaughn

BRONZE LEGACY

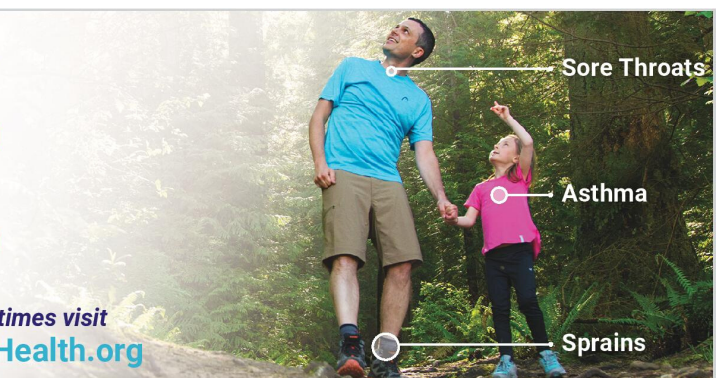


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Noon on April 10

Presented on Zoom

The Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce

ADAPT AND SURVIVE; INNOVATE AND THRIVE

CREATING A NEW MINDSET FOR

A NEW REALITY

with

Jim Bergquist

SPEAKER, CONSULTANT, FOUNDER OF bizFutures, INC.

***It is not the strongest of
the species that survives
nor the most intelligent -
but the one most
responsive to change.***

- Charles Darwin

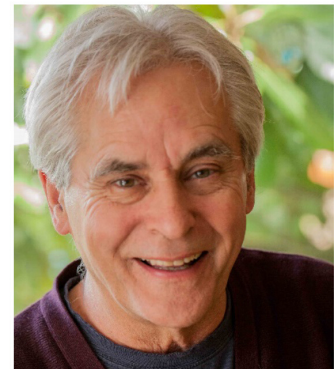
TOPIC: FROM BREAKDOWNS TO BREAKTHROUGHS!

In this presentation, participants will have an opportunity to:

1. Identify the necessary actions required to see them through the initial breakdowns brought on by the Covid-19 Pandemic.
2. Determine the role that committed optimism plays in creating a powerful future.
3. Learn the four creative principles that allow businesses and organizations to innovate and flourish.
4. Realize that as leaders of an enterprise you are engaged in a game of creation where anything is possible.

About Jim Bergquist

Jim Bergquist is an executive coach, meeting facilitator, trainer and public speaker. In 1983, Jim founded Creative Business Futures, Inc., a consulting firm that specializes in "cultural transformation." He developed the methodology known as *XToB™ - The Extraordinary Technology of Being™*, designed to cause *Sourceful Leadership™*, to engage and empower employees to generate performance breakthroughs. Using this unique approach has produced amazing results with companies in industries as far ranging as retail, hospitality, building design and construction, computers, aircraft, manufacturing, banking and finance, government, military, healthcare, education and energy. In each case, the focus has been on management by "inspiration and empowerment" versus the older management model of command and control. *The Extraordinary Technology of Being™ (XToB™)* is a breakthrough in coaching and management consulting methodology



In addition to large organizations, Jim has worked extensively with hundreds of small companies. In 1986, he began coaching the nearly bankrupt owner and fishmongers at the now famous Pike Place Fish Market in Seattle, Washington. Together, using *XToB™*, they developed an amazing company culture, fulfilling their vision to be "world famous - in a way that makes a difference for people." The fish market's company culture has been studied in business schools all over the world as a breakthrough organizational model.

The fundamental vision and commitment of Creative Business Futures is to transform our way of being in organizations.



Presenting the Inaugural KAPS/KBRC Event



Skagit Showdown!

A friendly (but fierce) battle between Anacortes, Burlington, Concrete, LaConner, Mount Vernon, & Sedro Woolley

August 12th at the Skagit County Fair!

See skagitcounty.net/showdown for more details

Hey Mount Vernon!



We need your help to win these events
August 12th at the Skagit County Fair!



Pie Eating Contest

Cornhole

Battle of the Bands

Cheer Spirit Award

Diaper Derby

Potato Sack Races

Kid's Pedal Tractor Races

Mutton Busting

Tug-o-War

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Trivia

Interested in joining the Mount Vernon team?
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Skagit County Fair: August 12th-15th (360) 416-1350 skagitcounty.net/fair



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