

CHAMBER CHAT

JANUARY 2022

What are your legislative priorities?

By Andy Mayer/President & CEO

The start of the 2022 session of our state legislature is just about a week away. To prepare you, the Skagit Chamber Alliance (all the Chambers in Skagit County working together) is hosting a Legislative Send-Off on Friday the 7th, 8 a.m., on Zoom. Our legislators from the 10th, 39th and 40th districts will share their priorities and take questions from participants. Join us if you can because it'll be an excellent opportunity for a dialogue on what's important for Skagit County.

What are the main issues affecting your business and our communities? They don't have to pertain to legislation necessarily because we also want our legislators to understand our perspective. For me, our biggest concern is housing. It is not news that we have a housing crisis in Skagit County. The demand for housing in our area has been far greater than the supply, for quite a while. Consequently, the price to rent or buy, on every level, has skyrocketed. It is not a healthy equation. One of the main impacts on businesses is that the lack of housing makes the difficulty in finding employees even greater. It also contributes directly to the incidence of homelessness. Many people without shelter would like to work and would do so if they had a place to live.

Another concern is the lack of daycare. For parents to work, suitable and affordable daycare is necessary, but it

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GOLD



SILVER



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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Marketing Mastermind: Smart Phone Video Tips and Tricks

Thursday, Jan. 6
10 a.m.

via Zoom/[Register here](#)

We're ringing in 2022 with a mastermind session all about smart phone videography. You don't need to be a professional to take professional quality video on your phone. Burlington Chamber of Commerce Marketing Coordinator Alyssa will show us how she uses her iPhone to create video content and will share her best tips and tricks. Whether you're looking to get started with video or level up the content you're already creating, this is a great session for you to attend!

Legislative Send-Off

Hosted by the Skagit Chamber Alliance
Friday, Jan. 7
8 a.m.

via Zoom/[Register here](#)

The Skagit County Chambers will be hosting the legislators from the 10th, 39th and 40th districts for the annual Legislative Send-Off. Each legislator will share his or her priorities and expectations for the upcoming session. The audience will then have the opportunity to ask questions of the legislators.

Membership Orientation

Tuesday, Jan. 11
1 p.m.

via Zoom/[Register here](#)

Learn about how your Chamber membership benefits your business. Our membership orientations are not limited to new members, any active member can attend as well as those businesses who may want to know more about the Mount Vernon Chamber and how we can support their businesses.

Latino Business Leaders

Getting your taxes ready

Tuesday, Jan. 18
6-7:30 p.m.

via Zoom/[Register here](#)

Presented in Spanish

During this session with Marcelino Corona from Alfa and Omega Services you will learn:

- How to prepare your books to report your taxes to the IRS and Washington State Department of Revenue
- How to report your taxes (how much, when and where)
- If you own a new business, you will also learn the process to obtain your business license

Sponsored by:



Step up your visibility this year

2022 Sponsorship & Marketing opportunities

See page 10 for details

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Knowledge NOW

Creative Benefits to Attract and Retain Your Employees

Wednesday, Jan. 12

Noon

via Zoom/[Register here](#)

Retaining employees may be more important than ever. At this month's Knowledge NOW presentation Donovan Cook, 2022 SIHRMA President and Employee Benefits Broker at Brown & Brown Insurance, provides us with some out-of-the-box ideas to attract and retain employees.

Chamber 2021 Awards

Wednesday, Jan. 26

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

via Zoom/[Register here](#)

We can't say enough about how much we appreciate everyone for all of their hard work and determination in helping us be the best Chamber we can be. Please join us as we recognize some of the businesses and people who went above and beyond in 2021.

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What do you want to share with our legislators?

...continued from page 1

is in short supply. Another need is for accessible mental health and substance abuse services. Perhaps these didn't used to be thought of as business issues, but with what we have all gone through in the last two years, they are now. Other timely interests are workforce development, including career and technical education for our students to ensure that qualified employees will be available. There are plenty more issues and opportunities to discuss with our legislators, such as transportation, the

cost of construction and the value of the visitor economy, which considers the broad economic impact of tourism.

More than anything, we want our legislators to understand that small businesses are the foundation of our economy and provide the jobs to most of our working residents. Healthy businesses ensure healthy communities; our interests are the same. Those are my thoughts. I would like to hear yours on the 7th at the Legislative Send-Off, or anytime.

Happy New Year.

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Get to Know Sound to Summit Physical Therapy

“As a kid I had my own experience with physical therapy, rehabbing from an injury,” recalls Brian Marris, physical therapist at Sound to Summit Physical Therapy in Mount Vernon.

That early experience led him to consider a career in physical therapy, but it wasn’t until his undergraduate studies at the University of Washington that the Kitsap County native settled on it.

“My volunteer experience working the PT clinic at the UW solidified my decision,” he said. After graduating from the UW, he went on to the University of Puget Sound to get his degree in physical therapy.

Marris has been a physical therapist now for 14 years and opened the Mount Vernon office of Sound to Summit in May 2018. He had worked for the South Puget Sound company prior to moving to Bellingham about six years ago, he said, and when Sound to Summit was looking to expand into North Puget Sound with a clinic in Mount Vernon, management thought of him.

“I jumped at the opportunity to get back on board,” he said.

Sound to Summit Physical Therapy, located at 2116 E. Section St., serves a wide variety of patients from youth with sports injuries to geriatric patients looking for help with fall risk prevention to any age group in between, Marris says. Marris and the other physical therapist in the practice, Peter Kolodychuk, see patients recovering post-op, addressing chronic repetitive use, or getting moving after an injury or accident.

One of the reasons physical therapy appealed to Marris as a profession is the ability to spend



Sound to Summit Physical Therapists Peter Kolodychuk and Brian Marris.

ample time with patients, establishing a true relationship. Unlike some PT clinics, Sound to Summit patients only see a physical therapist and not a rotating cast of PT assistants, which helps establish continuity of care.

“We get to follow our patients throughout their course of care,” Marris said.

It wasn’t long after Marris opened the clinic that he joined the Chamber of Commerce. Being new to Mount Vernon, he saw membership as an excellent way to get involved in the community.

“Joining the Chamber was a great way to get to know some of the other businesses in the area and an opportunity to introduce ourselves to the community,” he said.

While his growing practice has kept him away from attending Chamber events recently, he says he never hesitates to renew his membership when it comes time.

He’s dedicated to his business and the community, saying “I see us staying here for the long haul.”

Upbeat Award winner: Sophia Garcia

November's Upbeat Award winner Craig Chambers from the United Way of Skagit County paid it forward by choosing December's Upbeat recipient, Sophia Garcia from Children of the Valley. Here's what Craig had to say about Sophia:

"This year, Children of the Valley has expanded its services in partnership with the Mount Vernon School District, to serve children at two additional locations in Mount Vernon, Centennial Elementary School and Washington Elementary School. This provides over 100 of our community's most under-resourced children access to academic and personal support each day after school.

"This success would not be possible without people like Sophia Garcia, who has been with Children of the Valley for four years as the volunteer coordinator. She has recruited and trained over 100 volunteers each year to serve in various roles, such as homework tutors, snack preparers, drivers taking kids home each night, along with volunteers to teach kids how to cook.

"She is a go-getter, a natural leader, and one that goes above and beyond to get the job done."



Craig Chambers presents Sophia Garcia the December Upbeat Award.

Apply now for networking group

A second Chamber Connections group will be forming in the new year. The group will meet Thursdays at noon, starting in January. Membership in the group is limited to one person per business category. Categories are

selected by the member based on the membership directory.

Meetings are twice a month and are currently taking place via Zoom. See page 11 of this newsletter for the Connections application.

Partner Members

Barron Smith Daugert, PLLC, Best Western PLUS, Skagit Valley Inn, Birch Equipment Co., Budget Towing & Repair, Coastal Farm & Ranch, Costco Wholesale, D&P Electronic Home Monitoring, Foothills Toyota, Fortiphi, Haggen Food & Pharmacy, Hampton Inn & Suites, Infinity Painting & Renovations, Kern Funeral Home, Landed Gentry Homes & Communities, Loving Farms, Max Dale's Steak and Chop House, Mount Vernon School District, North Coast Credit Union, Northwest Escrow, LLC, Pacific Premier Bank, PogoZone, Port of Skagit, Puget Sound Energy, Skagit Public Utility District 1, Skagit Valley Casino Resort, Skagit Valley College, Skagit Regional Health, Tacos Tecalitlan, Testing and Commissioning Services, LLC, Walmart, Williams & Nulle, PLLC, CPAs

Board of Directors

Chair - Bill Henkel

Community Action of Skagit County

Vice Chair - Brian Ivie

Skagit Regional Health

Past Chair - David Lukov

Kern Funeral Home

Treasurer - Rhonda Tingley

SaviBank

Member at Large - DUBY PETIT

Skagit Publishing

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All About Hearing

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Infinity Painting & Renovations

Flora Lucatero

Children of the Valley

Andrew Miller

Tulip Town

Todd Owsley

Farmstrong Brewing Company

Tammy Reim-Ledbetter

Alaska USA

Dr. Amanda Rentschler

Roosevelt Dental Center

Jon Ronngren

Mount Vernon School District

Tony White

Skagit Valley Food Co-op

STAFF

Andy Mayer President/CEO

Silvia Reed Business Development and Foundation Director

Jeremy Kindlund Operations Director

Hilary Parker Marketing Specialist

Marinus Rouw

Visitor Information Services

Member Announcements

Blood drives take place in January

Bloodworks NW will be in Anacortes at the Westminster Presbyterian Church starting Jan. 6 as well as the North Cascade Seventh Day Adventist Church in Burlington starting Jan. 19. To learn more details and to schedule an appointment, please visit BloodworksNW.org. This winter, preparedness is our number one priority. The annual anticipation of snow leaves Bloodworks with one thought: are we prepared to meet the local blood need? Through any weather, our community depends on all of us to survive the next emergency or trauma. You can help our preparedness plan by making your next appointment and making your next one 56 days later – make it a habit.

HKP Architects receives two NWW AIA Design Awards

HKP Architects received recognition at this year's American Institute of Architects Northwest Washington Section Design Awards. The HKP projects recognized at the virtual event include the Children's Museum of Skagit County's new location at the Burlington outlet mall and the Meditation Center (unbuilt), a 4,000 square-foot event space building located in Skagit County designed for Bhakti Marga North America.

Hull sworn in as Port of Skagit commissioner

Mahlon Hull was sworn in as Port District 3 Commissioner for the Port of Skagit during its meeting Dec. 14. Hull has an extensive background in service. As an Air Force and Air National Guard retired veteran, Hull's work took him abroad, serving in the Middle East, Antarctic and Somalia, while domestically he provided relief efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Andrew. Locally, he's volunteered with the Hamilton and Clear Lake Food Banks and more recently at the Heritage Ranch in Bow – all of which are experiencing higher demand for services during the pandemic. Hull's term began Jan. 1.

Thank You Renewing Members

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Fortiphi Insurance
SaviBank - College Way

10+ Years

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Lithtex Northwest
Lyon's Furniture

5+ Years

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Good Vibes Body Art
Law Office of George T.
Freeman
Mount Vernon Farmers Market
Pacific Premier Bank
Stress Free Bookkeeping

Less than 5 Years

Banner Bank
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Fernandez Dental
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La Conner Channel Lodge
Nemesis Street Performance
Pinecone Inc.
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Stitched 360 Imaging
Superior Systems Inc.

Ambassadors

Chair - Liz Theaker

Camp Korey

Rani Bal

Northwest Escrow, LLC

Mitch Britt

Bold Eye Media

Susan Cooper

Susan Cooper

Ector DeLeon

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Leslie Exner

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Joley Garner

WAFD Insurance Group, Inc.

Carol Harris

PrimeLending

Crystal King

NW Technology

Joel Pasek

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Blake Rawlins

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



PUGET
SOUND
ENERGY

The Chamber Hits the Road

In November, long-time Chamber member Susan Cooper retired from her job as a Realtor at NextHome Preview Properties. Because Susan has been a tireless supporter of the Chamber for many years as a member, ambassador and volunteer, she was presented with an honorary lifetime membership in December.



The Chamber's Silvia Reed and 2020-2021 Chamber Ambassador Chair Marla Chapa get ready to spread some holiday cheer.



Chamber Ambassador Liz Theater (L) of Camp Korey visits new member Maddy McKenzie of the Skagit Community Foundation.



Chamber CEO Andy Mayer presents a legacy member plaque to David Andrade of Les Schwab Tire Centers.



Chamber Ambassadors Crystal King of NW Technology and Mitch Britt of Bold Eye Media

Welcome New Members

Bay Equity Home Loans

Tony Salas
(360) 755-3689
120 E. George Hopper Rd., Ste. 112
Burlington
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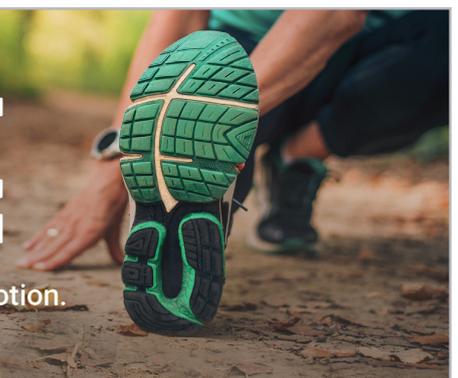
ORTHOPEDICS & SPORTS MEDICINE

For more information, visit:
skagitregionalhealth.org/orthopedics



MOVE WITHOUT HESITATION

A healthy body is a body in motion.





2022 MARKETING & SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

<p>Membership Meeting Sponsor</p> <p>Includes your logo in the monthly Chamber Chat, weekly email, website event calendar, newsletter email to 500 businesses, 5 minute presentation at the meeting, display table and exclusive right to distribute flyers on the tables.</p>	<p>TBD/ meeting</p> <p>(Act quickly because these go fast! Not available in November)</p>	<p>Exclusive Sponsor of "Your Chamber This Week" Email</p> <p>Your display ad or logo sent to over 1,000 email addresses each week with an active link to your website. We have a special rate for yearly sponsors.</p>	<p>\$100/week</p>
<p>Skagit Chili & Chowder Cook-Off</p> <p>A fantastic way to get exposure as Skagit County's best cooks battle it out. This competition features both amateurs and professionals and is a sure fire hit with the crowd!</p>	<p>\$325-\$1,250</p> <p>Sponsorships Available</p>	<p>Chamber Chat Newsletter Inserts</p> <p>You provide the PDF, we do the rest! Perfect for events, sales and announcements; sent to over 1,000 business professionals in the monthly Chamber Chat Newsletter.</p>	<p>\$100/insert</p>
<p>Riverwalk Summer Concert Series</p> <p>A family-friendly event on the downtown Riverwalk featuring an eclectic mix of genres from talented local musicians. Sponsorships include radio promotion, social media, display table and option to announce your business during the concert.</p>	<p>\$350-\$5,000</p> <p>Sponsorships Available</p>	<p>Chamber Chat Newsletter Ad</p> <p>Place your ad in the award-winning Chamber Chat newsletter and be seen every month. Reach out to fellow business leaders and potential customers with over 7,200 copies distributed annually.</p>	<p>\$700-\$1,500</p> <p>Varies by Size</p>
<p>Skagit Wine & Beer Festival</p> <p>The premier social event featuring regional wineries, breweries, distilleries, cideries and restaurants. Sponsorships include promotion in chamber marketing materials, radio advertisements and social media.</p>	<p>\$350-\$5,000</p> <p>Sponsorships Available</p>	<p>MountVernonChamber.com Display Ads</p> <p>Extend your marketing reach to over 136,000 annual visitors on our website with your display ad linked directly to your website. Three sizes/ styles of display ads available.</p>	<p>Cost varies by size and length of ad run.</p>
<p>New Member Welcome Basket</p> <p>Be one of the first to introduce your business to new chamber members by providing your company swag or special offer, to be included in every welcome basket.</p>	<p>FREE</p> <p>Just supply us with your promotional items.</p>	<p>Door Prizes</p> <p>Keep your business name and brand in front of potential customers by donating a door prize during any one of our events.</p>	<p>FREE</p> <p>Provide us your door prize prior to start of event.</p>

Company Name: _____ **Contact:** _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

For more information contact Jeremy Kindlund - (360) 428-8547 or Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com.
 Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce - PO BOX 1007 Mount Vernon, WA 98273, www.MountVernonChamber.com.



Chamber Connections

Noon group

Referral Group Guidelines and Application

GUIDELINES

- ⇒ One participant per industry.
- ⇒ A completed and signed application must be sent to the Chamber liaison in order to join Chamber Connections. The Chamber will confirm an opening in the group and process your application or, if no opening is available, applicant will have the option to be placed on the waiting list.
- ⇒ Chamber connection members must be employees of a Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce member organization.
- ⇒ Membership applies to the individual not the company.
- ⇒ Members are responsible for bringing new leads to the meeting.
- ⇒ Meetings are held on the second and fourth Thursday of the month at noon.
- ⇒ Three unexcused absences in the quarter will constitute removal from the group.
- ⇒ When an individual drops out or is removed from the group, the chamber liaison will notify the individual on the waiting list to fill the empty spot.
- ⇒ The Chamber will maintain a waiting list for Chamber Connections as well as a record of all leads generated in the group.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Company Name: _____

Participant Name: _____

Business Category: _____

Phone Number: _____ Cell number: _____

Website: _____ Email address: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

() I agree to follow the guidelines and bylaws as described by the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce.

For additional information or to join Chamber Connections, contact

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