

CHAMBER CHAT

April 2024

What I'm Thinking About

By Andy Mayer President/CEO

What I'm Thinking About

1. The Tulip Festival is in full swing and what a celebration of spring and our area it is! I am thankful for the gardens who work so hard to welcome the world, the array of related events, and the hugely significant economic activity that the festival generates. For the Chamber it means that our office is buzzing with all the people who come in to find out how they can have the best experience possible at the gardens and during their visit.

2. Our premier tulip festival event is the Skagit Chili & Chowder Cook-Off, on Saturday the 6th, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., at Farmstrong Brewing. There will be a variety of delicious chili and chowder from amateurs and professionals for you to taste. If that's not enough, The Voice contestant and local favorite Savanna Woods will be on the stage! Tickets are available [here](#), and at the door.

3. Speaking of tulip festival events, the Kiwanis Salmon Barbecue has been a strong favorite for 30 years. And once again, they are hosting us for the full and delicious experience, at our Luncheon on the 24th at 11:30. Besides the feast, we will have our Biz Buzz networking session to help you make lasting connections. KAPS Radio personality "Mike in the Morning" Yeoman will make it fun and keep it moving! Register [here](#).

4. On the serious side, the Skagit Chamber Alliance will host the Legislative Wrap-up program at 8:30 a.m. on the 25th, at the Burlington City Council Chambers. All the legislators from the 10th, 39th, and 40th Districts are invited to share their thoughts on the recently concluded session and to hear from you. Register [here](#).

5. On the personal side, my recent trip to Denver was fabulous! Visiting friends and family in a place where I lived for about 12 years and started in the Chamber business, altered my perspective—in a good way. It reminded me that we all should get away from our day-to-day activities, more than we typically do.



GOLD



SILVER



Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce

(360) 428-8547

mountvernonchamber.com

Get to Know

La Peruanita LLC - Peruvian Street Food

La Peruanita LLC, Peruvian Street Food, embodies the essence of its slogan: “Bringing the soulful flavors of Peruvian Street Food to you, one bite at a time.” Founded three years ago by a determined single mom, La Peruanita began as a means to generate extra income and soon evolved into a thriving business venture.

Inspired by memories of late-night strolls along the coast of Callao, where street vendors served up piping hot Picarones and savory Anticuchos, La Peruanita’s founder, Susana Ipanaque, sought to recreate the vibrant street food scene of her hometown in the heart of the United States. La Peruanita made its debut at Madres in Everett community markets in 2022, quickly gaining popularity among locals craving authentic Peruvian flavors. Soon after, eager to continue to grow La Peruanita started attending Latino Business Leaders (LBL) classes by the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce and started working in Skagit County.

From perfecting the recipe for Picarones to mastering the art of Anticuchos, La Peruanita has been dedicated to capturing the essence of Peruvian cuisine and sharing it with customers far and wide. Each stand represents a piece of Peru, offering not only delicious food but also a glimpse into the vibrant culture and traditions of the Andean nation.

With a commitment to quality, authenticity, and community, La Peruanita continues to grow, bringing a little piece of Peru with it to every market and event. As it embarks on its journey, La Peruanita remains a testament to the power of passion, perseverance, and the joy of sharing delicious food with others.

Experience the vibrant flavors of Peru with La Peruanita! Visit our website laperuanita.org or email us at laperuanita.seattle@gmail.com to taste a bite of Peru at our next Pop Up in King, Snohomish, or Skagit County. Whether it's a corporate gathering or a private event, let us bring the soulful tastes of Peruvian street food to your doorstep. Don't miss out on the opportunity to savor the authentic flavors of Peru with La Peruanita!



Susana Ipanaque
La Peruanita LLC – Peruvian Street Food
(425) 312-5645
www.facebook.com/LaPeruanita.Seattle/

2024 Skagit Valley Tulip Festival

As the Executive Director of the Skagit Valley Tulip Festival, I am thrilled to announce our 41st year of celebrating the beauty of tulips in our valley. Each spring, our area bursts into color, thanks to the diligent efforts of our local tulip growers and, of course, a bit of assistance from Mother Nature herself.

The Skagit Valley Tulip Festival isn't just about admiring flowers; it's a celebration of our community, our businesses, and our people. It's an opportunity to showcase the stunning scenery of the Skagit Valley and to invite visitors from near and far to experience the charm and hospitality of our region.

Businesses play a crucial role in ensuring the success of the festival. As the tulips attract thousands of visitors, local establishments have a unique chance to shine. Whether you run a quaint bed and breakfast, a cozy cafe, or a retail shop, now is a time to prepare for the influx of tourists eager to explore all that the Skagit Valley has to offer.

While it's true that some may voice concerns about increased traffic during this season, it's essential to recognize the significant economic benefits that the Skagit Valley Tulip Festival generates for our community. The approximately \$65 million injected into our economy not only generates vital tax revenue for our cities, towns, and county, supporting essential programs and services, but also creates employment opportunities for local residents. Additionally, this economic activity stimulates growth for businesses throughout the county, fostering a positive trickle-down effect.

To all our community, the businesses, our sponsors and loyal volunteers, I extend my heartfelt gratitude. Your support is instrumental in making the Skagit Valley Tulip Festival a beloved tradition year after year.

As we anticipate another spectacular bloom season, I hope we can work hand in hand to make the 41st Skagit Valley Tulip Festival a resounding success. Thank you for your dedication, enthusiasm, and commitment to showcasing the beauty of our valley to the world.

Nicole Roozen
Executive Director, Skagit Valley Tulip Festival



Photo by Gary Brown

MEMBERSHIP TESTIMONIAL

Rob Martin, SCORE



Rob Martin, SCORE,
Bellingham Chapter Certified
Mentor
(360) 685-4259

I have been a member of the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce for over a year, but in my former job I was a member for over 30 years. In my volunteer role with Score, I work with local businesses and businesses that are in the process of being formed. As many of you know, it is lonely out there! I think that businesses have more stresses on them today due to the challenging climate around regulations, taxes, employment law and acquiring customers, to name a few!

Our Mount Vernon Chamber gives us the important support we need to tackle obstacles like these all while networking with other businesses and developing our professional resources along the way. The monthly Chamber meetings offer meaningful, up to date local information as well as member support in important areas like marketing, business advocacy and management that help our businesses stay strong, vigorous and healthy.

Thank You Renewing Members

35+ Years

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Human Resources of Mount Vernon, LLC

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COA Mexican Eatery

10+ Years

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Marla & Company
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Celtic Arts Foundation
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Ethan Home Repair & Remodeling LLC
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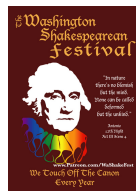
The Washington Shakespearean Festival

GregRobin Smith

(206) 291-6205

www.Ben-Franklin.org

Our main goal this summer is a touring Shakespeare variety show that will tour throughout the Skagit Valley. ACTORS! PERFORMERS! Contact us to Audition!!! Businesses! Contact us for Hosting and/or Sponsoring the Tour.



Work Opportunities

Marti Thomas

(425) 778-2156

www.workopportunities.org

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Skagit Chili & Chowder Cook-Off

Do you have your tickets for the hottest event around? Saturday, April 6 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. the Skagit Chili & Chowder Cook-Off will have professionals and amateurs competing for the bragging rights of best chili and chowder in Skagit County. Savanna Woods is playing music and Farmstrong Brewing Company will have the cold brews. This is a family friendly event. [Purchase your tickets here!](#)

PRESENTED BY:

Craft Stove



Thank you sponsors!

Calendar of Events

Ribbon Cutting at Master Warehouse LLC

Saturday, April 6 at 10 a.m.
1385 Admiral Pl
Ferndale

Last Second Marketing on a Shoestring: Spring and Summer

Monday, April 8
9 a.m.
via Zoom
[Register here](#)

Latino Business Leaders Spring Social Garden Rosalyn

Tuesday April 9 at 5:00 p.m.
16648 Jungquist Rd Mount Vernon
[Register here](#)



Speaking of Women Coffee Chat Powered by Leslie Smith, Edco Inc

The Skagit Table
Wednesday April 10 at 9:00 AM
2024 Member Fee: \$180.00
(includes 3 panels and 7 monthly coffee chats)
[Register Here](#)



Multi-Chamber After Hours at Celtic Arts Foundation

Thursday, April 11
4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.
1124 Cleveland Ave
Mount Vernon

Membership Orientation – Orientation para Socios

Tuesday April 15 at 3:00 p.m.
Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce
301 West Kincaid, Mount Vernon
[Register Here](#)

Biz Buzz Networking Luncheon

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



Preparando su Plan de Marketing y Campaña de Redes Sociales Preparing your Marketing Plan and Social Media Campaign Latino Business Leaders Event

Presented in Spanish
Skagit Valley College – Lewis Hall 311
Wednesday April 24 at 6:00 PM
[Register here](#)

thrivent

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



Legislative Wrap-Up

Thursday, April 25th
8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.
833 S Spruce St
Burlington
[Register here](#)

Board of Directors

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Member Announcements

SVC | Skagit Valley College
PRESIDENT'S SPOTLIGHT SERIES PRESENTS

LUIS VALDEZ

Wednesday, April 24, 2024
McIntyre Hall Performing Arts and Conference Center

VIP RECEPTION • 5:30-6:30 p.m.
LECTURE • 7 p.m.

General Admission • \$25
Meet and Greet Reception • \$100
(Limited availability, includes lecture)
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SVC students are FREE with ID
Available at the box office only.

Find out more: skagit.edu/spotlight-series

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Celebrate with Triumph Community Dance

COMMUNITY DANCE If you've got two feet and a desire to dance, this is a must attend event! Triumph Teen Life Center presents its first-ever "Triumph Community Dance" for ages 21+ on Friday, April 12th from 7pm to 10pm at Blue Taco Restaurant! Tickets are on sale now triumphtlc.org/events and are \$50 per person. Entry includes: free salsa, merengue, and bachata dance lessons (7-8pm), DJ music and dancing (8-10pm) and food catered by Blue Taco. If you want to come, but need childcare, let us know! We're offering childcare at Valley Pre-School next door from 7-10pm!

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

Send your announcements to Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com

Tune In
Chamber Chat
Wednesday Mornings

102.1 KAPS
102.1 FM - 11:55 AM
8:05 a.m.

KBRC
CLASSIC ROCK
102.9 FM - 11:55 AM
8:20 a.m.

March in Pictures



Member Appreciation event



Member Appreciation event



Speaking of Women Series



Mount Vernon Chamber table at
Spirit of Hope event



Latino Business Leaders



Mount Vernon Chamber table at
Skagit Valley Tulip Festival Gala

Ambassadors

Chair - Betsy Anorbe

Betsy Anorbe Real Estate

Silvia Alvarez

Triumph Teen Life Center

Emmy Bateman

Lincoln Theatre

Marla Chapa

Skagit Social

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Susana Ipanaque

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Crystal King

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Cole Smidt

Skagit Wedding Films

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Open House

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10am - 3pm



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