

SKAGIT VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

# CHAMBER CHAT

August 2026

## Chamber Responding to the Bridge Project's Business Impacts

West Mount Vernon businesses are already experiencing serious financial harm from the one-way traffic restrictions associated with the bridge restoration project. For some, the loss of customers and revenue will cause them to close before the project is completed next spring. Businesses downtown and in other parts of Mount Vernon are also reporting declining sales as traffic patterns and customer behavior change.

At our August 26 Luncheon, we will examine both the immediate and potential long-term effects of the traffic restrictions. We will hear directly from affected business owners and discuss practical steps that could preserve access, reduce financial losses, support local employers, and help businesses survive the project. Representatives of state government and regional organizations have also been invited to participate.

The luncheon will be catered by Sabores Catering, one of the West Mount Vernon businesses experiencing significantly reduced traffic and customer access.

The Chamber is also distributing a survey to businesses throughout the area so we can document the project's full economic impact, identify the areas most affected and advocate for meaningful solutions. Please [contact me](#) if you have information or experiences you would like to share. A clear and complete understanding of the damage will strengthen our efforts to secure assistance for the businesses bearing the greatest burden.

Andy Mayer  
President / CEO



**GOLD**



**SILVER**



Skagit Valley Chamber of Commerce  
(360) 428-8547  
[skagitvalleychamber.com](http://skagitvalleychamber.com)

## Calendar of Events

### “Speaking of Women” Coffee Chat

Wednesday, August 12

9:00 to 10:00 AM

The Skagit Table

225 S 1st St.

Mount Vernon

[Register here](#)



### Multi-Chamber After Hours

Thursday, August 13

4:30 to 6:00 PM

NW Innovation Center

1803 North Sound

Sedro-Woolley

[For more info](#)

### Ribbon Cutting at Durango Mexican Restaurant

Friday, August 21

4:00 PM

31439 State Rte 20

Lyman

[For more info](#)



### Chamber Membership Luncheon

#### Investing in Our Future - Supporting Our Community Today

Wednesday, August 26

11:30 AM to 1:00 PM

Littlefield Celtic Center

1124 Cleveland Ave

Mount Vernon

[Register here](#)



## BRONZE LEGACY



## Welcome New Members

### Coastline Academy

Katrina Ross

2021 E College Way

Unit 111

Mount Vernon

<https://coastlineacademy.com/wa/location/Mount-Vernon>

Coastline Academy provides state-approved driver education, knowledge and skills testing, and behind-the-wheel training, turning learners into safe drivers through expert instruction and support.



### Harmony Coffee Service

Byron Betts

17003 Jungquist Road

Mount Vernon

<http://www.harmonycoffeeservice.com>

Specializing in commercial espresso equipment sales, repair, and routine maintenance. We service espresso machines, grinders, and brewers in Skagit, Whatcom, Island, San Juan and Snohomish counties.



### Durango Mexican Restaurant

Alma Larreta

31439 State Rte 20

Lyman

Authentic Mexican Restaurant as well as American and Italian Cuisine for special occasions.



### Whatcom Sound

Paxton Rembert

5012 Samish Way

Bellingham

<http://www.whatcomsound.com/>

Flawlessly Executed Services. We bring the audio & video expertise and polished professionalism to make your venue shine.



WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN  
OUR AMBASSADOR TEAM



For information:

**Silvia Reed**

(360) 395-2944 | (360) 305-0895

[Silvia@SkagitValleyChamber.com](mailto:Silvia@SkagitValleyChamber.com)



## Get to Know Johnson Electrical Services

For more than 25 years, Corey Johnson has built a career in the electrical industry rooted in hard work, hands-on experience, and commitment to doing the job right. Since getting his start in 1998, Corey has worked in a wide variety of electrical settings, gaining experience that has shaped both his technical knowledge and his practical approach to serving customers today.

Early in his career, Corey spent time working in Alaska, where the demands of the job taught him the importance of problem-solving, adaptability, and a strong work ethic. Over the years, he continued to expand his experience through residential, commercial, and marine electrical work, eventually supervising the marine electrical department at Dakota Creek Industries.

Today, Corey is the owner of Johnson Electrical Services, proudly serving homeowners, builders, and businesses throughout Skagit, Whatcom, and Snohomish Counties. His company focuses on residential and commercial electrical work, including remodels, service work, troubleshooting, panel upgrades, lighting installations, and new construction. Customers often describe Corey as dependable, knowledgeable, and easy to work with — qualities that continue to drive the reputation of his business today.

For Corey, electrical work has always been more than just a job. He enjoys the variety each project brings and takes pride in helping customers create safe, functional, and reliable spaces. Whether working on a small service call or a larger construction project, he values communication, honesty, and attention to detail.

Outside of work, Corey enjoys golfing, home improvement projects, camping, and spending time with his wife, grown children, and their dogs. Building a business while raising a family has been an important part of his journey, and many of the values that shaped his personal life — consistency, reliability, and hard work — continue to shape the way he runs his company today.

As Johnson Electrical Services continues to grow, Corey remains focused on providing quality work, building strong relationships within the community, and continuing the kind of service people can count on for years to come.



Corey and Joanie Johnson  
Johnson Electrical Services

## Welcome to the chamber team Dalesmy

The Skagit Valley Chamber of Commerce is thrilled to welcome Dalesmy Gonzalez to our team as our new Membership and Communications Coordinator!

Dalesmy steps into this role with a genuine passion for connecting with people, supporting local businesses, and strengthening community ties. A creative and community-driven marketing professional, she brings over seven years of experience in content strategy, social media management, and public engagement.

In her role, Dalesmy will keep our members informed and engaged by producing “your Chamber this week”, publishing our monthly newsletter, managing our website and tourism communications, and crafting high-performing digital content to support our businesses. You will also see her assisting with various membership initiatives, supporting special projects, and guiding our dedicated team of Visitor Center volunteers.

Please join us in giving Dalesmy a warm welcome! Be sure to stop by the Chamber office to say hello, or introduce yourself when you see her at our next Chamber event.



Dalesmy Gonzalez  
Skagit Valley Chamber of Commerce



**INTERESTED IN PARTNERING WITH THE CHAMBER FOUNDATION IN OUR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS?**

The Skagit Valley Chamber Foundation and our Business Partners host:

- ✓ Career Panels
- ✓ Worksite Tours
- ✓ Job Shadows and Internships

For qualifying Skagit Valley College students

**WORKSource** **SVC** **EWP**  
Skagit Valley College

**INFORMATION**  
**SILVIA REED**  
(360) 395-2944 | (360) 305-0895  
Silvia@SkagitValleyChamber.com



**BE ONE OF THE FIRST ONES**

**TO INTRODUCE YOUR BUSINESS TO NEW CHAMBER MEMBERS**

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

**CONTACT:**  
Dalesmy@SkagitValleyChamber.com  
(360) 395-2946




## July in Pictures



**Ambassadors at  
Mount Vernon Letters**



**Family Promise of Skagit Valley  
Ribbon Cutting**



**Membership Luncheon  
State of the City**



**Biz Buzz  
Networking Breakfast**



**Guardwell RV & Boat Storage  
Ground Breaking**



**Speaking of Women  
Women in Justice Panel**

## Ambassadors

**Chair - Ian Houben**  
Skagit Habitat for Humanity

**Betsy Anorbe**  
Betsy Anorbe Real Estate

**Silvia Alvarez**  
Triumph Teen Life Center

**Clarissa De Vries**  
CrossCountry Mortgage, LLC

**Dan Dewispelaere-Rusch**  
Global Credit Union

**Morgan Elton**  
Country Financial -  
The Elton Group

**Alicia Evans**  
Guardian Northwest  
Title & Escrow

**Crystal King**  
Chinook Enterprises

**Karla Nelson**  
U.S. Bank - Riverside Dr

**Ruth Medina**  
All Colors Painting

**Jessica Rodriguez**  
Children of the Valley After  
School Program

**Perla Vergara**  
Perla's Insurance Services

## Thank you for Renewing your Membership

### 1 to 5 Year Anniversary

- Triumph Teen Life Center

### 5 to 10 Year Anniversary

- Mount Vernon Farmers Market

### +15 Year Anniversary

- Barron Heating AC Electrical & Plumbing
- Cascade Job Corps

## Board of Directors

### Chair - Lance Calloway

Associated General Contractors of  
Washington

### Past Chair - Flora Lucatero

Children of the Valley

### Matt Gill

Marathon Petroleum Corporation

### Katie Hayton

La Conner Inn

### Crystal King

Chinook Enterprises

### Robert Knoll

Puget Sound Energy

### Hector Leal

Law Office of Hector Leal

### Andrew Miller

United Way of Skagit County

### Jon Ronngren

Mount Vernon School District

### Leah Scates

Skagit Valley Food Co-op

### Adam Pearson

City of Mount Vernon

### Danny Vera

Skagit Regional Health

## STAFF

**Andy Mayer**, President/CEO

**Silvia Reed**, Vice President &  
Foundation Director

**Dalesmy Gonzalez**, Membership &  
Communications Coordinator

**Debi Sopher**, Visitor Information Services



## Member Announcements

### Camp Korey Heart and Sole Fun Run & Roll

**A Camp Korey FUNdraiser**

**HEART & SOLE**  
Fun Run & Roll

1K 5K

**FINISH**

**Heart and Sole Fun Run & Roll**  
**Saturday, Sept 19th**

**8:15am - 1:30pm**

**EVENT DETAILS**

- Registration - \$30 Early Bird / \$35 after 8/1/26
- Kids under 12 and Camp Korey Campers FREE
- Costumes encouraged!
- Creative and fun starting waves
- Trading timing chips for potato chips and chocolate chips
- Medals for all finishers
- Check in for all waves: 8:15-9:30am at Camp Korey
- Finish Line Party! Foam party, food trucks, community booths, and much more!

**CAMP KOREY**

**REGISTER NOW**

**QR CODE**

**SPONSORS:** Talking Rain, Jansen, Skagit Valley Chamber of Commerce, LYDIG, SUPERFEET, CNE, Skagit Regional Health.

**CONTACT:** www.campkorey.org, info@campkorey.org, 24880 Brotherhood Rd Mt. Vernon, WA 98274, 360-416-4166

Camp Korey would love to invite you to come out to their first ever 1K & 5K Heart and Sole Fun Run & Roll! This fun community event will definitely be one filled with a lot of heart and many different types of soles!

### 2026 Skagit County Fair, August 6-9

**AUGUST 6-9, 2026**

**LET'S WING IT!**  
AT THE

**SKAGIT COUNTY FAIR**

**SPONSORS:** THE SKAGIT CASINO RESORT, UNITED GENERAL, BURLINGTON, WECU, 104.5 FM, and many others.

**SKAGITCOUNTY.NET/FAIR** 360-416-1350 FOLLOW ON

For more member announcements, visit  
[skagitvalleychamber.com/member-announcements](https://skagitvalleychamber.com/member-announcements)

Send your announcements to  
[Dalesmy@SkagitValleyChamber.com](mailto:Dalesmy@SkagitValleyChamber.com)

*Join us!*

# THIS OLD HOUSE:

*Make it Accessible*

FALL OPEN HOUSE + FUNDRAISER  
FOR RESTROOM RENOVATIONS



*WE ARE BUILDING ACCESS + BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES.*

*SEE OUR IMPACT + MEET OUR COMMUNITY.  
ENJOY ACTIVITIES + LOCAL REFRESHMENTS.  
HELP CREATE A MORE ACCESSIBLE FUTURE!*

Thursday | September 17, 2026 | 4-6 PM

Chinook Enterprises

2026 N Laventure Rd., Mt. Vernon, WA 98273

# *We're excited to invite you to Chinook Enterprises' Fall Open House and Fundraiser!*

Join us for an evening of community, connection and impact.

Step inside our organization, meet the people whose lives are changed through employment and community inclusion, and learn how we're working to make our facility more accessible for everyone.

Enjoy refreshments, guided tours, and conversations with local businesses, elected officials and community leaders while helping support Chinook's "This Old House: Make It Accessible" campaign.

*Together, we're creating more accessible spaces that promote dignity, independence, and inclusion for every person who walks through our doors. Come see Chinook in action and be part of what's next!*

Scan the QR code to reserve your spot  
or call us with your RSVP today!

360-428-0140



Can't attend? You can support us in reaching our goal by donating today.

[www.chinookenterprises.org/ThisOldHouse](http://www.chinookenterprises.org/ThisOldHouse)



**THANK  
YOU  
to our  
Sponsors!**

SKAGIT VALLEY  
**CHAMBER**  
OF COMMERCE

RIVERWALK

# SUMMER CONCERT

SERIES  
MOUNT VERNON, WA

EVERY THURSDAY 6PM - 8PM

2026

SKAGIT RIVERWALK

JULY 9

**Pacific Twang**

JULY 16

**EDEN**

JULY 23

**The  
ABBographs**

JULY 30

**Bluesfish**

AUGUST 6

**Friends For  
the Ghost**

AUGUST 13

**Baby Cakes**

AUGUST 20

**The Chris  
Eger Band**

AUGUST 27

**The Atlantics**

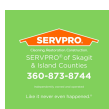
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**DL DWAYNE LANE'S**  
— SKAGIT SUBARU —

**Craft  
Stove**



**Peoples Bank**  
A higher level of service.



# Business Events

## Sponsorship Opportunities



Gain premium visibility and position your business at the forefront of our community's growth.

### ■ Events



Membership Luncheon  
(Monthly)



Morning Biz Buzz  
(July - October)



Referral Program Social  
(October)



### For information



(360) 395-2944



Silvia@SkagitValleyChamber.com

### Visit Our Website



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