

# CHAMBER CHAT

December 2022

## What a Year!

**By Andy Mayer/President & CEO**

2022 was an exceptionally good year for the Chamber and you were a big part of it. Together we emerged from the pandemic stronger from the challenges we overcame and rededicated to the things that are important to us, our businesses, and our communities.

We returned to holding our Luncheons in-person in April, fittingly hosted by the Mount Vernon Kiwanis Club at their Salmon Barbecue, also returning from a 2-year hiatus. Your participation made each month's gathering at the Hillcrest Lodge a success. Other programs including our referral programs, Multi Chamber After Hours, and Marketing Masterminds returned or continued full force. Our events including the Chili & Chowder Cook-off, Summer Concert Series, and Skagit Wine & Beer Festival benefitted tremendously from your desire to get out, about, and to have fun! Another highlight for the year was the ramping up and return to in-person meetings of the Latino Business Leaders (LBL) program. It provides training, networking, and business consultation to Latino businesses in the region. The success of the program was recently recognized by the Seattle Latino Metropolitan Chamber, through an award for supporting Latino businesses. Thank you for your support and participation in all our programs and events. We couldn't (and wouldn't) do them without you!

The Chamber's involvement and advocacy on issues important to your business and our communities were also strong this year. We worked tirelessly on issues such as the employment crisis, housing, and homelessness, with organizations dedicated to finding solutions, and through our local and state officials, and represented your specific interests with them, as well. Additionally, we supported opportunities for our region, such as sustainable tourism, including agritourism.

Thank you for being the best part of the Chamber!



## LEGACY MEMBERS

### GOLD



### SILVER



Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce

(360) 428-8547

[mountvernonchamber.com](http://mountvernonchamber.com)

## Thank You Renewing Members

### 30+ Years

BEST WESTERN PLUS SKAGIT VALLEY INN  
Fix Auto Mount Vernon Operated by Dally's Auto Body  
Piazza Realty Property Management, Inc.  
Skagit Publishing

### 25+ Years

Calico Cupboard Cafe & Bakery  
Landed Gentry Development Inc.  
Washington Bulb Co., Inc.

### 20+ Years

Cascades Job Corps  
Hansen's Furniture  
North Coast Credit Union

### 15+ Years

Red Apple Market  
Wycoff Insurance

### 10+ Years

Barron Heating & Air Conditioning  
PrimeLending

### 5+ Years

Alaska USA  
Il Granaio Inc.  
J.C.'s Pawnshop Inc.  
Superior Systems Inc.  
Thrivent Financial - Shawn Steffens  
U.S. Bank- Riverside Dr.

### Less than 5 Years

Caliber Home Loans  
Mountain Pacific Bank  
SERVPRO  
Skagit Adult Day Program

## Calendar of Events

### Latino Business Leaders Holiday Social and Blue Taco Ribbon Cutting

Wednesday, December 7  
6 p.m.

2300 Market St  
Mount Vernon

[Register here](#)

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Shawn Steffens, ChFC, RICP  
(360) 707-7677

### Biz Buzz Networking Luncheon

Wednesday, December 14  
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Hillcrest Lodge  
1717 S 13th St  
Mount Vernon

[Register here](#)

**Sponsored by:**



### Multi-Chamber After Hours at Chinn GYN

Thursday, December 8  
4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

111 S 12th St  
Mount Vernon

### Legislative Send-off

Hosted by the Skagit Chamber Alliance  
Thursday, January 5  
3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Burlington City Council Chambers  
833 S. Spruce St.  
Burlington

Hear from 10th, 39th, and 40th District  
Legislators on their priorities for the 2023  
Session, and share your thoughts on what you  
believe should be accomplished for our  
businesses and communities.

# Welcome New Members

## Blue Taco

Blanca Zamora  
(360) 848-5285  
www.facebook.com/bluetacorestaurant  
23000 Market St  
Mount Vernon



We are a family-owned restaurant & bar featuring some of the best Mexican cuisine in Skagit Valley.

## Hospice of the Northwest

Eric Bosell  
(360) 814-5550  
www.hospicenw.org  
227 Freeway Dr  
Mount Vernon

Hospice of the Northwest brings expert medical, emotional, social, and spiritual support to individuals and families facing a life-limiting illness.

## John L. Scott - Cinthya Lobo

(360) 982-7062  
www.Cinthyalobo.johnlscott.com  
2204 Riverside Dr  
Mount Vernon



I am not only a realtor, I am also your neighbor, I moved from Honduras to Skagit County in 2014. I also work with a construction company which has broadened my structural understanding of homes.

## NW 5 Star Cleaning LLC

Sylvia Navejas  
(360) 855-5335  
www.facebook.com/nw5starclean  
Mount Vernon

## Sara Fish Group - Keller Williams Western Realty

Sara Fish  
(360) 929-8644  
www.sarafishgroup.com  
425 Commercial St 200  
Mount Vernon



I pride myself on creating long lasting relationships with my clients - I would like to do that with you as well. My utmost goal is to help you make wise Real Estate purchasing.

## Skagit River Brewery

Vanessa Miller  
(360) 336-2884  
www.skagitbrew.com  
404 S 3rd St  
Mount Vernon



We are a part of Mount Vernon's heritage. Skagit River Brewery; come in for the cold beer and great food. Stay for the fun and friendship you find inside.

## BRONZE LEGACY



# Welcome New Members

**Terry Helmka Realty LLC, SRES**

Terry Helmka

(360) 215-5700

[www.terryhelmka.exprealty.com](http://www.terryhelmka.exprealty.com)

Sedro-Woolley

I am a Real Estate Broker specializing in senior transitions. (SRES) Senior Real Estate Specialist is all about helping seniors downsize (buy a smaller home) or upsize (make room for more family), or transition to a new community, shared home or with family.

**Thunder Landscaping**

(206) 788-5747

[www.thunderlandscaping.com](http://www.thunderlandscaping.com)

Burlington

We are a landscaping construction company in Burlington, WA. We offer gutter cleaning, trimmer/pruning, pressure washing, lawn installation, sprinkler system, retaining walls and patios/walkways.



## Act Now to Secure Marketing Opportunities for 2023

Is part of your New Year's resolution to increase your marketing presence or support of the Chamber? Now is the time to act on marketing and sponsorship opportunities.

**The Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce has the following opportunities available:**

Monthly Luncheons

Skagit Chili &amp; Chowder Cook-Off

Riverwalk Summer Concert Series

Skagit Beer &amp; Wine Festival

Your Chamber This Week Sponsorships

Newsletter Inserts

Newsletter Ads

These events are a great way to increase exposure with fellow Chamber members and the community at large, and the Chamber makes it easy to participate.

See the marketing opportunity insert in this newsletter for details on each sponsorship, as well as other opportunities available with the Chamber.

Contact Jeremy Kindlund, Operations Director to reserve your chance to gain exposure at (360) 428-8547 or [Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com](mailto:Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com).

# Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce receives award for supporting Latino businesses in the region



On December 3rd, the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce was recognized as the 2022 Best Latino Nonprofit Business Organization, award presented by the Seattle Latino Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce.

The award was given in recognition for helping the Skagit and the surrounding area businesses thrive and for their work in strengthening the Latino community through the Latino Business Leaders program; it is an initiative that was launched in 2019 to facilitate the advancement and participation of Latino businesses in our region. Currently the program includes monthly training sessions and workshops, networking events, one-on-one consultations, and peer to peer mentorship. Services are free and delivered in Spanish.

An average of 50 Latino established and start up businesses attend the monthly sessions / networking events and in collaboration with SCORE Bellingham, the Latino Business Leaders program provides individual consultation to an average of 5-8 businesses per month.

The Seattle Latino Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce also recognized the Mount Vernon Chamber efforts in promoting education and preparing our local youth and adult students for future employment through the Mount Vernon Chamber Foundation’s Experience Work Program launched by the chamber in 2006.

To learn more about the Latino Business Leaders Program or Experience Work Project, contact Silvia Reed at (360) 395-2944 or Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com

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## 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

### 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

### Barron Heating AC Electrical & Plumbing names Brad Barron CEO

Brad Barron, the family's fourth generation at Barron Heating AC Electrical & Plumbing, will become its CEO on Jan. 1. John Barron, CEO and principal owner since 1998, will continue with the company as executive chair and coach. He's led steady growth of the company, which has showrooms in Burlington and Ferndale. Barron Heating AC Electrical & Plumbing is celebrating its 50th anniversary with projected 2022 revenues of \$40 million and more than 200 employees.

### Skagit Runners Take on TCS NYC Marathon and Raise more than \$100,000 for Camp Korey

Four Skagit Valley locals were among the nearly 48,000 runners competing in the 26.2-mile TCS New York City Marathon on November 6, 2022. Amanda Bedker (Mount Vernon), Charlean Burks (La Conner), Holly Hendren (Bow) and Cheryl Otis (Sedro Woolley) crossed the finish line together at 4 hours and 58 minutes. This year was the 51st celebratory running of the marathon, and Camp Korey was among 400+ official charity partners providing thousands of runners the opportunity to run in the world's most popular marathon.





## Tune In

Chamber Chat  
Wednesday Mornings



8:05 a.m.



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)

# Getting the most out of your membership

With only a few weeks left in the year, it is not too late to prepare for 2023 and ensure the growth of your business. As a chamber member there are different membership features that you are already receiving including powerful marketing tools, networking opportunities, professional development as well as other benefits you might not be familiar with including our work in government advocacy and how the Mount Vernon Chamber represents your interest.

We will soon start working on the 2023 membership directory, maybe it is time for an upgrade to access more robust marketing tools, reach a larger audience or attend exclusive events. Upgrading by December 15th will ensure that the new directory showcases more exposure for your business.

We are also wrapping up a membership campaign that delivers additional features for those who join or re-join the chamber by December 15th. If you know of a business who would benefit from becoming a chamber member, please invite them to connect with Business Development and Foundation Director Silvia Reed – [Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com](mailto:Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com) – (360)395-2944

The Mount Vernon Chamber represents the business community.

## Shop Local And Win!

The Holiday Shop Local Promotion is in full swing! Stop by participating businesses and fill out your punch card for weekly drawings and your chance at the grand prize drawing on February 1st. Visit

[www.MountVernonChamber.com](http://www.MountVernonChamber.com) for more information.

## Ambassadors

**Chair - Liz Theaker**

Camp Korey

**Betsy Anorbe**

Betsy Anorbe Real Estate

**Antonia Bush**

Peoples Bank

**Susan Cooper**

Susan Cooper

**Ector DeLeon**

Tulip Valley Winery

**Joley Garner**

WAFD Insurance Group, Inc.

**Carol Harris**

PrimeLending

**Jaime Huss**

Washington Federal

**Crystal King**

NW Technology

**Blake Rawlins**

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Alaska USA

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# 2022 in pictures



Lots of fun was had at the Skagit Chili & Chowder Cook-Off



Chamber Connections Social



Members network at the Biz Buzz Networking Luncheon



Strategy is important at the Battle of the Bridge Golf Tournament



Members network at the Lincoln Theatre After Hours



Members celebrate White Branches ribbon cutting



Latino Business Leaders meet at Skagit Station



Concert goes rock out at Skagit Riverwalk Park

# How the Chamber proactively serves the needs of our employers



Continuing our workforce efforts, last November the Mount Vernon Chamber Foundation's Experience Work Project successfully launched its first career panel of the academic year. The event was tailored for Skagit Valley College students from Human Services, Early Childhood Education and High School Completion programs and featured a presentation by Community Action professionals Liz Jennings; Community Engagement Manager, Mariana Brandt; Senior and Disabled Volunteer Program Specialist, Steven Simmons, Outreach Program Manager and Nikki Robinson; Medicaid Transport Coordinator and a recent graduate of the Skagit Valley College's Human Services Program.

The panelists shared their career path, industry insight and information on what is needed to have a career in social services and related fields. They also presented valuable resources for students who want to dive in deeper to learn about the industry. Following the career panel, students will complete 4-hour job shadows and 40-hour internships. Thanks to the partnership between the Northwest Workforce Council, Skagit Valley College and the Mount Vernon Chamber Foundation's Experience Work Project, students are better prepared to join workforce and employers like Community Action of Skagit County are able to access and evaluate the students' skills and education for potential employment.

Experience Work Project is a Chamber Foundation's workforce development program funded by the Opportunity Grant Program/ Northwest Workforce Council, Skagit Valley College and Puget Sound Energy. Since 2006 the program has served over 1000 students and successfully connects employers with their future workforce.

The Foundation is currently looking for presenters for Human Services, Allied Health and Nursing programs and employers in various industries including Diesel Technology and Welding/Manufacturing for the January – March sessions. Those who are interested can contact Business Development and Foundation Director Silvia Reed (360) 395-2944 or [Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com](mailto:Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com).



# 2023 MARKETING & SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

<p><b>Membership Meeting Sponsor</b></p> <p>Includes your logo in the monthly Chamber Chat, weekly email, website event calendar, newsletter email to over 900 businesses, 5 minute presentation at the meeting, display table and exclusive right to distribute flyers on the tables.</p>	<p>\$300 (Act quickly because these go fast! Not available in November)</p>	<p><b>Exclusive Sponsor of "Your Chamber This Week" Email</b></p> <p>Your display ad or logo sent to over 900 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><b>Skagit Chili &amp; Chowder Cook-Off</b></p> <p>A fantastic way to get exposure as Skagit County's best battle it out. This competition features both amateurs and professionals and is a sure fire hit with the crowd!</p>	<p>\$325-\$1,250  Sponsorships Available</p>	<p><b>Chamber Chat Newsletter Inserts</b></p> <p>You provide the PDF, we do the rest! Perfect for events, sales and announcements; sent to over 900 business professionals in the monthly Chamber Chat Newsletter.</p>	<p>\$100/insert</p>
<p><b>Riverwalk Summer Concert Series</b></p> <p>A family-friendly event on the Riverwalk in downtown Mount Vernon Concert Series 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  Sponsorships Available</p>	<p><b>Chamber Chat Newsletter Ad</b></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 10,000 copies distributed annually.</p>	<p>\$700-\$1,500  Varies by Size</p>
<p><b>Skagit Wine &amp; Beer Festival</b></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  Sponsorships Available</p>	<p><b>MountVernonChamber.com Display Ads</b></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><b>New Member Welcome Basket</b></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><b>FREE</b>  Just supply us with your promotional items.</p>	<p><b>Door Prizes</b></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><b>FREE</b>  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](mailto:Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com).

Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce - PO BOX 1007 Mount Vernon, WA 98273, [www.MountVernonChamber.com](http://www.MountVernonChamber.com).



Networking - Referrals - Marketing Opportunities  
Professional Development  
Government Advocacy - Workforce Development



# Join the Chamber This Fall

**OCTOBER 1 - DECEMBER 15**



**Your business in a one-time only ad in the Skagit Valley Herald**



**Free insert in the Chamber newsletter**



**Additional features in your business listing**

**... plus all other membership benefits**

**Includes new members and those who re-join the chamber**



For information and to join the chamber

Silvia Reed | (360) 395-2944 | [Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com](mailto:Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com)



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