

# CHAMBER CHAT

November 2023

## Legislatively Speaking!

**By Andy Mayer President/CEO**

It's hard to imagine, but the beginning of the 2024 Washington Legislative Session is only about 60 days away. It will be a short session of 60 days, so very much a sprint. For that reason, the Chamber's Government Affairs Committee, along with the Skagit Chamber Alliance has begun planning for our annual Legislative Send-Off event, tentatively scheduled for Thursday, January 4. At it, we will hear from the 10th, 39th, and 40th District Legislators on their priorities for the session. It is also an opportunity for you to share what's important to your business.

Prior to the Send-Off program, the Government Affairs Committee creates a list of legislative priorities that is shared with the legislators. That is where you come in. We need to hear from you about the challenges that you are facing, so that our priorities match your needs. The 2023 session was said to be the "Year of Housing." It continues to be an overarching need, impacting the ability to hire employees, fueling our affordability crisis, and contributing to homelessness. What else is important to you? Is the lack of childcare an issue for you and your employees? What about the steady increase of the minimum wage? How about the rising cost of transportation related to the Climate Commitment Act?

After the session is over, the Chamber Alliance will again host a Legislative Roundup program, to fully understand what happened, maintain our relationships with the legislators, and again for you to share your thoughts and stories on the impact of the session on you and your business. That is the most powerful information that legislators can receive. To get the cycle started please share your thoughts and the issues important to you with me.

Thank you!  
Andy



**GOLD**



**SILVER**



Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce  
(360) 428-8547  
[mountvernonchamber.com](http://mountvernonchamber.com)

# Thank You Renewing Members

## 35+ Years

Cascade Natural Gas  
Draper Valley Farms  
Fix Auto Mount Vernon Operated by Dally's Auto Body  
Land Title and Escrow  
Skagit Farmers Supply & Country Store  
Skagit Valley College

## 25+ Years

Landed Gentry Development Inc.

## 20+ Years

Dimensional Communications, Inc.  
SBV Tulip Town LLC

## 15+ Years

McIntyre Hall, Performing Arts  
Sign Pro of Skagit Valley  
Skagit Acres

## 10+ Years

Bayshore Office Products  
Children of the Valley After School Program  
Ode To Learning

## 5+ Years

Bay Baby Produce, Inc.  
HomePlace Memory Care  
Little Mountain Laser

## Less than 5 Years

Hospice of the Northwest  
Northwest Escrow, LLC  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church / La Iglesia Episcopal de la Resurreccion  
Thryv

# 2023 Skagit Wine & Beer Festival



We are pleased to announce the 2023 Skagit Wine & Beer Festival. The event will take place on Saturday, November 18 at the Heritage Flight Museum. You will be delighted with wines, beer and spirits from regions throughout Washington, including local Skagit County wineries, microbrews and spirits, as well as, gourmet appetizers, divine chocolate, and cheese samplings. More information [here!](#)

Presenting Sponsor



## Welcome New Members

### Adair Homes

Matt Whitehead

(360) 448-6069

[www.adairhomes.com](http://www.adairhomes.com)

3302 Cedardale Rd Ste A500

Mount Vernon

The largest and most experienced custom home builder in the West. We build the new home families always dreamed of, nearly anywhere in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and now Arizona!

### All Colors Painting LLC

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No matter the job, we are confident that we are the right team for you. We use the highest quality paint and will work with you to find the right color for your home.



### Anna Medina Real Estate - Home Smart

Anna Medina

(360) 421-8066

[www.realtor.com/realestateagents/6233b993636f49750b514b56](http://www.realtor.com/realestateagents/6233b993636f49750b514b56)

811 Cleveland

Mount Vernon

Real estate broker in Skagit County. Helping first-time home buyers and those being challenged with the real estate process.

### Caring Transitions of Oak Harbor

Maureen Mwaniki

(425) 953-7672

[www.caringtransitions.com/locations/mode/oak-harbor](http://www.caringtransitions.com/locations/mode/oak-harbor)

Professional solutions for relocation services.

Streamlined support system to help facilitate a less stressful transition, taking care of the details so you can take care of yourself or a loved one.

### Serendipity Guest House

Becky Brunk

(360) 739-7776

[www.airbnb.com/rooms](http://www.airbnb.com/rooms)

9898 Samish Island Rd

Bow

Glorious water & island views are front & center in this lovely remodeled home! Watch bird life, tidal changes & sunsets through large windows overlooking Padilla Bay. Or, from the primary bedroom featuring a king bed as well as a charming desk nook if work calls.



### 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

## Members Reveal Positive Return on Investment



Betsy Anorbe  
[Betsy Anorbe Real Estate](#)

My experience with the Mount Vernon Chamber has been nothing short of amazing. I started on my real estate journey in April 2022 and immediately became a member. Recognizing the importance of networking and building connections in the industry, I knew this was a vital step. Through the Chamber, I've had the pleasure of meeting some of the best professionals in the field, and I now wholeheartedly recommend it to all my family and friends involved in business.

Additionally, serving as an ambassador for the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce has been an amazing opportunity, allowing me to represent and support this vibrant community. In addition to my involvement with the Mount Vernon Chamber, I'm also a part of the Latino Business Leaders, which holds significant importance to me as it enables me to represent my Hispanic community. The Chamber's classes and events have played a pivotal role in nurturing businesses and fostering connections among business owners. This support system not only promotes growth but also creates a sense of unity within the community, making my journey in real estate and my representation of the Hispanic community all the more rewarding.

## Calendar of Events

### “Coffee Chat”, A Speaking of Women Event.

#### Powered by Nikki Wegner, Chinook Enterprises

Wednesday, November 8 at 9:00 AM

The Skagit Table

[Register here](#)



### Licencias, Permisos y Regulaciones Especiales – Licences and Special Permits

IN SPANISH

Wednesday November 8 at 6:00 PM

Skagit Valley College – Multi purpose room

[Register here](#)



### Multi-Chamber After Hours 2024 Skagit Valley Tulip Festival Poster Unveiling

Wednesday, November 15

5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Skagit Acres

18923 Peter Johnson Rd

Mount Vernon

### Skagit Wine & Beer Festival

Saturday, November 18

3 p.m. VIP hour

4 p.m. to 8 p.m. General admission

Heritage Flight Museum

[Get tickets here](#)

Presented by



## Shop Local Campaign

We are looking for partners to promote shopping locally. Involvement includes fantastic marketing opportunities for your business such as an ad in the Skagit Valley Herald, online and social media promotion, a consumer incentive punch card program, and more. Please return the application at the end of the newsletter with your business information, \$25 and a raffle prize valued at \$25 or more to Jeremy Kindlund at 301 W Kincaid St Mount Vernon, WA 98273. The campaign will launch November 24 and continue through January 31 with the grand prize drawing on February 1. Please contact Jeremy Kindlund, Operations Director at [Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com](mailto:Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com) for more information. **Applications must be received by November 15.**

## 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

Coat Drive Sponsored by The Griffin Group / Emily Griffin

**COATS FOR KIDS**

(360) 419-5218  
for more info

**Please Donate**  
New Youth Size  
- Coats  
- Gloves  
- Scarves  
- Winter Hats

**Drop off by  
November 17th**

**Guild mortgage** THE GRIFFIN GROUP  
OWN WHAT MATTERS

2124 Riverside Drive Suite 211  
Mount Vernon

As many low-income families try to keep their children fed, they often don't have the funds to also keep them warm and cozy.  
Donations will help families and students who are experiencing homelessness.

**The Lincoln Theater is looking for storage**

The Lincoln Theatre is in the need of 200-500 square feet of dry, safe and secure long term storage. A space close to the theatre is preferred. Payment is possible and/or trade for in-kind on multi-screen advertising. Contact Executive Director Damond Morris [damond@lincolnthatre.org](mailto:damond@lincolnthatre.org).

**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)

# October in Pictures

# Ambassadors



**Ambassador meeting  
at Panera Bread**



**Speaking of Women  
Coffee Chat**



**Latino Business Leaders  
at Skagit Valley College**



**Multi-Chamber After Hours  
at SaviBank**



**Global Credit Union  
Ribbon Cutting**



**SWAN Woman of the Year Banquet**

- Chair - Tammy Reim-Ledbetter**  
Global Credit Union
- Betsy Anorbe**  
Betsy Anorbe Real Estate
- 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)



[www.MountVernonChamber.com](http://www.MountVernonChamber.com)



## 2023 Holiday Shop Local Campaign

Dear Chamber member,

We are looking for partners to promote shopping locally. Involvement includes fantastic marketing opportunities for your business such as an ad in the Skagit Valley Herald, online and social media promotion, a consumer incentive punch card program, and more. Please return this flyer with your business information, \$25 and a raffle prize valued at \$25 or more to Jeremy Kindlund at the address listed below. The campaign will launch **November 24 and continue through January 31 with the grand prize drawing on February 1.**

Not a member of the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce? You are still able to participate in this great program and promote your business.

**For more information, please contact Jeremy Kindlund, Operations Director**

Via email: [Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com](mailto:Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com)

Phone: (360) 428-8547

301 W Kincaid St.

Mount Vernon, WA 98273

### Participation requirements -

- \$25 payment
- Raffle Prize (Value of \$25 or more)

### Participation benefits -

- Consumer incentive punch card program: customers receive a punch for every \$5 spent at participating businesses. When the punch card is full (10 Punches at \$5 each, \$50) they can be used as an entry into weekly & grand prize drawings for fantastic raffle prizes. Each partnering business will be listed on back of the punch cards, poster, and ads.
- Shop Local Poster
- PDF copy of flier with partnering businesses listed can be distributed to your customers via email or print off to put in bags, etc.

**Please provide the information below, \$25 and the raffle prize to Jeremy Kindlund at the Chamber office no later than November 15.**

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Description of Raffle Prize: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Raffle Prize Value: \_\_\_\_\_



THE SKAGIT REGIONAL HEALTH FOUNDATION'S

35TH ANNUAL

# Festival OF TREES

presented by  
**Peoples Bank**  
A higher level of service

Saint Joseph Center | 215 N 15th Street | Mount Vernon

*Family Festival Days*

Saturday, November 25, 1 - 5 p.m. | Sunday, November 26, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

View the decorated trees - Enjoy local musical entertainment

Sponsored by PACIFIC WOODTECH

*Mini Tree Stroll and Online Auction*

November 3 - December 3 | First Street Store Windows in Downtown Mount Vernon

Sponsored by HERITAGE BANK

Scan for information





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



## 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

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