

# CHAMBER CHAT

December 2023

## 2023 Was a Very Good Year!

**By Andy Mayer President/CEO**

Thanks to you, the Chamber was about as busy this year as we've ever been. But busy doesn't count unless you, your business, and the community benefitted from it. I'm happy to say that during the year we heard from many of you that your business and the community are better off because of the Chamber.

A new program, "Speaking of Women" stood out. It is for women and put on by women, to advance their careers and businesses, through learning from and networking with each other. The program came out of our understanding that there are segments of our membership that are best able to learn and support each other together. The excellent response suggests that it was needed and appreciated. The Latino Business Leaders program, now in its 5th year, is another example of a program focused on an important segment of our community. It grew again in participants and in the positive impact they received. Our Chamber Connections groups, united by the desire to support and to direct business to each other, also had their best year so far.

Our "come one and all" meetings and events were strong this year. Our Luncheons, on a variety of topics and "Biz Buzz" networking sessions, were well attended and received. A highlight was Mayor Boudreau's final "State of the City" address. She spoke on the current strong state of the City, as well as the many important and enduring accomplishments during her 12 years at the helm. She will be a hard act to follow. Speaking of acts, our Riverwalk Summer Concert series had another banner year. Put on with help from the City and support from fabulous sponsors, it built community in a way that is unique to music events. I heard grateful comments from concert goers every week. Our other annual events, including the Chili & Chowder Festival and the Skagit Wine & Beer Festival, were enjoyed by a strong mix of visitors and local folks as well.

**Continued on page 3**



### GOLD



### SILVER



Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce

(360) 428-8547

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

## Thank You Renewing Members

### 35+ Years

Piazza Realty Property Management, Inc.  
Skagit Publishing

### 25+ Years

Calico Cupboard Café & Bakery

### 20+ Years

Birch Equipment Co., Inc.  
North Coast Credit Union

### 10+ Years

Barron Heating AC Electrical & Plumbing

### 5+ Years

Global Credit Union  
Guardian Security Systems, INC.  
Il Granaio Inc.  
Mount Vernon Grocery Outlet  
Skagit Adult Day Program  
VSH Certified Public Accountants

### Less than 5 Years

Alfa and Omega Tax Services  
BeautyFix, LLC  
Big Box Outlet Store  
Farmers Equipment Co.  
John L. Scott - Cinthya Lobo  
SERVPRO  
Terry Helmka Realty LLC, SRES

## Welcome New Members

### Big Rock Grocery Bar & Grill

Erin Federmeier  
(360) 428-8070  
[www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)  
14779 Route 9  
Mount Vernon  
Fuel, food, and groceries unite at Big Rock Grocery, Bar & Grill. Now renovated, still great!

### E&E Contracting

Ellie Chapman  
(360) 966-1041  
[www.eecontracting.com](http://www.eecontracting.com)  
Excavation specializing in underground utilities; sewer, storm, septic; concrete driveways, sidewalks, ADA ramps.

### Middle Way Acupuncture Institute

Linda Ballantine  
(360) 336-6129  
[www.mwai.edu](http://www.mwai.edu)  
321 W Washington St #334  
Mount Vernon  
Acupuncture College

### ReLuTy Real Estate

Jason Goold  
(208) 333-4434  
[www.ReLuTy.com](http://www.ReLuTy.com)  
Whether you're getting ready to buy or sell, in the middle of it, or just looking for some answers, our team ensures you get the best experience possible. It's what we love to do.

### Skagit Anytime Fitness

Christina Barritt  
(360) 873-8377  
[www.anytimefitness.com](http://www.anytimefitness.com)  
205 W Stewart Rd Ste 1  
Mount Vernon  
We offer 24/7 access, one-on-one personal training and group workouts for when you are here and the right tools to keep you on track when you are not.



## It was a very good year!

### Continued from page 1

The Chamber also had an impactful year through our “strategic influence.” We work on your behalf to create economic vitality and quality of life for the region. Of note was our work with the Skagit Chamber Alliance to build relationships with our regional legislators. The Legislative Send-off at the beginning of the session and the Legislative Roundup after, let them know what’s important to our businesses and communities. The Chamber’s Government Affairs Committee organized these events and much more. In addition, our staff was actively involved with efforts on housing, homelessness, education, the environment, food insecurity, DEI, and others. We led on these issues where we could, participated fully, and communicated the importance of them and progress, to you.

Thank you for a busy and productive year and Happy Holidays!

Andy Mayer, President & CEO

## 2023 Year-End Awards Nominations

The Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce recognizes members for exceptional service, talent and community support. We can't say enough about how much we appreciate everyone for all of their hard work and determination in helping us be the best Chamber we can be. Please take [this quick survey](#) to nominate exemplary members in each of the categories by January 5 2024.

### 2022 Year-End Award Winners



**Ambassador of the Year: Crystal King, NW Technology**

**Rising Star: Custom Cleaning Services Washington LLC**

**Making a Difference Award: Tammy Reim-Ledbetter,  
Alaska USA**

**Business Person of the Year: Flora Lucatero, Children  
of the Valley After School Program**

**Business of the Year: Peoples Bank**

### Partner Members

Allstate - Mayra Nava Agency, Barron Smith Daugert, PLLC, Bank of the Pacific, Best Western PLUS, Skagit Valley Inn, Birch Equipment Co., Budget Towing & Repair, Coastal Farm & Ranch, Chikara PR, LLC, 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, Sara Fish Group - Keller Williams Western Realty, 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

# Calendar of Events

## Motivation & Marketing Mastermind - Roundtable Discussion

Thursday, December 7  
10 a.m. to 11 a.m.  
Mount Vernon Chamber Office or Zoom  
301 W Kincaid St  
Mount Vernon  
[Register here](#)

## Chamber Connections Thursday Evening Holiday Event and Open House

Thursday, December 7  
5 p.m. to 6 p.m.  
Bob's Burgers & Brew  
9394 Old Highway 99 N Rd  
Burlington

## Chamber Connections Tuesday Morning Holiday Event and Open House

Tuesday, December 12  
9 a.m. to 10 a.m.  
Tucker Realty  
1932 E College Way Ste A  
Mount Vernon

## Biz Buzz Networking Luncheon

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

## Latino Business Leaders Holiday Social

Wednesday, December 13  
6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.  
Blue Taco  
2300 Market St  
Mount Vernon  
[Register here](#)

**thrivent**  
Shawn Steffens, CHFC, RICP  
(360) 707-7677



## Multi-Chamber After Hours at Quantum Construction

Thursday, December 14  
4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.  
12761 Quantum Ln  
Anacortes

# Shop Local And Win!

*Shop local &*  
**WIN!**

**SPEND \$5 - GET A PUNCH**

Fill up, return your card, and be entered to weekly prizes and the GRAND PRIZE drawing on February 1, 2024!

**Drop off cards & be entered to win!** at

**Skagit Running Company**  
724 S 1st St, Mount Vernon, WA 98273  
and  
**Tri-Dee Arts**  
215 S 1st St, Mount Vernon, WA 98273

**Pick up your SHOP LOCAL card at one of these fantastic businesses!**

- Babe Rainbow Antiques
- Calico Cupboard Cafe & Bakery
- Cascadia Eye • Creations of Joy
- Dilly Dally Antiques & Collectibles
- Draft Pic's Pub-Grub & Pizza
- Draper Valley Farms/Perdue Farms
- Easton's Books • elSage Shop • Fairhaven Mill
- Forté Chocolates • Fortiphi Insurance
- Fran's Hallmark • JeKa Plants • La Catrina Tacos & Tequila • LIDO Collective • Lincoln Theatre
- Marla and Company and Skagit BigFoot Fest
- PAVÉ Jewelry & Design • Skagit Acres
- Skagit Habitat for Humanity • Skagit Landing
- Skagit Running Company • Strauss Jewelers
- The Lunchbox Diner • The Skagit Table
- Tri Dee Arts • WildFibers • Work Outfitters

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

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



## 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

All About Hearing

### Viry Delgado

COA Mexican Eatery

### Mike Distelhorst

Skagit Publishing

### Peter Donovan

City of Mount Vernon

### Matt Gill

Marathon Petroleum Corporation

### Robert Knoll

Puget Sound Energy

### 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

### Tony White

Skagit Valley Food Co-op

## STAFF

**Andy Mayer** President/CEO

**Silvia Reed** Business Development and Foundation Director

**Jeremy Kindlund** Operations Director

**Bob Johnson & Julie Newkirk**

Visitor Information Services

## Member Announcements

### Children of the Valley Wins \$10,000 'Peoples Choice' Impact Grant

Peoples Bank is proud to announce Mount Vernon-based Children of the Valley as the recipient of the 2023 'Peoples Choice' Impact Grant. The selection of Children of the Valley for this grant was determined by a public vote on the Peoples Bank website.

Children of the Valley provides a safe and supportive after-school environment for local area youth through academic assistance, social-emotional learning, and enrichment activities. Children of the Valley's students are predominantly from low-income and Latinx families and are some of the most under-resourced children in the Skagit Valley. The \$10,000 award will be used toward the purchase of a ten-passenger van to safely transport elementary-age school children home from afterschool programming. The van will also be used for field trips and enrichment activities.

"We are excited and overwhelmed by the love and support shown by our community to be selected for this grant," said Flora Lucatero, Executive Director of Children of the Valley. "Transportation is a barrier for many families we serve, and with four sites now open across the Skagit Valley, this generous grant from Peoples Bank addresses a critical need for our program."

### Skagit Valley College joins Education First to boost postsecondary enrollment

Skagit Valley College is partnering with Education First, as a part of their 'Limitless' Postsecondary Enrollment Learning Network, for the next four academic years through 2026-27.

The \$25,000 grant, secured by the Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation, will drive collaborative efforts between SVC and the Oak Harbor School District. The primary goal is to develop and implement strategies to increase higher education enrollment. Key responsibilities will involve close coordination with the Sno-Isle Libraries for effective planning and implementation.



**Tune In**  
Chamber Chat  
Wednesday Mornings

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

**KBRC** CLASSIC ROCK  
102.9 FM - 102.9 AM  
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)

# 2023 in Pictures



Skagit River Brewery wins multiple prizes at the Skagit Chili & Chowder Cook-Off



Music Lovers celebrate at the Riverwalk Summer Concert Series



Skagit Chamber Alliance hosts Legislative Roundtable



Chamber Ambassadors visit Sakura Japanese Steakhouse & Sushi Bar



Latino Business Leaders Summer Social



Skagit Landing hosts first Speaking of Women event

## Ambassadors

- Chair - Tammy Reim-Ledbetter**  
Global Credit Union
- Sylvia Alvarez**  
Triumph Teen Life Center
- Betsy Anorbe**  
Betsy Anorbe Real Estate
- Emmy Bateman**  
Lincoln Theatre
- Marla Chapa**  
Skagit Social
- Rick Donovan**  
Kona Ice of Skagit County
- Ector DeLeon**  
Tulip Valley Winery
- Joley Garner**  
WAFD Insurance Group, Inc.
- Carol Harris**  
PrimeLending
- Jaime Huss**  
Washington Federal
- Crystal King**  
NW Technology
- Julia Phillip**  
Julia Phillip Realty
- Blake Rawlins**  
Guardian Northwest Title & Escrow
- Clarissa Wong**  
CrossCountry Mortgage, LLC

## BRONZE LEGACY





# MOUNT VERNON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HAVE YOU  
CONSIDERED?

## MEMBERSHIP UPGRADE



### These are just some additional benefits

- ✓ Enhanced website listing
- ✓ Prominent exposure of your logo in our marketing material
- ✓ Free Insertion of business flier into chamber chat
- ✓ Complimentary Admission to membership meetings

Benefits based on membership levels

### For information

- 👤 Silvia Reed
- ☎ 360-395-2944 | 360-305-0895
- 🏠 [Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com](mailto:Silvia@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

Includes new members and those who re-join the chamber



For information and to join the chamber  
Silvia Reed (360) 395-2944 | (360) 305-0895  
Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com





# Speaking of Women

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

## STARTS IN JANUARY 2024



**03 PANEL PRESENTATIONS**



**8 COFFEE CHATS**

Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce  
Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com  
(360) 395-2944



## Introduce your Business to New Chamber Members

**By providing your company swag or special offer to be included in every welcome bag**

Send your swag to:



301 W. Kincaid Mount Vernon



(360) 428-8547







# 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

