

MOUNT VERNON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

CHAMBER CHAT

January 2024

Annual Awards Luncheon

By Andy Mayer President/CEO

Happy January to you! I hope your year has started both with appreciation for what you were able to do last year and with anticipation for meeting your goals in 2024. It is in that spirit that:

*You are cordially invited to the
Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce
Annual Awards Luncheon
Sponsored by*



Wednesday, January 24, 11:30 a.m., Lodge at Hillcrest Park

*Featuring
2024 Accomplishments
Chamber Board, Foundation Board & Committees
Appreciation
Awards*

*Ambassador of the Year
Rising Star*

*Making a Difference
Business of the Year
Businessperson of the Year
Chairman's Award*

Catering by: Avenue Catering

*Please RSVP at mountvernonchamber.com, or to:
Jeremy Kindlund, Operations Director at
Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com*



GOLD



SILVER



Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce

(360) 428-8547

mountvernonchamber.com

I hope to see you there to celebrate what we have accomplished together, along with outstanding individual achievements and community service.

Andy Mayer, President & CEO

2024 Sponsorship Opportunities

Is part of your New Year's resolution to increase your marketing presence or support of the Chamber? Now is the time to act on marketing and sponsorship opportunities. The Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce has the following opportunities available: Monthly Luncheons, Skagit Chili & Chowder Cook-Off, Riverwalk Summer Concert Series, Skagit Beer & Wine Festival, Your Chamber This Week Sponsorships, Newsletter Inserts, and Newsletter Ads. These are a great way to increase exposure with fellow Chamber members and the community at large, and the Chamber makes it easy to participate. See the marketing opportunity insert in this newsletter for details on each sponsorship, as well as other opportunities available with the Chamber.

Contact Jeremy Kindlund, Operations Director to reserve your chance to gain exposure at (360) 428-8547 or Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com.

Welcome New Members

Foundation for Academic Endeavors

Kayleen Garcia

(360) 202-0910

www.skagitfae.org

PO Box 945

Mount Vernon

Collectively breaking down barriers to educational achievement for diverse students, educators and families.

Freight Train Electric

Matthew Bassett

(360) 333-1577

www.freighttrainelectric.com

Mount Vernon

Freight Train Electric performs all electrical needs for residential premises at affordable rates. We are Licensed, Insured & Bonded!

New American Funding

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www.sabrinalinman.com

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Mount Vernon

Express financial empowerment. We want what you want; the best possible financing, as fast as you can get it. We're here to help, and we'll do our best to make it awesome.

Nickole Murphy – Powered by RWM Home Loans

Nickole Murphy

(360) 389-3636

www.rwmloans.com/nickole-murphy

220 West Champion St Ste 200

Bellingham

RWM Home Loans is a residential mortgage lender headquartered in San Diego, CA. Nickole is based out of Bellingham, WA



Rainwalk Rewild

Ansley Hale

(360) 230-8283

www.Rainwalkrewild.com

901 Metcalf Street #118

Sedro-Woolley

Rainwalk Rewild is a wilderness school in Skagit County, Washington founded by two outdoor educators with a combined 20 years of experience studying the land, guiding wilderness experiences, and teaching outdoor education.



Sunshine Painters LLC

Javier Garcia

(360) 421-4324

PO Box 5904

Bellingham

Our company has been in business since 2014, serving Skagit, Whatcom, Island, Snohomish and surrounding areas with top quality painting service. Residential, commercial and industrial projects. Give us a quote for an estimate and great service.

Thank You Renewing Members

35+ Years

J.D.'s Laundry
Skagit Public Utility District

25+ Years

Evergreen Goodwill
Hansen's Furniture
Mount Vernon School District
Peoples Bank
The Learning Ladder Child
Development Center

20+ Years

Chicago Title Company
Fortiphi Insurance
Strauss Jewelers

15+ Years

Country Meadow Village
Dick's Restaurant Supply
Fire Mountain Solar LLC
Foss Heating & Cooling
Lithtex Northwest
Lyon's Furniture
Williams & Nulle, PLLC, CPAs

10+ Years

Allixo Technologies
Chad Fisher Construction
COA Mexican Eatery
Lefeber Turf Farm
Skagit Valley Food Co-op

5+ Years

BCC Directories
Camp Korey
Farmstrong Brewing Company
Fernandez Dental
La Zeta 103.3 FM - Bustos Media LLC
Minuteman Press
Skagit Artists
Sonitrol Pacific
Thrivent Financial - Shawn Steffens
U.S. Bank- Riverside Dr.

Less than 5 Years

Blue Taco
Country Financial - The Elton Group
Diventa Solutions LLC
Northwest Natural Care
Northwest Physical Therapy and Sports
Rehabilitation, Inc P.S.

Speaking of Women is back

Speaking of Women returns this January bigger and better. Designed as an outlet for business women to connect with one another, empower each other and mentor upcoming business leaders while supporting women-owned businesses throughout the year.

Expanding from a successful pilot year in 2023, the 2024 series features three empowerment panels:

March 13th at 4:30 PM	Breaking the Glass Ceiling
June 12th at 4:30 PM	The “Why” behind the “What”
September 11th at 4:30 PM	Climbing the Success Ladder

Member program fee \$180.00

Includes panel admission and hours d’oeuvres.

In 2024, Speaking of Women will also host monthly coffee chats between January and November. Coffee chats will be held the second Wednesday of the month at 9:00 AM at various locations.

While the panels include a social time and presentations that inspire and empower participants, the coffee chats are designed to provide a more intimate setting where participants can deepen their business relationships and share their experience in a welcoming environment.

Chamber members can be part of Speaking of Women by joining the program, sponsoring the series/coffee chats and by donating swag for the participants.

Those interested in learning more about Speaking of Women are encouraged to contact Silvia Reed at Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com or by calling (360) 395-2944. Ready to join Speaking of Women?, [click here](#)

Get to Know our 2024 Ambassador Chair

Betsy Anorbe, a distinguished real estate professional based in Washington State, has not only achieved excellence in streamlining property selling processes but has also earned notable recognition and leadership roles in her community.

In 2023, Betsy received the NPSAR Rookie of the Year award, a testament to her dedication and exceptional performance. By December 2023, she secured a top 2 ranking in Skagit County, solidifying her status as a leading real estate professional.

Betsy's commitment to community service is commendable. As the 2023-2024 President of Skagit Rotaract, she spearheaded initiatives addressing community needs. Skagit Rotaract, a global organization, unites young professionals to foster positive change.



Betsy Anorbe
Betsy Anorbe Real Estate

Adding to her community leadership, Betsy has been appointed as the 2024-2025 Ambassador Chair for the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce, actively contributing to the local business community.

Specializing in fast, profitable, and hassle-free property sales. Betsy covers marketing costs, ensuring your home stands out. With a customized plan and expert negotiation, she secures the best terms. Her expertise in navigating the escrow process ensures a smooth transaction.

Beyond closures, Betsy remains a responsive industry insider. Born in Skagit County, she actively contributes to the community as a Rotaract member, Chamber of Commerce Ambassador, and local real estate investor.

Ready to sell or seeking guidance? Contact Betsy for a friendly consultation, where she demonstrates how to maximize your home's profitability while minimizing the hassle of selling. With Betsy, you gain a seasoned real estate professional and a dedicated community leader.

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, Skagit Valley Food Co-op, Tacos Tecalitlan, Testing and Commissioning Services, LLC, Walmart, WECU, White Branches, Williams & Nulle, PLLC, CPAs

Calendar of Events

Preparando sus Impuestos Estatales y Federales | Getting your State and Federal Taxes Ready (in Spanish)

Wednesday January 17 at 6:00 PM
Skagit Valley College
Lewis Hall 311
[Register here](#)



Annual Awards Luncheon

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



Membership Orientation (Bilingual)

Tuesday Jan 30 at 4:30 PM
Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce
301 West Kincaid, Mount Vernon
[Register here](#)

Ribbon Cutting at Triumph Teen Life Center

Wednesday, January 31
1 p.m.
1119 East Division St
Mount Vernon

Save the Date! Skagit Chili & Chowder Cook-Off



Amateurs and professionals are invited to compete on Saturday, April 6, 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. 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. For questions regarding the cook-off or sponsorships, contact Jeremy Kindlund, Operations Director at (360) 428-8547 or Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com.

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 - Flora Lucatero

Children of the Valley

Vice Chair - Tony White

Skagit Valley Food Co-op

Past Chair - Brian Ivie

Skagit Regional Health

Treasurer - Tammy Reim-Ledbetter

Global Credit Union

Member at-large - Diane Fox

All About Hearing

Tony Cook

Cook CPAs and Consultants, PLLC

Viry Delgado

COA Mexican Eatery

Mike Distelhorst

Skagit Publishing

Matt Gill

Marathon Petroleum Corporation

Katie Hayton

La Conner Inn

Crystal King

NW Technology

Robert Knoll

Puget Sound Energy

Andrew Miller

Tulip Valley Farms

Julia Phillip

Julia Phillip Realty

Stacie J. Pratschner

City of Mount Vernon

Dr. Amanda Rentschler

Roosevelt Dental Center

Jon Ronngren

Mount Vernon School District

Dr. Chris Villa

Skagit Valley College

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

Tickets Now Available for Skagit Habitat for Humanity's Raise the Roof 2024 Gala and Auction Benefit

Unmasking Affordable Housing

Fundraising event for Skagit Habitat for Humanity

March 9, 2024

Doors Open 5:00 PM | Event Starts 6:00 PM

Swinomish Casino and Lodge, 12885 Casino Dr, Anacortes, WA

Visit the Raise the Roof webpage at www.skagithabitat.com for ticket purchases, sponsorship opportunities and other information.

Skagit County 2023 home prices tick up but fewer homes sold

Substantially fewer Skagit County homes were sold in 2023 as rising mortgage rates took a toll but homeowners still saw their property values rise slightly, according to managing broker Shelah Inman of Brown McMillen Real Estate in Burlington. The median price of a Skagit County home sold in 2023 rose 2.2% to \$555,000. Inman said the median price for an entire year of Skagit home sales has increased every year since 2011, when it was \$204,470. "Home ownership has been a good investment for many Skagit households," Inman said.

Skagit Valley College receives donation from Subaru-U to enhance automotive program



Skagit Valley College's Automotive Technology program received three state-of-the-art vehicles from Subaru-U, a division of Subaru of America, this fall. The vehicles – 2022 Subaru Ascent, 2023 Subaru Outback, and 2022 Subaru Crosstrek – will help to provide hands-on learning experiences for students that align with industry standards.

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

December in Pictures

Ambassadors



Chamber Connections Thursday group holiday party



Chamber Connections Tuesday group holiday party



Latino Business Leaders Holiday Social



Les Schwab Tire Center toy drive



Shop Local prize winners



- Chair - Betsy Anorbe**
Betsy Anorbe Real Estate
- Sylvia Alvarez**
Triumph Teen Life Center
- Emmy Bateman**
Lincoln Theatre
- Marla Chapa**
Skagit Social
- Joley Garner**
WAFD Insurance Group, Inc.
- Jaime Huss**
Washington Federal
- Crystal King**
NW Technology
- Julia Phillip**
Julia Phillip Realty
- Blake Rawlins**
Guardian Northwest Title & Escrow
- Tammy Reim-Ledbetter**
Global Credit Union
- Chris Van De Grift**
ReLuTy Real Estate
- Clarissa Wong**
CrossCountry Mortgage, LLC

BRONZE LEGACY





2024 MARKETING & SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Membership Meeting Sponsor Includes your logo in the monthly Chamber Chat, weekly email, website event calendar, newsletter email to over 900 businesses, 5 minute presentation at the meeting, display table and exclusive right to distribute flyers on the tables.	\$300 (Act quickly because these go fast! Not available in November)	Exclusive Sponsor of "Your Chamber This Week" Email Your display ad or logo sent to over 900 email addresses each week with an active link to your website. We have a special rate for yearly sponsors.	\$100/week
Skagit Chili & Chowder Cook-Off A fantastic way to get exposure as Skagit County's best battle it out. This competition features both amateurs and professionals and is a sure fire hit with the crowd!	\$325-\$1,250 Sponsorships Available	Chamber Chat Newsletter Inserts You provide the PDF, we do the rest! Perfect for events, sales and announcements; sent to over 900 business professionals in the monthly Chamber Chat Newsletter.	\$100/insert
Riverwalk Summer Concert Series A family-friendly event on the Riverwalk in downtown Mount Vernon Concert Series featuring an eclectic mix of genres from talented local musicians. Sponsorships include radio promotion, social media, display table and option to announce your business during the concert.	\$350-\$5,000 Sponsorships Available	Chamber Chat Newsletter Ad Place your ad in the award-winning Chamber Chat newsletter and be seen every month. Reach out to fellow business leaders and potential customers with over 10,000 copies distributed annually.	\$700-\$1,500 Varies by Size
Skagit Wine & Beer Festival The premier social event featuring regional wineries, breweries, distilleries, cideries and restaurants. Sponsorships include promotion in chamber marketing materials, radio advertisements and social media.	\$350-\$5,000 Sponsorships Available	MountVernonChamber.com Display Ads Extend your marketing reach to over 136,000 annual visitors on our website with your display ad linked directly to your website. Three sizes/styles of display ads available.	Cost varies by size and length of ad run.
New Member Welcome Basket Be one of the first to introduce your business to new chamber members by providing your company swag or special offer, to be included in every welcome basket.	FREE Just supply us with your promotional items.	Door Prizes Keep your business name and brand in front of potential customers by donating a door prize during any one of our events.	FREE Provide us your door prize prior to start of event.

Company Name: _____ **Contact:** _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

For more information contact Jeremy Kindlund - (360) 428-8547, or Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com.

Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce - PO BOX 1007 Mount Vernon, WA 98273, www.MountVernonChamber.com.



2024 PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

<p>Speaking of Women</p> <p>Speaking of Women is a Mount Vernon Chamber program designed as for business women to connect with one another, empower each other and mentor upcoming business leaders.</p> <p>The series includes 3 empowerment panels and 8 coffee chats.</p>	<p>\$200 - \$2000</p>	<p>Latino Business Leaders</p> <p>Latino Business Leaders is a Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce Foundation program designed to facilitate the advancement and participation of Latino businesses through entrepreneurship programs, networking, marketing and mentorship.</p> <p>The program includes 8 business training sessions in Spanish and 3 social / networking events in April, August and December.</p>	<p>\$ 150 - \$ 2500</p>
<p>Speaking of Women Swag</p> <p>Keep your business name and brand in front of your potential partners and customers by donating items to the Speaking of Women empowerment panels swag.</p> <p>Panels are held in March, June and September</p>	<p>FREE</p> <p>Provide your swag at least one week prior to the panels.</p>		

Company Name: _____ **Contact:** _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

For more information contact Silvia Reed - (360) 395-2944 , or Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com.
Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce - PO BOX 1007 Mount Vernon, WA 98273, www.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

2024 SERIES

EMPOWERMENT PANELS

BREAKING THE GLASS CEILING
MARCH 13 | 4:30 - 6:00 PM

THE "WHY" BEHIND THE "WHAT"
JUNE 12 | 4:30 - 6:00 PM

CLIMBING THE SUCCESS LADDER
SEPT. 11 | 4:30 - 6:00 PM

COFFEE CHATS

Second Wednesday of the month at 9:00 AM

WHY JOIN?

- Feel inspired and empowered
- Experience a sense of belonging
- Expand your professional network with like-minded women

Members: \$180.00

Panel Admission and hors d'oeuvres.
Coffee Chats food items paid separately

For information

Silvia Reed | Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com | (360) 395-2944
www.MountVernonChamber.com





SPEAKING OF WOMEN

Partnership Opportunities

“Speaking of Women” is 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.

Series Sponsor (Up to 2 sponsors)

\$2,000.00

- ⇒ Company name and/or logo prominently displayed in series marketing (panels and coffee chats)
- ⇒ Opportunity to speak to the group at each Speaking of Women event
- ⇒ Your marketing material available for participants
- ⇒ 01 complimentary admission to 3 panels

Coffee Chat Sponsor

\$ 200.00

- ⇒ Company name and/or logo prominently displayed in coffee chat marketing
- ⇒ Opportunity to speak to the group at the coffee chat of your choice

2024 Schedule

Panels

March 13 4:30—6:00 PM	Breaking the Glass Ceiling
June 12 4:30—6:00 PM	The “Why” Behind the “What”
September 11 4:30—6:00 PM	Climbing the Success Ladder

Coffee Chats at 9:00 AM

Jan. 10	Feb. 14	April 10	May 8
July 10	Aug. 14	Oct. 19	Nov. 13

Panels and Coffee Chats are held at various locations



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



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 (360) 676-8772 - Option 3 (sales)
 Sales@Pogozone.com

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