

CHAMBER CHAT

July 2020

Message from the CEO

Andy Mayer, President & CEO

The Mount Vernon Chamber is committed to inclusion and diversity. The Board of Directors has articulated those goals in the policies that guide our organization. As a result of that clear direction, the Chamber membership and the Chamber Board better reflects our community. In particular, the number of Latino businesses in our membership is higher than it has ever been and that extends to the Board. Of note, our Latino Business Leaders (LBL) program provides education on operating a business successfully, in Spanish. Most recently we have been part of a concerted effort to inform Latino businesses on what they need to do to operate under current reopening and health guidelines because that information hasn't been getting to them.

While the Chamber has made progress on inclusion and diversity, we haven't focused much on racial equality, equity and justice. As a privileged white man I don't feel even remotely qualified to lead such an effort. But I, and we, can start a conversation. We need to truly listen in order to understand the impact of racism and all forms of discrimination. My goal is to find people in our business community and community in general who would be willing to share their thoughts and experiences. Hearing those stories will help us understand what we can do together to ensure that all have the opportunity to succeed, in business and life. I hope you want to be part of the conversation and the action that we can take together.



LEGACY MEMBERS

GOLD



SILVER



Puget Sound Refinery



Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce

360.428.8547

mountvernonchamber.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Motivation & Marketing Mastermind: What's Your Website Saying to the Interworld?

Thursday, July 2

10 a.m.

via Zoom

[Register here](#)

Knowledge NOW

Reopening Washington: Considerations for Employers Returning to the Workplace

Wednesday, July 8

Noon

Presented by: Lucy Fausto, Skagit

Island Human Resources Association - SHRM

via Zoom

[Register here](#)

Membership Orientation

Tuesday, July 14

10 a.m.

via Zoom

[Register here](#)

Latino Business Leaders:

The Four "Ps" of Marketing

Tuesday, July 14

5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Presented in Spanish by Dr. Ed Jaramillo

via Zoom

[Register here](#)

Sponsored by:



COVID-19 – Guidelines for the Community and Latino Businesses

Presented in Spanish by Skagit County Health Department and Washington State Department of Labor & Industries

Thursday, July 16

Noon

via Zoom

[Register here](#)

Chamber Virtual Luncheon:

Biz Buzz

Wednesday, July 22

11:30 a.m.

via Zoom

[Register here](#)

Sponsored by:



Candidate Forum: Skagit County Commissioner District 1 & 2 Primary

Tuesday, July 28

5:30 - 7 p.m.

via Zoom

[Register here](#)

Battle of the Bridge Golf Tournament

Friday, Aug. 7

8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Scheduled tee times start at

8:30 a.m.

Avalon Golf Links



Chamber/Visitors Center Office Hours

The Chamber office reopened with the start of the state's Phase 2. **The office is open to the public 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday.** The Visitors Information Center currently is not open on the weekends.

As we move into Phase 3, we will reevaluate our hours of operation for both the Chamber and the Visitors Center.

Get to Know The Encore Shoppe

The Encore Shoppe, located at 1501 Parker Way, Ste. 102, in Mount Vernon, is a women's consignment store featuring high-quality clothing, shoes and handbags.

Encore Shoppe owner Christi Burns took over the business in April 2018, purchasing the business from the original owner when she retired. The shop had been in business for more than 25 years, so it had a loyal following in a proven location.

Before buying the shop, Christi worked for the State of Washington and had been considering starting her own business. Her plan was to run a startup and keep her state job, but when the opportunity came to purchase a turn-key business it made sense to go for it, she said.

Christi has put her own fashionable spin on the Encore Shoppe since taking over. As someone who had been buying and selling on e-Bay for years, she had a good idea of her target market. She prides herself on having expanded the size offerings at the shop, with sizes from 0 to 4x.

"We have a small selection for almost every lady who comes in," Christi says.

She focuses on consigning gently used high-quality items, usually at 75% of the retail price. Brand-new items with the tags still on are 50% of their original price. The shop accepts current, everyday fashions and stays away from vintage and formal wear.

And for women looking for a little advice while they shop, the team at The Encore Shoppe is always excited to help. "We're here to help people put outfits together," Christi said.

Since re-opening last month in Phase 2 of the governor's Safe Start program, the shop has been busier than usual. In part, she thinks it is because it is one of the only clothing stores in the county where people can actually try on clothing. Phase 2 rules require clothing stores to sanitize changing rooms after each use and quarantine clothing after being tried on. The shop is small enough that



Christi and her staff can easily manage these requirements, while larger chain stores have opted not to open their dressing rooms in Phase 2.

The Encore Shoppe works in partnership with the Skagit Gleaners, donating any items that do not sell.

"Working with the Gleaners is a great way we can help our community," Christi said.

To stay up to date with what's happening at the Encore Shoppe, find them on Facebook.

An advertisement for Skagit Publishing. The text is arranged in a clean, professional layout. At the top, it says "PRINTING & MAILING SOLUTIONS FOR YOUR BUSINESS" in large, bold, teal letters. Below that, in a smaller, brown font, it says "From design concept to finished product, we're here for you every step of the way!". At the bottom, there is a logo for Skagit Publishing, which consists of a stylized wave or mountain shape in teal and brown, with the text "SKAGIT PUBLISHING" and "empowering the community" underneath.

Ambassadors

Chair - Marla Chapa

Skagit Social

Taylor Bannister

Lincoln Theatre

Susan Cooper

NextHome Preview Properties

Monica Craig

CPI Plumbing & Heating

Ector DeLeon

Tulip Valley Winery

Beth Dewey

Joyous Style

Leslie Exner

hibu

Carol Harris

PrimeLending

Katelyn Huffman

Express Employment

Professionals

Shelby Janklow

Fortiphi LLC

Crystal King

NW Technology

Morgan McCauley

The Bridge at Mount Vernon

Anya Paxson

Aflac

Tammy Reim-Ledbetter

Alaska USA

Sherry Ruderman

Skagit Tradition Realty

Jerry Shackette

Friendship House of Skagit Valley

Lexx Stenson

Chinn GYN, LLC

Liz Theaker

Camp Korey

Katey Von Hagel

Land Title & Escrow Company

Clarissa Wong

Umpqua Bank

Thanks for tuning in to the Facebook Live at Valley Shine Distillery



The Chamber hosted its first Facebook Live in June. Chamber President Andy Mayer chatted with Ben Lasowski of Valley Shine Distillery, who also demonstrated how to make one of their signature cocktails. Lucky Andy got to try out the finished product! Be on the lookout for future Facebook Lives from the Chamber.

Tulip INN



- FREE Expanded Continental Breakfast
- FREE Local Calls & Voice Mail
- FREE Hi-Speed Internet
- Kitchenettes • Air-conditioning
- Corporate & Senior Rates
- In-room Coffee/Tea • Cable TV w/ HBO
- Restaurants & Shopping Nearby
- Truck Parking

360 428-5969

1 800-599-5969

www.tulipinn.net



2200 Freeway Dr., Mount Vernon

Take I-5 Exit 227 (College Way), go West and then North on Freeway Dr. (across from Walmart)

DIMENSIONAL COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

40 Years of Innovation, Craftsmanship and Customer Service





Your Single Source for Telephone, Data,
Audio/Video, Networking Systems and Services

1220 Anderson Road • Mount Vernon, WA 98274 • 360.424.6164 • Dimensional.net

Member Reveals Positive Return on Investment

It would be simple for my company, Goodwinds Composites, to fade into the background of the Mount Vernon business community – to put our noses down and manufacture carbon and fiberglass rods and tubes all day, products for which there is virtually no local market. Thankfully, the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce keeps us connected to our community in many vital ways.

Not only do I learn about other member businesses from the Chamber Chat and using the search function on the Chamber website (because we love to spend locally), but I also take advantage of the incredible member benefits through the Mount Vernon Chamber's involvement in the Association for Washington Business, including phenomenal rates on small group health insurance for my employees and a 401(k) plan. I know the Mount Vernon Chamber is advocating for my business when they visit our Washington state legislators, and that they are working to develop our local workforce through programs like the Experience Work Project. I am especially excited for the growing Latino Business Leaders program started by the Mount Vernon Chamber to help buoy an underserved and important part of our business community.

The Mount Vernon Chamber works hard to keep its member businesses thriving in ways that help all of Mount Vernon. I love living, working and raising my children in this beautiful city. Thank you, Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce, for all of your support!

Amelia Cook, Owner
Goodwinds Composites



Board of Directors

Chair - Carol Harris

PrimeLending

Vice Chair - David Lukov

Kern Funeral Home

Past Chair - Brian Poppe

HPK Architects

Treasurer - Rhonda Tingley

SaviBank

Member at Large - Bekki Cox

BC Accounting

Arden Ainley

Skagit Valley College

Viry Delgado

COA Mexican Eatery

Peter Donovan

City of Mount Vernon

Diane Fox

All About Hearing

Bill Henkel

Community Action of Skagit County

Brian Ivie

Skagit Regional Health

Ben Lazowski

Valley Shine Distillery

Jeff McInnis

U.S. Bank

Todd Owsley

Farmstrong Brewing Company

Duby Petit

Skagit Publishing

Celina Rodriguez

Mount Vernon School District

STAFF

President/CEO **Andy Mayer**

Business Development and

Foundation Director **Silvia Reed**

Operations Director **Jeremy Kindlund**

Marketing Specialist **Hilary Parker**

Visitor Information Services

Marinus Rouw

Stephanie Fernandez

Member Announcements

Cardinal Craft Brewing offers brews to go

Skagit Valley College's Cardinal Craft Brewing Academy is now offering pre-ordered 32 oz. cans of student-made brews to go. At least 10 unique beers, including Viva Farms Strawberry Blonde, Make-Up Day IPA and Not Your Ordinary Bitter, are offered at the Academy's online store. Online orders are accepted throughout the week, with a weekly order cut-off on Wednesdays at midnight. On Thursday mornings, the 32 oz. cans are labeled, individually filled fresh from the tap, and sealed. The orders are bagged and ready for drive-through pickup on Thursdays from 3-7 p.m. Each can will serve two full pints of beer, and when kept cold and unopened, will stay fresh for weeks. With 10 beers from which to choose, brewing fans have the opportunity to select several varieties to stock up on and enjoy. Place and pay for your order online at svccardinalcraftbrewing.ecwid.com. The Academy's friendly gloved and masked team members will bring your order to your vehicle. Cardinal Craft Brewing is located at 15579 Peterson Road, Burlington.

Mount Vernon Library offers curbside pick up

Patrons of the Mount Vernon City Library can now get their books and other library materials with curbside pick-up. Residents can request library materials by placing holds online or by calling the library. When an order is filled, the library will contact the patron and provide directions for parking in a designated pick-up space at the library where materials will be delivered to their vehicle. Pick up times at the Mount Vernon City Library area 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday-Friday; and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays. Mount Vernon residents without a library card can get one online at: www.mountvernonwa.gov/988/Get-a-Card.

Northwest Youth Services seeks donations for Covid-19 Emergency Funding Matching Campaign

Northwest Youth Services is raising emergency funds to support young people who are struggling to stabilize as a result of COVID-19. This effort is being matched, dollar for dollar (up to \$10K), by the Jerry H. Walton Foundation.

This pandemic throws into perspective how lack of housing always impacts the safety of unhoused youth. Many don't have a safe place to isolate or quarantine, open access to a sink to wash their hands, or a phone to keep in touch with their support network.

Funds raised through this effort will provide emergency rent assistance to young people who are struggling to pay rent, vocational support for those looking for new employment, and ensure Northwest Youth Services' team is available to support young people on their terms. Gifts made between now and July 31, 2020, will be matched.

Prism Capital Management, LLC



**Financial
Peace Of Mind**

Financial Consultant

Retirement Plans • 401K • Fiduciary Services

Wealth Planning • Trustee Services

In-Retirement Planning • Portfolio Management

www.PrismAdvisor.com

**Visit our website to sign up for our
newsletters and videos**

844-443-4321

Battle of the Bridge Is On!

Join us at Avalon Golf Links, Friday, Aug. 7, when the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce and the Burlington Chamber of Commerce battle it out in the second annual Battle of the Bridge Golf Tournament.

Pick your side and register your team by contacting Jeremy Kindlund at 360-428-8547 or Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com. Sponsorships are still available. See page 11 in this newsletter for sponsorship levels.



Welcome New Members

El Mangal

Maria Lezama
(360) 428-2000
2222 Riverside Dr.
Mount Vernon
www.elmangalmexicano.com
We are the best alternative when eating healthy. We offer delicious smoothies, fruit salads, bagels, croissants and other delicious treats. We only use fresh ingredients. We offer a nice and safe place where people can enjoy drinks and natural products made fresh.



Saniglad LLC

Dieter Drews
833-PPE-GLAD (833-733-4523)
1777 S Burlington Blvd. #523
Burlington
www.saniglad.com
Our mission is to protect public health and safety with personal protective equipment (PPE). We revolutionized the old vending concept with state-of-the-art technology creating the first PPE products vending machines. We want all people in our communities to feel safe.



Signs Plus, Inc.

Jim Sutterfield
(360) 671-7165
766 Marine Drive
Bellingham
signsplusnw.com
We are Washington's full service sign design, fabrication, installation and service experts. Our strength is our ability to service not only the small business owner's needs, but also the needs of large regional and national clients.



Do we have your business cards and brochures?

Now that our office is open again, we want to be able to hand out your information – make sure we have your up-to-date materials.

Businesses Encouraged to Join Shop Local Campaign

The Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce and the Mount Vernon Downtown Association are proud to present a summertime Shop Local campaign. The first-ever summer shop local effort will launch July 25 during the Downtown Mount Vernon Annual Sidewalk Sale and continue through Sept. 7.

We are looking for partners to promote shopping locally. Involvement includes marketing opportunities for your business,

such as an ad in the Skagit Valley Herald, social media promotion, a consumer incentive punch card, and more. Participants contribute two raffle prizes valued at \$25 or more.

Those interested in participating can return the flyer on page 10 of this newsletter with your business information and the two raffle prizes to Jeremy Kindlund at 301 W. Kincaid St./PO Box 1007, Mount Vernon, WA 98273. Registration deadline is July 15.

Thank You Renewing Members

30+ Years

Best Western College Way Inn
Kaptejn's Ace Hardware

20+ Years

Lincoln Theatre

15+ Years

McIntyre Hall, Performing Arts

10+ Years

Axthelm Construction
ACI Car Care Clinic @
Gateway Transmissions

10+ Years cont'd

CARE E ME, Inc.
Ductvac Northwest
I Love Skagit
Row Insurance Service
Sherwin-Williams

5+ Years

Anderson Electric, Inc.
Craft Stove
Learned Commercial, Inc.
Skagit Media Marketing
Trina D. Hoekstra, CPA, P.S.
WAFD Insurance Group Inc.

Less than 5 Years

Bargains Galore Thrift Store
Guild Mortgage, The Griffin Group
Indulge Bakery
Infinity Painting & Home Care LLC
La Catrina Tacos & Tequila
Northwestern Mutual
Testing and Commissioning
Services, LLC
Todd's Monuments

Partner Members

Barron Smith Daugert, PLLC, BEST WESTERN PLUS Skagit Valley Inn & Convention Center, Birch Equipment Rental & Sales, Brigadoon Service Dogs, Budget Towing & Repair, Cascade Job Corps Center, CBMM LLC, Coastal Farm and Ranch, Costco Wholesale, Crawford Garage Doors, D&P Electronic Home Monitoring, Foothills Toyota, Fortiphi LLC, Frontier Communications, Haggen Food & Pharmacy, Hampton Inn & Suites, Herbal Legends Cannabis, Infinity Painting & Home Care LLC, Kern Funeral Home, Landed Gentry Homes & Communities, Life Care Center of Mount Vernon, Little Mountain Laser, Loving Farms, Max Dale's Steak & Chop House, Mount Vernon School District, North Coast Credit Union, Northwest Escrow, LLC, PogoZone, Port of Skagit, Public Utilities District 1 Skagit County, Puget Sound Energy, SERVPRO, Skagit Valley Casino Resort, Skagit Valley College, Skagit Valley Hospital and Skagit Regional Clinics, Testing and Commissioning Services, LLC, The UPS Store #5499, The Woods Coffee, Tucker Realty LLC, Walmart, and Williams & Nulle, PLLC CPAs

Upbeat Award: Crystal King

June's Upbeat Award was presented by Monica Craig of CPI Plumbing & Heating to Crystal King of NW Technology. Here's what Monica had to say about Crystal:

Crystal is a history buff who earned a degree in journalism and built a career in local news and radio. She is the definition of committed and driven. Not only is her accomplished career proof of this, but it can be

found in the beautiful family she has built with her college sweetheart, raising three talented and kind children.

It was an honor to present this award to my friend, fellow WPN board member and chamber ambassador. Crystal you give so much to your community, so much to your family – and you do it always with a smile! We hope you know how appreciated and loved you are.



Crystal King, NW Technology

BRONZE LEGACY



Heritage Wealth Advisors
Ameriprise Private Wealth Advisory Practice

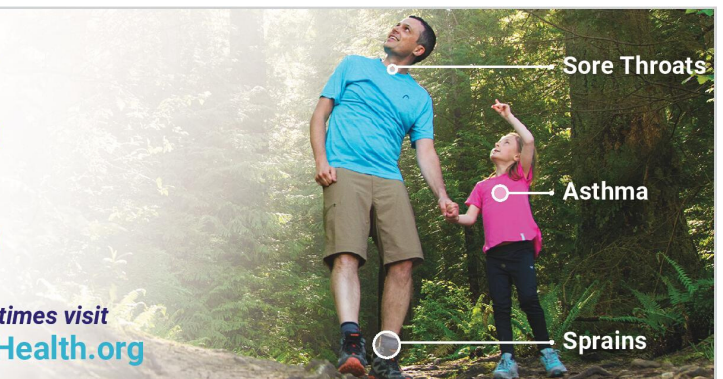


Urgent Care. We're here for

NATURE



For Urgent Care wait times visit
SkagitRegionalHealth.org





Summer Shop Local Campaign

Dear Chamber member,

The Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce is dedicated to supporting local businesses. We are partnering with the Mount Vernon Downtown Association, and together we are proud to present the Shop Local Campaign. The campaign will launch **July 25 during the Downtown Mount Vernon Annual Sidewalk Sale and continue through September 7.**

We are looking for partners to promote shopping locally. Involvement includes fantastic marketing opportunities for your business such as an ad in the Skagit Valley Herald, online and social media promotion, a consumer incentive punch card program, and more. Please return this flyer with your business information and two raffle prizes valued at \$25 or more to Jeremy Kindlund at the address listed below.

Not a member of the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce? You are still able to participate in this great program and promote your business.

For more information please contact: Jeremy Kindlund

Via email – Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com

Phone: (360) 428-8547

PO Box 1007

Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Participation requirements -

- Two Raffle Prizes (Value of \$25 or more)

Participation benefits -

- Consumer incentive punch card program: customers receive a punch for every \$5 spent at participating businesses. When the punch card is full (10 Punches at \$5 each, \$50) they can be used as an entry into weekly & grand prize drawings for fantastic raffle prizes. Each partnering business will be listed on back of the punch cards, poster and ads.
- Shop Local Poster
- PDF copy of flier with partnering businesses listed can be distributed to your clients via email or to print and put in bags, etc.

Please provide the information below, \$25 application fee and raffle prize to Jeremy Kindlund at the Chamber office no later than July 15.

Business Name: _____ Contact: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Description of Raffle Prize: _____

_____ Raffle Prize Value: _____

Battle of the Bridge Golf Tournament

***Friday, August 7
at Avalon Golf Links***



Presenting Sponsor: \$5,000

Special recognition as presenting sponsor during the event
Company banner displayed at registration area
Company name on printed and digital marketing materials
Logo with a link to your website on Burlington-Chamber.com and MountVernonChamber.com
Social Media Promotion on all Chamber channels (Twitter, Facebook, etc.)
Mentions in both chamber newsletters - print and electronic
Team of four players in tournament

Hole in One Sponsors: TBD

Special recognition during the event
Company banner displayed at registration area
Sign at a hole of your choice (based on availability)
Company name on printed and digital marketing materials
Logo with a link to your website on Burlington-Chamber.com and MountVernonChamber.com
Social Media Promotion on all Chamber channels (Twitter, Facebook, etc.)

Beverage Cart Sponsor: \$750

Sign on beverage cart (provided by the chamber)
Special recognition as the beverage cart sponsor
Company name on printed and digital marketing materials
Logo with a link to your website on Burlington-Chamber.com and MountVernonChamber.com
Social Media Promotion on all Chamber channels (Twitter, Facebook, etc.)
Sign at a hole of your choice (based on availability)

Hole Sponsors - Set up at a Hole: \$300

Set up a tent at the hole of your choice (based on availability)
Sign at hole (provided by the chamber)
Company name on printed and digital marketing materials
Logo with a link to your website on Burlington-Chamber.com and MountVernonChamber.com

Tee Sponsors: \$200

Sign (provided by the chamber) at a tee of your choice (based on availability)
Company name on printed and digital marketing materials
Logo with a link to your website on Burlington-Chamber.com and MountVernonChamber.com

For more information contact Jeremy Kindlund at Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com or Stephanie Vervaart at steph@burlington-chamber.com.



SKAGIT ISLAND COUNTIES BUILDERS
ASSOCIATION

36th Annual
SICBA
Golf Tournament

JULY 17 • 7AM - 2PM

Whidbey Golf Club

2430 FAIRWAY LN OAK HARBOR, WA
98277

GO TO SICBA.ORG TO REGISTER!





DON'T DELAY YOUR HEART HEALTH

Staying home has helped to keep the impact of COVID-19 in our community relatively low, but it has also meant many people delayed getting important care.

Your heart health shouldn't wait any longer.

Act now to understand your risk of heart disease by taking our free online assessment at peacehealth.org/heartdisease. Please encourage your employees, family and friends to do the same. For those who have concerns, our expert local physicians – including primary care and cardiology doctors – are ready and available to guide you back to health.

Rest assured, all PeaceHealth facilities have implemented new measures to keep you safe. Some of these safety measures include temperature checks for all visitors, wide-spaced seating in waiting rooms, dedicated staff for COVID-19 isolation units, and increased sanitation of all surfaces to meet our strict medical standards.



May 24th, 2020

KEEP YOUR BUSINESS GROWING



LOCAL

HIGH-SPEED

RELIABLE & FRIENDLY

Mount Vernon Fiber

With the City's fiber system, PogoZone delivers ultra-fast speeds, tailored for your business needs

Business Solutions For Today

Our ultra-fast download & upload will streamline your remote access to your on-site PogoZone connection

Contact us to get connected / Be safe - Stay healthy

[PogoZone.com](https://www.pogozone.com)

(360) 676-8772 - Option 3 (sales)

Proudly serving Whatcom, Skagit & San Juan Counties

