

# CHAMBER CHAT

March 2023

## Spring Forward with Chamber Programs

By Andy Mayer, President/CEO

I imagine you are as excited as I am about Spring arriving soon! It is a time of renewal and lifting of our spirits. It also can be a time to plant seeds of knowledge and nurture our relationships, that together will help us grow, personally and professionally. The Chamber is striving to provide you with opportunities to do so, in different formats and for different segments of our membership. Along these lines, there are three programs/events this month that I think will be of interest to you.

Our "Speaking of Women" program kicks off on March 8. It is the first of three sessions that will provide business women a unique environment to connect, empower each other, and to mentor emerging business leaders. At the session on the 8th, entrepreneur and business coach Debby Page, will speak on "The Power of the Pack." The second session will be "Women in Male-Dominated Industries," followed by the culmination of the series featuring "Successful Businesses by Women". Along with the featured presentations, the program includes social time and networking, to stimulate meaningful conversations and lasting connections. Please contact Silvia for program details and to participate.

At our Luncheon on the 22nd, Garry Priam, Managing Partner of Diventa Solutions, will speak on "Increasing Our Inclusion." He is an international speaker, author, and organizational development consultant who helps large, medium, and small businesses and their people excel. Having had the pleasure of getting to know Garry, I believe that you will find his presentation to be relevant and useful in providing information that you will be able to incorporate into your company culture in a positive way.

Finally, just for fun, let me remind you of our Chili & Chowder Cook-Off, on April 1, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., at Farmstrong Brewing. There will be quite a variety of chili and chowder for you to taste, this year we have some unique international twists, along with great music and good company of course! We are looking for a few more chili and chowder chefs to compete for glory (and monetary prizes) in the professional or amateur categories. There is also a prize for best dressed team. Please contact Jeremy for questions and to sign up.



## LEGACY MEMBERS

### GOLD



### SILVER



Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce

(360) 428-8547

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

## Thank You Renewing Members

### 30+ Years

Baird Private Wealth Management  
Puget Sound Energy  
Skagit County Fairgrounds

### 25+ Years

Mount Vernon School District  
Swinomish Casino & Lodge  
The Bridge at Mount Vernon

### 20+ Years

Cascade Facial Surgery and Aesthetics  
Peoples Bank @ Haggen

### 15+ Years

Mount Vernon Senior & Community Center

### 10+ Years

Big Scoop Sundae Palace & Restaurant  
Puget Sound Veterinary Group PC

### 5+ Years

Bargains Galore Thrift Store  
Cascade Prosthetics & Orthotics  
Farmstrong Brewing Company  
Food Services Inc.  
Frontline Cleaning Services & Supplies  
La Conner Seafood & Prime Rib House

### Less than 5 Years

Edyoucorp  
SPARC - Skagit Preschool & Resource Center

## Calendar of Events

### The Power of the Pack – A “Speaking of Women” event Part 1/3

Wednesday, March 8  
4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
Skagit Landing  
15426 Airport Dr Ste B  
Burlington  
[Register here](#)



### LBL – Elaboracion de su Plan de Marketing / Preparing your Marketing Plan Presented in Spanish

Wednesday March 15  
6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.  
Skagit Station  
105 E. Kincaid, Mount Vernon  
[Register here](#)

**thrivent**<sup>®</sup>

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

### Multi-Chamber After Hours at HKP Architects and Skagit Habitat for Humanity

Thursday, March 9  
4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.  
204 W Montgomery Street  
Mount Vernon

### Membership Luncheon - Increasing our Inclusion

Wednesday, March 22  
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Hillcrest Lodge  
1717 S 13th St  
Mount Vernon  
[Register here](#)



## Members Reveal Return on Investment



Thryv rejoined the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce in 2021. Since resuming our membership, the Chamber has become an invaluable resource to be connected in the community and meet other business people. Of all the community involvement Thryv has done locally over the years, nothing has matched the return on investment our membership has generated. In addition to the resources the Chamber provides, the Chamber Connections has generated several new clients for myself and my colleague, Tim Dennis. We look forward to Thryv's continued partnership with the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce.

**Ted Sindell, Thryv Senior Business Advisor**

# Welcome New Members

## Avenue Catering Enterprises

Lisa Case  
(360) 755-5880  
[www.cateringbyavenue.com](http://www.cateringbyavenue.com)  
676 S. Spruce Street  
Burlington

From boxed lunches to back yard BBQs, formal dinners to fine dining affairs; weddings, parties and everything in between....Avenue Catering brings the freshest foods and the finest staff to you!

## Ecological Land Services, Inc.

Rylee Trapp  
(360) 578-1371  
[www.eco-land.com](http://www.eco-land.com)  
1157 3rd Ave Ste 220A  
Longview

Ecological Land Services, Inc. (ELS) provides high-quality environmental consulting and permitting, specializing in projects involving wetlands, streams, wildlife, habitat, and ESA species.

## Structures for Success, LLC

Jacqueline Martin  
(360) 755-3752  
[www.structures-for-success.com](http://www.structures-for-success.com)  
Burlington

Assisting organizations in becoming more people-focused and data-driven, integrating their strategic planning, quality improvement efforts, and accreditation into daily operations.

## Tulip Valley Farms

Andrew Miller  
(253) 722-6552  
[www.tulipvalley.com](http://www.tulipvalley.com)  
15245 Bradshaw Rd  
Mount Vernon

Tulip farm and seasonal destination for immersive on-farm fun and connection to agriculture and our natural beauty.



## WECU

Keith Mader  
(800) 525-8703  
[www.wecu.com](http://www.wecu.com)  
21 Bellwether Way Ste 111

Bellingham \*Mount Vernon location opening soon\*  
We are a not-for-profit credit union that was founded by Bellingham teachers who pooled their money together in a shoebox in 1936. We offer excellent banking services with great rates and low fees.

## BRONZE LEGACY



## Board of Directors

### Chair - Brian Ivie

Skagit Regional Health

### Past Chair - Bill Henkel

Community Action of Skagit County

### Treasurer - Tammy Reim-Ledbetter

Alaska USA

### Viry Delgado

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 Korey

### Tony White

Skagit Valley Food Co-op

### STAFF

**Andy Mayer** President/CEO

**Silvia Reed** Business Development and Foundation Director

**Jeremy Kindlund** Operations Director

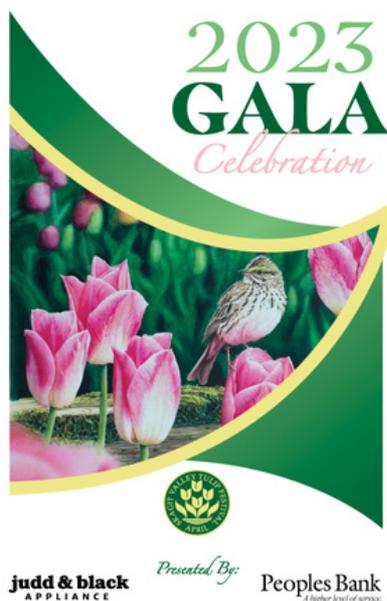
**Marinus Rouw, Bob Johnson &**

**Julie Newkirk**

Visitor Information Services

## Member Announcements

### Skagit Valley Tulip Festival's Gala Celebration: Swing Into Spring



Reserve your spot today; email Cindy at  
Cindy@tulipfestival.org

### Skagit Community Foundation to host Quarterly Nonprofit Educational Seminar on March 16

The Skagit Community Foundation is hosting a Quarterly Nonprofit Educational Seminar on **March 16th at 12:00pm** on the topic **“Mentorship and Your Career”** with guest speaker: **Melissa Arias, President & CEO of Make-A-Wish Alaska & Washington.**

- The Seminar will be held at Skagit Publishing in their Community Room: **1215 Anderson Road Mount Vernon, WA 98273**
- The \$4.00 Seminar fee provides for speaker costs, snacks & water, and if there are handouts/informational material printing costs – **RSVP is required.**

**Register today to save your spot, and view SCF's other quarterly nonprofit seminar opportunities here!**



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

Send your announcements to  
Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com

# February in pictures



**Ambassadors meet at Skagit River Brewery**



**Members Network at the Multi-Chamber After Hours**



**New members are recognized at the Membership Luncheon**



**Silvia Reed graduates from the 3 year W.A.C.E. Academy program**

## 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

# 2023 Skagit Chili & Chowder Cook-Off

Amateurs and professionals are invited to compete on Saturday, April 1, at Farmstrong Brewing Company for the title of Skagit's favorite chili and chowder. Cook-off attendees pick the winners by voting with their bowls.

Ready to throw your hat in the ring? It's just \$25 for amateur or professional entries. See page 7 for the entry form. Entries due on March 17.

Interested in sponsoring the event? We have sponsorship levels available for every budget, which include opportunities through print and digital advertising as well as day-of-event visibility. See page 8 for sponsorship opportunities. Sponsorships must be secured by March 15.

For questions regarding the cook-off or sponsorships, contact Jeremy Kindlund at [Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com](mailto:Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com).

# Latino Business Leaders expansion of services



**Latino Business Leaders at Carnitas Mr Porky Burien WA**



**LBL partner SCORE Bellingham helps Aida Meza open her cleaning service business**

A group of Latino Business Leaders got together last month to support Fredy Zalava's new restaurant, Carnitas Mr. Porky in Burien, WA and enjoyed a pre-opening menu tasting from some of the restaurants soon to be King County's favorite items. Last December Zavala opened Birrieria Tijuana in Bellingham with great attendance from Latino and non-Latino entrepreneurs. Fredy Zavala has been an ongoing supporter of the program, a presenter, and a mentor to several entrepreneurs.

Starting in March, Latino entrepreneurs will be able to join one-on-one sessions and file their business license with the support of Latino Business Leader's partner SCORE Bellingham at the Mount Vernon Chamber Office. These sessions are designed for small groups, available in Spanish at no cost and will be in addition to the monthly training sessions, networking events and one-on-one consultations. Last month, this program helped a Latino Business Leader file her license and today Aida Meza is the proud owner of her fully licensed cleaning service business in Mount Vernon.

Latino entrepreneurs are making the Latino Business Leaders program successful and valuable in our region with participants coming from Skagit and neighboring counties as far out as Pierce County.

### **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



Presented by:



Saturday, April 1, from 1pm to 4pm at Farmstrong Brewing Company

1st Place Professional Division - \$150 and an award plaque

2nd Place Professional Division - Entry Fee Refunded

1st Place Amateur Division - \$150 and an award plaque

2nd Place Amateur Division - Entry Fee Refunded

Craft Stove Best of Show Award - Award plaque

Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Team Captain: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I will need electricity to prepare my chili/chowder

No, I have a camp stove or propane to prepare and keep my product warm

I am entering Chili  and/or Chowder  to the competition

I will be competing as a Professional  or Amateur

**Space is limited! Please fill out and return by Friday, March 17**

Please send your completed form and \$25 entry fee to:

Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce

301 W Kincaid St.

Mount Vernon, WA 98273

For more information please contact Jeremy Kindlund at  
(360) 428-8547 or [Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com](mailto:Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com)



**Sponsorship Opportunities**  
**Saturday, April 1 2023**  
**at Farmstrong Brewing Company**

**Royal Sponsor:** **\$1,000**  
Company logo on promotional poster  
Company name on printed and digital marketing materials  
Logo with a link to your website on MountVernonChamber.com  
Social media promotion on all Chamber channels  
Mentions in both the weekly and monthly Chamber newsletters  
Display table at the cook-off  
Special recognition during the event

**Major Sponsor:** **\$550**  
Company logo on poster  
Company name on printed and digital marketing materials  
Logo with a link to your website on MountVernonChamber.com  
Social media promotion on all Chamber channels  
Mentions in both the weekly and monthly Chamber newsletters  
Special recognition during the event

**Supporting Sponsor:** **\$325**  
Company logo displayed on promotional poster  
Company name on printed and digital marketing materials  
Logo with a link to your website on MountVernonChamber.com  
Promotion on Chamber Facebook page  
Mentions in both the weekly and monthly Chamber newsletters  
Special recognition during the event

Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce  
PO Box 1007  
Mount Vernon, WA 98273  
(360) 428-8547  
Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com



A Mount Vernon Chamber program designed as an outlet for business women to connect with one another, empower each other and mentor upcoming business leaders



# SPEAKING OF WOMEN

## 2023 SERIES

THE POWER OF THE PACK  
MARCH 8 | 4:30 - 6:00 PM

WOMEN IN MALE-DOMINATED INDUSTRIES  
JUNE 14 | 4:30 - 6:00 PM

SUCCESSFUL BUSINESSES BY WOMEN  
SEPT. 13 | 4:30 - 6:00 PM

Various locations

## WHY JOIN?

- Attend quarterly presentations that inspire and empower women
- Experience a sense of belonging in a welcoming environment
- Expand your professional network with like-minded women

Members: \$150.00  
Admission and hors d'oeuvres included

For information  
Silvia Reed | [Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com](mailto:Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com) | (360) 395-2944  
[www.MountVernonChamber.com](http://www.MountVernonChamber.com)



A Mount Vernon Chamber program designed to create an outlet for business women to connect with one another, empower each other and mentor upcoming business leaders



## SPEAKING OF WOMEN

# THE POWER OF THE PACK

**Presented by Debby Page**  
Business Coach for Women

Wednesday March 8

4:30 - 6:00 PM

Skagit Landing

Join this dynamic and interactive presentation where you will learn the top reasons women have limitless potential in business, greater success with money, excel at relationships and how YOU can create The Power of The Pack!

### **Speaking of Women Series**

Members: \$150.00

Includes 3 events:

- The Power of the Pack
- Women in Male-Dominated Industries
- Successful Businesses by Women



For information

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



# 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!**

@covskagit [childrenofthevalleymv.org](http://childrenofthevalleymv.org) @covskagit



# Fiber Internet for Condos & Apartments

## City of **MOUNT VERNON** Washington

- Lower pricing and quality service means Higher Occupancy Rates!
- Elevator phones, Kiosk parcel storage, HVAC are available!
- Common area WiFi
- Turnover is lower when value is High!
- Speeds up to a Gigabit
- Affordable TV
- 24 hour Support
- 100 MBPS Upload
- Telephone Services
- Fiber Optic Speeds
- Friendly help
- Month to Month



High-speed Internet



Locally owned & operated



Unlimited monthly access

1. Get the services you want: Pick your Internet speed, add Phone, Fax, and TV if you like. Our process is seamless for making changes... **That's PogoZone!**
2. If you have older infrastructure and don't know how the owner will consider spending thousands of dollars on new wiring? **Think PogoZone!**
3. Saving time and money while upgrading services for your tenants? **PogoZone!**

AND...

We can make your infrastructure run circles around our competition and usually on your existing wiring! **We are PogoZone!**



**Internet speed 100/100**  
**Starting at**  
**\$49.95/month**

**HD pzTV Service**  
**Starting at**  
**\$34.95/month**

**Phones & Fax Solutions**  
**Starting at**  
**\$24.95/month**



Contact us for more information  
 (360) 676-8772 - Option 3 (sales)  
 Sales@Pogozone.com

Visit PogoZone.com or scan QR code

