

SKAGIT VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

CHAMBER CHAT

JULY 2026

Writing the Next Chapter, Together

Our nation's 250th birthday is a milestone that invites both reflection and anticipation. Over the past two and a half centuries, generations of entrepreneurs, workers, volunteers, and community leaders have built businesses, strengthened neighborhoods, and created opportunities for those who followed.

Here in the Skagit Valley, we have the privilege of continuing that work. Every business that opens its doors, every nonprofit that serves others, every educator preparing tomorrow's workforce, and every public servant investing in our communities contributes to a stronger region. Those efforts may not make history books, but they shape the future just the same.

As a Chamber, our focus remains on bringing people together around the issues that matter most to our shared prosperity—supporting local business, strengthening our workforce, addressing housing and infrastructure challenges, and building partnerships that benefit the entire region.

America's 250th anniversary is more than a celebration of our past. It is a reminder that the next chapter is written one community at a time. Thank you for the role you play in helping make the Skagit Valley a place where businesses can thrive, families can prosper, and future generations will choose to build their lives.

Andy Mayer
President/CEO



GOLD



SILVER



Skagit Valley Chamber of Commerce
(360) 428-8547
skagitvalleychamber.com

Calendar of Events

Women in Justice, A "Speaking of Women" Event

Wednesday, July 8

4:30 to 6:00 PM

White Branches

100 E. Montgomery St. Ste 210

Mount Vernon

[Register here](#)



Biz Buzz Networking Breakfast

Friday, July 17

9:00 to 10:00 AM

Mount Vernon Library Commons

208 W. Kincaid St.

Mount Vernon

[Register here](#)

Skagit Chamber Alliance Multi-Chamber After Hours at the Majestic Inn Rooftop Bar

Thursday, July 9

5:30 to 7:00 PM

Majestic Inn & Spa

419 Commercial Ave.

Anacortes

[Register here](#)

Chamber Membership Luncheon State of the City

Wednesday, July 22

11:30 to 1:00 PM

Mount Vernon Library Commons

208 W. Kincaid St.

Mount Vernon

[Register here](#)



Connect, Pitch, Prosper

Leverage your Membership and your Pitch

Wednesday, July 15

3:00 to 4:00 PM

Skagit Valley Chamber of Commerce

301 W. Kincaid St.

Mount Vernon

[Register here](#)

BRONZE LEGACY

HOMEPLACE AT
BURLINGTON
by Cogit
SENIOR LIVING



Welcome New Members

I.E.R. Construction LLC

Gabe Arellano
(360) 333-4504
Mount Vernon



<https://ierconstructionllc.com/>

With 25+ years of hands-on experience, we specialize in high-quality interior and exterior renovations that enhance both form and function. From full home remodels to exterior upgrades and commercial fit outs, our team brings expert craftsmanship, attention to detail, and a commitment to excellence to every project. Whether you're modernizing your living space or improving curb appeal, we turn your vision into reality.

Advantage Wellness Center

Joanie Moe
2118 Riverside Dr. #104
Mount Vernon

<http://advantagewellnesscenter.com>

Medical weight loss focused on helping patients use GLP-1s to lose weight, build muscle, and maintain their results long after medication ends. Using 3D body composition scans, we track what matters.

WorkSource Skagit

Employment Security Department

Nicole Andrew
2005 E College Way. Mount Vernon
(360) 854-8397

<https://worksourcewa.com/>

WorkSource is an equal-opportunity partnership of organizations that provide employment and training services; staffing tools and resources, recruitment assistance and, wage and economic data.

Gonzales Landscaping LLC

Sergio Ortiz
1415 Commercial Ave
P.O Box 170
Anacortes



<https://www.gonzaleslandscapingllc.com/>

We are a locally owned company serving all of Skagit County and north Whidbey Island. We offer comprehensive landscape design, installation and maintenance created to meet your needs and exceed your expectations, no matter the environment or season.

Whatcom Sound

Paxton Rembert
5012 S. Samish Way,
Bellingham



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

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






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:
Silvia@SkagitValleyChamber.com
 (360) 395-2944

Get to Know

David Wilder, Chinook Enterprises

David Wilder is a Mount Vernon icon, though he would never say so himself. He is known for his dedication, determination, and stubbornness. Simply put, David does not give up.

Born in 1969 with cerebral palsy, a condition that affects movement and muscle coordination, David has never walked independently and has relied on a wheelchair his entire life. He graduated from Mount Vernon High School in 1987 and planned to attend Skagit Valley College. One counselor told him he had no business being on a college campus because, even if he earned a degree, what could he do with it? As David rolled out of the office, he replied: "I hope to get a better job than you've got." That was one of many barriers he faced before earning his Associate Degree in Technical Arts in Human Services from Skagit Valley College in 1994.

Some obstacles were as basic as access to classrooms, restrooms, and buildings. On his first day of college, David spent half a day in a restroom because he could not open the exit door and no one would help him. That experience helped shape his future. David realized he had to be part of the solution. For more than 40 years, he has been a disability rights advocate. Today, he serves as Advocacy Specialist for Chinook Enterprises, working with legislators and community leaders to improve disability services and opportunities throughout Washington.

David has championed issues including employment, housing, transportation, and community inclusion. He has delivered more than 600 presentations, helping businesses and community members understand that people with disabilities want the same opportunities as everyone else: meaningful work, safe housing, community involvement, and independence. His work has earned statewide recognition. David received Governor's Awards in 1995 and 2011 and was inducted into the Skagit Valley College Hall of Fame in 2026 for his community service.

Early in life, David was told he would be lucky to reach age 35.

Today, at 57, he is still rolling—and still making a difference. As we celebrate Disability Pride Month and the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, David's story reminds us that barriers can be removed, perceptions can change, and one person can make a lasting impact on an entire community. David doesn't just advocate for inclusion—he lives it every day.



David Wilder, Advocacy Specialist at
[Chinook Enterprises](#)

June in Pictures



**Ribbon Cutting at
Skagit Clubhouse**



**Ribbon Cutting at
Mi Casita Cafe**



**Member Appreciation
Luncheon**



**Multi-Chamber After Hours at
The Bony Pony**



**Speaking of Women
VIP Hour**



**Winner of the Staycation Package
Bryan Stone, IT Work for You**

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

- Washington Shakespearean Festival
- Consejo Counseling and Referral Service

5 to 10 Year Anniversary

- La Catrina Tacos & Tequila
- Camp Korey

+15 Year Anniversary

- Save on Storage
- Goodwinds Composites
- Kaptein's Ace Hardware
- Fix Auto Mount Vernon Operated by
Dally's Auto Body

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 and Foundation Director

Debi Sopher

Visitor Information Services



Member Announcements

SWAN Women of the Year Awards



Do you know an extraordinary woman who makes a difference in our community through leadership, service, mentorship, or advocacy? Nominations are now open for the Women of the Year Awards

SVC celebrates the centennial class of 2026 at 99th annual commencement



For more member announcements, visit skagitvalleychamber.com/member-announcements
Send your announcements to Silvia@SkagitValleyChamber.com

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



Mary K. Crandall
Skagit County Superior
Court Judge



Laura M. Riquelme
Skagit County Superior
Court Judge

WOMEN IN JUSTICE

A “Speaking of Women” Event

WEDNESDAY JULY 8

4:30 PM TO 6:00 PM

White Branches

100 E Montgomery St Ste 210. Mount Vernon

2026 Series Registration Fees

Chamber Members:	\$ 150.00
Non members:	\$ 200.00
Students	\$ 75.00

Registration fees Include monthly coffee chats, VIP hour and panels:

- Women in Justice (July 8)
- Success without Apologies (September 9)

www.SkagitValleyChamber.com

email: Silvia@SkagitValleyChamber.com

phone: (360) 395-2944 / (360) 305-0895



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

..... PRESENTED BY



DWAYNE LANE'S
SKAGIT SUBARU

