

# CHAMBER CHAT

July 2023

## Haste Ye Back!

*By Andy Mayer President/CEO*

Haste Ye Back is a Scottish expression meaning something like hurry back or you're always welcome. But before I get accused of cultural appropriation I had better explain where I'm coming from, literally.

Having a test of one's DNA is increasingly popular, but I never really felt the need to do so. After all, I knew what my ancestry was. And the tests are \$75 or so. But I did have our dogs tested which was quite amusing. When I mentioned that to Jeremy, he suggested my priorities might be a little suspect, which seemed true when I thought about it. So, I took the DNA test. The results revealed something of which I was completely unaware. I am 25% Scottish!

Given my new knowledge of my lineage, I am learning what it means to be Scottish. And whether you are Scottish or not, you can experience the process with me. The easiest and most fun way is to attend the 27th Annual Skagit Valley Highland Games this weekend, July 8th, and 9th, at Edgewater Park in Mount Vernon. Highlights include bagpipers, pipe bands and other traditional music, Scottish athletic events, Scottish Highlands dancing, food and much more. There is merchandise as well, including kilts I would imagine. I don't think I've earned the right to wear one yet, being a Scottish newbie and all, but I'm working on it.

I hope to see you there!



### GOLD



### SILVER



Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce

(360) 428-8547

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

## Thank You Renewing Members

### 30+ Years

Pape Machinery AG and Turf

### 25+ Years

Mount Vernon Building Center

### 15+ Years

Goodwinds Composites

Hampton Inn & Suites by Hilton

### 10+ Years

AAA Washington

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Christianson's Nursery

Craft Stove

Gateway Automotive and Transmission

Heritage Financial Group, Inc.

### 10+ Years

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### 5+ Years

All About Hearing

Dwayne Lane's Auto Family

La Conner Channel Lodge

NW Technology

PogoZone

Roosevelt Dental Center of Skagit County

Skagit Cycle Center

Sound Beverage Distributors, Inc.

Txley

### Less than 5 Years

Avalon Golf Links

## Battle of the Bridge Golf Tournament August 25



It's time to fine tune your golf game, or at least dust off your clubs, for the fifth annual Battle of the Bridge Golf Tournament, pitting the Mount Vernon and Burlington chambers against each other for bragging rights and a nice trophy!

The 2023 tournament takes place Friday, August 25, at the Avalon Golf Links, with a 1 p.m. shotgun start. Sign up a four-player team for \$700 or as a single player for \$175. Registration includes green fees, a golf cart, lunch from Applebee's, dinner from Avalon Golf Links, and a whole lot of fun! Find the registration sheet on page 9 of this newsletter.

We have limited sponsorship opportunities available below. Contact Jeremy Kindlund, Operations Director with any questions at 360- 428-8547 or [Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com](mailto:Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com).

### Hole Sponsors - Set up at a Hole:

\$350

Set up a tent at the hole of your choice (based on availability)

Sign at hole (provided by the chamber)

Company name on printed and digital marketing materials

Logo with a link to your website on Burlington-Chamber.com and MountVernonChamber.com

**REGISTER YOUR  
TEAM HERE**



### Tee Sponsors:

\$200

Sign (provided by the chamber) at a tee of your choice (based on availability)

Company name on printed and digital marketing materials

Logo with a link to your website on Burlington-Chamber.com and MountVernonChamber.com

## Calendar of Events

### Chamber Connections Referral Program Open House

Thursday, July 13

1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Abel Lodge Sons of Norway #29

21098 Second St. Conway

[Register here](#)

### Multi-Chamber After Hours at Majestic Inn & Spa

Thursday, July 13

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

419 Commercial Ave

Anacortes

[Register here](#)

### Susan Cooper Celebration of Life

Friday, July 14

2:00 p.m.

McIntyre Hall

### Ribbon Cutting at Investor Productions

Friday, July 21

5 p.m.

225 1st St

Mount Vernon

### Biz Buzz Networking Luncheon

Wednesday, July 26

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

Hillcrest Lodge

1717 S 13th St

Mount Vernon

[Register here](#)



### Chinook Enterprises Open House

Thursday, July 27

3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

2026 N LaVenture Rd

Mount Vernon

## Members Reveal Positive Return on Investment



Natalie Zavala  
Washington Federal  
(360) 424-4440

I've worked for WAFD Bank for almost 5 years. The last year I've become more involved with the Mount Vernon Chamber than I ever imagined I would be. From a networking perspective—WOW! It's so much more enjoyable to talk and network with other small business owners than to try to make those connections on your own. When you talk to a fellow business person, you are talking to like minded individuals: everybody is trying to grow their business and help one another out. I'm a member of one of the referrals groups that is one of Silvia's many projects. We meet twice a month and take time to learn about each other's businesses and how we can help each other grow. As a business and personal community member, it's encouraging to see how many people are willing to support local and in turn, grow our local economy. Since I've been more involved with the Mount Vernon Chamber, I've grown tremendously as a person as well as a business professional thanks to my fellow Chamber members' encouragement and leadership.

# Welcome New Members

## Investor Productions

Cole Smidt  
(303) 946-4831  
www.investorproductions.com  
Mount Vernon



Investor Productions is a video production company that is dedicated to manifesting the vision of your company. We will establish the foundations of what your brand represents and establish immediate authority in your industry.

## Jed Holmes Realtor - The Muljat Group

Jed Holmes  
(360) 225-1458  
www.livebellinghamnow.com  
2900 Meridian St  
Bellingham

Whatcom and Skagit-based realtor whose team motto is "we do real estate differently". I strive to create lasting relationships through transparency, honesty and integrity.

## Mecca's Mark LLC

Danny Mecca  
(406) 202-3620  
www.meccasmart.com  
Mount Vernon



In the market to add new flooring tiles, shower tiles, or backsplashes to your home? Maybe it's one of those things you've wanted to tackle for a while, but just haven't gotten around to yet. Whatever it is you're looking for, Mecca's Mark has you covered.

## Sahara Pizza

Alex Daniel  
(360) 424-2000  
www.saharapizza.com  
2323 E Section St Unit 150  
Mount Vernon

The hottest place in town for all your pizza needs. It is our mission to serve our customers the finest gourmet pizza, pasta, wings and grinders in a fast and friendly manner. Pick up or delivery.

# 2023 Riverwalk Summer Concert Series

Thursdays from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Skagit Riverwalk Plaza

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| July 13 - The Atlantics   | August 10 - Eden                                     |
| July 20 - The Enthusiasts | August 17 - Pacific Twang                            |
| July 27 - Levi Ware       | August 24 - Chris Eger Band and the Powerhouse Horns |
| August 3 - Fantasy Band   | August 31 - Mama Dirty Skirt                         |

## Thank you sponsors!

Presented by: **DL DWAYNE LANE'S**  
SKAGIT SUBARU





## Board of Directors

### Chair - Brian Ivie

Skagit Regional Health

### Vice Chair - Flora Lucatero

Children of the Valley

### Past Chair - Bill Henkel

Community Action of Skagit County

### Treasurer - Tammy Reim-Ledbetter

Global Credit Union

### Member at-large - Diane Fox

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### Viry Delgado

COA Mexican Eatery

### Mike Distelhorst

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### 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



**Tune In**  
Chamber Chat  
Wednesday Mornings

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

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

## Member Announcements

### Skagit Valley Tulip Festival seeks Executive Director

The Tulip Festival has begun recruiting for a new Executive Director. Candidates can submit interest via cover letter and resume to the Skagit Valley Tulip Festival hiring committee by email at [TulipFestivalBoard@gmail.com](mailto:TulipFestivalBoard@gmail.com). You can find the ED job description [here](#).

### Dink for a Difference- Pickleball Fundraiser benefiting children, youth, and families



On Friday, August 4th from 5-8 pm, Youthnet will be holding its first ever Annual Dink for a Difference pickleball fundraiser!

Your involvement will help steward the development of hope and healing through the ongoing services each of our **programs** provides for local children, youth, and families in Western Washington.

Registration link- <https://youthnetnw.net/news-events/dink-for-a-difference/>

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)

# June in Pictures



**Ribbon Cutting at Skagit Symphony**



**Ribbon Cutting at The Skagit Table**



**Ribbon Cutting at Made and Found Market**



**Multi-Chamber After Hours at Community Action of Skagit County**



**Speaking of Women Series at Willowbrook Manor**



**Membership Luncheon**

## Ambassadors

- Chair - Liz Theaker**  
Camp Korey
- Betsy Anorbe**  
Betsy Anorbe Real Estate
- Marla Chapa**  
Skagit Social
- Susan Cooper**  
Susan Cooper
- Rick Donovan**  
Kona Ice of Skagit County
- Ector DeLeon**  
Tulip Valley Winery
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WAFD Insurance Group, Inc.
- Carol Harris**  
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- Jaime Huss**  
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- 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



# Latino Business Leaders

## a year in review

June we delivered the last session of a very successful 2022-2023 Latino Business Leaders program. We are taking a break in July to get ready to launch the 2023-2024 program in August. Thanks to the support of our generous sponsors and partners, the program was delivered free of charge and welcomed an average of 40-50 participants per session. We outgrew the conference room at the Chamber office and moved to our new location at the Skagit Station. Our presenters did a phenomenal job delivering content that ranged from setting up a business plan, obtaining a business license, working with Labor & Industries and building a marketing strategy.

In partnership with the SCORE Bellingham Chapter, we provided one-on-one business consultations to about 35 start-up businesses. Although most of our Latino entrepreneurs are from Skagit County, it has been very rewarding to see new entrepreneurs coming from Whatcom, Snohomish, King and even Pierce County who have found the program to be valuable and in many cases instrumental in their success.

We have received excellent feedback from our Latino Business Leaders participants, which has allowed the program to continue growing and serving the needs of our community.

The 2023-2024 is launching this August. If you are interested in partnering with the Mount Vernon Chamber Foundation by sponsoring either the monthly sessions or socials and networking events, please contact Silvia Reed (360) 395-2944 | [Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com](mailto:Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com)



# thrivent<sup>®</sup>

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

### 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, Farmers Insurance Tory Charette Agency, 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, WECU, White Branches, Williams & Nulle, PLLC, CPAs





# Battle of the Bridge Golf Tournament

**Avalon Golf Links**

**19345 Kelleher Rd Burlington**

**Friday, August 25**

**Shotgun start at 1pm**

*Battle of the Bridge Golf Tournament benefits the Burlington Chamber of Commerce and the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce Foundation and Experience Work Project. Tournament format will be a four-man scramble. Registration includes a golf cart, lunch from Applebee's, dinner from Avalon Golf Links and a goodie bag.*

*\$20 bundle package available that includes: 5 raffle tickets, 2 mulligans and a "Hit the Skagit Casino Resort Sign" drawing.*

## Registration

Team of Four (\$700)

Single Player (\$175)

Includes company logo on the golf cart

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

Player 1 (Contact): \_\_\_\_\_

Player 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Player 3: \_\_\_\_\_

Player 4: \_\_\_\_\_

*Which team are you playing for?*

Burlington Chamber of Commerce

Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce

## Contact Information

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

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

*For more information, contact Jeremy Kindlund at (360) 428-8547, [Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com](mailto:Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com) or Emily Johnson, (360) 757-0994, [Emily@Burlington-Chamber.com](mailto:Emily@Burlington-Chamber.com)*





# Partnership Opportunities

Latino Business Leaders (LBL) is a Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce Foundation program designed to facilitate the advancement and participation of Latino businesses through entrepreneurship training programs, networking, marketing and mentorship.

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## **LBL Presenting Partner (Not available) \$2500.00**

- ⇒ Company name and/or logo in all LBL marketing including website, social media and newsletter
- ⇒ Company name in all radio announcements
- ⇒ Opportunity to speak in front of the group
- ⇒ Your marketing material available for participants at all sessions
- ⇒ Marketing table (or similar depending on space) at 3 socials

## **LBL Partner (3 sessions) \$500.00**

- ⇒ Company name and/or logo in LBL marketing including website, social media and newsletter
- ⇒ Opportunity to speak in front of the group
- ⇒ Your marketing material available for participants at 3 sessions

## **Latino Initiative Supporter \$250.00**

- ⇒ Company name and/or logo in event marketing
- ⇒ Opportunity to speak in front of the group
- ⇒ Your marketing material available for participants

## **LBL Social-Networking Event Supporter \$250.00**

- ⇒ Company name and/or logo in event marketing including website, social media and newsletter
- ⇒ Opportunity to speak in front of the group
- ⇒ Marketing table at event (or similar depending on space)

## **LBL Session Supporter (1 session) \$150.00**

- ⇒ Company name and/or logo in LBL marketing
- ⇒ Company logo on the event page and displayed during the sponsored session
- ⇒ Your marketing material available for session participants

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### **2023-2024 Schedule**

#### **LBL Social-Networking Events**

Held in August, December and April

#### **Latino Initiatives**

Special sessions designed to support the Latino community and based on specific community needs.

#### **Entrepreneurship Training Program**

Monthly training sessions held in Spanish. Designed for start ups and established Latino businesses.

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



**MOUNTVERNONCHAMBER.COM**

# Thank you 2022-2023 Latino Business Leaders Sponsors

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



Law Office of Hector Leal



## THANK YOU PRESENTERS

SCORE Bellingham Chapter

City of Mount Vernon

Custom Cleaning Services

Birrieria Tijuana

Junior Flooring & Construction

Alfa & Omega Tax Service

Department of Labor & Industries

La Zeta 103.3 FM

Betsy Anorbe Real Estate

THRYV

Brand Market Media

Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce





## Skagit County Fair Group Ticket Sales August 9-12, 2023

### Buy together, save together!

Join us at the 2023 Skagit County Fair and take advantage of our discounted savings through our group ticket sales program. Treat your team members, thank valuable customers, organize a field trip or host a party at the Skagit County Fair!



Discounted admission tickets for groups of 50 or more. To request more information, email [francesn@co.skagit.wa.us](mailto:francesn@co.skagit.wa.us); 360.416.1350

[www.skagitcounty.net/fair](http://www.skagitcounty.net/fair)



**Save the date and join us Saturday, September 9  
at Corporate Air Center in Burlington for our  
23rd annual Port of Call Gala & Auction.**

Join us as we fall down the rabbit hole to Wonderland!

For over 20 years, the community has gathered at the Ports of Call Gala & Auction to support individuals and families coping with a life-limiting illness. Funds raised during the event ensure everyone has access to quality hospice care wherever they call home.

**Interested in sponsoring our event?**

Contact us at 360-814-5702 or [Foundation@HospiceNW.org](mailto:Foundation@HospiceNW.org)

Check our website for the latest updates!  
[HospiceNW.org/Foundation](http://HospiceNW.org/Foundation)









# Fiber Internet for Condos & Apartments

## City of MOUNT VERNON Washington


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# AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL

**“AA” STATE TOURNAMENT**  
**July 22-27, 2023**  
(Sat-Thur)



**Hosted by:**  
**MOUNT VERNON RIVERDOGS**  
(Sherman Anderson Ball Park)



**BURLINGTON SOX**  
(Burlington-Edison High School)



**Opening Ceremonies**

**July 21st**  
(Fri) 5:00 PM

**Teams, guests and media arrive to  
Sherman Anderson Ballpark for  
BBQ and festivities!**

May 30, 2023

Baseball Fans,

We are very pleased to announce that the Mount Vernon Riverdogs and the Burlington Sox will be hosting the 2023 “AA” State Tournament. Sixteen (16) elite teams will arrive into Mount Vernon and Burlington on Friday, July 21st. The tournament begins on Saturday, July 22nd and will run through July 27th.

Baseball communities will agree that hosting, organizing and financing marquee tournaments such as the ALB “AA” State Tournament takes on great risk. The income derived from concessions and gate admissions will not cover the cost of the tournament banquet, tournament media guides, advertising, field usage, baseballs, umpiring fee’s and maintenance fee’s. The tournament committee along with many volunteers help to off-set costs but we still need your help.

Nationally, about 3500 ALB teams compete across the country each year. Washington State American Legion Baseball registers approximately 80 teams each year.

The 2023 “AA” State Tournament will mark the eighth time in Washington State history that this prestigious tournament will take place in ALB Area 1. Consequently, we are asking for your support to assist us in our efforts to raise the funds needed to successfully organize and finance this wonderful tournament.

Please review the list of potential sponsorships, advertisements and donations that we are kindly asking you to consider. Advertisers and Sponsors will be listed and recognized in the “2023 Souvenir Media Guide”. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Bill Calkins (360) 391-3438 or Eric Stalcup (360) 420-1089.

**IMPORTANT NOTE: Advertiser’s, sponsor’s and donor’s that support us with a \$100 donation and above will receive a VIP Family Pass to the tournament and tickets to the BBQ kickoff dinner on Friday July 21st.**

On behalf of the coaches and players who will be participating in the 2023 ALB “AA” State Tournament, thank you for your consideration and financial support.

Sincerely,

Bill Calkins  
Tournament Co-Chair  
360-391-3438  
burlingtonsox@gmail.com

Eric Stalcup  
Tournament Co-Chair  
360-420-1089  
mountvernonbaseall1@gmail.com

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360-770-6775  
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Tony Wolden  
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360-391-1977  
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