

MOUNT VERNON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

# CHAMBER CHAT

April 2023

## Spring and the Tulip Festival Have Arrived!



By Andy Mayer, President/CEO

Each year the valley welcomes 400,000+ visitors from around the globe. They come from 85+ countries and all 50 States and have a wonderful time while they're here. They leave with great memories of the beauty of the tulips and our area. They also leave behind significant economic impact—estimated at \$65,000,000, annually.

There are four venues this year: RoozenGarde, Tulip Town, Garden Rosalyn, and Tulip Valley Farms. They each have unique features to delight visitors, so the Tulip Festival's website, at [tulipfestival.org](http://tulipfestival.org), is very helpful for visitors and locals alike to plan their visits. Speaking of locals, you are invited to Tulip Town's "Local's Night" on April 12, and Tulip Valley's "Neighbors Night" on April 20.

Another tradition during the Tulip Festival is the Kiwanis Salmon Barbecue, every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday in April. Thanks to their generosity, there is another day when you can enjoy the delicious salmon and full meal—our Luncheon on April 26! Join us for the fabulous food and our popular Biz Buzz networking program.

I hope to see you at the events or other programs this month. Have a fantastic Spring!



**GOLD**



**SILVER**



Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce

(360) 428-8547

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

## Thank You Renewing Members

### 25+ Years

Central Moving & Storage  
Pacific Party Canopies, Inc.

### 15+ Years

Bob's Burgers & Brew  
Brown McMillen Real Estate  
Express Employment Professionals  
Friendship House  
Skagit Valley Family YMCA

### 10+ Years

Candlewood Suites an IHG Hotel  
Grandy Creek KOA  
Judd & Black Appliance  
Re-Feather Your Nest  
Sakura Japanese Steakhouse & Sushi Bar  
Skagit Symphony

### 5+ Years

Carl's Towing Mount Vernon  
Marathon Petroleum Corporation  
Skagit Artists

### Less than 5 Years

Kiwanis Club of Mount Vernon  
Kona Ice of Skagit County  
Semanko Realty Group LLC  
Sherwood Community Services

## Members Reveal Return on Investment

My name is Glenda Herrera, last spring I lost my job. I felt very vulnerable, but my bills still needed to be paid. That's when I decided to become self-employed and I opened Custom Cleaning Services Washington LLC. In 2019 I had started attending Latino Business Leaders (LBL) where I met many people from the community including Silvia Reed from the Chamber. All of us at LBL had the same goal, "to own our own business". I realized this was the perfect time to do it. I met Silvia at Ristretto and since that moment I felt all her support. She had a plan for me.

Since I joined the chamber, I have met business people who have tried and recommended my services. I also joined the Chamber Connections group, their members have helped me get more customers. Potential customers always ask for references and they love it when I tell them that Custom Cleaning Services is part of the Mount Vernon Chamber. For them to know that I am part of the chamber means that I am a professional. Each dollar of my membership is worth it. In the first year, my business has grown from zero to 200%.

Chamber members support and help each other grow. It's like being part of a family and I love it.

I consider LBL as an extension of the chamber but in Spanish and with a spicy taste. We support and motivate each other. I continue learning how to run my business and LBL makes it fun.

Silvia and the Chamber have become the bridge that connects two cultures living in the same county and that for years have been separated. We are the chamber and everybody is welcome.



**Glenda Herrera, Custom Cleaning Services Washington LLC**

**(360) 824-2710**

**[www.facebook.com/Custom-Cleaning-Services](https://www.facebook.com/Custom-Cleaning-Services)**

## Welcome New Members

### Blue Taco - Lyman

Blanca Zamora

(360) 399-1014

[www.facebook.com/bluetacorestaurant](http://www.facebook.com/bluetacorestaurant)

31439 State Rt 20

Lyman

Family-owned restaurant with locations in Mount Vernon and Lyman. We have some of the best cuisine in Skagit Valley.

### La Peruanita LLC – Peruvian Street Food

Susana Ipanaque

(425) 312-5645

[www.facebook.com/LaPeruanita.Seattle](http://www.facebook.com/LaPeruanita.Seattle)

We specialize in bringing authentic Peruvian Street Food to different parts of Snohomish, King county and surrounding cities.

### Pine Street Tacos LLC

Sylvia Cuevas

(360) 826-0628

301 Pine Street

Mount Vernon

Looking for a great lunch? We offer delicious salads, rice bowls, tacos, tortas, enchiladas and of course tacos.

### Wolf Hollow Wildlife Rehabilitation Center

Chanda Stone

(360) 378-5000

[www.wolfhollowwildlife.org](http://www.wolfhollowwildlife.org)

284 Boyce Rd

Friday Harbor

Our mission is to promote the well-being of wildlife and their habitats through rehabilitation of injured and orphaned wildlife, public education and non-invasive research.

## Calendar of Events

### Motivation & Marketing Mastermind - Digital Analytics

Thursday, April 6

10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Zoom or Mount Vernon Chamber Office

301 W Kincaid St

Mount Vernon

[Register here](#)

### Chamber Connections Referral Program Social Hour and Open House

Thursday Apr 6

Bob's Burgers & Brew

9394 Old Highway 99 N Rd

Burlington

[Register here](#)

### Ribbon Cutting at Pine Street Tacos LLC

Friday, April 7 at 12 p.m.

301 Pine Street

Mount Vernon

### Multi-Chamber After Hours at Skagit Valley College

Thursday, April 13

4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

2405 E College Way

Mount Vernon

### Mejorando su ranking local en Google / Improving your local ranking with google

IN SPANISH

Presented by Ted Sindell and Tim Dennis of Thryv

Wednesday April 19 at 6:00 PM

Skagit Station

105 E. Kincaid, Mount Vernon

[Register here](#)

**thrivent**<sup>®</sup>

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

### Biz Buzz Networking Luncheon

Wednesday, April 26

Hillcrest Lodge

1717 S 13th St, Mount Vernon

\$23 pay at the door

[Register here](#)



## Chamber Foundation efforts on workforce development

Last March, the Mount Vernon Chamber Foundation / EWP hosted another in a series of career panels, this time hearing from professionals in the senior and memory care industry.

Ashley Gardens of Mount Vernon Executive Director Carla Hancock, and Wellness Director Brandon Moran were the presenters and answered the questions from Skagit Valley College students in the allied health, human services and business management programs.

Both presenters shared some of the challenges they experienced in pursuing a career path in the memory care industry. Presenters also shared how to gain additional experience and how to improve their soft skills when applying for those opportunities. Mentorship was identified by both presenters as one of the most valuable resources in their careers.

Career panels allow for participants to learn what potential employers are looking for in a job candidate and the opportunities available in today's market. Panels include an overview of the industry being featured, career pathways and strategies for joining the industry.

Experience Work Project (EWP) is a Mount Vernon Chamber Foundation program funded by the Opportunity Grant Program/Northwest Workforce Council and Skagit Valley College. For more information and partnership opportunities, please contact Business Development and Foundation Director Silvia Reed (360) 395-2944 or [Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com](mailto:Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com).

## New events and programs to help you maximize your membership

Your chamber membership unlocks many resources and opportunities to help you reach your target audience and secure strategic partnerships. To make sure that you are maximizing your membership benefits, we are hosting a New Member Orientation and Social Mixer on Wednesday May 3rd at Skagit River Brewery. This event is 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 business. We encourage members to invite fellow businesses who could benefit from connecting with like-minded individuals and being part of the chamber.

Prior to that; on April 6 we are hosting the Chamber Connections Social and Open House. The purpose of Chamber Connections is for businesses to foster business relationships, share best business practices and generate referrals for participating members. The Chamber currently hosts two referral programs with bi-monthly meetings on Tuesdays at 9:00 AM and Thursdays at 1:00 PM and a one group that will be launched this April and will meet twice a month on Thursdays at 5:00 PM.

Both events are published on our website, be sure and check out our calendar and RSVP to secure your spot. If you have questions about these events and programs and needs assistance to optimize your membership, please contact Silvia Reed | (360)395-2944 | [Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com](mailto:Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com)



## Board of Directors

### Chair - Brian Ivie

Skagit Regional Health

### Past Chair - Bill Henkel

Community Action of Skagit County

### Treasurer - Tammy Reim-Ledbetter

Alaska USA

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COA Mexican Eatery

### Peter Donovan

City of Mount Vernon

### Diane Fox

All About Hearing

### Matt Gill

Marathon Petroleum Corporation

### Robert Knoll

Puget Sound Energy

### Flora Lucatero

Children of the Valley

### David Lukov

Kern Funeral Home

### Andrew Miller

Tulip Valley Farms

### Julia Phillip

Julia Phillip Realty

### Dr. Amanda Rentschler

Roosevelt Dental Center

### Jon Ronngren

Mount Vernon School District

### Liz Theaker

Camp Corey

### 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, Bob Johnson &**

**Julie Newkirk**

Visitor Information Services

## Member Announcements

### Locals Night at Tulip Town

Locals Night at Tulip Town! Sponsored by Skagit Acres, Skagit Landing Restaurant & Catering, and Fairhaven Mill. Spring is Skagit Valley's hottest ticket and the time-honored tradition of opening up Tulip Town to our local friends and neighbors is back this year! Wednesday, April 12th from 5pm to 7pm 15002 Bradshaw Rd in West Mount Vernon.

### Neighbors Night at Tulip Valley Farms

On April 20, 2023, 4:30 pm – 7:30 pm Helping Hands Food Bank, in partnership with Tulip Valley Farms, (15245 Bradshaw Road, Mount Vernon WA, 98273) is holding a FREE event to connect the community with resources while enjoying the magic that Skagit Valley has to offer, Tulips and community fellowship.

### WECU Free Shred Day in Mount Vernon



WECU is hosting a shred day in Mount Vernon! This event will be open to both WECU members and non-members. It will be held in the parking lot on the corner of Commercial Street and Riverside Drive (next to Safeway) on Saturday, April 22 from 9 am – 12 pm or until the truck is full. Attendees may bring two file-sized boxes or grocery bags of sensitive documents to shred. Please no junk mail, metal clips, wet or bulky/bound items.

**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)

# Skagit Chili & Chowder Cook-Off



Thank you sponsors!



**1st Place amateur chili**  
Newton's Plumbing



**1st Place amateur chowder**  
Floyd Lloyd's BBQ



**1st Place professional chili**  
Swinomish Casino & Lodge



**1st Place professional chowder**  
Skagit River Brewery

## Ambassadors

- Chair - Liz Theaker**  
Camp Korey
- Betsy Anorbe**  
Betsy Anorbe Real Estate
- Marla Chapa**  
Skagit Social
- Susan Cooper**  
Susan Cooper
- Ector DeLeon**  
Tulip Valley Winery
- Joley Garner**  
WAFD Insurance Group, Inc.
- Gerardo Gonzalez**  
Umpqua Bank
- Carol Harris**  
PrimeLending
- Jaime Huss**  
Washington Federal
- Crystal King**  
NW Technology
- Brian Largent**  
Flatstick OTG LLC
- Blake Rawlins**  
Guardian Northwest Title & Escrow
- Tammy Reim-Ledbetter**  
Alaska USA
- Tony Salas**  
Eden Home Health
- Clarissa Wong**  
CrossCountry Mortgage, LLC

## BRONZE LEGACY



# Get to Know Kona Ice of Skagit Valley

Kona Ice of Skagit Valley, a family-owned gourmet shaved ice business, is making a big splash in the local community with their unique and flavorful offerings. Owned and operated by Rick and Lorraine Donovan, along with their three children and nine grandchildren, Kona Ice is quickly becoming a favorite treat among residents of all ages.

Kona Ice of Skagit Valley is known for its delicious shaved ice with a variety of flavors, including some sugar-free and dye-free options. But what sets them apart from other shaved ice businesses is their commitment to giving back to the community. The Donovans have made it their mission to help local schools, youth sports teams, and other non-profit organizations by donating a portion of their profits to these causes.

"We believe in supporting the community that supports us," said Rick. "We want to help make a positive impact in Skagit Valley by supporting local schools and non-profits. It's our way of giving back to the community that we love."

Kona Ice of Skagit Valley has already helped raise thousands of dollars for local organizations through their fundraising efforts. They offer a unique and fun way to raise money for schools and non-profits by setting up at events and donating a portion of the sales to the organization. With Kona Ice's fun and colorful truck, they're always a hit at events and can be seen at school carnivals, fairs, and other community events. Lorraine added, "We love being a part of the Skagit Valley community, and we want to help make it a better place for everyone. We're proud to be able to support local schools and non-profits through our business, and we look forward to continuing to make a positive impact in the community."

For more information on their fundraising efforts or to book them for an event, please visit their Facebook page at: [www.facebook.com/konaiceofskagitvalley](http://www.facebook.com/konaiceofskagitvalley).

## Contact:

Rick and Lorraine Donovan  
Kona Ice of Skagit Valley  
Email: [rdonovan@kona-ice.com](mailto:rdonovan@kona-ice.com)  
Phone: 360-421-9628



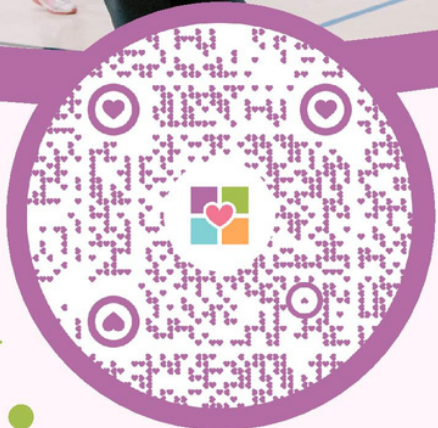
## Partner Members

Allstate - Mayra Nava Agency, 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, SERVPRO, Skagit Public Utility District 1, Skagit Valley Casino Resort, Skagit Valley College, Skagit Regional Health, Tacos Tecalitlan, Testing and Commissioning Services, LLC, Walmart, White Branches, Williams & Nulle, PLLC, CPAs





# CHILDREN OF THE VALLEY ANNUAL ART AUCTION



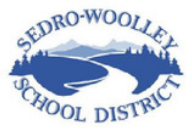
**FRIDAY, APRIL 28**  
**DOORS OPEN AT 5 PM**  
**ST. JOSEPH CENTER**  
215 N 15TH ST, MOUNT VERNON, WA 98273

### CELEBRATE CINCO DE MAYO WITH US!

Support COV at our Annual Art Auction featuring live mariachi and Mexican cuisine; program updates from COV leadership; and student art, gift baskets, and getaways to bid on!

**SINGLE TICKET - \$100 | TABLE (SEATS 8) - \$750**  
**VIP TABLE (SEATS 10) - \$1,250**

VIP Table receives preferred parking and seating, table service, and COV swag! \*Only 1 VIP Table is available.  
**Visit [covmv.org/annual-art-auction](http://covmv.org/annual-art-auction) for details.**



**THANK YOU TO OUR LEADERSHIP CIRCLE!**



**TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE STARTING FEBRUARY 27!**









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