

CHAMBER CHAT

May 2023

State of the City Address and Legislative Roundup programs this month

By Andy Mayer President/CEO

We have two programs this month that are related and should be of interest to you. In one you will hear from and interact with our county's legislators. In the other, you will hear Mayor Boudreau's "State of the City" address.

The Mayor's presentation on the 24th is her final one since her term ends this year. While it's certainly too early to play her swan song, the Mayor's impact on our area will be lasting, both from what you can see, as well as plenty that you cannot. Under her guidance the Flood Protection and Revitalization Project has been fully realized and the Library Commons Project is currently under construction. Both are extremely significant investments in the long-term vitality of our area. What isn't visible but is no less important is the way that Mayor Boudreau works collaboratively with local, state, and federal leaders. That effective leadership is evident in the North Star project and demonstrated in how she took the Library Commons through the arduous journey from concept to construction.

Our Legislators in the 10th, 40th and 39th District have just finished a whirlwind legislative session. At the Skagit Chamber Alliance "Legislative Roundup" program on the 25th we will hear what they believe to have been the significant accomplishments during their time in Olympia and what they think should carry over to next year. We each may feel differently about legislation that was passed and which issues need further attention. But we should appreciate the hard and thoughtful work of our citizen legislature. They put in an incredible amount of time, passion, and personal sacrifice to serve us.

So please join us for Mayor Boudreau's presentation at our Luncheon and to hear from our legislators from around the County at the Skagit Chamber Alliance program. They are all deserving of our attention and appreciation.



GOLD



SILVER



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

Thank You Renewing Members

25+ Years

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20+ Years

Heritage Bank

Human Resources of Mount Vernon, LLC

5+ Years

Perla's Insurance Services

PFLAG Skagit

Sound Cedar Lumber

Whispering Firs Bed & Breakfast Lodge

Less than 5 Years

Applebee's

Associated General Contractors of Washington - AGC

Custom Cleaning Services Washington LLC

Eden Home Health

Northwest Physical Therapy and Sports Rehabilitation,
Inc P.S.

Riverwalk Summer Concert Series Presented by Dwayne Lane's Skagit Subaru



The Mount Vernon Riverwalk Concert Series consists of weekly concerts on the Mount Vernon Riverwalk Plaza. The concerts feature an eclectic lineup of outstanding bands from the area. The concerts offer a free, family-friendly, fun atmosphere to encourage visitors and entertain residents. The venue is perfectly situated by the river and adjacent to downtown retail and restaurants. Based on last year's attendance, we expect to welcome 5,000+ people into the downtown core during the entire series.

2023 Lineup:

July 13 - The Atlantics

July 20 - The Enthusiasts

July 27 - Levi Ware

August 3 - Fantasy Band

August 10 - Eden

August 17 - Pacific Twang

August 24 - Chris Eger Band and the Powerhouse Horns

August 31 - Mama Dirty Skirt



Sponsorship opportunities are now available. Please refer to the flyer in this newsletter for more information. Contact Jeremy Kindlund, Operations Director at Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com or 360 428-8547 for any questions or to secure your spot.

The series will be heavily promoted through diverse media, including; social media, radio, print, press releases, chamber and city websites, member communications, and more. As a sponsor, you can expect to benefit from unprecedented brand exposure and stand above the competition through association with a much-loved, community-oriented event series.

Calendar of Events

Ribbon Cutting at Blue Taco Lyman

Wednesday May 10
4 p.m.
31439 State Rt 20
Lyman

Multi-Chamber After Hours: Bank of the Pacific

Thursday, May 11
4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.
404 N Burlington Blvd
Burlington

Ribbon Cutting at Skagit Thermography

Tuesday, May 16
4 p.m.
320 E Fairhaven Ave #205
Burlington

Latino Business Leaders – Redes Sociales para el Marketing de su Empresa / Use of Social Networks for Business Marketing

Presented by Michael Morscheck, Brand Market Media
Event presented in English and Spanish
Wednesday May 17
6:00 to 7:30 PM
Skagit Station
105 E. Kincaid, Mount Vernon
[Register here](#)

Ribbon Cutting at Northwest Youth Services

Friday, May 19
2 p.m.
427 N 4th Street
Mount Vernon

Chamber Membership Luncheon - State of the City

Wednesday, May 24
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Hillcrest Lodge
1717 S 13th St
Mount Vernon
[Register here](#)

Washington
Federal.
invested here.

Legislative Roundup Hosted by the Skagit Chamber Alliance

Thursday, May 25
8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.
Skagit Publishing Community Room
1215 Anderson Rd
Mount Vernon
[Register here](#)

Washington in the Making 2040 Town Hall Meeting

Thursday, June 1
10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Skagit Community Room
Skagit Publishing Community Room
1215 Anderson Rd
Mount Vernon
[Register here](#)

Women in Male-Dominated Industries – A “Speaking of Women” event. Part 2/3

Wednesday June 14th
4:30 to 6:00 p.m.
Willowbrook Manor
27420 Minkler Rd. Sedro-Woolley
Currently accepting new program members
[Register here](#)



Save the Date!
Battle of the Bridge Golf
Tournament August 25

Welcome New Members

Alliance Legal Services

Karina Vega

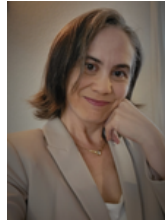
(206) 697-0276

www.Alliancelegal.info

1777 S Burlington Blvd 432

Burlington

With over 25 years of experience, Alliance Legal Services can substantiate or refute the reasonableness of medical damages, estimate the cost of future care, report on diagnostic and relatedness issues, review medical records and perform audits.



Celtic Arts Foundation

Cayley Schmidt

(360) 416-4934

www.celticarts.org

1124 Cleveland Ave

Mount Vernon

The Celtic Arts Foundation has produced events in Skagit County since 1995. Mission: "sponsor, encourage and promote Celtic culture through events and educational activities."

Evergreen Home Loans

Susie DeVries

(360) 230-4610

www.evergreenhomeloans.com

1615 Buck Way Ste B

Mount Vernon

Local mortgage lender offering premier mortgage services. We originate, fund and service loans for our customers and provide mortgage solutions to our business partners, banks and credit unions.

GSBA

Joey Chapman

(206) 363-9188

www.thegsba.org

400 E Pine St

Seattle

Established in 1981, GSBA is Washington State's LGBTQ+ and allied chamber of commerce and is the largest of its kind in North America.

LeMaster Graphics

Hayden LeMaster

(253) 495-6351

www.lemastergraphics.com

1901 Cornwall Ave #473

Bellingham

LeMaster Graphics provides web design, branding, and promo products. We strive to combine graphic design and marketing fundamentals to provide creative solutions for your business's marketing needs.

Rich's Outlet Center

David Harold

(360) 404-5152

www.richshome.com

102 Valley Mall Way

Mount Vernon

We are a retail chain of seven locations from Mt Vernon to Tigard, OR. We sell patio furniture, BBQ's, Hot tubs and swim spas, as well as a large selection of home and commercial hearth products.



The Gibson Investment Folks

Les Gibson

(360) 899-2786

www.homevestors.com

1500 E College Way Ste A PMB 421

Mount Vernon

Real estate investing. Fix and flip, Buy and hold as rental.

Women in Male-Dominated Industries Panel



According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in 2022, women made up more than 58% of the labor force, but only around 6.5% of them worked in male-dominated occupations. Most of those women have faced various challenges including discrimination, discounted achievements, and wrong assumptions.

As part of the Speaking of Women Series, the Mount Vernon Chamber is hosting a panel where panelists Nikkie Wegner - Chinook Enterprises, Amelia Cook - Goodwinds Composites and Guillermina Gonzalez - Gonzalez Gigi's Lawn Care will share the challenges they faced in male-dominated industries and how women can make their voices heard and turn the gender imbalances around in the workplace.

About our Panelists:

Amelia Cook is the co-owner of Goodwinds Composites, a carbon and fiberglass manufacturer based in Mount Vernon, Washington. In 2021, Goodwinds Composites products made it all the way to Mars as the landing gear on NASA's Ingenuity Helicopter.

Nikki Wegner started her career as a Para-Educator in 2004 working in a variety of non-profit & school district programs for youth with intellectual disabilities near Seattle, before becoming an Employment Consultant in 2006 at Trillium, then an ACHIEVE Instructor at Highline College (a post-secondary certificate program for individuals with disabilities) and later the VP of Employment Services/C.O.O. at Morningside in Olympia in 2014. Most recently, in 2018, Nikki served at Trillium Employment Service as Associate Director. In December 2020, Nikki Wegner joined Chinook Enterprises as the new CEO.

Guillermina Gonzalez is the owner of Gonzalez Gigi's Lawncare. After taking care of the administrative duties of the business she became a single mom and later on the gardener and landscape designer in an industry where her skills were often in doubt because of being a woman.

Speaking of Women is a brand-new chamber program designed for businesswomen to connect with one another, empower each other and mentor upcoming business leaders. The program was launched in March 2023 with the Power of Pack presentation (photo with article). Women who enroll in the program will have access to two panels including Women in Male-Dominated Industries on June 14th and Successful Entrepreneurship by Women on September 13th. Each presentation is hosted at a women-owned businesses.

For information about the Speaking of Women Series, please contact Business Development and Foundation Director Silvia Reed at (360) 395-2944 or via email 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

Member at-large - Diane Fox

All About Hearing

Viry Delgado

COA Mexican Eatery

Peter Donovan

City of Mount Vernon

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

National Bike to Work Day May 19, 2023

Celebrating National Bike to Work Day each year on the third Friday of May, on May 19 this year. This day aims to incentivize us to switch our regular commute with bikes, and be very thankful for it! Each year, the local, regional, and national bike advocacy groups encourage people to try biking to work. If its just too far to cycle try transit and biking to work. Skagit Transit has bike racks on every bus!

Skagit County home sales plunge in 1Q, but not prices

The rise in mortgage rates over the past year significantly affected how many Skagit County homes were sold in the first quarter compared to a year ago, but not their sale prices. Only 269 Skagit homes were sold in the first three months of this year, a 28.8% drop from last year's first quarter, according to managing broker Shelah Inman of Brown McMillen Real Estate in Burlington. Inman prepared a report based on data from the Northwest Multiple Listing Service.

Washington Vocational Services Fundraiser was a Huge Success!

DREAM BIG 2023!
Presented by **Amerigroup**

\$31,495 Raised!

ATTIC (Adult Transition to Independence Center), LEARN 2 EARN, scholarships, SUMMER CAMPS, WV

WVS and ATTIC are overwhelmed by the community support we received during our virtual Dream Big fundraiser! Final numbers are in, and we raised \$31,495! Funds will be used to support our Learn 2 Earn program, student scholarships, Summer Camps, and the ATTIC program.

Tune In
Chamber Chat
Wednesday Mornings

8:05 a.m. **102.1 KAPS** Country
8:20 a.m. **KBRC** CLASSIC ROCK

For more member announcements, visit
mountvernonchamber.com/member-announcements

Send your announcements to
Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com

April in Pictures



**Ambassador Meeting at Sakura
Japanese Steak House & Sushi Bar**



**Latino Business Leaders
Visited Garden Rosalyn**



**Ribbon Cutting at
Evergreen Home Loans**



**Ribbon Cutting at
Pine Street Tacos**



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



**Biz Buzz Networking Luncheon at
Kiwanis Salmon BBQ**

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.
- Carol Harris**
PrimeLending
- Jaime Huss**
Washington Federal
- Crystal King**
NW Technology
- Blake Rawlins**
Guardian Northwest Title &
Escrow
- Tammy Reim-Ledbetter**
Alaska USA
- Tony Salas**
Eden Home Health
- Clarissa Wong**
CrossCountry Mortgage, LLC

BRONZE LEGACY

The Bronze Legacy program includes the following member organizations:

- BCC DIRECTORIES
- BLUE TACO RESTAURANT & BAR
- CALIBER HOME LOANS
- CONSEJO
- CUSTOM SERVICE SERVICES
- CASCADES JOB CORPS COLLEGE & CAREER ACADEMY - CAREERS BEGIN HERE
- cpi plumbing & heating
- DL DWAYNE LANE'S AUTO FAMILY
- Gonzalez Gigi's Lawn Care
- Heritage Wealth Advisors - Ameriprise Private Wealth Advisory Practice
- Hilltop Pharmacy
- HomePlace MEMORY CARE - Burlington
- Law Office of Hector Leal
- Tires LES SCHWAB
- Mister AWARDS & EMBROIDERY
- NextHome PREVIEW PROPERTIES
- Northwest NaturalCare
- NORTHWEST PHYSICAL THERAPY
- PeaceHealth
- Peoples Bank - A higher level of service.
- ROOSEVELT DENTAL CENTER - OF SKAGIT COUNTY
- SAKURA JAPANESE STEAK HOUSE & SUSHI BAR
- SaviBank
- Skagit Security
- SOUND BEVERAGE DISTRIBUTORS, INC.
- Spero
- Strong Family Insurance - Auto/Home/Business/Bonds
- THE BRIDGE AT MOUNT VERNON - AN ASSISTED LIVING COMMUNITY
- Where the Heart is ASSISTED LIVING AND MEMORY CARE
- WYCOFF Commercial and Family Insurance

Members Reveal Return on Investment

"Joining the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce has been an absolute game-changer for our business. The benefits we've received from our membership have exceeded our expectations, and we are truly grateful for the opportunity to be part of such an incredible community of like-minded individuals.

At the Chamber's luncheons, we've had the chance to share our causes and connect with other local businesses in a phenomenal way. Through this experience, we've built lifelong relationships with other businesses that we would have never had the chance to meet otherwise. It's been an amazing platform to showcase our business and make meaningful connections.

But what really sets the Chamber apart is the natural environment it creates for networking. As someone who's not from the area, I know firsthand how intimidating it can be to jump into networking. But the Chamber has done an incredible job of setting a welcoming tone that makes it easy to connect with others and build genuine relationships that go beyond business.

The support we've received from the Chamber has been invaluable. Whenever we need help, they're always there to lend a hand or connect us with someone who can. Their commitment to the success of our business has given us the confidence to become more involved in this beautiful community and take our business to the next level.

In short, we can't recommend joining the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce enough. It's been an amazing experience, and we're excited to see all the incredible connections we'll continue to make through this organization. If you're looking to grow your business, build lasting relationships, and become part of an amazing community, look no further than the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce."

Marla Renee Chapa

Contact:

Marla Chapa

Skagit Social

Email: Marla@marlaandcompany.org

Phone: (360) 391-9684



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

WOMEN IN MALE DOMINATED INDUSTRIES



A "SPEAKING OF WOMEN" EVENT. PART 2/3



PANELIST

Nikki Wegner
Chinook Enterprises

Wednesday June 14

4:30 - 6:00 PM

Willowbrook Manor

27420 Minkler Rd, Sedro-Woolley

Members: \$150.00

Facilitated by

Crystal King, NW Technology



PANELIST

Amelia Cook
Goodwinds Composites



PANELIST

Guillermina Gonzalez
Gonzalez Gigi's Lawn Care

SPONSORED BY:



Investment includes admission and hors d'oeuvres to two events:
June 14: Women in male-dominated industries | Sept. 13: Successful entrepreneurship by women

2023 Riverwalk Summer Concert Series Sponsorship Opportunities

Presenting Sponsor: \$5,000 - taken

Opportunity to speak or be recognized at every concert

Magnified and well-positioned company name and logo on poster

Company name on advertising, marketing materials, and social media including:

- Skagit Valley Herald display ads

- Branded advertising on MountVernonChamber.com and VisitMountVernon.com

- Social Media Promotion on Chamber channels

- Mention in all press releases

Company Banner displayed on Riverwalk throughout series

Logo prominently displayed on banner recognizing sponsors

Display table at all series concerts

Royal Sponsor: \$2,500 - limited

Opportunity to speak or be recognized at three concerts

Company logo on promotional poster

Company name on advertising, marketing materials, and social media including:

- Skagit Valley Herald display ad

- Branded advertising on MountVernonChamber.com and VisitMountVernon.com

- Social Media Promotion on Chamber channels

- Mention in all press releases

Name and logo prominently displayed on banner recognizing sponsors

Display table at three concerts

Major Sponsor: \$1,250

Opportunity to speak or be recognized at one concert

Company logo on poster

Company name on advertising, marketing materials, and social media including:

- Skagit Valley Herald display ads

- Branded advertising on MountVernonChamber.com and VisitMountVernon.com

- Social Media Promotion on Chamber channels

Company Banner displayed on Riverwalk throughout series

Logo displayed on banner recognizing sponsors

Display table at concert of your choice

Supporting Sponsor: \$550

Company logo displayed on promotional poster

Company Banner displayed on Riverwalk throughout series

Company name on advertising, marketing materials, and social media including:

- MV Chamber website & Visitmountvernon.com


- Chamber Facebook




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



SCAN ME

