

# CHAMBER CHAT

August 2022

## The Me and the We

By *Andy Mayer/President & CEO*

I recently read an interesting (to a Chamber professional anyway) book called “From Relevant to Essential—Five Key Insights for Chambers of Commerce” by Casey Steinbacher. Her thoughts really resonated with me, particularly on how Chambers stepped up during the pandemic. She made the point that it wasn’t new for us to do so. Chambers have always taken the lead on community development and have done what is necessary during a crisis. But here’s the thing—in our efforts to serve the needs of individual members we have downplayed our role in community issues. In fact, as Casey stated well, the “Me” needs of businesses and the “We” needs of the community are interdependent and important. It is my goal to consistently share both with you.

Cheryl Willis, with Skagit Transit shared some thoughts with me on how they have been impacted by current business and community needs. Their biggest challenge is the tight labor market we’re all experiencing. Retirements are making it difficult for them to find skilled people such as coach operators. On the flip side, inflation is a positive for Skagit Transit. People are realizing that transit is a good transportation option for a strained budget. And by the way, youth 18 years and younger can now ride for free.

Honestly, I thought that businesses would be going full speed ahead by now, if for no other reason than the sheer enthusiasm generated by emerging from the pandemic. Instead, there are complicating factors. We need a way to have some sense what’s on the horizon for businesses. Fortunately, we will hear from Hart Hodges, Director of Western’s Center for Economic and Business Research at our August Luncheon. He will talk to us about “Lessons Learned and a Crystal Ball.” It will be an informative and interactive session giving us insight into an economy in transition. I hope to see you there, and meanwhile have a great summer!



### GOLD



### SILVER



Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce  
(360) 428-8547  
[mountvernonchamber.com](http://mountvernonchamber.com)

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## Ribbon Cutting at The Hair Republic

Friday, August 5

5 p.m.

1600 E. College Way STE E

Mount Vernon

Join us as we welcome The Hair Republic to our business community.

## Mount Vernon Drive-in Movie Nights featuring Back to the Future

Friday, August 5

9:00 p.m.; parking opens at 7:30 p.m.

Skagit Valley College

Don't forget the movie popcorn! Lincoln Theatre will be there selling concessions.

## Knowledge NOW - Making Better Use of Your Brain

Presented by: Hannah Smith, Potential Finders Network, LLC

Wednesday, August 10

12 p.m.

301 W Kincaid St

Mount Vernon

[Register Here](#)

Practical Applications of Brain Science that help us tap into and make better use of information we usually miss or disregard (Benefit: Improved productivity, less frustration, and more effective interpersonal interactions).

## Multi-Chamber After Hours

Thursday, August 11

4:30 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Chinook Enterprises

2026 N LaVenture Rd

Mount Vernon

Join all six of the Skagit County chambers of commerce for an in-person networking event at Chinook Enterprises. Have fun and expand your network!

## Ribbon Cutting at Consejo Counseling & Referral Service

Friday, August 19

12 p.m.

1600 E College Way

Mount Vernon

Join us as we welcome Consejo Counseling & Referral Service.

## Membership Orientation

Tuesday August 23 at 10:00 a.m.

[Register Here](#)

Open to any active member as well as those businesses that may want to know more about the Chamber.

## Chamber Membership Luncheon: Lessons Learned and a Crystal Ball

Hart Hodges, Director, Western's Center for Economic and Business Research

Wednesday, August 24

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

Hillcrest Park

[Register Here](#)

\$23 with RSVP; \$25 day-of

Sponsored by Skagit Habitat for Humanity

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## Latino Business Leaders Meet & Greet

Tuesday August 30

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Tacos Tecalitlan

702 N Burlington Blvd, Burlington

Free/Registration required

[Register Here](#)

We invite all Latino entrepreneurs with established businesses or who are planning to start a business to come network with other Latino entrepreneurs and learn about the new Latino Business Leaders program.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS



### Riverwalk Summer Concert Series

Join us at 6 p.m. each Thursday in August at Skagit Riverwalk Park for our summer concert series. These free concerts are great for the whole family.

- August 11** - Cascadia Groove
- August 18** - Janie Cribbs and the T Rust Band
- August 25** - The Atlantics

Presented by: **DL DWAYNE LANE'S**  
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Community Action of Skagit County

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Skagit Regional Health

### Past Chair - David Lukov

Kern Funeral Home

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SaviBank

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Skagit Publishing

### VIRY DELGADO

COA Mexican Eatery

### Peter Donovan

City of Mount Vernon

### Diane Fox

All About Hearing

### Robert Knoll

Puget Sound Energy

### Jesse Lopez

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

**Marinus Rouw & Emeleah Magaña**

Visitor Information Services

## Member Announcements

### The Lincoln Theatre Presents Brewfest on the Skagit

Lincoln Theatre presents Brewfest on the Skagit Saturday, August 13th 3pm-8:30pm. This year's Brewfest will feature dozens of local craft brews, three of the region's most popular bands, leisure games, tie-dye courtesy of Tri-Dee Arts, vendors, and local food trucks. Tickets \$30 General (includes 6 tastings); \$50 VIP (includes 6 tastings, early entry, VIP tent, limited edition laser-etched pint glass, performer/brewer mingle, swag); \$15 "Designated Driver" (includes no beer scrip) + applicable fees. All prices additional \$10 at gate. Lincoln Theatre Members receive \$2 off all ticket tiers. More information is available at [lincolnthatre.org](http://lincolnthatre.org) or by calling the Lincoln Theatre Box Office at 360-336-8955.

### Peoples Bank Announces Promotions at Real Estate Loan Center for Skagit and Island Counties

Peoples Bank announced the promotions of Nate Walley to Real Estate Loan Center Manager and Kari Kennedy to Assistant Real Estate Loan Center Manager to support the growth of the Bank's Real Estate Loan Center serving Skagit and Island counties. Nate Walley, Real Estate Loan Center Manager - Nate Walley brings over 20 years of experience in the financial services industry. He previously served as a Mortgage Loan Officer at the Burlington Office in Skagit County. Kari Kennedy, Assistant Real Estate Loan Center Manager - Kari Kennedy, formerly a Digital Mortgage Loan Officer at the Mount Vernon Financial Center, also brings nearly 20 years of banking experience in Skagit County, where she was born and raised.



**Tune In**  
Chamber Chat  
Wednesday Mornings

**102.1 KAPS Country**  
8:05 a.m.

**KBRC CLASSIC ROCK**  
8:20 a.m.

For more member announcements, visit  
[mountvernonchamber.com/member-announcements](http://mountvernonchamber.com/member-announcements)

Send your announcements to  
[Jeremy@mountvernonchamber.com](mailto:Jeremy@mountvernonchamber.com)

## Thank You Renewing Members

### 20+ Years

The Skagit Casino Resort

### 15+ Years

Sundance Energy Services, Inc  
United Way of Skagit County  
Vintage at Mount Vernon

### 10+ Years

Allixo Technologies  
Baker Septic Tank Pumping,  
Inc.  
CARE E ME, Inc.  
Heritage Financial Group, Inc.  
Smiley Insurance

### 5+ Years

Allstate - DeVries & Schlagel  
Insurance  
Blue Lake Property  
Management  
PogoZone  
Showcase Your Shine with  
Rebecca P. Murray  
Waste Management

### Less than 5 Years

Archer Halliday, PS  
Avalon Golf Links  
Let us Show You Learning  
No 7 Development LLC  
Skagit Autoworks  
Skagit Gleaners  
Skagit Social  
Whidbey Tech Solutions

## Ambassadors

### Chair - Liz Theaker

Camp Korey

### Betsy Anorbe

Betsy Anorbe Real Estate

### Susan Cooper

Susan Cooper

### Ector DeLeon

Tulip Valley Winery

### Sarah Eckenrode

CPI Plumbing & Heating

### Joley Garner

WAFD Insurance Group, Inc.

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### Joel Pasek

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# The month in pictures

*Summer is here and the events are heating up!*



Chamber members network at the Biz Buzz Networking Luncheon



Anderson Podiatry celebrates their new location in Coherence Wellness Center with a ribbon cutting.



The Law Office of Hector Leal celebrates their new office with a ribbon cutting.



Dancing the night away at the Riverwalk Summer Concert Series



Enjoying a sunny afternoon at the Peoples Bank Multi-Chamber After Hours

# Welcome New Members



## Farmers Insurance- District Office

Ty Peck  
(360) 510-7081  
1515 Freeway Ste C  
Mount Vernon  
[www.recruitment.farmers.com/industry-recruiter-locator/wa/mount-vernion/carl-davis.com](http://www.recruitment.farmers.com/industry-recruiter-locator/wa/mount-vernion/carl-davis.com)  
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[www.waltonlawapc.com](http://www.waltonlawapc.com)  
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[skagitregionalhealth.org/orthopedics](http://skagitregionalhealth.org/orthopedics)



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Alicia Johnson  
Branch Manager  
Mt Vernon - College Way Branch  
360-848-1100  
ajohnson@bannerbank.com







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PACIFIC TWANG AT 3:00PM



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SAVANNA WOODS AT 2:00PM



BRITTANY COLLINS BAND,  
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**LABOR DAY WEEKEND  
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